

A Novel by the author of "VIALS OF WRATH," Complete in this Number,

Was She His Wife?

BT MRS. MARY REED CROWELL.

CHAPTER I.

THE CURSE

HALP-WAY between New York and the busy, pretty city of Paterson, New Jersey, stands a house, at once conspicuous to travelers on the Eric railroad, for its beauty as well as isolation of situation, no less than its elegance of design

and finish, and the psculiarly romantic appear-ance it bears. From the line of the railroad, and perinaps ten feet below that level, from which rude wooden targe lead down, stetches an immense park, tra-versed by curving drives, trae-shalded prome-tal lake, of circular form and rather diminutive size, adorms the center of the park, fram which narrow walks diverge toward the railroad-the carriage entrance—where a large iron gate shads heightaby open, and a tray porter's lodge shads heightaby open, and a tray porter's lodge shads heightaby open and a tray porter body with the tray is not towers of far-famed Che-

wynd Chase, even the most superficial observer is impressed with the mingled hearty and weird-ness. fairy grace, and somber supect of its exter-nal appearance. Standing upon a slight eminence, with a dense grove for a background, its tall turnets rearing grase-grown binks of the frassic rives structol-ing from the high flight of griffin-guarded steps grase-grown binks of the frassic rives structol-ing from the high flight of griffin-guarded steps down to the very brink of the river, that at lint spot widens and curves into manal hearty, Chewyad Chases is exceedingly fair to look up-on, even while among its own admires it has "And there was a mystery, a deep and unfa-thomable mystery, that for more than two cen-



TRUE TO HIS TRYET, GERVAISE DE LAURIAN AWAITED HER .- Page 2.

turies defied investigation, that in later daysturies defied investigation, that in later dayse-our own times—deepened from a mystery to a fearful curse; an anathema on one of the house of Chetwynd that was well calculated to cast dismalest gloom on the unfortunate family. But the Chetwyndt of Chetwynd Chuses, who had come to Oil England, with William the Conqueror, and lived in almost provaly in their

old baronial castle in Gloucestershire, and whose younger son, Rexton Chetwynd, had come to America twenty years before the present time— America twenty years before the present time-for our story is one of to-day, in a year we have lately seen (1865)—had ever borne with them, wherever they lived, the same strange mystery, that ever invested their homes with its sepul-

chral glare. Rexton Chetwynd, who had taken for his Rection Chetwynd, who had taken for his home this grand old place, and christened it in true old English style, was one of those fine, courtly gentlemen who are fitted by birth, edu-cation and inclination, to fill the flighest posi-handsome-but the Chetwynd were a splendid rece-poerless beauty being one of the clauses sworn to in that old, old curse; of about the average hight, possibly a triffe above, with evert, kingly bearing, bright, intense eyes of jetizes black, over which lung great, beardy and massivemess his hair and milltory beard.

eyebrows of purest white, that matched for hue and massiveness his hair and military beard. Such was Rexton Coletwynd in his fifty seev-nod large, accidentiate of the corps of servands. Mrs. Chetwynd, a queenly, quiet, dderly lady, who had been proty in her. Tresher days, and now was just as charming in manare and tem-perament as ever she had been ; a true wite, now was just as charming in mannor and 6en-parament as ever also had been ; a true wile, on all the earth, whose will was her rigid law, whose faintest expressed desire was her greatest pleasare to perform. She never presumed to contradic thin in the slightest matter; such a scher structure of the structure of the struc-pleasare to perform. She never presumed to she fresh personated what we seldom see-a true, model wife; and perfangs more women would gladity follow her example, were the hus-nord would gladity follow her example, were the hus-nord would gladity follow her example, were the hus-nord would gladity follow her example, were the hus-ner works as nephew traveling on the cont-ner works an an infectionate solicitude for her wolfare and happiness. There was a nephew traveling on the cont-ner tow, a handsom, high-peritod, gentle-end hauteur, and winning tenderness of mion. Rex Chetwyn Chass, his heart was set with ling of Chetwyn Chass, his heart was set with

ing of Chetwynd Chase, his heart was set with trongest affection.

strongest affection. Blanche Chetwynd was a girl whom to see was to instantly admire; to know, to steadily love. Her charmsdof mind were no less than her graces of person, that were made up of a rare and beautiful commingling of style. In stature she was less tail than most girls at her age-she was nineteen. Her eves, istty

In stature she was less tall thin most girls at her ago-she was nincten. Her eyes, jetty black like her father's, had in them a soft, pleading expression, that lessened greatly her likeness to Mr. Chetwynd. Her hair was like her mother's had been, bright, burnished gold in color, with not a ripple to mar the shining glory, save at the ends, which curled in losse, thick rings.

Her complexion was pale as marble, without the faintest vestige of color on her cheeks, and yet there was not a suggestion of pallid sickness in that sunny whitene

Her lips were proudly arched and of vivid scariet, ripe and dewy, suggesting all manner of protty similes—strawherries, gleaming ivy-ber-

schreit, rich and dowy, suggestand, an andare weight party similar estremation research and a second second

a daughter. Heretofore, the youngest child had invariably been a son; and until Rexton Chetwynd had seen his fair Blanche grow up, year after year, and no other children following, he had not dreamed that on him and his the curse would

But Blanche was nineteen now, and Mr. Chet-But Blanche was nineteen now, and Mr. Chei-wynd had long since given up hoving for an-other son, whose birth would thus avert like han had less assignt hinself for the blow he knew must come, scotter or later; but of its im-port, or coming, he was perfectly ignorant. He only know, as Blanche herself thew, and all the churcher the blight had proceeded; so to a that, because from a youngest ie blight had proceeded, so to a

any source, as not to necess, thus, and all tog damptice the blight had proceeded, so to a youngest daughter it must return. Beckton (Hevrynd Inwer Vhero was something awful about it; he had hear) his frond har-nial castle, where walls were encrimined with the blood of young Lady Constantia, whose pit-ful story, whose traje each was well known to the fundity. The halls, and of a dark, malignam-tly beauteous face that followed the figure – that ly beauteous face that followed the figure—that of Reginald Lenox, the seducer, the murderer ung Constanzia

It had been handed down, this weird legend, from rather to son, with the accompanying curse on the youngest daughter, who alone by a pecu-liar sacrifice could wipe out the stain of the And so Blanche, fair, beauteous Blanche, hun-Ch

dreds of miles from that old castle, in a land where legends and superstition go for what they are worth, was going on and on, to fight it out for Lady Constanzia's sake.

CHAPTER II. BARBARA'S LOVE.

RARBARA'S LOVE. IN one of the most luxuriously-appointed apartments of Chetwyrad Chase, whose high, more hills and mandows, a young citil was alt-ting, her fair, round arms folded on the window-loge, her wondrously-splendid faces set steruly toward the sumset sky, whose virid huse were reflected in deliciously faint this on her bru-reflected in deliciously faint this on her brunette complexion

nette complexion. No one could have caught even the slightest glimpes of Barbara Lester's rare, strangely-beautiful face, without involuntarily uttering an exclamation of surprise and admiration.

It was a face that suggested the thought of a sudden, piercing rift of light over a thunder-charged storm-cloud, or a bright, dead-cold charged storm-cioud, or a bright, dead-cou moonbeam shining down over a yawning, black fissure. A magnificent face, that exactly de-picted the triumph of pride over despair; that denoted a will strong enough to move moun-tains, were they in her way.

tains, were they in her way." The cyss were slambrous, and generally valled by the long thick lashes—cyse that locked as even laston chetwynd, Sr. found a match for his own sun-bright ones. Hor month was perfect; not very small, bu-derness and wonanlines, whether the red lips-were parted in dazzlin, peen-this playing smile, or gravely closed in denure silence. Latto discover a different silence in the red lips-derness and wonanlines, whether the red lips-derness and second and the silence in the red lips-there are a single size of the silence in the red lips-there are a single size of the silence in the red lips-there are a single size of the size of the silence in the size of the laston discover a diff. Second size of the size o

late October—Barbara Lester had excused her-self from the music-room, where Blanche Chetsoir from the music-room, where blanche Chet-wynd was practicing; she had been in a state of unrest all the day, and now, as she locked her door, and almost flug herself into a chair by the open window, a sigh of relief came from her lips, a light to her eyes that was not all glad-ness, and a curl to her lips that was all con-

hess, and a curve new me the tends of the all I am? she "How thoroughly sick of it all I am?" she said, as she leaned her head on her hand—so that the long brown tresses covered neck and arms

"Thoroughly tired of it all, because it is eharity, from my kingly Mr. Chetwynd down to baby Blanche—ah! baby though she is, she may yet thwart me! but m she does!" Then a sudden, delightful memory seemed to return to he

Then a sudden, dolightful memory seemed to return to her. "How radiculous I and, is if, roors, she, or "How radiculous it in her power to wink him from me! Let them beach their kindness to poor Barbara Lester, the child who was left at their door, seventeen years ago; let them, I say, and I'd tell them to their faces that Bar-bara, Lester's beauty will balance their money,

bara Lester's beauty will balance their monety, any day!" or granified trimony lighton her even a granuation of the second backward into the pion glass. "If flanche is pretty, I and handsone; if the is beautiful, I am more so. And to think she should dream, for a moment, that her childish uirs and graces could win Gervaise De Laurian from net?

name of her lover came in dulcet strains

The name of her lower came in dules strains from her lips; came in a low, sweet key that sent the warm blood to her forebaad, and a gladsome light to her cycs. The strain strain strain strains and the heen good to me in leading you to me." Her musing, dreamy volce died away in a meditative nourmur as she bowed her regal head still lower on her hand, gazing earnesity at a picture painted on porcelain that hung, by She rumoviti, and looked more cleesly at t. It was a face, a head, that would have made any woman's heart boat the guicker at the

It was a face, a head, that would have made any woman's heart boat the quicker at the thought of being belowed by the original. the deal of imperiousness, priod and willfulmes in the final-y-cut features. A blonde complexion shadowed by a heavy amber mustache: a pair of Locen, almost flerco violet eyes; dark gold hair, tawny in hue, rare in its leasity, that was brushed low over the forehead, and of the tem-jes, in a style that plainly table the carelesteness of the wearer to its arrangement, as well as a proud consciousness of its extreme becoming-ness. Such was the face, so fascinating in its half-smiling, half-frowning pride, upon which Barbara Lester lavished such hot, ceaseless

Then she replaced the picture on its silver hook, but not before removing from its frame a heavy, plain gold ring, that she placed on her tiny finger.

"Blanche has never seen that, and little dreams sho I am his betrothed bride. If she did, I think she would take better care that she

did not flush and tremble so if he but chanced to touch her hand." She had thrown a black lace shawl over her

shoulders while she spoke, and then adjusted a tiny hat, on whose side glowed a spray of vel-

vet pinks. "I think I will do. Gervaise requested me to wear this suit, although it is a strange color for to-day.

"She glanced down at her emerald green suit. dor?

Then, smiling at her nervous suggestion, she

looked at her watch. "Five o'clock so soon! and I promised to be at the chapel ruins at five."

With a hurried glance at the window, she wept across the velvet carpet, opened the door, then locked it after her

Blanche Chetwynd met her at the gate, her sunbright curls all windblown about her fresh, fair face, her black eyes full of unspoken hap-ninges

Off for a ramble, Barbara?

Barbara laughed as she hoisted her parasol. "To Passaic, I think, if the road is not too isty. I may be late to dinner, but you'll

dusty. I may be late as make my excuses?" "Assuredly. But there is the carriage, Bar-"Assuredly. But there is a delightful

bara." "Thanks; but a walk will be a delightful

rarity." "I think you'll meet Mr. De Laurian, Bar-bara, for I passed him at the chapel ruins a few

Barbara glanced keenly at the sweet, con-scious face, and then a little look of stern re-proof came to her lips. " Mr. De Laurian and you often meet, Blanche."

Her words were intended as a probe to the

Her words were intended as a probe to the young girl's heart, and Barbara exultingly saw the glow deepen on her cheeks. "You are an adept, Blanche," and Barbara laid her finger on the girl's hot face. "But, adieu, mia cara," and, wafting a kiss, she went on, and Blanche returned slowly to

the Chase.

It was not a long walk, and in a few minutes Barbara reached the ruins.

True to his tryst, Gervaise De Laurian await-ed her. With a glad smile, in which all her beauty seemed to concentrate itself, she extended her hands. "Gervaise! I was fearful I had kept you

"As if forever were too long to wait for you,

Barbara His deep-whispered words sent a flush to her

heeks.

cneess. "But, nevertheless, I'm glad you've come; I am impatient, after all, for the treasure the next hour will give me. My darling, you do not de-sire to retract your promise! you are as willing to day to register your yow as you were when I gave you that?" His finger touched the action state."

I gave you that? His finger touched the golden circlet on her hand, and his proud, passionful eyes were look-ing down in her own. "Retreat, Gervaise? Never! Rather do I "Retreat, Gervaise? Never! Rather do I

¹⁷ Retrait, Gervanise! Never! Rather do I doire to strengthen it by every bond I may." He smilled, then bent and kissed her. In a second the second sec

then his eyes grew wrathful. What has Blanche Chetwynd to do with "What has

me, or you?" "Forgive me, Gervaise, they were idle words." ^{null} Forgino, m. Gervain, they were idle worke? It was wonderful, almost pitinl, to see how this proud, engle-harted girl fung all her pride, her daview at the fect of her love: Int Barbara Lester's was no light, passing emotion, that Lester's was no light, passing emotion, that is in isoaltong course. And Gervaines De Laurian knew this. Ho knew how entirely he was her master, and be not set of the set of the set of the set of the her work of the set of the set of the set of her islend to her loving, voice and w, when he islended to her loving voice and w, when her wistful eves. "It will forgive you. But I can not have you "Sho avail." Bis and together they walked slowly to the inner chamber of the changed rule.

chapel ruins.

chapel ruins. "Now, Barbara, my own, here we begin to tread the same life path. Here I shall solemnly swear to love you to the end. Barbara, you will promise to love me, care for me with all your woman's heart, forever and forever?"

your woman's heart, forever and forever His low, murnurous voice held her in a thrall, delicious as magical. "Forever and ever, Gervaise, till death do us

part

He kissed her, and led her through the mossgrown door.

CHAPTER III.

No. 1.

CHAFTER III. "IF SUE DUT RNEW!" IT was a spacious place, with old, moth-eaten drapery, and a floor where luxuriant grass grew between the interstices of moldy stones. At one end, it was inclosed by a hedge of pines, at the other the Passaic river flowed.

pines, at the other the Passic river forest. Above waved troos bys. alow, tender music lin-An elderly gentleman, with pleasant blue eyes, awaide them. is a riveral of nime from y"layehars, dear, the proves by the right of its offles to marry. Ho is not a clergyman, but you do not object to being married by a justice of the passic place are set.

ara did not care. Why should she? was marriage just as sacred solemnized Bart $\widetilde{\text{ot}}$ her

With luminous eyes she told her lover so, and

With huminous eyes she told her lover eo, and he turnel to the geniteman. "Mr. Croyden, this is the lady of whom I polee, Miss Lester. "We are ready now?" Hand in hand, under the roofing of Mathwell and the start of the soft summer winds their wedding hymn, the coremony was spolen; Geryania be Laurian had kissed his bride; the officiating gentleman had legarted, bride the officiating gentleman had legarted. We hispered the words in her are as they were heatthich bride?" He whispered the hypothese assesses the A small of perfect happiness assesses that these for a following you. But how, hower," She laid her hand on his arm in a half-serious gesture.

"Gervaise, I have but one request to make

""Gervatise, I have but one request to make. You will grant the first your wife ask! Prom-ise you will not flirt any more with—with—" second Ranta Barbara, can you trust new! Remember, Barbara utkered a cry, "Secret, Gauvaise! Our marriage a secret? Di, I never dreamed of such a thing." "Her checks paied, then glowed as the spoke, winds, and the second second second second second barbara utkered a cry, "Barbara utkered a cry, "Barbara utkered a cry, "Barbara the spoke, I cry the checks paied, then glowed as the spoke, enting,"

"Barbara, you must let me dictate, and with

""Barbara, you must let me dictate, and vith-out questioning my motives. I want you to distinctly understand I desire our marriage to be a profound sceret, mill you have my per-mitted to dividge it." seemed strangely at your infance with his impositooned manner a moment before, and as Barbara De Laurian searched armsely his handisome, fusioned face, and mot the light in his willful eyes, she began to realise even as she lowed, so must hen obey, in the strict-even as she lowed, so must hen obey, in the strict-even as a she lowed, so must hen obey in the strict-est meaning of the word. Even as Gervaine lowed her, word her ratio over her. While she had been so steadily regarding him, her beautiful Jus paper in the and abruptly hid his hand over her mouth, half-saucily, half-ten-derly.

his name over ner mouth, nameauchy, namear-derly. "There, tiger-lily, do not gaze so reproach-fully at me. I mean to do what is best for us both, and the only course is to retain our secret, for a while at least. You'll promise me, dearest

There still lingered a despotism under his af-fectionate words; and what could Barbara do but consent?

"Gervaise, I promise."

"Gervaise, I promise."
"I knew you would, And now I want an-other promise. You asked me not to first with lingnehe Ghevynd, It is a hard one to keep, lingnehe Ghevynd, It is a hard one to keep, heida, ahe is a sweet blossom, and it is far from my nature to pass such by;" Barbara grow stately.
"But, Gervaise, you've no réght to flirt again with any woman. You are my huskand, and, a an u hoiris excisiva so you chold have done an

young ladies' society as you would have done an our ago.

Her earnest language burst from her eager lips as she laid her fair, warm hands on his arm. He smiled; a quick, lightning-like gance of amusement. "You may be right, Barbara, but don't for

But that only to each other are we married. But, will you promise what I was about to ask? never to think of Roy Davenal?"

A hot flush shot over her cheeks, as she im-petuously answered:

petuously answored: "Will you never have done with that old-time engagement? Gervaise, Roy and I were mero children then; we never think of such things now. You know I care for no living being but yoursel!"

now. for anow a cure for no inving coung 601 If was a trifling decision, but mighty results Curse sealed the wood the two fair women. Note that have placed the placed the

as she walked along the narrow path, her green sliken skirt rustling against the grass, her "Beautiful temptressi she has ruined herself and me too, I fear! If she but knew, (r she but knew, ever so vagued);" ab bitter smill be one over his handsome face, a bitter smill be one over his handsome face,

and he turned away.

CHAPTER IV.

THE SPIDER'S WEB.

THE SPIDER'S WEB. "BARRARA," said Blanche Chetvynd, as the two girls were sitting on the plazar, and her checks flushing as she went on, "do you know I am very much afraid I am allowing myself to think a great ded of M. De Laurian!" Barbarn starfod, but answered plasantly: "Mr. De Laurian is a geneticana whom few women could diffus."s face while she spicks. "Ho occlusive is heardwome and screegable. I

¹⁰ All, the Laboratory of the second se

she spoke. Blanche laughed.

Diametre laughed. "Did I say so? Although, Barbara," and her eyes grew luminous with tenderness, while her voice mellowed to a low, confiding endence, "I am not ashamed to admit that I love him already." already.

She raised her eyes to Barbara's, that were

She raised has solution of the second confidant, Barbara? unsolicited secret?"

unsolicited secret?" She spoke in deprecating sweetness of man-ner, for a dark, angry cloud had settled on Bar-hars a proud face. "No-mot that you're honored me with our "No-mot that you're honored me with our scrry you are so girkh, so childha at to helleve the attentions of every gentleman you mest are booss. When you are older you will leavn that flirtations are more amusing than hasting. Be-side, Blanche, there is another reason." Hor voice grew tonder as she saw the pained "A reason why I should'n like Gervaise D Laurinn, Barbarn?"

She asked the question in amaze

"Not for your simply 'liking' him, Blanche. Of course we can all like every one we see, whereas love, particularly such love as you bestow, is not to be frittered away on every

bestow, is not us a variant of the second se

of his reputation has such." Slowly the blushes fadded off Blanche's face. "Barbara, no! Gervaise has held my hand many a time; he has whispered to me often; he has—even—kissed me." Like a molten surge the red tide returned as she leaned nearer Barbara to confide the pre-tions as the leaned the surge the red tide returned as

she leaned nearer baroara to connot the pro-clous secret. "Kissed you? When?" Quickly, jealously, came the words. "I can't say. I don't know. All I remember is that I feel sure he cares for me; that I know Ucay him?"

In Barbara's face were traces In Barbara's face were traces of a conflict, bitterfy every. Should sho not tell this trust-ing young givi the secret she heresif despised, down, was a searely building a fourful chasm over which Blanche must fall? She hositated; the secret trembled on her lips; the words were ready to be uttered that should save them booth from all the unsery of hour fa-

ture lifetime.

ture lifetime. Then, like some foreshadowing cloud came the memory of her hushand's positive com-mands—and her love leveling all things before it, she decided to allow circumstances to mold themselves.

Here beautiful gyes tout the sectors of ar-formed to disclose. "But not as I love you, my Elanche, my dar-ling. I know you are mine, hlough, and we "Beargage outselves, shall we" to large for Elanche's taper fingers. "Never mind; you can swar if on your watch lunin, and by that means keep our betrothal secret jector. You will not tell any one of it, secret jector.

"I cannot censure you, Blanche, for your de-votion to him as your ideal man; for I think myell he is as perfect—estimut and he hirting and he heat and the second second second second A smile that would have been mischizenes, had her heart been less fuil, lighted Blanche's face as she looked at Barbara. "Perhaps you are a wee whit fealous, Bar-

Tace as she looked at Barbara. "Perhaps you are a wee whit jealous, Bar-bara; you are so warm in your admiration while you reprove me for mine." Barbara's haughtiest curl of lip preceded her

answ

answer. "As a gentleman, I admire him; as a flirt, I detest him." Her color deepened, and her heart throbbed as she spoke the tame word "admire." Admire dervaise De Laurian! She, his wife! She drew her trailing skirts up in a handful of glowing crimson, and nodded a pleasant adieu to Blanche

Blanche. I have letters to prepare for the next mail,

"'I have letters to prepare for the next mail, Blanche, After dinner wo will drive to Pater-son for some notions I want." On the shoty piazza sho left Blanche, sitting beside the window, where the snowy cleanatic was tossing its grancful sprace, other of the finishes, her eyes ful of a said, waitfall light, sho leaned, her sun-bright head resting on her hand, her from her transient reverse. She caught a glimpse of a face and form that made her spring in sweek contusion from her reclining gimpse of a face and form that made her spring in sweet confusion from her reclining position. "Blanche, no, do not riss. I can find myself a seat. Sit still, and tell me if you are glad I

have come." Gervaise De Laurian's dark eves, all alight

Gervanse De Laurian's dark eyes, all alignt with a dangerous fire, were reading her thoughts that were all too plainly mirrored on her pink cheeks, in her soft black eyes. "Gladj I am always glad to see you, Mr. De Laurian"

"Glaar and a standard and and a standard and a standard and a stan

She cast down her eyes under his ardent gaze. "Gervaise, then," she repeated, almost under her breath, the varying tint on her cheeks pal-

her breath, the varying that on her checks pal-ing and glowing. "Thank you, *cherte*. Now, where are Mr. and Mrs. Chetwynd, and Miss Barbara?" He drew his chair nearer as he asked the

He drew my question. "Mamma and papa are out driving with Rex, and Barbara has gone to her room to attend to Barbara has gone to her room to attend to

her correspondence." "Leaving you all alone-with me," he added,

tenderly. She did not reply, for there seemed nothing to say; but her heart was fluttering like a caged

to say: but her ness-sectors in the interval birding of the sectors in the interval interval interval in the interval interval interval interval interval interval dense with Rack⁹ poke, and looked up in his "She smiled as she speed, and looked up in his "see sec he lemed correlay look. In the say face as he leaned carelessly back in his chair; and a thrill quivered through her as she saw how handsome ho was.

and a thrill quivered through her as she saw how handsmow ho was. He did not smill a reply; his eyes were half-valled by their long, golden krown hashes, under "Neither the song nor the gauge induced me to drive down. I came purposely to see a cer-tain little girl, who is too modest to mention bread in the list of attractions" are a second. "Blanche glanced up; but only with a sudden resture, he nushed the chair

With a sudden gesture, he pushed the chair way, and, extending both arms, went up to the girl

Weight and exceptions even using the optimized of the second s

his face.

go. Please, please ! ou do!" Oh, G ervaise, let me go. "On trebraise, let me go. Prease, please ; Von frighten me, indeed you do." "Frighten jou, my dainty lady bird! Does my love alarm you, whom I would woo as gent-ly as a dove does its mate! Blanche, perhaps you don't love me."

"I do! I do! Gervaise, I love you!" "I do! I do! Gervaise, I love you!" Her beautiful eyes told the secret her lips had

for a time?" "If such is your desire, Gervaise, I see no se-rious objection in so doing, although I prefer

that my parents should be acquainted with She plead with her eyes, though her lips con-

curred with his will. "But I insist upon Miss Barbara's being kept in perfect ignorance. I specially insist upon that."

"That shall be exactly as you wish. Barbara shall nover hear of our engagement until you tell her. There, Gervaise, does that satisfy you?"

you?" She laid her warm fingers on his hair, while he kay back in kingly grace against the chair, receiving her gentle caresses as naturally as though she had been created for that especial

though the had been created for that especial purpose and no other. As the spoke, a smill of triumphal pride and partified delight spread over this face. "That provines, raithfully keept, is all ask, "that provines, raithfully keept, is the deriving entering the drive-yeas, it is. Let me kiss you good-by, Blanche, darling, and after linear the structure of the structure of the kiss provided the structure of the structure of the arcse, and took are in this parts and kissed the arcse, and took are in this parts and kissed the arcse, and took are in this parts, and kissed the arcse, and took are in this parts, and kissed the arcse, and took are in this parts, and kissed the arcse, and took are in this parts, and kissed the arcse, and took are in the structure of the struc-se and the structure of the structure of the struc-sented face.

her suomer, tan soor a generation and a pre-sentet here. Neither heard footsteps, or knew of a pre-sence, till Harbara's high, clear voice broke the delicious stillness.

CHAPTER V.

PLANING WITH FATE

"WHAT does this mean! I pray to be in-formed. Mr. De Laurian, will you explain?" Blanche Chetwynd, what did I tell you?" Blanche turmed to hide her suffused face, but

Bianche turned to bide her suffused face, but Gernaise confronted her, his eyes flashing. "And permit me to inquire what you have been teiling Miss Chetwyndf" There was awful furry in his voice as he spoke, that betrayed the rage, the fear he felt lest Biancho knew all-yet he was sure ab never of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as far and the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed as a start of the have suffered as a start of the intermed as a start of the intermed of the intermed as a start of the intermed as a start of the intermed of the have suffered as a start of the intermed as a start of the intermed of the intermed as a start of the intermed as a start of the intermed of the intermed as a start of the intermed as a start of the intermed of the intermed as a start of the intermed as a start of the intermed of the intermed as a start of the intermed as a start of the intermed of the intermed as a start of the intermed as a start of the intermed of the intermed astart of the intermed as a s

other flirfations have ended." Her speech came fluently, and her eyes were steadily fixed on his, while her cheek grew pale as sho spoke

as sho spoke. Do Laurian's lips partes! in a relieved smile, and his cyce lost their steely glitter. "Indeed, Miss Barbara! I am everinastingly indekted to you for such a recommondation to Miss Chetwynd, However, heat hardly yr, Miss Chetwynd, However, heat hardly yr, "Barhara sprong to his side in a towering rage." "Borang, Gervais De Laurian. Low yrei ac-"Borang. Gervais De Laurian.

Bartara spring to its side in a towering rage. "Beware, Gervaise De Larrian, how you ac-cuse me of *falschools!* Remember *who I unit*". Her deep, warning tone made Blaache turn her head in quick surprise, but not quickly enough to see the unspikse, threat in Be Lau-

The second of the unspike supersection of the last prompt how set the unspike threat in the Last second with a problem with second seco

All this instantaneous tableau had been acted while Blauche had gone to the edge of the pl-azza to watch her parents alight. During that azza to watch her parents alight. During that second, Gervaise and Barbara had renewed their vows, and apparently fully comprehended each other.

Blanche came through the window toward them.

them. "They have returned, and now that lunch is ready, why not let us all sit down together: Mr. De Laurian, you surely will stary?" "If you will promise to go with Miss Bar-bara and me to the Falls." Barborek for did.

Barbara's face did not portray the joy she felt at the prospect of a ride beside her hus-band, but in her heart she exulted, and secretly pitied Blanche that she, all unconscious, was

pitted Binarche that she, all unconscours, was ondy invited to allay any suspicions, any subscriptions, and any supprisons, and any supprison any supprison of the superscription of the super-land superscription of the superscription of the agine what she would say when she heard that, in spitto of all her prophotic warnings, Gervaise De Laurian had actually proposed to her, and hat the dimond on her wardsch-chain was the seal of their betrothal.

The lunch-bell rung, and, first greeting Mr. Chetwynd and his wife, afterward shaking hands with Rex, De Laurian insisted upon esaking hands with Res. ite Laurian insisted upon es-corting both girls to the breakfast parlor. Laughing and chatting, first to the dirk-haired woman on his right, on whose finger he had placed the wedding-ring, and in whose ears he had spoken the sacred words, "my wife," then to the goldon-haired girl, whose maiden heart had passed forever out of her keeping into his unworthy hands; in whose eyes still dawned the love-light awakened by his earnest protesta-tions of abiling affection. Gervaise De Laurian went on, his heart beating high with wicked dearrow, he advantation in unwareful dawieses etc. pleasure as he gloried in successful daring; as he thought of these two peerless women who acknowledged him their heart's sovereign.

Lunch was comfortably over, when the Chet-wynd carriage was driven up to the door.

wynd carriage was driven up to the door. Barbora and Blanche hastened to change their dresses for others more suitable, and it was when alone together that Barbara reproved Blanche for lack of confidence in her advice. "But he seems so good, Barbara, and, after all, why should I not receive his attentions as

all, why should a how see why, and a pang of Barbara did not tell her why, and a pang of pity for the girl shot through her heart. "He does not filt with me, Blanche. Be-sides—nothing. Will this dress do?"

"He does not not with me, Blancae, Be-aides—nothing. Will this dress do?" She had abruptly changed the topic of con-versation, and took from the wardrobe a maize-colored silk.

colored silk. "I will wear it, at any rate, and my India shawl," she said, then thinking how her hus-band admired the dress and shawl. "I is very becoming. Barbura," said Blanche. "I shall wear my white cashnere and scarlet

wrap

wrap.³⁴ And Blancho inwardly remembered hearing her lover say she looked like a "sumset fairy" in that heavy, richtly hauging drass, with the Both dressing for the one they loved best; Both dressing for the one they loved best; each striving to appear perfect in his eyes; and he, pacing the plazar, with a fragrant eight be-ween his first, planning his affermon's work. tween his high plazar, with a fragrant eight be-this engagement to filanche.

He found the gentleman in the library: a few words of courteous interchange, and then he "I have come to deliberately rob you of

A marke come to denormating rob you of your choicest treasure—if, indeed, I have not already taken it. I love Blauche, Mr. Chet-wynd, and have told her so. She returns that love. May I have her?" A sudden graveness overspread the gentle-

man's face.

"Are you aware of the fata that hangs over her head? The Curse of Chetwynd Chase has been gathering for years to break on my inno-ter Bjanche's head?"

De Laurian was impressed by the solemnity

attentions to latibat Lester would become so-marked, I decided you were trying to win her." "That is true, Mr. Chetwynd; but, romen-ber, I have been placed between two as lovely women as the sun shone on, and who, think you, could have acted differently? I have been

you, could nave actes unterentity - 1 have been analyzing my feelings, and have learned it is Blanche Chetwynd I love." Very proud, imperious and strong he looked, standing there, in the full flush of a perfect manhood, pleading this suft with a noble fervor manhood, peeding his kuit with a noise tervor that became a better man; and courtly Mr. Chetwynd, who had seen handsome men before, noticed the kindling of his violet eyes, the proud curving of his bips, under the heavy am-ber mustache, and did not wonder that Blanche loved him. Then he extended his hand cordial

"Then all the second se

De Laurian bowed his handsome head in reverent assent. "I swear it, Mr. Chetwynd; and the Cu

that lights on my darling's head shall first break its weight on mine."

its weight on mine." "Then I greet you my son, Gervaise, my

He grasped De Laurian's hand, and they ex-

the grasped De Laurans ann, and they ex-changed a warm friendly greeding. And the while, Blanche and Barbara, up in their room, were wondering at the low current of conversation that came floating indistinctly by their gars, and then Mr. Chewyard's voice, clear and ringing, sounded in the hall below. "Blanche! will you step down a norment:"

LOVE'S HIDE AND SEEK.

SHE turned almost abruptly away from Bar-SHE turned almost abrophy away from Bar-bara, in whose hair she was twining a spray of dwarf pink flowers, and hastened down the stairs, leaving Barbara alone at the mirror, wondering if Gervaise would find any oppor-tunity for a kiss or a carces, or a whispered

minity For a kiss or a curves, or a sumparison toor, its we wond.
Little recked she of the scene transpiring be-low, as Mr, bottwynd choed the library door toor, as Mr, bottwynd choed the library door of the state of the state of the state ion, and her heart beat rapidly as her father led ger up to be Laurian.
Vou in marringe, He hores youn has added for you in marringe. He hores youn has added for you in marringer, with the avtul inherited Curse of Chetwynd Classe ou your girlish head, to good and III, blies and misery, for life, death and scrutty.

and eternity." He laid her hand in De Laurian's; her pure hand, in one so false. With unshed tears lying on her lashes, Mrs. Chetwynd, who had been a silent witness, fouched Bianche's forchead with her lips, theu kissed Gervaise.

kissed Gervaise. "Remember, my children, this must be sa-credly confidential. I have but the one request to make, which I am sure will be granted. I would request the engagement retained perfectwould request the engagement retained perfect by secret for several months, until Blanche has attained her twentieth birhday. Mr. Chetwynd romenbers this to be the eastorn of our family, if they are betrofhed before that age. Then we will auronome it with all eddet. Even from Bar-hara, my dear, I wish you to keep the news, May 1 dipend on you to graftfy me in this one

May 1 depend on you or states in the respect?" Mrs. Chetwind smiled as she spoke, as if she thought it would be a very serious thing for Blanche to withhold her all-important sceret from Barbara, with whom she was naturally so

trom paronra, with whom she was naturally so very intinate. De Laurian's heart was fairly throbbing with excessive exultation. What could have been better than that Mrs. Chetwynd herself should better than that airs. Chetwynd herseit should have suggested the servecy from Barbarat. He smilled at Blanche, who gladly agreed to keep their vows from Barbara's knowledge till the following June, when, on her twentieth birth-day, both engagement and speedy wedding day, both engagem would be announced.

would be announced. Then sho went slowly up the stairs, her hands: clusped over her heart to still, if possible, its mad throbs of joy, foarth lesk her telltale face should reveal to Barhara the sweet secret. Stopping at the wardback, she selected a jam-ty turban with a red cock's feather; then went is to back a secret secret.

on to Barbara.

'Are you ready, Blanche? I am, and wait-, Here's your wrap. Is Mr. De Laurain ing.

ing. Here's your wrate with a low " thank Wanting?" Blanche took the garment, with a low " thank you," and the two descended to the plaza, where De Laurian awaited them. " Bring them back by dinner-time, Mr. De Laurian,"

He promised Mrs. Chetwynd, and the car-riage rolled rapidly along the wide, graveled drive, and out upon the main road.

It was a charming afternoon; and, the turn-plice once gained, De Laurian relaxed the struct reins on the horses, and leaned against the cushions of the carriage. "Is not the scenery fine in this delicious au-

tumn haze?

It was Barbara's voice that broke the silence that had intervened since they had left Chetwynd Chase.

Perfectly: and a most fitting time and place for me to entertain my lady guests." "As if we couldn't entertain ourselves, Sir

Conceit Blanche laughed, and Barbara relaxed into a

smile. "Doubtless you could, although, you will admit, the subject of edification would be gos-sip or fashion."

Or a more congenial subject, perhaps-love Barbara spoke in a low, intense voice, glane-

Darbara spoke in a low, intense voice, giane-ing at Gervaise. His eyes sent back an answering light, and Blanche, fearful lest her incarnadine cheeks should reveal her thoughts, looked industriously

should reveal her thoughts, looked industriously through the window. "It does seem strange that love is the only topic ever handled by poet, artist, or author; that is love and its modifications, which are every, jeducy or revenge. So far as I am con-cerned, blongh I am neither painter, poet or ro-nameer, I know love to be a most delightful ex-

Blanche's vail tumbled softly down over her face, and under its filmy folds Gervaise detect-ed the brightness of her eyes that she could not

Then you have loved, Mr. Do Laurian

"Then you have leved, Mr. Do Laurant," Barbara Bought how strangely the question sounded as it left her lips, and a suile of annus-urent was in her eyes as she thought how she and Gervaise numf converse thus, under the semblance of indifferences.

Vol. I.

Blanche would not mistrust how direct the application was of such commonplace remarks while through them she and De Laurian conveyed their love.

veyed their love. " Haye I loved,' you asked, Miss Barbara? I have: I do, most earnestly, most devotedly. I love with a fervor that never can be quenched till my heart be chilled by death." His eyes were flooded with that dangerous sirva light that made those two women's hearts

siren light that made those two women's hearts throb so wildly. "How is it with you? You have questioned me, now let me elicit an answer from you." "W WdL," returned barbare, her voice coulting "W WdL," returned barbare, her voice coulting affection as warrally as I can ask. I love him as no one else could. I will be true to the death." death.

She was nervously toying with the lace cover of her parasol, her eyes cast down, the long lashes vailing their light, and Gervaise De Lau-

lashes valling their light, and Gervais De Lau-rian was watching her passionate face, triumph-ing that all that beauty was *kie*. Barbars Washes, and the second second second for a second second second second second the flashing black eyes were raised in a second. "I would not believe him false. He is not, I know, but admitting the fact that he *dare* be-ni, I can in ot express what he would receive at a second seco

handa

my hands." Gervaise laughed. "No one could be false to you, Miss Barbara, No one would. Depend upon this one whom you love, and trust him even as you say you do. He were less than man did he not worship you.

A gleam of exquisite joy darted from her eyes as he spoke.

eyes as no spoke. Turning to Blanche, who had listened to it all, he laughingly challenged her. "Come, Miss Blanche, tell us if you are ac-quainted with this rosy god!" "You are too personal. I am almost afraid to confess."

to confess to confess." "Then there is a confession? To reassure you, Miss Blanche, I an very confident there must be, somewhere on this wide hemisphere, some one who loves you truly, lastingly." The scarled flowed in a quick tide to her face, and she averted her head, withal so thankful for the delicate, arowal he had made; but she

ror the deficate arowal he had made; but she strove to laugh it off. "You must be a wizard, Mr. De Laumin." "There, that reminds me. Why need we three insist on calling each other by such fooi-lishly formal tiltes! I, an user we all are each must we be 'Barbara," 'Blanche' and 'Ger-vaise' to each other." The girls were only too delighted. Blanche, Int she daved to address him so. Barbara, that

When the other initiality too delighted. Hanche, that she draved to address thin so: Barbara, that his strategy was so admirable, for her heart yearned to call his loved name again. Meanwhile, engrowsel, in pleasant converse. Meanwhile, engrowsel, the shedy avenues, be charry of Lower year characteristic strategy of the shedy avenues, be that appear personal to both, yet not avour "Ton in other," me Barbara, of your vengeance you spoke of an hour ago. See that there whole length of the rock? I can imagine you involve the shedy avery the shedy avery the sheat gath the sheat and the sheat and the strategy of the right of us, that extends the whole length of the rock? I can imagine you through both yet along the sheat light the Blanche sheat light the sheat light the strenge.

world should hold for him." Binnche shivered. "Gerraise, don't do more than that." Gerraise, don't do more than that." Gerraise, laughed it off. Ho was so borlliant, so fascinating, and Barbarn's eyes grew dark-ly tender as they role house in the gathering protecting shaw, and he slooped, now and then, under pretext of arranging the affghan, to whisper, in such a heart-sturing tone, "My Silonity hangory she needle boside bin, caring

beautiful wife!" Silently happy she nestled beside him, caring for maught; knowing his presence was her very lic; his low, that ginned in his eyes, her more Do the other side, her scarlet wrap clinging closely around her white, pure face, her sun-bright hair streaming in the brisk west wind, Blanche was quickly sitting, with De Laurian's arm around her shoulder, dreaming over the itiges that blisfeld aftermoor, so many tiges in the site of a second sec s that blissful afternoon.

We way to be a set of the set of ears. These two women, each blessing Ger-vaise De Laurian for the love that he had given her; each thankful that in the fullness of that love, he made them so perpetually conscious of it, and yet preserved if a hidden treasure from oth

the other. And Gervaise De Laurian himself, so hand-some and defiant, with a smile on his lip, that in its beauty and purity belied the laugh of hor-rible triumph in his heart, rode home between these two women, whose happiness he was dolb-orately crushing, whose lives he was forever blasting

Well was it for him that the golden light of the harvest moon did not lighten his purposes as it did his faultless face; as it had frozen the

if did his faultless frace, is it had frozen the sufficient shappings on the lip of his un-ficient states of the states of the states of the state from the carriage, with a carses for both, as they ascended the steps of the pinzar. Little did he dream that the Curse Chet-edress, and that his own was the hand that would pour the vials of wrath on another head than his own.

CHAPTER VII.

THE SHADOW ON THE PATH.

"WWYW company for you, Barbara, Blanche, It's fortunate you've returned in such good sea-son, especially you, Barbara, for your old friend and admirrer sextremely anxious to see you." "You see mail Who can it be't Lhave no such Her glance wandered my robuntarily to De Laurian, who with the light in his eyes she had laemed to dread, was regarding her intently. "Who can it be, now, I wonder 'l' retorted who is the you, I augulty, "Swite enough, who is the you, I and a Laebara Lester's room, all tiod with blue !" "WE'VE company for you, Barbara, Blanche.

tied with blue ?"

and with this is according to the second sec

award sugence. You do not seem desirous of welcoming 1, so I will myself summon him from the lor. Mr. Davenal !" him,

him, so t with mysch summon and tool according to the parlor. Mr. Davenal 1" Like lightning De Laurian turned around, and though Barbara's face was purposely averted, she felt the glances of rage he cast on her, as, in answer to the summons, light, quick footsteps

answer to the summons, light, quick footsteps approached. The door opened and Roy Davenal entered the library. With a bow to the party, he went straight up to Barbara, who, with wildly throb-bing heart, as she tried to imagine the effect of this meeting on her husband, awaited his com-

"Barbara Lester ! I am so delighted to : "Barbara Lester ! I am so delighted to see you again ; and Blanche, how do I find you ?" He extended a hand to each, but, after cordi-ally classing her fragile fingers, let her remove them, while he retained Barbara's, and closed the remaining head ager her name, and closed

them, while he retained Barbara's, and closed the remaining hand over her pair. His admiration was too sincers for coquetry, and as with elaborato politeness Gervaise De Laurian acknowledged the introduction, he de-elded that Roy Davenal was in love with his wife

He surveyed his rival from head to foot ; and as he acknowledged what a fine-looking man this Roy Davenal was, he also concluded to flank

nm. It was a serious business this double affair of his; and if he possessed unlimited boldness to attempt to carry it through, he also possessed an unmeasurable amount of jealousy that en-abled him to prevent Roy Davenal from court-ing, he mile or paying attention to Blanche.

an unmeasurable amount of Jealousy that ea-shed him to prevent Key Davenal from court-ing his wife, or paying attention to Blanche Unevyral, even while he must attend to both the second second second second second second likewise of the second second second second second with Gervalse De Laurian, so, while he critical-tivith of the second second second second second partical second second second second second behavior and not the vaguest samption. This plan, while it left him free to keep good his pro-testations to Blanche, would errev to reminist statistical to the second risk in the fishe errer fitted with Koy Davenal, when the height of the second in low with her, and that there was nothing be-there at the second second second second from that houghts of atfer-rer that second second second second from that hour, by turning to Blanche, we take a protoneadol fits. Chetwynd, suppose that second from that hour, by turning to Blanche we take and that second second second second second second with a smile that set be the head. Chetwynd, suppose that second sec

Barbara turned at the words, and was in time

Daroara turned at the words, and was in time to see him place the scarlet wrap over her shoulders, and clasp the silver fastening. He drow her hand through his arm, and, with a giance as swift as meaning at Barbara, passed out the open French window. "Shall we follow, Barbara i I have so much to app."

to say." Roy Davenal bent low over her crimson

Only an instant did she hesitate, as she will be equal with Gervaise De Laurian.

He shall see I can first as well as he can." Then, with a bewitching smile, she answered Davenal, loud enough to be also heard by Ger-vaise and Blanche; and her husband ground his heel on the graveled path as the musical

sound reached him. "Thank you, Roy ; I will go. I know nothing I should prefer to a moonlight walk with you

alone

alone." And Roy Davenal, in the fulness of his love, believed what she said ! "And now, my own, tell me every thing that has happened since we parted, in the spring. Have you been well t and happy, and true !" They had gone only a little way from the river bank, and it second to the girl who leaned so heavily on his arm that his voice was lover, and more intenso than ever she had heard it :

-has a reputation that has reached all the way to my Western home. Blanche's lover, I see now." "Well ?"

Barbara answered calmly, but her eyes glit-tered with a light that told how strongly her heart resented whatever reflection Roy might

heart resented whatever reflection noy mignt cast upon her husband. "I heard he was a frequent immate of Mr. Chetwynd's mansion, and knowing how beanti-fully bewitching you were, my Barbara, how could I help wondering if he would win you over to him

"You forgot Blanche, Roy. You see for yourself his devotion. Besides, how could I play

yourself his divertion. Besides, how could I play you false, "" Why did she not tell him, then and there I thy did she votes, franght with such liquid tenderness, lead her deeper into anguish at like last, and him urther from happiness ? " You could not, la know, and that I have wronged you by the suppicion, let me beg your you know it was love that priorapted the fond enclosy. To lose you, my Barbara, would be worse than death."

"He would thin," will be would be a set of the set of wound his arms around her waist, and He

that all was truth that she thought a hit of clov-er, pointed eating-galled here, and with a firm reason with to basiss the admonitons of conge-umes on her busissant's part of this wretched farce, she turned around toward Koy; a sigh, that she could not repress, excaping her lips. "Did I hear aright? Barbars, you are not "I and a L basers"

wounded at what I said p⁺ — we are not "I am not. I happened to recall a memory of the past that gave me a momentary heart page. That is all." "Barbara, do you know I can truthfully say 1 do not regret any of my part that concerns you ! By the by, dearest, I came across the only contrained half at the other day that so make the start of the start of the start "Ty you will, yes."

"If you will, yes." Barbara was gazing at the pair before them, and she spoke in feverish haste. "Mr. De Laurian and Blanche will doubtless be a delighted audience," responded Roy, gayly. "But I am perfectly willing they shall consider

the language personal." His clear tenor notes, mellow and musical, This clear vector notes, menor and musical sounded out on the still atturnm night; and, as Barbara cluug to his arm, wondering what her busband would think, and smiling bitterly as she thought how much more guilty she was than he, De Laurian and Biancho involuntarily slackened their steps to listen.

- ened their steps to listen. "Oh, Geneviere, my carly love, The years but make thee deaver far, The set stall aver, teves rove the set stall aver, teves rove the set stall aver, teves rove the set of the set of the set of the What's or the years may bring to me, these the hour when first we met, The hour that gave they love to me !"

In a flood of exquisite, pensive melody the

In a flood of exquisite, primite and a softly away "Gervaise, is not that lovely ?" Blanche Chetwynd, her eyes wet with unshed tears, looked up in her lover's face. "Perfect. So touching, and expressive of my

"retries. So fouring, and expressive of my feelings to you, my own." "As if I did not know that! And while I am so happy in your love, Gervaise, I rejoice that Barbara's heart is so fully Koy's. They have been engaged these three years."

"Engaged ?" He started involuntarily, his eyes lighting up

"Why, yes. Did you not know ? They will be married in the early spring." "Married ? Barbara Lester married in the spring."

spring He repeated the words in a low, hoarse tone, that made Blanche look at him in extreme surprise

"Why, Gervaise, what of that ?" Her words recalled him to the actualities of the present, while they warned him of his part to play.

the present, while they warned num os ar per-to play. The play is the play of the play of the play of the play of a second second second second second second range. Is about a soon have thought of nearing of your marriage with—well with—" "Some of lawride a nearby it with the most ridead like the lawride of the most ridead like the lawride of the second for a second has these burned, and his dark oyes steadily studied her ewest, guideless face.

CHAPTER VIIL

STREE TO STEEL

It was only for a second, then he laughed. "Not quito as bad as that. But, really, Miss Leeder is a splendid girl, and Mr. Davanal will secure a prize-when he gets her." Elanche did not detect the hidden meaning of the secure)

the remark. "Indeed he will And she, as well, in him, for Roy is a noble fellow."

Gervaise gently pressed the fingers that lay on his sleeve.

Be careful, little girl, or I shall grow jeal-"You musta't.

She looked into his face with a suddenly-grown serious expression of her own, where the blushes fought for the mastery over the earnest

panor of her cheeks. "You never will have occasion to be jealeus, Gervates, for I shall be trans. When you are false to me-and I know that never will be, even in thought-then you may accuse me of disloyalty."

He never winced as he met her womanly eyes as she spoke in such proud confidence: but there occurred to him the vivid contrast of her purity and tyrth, and his foulness and the living lie he knew he was persenating.

At the steps, in a patch of unbroken moon-

At the stops, in a patch of unbrowsa moon-light, the party met. "You have enjoyed this perfect avening, Blaachel-Mir. De Laurian?" "For mymail is can my lidy, sey much," "the main set of the second second second second confere she eared for the exclusive society of Mr. De Laurian." "I van addry are I never enjoyed an events

Mr. De Lanzian. "I can safely say I never enjoyed an evening more. As you remarked, Mr. Davenal, the oight is partect; then, with a most congenial companion, who could help having a delightful time?"

time?" If wis Gervaise who spoke, and, as he did so, looket meaningly down at Blanche. Then he addressed Barbara, quite Antropylo, "Mass Bar-hara, if you feel repaid for your trouble in pre-paring for the walk?" His cool tone, so surreastic and fronical, but served to increase to further heat the fames of

served to increase to further heat the famos of the realous anger. "You may presume to inquire, and, as my eccert was a near and cryd dare presonal friend, you will not be surprised to know I greatly en-loyed the apportrimity that gave me his exclusive society—which I prize above all privileges." "Thank you, my daring:" Boy gools impulsively, little dreaming the With Industry of the a whole in which

With kindling eyes, yet in a voice in which only Barbara detected the smothered fury, he

reto rted:

"You are then in a very enviable frame of mind, Miss Lester. Permit me to congratulate you and Mr. Davenal that such choice spirits have met

Barbara bowed, frigidly. Roy Davenal wondered if Mr. De Laurian

Roy Just then Mrs. Chetwynd came in through the

"Come, girls, it is time for your beauty-

sleep." . Gervaise instantly extended his hand to

Blancha. "Good-alights, then." Then he reached it to Barbara. Cool and haughty, with the air of an empress, she morely inclined ber head, keeping her fingers clasped on Roy Davenal's shoulder.

De Laurian bit his tawny mustache in fierce vexation as he went down the steps, and re-membered how another man had called his wife "darling.

"darling." All that night, in the sleepless hours, he tossed on his pillow; all the next morning the endear-ing epithet rung in his ears; then, when the hour came for the usual afternoon ride, he had arranged his plans of action.

In his little pony-phaseon he drove from Pat-erson down to Chetwynd Chase, and found Roy Davenal on the veranda, and a low basket-buggy

Davenal on the veranda, and a low basket-buggy drawn up by the carriage mount. The two exchanged greetings, and Roy ex-planed he was about to take Barbara for a ride. "I beg pardon for interfering in the least, Mr. Davenal, but I foar Miss Chewynd will think you a little unritendly in devolting yourself so assidurually to Barbara." You are a guest of her sanduruly to Barbara. To ure a guest of her you search her to-day and leave your belrothed to me."

to me." De Laurian spoko iu a half-earnest, half-con-fidential way their no case could have taken of-fense at, much less Roy, who instantly appre-ciated the delicate advice. "You are right, Do Laurian; FII make amends. Barbara will concuse me if I desire it,

won't you?" He lifted his hat as she came down the steps

The first his hat is bit cause town the seeks with Binneh, what?" she cause town the seeks "Work I what?" she returned, as she be-"town a careless no den him. " As a careless no den him. " As a careless no den him." "

er a stern command.

ar a stern command. Then she smiled triumphantly. "I prefer not, Koy. You know I have count-l so on this ride. Blanche would rather enter-"I prefer not, Roy. You know I have count-ed so on this ride. Blanche would rather enter-tain Mr. De Laurian, I'n sure." Blanche blushed. "I'm, sure I'll ride wherever it is best. I

"Im sure in ride wherever it is best. I would like a nice like that with you, Roy." Blanche had received an encouraging smile from De Laurian ere she replied. Barbara grew frigid in a moment. "Oh, if is's a conspiracy. I'm sure I wouldn't

"On, it is a conspiracy, in sure i wouldn't attempt to interfere. It must be a great pity to deprive you of your 'nice little chat." Mr. De Larrian, I am at your disposal. Do you wish me to ride with you?" Her coldness did not in the least affect his

sunny courtesy. "I shall be too glad. Let me assist you to the pha eton.

phasion." He would have taken her hand, but she sprung in heredt; a hard giltter in her steely black Ray had litted Hauselie in and they drove on, De Laurian following, out of hearing distance. Not a word was spoken till hery had cleared the grounds of Chetwyrd Chase; then, with a horrible deliberatemess, De Laurian turnet to-

ward Barbara. "Well?"

In that one word was concentrated all the pent-up emotions he had nursed since the pre-

"What do you mean, Barbara De Laurian, by your conduct? What am I to understand you mean?"

yeu mean?" Threatening authority was conveyed in every intonation of his voice as he glared at her. She lifted her eyes boldly to his face. "What am I, your wife, to understand you

If De Laurian was angry, Barbara was a match for him.

Drop me out the question and answer me, I command. What does Roy Davenal mean by calling you darking?"

"What you mean when you call me that name, I presume. I did not ask him to ex-plain." plain

plain." She was ecol and calm, a supering gaslle curl-ing on hap proud lips. "But, woman, by what right does he say it?" "A prior right, mass He low me and loved "And coming from the presence of him, who, less than aix weeks ago, pronounced you my wifs, you promised me aver to care for him again. Where has your honor gone?" "To the wave place are yours, Gerwales De "To the super place are yours, Gerwales De She langthed as she spoke, a low, smeering

She laughed as she spoke, a low, sneering laugh that made him turn fiercely on her, and snatch her hands as they lay idly, gracefully

"See, here, Barbara De Laurian! I have

were such other. "Soe, here, Barbara De Lauriani I have beard him call you darling; I have seen him vow you with eyes of love; I have karned you work wordshed to him. Deling?" His voice oits some of its inerk wrathruinees as he ropested her name; he had been seeing how gloriously beautiful here was in this new plasse of character, and he foared, less, through the "Barbara", task, what are you doing?" "What are you doing?"

Their eyes met with the same inquiry in both their depths.

A silence followed; then, by a mighty effort, for she loved him so, and so longed for a loving word or glauge, she spoke his name: Gervaise.

VOL. I.

Her voice was soft, and it needed but a kind word or a tander look from him to sweep away all the ice harriers.

"If we have acted wrong there is pardon and "Her siren tones, tones that he so loved, re-

newed the jealeusy-dimmed flame of love; he let fall her bands, a d wound his arms around

let fait ner Ballits e u wurnt als sains a some "There is no nee-I love you so, I leve you so, " y wife," She loaned her hese against his shoulder.

"And I, Gervalse, was vexed and jealous that ou would not believe I loved no one but you, do not care for Roy Davenal, but I fear he loves me. You are my all, and in all, my hus

loves me. You are my au mouth and non-my ---band. band. We have been maryied six seedle now, and nade no bour yet, which, of course, semand and nade no bour yet, which, of course, semand and nade no bour yet, which, of course, semand and nade no bour yet, which, of course, semand and nade no bour yet, which, of course, semand and nade no bour yet, which, of course, semand and nade not band and the semand and the semand nade not band and the semand and the semand the semand semand and the semand sem

CHAPTER IX

REWARE! REWARE!

DE LAURIAN smiled at her decisive manner

DE LAURIAN smiled at her declayer manuer. " Yon are hasty in your conclusion, my Bar-bard, are you not?" 1 do so dislike these secret affairs. Do let us tell them and have done with it. I do not anti-cipate any trouble, and if there should arise any, we can go away—to frigiant." She hald her hand on this sleeve while she

spore, "Barbara, my darling, let me tell you a little confidence. Between you and I there are many good reasons why we may not divulge this at-fair. First, what think you Roy Davenal will say

fair, "First, what tunk you Koy Davenau wu He watched her narrowly, and a satisfied smile betokened the success of his first appeal. "Then-remember this is sacredly confiden-tial—Mr. Chetwynd has spoken to me about Bancies. You hard heard them mention the Bancies. You hard heard them mention the bancies. You hard heard them mention the start of the same start and the same start is to fall on Hanche's head—she being tho youngest daughter—in the shape of desertion, likhonor and death. Mr. Chetwynd tells mo-her, as in case of a happy maring dibhonor could not ensee, desertion would not—as for death, that will couns whether or not." Barbara utleved a faint cry of pain. In mary Hanche, as I say, and, if you notices, both he and Mrs. Chetwynd are constantly giving mo opportunities of cultivating her solety." With quivering mouth Barbara walled til he "" Agi

paused. "And you love-

He whispered softly.

the rose.

ness,

tour.

his assertion. "So you

"Only my glowing tropical bird, before whose Brilliant beauty Blanche pales as the lily before

He kissed "the rose" passionately to prove

his assertion. The second sec

Then you'll come with me, my darling?"

"Tell me your arrangements first, please!" "Have you no friend in the West-no lady who would invite you for three months or so?" She shook her head; he smiled at her obtuse-

ness, "Well, then, if you should receive a letter from a very old school-friend, whom you had forgotten, who begged for a visit, couldn't you go, think—even if I were the friend who wrote the letter?"

Gradually the force of the strategy appeared to her; she blushed, then laughed.

"Oh, Gervaise, you are an adept! But our combined absence? People will talk." "Let them. You will not be here to be an-

combined absenced? Freque will talk: be be an-order and the second second second second second second we retarn to Chetwynd Chase.⁹ His careless, hopeful esthusiasm inspired her; and ahe gave her word. "I will prepare for the fourney innerestistery, langhable as it seems for the birds correspondences to use of the second second second second second tour."

An amused smile accompanied her words. Just then the other carriage halted, and they all alighted to rest for a few minutes.

It was a charming place, where the fragrant

No. 1.

To was a charming piece, where the tragrant spiciness of the ping grove perfund the air. "Do you know what this pine odor reminds me of? Or do none of you believe that scents will carry one irresistibly back to old-time memories?" Roy Davenal looked meaningly at Barbara as

memories²⁶ Roy Davenal looked meaningly at Barbara as the year Miked over the leaf-streven ground. The provide the second second second second second received the dearest playmouth 1 had, she was their smell sickens and frightens me, She shiver as also spoke. A little silence followed her works; them Roy gently apole. The shiver as a she spoke. A little silence followed her works; them Roy gently apole. The shiver as a she spoke. A little silence followed her works; them Roy gently apole. The shiver as the spoke. A little silence followed her works; them Roy gently apole. The shiver as the spoke of the strength of the so grave a channel I fear 1 should not men-tion what I was about to propose." Barbara Ingeled – a largh that grated of until how, Barbara's which had never made but music for him. "You meetin mind. She has been dead years and years, and, heart-broken though I was, I aware you I an perfectly regined how." "The heartbeames were the first by the the memorized in after days, when he had occasion to be thankful that ever the chain was are the strength of the strength of the strength of the spoke of the spoke of the strength of the strength of the spoke of the spoke of the strength of the strength of the spoke of the strength of the strength of the spoke of the spoke of the spoke of the strength of the strength of the spoke of the spoke of the spoke of the strength of the spoke of the spo

dered.

For a moment the silence was awkward : then De Laurian broke it

De Laurian broke it. "Suppose we walk on until we meet the old fortane-teller whose hut is somewhere among these mysterious shades ! We can pay her a visit, and have the mysterious future unrolled

to our eyes by her prophetic sayings." "I agree, Mr. De Laurian, only I do hope she'll not tell the truth."

Sue in not sell the truth." Barbara gave him a look he fully comprehend-ed; then he addressed Blanche. "You also wish she may not speak the truth ?"

truth

She laughed, and shook her head gayly. "As if I wanted all my bad qualities ex-

¹⁰ As if T vanted all my bad quilifies exposed i? ¹⁰ differ from you, ladies, 'said Roy, much more gravely than the occusion called four. 'I as I doubt her ability to speak it. You are not afraid of her witcheries, De Laurian i? ¹⁰ If I afraid of a fortune-tellor I She might swear I were a pirate, denome me as a gam-bler, a murderer; or call me a-a-ib, the pro-remanne. 'Roy interpolated, merrily. ¹⁰ Exactly. Nothing she will say can affect me."

mo

¹⁰ Exactly. Nothing she will say can affect me," middle half defaulty, and just them they are upon the low thatched hut, whose sole in-baltiant was bening over the pile of light kindlings she had collected for her evening fits. She looked up as the party approached, and "She was an old woman, scantily dressed, and whose face was withered and brown, yet of pleasant expression. Her keen, sumken black year was kindly in their scruthry as they survive the set of the s

the threaming, key and Gervalse removed their hast to permit their ingress. "Gentlemen always do me reverence. It is right. Who can interpret the music of the wa-ters, or demand of the planets their purposes, certainly is worthy the respect of both mon and gods.

2005. "Her ready utterance, her deep-toned, drama-tic language, were in her favor." She produced a glass of clear water, and began peering eagerly into its transparent depths. Then, after a close survey, she shook her

head. "There are clouds, darkness, winds, storm, and a wrecked ship." She looked suddenly up at Barbara, and beck-

grow as pare as mow, and she snatched her hand from the woman's grasp. "You wicked, standering old witch ! you vile morbid hag ! How dare you, before these gen-tlemen, repeat your Satanic inventions ? How dare you, ! say ?"

Barbara glared in the old woman's e es like a

"Barbara, gatea in this out would be solve a very fury." "Barbara, never mind. We do not care at all for what she says. Did we not agree to en-foy the sport, and let any unpleasantness pass ? Don't, Barbara, son't leok se." Blanche laid her hand on her arm.

Binnichs hid ber hand on her arm. Tho fertune toller's face suddenly grew lumi-ment agent, and allowing the substitution of the sub-stant and the substitution of the substitution of the "Sweet-faced and gazzalle-wydd (b), the heart achos ; you thunder browed one will curse you / Dh, the tears you must weep, fill you're drowned in them ! But there comes another-be of the stander heart, who, ones town and burt, be of the stander heart, who, ones town and burt, be of the stander heart, who, ones town and burt, as you mus be, will know how to offer he balan that will beal. He will strengthen and sus ain." Blanche looked brightly over at De Laurian, whose eyes sent back a dar of love.

She never dreamed the fortune-teller referred to any one but him. Roy was watching the two, and as he noted

the messages elegraphed between them, he knew it was a verity, De Laurian's love for Bla che Ghe wynd. The old woman suddenly threw the water

The old woman suddenly turew the water through the door. "I will see no more, I will tell no more. My eyes are blind; my beart curdles at the scenes. I will take no money--it would pellute my fin-gers. Go, all of you, and remember the old for-tune-teller's last words-' BEWARE !'"

CHAPTER X.

THE TEMPTER AND TEMPTED.

IF Barbara had anticipated the surprise her announcement would cause, she more than real-

announcement would cause, she more than real-ized her expectations. "Barbura, what can possess you? It is such a perfectly wild idea, that of your accepting at once an invitation from a schoolmate you have not seen for years."

not seen for years." Mr. Chetwynd secned quite displeased about it and even frowned when Barbara displayed her leiter, and very matter-offactly declared "Barbara, either you or Nellie Bruges is crazy. "Why, sha never second so great a friend of yours at collegs." Blanche spoke in unfeigned surprise, to which

Bianche spöke in unfejgned surprise, to waten Barlara anawered carolesky; * Nor will we be now, I think. I hope you're A fter that Bianche sait onthing further. "Perhaps, as you aver, it is a loolish whim," Barlara said quietly, to Mr. Chetwynd. "But I should enjoy the tor, and the change of Hic, Her diatemined mannor earried the day, as

Her determined manner carried the day, as

Her determined manner carried the day, as usual, and before night her half-doen trunks shoot in the hall, posted, strapped and ticketed, no option : but the expression of his eyes had haunted Barbara all blub briny day. On this, the not evening at Chetwynd Chase, On this, the not evening at Chetwynd Chase, So larbus, in fis dark brown besuity, was driven to be in a format of the strapped to be the strapped of the strapped of the format of the strapped of the strapped of the format of the strapped of the s her waist, with only a narrow fillet of ribbon for ornament.

ornament. She was beautiful beyond expression, and when her mirror had returned her faithful re-flection, she had gone from it with a new light in her already spartiling eyes; the conscious bower that besult y always gives a woman. Blanche and her parents were still in their rooms at their toilets, and De Laurian had not yet ridien to Chetwrynd Chase; so that Barbara her allen to the stairs and weat with unorth be stairs and weat

out upon the starlit piazza.

It was a most perfect night; warm for the outh-November, and strangely still, with a month month—November, and strangely still, with a rediking gold haso intervening between the abend-ergoid the fast theory was hild, and Barbara and the start and start theory services of the start and start at time it was a She a wife, unac-knowledged by a soil save her husband; and not out the fast that horeograde promised bridle or out that the time it was a be. a wife, unac-knowledged by a soil save her husband; and not out that the score start promised bridle or out of the fast that are cognized promised bridle

of another!

Truly there was little wonder that her breath Truly there was little wonder that her breach came quicker, and her heart beat faster, when she heard footsteps approaching, and knew it washerlover coming for the parting interview. She saw Roy Davenal coming up the avenue, and a cold, steely expression gathered in her eyes

and a cool, steely expression gathered in hee ""Shall inside him yet this ence! Shall I probe him, to see if the blow will be soverflard when it comes! He must not know my double game until evel one hows." "Barbars, my darling, eby are you going the steps, and with passionate earlor, took both ber hands in his own. "Barbars, my darling, eby are you going the their you are axity?" Le it because f an the seeps, and not you." His voice was thrillingly entreating, and he golde hurriedly, impulsively, as one who has mind the steppen he entortained, and resolved

to use it to her own advantage. With a cold little laugh she struggled to withdraw her hands, but he detained them. "Mr. Davenal, since you will not release mo,

of course your prisoner has no choice but to re-main, however unpleasant the situation." In an instant he let her hands fall. "What. Barbara! you cease calling me Rov?

"What, Barbara! you cease calling me Roy? You affirm it is distasteful to you to be near me? Barbara, tell me what I have done to offend you? "It is o

fend you?" "It is of no consequence, in the least degree, that I need repeat it." She spoke indifferently as she toyed with a spray of the honeysuckle.

Roy's eager eyes were on her impassive face, and the look of distress on his own was pitiful to behold.

to behold. Just then Barbara looked up, and their eyes met. She started at the sight of him. "I will tell you then that you have surmised correctly in supposing that your presence drives me from my home. At first, your visit was a source of ceaseless joy to me; afterward, when source of ceaseless joy to me; afterward, when I discovered it was not myself, aftor all, that was the meetive that brought you, it concluded pose of myself absets I could." "What! you accuse me of favoring a rival of yours, Barbarah Y out ell me another purpose than seeing you brought me all the way from its. Louis here I Oh, Barbarah, what diono has a

St. Louis here'r Un, narraara, wnat gemon aas been poisoning your heart against mo?" His voico was freighted with anguish, and Barbara saw him throw his hat on the floor, and pass his hands over his forchead again and again,

Derivers also mini tarboy me also on too mote, mini tarboy me and the second second second second as if to quell some furnillous pain. A momentary removed in page shot through Barbars's bears. "Poor follow, he deserves better than this at manda." "I handa." "I see assing thought, but Davenal was benefited thereby, for, almost involuntarily, she uttered his name, " Hoyt" I was spoken in a low, tender tone, and a sudien happingens lighted his features. "Barbars, darling, you will take back those nered words You'll tell me outo more you love me?" He was spoken worden, and she smilled at his impetitous way.

his impetuous way. A smile usually opens the door to a kind word, and it was not the reverse in this case.

"Roy, I admit I am hardly treating you fair-. I did say I thought you cared more for Blanche Chetwynd, than for me—" He snapped a twig of honeysuckle. "I don't care that for her! and you know it,

Barbara!" "You are not over complimentary to your

"You are not over complimentary to your host's daughter, Roy." term and honce, Roy." term and honce is a friend my best friendship, But as a wife, Rarbarr, she is a nonentity, com-pared with you. "Why, if I had married her, and then met you, I'd not like to say what would have been the consequences. Barbarn, don't you have how the you?" a solution of the solution of the low how I how you?"

He laid his hand on her shoulder and looked

He taid his hand on her sources down into her eyes. "You'd not commit suicide, or sue for a di-vorce, would you?" she haughed, but a cold shiver thrilled her as she hashly framed another the compared of the same reversed. Sup-

sitiver thrilled her as site hashly framed another genetion. "Suppose the case reversed. Sup-pose I were married, to Mr. De Laurian, for in-As a he walled his answer, a sickening dread she could not help, crept numbly over her, that was not allevinted when he spoke, in a painful-ly-shrill whisper: a normal set of the set of the set of the set lows as I lower good, Barbara Leeter, he would never permit another to cross his path with im-lowed as I low arrow so suddenly if a lineat took inarches and the shraped ber shoulders and laurehed.

her bröght ; she shrugged net monueurs anu laughed. "I care for Gevraise De Laurian, and engaged to you? Roy, that is absent." He did not smile in response. "He regarded provide the question. "On here generating the Y for on no." "He regarded her with a scrutiny that took all her indomitable will to meet. Then, with her matchises effrontery, she answered : "I do not,"

"I do not." A sigh of relief escaped her as he accepted the

A sign of relies escaped her as he accepted the deliberate lie. "I thought perhaps you did," rejoined Roy, caressing her cold fingers. "I judged from your coolness toward me, and by the way you just now used his name." Just nove most his name," and by any way you Barkan trunched as sho realized the danger her false lips had averted. "I am going in, Koy ; it is getting chilly. Are you coming?" bis house the forward of the shore seen be abalies. Hoy thought he had nove seen "Yes, my dearest one wherever you go, I follow, even to be death." Like a futureal kaell those words rung in her ears, and, despite her efforts to forget them, they hausted her for weeks and weeks.

CHAPTER XI. THE WAY MEN PLOT.

THE WAY MEN FLOT. WITHIN the lighted library, Mr. and Mrs. Chetwynd, Blanche and Gerraise De Laurian were sitting, and Barbara wondered, when she exchanged greetings with him, if he had heard any of her conversation with Roy Davenal. In social converse the hours of that last even-

ing at Chetwynd Chase passed away, and, when it was eleven by the cuckoo clock, the party broke up and sought their rooms.

Barbara had no chance to see her husband alone that evening, but, at parting, when he took her hand and bade her good-night, he left

toox ner mand and bude her good-night, he left a note in her palm. The lights had all been extinguished at the Chase, save in Barbara's elegant apartment, where, in her white night-dress, she opened the paper with almost idolatrous affection. It read:

paper with almost biolarous affection. It read: "My swart war-ling the start war-ling the start war-and the start ward wards and the start wards and the start wards and an opportunity in the morning." A start wards wards and the start wards with a fow with present at the bank designated—the address is written in one corner, you see, in New address is written in one corner, you see, in New address is written in one corner, you see, in New address is written in one corner, you see, in New address is written in one corner, you see, in New address is written in one corner, you see, in New address is written in one corner, you see, in New address is written in one corner, you see, in the address is written in the start wards wards

Where gain to marke yout, we to be anyly, cartanty, " But to the arrangements. When you reach New York, you will easy wait long shough to attant to the strain of the strain of the strain of the strain strain of the strain of the strain of the strain strain of the strain of the strain of the strain the strain of the strain of the strain of the strain the strain of the strain of the strain of the strain the strain of the strain of the strain of the strain the strain of the strain of the strain of the strain the strain of the strain of the strain of the strain desire to rease my assumates of fore now; you own, my own, how shall the strain the time when we must! I wish, my Barbars, forever, you to grad. Barbars read and reveal this letter, no dear

Barbara read and reread this letter, so dear to her; then, when she had extinguished the light, she lay down to sleep, with the precious note against her red cheek.

bids, gainal ar red chask? You are precised to be a set of the set of the

when Barbara had re-ordered the losse, sup-posing Bhanche had preceded her up-stairs. Of the startighted veranda they had stood, he holding her hand in lover-like familiarity: "My little pure pearl, wait until the house is quiet again; wait until Barbara has gone, alona, the dighthut walls, the charming *teta-aches* with no fear of heing rudaly inherruphed; and hest of al., my little one, the weiding at Christmas". These ardent wave

These ardent words were sounding through Blanche's ears yet, and, in the solemn stillness of the midnight hour, she communed with her ent se

"Poor Barbaral" she whispered, softly and pityingly. "She is so proud, so cold, that I fear she will never condescend to love or be fear after will never condescend to love or be loved. If she only knew how bleesed it is to have somebody care so much for her as Ger-vales doer far, she would be so thankful and uncoempied heart, for I am more than ever sur-that she doesart care for Roy Davenal. How strange it is Barbara never cared for Gervasie' David and the second strategies and the second strate strate and the second strategies and the second strategies and the second strategies and the second strategies and strategies and strategies and strategies the second strategies and strategies and strategies the second strategies and the second strategies and strategies and strategies and the second strategies and strategi was to! if he was ever to love her and not me! what would I do?"

A sudden sharp look of pain shot across her face, but a merry little smile chased it away. "How silly I am! and we to be married on

Christmas A blush overspread her face as she let fall the lace curtains, and sought her pillow, so trusting, so happy.

CHAPTER XII.

THE CHAIN OF GOLD.

THE earliest birds were caroling a matin to the sunrise when the Chetwynd carriage drove up to the side entrance, and received its load of trunks. Even at this eleventh hour, Mr. and

up to the side entrunce, has reserve to each of trunks. Even at this deventh hour, Mr. and Mrs. Chotwynd were protesting against Barba-res going; and Bianche, standing by Do Lau-res going; and Bianche, standing by Do Lau-ry equite coolly, to reconsider the matter, and positione the visit, if not give it up. De Laurian, to all eyes except her over, evin-ced a gonulenamity regret at losing her society, and begged abe would remember him as a friend assured him arr; then, when she imghed and assured him arr; then, when she insighed not assured him arr; then, when she insighed not even the discrete and one of the standard barbar of eld wager a set of opais against the while rose-bud she held, that if kind Fortune favored them

with another meeting, they would both be mar-ried. Bianche felt the pressure of his arm on her hand, and a finsh dyel her face. Boy Davenal saw fit, and drew a long breach of relief that a finsh dyel her face. Boy Davenal saw fit, and drew a long breach "Doubless Barbarn's self-command returned. "Doubless Mr. Do Laurian your predic-tions will prove correct. And now, as I have bidden you all a personal adden, I will be off." Else in he down seculiar independent way, and very cays of lowed her with admiration. "Trilly, Gervaise De Laurian's near bear prodity as he gued on her, so radiant, so skyl-ber dainty hat with a Bird of Paradise floating. "Barbara, have yon no word for me I am sets thero need be no further searcey in fais menti, why need yon leave me without a part-ing word?" Roy spole a little bitterly.

Barbara leaned back among the cushions, her face expressive of her displeasure. Why had he acted so foolishly? what made him speak in such a manner? What reply should she make? something that would satisfy Roy, and not dis-satisfy De Laurian.

Her ready woman's wit came to the rescue. "Survey I need not, Roy. I should think, however, you had studied womankind so thoronghly that you'd know by this time that we never express our private thoughts for the Boy had full view of the terms."

Benenit of others." Roy had full view of her face as she spoke, while no one else had; and, as she concluded, she smiled upon him, and kissed the tip of her fingers to him, at the same time making a mena-cing ittle gesture toward the rest of the party. De Laurian had laughed outright when Barbara spoke.

"Good for you, Miss Lester. Davenal, you eknowledge yourself worsted by that broadsider

Roy could afford to laugh after that look of

self, and write scon." With a beaming smile, Barbara nodded them adieu, and, as the carriage turned a curve, she waved her handkerchief toward them. With a sigh, Mrs. (hetwynd turned to re-enter the house; had she known all that would come bedress she again locked on willful beau.

onter the locks: hasteskrynd turned to re-tore the backs: hast she known all that would occur before also again looked on wilful, beau-"Such are lost and yet, in the impublication "Such are lost and yet, in the impublication of the lost of the lost of the lost of the lost interval disc house." They entered the house, also will return as mal-denly as the loft. You will miss her very "linked wy will; the lost

"Indeed we will; she seems as near and dear to me as though she were one of my own blood.

De Laurian started, with an exclamation of

surprise. "Is she not a relative? I always supposed her

a cousin, at least." "Oh, no; there does not exist the slightest tie of relationship. She was a sort of waif, who ¹⁰ Oh, no; there does not exist the slightest tie of relationship. She was a sort of waif, who was left to cur kininess when colly a babe of of a size and age then, sliblough Barbara has grown the taller since." Do Laurian listened with eager interest. "And you have not the remotest idea who or what she is in There was no clue to her parcul-valation."

agef

age?" "Yes, a slight one, that only seemed to highlen our interest in her. It is a broken chain, of Flownike gold, joined by an ogal school, that of Flownike gold, joined by an ogal school, the the jewel is half a letter 'D' and a complete one joining, thus." She drew with her pencil on a card two letter D's, japped and Joined.

Ds. lapped and joined. "We suppose the missing half of the stone to supply the rest of the letter, and another also, to correspond with the half I have; thus makto correspond with the half I have; thus mak-ing, when complete, three Dis, that doubtless represent her parents' initials, while to us they suggest the terrile (curse) — Dishonor, Deser-tion, Death, which my poor Blanche seems to inherit as her fraid brithright". A dense shadow darkened Mrs. Chetwynd's face, hat she strove to throw it off. "We named her" Harbara Lester ' because "I filter obe that name was written."

on new little robe that name was written." De Laurian was listening with intenset anima-tion to this story of his wife's early life. "Blanche, bring the necklace for Mr. De Laurian to see; it is of rare workmanship." As Blanche obeyed, Roy Davenal joined Mr. and Mr.

As Blanche obeyed, Koy Davenai joined Mr. and Mrs. Chetwynd. "Now that Barbara bas gone, sir, I candidly admit the charm at Chetwynd Chase is broken. I came from the West purposely to see her, and, in consequence of her sudden flitting, have not accompliahed my object.

"Mr. Chetwynd, it must be useless for me to say I love Barbara. I have loved her for years. I desire to make her my wife. Can it be so?" He looked every inch the noble lover as he ched there and result sched this former at the

He looked every inch the noble lover as he should here and prombly asked this favor at the hards of the cost of generating the superfluxes to the state of the state of the asy of the state of the state of the state of the way, believing you to be a man well worthy way, believing you to be a man well worthy her answer, and, whatever its, I will ratify it; Roy bowed, he had not much fare of Bar-bards withholding here consent.

may claim her

So far as I am concerned, most certainly." "So far as I am concerned, most certainly. Roy's face grew luminous with the great hap-piness, and he warmly grasped Mr. Chetwynd's hand, and offered his thanks, and in return re-ceived both his and Mrs. Chetwynd's congratulations.

Then he went across the room to De Laurian. who, his head leaning carelessly against the window, had heard with secret triumph, tho arrangements to give his wife's hand to this

arrangements w gave and lover. Will offer me joyl and a long life o lover and chernish her. Bo Laurian? "Most bacartily I rish you all you will wish me and my bride. Allow me to announce the future Mrs. Gervasie De Laurian." Blanche had at that moment entered with the

cham. Roy took her hand and touched it to his lips. "Accept my most fervent congrabulations, Blanche. And, as your present is bright and sunny, may your future be fairer and more radiant. De Laurian, you're a fortunate fellow.

"As well as yourself, sir." They shook hands warmly, and then Mrs. hetwyad touched Davenal on the shoulder. Chety

When you write to Barbara, Mr. Davenal, "When you write so barrara, Mr. Davenal, please do not intimate the engagement between Blanche and Mr. De Laurian. You'll remem-ber? It will be a most delighting is urprise when she returns to her own wedding to find there will be another."

"I will not mention it. And now, my friends, permit me to wish you good-by. With your per-mission, Mr. Chetvynd, I will take one of your horses, to be sent directly home." "There is no need of that, Mr. Davenal. One

"There is no need of that, Mr. Davenal, One of the men can ride over after you and bring back Firstly.-you'd hetter take Firstly." He hado them good-by, gave a hasty order for his trunk to be expressed through to St. Louis, and galloged away, followed by De Lat-ther the structure of the structure of the structure of macking trumph and derive pity. "This is Barbara's chain, Mr. De Laurian." Mrs. Chekwynd handed hum the necklace; he to "Wr to the window to examine it. extend.

asked

aked. "She does not say: I know she would like to keep it in her own possession, but I think it should remain in my keeping." "Undoubtedly: and you may "Undoubtedly: and you may "Blanche wondered at the fire in her lower's eyes as he critically surveyed the toy. A sudden resolve had entered De Laurian's brain, and, as usual, he acted immediately in accordance with it. This chain was a link that bound Barbara and -who was at the other end'y was the necklace a stoint buble, or really the at the sents, it must be his; it should be his. With a sudden start of alarm, hesoroum from

with a sudden start of alarm, he sprung from window.

"Mr. Chetwynd-Madame! what have I, in "Wr. Chetwynd-Madame! I have dropped the blin aweida."

chain outside." He hastened to the door, and to the lawn, where, under the window, was an iron grating opening into the underground reservoir from "mono stame the writer in the fountain. "What can it do to replace it? Any thing you can suggest shall be done." De Laurins' face was trubled and naxions as he peered through the grating, then at the faces of Mrs. Chetwyni adm her instand. "Is but body for the chet and the functions Her lavities manner assumed him hey was nor."

ways be avoided." Her ladylike manner assured him he was par-doned for his carelessness, and they went back to the drawning-room, while De Laurian, hid-ding them adieu, returned home. Out of sight of Chetxyrad Chase, he checked the speed of his horse, and with a smile no language can de-scribe, draw from his coucleslever the broken chain of Florentine gold!

CHAPTER XIII.

THE DREAD BLOW.

TRUE to his word, De Laurian did not lose any time in making his "trip on business, that would necessarily detain him a couple of months at least

So he explained to trusting Blanche, as they

bade adieu on the moonlight piazza at Chet-

wynd Chase. "But I will be back in good season for the wedding at Christmas, my little betrothed, and then for a life of love with my own Blanche." and

taken for a life of love with my own Blanced." And she, nothing doubbing, only grieved at the inevitable separation, and watched him, with teartul, yet happy reyes, as he went forth on his mission of direct wrong. He joined Barbara at the Continental Hotel,

He joined Barbara at the Continental Hotel, and, fourful lest his plans would be thwarted by the chanes recognition of any traveling friends, the way place, where, as the told her, with thrilling love-words, he could have her all to himself for the fow hort weeks he could remain with her bofore he returned to New Jersey to arrange for their horms.

Barbara seemed almost like another person,

172

And so the days wore away, and almost be-fore she knew if, the time had come for De Laurian to go back and arrange for her return. She earnestly pleaded to go with him in the insisted on her remaining until be had broken the news to the Checkwynds and arranged for had as, transformed by love into the trac-minime with an exceptibly consented, and

her a befitting home-coming. And so, transformed by love into the true, trusting wife, she travefully consented, and back her adice to the second second second back her adice to the second second second That afternoon, after he was goins, and she was sue folt no strangely, not physically, for she never had been in better health. Sut there weighed on her mind some weight; some cold, leaden pressure that would not be raised, and

There came a letter and this is what it told her, word for word:

her, word tor word: " gashes, the hour has come when it is meet " gashes, the hour has to be a set of the ble day, my pelicit and the head tor time, and strainf from you. I doesn't head tor time, and strainf from you. I doesn't head to time, and stand do not add insult to injury by asking or expect-and do not add insult to injury by asking or expect-acy ou to forgive what I full well know is unpar-" haras.

divisit. "Barbara, this letter will reach you, I thand, by "Barbara, this letter will reach you, I thand, by nose of Detistimas Day I shall be married to Bincho Chevynd, at Chevynd Chase, with the "You tarr, and szcialm in passionsko bevilder mul.] koov; I saawnt py biokunik swearing that and the start of the start of the start of the Coop pity you. Barbara, swa wand, and never seen. To u udderstand how have sinned? Yoo know



"BEWARE, GERVAISE DE LAURIAN, HOW YOU ACCUSE ME OF FALSEHOODS ! REMEMBER WHO I AM !"-Page 4.

"BEWARE, GREVAIRE DE LAU all those bright, bliskul days; she had thrown care and fear to the winds, thankful that Ger-vaise was her husband, trusting implicitly to him, and forgetting the tormenting isolatises that had torn heres, in past days. Bies securities wore they with concontented content and hap-piness; it secured ages since she had seen the Chetwynds-poor, guileless Blanche-and Roy Davenal. Somehow, whenever she thought of Roy, it hurt her; she was grown so happy have and devotion, that she pitted Davenal with a tenderness very foreign to her passionate na-ture.

Gervaise and she would sit for hours and talk over their romance, and then, with all the ardor of her soul, she would tell him how she loved hfm.

that she attributed, at length, to nervousness superinduced by her natural regret at her lover

husband's absence. Little did she know what that oppression was the shadow of, or what was the substance that

cast that shadow! She never dreamed, in her trusting love, that he who was all in all to her was a man of black-

he who was all in all to her was a man of black-er soul than any man but a very devil could be; how should also know! So she waited for his return—and then, one bright, wintry day, the one before the sacred, beautiful Christmas, the horrible blow came, that transformed Barbarn De Laurian—we never shall can be that again—into the wroman whose presence brought a blight, whose hands scattered seeds of Dead Sea fruit, whose heart and brain were the heart and brain of a Medusa that blasted whatsoever they would.

MINIMUM WID I AM "-- Rage 4. now that j performed by a collage student who consent-moty performed by a collage student who consent-d, with as witched a beat as al., to the inframous d, with as witched a beat as al., to the inframous the student of the the student of the the student of the student student of the student of the student of the student student of the student of the student of the student student of the "Here a student of the student of the student of the student of the "Here a student of the student of the student of the student of the "Here a student of the student of the student of the student of the "Here a student of the student of the student of the student of the "Here a student of the "Here a student of the student of th

ADA N.ORR-L



Rigid as a marble statue she had sat, and read the hellish letter through, from date to super-scription, her fingers clenching the paper with

scription, nor increas clenching the paper with a grip of iron, her eyes hard and tearless. Then, with almost a snap, so suddenly did the tense muscles relax, her hands fell lifeless at her side; a quick, choking sob struggled for vent, and then came a torrent of hot, heart-

She was a woman, with a woman's keen capa-bility of suffering, even in proportion as she had

Like a scorehing simoom the storm of grief,

Lake a scorebing simoom the storm of grief, horror and despair burst over her, withering her heart, inflaming her soul, and leaving the soil of her principles barren and waske. "Lost:—lost: ruined, disgraced, deserted, un-loved—and al., all by una! Trampled on and then carelessly set asido by him whom I wor-shiped as men mever worshiped their food! Ger-Gervaise! can it be true! have you given vaise! me up?"

me up?" A moan of heartrending agony followed her words, and she clasped her bands over her beat-ing bosom, while her head fell forward in the abandonment of her awful grief.

abandomicirco for a weak reu forward in the "For yon, for yon, my Gervaise, my fost love, would I have dared all things-all, save this-though the set of the set of the set of the though the set of the set of the set of the love are, whon you have bettered my soul, for which I did, all unconscious, sell my honor, to another: I did, all unconscious, sell my honor, to another: I did, all unconscious, sell my honor, to another: I did, all unconscious, sell my honor, to another: I did, all unconscious, sell my honor, to another: Checkwynd!" Her sollown was bettered the sollown was bettered as a set of the set of the set of blancher ther sollown was bettered.

Her soliloquy was bringing a defiant glare to Her soliloquy was pringing a defiant gure to her eyes; the olden-time glare, a hundred-fold intensified, that had lighted her eyes in the days when she had not wholly trusted her lover; and she snatched the ring from her icy fingers—that she had regarded as her wedding-ring—with a sture of agonized rage. Suddenly her mood changed, and, with yearnges

Suddenly her mood čhanged, and, with yearn-ing cries of love and tenderness, she pressed it passionately to her lips. Over and over again on their gleaning surfaces. "The delicious dreams I have infulged in over his betrothial gerr, the bliskul hopes I work have betrothial gerr, the bliskul hopes I hard! it is so ersel! I will die, all for love and betrayal—love for you, Gerrenise be Laurian!" With a low wall of pain, she drooped har head tight grin.

on her breast, cittiching the diamond-ring in a tight grip. In the second second second second second second second nectation in the second se

CHAPTER.XIV.

THE BURIED LOVE

PRESENTLY she arose, and walked totteringly across the room to the pier-glass. She smiled scornfully at the reflection, as she

She smire scorning at the relevant, as and addressed it. "Barbara Lester, do you know who you are? and what you are? and what your business from to day is?"

to-day isi? She pansed, and a tremor passed over her. She grew paler, and reeled a step, then Mood, strong and firm again. "That was the last, dying pang! I have buried my love for Gerzaise De Laurian-but I have buried it alice." Here obset howard irresembarly, but only for a

have buried it alive." Her chest heaved irregularly, but only for a moment; then every trace of her agitation had shed. vani

^{vanished}. Barbara Lester, vronged, disgraced, contemptible though you know you are, you are strong again. Strong, with a strength born of weakness, proud, with a prile following humil-ity. You will never quiver when you hear his many you will one you have him? "She peered in for beautiful dark eyes, and ber "ips parted in a gloony smile." "Incove was aveset. Barbara Lester, was it net: "Bone you have have been been been been and been to predict the boost of a barised beert and embedded by the gall of a tarnished boner that been steped in the blood of a barised beert and embedded by the gall of a tarnished boner. How reall you rest from your boils, Barbara Leave huming head and your wavy feet till your task be finished." She raised her hand, and then laughed, to see be glean of the diagonals. There, Barbara Lester, wronged, disgraced,

Bue russed nor hind, and turn models, the gleam of the diamonds. "Ho gave it for a love-pledge, but he will rue the day. By that ring I swear to crush every hope, blight every joy, blast every comfort he e imagine!

A very avenging spirit she looked; superbly heautiful, calmly deflant. The wave of passion had passed on its way, leaving her resigned, but desperate. Pe

four owns a glearn in her bluck eyes, that au-gured would to some one, and a pitiless smile curving lies red lips, that was ominous.

And she did not belie her looks. She intended a revenge from the depths of her heart; and from the moment she dated the living burial of her love for Gervaise De Laurian, she dated her

her love for Gervaiso De Laurian, shé dated her Erst stop och re self-appointed mission. And a terrible mission it was: only one tutta had beer, could have attempted: and the un-bienchingly work to work that very hour. The field of De Laurian's tetre having arrived or exported, was not overlokkel by Burbarn; it wasan intervention in her favore, in that it gave her ample time to perform the journey between her and these to be to be the field of the time her and the top for the performance of the berge to the for the set of the field of the field of the field her angle time to perform the journey between Filladd pills and the tevery of these force the

rmininging and theowynd thiss before the marriage ceremony occurred. She packed her trunks with a precision that denoted the high state of nervous excitement she was in; had them labeled "Miss Lester, Pat-erson, N. J.," (the Chase carriage would meet erson, N. J.," (the Chase carriage would meet her there, if telegraphed), scut to the Kensing-ton depot, and a through ticket to New York brought back. She had no idea of forbidding the banns; she

She had no idea of forbidding the banns; she knew too well the utter nothingness of the claim she had upon Gervaise De Laurinn, but she did do was to return to Claiviyvand Chase in time for the veedling, and meet the man who had wronged her with a stolid indifference that should mystify him; with excellent taste, in a She dressed, herself, with excellent taste, in a

pearl-gray silk walking suit, and called a car-riage to take her to the Kensington depot, first

Finge to take her to the Kensington depol, first paying her bills in a queenply, quiet way. As she took her sent in the cnr, already nearly full, a gentleman addressed her. "Madam, will this seat be occupied?" With a thirl of anguish and surprise, she turned to recognize—Roy Davenut. "In arbora: can it he possible! Oh. I am too "In arbora: can it he possible! Oh. I am too this too months." His face was all aglow with delight, and he caressed ber hand as warmly as he dared. I went "Where a knew you have a north of the caressed ber hand as warmly as he dared. "Where have you been, row daring! I went "Where have you been, row daring." I went "I went a set of the care warmly as he dared. "Where have you been, row daring! I went "I went "I arbor you this too months."

caressed her hank as warming as he dared. "Where have you been, my daring? I went as direct to your friend's house as I could go, and she was as astonished to think I would find you there as I was not to find you. Where have you been, my dearest?

you neem, my dearest?" It was like stabbing a wound afresh for Bar-bera to listen to this man's honest, loving works. He called her "darling" and "dearest," this man who believed her to be his betrothed, whom she had grossy deceived, and who, if he had known all, would have recoiled from her side in horror. de in horror. So ho had discovered that she had not been to

So he had discovered that she had not been to beer friends; ; well, she instantly decided upon two points; first, to allow him to still regard ber his betrothed, and to confess, in the half-candid, wholly willful way she had-hundreds of years ago it seemed-that she had never in-tended, going to her friend, in the West, but of: fered it as an excuse for a long jaunt she wanted to enjoy alone. And so she told him, in her sweet, bright way

this strong-hearted woman who was traveling on, further than the cars could take her to wreak her revenge.

Wreak her revenge. Roy Daveral was so glad to see her : he had been so torn with fearful doubts since Mrs. Chetwynd had promised him Barbara's hand for Christmas ; now all clouds were lifted as by magic, and he reveled in the beauty of her

Naturally, the wedding of De Laurian and Blanche was discussed ; and Barbara spoke of it, and the bridegroom-elect, without a tremor of tono.

But when Roy told her of what had been his h press for the coming day, and urged her with a lover's sophistrics, to consent to be married.

hopes for the coming day, and unged her with all slove's sophistics, to consent to be married, a floren borrid pain show through her heart, the superinnane will, to concell from Davenal's eyes. It was unexpected, she plend, very gently and in the bitter, anguisted to yield a relux-ting entreaty. He was obliged to yield a relux-tion consent, and then Barlara grow slient as and near-to-what? Al Jarsey City they took an accommodation train that made all the slopes on the Frie read, between the city and Patenon, so that wills consent, and Patenon, so that wills the origin and Patenon, so that wills her the rimin at Patenon, and the dist Chekwyn! Chas. It was a brilliant hight, and a nim of cloce. The was a brilliant hight, and in first and they nurried pat the obbey rules. Alt The arony was not dough it beyen and will and barried in the slope. Alt they walls for first her the was a bits full; they walls and they intried pat the obbey rules. Alt The arony was not dough it be prou-will hard barried it all the office of the prou-will hard barried in a first on the sine-shown.

will had buried it alive. Chotwynd Chose was all nlive with lights that threw their radiance far out on the snow-boand landscape, and Barbara wondered if it meant a welcome for her? Somehow that still, mild night, with its my-

riads of twinkling stars, made her heart ache bitterly ; such a "home-coming," after the eno

-now she saw with what consummate skill it had been done, and she hated him for the mo-

They could hear voices now and then, laugh-They could hear voices now and then, laugh-ing voices, and then-a quick, wild cry burst from Barbara's lips. De Laurian and Blanche passed by the window on the inside. Blanche leaned on his arm, and he was bend-

ing his head with that stately grace that became

After that quick, wild cry, half-stifled though it was, Barbara knew she could meet him un-moved, and as she rung the door-bell long and loudly, a flush of conscious pride rose to her

face. The footman admitted her, and she gracefully

The footman affinited her, and she gracefully walked into the drawing room, among the press, and went up to Binche, as she stood heming on "Banche, I'm home again, and rust in time. Sir, I offer my congratulations." She bowed to De Laurian, who, for the moment, was trans-fixed with horror; then she went coolly on, and greeted Mrs. Chetrynu, who was eagerly talk-

greeted alls, chewynd, who was tagent, war-ing to Roy. All and such a goose-chase as you have been leading. Roy tells me. Well, let me go with you to your room, my dear, and see that you are rested for an hour or so, before you de

wn again." hat was what this woman had looked And that forward to in her rosiest dreams : this was Bar-bara's "home-coming!"

CHAPTER XV.

DRAWING THE NET CLOSER.

PASSING fair was Blanche Chetwynd on the morning of her bridal day, with her sweet brown eyes alight with tender winsomeness, and a faint pink tinge on her white complexion.

The hour was eleven, and she had been dress-ed only a few minutes when her parents and Barbara entered her room to exchange those af-

white hand.

"Unless they be tears of joy." Barbara's musical voice pronounced the words, and Blanche turned toward her, as Barbara ent on.

"Because, my dear, the time may come when tears of anguish will be shed. Why, then, re-buke those of joy?"

Blanche's answer came in quick, startled ton "Bahara, do not mention such a thing! You send a cold shiver to my very heart." She looked entreatingly at Barbara's dark,

handsome face. She laughed in a low, melodious laugh, that implied plainly distrust as to Blanche's future

implied pumpy userprised, Barbara, that you "Tim a little surprised, Barbara, that you abould introduce so gloomy a topic on this occa-sion. Let the child be treated to all that is benuttind, pleasant and hopeful." Mr. Chetwynd turnol gravely toward Bar-Mr.

Again the same satirical laugh issued from Again the same satirical laugh issued from her coral lips, but a rap at the door, immediate-ly followed by the intruder, prevented a remark. With a blush of delight, Blanche saw be Lau-rian dressed for the ceromony. He went straight up to her and affectionately kissed her, while she retained the had extended, and

she retuined the hand he had extended, and caressed it fondly, the while looking engerly up in his handsome face. And Barbara smiled as she gazed on them. "We were bidding adieu to Miss Blanche who how? Mr. Chetwynd said to Gerwaise, who how? Mr. Chetwynd said to Gerwaise, "Becutse sho will be to me the deary et among wormen is no preason why you should how, her

romen is no reason why you should love her less.

"Surely not," returned Mr. Chetwynd, " and "Burely not," resurred Mr. Chetwynd, "and yst you must mewer forget the peculiar dower she brings you-the mysterious, "Curse," that from to-day you must share equally with her." "But I fear no old legend, Gervaise; do you?" Her sumy verse would have inspired any one, and her gallant lower bowed an owner, " "Todaet I do not fear have inspired."

