

Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem

Investiture
January 15, 2011

It's hard to change a woman's mind, once it is set in stone. I would be improper to say that Violet de Merville's mind was one of stone. However, her encounter with the Master as he spoke of her infamous fiancé, Austrian Baron Adelbert Gruner illustrated this quite clearly.

Miss de Merville comes from a family of great repute. In fact, the "De Merville of Khyber fame" we are told.

Holmes is told that the famous general has a child, a child in trouble, but she does not even comprehend the danger.

"He has a daughter, Violet de Merville, young, rich, beautiful, accomplished, a wonder-woman in every way. It is this daughter, this lovely, innocent girl, whom we are endeavoring to save from the clutches of a fiend."

Holmes quickly recognized the dilemma, but he soldiered forward despite the challenge or risk.

When Holmes met her, she responded:

"You have called, as I understand, to malign my fiancé, Baron Gruner. It is only by my father's request that I see you at all, and I warn you in advance that anything you can say could not possibly have the slightest effect upon my mind."

She was clear and cold and, unfortunately, in love with a very bad man.

As the saying goes, alls well that ends well as the "poor" Baron was denied his trophy as the marriage was announced as being canceled.

In Nashville, we too have a Violet de Merville. Of course, her temperament is not as resolute as she would easily recognize a man of the Baron's ilk.

We happy welcome Carol Redding to our society as "Violet de Merville" from the Adventure of the Illustrious Client. We pray her strength of will fortifies the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem.