The Chestertown Transcript.

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SUPERVISORS' NOTICE
—OF—
Appointment of Registrars of Elections.

At a meeting of the Election Supervisors for Kent County held Tuesday, June 19, 1923, the following Registrars of Voters were appointed:

First District first precinct—Samuel S. Hurlock, Dem., Millington; Paul C. Price, Rep., Millington.

First District, second precinct—Elmer S. Jarman, Dem., Galena; Theodore Dempsey, Rep., Galena.

Second District, first precinct—C. S. Hague, Dem., Kennedyville; Lewis C. Price, Rep., Kennedyville.

Second District, second precinct—Jos. W. Howard, Dem., Kennedyville; Ralph Geary, Rep., Kennedyville.

Third District, first precinct—O. Dobson, Dem., Worton; George B. Rasin, Rep., Worton.

Third District, second precinct—Harvey B. More, Dem., Betterton; G. Ray Crew, Rep., Betterton.

Fourth District, first precinct—John E. Barnes, Dem., Chas. N. Satterfield, Rep., Chestertown.

Fourth District, N Second Precinct—Wm. T. Hicks, Dem., Chestertown; M. Wilur Thomas, Rep., Chestertown.

Fourth District, second precinct—Wm. F. Malin, Dem., Chestertown; John C. Davis, Rep., Chestertown.

Fifth District, first precinct—John C. Wilson, Dem., Rock Hall; Wm. E. Leary, Rep., Rock Hall.

Fifth District, Second Precinct—John Kelley Dem., Rock Hall; Abner Bryden, Rep., Rock Hall.

Sixth District—Archibald Ramage, Dem., Fairlee; H. P. Jones, Rep., Fairlee.

Seventh District — W. Raymond Startt, Dem., Chestertown; John T. M. Vickers, Rep., Chestertown.

The above officials are hereby notified to appear at the office of the supervisors in Chestertown at 10 a. m. Tuesday, July 10, 1923, and be sworn into office.

C. FRANK CROW, Prest.,
J. HYDIE THOMPSON,
THOMAS W. TREW,
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The JOY of LIVING

By SIDNEY GOWING
Illustrations by Ellsworth Young

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"Two or three more days, and I believe Billy would have pulled me through," she said dully. "I know he would. Now, it's all up. I'm done. And I can't get to Billy."

Aimee dropped into an armchair, buried her face in her hands, and began to cry. She cried like a child that has hurt itself.

A large figure stole into the room with a remarkably noiseless step. It was the Vicomte de Jussac. He started as he caught sight of the forlorn figure in the chair, and stared in surprise. The spectacle of a damsel in distress at once roused generous sentiments in the beau sabreur.

He crossed the room and seated himself on the arm of the chair.

"Away, dull care," murmured Bertrand. "Such eyes as those—I cannot see them but I am sure they are adorable—were never made for weeping. Tell me your sorrow, ma petite," he said gently; "it shall be swept away!"

"I'm in awful trouble!" sobbed Aimee.

"Alas! But let me help you. Here am I, a big, gross fellow, but very capable, sent by the gods to aid you. It is what I am for!"

Aimee dropped her hands and stared at him, startled.

"Are you Monsieur de Jussac?" she stammered.

"Infinitely at your service, mademoiselle."

Aimee's eyes searched his face. It was rather closer to hers than appeared necessary, but it was undoubtedly sympathetic.

"Tell me!" he murmured.

Aimee hesitated.

"Well, I will tell you. I've got to tell somebody, or I shall go mad!" said Aimee with a rush. "Anyway they'll know it tomorrow. I'm not the parlor maid. I'm Aimee Scroope—Lady Erythea's niece."

"Hein!" exclaimed the Vicomte. He rose to his feet, staring at her, and twisted his mustache—a habit in moments of bewilderment.

Aimee plunged into her tale breathlessly. She made it brief; it was also very jumbled. But the thread managed to unravel itself. Before she finished, Bertrand turned away. His shoulders quivered and shook, the back of his neck was crimson.

"You're laughing!" cried Aimee accusingly.

"But no!" gasped the Vicomte, choking. "It is grief. Grief and sympathy—for you—mademoiselle."

"You are laughing!" said Aimee stepping in front of him. "Go on then—laugh! If you can laugh at that, you're—you're all right! Billy says—" She checked herself, and suddenly began to laugh, too; a very rainbow of laughter and tears. "But what's to be done? It's the finish!"

Bertrand turned and caught her by the hands.

"We shall find a way!" he cried. "Courage! Bah! but that is an imbecile remark. If you had not courage you would not be here. Who should betray you?"



"What Does This Mean?" He Said Sternly.

"Diana." Aimee told him of the encounter in the bedroom.

"It cannot be! She has a heart. Under that icily exquisite exterior, a warm heart beats. It must be softened."

"A heart? Di? She's a—" Aimee stopped just in time. "I'm afraid it's quite hopeless. I only told you because I was in despair."

"A De Jussac never despairs! Especially when there is a charming little lady to be rescued from the Philistines. The difficulty must be overcome at any cost. Ah!" he exclaimed, coming near to her. "I believe I have it! Listen—"

"Oh!" said Aimee with a gasp. She had become conscious that they were not alone.

Alexander stood before them, in a black dressing gown, a candle in his hand. He only needed bell and book to be the very image of an abbot in the act of pronouncing excommunication. De Jussac started violently, and frowned. Alexander took no notice of him; his eyes were fixed on Aimee.

"What does this mean?" he said sternly.

"Diana's found me out, and she's going to tell Aunt, first thing in the morning," said Aimee, with the calm of despair. "And I've told Monsieur de Jussac. I simply had to tell somebody. And everybody will know tomorrow."

"Rather a delicate position, Monsieur le Cure—eh?" said Bertrand dryly, and not without satisfaction.

Alexander flushed to the ears and hung his head. He looked so ashamed and wretched that Aimee felt a pang of remorse.

"For myself," he said unsteadily, "I will face the exposure and the penalty—for I have deserved it. It is you, Aimee, that I should have wished to save. I would sacrifice myself to do it now, if there were any way, but I see none. You—and Georgina. That is all that matters."

"Tiens! The true ring!" cried de Jussac enthusiastically. He seized Alexander's hand and shook it with heartfelt warmth. "Never reproach yourself, mon ami. From first to last, you have acted en galant homme!"

"You've been a brick, Alexander. And you'd better go, and not hear any more—I'll keep you out of it if I can," said Aimee quickly.

Alexander looked at his cousin.

"I will go, then," he said, "on condition that you return to your room immediately, Aimee."

"All right, I will."

"Assuredly—she shall go at once! Till the morning then, Monsieur l' Abbe, and have no fear. The danger shall dissipate itself," said Bertrand, and almost forcibly he shepherded the bewildered Alexander out of the room. Bertrand darted back, and caught Aimee by the hands.

"He is bon enfant, the parson!" he cried, "all shall yet be well. But it is impossible to require deceit from him. Leave that to me! Mademoiselle, I am a magnificent liar!" He smote himself proudly on the breast. "You shall see how my talent—"

"But—!"

"Not a word! I shall consider it an honor—a privilege. It is the one situation in which prevarication becomes a virtue! Retire, then, mademoiselle, and sleep soundly. A way shall be found out of this impasse, I pledge myself to it—foi de chevalier! The morning shall bring, not disaster, but happiness!"

Aimee was whirled out of the room, hardly less bewildered than Alexander. When she had gone upstairs, Monsieur De Jussac returned to the dining room.

He paced the room with long strides, developing a series of plans that flashed through his brain. Some caused him to laugh aloud, others evoked a sigh.

"In this country of Puritans, schemes that elsewhere would glow like a golden mist, become impossible!" he mused regretfully.

Since the coldness of Lady Diana was the main difficulty, Bertrand's thoughts concentrated naturally upon her, and it is to be feared that Aimee's predicament faded into a secondary place. Allowances must be made for those swayed by the grand passion. Suddenly de Jussac halted among the suits of mail.

"Tiens! the armor," he said, brightening, "the same of which Diana should have told me the history, but declined. She shall come to it yet! She approves armor—she adores the days of chivalry long dead.

"Lived we in those days," cried Bertrand with rising fervor, "I would hack my way to her favor though a hundred spears barred the path." He struck the nearest breastplate with his fist. "You Sir Knight! If you did not pay swift homage to my lady," said Bertrand, grinding his teeth, "my lance should crash into your midrift! Scrognon-non-non-non-non!"

He turned to inspect the pectoral of another suit, beautifully engraved and chased with gold.

"Of French workmanship, surely—never of this country. The English are a great nation, but severe—severe." He passed his hands over the breastplate. It detached quite easily from the stand. With a sudden impulse Bertrand fitted it to his broad chest, passing his arm through the thongs that had held it to the stand. He laughed as he caught sight of his reflection in a mirror.

"It becomes me a merveille! Name of a name! Let me envisage myself the conqueror of my Diana!"

He strapped on the greaves and cuisses over his dress trousers, donned the gorget and, lifting down the big helmet, placed it over his head, abrading his nose in the process. The suit—it was the same which had fallen during the night of the burglary—had certainly been made for a knight of great stature—it fitted de Jussac very well.

"Magnifique!" said Bertrand. "And, who knows—it may be the very suit of my ancestor! The—"

He turned slowly, aware of someone approaching. A tall, spectral figure, white and ethereal, stood in the doorway.

It was Lady Diana, in a long girdled wrap trimmed with white fur. In her hand was a rolled up paper that might have been a piece of music; it trembled visibly. Her face, as she gazed at the armored figure, was as white as her garments.

She controlled her nerves with a mighty effort. If it was a spirit, it was indeed a splendid one. To her, of all people, this manifestation of the infinite was vouchsafed.

For some moments she gazed, in a thrilled silence. Then she actually advanced a few steps, faltering.

"Speak!" she said, in a voice that quavered slightly. "Are you he? Speak to me. I am of the elect. I am n-n-n-not afraid."

De Jussac grasped the situation. He searched his mind swifty for the mot juste—the speech of the Fourteenth century.

"Moult puissante dame—" he began, dropping reverently on one knee.

Diana, the moment the unmistakable voice smote upon her ear, gave a piercing shriek, and clasped her hands to her head. She swayed as if about to fall.

Bertrand rushed forward, and caught her just in time.

"B-B-B-Bertrand!" she gasped faintly.

The name, wrung from her by stress, was such music in the Vicomte's ears that he tore off his helmet and kissed her rapturously.

"Angel!" he cried. "Adored Diana! Say it again!" He made it somewhat difficult for her to say anything. "Say it—whisper it—'Bertrand!' Ah, happiest of men!"

Diana struggled.

"How dare you!" she said wildly. "How dare you—pretend to be a ghost!"

"But I did not! I thought you were pretending to be one! Let me bear the blame. I love you—I was in despair—and put on this mail that for one moment I might imagine myself approved. Dear lady of Romance, I am no ghost—I own it!"

He proved it with a kiss that was by no means ghostly.

"Oh!" said Diana faintly.

The mailed arms encircled her tightly.

"Sweetest of all earth's treasures!" exclaimed Bertrand. "You love me? You tremble—your heart beats. Say it! You love me!"

Suddenly she hid her face against his breastplate.

"I-I-I do," she whispered, hardly audible, "and—I should never have dared to let you tell me so."

"Thrice blessed accident! To my unhappy ancestor I owe my happiness! Ah, day of days! Diana, you will marry me, beloved?"

"I suppose so. I can't help it, now. Oh—Bertrand!"

"I said that armor was of no avail. But it has conquered!"

She glanced up at him shyly.

"I shall wear it for evermore!" said De Jussac rapturously. "It shall never be doffed, save at your orders. Diana—"

"But my aunt!" exclaimed Diana suddenly, her blushes changing to pallor. "If—"

"She will give us her blessing. In the morning—"

"But if she found out how it happened!" said Diana in a panic. "And the time—you do not know how terrible Aunt can be—"

"She will not know! I will put myself in order—I will propose to you again in the morning. We will announce it with all formalities." Bertrand was alarmed to find her almost collapsing; he led her to the table and raised a goblet to her lips. "A little wine, my angel! It will revive you!"

"No, no!"

"But yes! You are agitated. Just one sip!"

It was impossible to deny anything to the conquering Bertrand. Lady Diana permitted herself to imbibe a little of the wine; it restored the color to her cheeks.



Wicked Laughter Convulsed Her.

"And now," said the Vicomte tenderly, "light of my soul—"

A piercing shriek from Diana jarred painfully on his nerves. Bertrand started and spun around.

In the doorway stood the unspeakable parlor maid, capless, her bronze hair flowing over her shoulders. Wicked laughter convulsed her, her eyes shone with triumph.

"Bless you, my children!" said Aimee. "You've made enough row about it!"

De Jussac started hastily towards her. Aimee sprang back and closed the door in his face; the key turned with a click.

Lady Diana had sunk inert into a chair.

"Stop her—make her be quiet!" panted Diana trembling. "Bertrand—if my aunt—"

"Open!" hissed Bertrand, rattling the handle.