"Indeed I do not fear it, my Blanche." "But it will come, Mr. De Laurian, in one form or another, depend upon it."

De Laurian turned haughtily to Barbara, who had spoken ; not a vestige of surprise or fear on his face, that only wore an expression of cool

No. 1.

"Indeed, Miss Lester! But as you are not an oracle, we will not depend on any thing you may afirm."

Oh, that covert blow, and his eyes so guarded, his words so aptly chosen. But she was equal to him

to him. "I suppose you have heard it declared by persons more responsible than I that chickens and verse score judice of her honer, would never suffer her words to fall idly. Lady Con-stanzia was such, I take it. Something of my style, was sho not?" She had looked De Laurian full in the eyes

while she was speaking, her own face perfectly calm and under control; now she turned to Mrs. Chetwynd with the apparently careless inqui

In personnel, I should think so ; in charac-

"In personnel, I should think so : In character, I kope not," smill fitted across De Lau-A (sime model kitted across De Lau-A (sime model) and a sime so the quick. "He shall pay well for that," she declared, then spoke aloud again, in her sweetset voice. "Mr. De Laurian, if I may venture to tak a sposonal provide request from you to a personal provide request from you to a sposonal provide induction and the alternative set." In the shall we are shown you will sake upon you and share the sime set." have done

In surprise they turned to Barbara, as she ut-

In stipping characterize turned to baroura, as she du-tered the strange request. Magnificent in her festal dress of jet-black velvet and glowing ribbons, she leaned with careless grace against a marble Ceres, who lift-ed aloft a sheaf of golden wheat, from whence flamed the light that illumined the apartment y night. De Laurian bowed frigidly. "At the altar, Miss Lester, I shall swear to

cherish and protect her better than parent or sister ever could have done."

aster over could have done." A defant smile lighted his face. "Doubtless, Mr. De Laurian, we all expect you to do that; still, we who are nearest and dearest to her now, would be pleased to hear that personal assurance. I wish it, Mr. De Lau-wice D. rian

; who else should demand and receive a pr

She looked around at them a moment, and Sho looked around at them a moment, and then again suffered, for a second, the bewilder-ing light of her syste to fall on De Laurian. If the second second second second second induces on her second second second second induces on her second second second second De Laurian shrugged his shoulders. "I think the lady can wait until the ceremony -then should be me me swear "till death do us

part.

A shiver ran over Blanche's form as her lover

uttered the words. "It sounds so dismal, Gervaise ; I verily be-lieve I am a coward to-day."

Heve I am a coward to-day." She bravely forced a smile to her lips. "Blanche, dear, it is my fault for having in-troduced the subject. But you'll forgive me?" Barbara kneit before the girlish bride. "Unreservedly, sister mine. I.am sehamed of my own childha weakness."

She smiled lovingly on the upraised face, whose eyes of flashing darkness were vailed and subdued by the long, heavy lashes. She saw the smile that played over Barbara's red lips, but, in her own purity and innocence, did not read it aright.

She little dreamed that the beautiful woman at her feet had been transformed into a veritable demoness.

A silence fell on the little company that grew momentarily oppressive. Barbara was the first to break it.

Barnera was the first to Dreak is. "Come; the guests will be disgusted at our tardiness—and I am sure that is Roy's step on the stair, seeking the recoreant bridesmaid. Come, Blanche, take pape's arm. Mr. De Lan-rian, you will escort Mrs. Chetwynd! Roy— I'm read?" I'm ready

I'm ready." Her fresh, girlish langh, as she issued her playful words, broke the spell, and the bridal party west gayfu down the starks. The minister began the impressive service, and a soloum silence fell on the assembly, while all eyes naturally weak to be assembly, grace-abl bridsmuch moment, of the stately, grace-abl bridsmuch moment, or the stately, graceful bridesmaid.

But, Barbara stood there, proud and haughty,

in all the consciousness of her regal beauty, and listened to the vows that Blanche so tremblingly promised. A gleam of fearful fire flashed from her eyes

as the officiating clergyman turned to Gervaise with the customary inquiry. A gleam of light that darkened rather than illumined; a nameless something, that seemed to scorch, annihi-late; on her bloodless lips there curled a smile, that matched well the sardonic balefulness in

her eyes. Suddenly De Laurian glanced up at her, and met that awful smile, that terrible lurid light! And then, too late, it came to him, like a re-d woman usual cross And then, too late, it came to him, like a re-elation, that this wronged woman would cross

his track, and that, too, in her own way and

CHAPTER XVI.

ONE STEP MORE.

BELOW stairs, in the spacious drawing-room f Chetwynd Chase, the music was playing gay-y and twinkling feet kept time in the merry of Chetwynd dance,

Above, the guest and dressing chambers were The servants at the Chase, together with the

In serving a conserver grouped outside the maids of the visitors, were grouped outside the doors, and on the stairways, regarding the gay seene within. In one of the apartments above the second flight of stairs a chance passer-by might have heard voices in low, cautious conversation.

neard voices in low, cantous conversation. The room was what was called the "observa-tory," a small, square apartment, whose walls were of thick plate-glass, whose furniture con-sisted of only two chairs, and a complete set of astronomical instruments.

autonomical instruments. Two persons occupied this room; one, Barbara Lester, who stood carelessly leaning against the large telescope, her brilliant eyes intently fixed on the fair, handsome face of Roy Davenal, that was lifted to her own with a smile of unuttera-ble terms.

Was haves or block or which the second state of the love, "Roy," she said, tenderly, "this is kind of you not to forget me amid all the gayety of the bridal scene below." Dathara? That I never can do.

bridal scene below." "Forget you, Barbara? That I never can do. Do you not know it, and how more than thank-ful I am to have you back again once more?" He extended his hand and lifted her round,

He extended his hand and lifted her round, bare arm to his lips. "Do not stand, Barbara; sit beside me, and let me heart this sound of your works. Speak layer works once more. It has been so long He was looking vearming(y up in her pale face, and, as he spoke, he drew her face against his chask.

eek.

"Toll me you love me as well to-day as ever? --yes, better than you ever did before. Is it not that for which you sent to me? Was not that your reason when you sent the message to meet ou here?"

A bright smile of hope was on his lips, that A bright smile of hope was on his high that were almost womanly in their fullness and beauty, yet entirely relieved from effentinacy by the definant curvo of the chin and the deter-mined stermness of his dark blue eyes. "Roy," she heard the sound of her voice, she and, as she heard the sound of her voice, she

and, air she heard the sound of her volce, she wondered if it were she or another she were listening to, "Roy, I *did* send for you for a most important purpose that needs your assistance toward accomplishing the de-sired result, and whom no one beside yourself can do. You will help me. Roy, dear?" She ghanced healy at him as he listened in "To the utmost of my ability, Barbara, dar-line. What is fit?"

Ing. What is it?" A torrible smile swept over her face for a brief second before she replied. "Roy, we both know that Blanche Chetwynd "Roy, we both know that Blanche Chetwynd was married, not an hour since, to Gervaise De Laurian; the festivities are this moment cele-brating; but, Roy, Blanche shall NEVER be his wifel

She spoke the last words in a thrilling tone, that made him look suddenly, more intensely at

her. "What do you mean, Barbara. You mystify

Again, like a flash of fatal sheet-lightning, there swept that gleam from her eyes, and she bent nearer him to answer, until her breath

bent nearior him be answer, until her breath famed over his check. "Roy Davenal, that man who has married Blanche, has offered me, your betrobled, the deepset of insuits. Blauil I, knowing who and what he is, permit him to become the husband of my only sister! Will you, my lover, aid me to avenue myself, and ave oblanche from a life to avenue myself, and ave oblanche from a life a wrathful smills leaged into Roy's opes, and he involutateful servent to his feet.

A wrathrui smile leaped into Roy's eyes, and he involuntarily spring to his feet. "Hoavens, Barbara! De Lanrian has dared insult you! Shall I shoot him down before his bride?"

Oh, no," and she laughed lightly. " Don't "Oh, no," and she laughed lightly. "Don't be hasty—I am not, you see, and to act effect-ually we must both be calm. I have laid my plans out, Roy, deop as the sea, and all I require is your skillful hand." He kissed har cold fingers as she extended them.

"You can depend upon me, to the furthest ex-tent of your need. The villatin-how dare hel Barbara, my boautiful betrothed, my blood boils when I think of it." "I thank you, Roy, dearest." Her siren worce thrilled, his very heart, and

11

Her shew York and and again those rare red Hps, go false, so fair. "Barbara, FQ, hardly have thought that of De Laurian. Unless your truthful lips had spoken it, not all the oaths that could be taken would have convinced me."

would have convinced me." "You cannot be more surprised than I was, to learn his vilences. To me be you the scal of Her lips closed tightly after those words, and Roy saw the shiver that went over her. "And you think it will be right for me to save Blanche from hink, two, darling?" She carses dhis chock and smoothed his hudr

with her mesmeric fingers as she smiled in his

eres. "Are you not always right, my Barbarat I cannot imagine you lending yourself to any-think wrong, dearest, seen if you are severa. Therefore, possessing such unbounded com-He bolied hway from her second, to consult his watch, and the smile vanished from Bara's face, the oft light from her eyes. I wish I could describe that comtemene as it booked then, in all its buleful multignity, its bit-terms its department of the order of the one brit-tered with tartield. A face on whose britsome inscinated while it frightened, that bewil-dered while it startled. A face on whose bri-liant features were written danger, revengeful hatred, and a fearful strength of will; and, per-hops, more than all, a proud consciousness of them all.

them all. "I must leave you now, Earbara, dearest, or I will be missed. Kies me before I go." He wound his arms erround her waist, and drew her head to his shoulder. "Who could look in those eyes, Barbara, and refuse to obey the command your sweet lips

uttered Then tell Mr. Do Laurian, for me, that I await him in this room. Let no one hear the message, and do you entertain Blanche until he returns.

An excited flush rose to her cheeks as she

An excited fluin rose to her cheeks as she spoke, low and rapidly. "I will tell him at once, Barbara." And she sat calluly down, to await the com-ing of the man who had wronged her beyond hope of reparation.

CHAPTER XVII. THE POISONED MISSIVE

THE PORSONED MISSIVE. Strep had not long to vari, for she had just sated barself in one of the chairs that she had drawn to the side of the room that commanded more Chetwynd Chaes, when rardid steps that brought a cold saver to her lips as she heard them, came nearer and nearcr. A few minutes only had it here no since he measured here do-vaise Do Laurian, yet those few minutes had suffield him to decide on there rours he intended to parse; that of cold indifference that would oss disregard to here aptivationed on his same of the preventive to expose him.

mysteriolis there is a magnitude of a last mark more than a summarized by the property test of a set of the se

"It is needless for me to say I am astonished beyond expression: I supposed it was all over between you and I."

between visi and 1^o - process is vise all over Har low, multical laugh started weird echoes in that lonely room. "If you really thought so, Mr. De Laurian, be it my delightful task to correct the mistakes also to inform you that not a soul in Chetwynd Chase, save Koyal Davemal, knows of your "De Lowries"

De Laurian returned with interest her ste burning glance; then a hateful smile parted his

burning games, "Then be so good, Miss Lester, as to tell me for what I am wanted, as I am anxious to return to my charming britis," She bowed her head in regal defiance at the moves

"Your bride, yes; but never—" She suddenly checked the words. "Sit down, Mr. De Laurian, while I talk with on an all-important subject that can scarcefail to interest you.

ly fail to interest you." She gracefully pushed him a chair, then glided to the door. "I will close this," she said, lightly; we do

not know who might pass by." The heavy oaken door swung heavily to, and

closed with a sharp snap that sent the blood curding through De Laurian's veins. Then she reseated herself opposite him, and, her figure arrayed in the ominous black velvet

12

and block-lued rubies, she seemed a very field and block-lued rubies, she seemed a very field of vengeance; and, as the cold smile faded from her lips, and a steely glitter gathered in her eyes, Gervaise De Laurian shivered to see her. Deliberately she crossed her small, dark hands on her jap, and coolly surveyed every lineament of his fact.

is face. Gervaise De Laurian," she said, in tones that

were low, intense, and fearfully musical. "Ger-vaise De Laurian, perhaps you will tell me who I am?

I am? She paused, awaiting his answer. "I will, certainly, strange and uncalled for though your question is." "Then do so at once. Do you know who I

There was a meaning in her query, and a meaning in the peculiar tones with which she

meaning in the pectuar tones with which she put the words. "You are Miss Barbara Lester, adopted daughter of Raxton Chebvynd, of Chetwynd Chase. Does the answer to so idle a question with une"

His bit you?" His lips curled scornfully as their eyes met, each so determined in their expression of patient

revenge. "Parly," she returned, quietly. "You speak truly when you say I am Rexton Chetwynds adopted daughter; but, you lie, false-moulded son of perdition, when you call me Barbara Lester; you know the name that belongs to me; you know who I am—your wife, in the sight of God and honest men." od and honest men." She had never raised her voice from the in-

sne and never raised ner voice from the in-tensely deop key in which she began speaking, and now, when the hissing echo of her words died away. De Laurian realized that the smol-dering fires would, ere long, leap forth. "But I am more than that, Geratise De Lau-

rian; I am an avenger." She fairly whispered the last words in his ear, as she leaned over to him, while her hot breath

as as basing over to man, while her not break scorchol his check. "An averager of whom, may I ask?" He was uncommonly superb in this assump-tion of utter forgetfulness. "You poor fool! do you not think I can read

your mask as plainly as your viper's heart's But, since your role is to keign such blissful ig-norance, be mine the task to explain that I shall avenge my wrongs-wrongs I received at your hands; that shall be forever nameless between 115

She toyed gracefully with her glowing ruby bracelet. Then his face clouded over with that darken-

ing frown she had so often seen before "Barbara-"

"Mrs. De Laurian, if you please, since I so

"This be latrian, if you pieuse, since I so kindly explained." He three up his hand impatiently. "Barbara, I say, you had better think twice before you attempt to threaten me; before—" "Think 'twice!" here retried, morellessly;

"Think 'twice!" she retorted, morcilessiy. "As if I had not thought a thousand times, and each time a hundred-fold less leniently." "But, Barbara, I repeat, beware how you seek to cast this aspersion on my name. Re-member, despite your threats, Blanche is already www.bride"."

"West, the poor, silly child is Gervaise De "Yes, the poor, silly child is Gervaise De Laurian's bride, but she never shall be his wife.

This interview shall not be prolonged an-the straight of the straight of the

on her features.

He strode toward the door, not stopping to offer the coldest bow, when suddenly she glided past and confronted him.

"Mr. Do Laurian?" "Mr. Do Laurian?" She spoke his name in a voice exquisitely jorsly, fut disregaritul, he pushed by her, until the second summons, followed by hor strange language, abruptly stopped him. "Mr. De Laurian, the door is securely fasten-ed. No one can gain genese or lagress except at my pleasure. I aloring in that door. I, done, will open it for you. But, before it is opened, you must wait another moment."

you mist wait another moment." He leand carlessiy against the door-post, but, despite his flashing eygs, his lips were quiv-ering under the thick imittatiche, with a craven fear. ... Despite the second state of the Bie spoke harhly now. "I understand nothing of the kind. I only know you are a bad woman—"

know you are a bad woman-" She uttered a genuine cry of pain at those

cruel words. "Beware! remember you are alone with me,

your wronged, disgraced wife-at the mercy of a woman more dangerous than a tigress robbed of her young !--powerless in my hands, Gervaise De Laurian !'

De Laurian!" He forced a contemptious smille to his lips. "And you think to terrify me with your idle threats? Unless you can not possibly tear your-self away from my society. I would suggest that you condescend to unfasten the door, as the train in which I and my bride leave, will be due

train in which I and my bride leave, will be due in less than half an hour." He was playing his hand as boldly as he dare, degrerate bioxigh he knew the game was. end that have been been been been been been said, quietly ; then, a sudden gus of uncontrol-lable passion flooding over here, she said. "Do you think I am going to let you add sin to sin I could charge you before the whole world with the States Friteen for years! Think you I shall be you go and not raise a finger to pumbly you? My hand, and the arm of New Jor-ke kaw, will apportion you you revert! The kit and the state friteen the state of the state will be be you go a single you you revert!

and any, yet wearing that fearful, mocking smile that so disfigured her. "But before I speak further on this subject, I will show you this letter which came to the Chase just before the ceremony, and which I kindly took in charge till a convenient moment to give you." She pushed toward him a sealed envelope, that

lay on the table. Half-mechanically he tore it open, and read:

"Mr. De Laurian, you will at once remit the amount due on the mortgage, or the foreclosure will at once take place, and your entire estatute will be sold at public auction. CLEMENTS."

