



ALABASTER LAMPS by Margaret Turnbull.

There was nothing especially romantic to contemplate about Claude Melnotte Dabbs, village grocer, unless it were the first two-thirds of his name. When his doting parents prefixed the cognomen of Duliver Lytton's here in the drama, "The Lady of Lyons," to his family name, it may have been an augury or at least an influence; for C. M. Dabbs, while sticking to the hard facts of life and wringing success from his career as a tradesman, nevertheless had romantic yearnings—desire to see existence through "the mists of alabaster lamps."

THE STORY

CHAPTER I—With a stranger, whom he introduces as a "grocer's boy," Ned Carter, Claude Melnotte Dabbs returns from New York to his home at Peace Valley, Pa. To "Aunt Lyddy," his housekeeper, he explains that Carter is a chance acquaintance, a friend of the World War, whom he had met and taken a liking to in New York. CHAPTER II—Carter tells Aunt Lyddy he has broken with his family and his avowed intention is to go to the States. With a bundle of his belongings, abiding place of a "collection of food-natured cranks," according to the grocer, they almost run over to a grocery store, and in his absence the girl, Dorothy Selden, reveals that she knows him to be Ned Carter Rangley, son of Loren Rangley, New York banker.

Governor's Inaugural Address

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confusion of these reciprocal rights and duties, it seems to me that Maryland has always lived up to her duties and has always pursued a consistent and intelligent policy and one in harmony with what is best for the State and best for the Nation. The experience of these latter days is amply demonstrating the truth of this.

CHAPTER VIII

Mrs. Johnston was not only anxious, but annoyed, and was prepared to show her annoyance. Then she caught sight of Mary's wet hair and strange clothes. Instantly she eliminated from her mind everything but Mary until she had her in her arms and was convinced that she was safe and sound. Then, and only then did she include Ned in her gaze, and for a moment Ned wished he were invisible. The mother's eyes were like those of a tigress who has recovered her cub and sights the hunter who tried to take it away. They softened, almost instantly, when Mary told her all she owed to Mr. Carter.

CHAPTER IX

His coat was off and he was in the Pool. Her hand and tried to hurry her to the farmhouse. Though it looked deserted, Ned thought he could see signs of life. Mary was so hampered by her wet garments, which were plastered to her with mud, that he picked her up in his arms, refusing to listen to her protest. After the initial request to be put down, Mary simply let her head rest on his shoulder and stooped with cold.

CHAPTER X

Gravely, Ned divided the handkerchief and gravely Mary accepted it. Laughter still trembled about the corners of her mouth, however, as she took this opportunity of wringing some of the water from her garments. "Come," Ned commanded, "we can't stop for that. Now then, let's see what the farmhouse holds for us."

CHAPTER XI

Now, though he had growled something in his tattered whiskers about having a "passel of half-drowned rats" on his clean kitchen floor, Phoebe, who had scented excitement, and fallen in love with Mary, ordered him out to the barn with a pair of clean overalls for Ned. Though it cut Uncle Nate to the heart, she made him take with him a shirt and a pair of socks.

CHAPTER XII

When Ned emerged from the barn and brought the car up to the door, the blinds were up and Phoebe was throwing the wet garments, whose dainty fineness she marveled at, into a washtub near the door. She saw Ned and called back to the open door, "Say, Miss Johnston, your young man's ready for you."

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