"Leave the door alone!" said Aimee's voice, muffled through the panel. "You can't get out—either of you. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, yes! Mademoiselle—"

"Listen! Within three feet of me is a burglar alarm," said the voice, diabolically. "I'm going to start it. Before you can turn yourselves round, the whole household will be down on you—from Aunt Erythea to the pageboy. Especially Aunt. I'm going to count three. When—"

"Misericorde!" gasped Bertrand. "Mademoiselle, I implore you! This is to return evil for good How have we deserved—"

"I have no quarrel with you, Vicomte. You're all right. But I've got you both. You'll accept my terms—"

"Anything!" panted Bertrand distractedly. "Anything—"

"Stand away from the door, then. Get right back."

"Yes, yes!"

Aimee applied her eye to the keyhole to insure that her orders were obeyed. She opened the door cautiously, and regarded the distressed pair with intense satisfaction.

"Let me be the first to congratulate you!" she said. "Vicomte, I don't grudge my cousin to you. You are welcome. Di!" continued Aimee, fixing Diana with a glittering eye, "I don't want your explanation—you can explain the masquerade to Aunt. But I shall hold my tongue about you—and you'll hold yours about me! I require your word of honor. For you daren't break it!"

"Yes!" gasped Diana feebly. "Don't—don't speak so loud, Aimee—"

Aimee looked at her, and exploded with laughter.

"Every happiness, dear people!" she said, and vanished.

"Bertrand!" panted Diana, rising unsteadily. "Did you know anything of this? Do you understand—? She is not the parlor maid—she is my cousin. I cannot explain; you must say nothing about it. Neither will she! Oh—let me go!"

He caught her in his arms before she could escape.

"My angel! In the morning, our love scene all over again. I have your promise!"

"Yes!" she said, wildly. "Oh, let me go!"

Lady Diana fled from the room and scuttled upstairs like an agitated rabbit. The Vicomte, following, blew her an impassioned kiss as she passed out of sight. Returning to the hall, he tore off his armor in a delirium of joy, and replaced it on the stand.

CHAPTER XX
—
Two Pair.

Lady Erythea beamed. It seems an impossible term to apply to that austere countenance. But it was so. When Georgina entered the drawing room at noon—after nearly twenty-four hours exile in her bedroom—she found her alleged aunt as near to beaming as her features permitted.

"I am glad you have recovered from your temporary indisposition, my dear Aimee," she said amiably. "During your absence an event has occurred, both romantic and desirable. How seldom the two things go together!"

"Indeed! What is it?"

"Your cousin Diana and Monsieur de Jussac are about to contract an alliance. They became engaged this morning."

"How perfectly delightful!" breathed Georgina, after a pause of dramatic astonishment. "I am sure you are pleased—Aunt?"

"Indeed I am. I have not concealed from you my desire that this very thing should come about. It is the more satisfactory, because only last night I quite despaired of it, and came to regard it as hopeless. But Monsieur de Jussac's suit has prospered amazingly; it appears that Diana, as I suspected, has for some time since been far from indifferent to him. I am delighted that I gave them the opportunity. Only two hours after breakfast the Vicomte, with his customary impetuousness, brought Diana to me and begged for my consent. I need not say that I gave it gladly."

Georgina escaped into the garden.

It is possible that Aimee was right when she said that all women are natural actresses in time of need. Georgina's assumption of astonishment at hearing Lady Erythea's news was wholly assumed, and not assumed badly. The announcement was, in fact, no news at all to her.

Having an excellent seuse of direction, Georgina soon discovered Mr. Alexander Lambe walking on the sheltered paths of the old yew garden beyond the chapel-at-ease. He looked quite as relieved as Georgina. And his eyes lit up wonderfully when he saw her. He hurried forward to meet her.

"Mr. Lambe—!" exclaimed Georgina.

Mr. Lambe halted, and looked deeply pained.

"Have I offended you?" he said almost wistfully. "I thought you gave me permission—"

"Alexander," murmured Georgina, flushing very attractively.

"That is better," said Mr. Lambe, regarding her with grateful eyes. "Have you seen your cousin?"

"Yes," said Georgina pathetically. "Aimee came into my room very early this morning; she told me the dreadful thing that had happened—that your sister had discovered her and was going to tell Lady Erythea—and then, when I was nearly frantic with terror, Aimee explained that it was all right, and Lady Diana wouldn't say a word about it. Oh, what a relief it was!"

"She told you that!" cried Alexander, amazed. "How could she have known? It was not till an hour or two ago Diana informed me that De Jussac had just proposed to her, and she was so happy—she felt she could not get Aimee into trouble!"

Georgina stammered in confusion. She had nearly made a serious blunder—Aimee had told no one but herself about the encounter with the ghost.

"She must have felt confident, I suppose, of Diana's g-g-goodness of heart!" faltered Georgina. "Are you pleased about the engagement? I do hope you are. I was afraid—"

Alexander paused.

"I am not displeased," he said. "De Jussac is a good fellow. I did not always think so. But—I have come to see that he is a very good fellow indeed. The love of a good woman is just what he needs."

"I hope they will be very happy," said Georgina softly.

Alexander was looking at her with an expression that made her heart beat.

"Isn't it splendid," she said quickly, "that Aimee won't be suddenly betrayed! She'll have a chance now. She—"

"Aimee!" Mr. Lambe almost exploded. "It is nothing but Aimee! It is you I am concerned about, Georgina—not Aimee! It wrings my heart, the position you are placed in—through no fault whatever of your own. It cannot go on—it is bound to be known very soon, now. And when that happens—"

"Yes," said Georgina, forlornly, "it will be dreadful. I shall have to face it. They won't defend me."

Alexander took her hands quickly in his.

"Give me the right!" he said.

Georgina caught her breath. She looked up at him. There was a wonderful tenderness in his eyes; his face was the face of a man inspired.

"Georgina, you have known me only a little while. But I love you. You are the only woman in the world for me. I love you! Do you think you could care for me—just a little?"

Georgina tried to free herself. "It is impossible!" she said, turning her face away.

"Why? Do you not care for me?"

"Oh—it is cruel!" gasped Georgina, brokenly. "I am not Aimee. I am here under false pretenses. How can you? I am—"

"You are the woman I love!"

"Oh, let me go!" she said wildly. "You are not yourself—you have no right to say this to me," sobbed Georgina, "you believe that a priest in orders may not marry!"

"I never held any such belief! Of my order, there are some who hold the view. I am not with them. I am celibate, only because I have never loved till now. Look at me, Georgina!" she said almost sternly. "Do you believe that any human passion would cause me to do what was against my faith?"

Georgina looked at him through her tears.

"No," she whispered, "I know that you would not."

"Come to me, then, Georgina," he said, gently. "What good there is for us to do in the world, let us do it hand in hand. I will make the years wonderful for you. Just tell me that you care."

He took her masterfully in his arms.

"I do love you!" sobbed Georgina. "I love you."

Alexander raised her face and kissed her.

"I never hoped to hear you say it," he said. She felt his heart beating strongly. "You love me!"

"I have loved you," said Georgina, her voice stifled in his coat, "from the first day I saw you."

There was a long pause.

"It is greater happiness than I dreamed of," said Alexander, humbly. "I have not deserved it."

Suddenly he released her and held her at arm's length.

"One thing neither of us shall endure. No subterfuge—no secrecy about this. It is too sacred. We shall make it known at once. It is you I am thinking of. Our betrothal must be announced," said Alexander decisively, "and then—"

Before there was any time for reflection, Fate was upon him in the shape of Lady Erythea, walking majestically along the path with her little Highland terrier at her heels. Alexander halted.

"Aunt!" he exclaimed. "Georgina—I—we—"

He stopped short.

"What on earth is the matter with you?" said Lady Erythea, raising her ear-trumpet.

For once Alexander was at a loss. He had turned very pale. Georgina came nobly to his rescue.

"Alexander," she said faintly, yet articulately, "has asked me to be his wife." And, with desperate confusion, she added—"may I?"

The ear-trumpet clattered on the gravel. Lady Erythea gathered Georgina into a triumphant embrace.

"My dear child," she exclaimed, kissing Georgina warmly on both cheeks, "I am delighted!" Lady Erythea released her and kissed Alexander. "You have made me very, very happy. The match is in every way ideal. Alexander, you will have just such a wife as I should have chosen for you—and I never thought you would have the sense to choose one at all. My dear Aimee, your excellent father, I am sure, will be as pleased about this as I am."

Georgina felt her knees giving way. She stooped and recovered the ear-trumpet.

"W-would you mind not telling anybody for just a day or two?" she said desperately. "We have told you, but we—I—feel—"

Lady Erythea smiled.

"Foolish, romantic child!" she said, patting Georgina's cheek. "Well, well—we shall see."

She turned and disappeared towards the house. The betrothed couple looked at each other. Alexander squared his big shoulders.

"What on earth will happen now?" said Georgina faintly.

Alexander's reply was practical. He lifted her suddenly off her feet and kissed her.

DR. M. E. PARSONS
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