There was no date ; there was nothing so ter-rible in the communication, and yet De Laurian reeled, staggered to a chair, and with a face pale as death, gasped convulsively several times. "Demon! devil!" he muttered, in choked ac-

control devil)" he muttered, in choked ac-cents; "cursee-ten million curses on you!-you've poisoned me with that infernal forgery! I can smell it-horrors! is this duets?"

I can smell it—horrors! is this death?" His jaw fell; he writhed a moment in the chair, and Barbara Lester, with a triumphant smile, unfastened the door, and snapping it after her, went slowly down to the realms of light, mirth and joy.

CHAPTER XVIII.

WIFE OR WIDOW?

At the door of the drawing-room Barbara et Roy Davenal.

At the goor us we want the set of the set of

Not a tremor of hereyelids or a quiver of the lips as she accepted his arm and entered the thronged rooms. "Roy," she said, tenderly. "I are

"Roy," she said, tenderly, "I can depend upon you not to mention the fact that I met Mr. De Laurian alone in the 'observatory? I would not enjoy the petty scandal it might cause

¹¹ I certainly shall not mention it, m yights in the metain of the second second

es, from the neckince at her throat. "Oh, Barbara, I'm so glad you've come! I'm worried because Gervaise stays so long, and I'm ashamed to tell any one. I wonder where he went to? We'll surely lose the train." Barbara laid her hand caressingly on Blanche's colden hait.

golden hair. "The bridegroom has grown forgetful, has het Probably detained by some bachelor friends over a parting glass of champagne. Isn't it cruel?"

cruel?" She laughed down in the brown eyes, that wore a shadow 'way down in their clear deeps. " Manma thinks he should have come to es-cort me up-stairs; I ought to have changed my before now

dress before now." Why did not that loving, trusting girl read the fearful secret in those beautiful eyes that were shiming down into her own? Why did abe not shrink in utter horror from under that cool, careesing hand! Or why did not some voice whileper in Roy Davenal's ear the awful truth as the beautiful woman leaned is confidingly on his

The hour was still afar off when the mask should fall.

should fall. "I an sure mamma Chetwynd is not nervous, whatover 1004 are, little bride. Hest assured Mr. De Laurina is secure, wherever he is." She only know the hidden meaning conveyed in her own words. During their bride conversation, the guests had gravitually loft the room, to fill the conser-

The inquest had been held at Chetwynd Chase, and the verdict, substantiated by the optimous of eminent physicians, was that Ger-vaise De Laurian had come to his death by a subdem attack of heart disease, to which he inal been long prolisposal, and which was imme-of a harassing business comminentian, that at any time might have illy affected him. People were loud in the prisises they bestowed upon the dead man's memory; they tenderly ympathized with the bereaved bride; spoke the heart of the blow that had heart is a pris-tion and the set of the heart of the heart of the boy of the blow that had heart of the heart of Chetwynd Chase.

vatory, music-room and upper chambers; and, as Roy excused himself to accompany a young gentleman to the billiard-room, Barbara touch-

VOL. L.

gentieman to the billard-room, Barbara touch-ed Blanche's shoulder. "Come, and I will assist you to don your traveling-dress. I think very likely Mr. De Laurian is in his room, preparing for the journey himsolf

himself." So, kindly and thoughtfully, Barbara assisted Blanche to her room, and thou insisted on her stitting in the casay-chair while she removed the vail, wreath, gloves, jewels and slippers. "I am shivering dreadfully, Barbara. Is the register all open? I wonder what makes me so actions?

chilly?"
Her hands foll wearly to her side as Barbara withdrew the tiny white kids.
"Nothing but nervous excitement, my dear; I suppose all brides feel so."
And her own bridal rose up before her with a

vividness that sent a pang shooting through her

heart "I feel so uneasy about Gervaise, Barbara. Why, I never heard of such a thing as a bride-groom deserting his bride so scon." "For a couple of hours?" Barbara laughed; then added, lightly, "perhaps it's the 'Curse," desert" door

dear." A scream fell from Blanche's lips. "Oh, no! I have not dared let myself think of that aloud! Oh, Barbara, what made you speak my own fears?" But Barbara looked sternly at the frightened

girl

"They were idle, playful words, Blanche; and I am thoroughly ashamed of you." The tears gathered in Blanche's eyes. "I know I'm childisfi; but something is wrong,

"I know I'm chinnish out something is wrong, Barbara; I feel it here." She laid her hand on her breast, and then arcee from her chair to exchange her white robes for the garnet velvet suit, of which one of her traveling suits was made.

Her toilet was made quickly, and then Bar-bara paused before her in carnest scrutiny. "How beautiful you are, Blanche! peace be with you?"

And then she went out from the dressing-room, swallowing a sob as she closed the heavy wahnut door. In the hall she met Mrs. Chetwynd, anxious

and somewhat flurried.

and somewhat flurried. "Barbara, it is very strange, but where can fource or most of the seven him for a neuror or most her eyebrows in surprise. "Is that so? I saw him myself less than an hour ego, and gave him a letter one of the ser-vants had for him." "You did! And where was he?"

"In the dining-room; and when he asked me for the quietest room in the house to read his

For the quetess room in the house to read us letter, I mentioned the observatory." heteroty, " "The observatory!" echeed Mrs. Chetwynd, with almost a sob of relief. " Of course the poor fellow has gone there to read his letter and fastened himself im—I've heard of the cu-

The spring in the door." She hastened off to tell Mr. Chetwynd, and together they went up the stairs that led to the Mr. Chetwynd was not a second unfastening

the door; he pressed in, followed by his wife and Barbara, and then— A horrid scream from Barbara, echoed by Mrs. Chetwynd, resounded through the Chase; with tottering tread, Mr. Chetwynd crossed the intervening space and laid his hand on De Lau rian's icy cold forchead.

But it needed not that to tell the awful truth; But it needed not that to tell the awful truth: for the gissay, vacant eyes, wide open in a trance of horror, the right attitude had vereal-bed already fallen on poor linear of the Curror bed already fallen on poor linear of the Curror bed as sho sat below, all unconscions that sho was a widowed bride, waiting for him who would never come, to begin the bridal tour they never would take!

CHAPTER XIX. A LOST LOVER.

Day after day of that pitiful bridal season wore away, each fraught with new griof and loneliness.

The papers filled columns with a sensational version of the story, and everybody from Maine to the Pacific coast was familiar with the sail

facts. Then they buried him, in almost royal promp, in the family walk, that was bulk in a cyprose grows on the Do Laurian estate. Later, a new excitment followed: his excert of plearching estimation of the second plearching estimation of the second second that but only the second second second second box of the second fractually, vague suspicions began to nerice; the deter had been a forgery, then, but for what proceed and second by whom! A canne the imprevious that there had been foul play; perhaps, after all, Mr. De Laurian ind play; perhaps, after all, Mr. De Laurian ind play; perhaps, after all, Mr. De Laurian ind ports, people began to believe Mr. De Laurian in Alexan planet.

had been poisoned. Arrangements were made to have his body removed from the vault; the arrangements were completed, and, while the excited public were awaiting further developments, there burst on them like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, the appalling news that Mr. De Laurian's body had been removed from the vault, and the colin left untenanted!

Nine days of wildfire excitement; days of

Nino days of wildfire excitement; days of worder, suppricton, distrust and hudgination; and then, builted and disappointed; the world stilled driver with another unsolved mystery Wearily and heavily the days draged on at Chewynd Chase; to the palled girl-briek, whose pitfull grief was extremely totehing to see; to be stricken parents who phinly saw the sköl-ton fingers of Lady Constantia's Curse in the Batt, geomal with the avenues of the stricken parents.

great night that had come upon them. But, coequal with the expressed sentiment of sympathy and pity for the parents and Blanche, was the one of admiration for beautiful Miss Lester, who had so openly and nobly used every available means toward clearing the mys-ter.

tery. Secretly, while she rejoiced that De Laurian had had his coveted cup dashed from him by her hands, she was worn by the sudden news that had come of the disappearance of his body from its coffin; and, after wakeful nights and nervous days, had taught herself that the minervous drys, had addine hersen into the hir mitset examination by the warmest friend-if any such had adducted him in a fit of indig-nant enthusiasm — would fail to detect the faintest trace of the subtle poison he had inhaled.

haled. Openly, she was all affection, all sympathy, all attention. Not enough could also seem to do for Blanche, who charge to Blancarn in out. Mr. Chetwynd was proud, reserved as ever, seemingly defying even the fatal lengue that had come to him, to crush him. But to Blanche he wasiever most tender, most geutle, and always referred to De Laurian with an affectionate inference that he more won

with an affectionate interest that the more wore the girl's broken heart. Mrs. Chetwynd, with her loving, confiding mature, foll bellow ainose taskond's as Blanche did. Their tears, immentations and prayers pathiang and pittidi, would clash ber sister ten-deriy in her arms and veep allendy over her. Thus the days and veeks wore on, and the affair grew unimportant save to the aching matrix that were so slow in the healing. The function of the healing. The tree of the solution of the healing and the solution of the healing.

The processing on reasons are one will call different than before. And, as the merciful hands of Time poured the healing balm in their hearts, their faces grew lighter as the glorious summer day work mane evene hungher from Blanche's lips that told her heart was recovering, with all the olden reshoes and exuberance. All this while, for Davenal had been away from Chetery and Chase, taid will the all told her heart was recovering, with all the olden reshoes and exuberance. Mit there was a change in her estime arises there are an all the olden the set there was a change in her estime arises for your. Barbara planity saw. This movies that all the olden the set reason, her power own have ease line arcent low, Barbara had line verted that do get and gradually growing loss. This knowledge terrified her; for, with, the and lead the down in argift days, would have sawel many a pans. But, that was over with had she known in an if the short of the work bar in the site in the them is straing. Influence the well how an full head head hat is seen by a strain and is the bar in the set of the work of the set of the logic line is the set of the work of the is bar and the head hat is set work in and is the straing. Influence the work of the work and the set is straing a line to be work on the and and its straing a line to be work on the and is the straing. Influence the work of the work on and the straing a line of the work of the work of and is the straing a line of the work of the work of and is straing a line of the work of the work of and is straing a line of the work of the work of the work of and is straing a line of the work of the work of the straing a line of the work of the straing a line of the work of the straing a line of the work of the work of the straing a line of the work of the work of the straing a line of the work of the straing a line of the work of the strain of the work of the work of the strain of the work of the strain of the strain of the strain of the strain of the work of the strain of the strain of t

ly purity, we will not speak. And so, this straige, almost imperceptible change fired her with a regretful anguish.

Mightier even than the quick, hot passion she had entertained for De Laurian—but that would have saved her had he so willed it—was this love that had surged up and back, for Roy Davenai; she must centre her affections on some one; such women are doomed to love—or eurse-with their affections in a whole-soulde, absorb-

And Roy—we know how for years he had rushed madly on ; bewildered, infatuated with her glorious beauty.

How all this change had come about, he only alized when away from the dazzling light of er eyes, and the witching sound of her voice.

When with her, he was so proud that she was all his own-poor, deluded man-and, instead of breaking the meshes of the net that enslaved him, he suffered the cords to grow firmer and

At length-so sudden and sharp the rending isunder came that it terrified himself—his god less was dethroned, and he knew, for a fearful

dess was defirroned, and he know, for a fearroit truth, that she was a woman whose hands were not the hands he ever should chasp at the alter. It had happened very simply, naturally, quite in the ordinary course of affairs—it that can be years and uprovide a love that he grown with a man's youth and strongthened with his strength. He had result he papers, it had learned all the particulars, and then he had grown to specula-ting on the ginastry subject.

The had year the papers ; he had servined all the particular, and then he begins and service a specific-ment of the service of the service of the service He plainly recalled the careless like Barbara and told Blanche as she leaned on his arm; he had been surprised then; but now it wore a far willful, passionate nature Barbara had ever interview with her; the athentical he had group-interview with her; the athentical he had group-ly insuffed her, and that she should punish him. All this had annoyed him from the moment he had heard of De Laurian's death; but the in-gase had satisfied him—or rather, he had forced himself to be content therewith, and group back manner that was naturally attributed to the distressful state of affairs. Then had come the suggestions of poison—

distressful state of affairs. Then had come the suggestions of poison— that had horrilled him; then the fact of the forged letter and he groaned in very anguish as the awful suspicion *would* thrust itself upon him; and when, later, he learned that the body had been stolen from its sacred resting-place, he knew, for a sickening verity, that Barbara Les-ter had had the deed done to cover her own guilty tracks

guilty tracks. It was appalling; yet what could be do't tell his honest suspicious to the world, and brand her, whom he had so vorshiged, a murkerssel heip with the hands more room that her, to fasten the hangmark rope around that bring De Laurian back, or heal Blanche Gue-wyn's broken heart–poor, poor Blanche! And then his fingers refused to pen the love-letters he was so wont to write; "a rush of basiness," he fold Barbarn, prevented long let-chase he would see her rone more.

ters, when he came in October to Chtewynd Chase he would see her once more. Ah, little did Barbara think, as she dreamed of and waited for his coming, that he, pacing his floor on restless, sleepless nights, was strug-gling and fighting with himself to banish the last remnant of love for her.

as remnant of love for her. And then, while shot-this jealous and dan-gerous woman—with a heart of living flame, was counting the hours to his roturn, he had de-cided that when they met again he would return her his plighted troth.

CHAPTER XX.

THE TIGRESS AROUSED.

UPON his return to Chetwynd Chase, early in the fall, Roy Davenal was gratified to find how very much the cloud had lifted off the bereaved family ; he was delighted at the warm, cheerful reception given him, and he thought how charm-ing an air Blanche's trouble had left upon hering an air Blanche's trouble had left lypen her-the winning, engaging girt-wielow, whom he did not call Mrs. De Laurian, bur Blanche, as in the brillants are serve, but Roy known hist days of blind yet blissful slavery were over forwer. He had fully come to know that she was the last woman in all the world to be his wife; and, in the six weeks that followed his return to the

in the six weeks that followed his return to the Chase-those six weeks in which his devotion to Barbarra gradually shackened, and which Bar-barrs hotd-- in these six brevey, dolivious weeks, Roy Davenal had learned a new, strange lesson Yes, ho actually dravade beloing her all the truth: he reasoned that the woman who would unbestatingly and doliberately destroy a follow-being for a mere personal affront-of course he did not know the depth of Barbarra's inputes ; nurder he solemnity believed to have been com-mitted -would not hexiste at disnihyring - sum mitted—would not hesitate at displaying equal mercilessness to one who justly would demand her indibnation.

It was an extremely delicate affair, and o that, since his sojourn at Chetwynd Chuse, had grown to be of greater magnitude and more ex-treme delicacy than over.

But he had fully decided that, come what would, he would kindly tell her they must part forever; and why! Mot because he believed her hands were stained with Gervaise De Jam-rian's block, but that another, fair as the lily and pure as the angels, had crept all unawares into his bear; test, with the holiest, truest, he had learned—first, to pity, then to love— Banche De Laurian.

he had learned—Brst, to puty, then to love— Blanche De Laurian. She had grown very dear to him in these six weeks : she had come to be a very star of light to his eyes—perhaps because of the mental con-trast, he could not avoid drawing between, her and Barbara. He had come to learn to watch for her sweet

presence, and to gaze on her dollead, chastened presence, and to gaze on her dollead, chastened face, as the greatest delights earth held for him. Of her own heart he Knew almost nothing. True, when she had caught an ardent, eloquent glance from him, her sweet brown eyes would droop, and a tell-tale tings surge over her rare face

Not a word had he lisped of this—not a hint had he given Blanche, for Roy Davenal was too noble and homorable to stoop to such a deed when his betrethal vows still bound him to Buylara Lester.

Barbara Lester. Bat one warm, cloudy day in the middle of Ortober, when the air was oppressive and sur-charged with electricity, he resolved to seek Barbarn, and end the carking suspense. He walked slowly to and fro on the lawn that sloped down to the river, and from her room. She bud, inst. much her to lightcome task, sho

window, Barbara watched him as he waiked. She ind jast made her toilette—a task sho could perform so well—and now as she stood be-fore her dressing-barcau to give the last fluidh-ing tonches, she wondered if Roy would admire her in that dress: and whether she could not win from him a warper love-protest limit, ho ther dress was very elegrant—a thin sill gren-admo of intensets black, over whose ground was embrodered a grareful yine in resc-pink and

embroidered a graceful vine in rose-pink and gold-colored silk, from which at intervals, de-pended a bundle of golden grapes and a leaf of

beine a tumm red. This singular and costly dress particularly be-came her, and Roy had before admired the white arms and neck which the sheer folds but U model half concealed. She fastened the filmy lace collar with a large

She fastened the filmy lace collar with a large cluster diamond pin, and hung rings of the same glucting genus in her little pink cars. around her as site soft down, and looked out ynon her lover, wondering at the brightness of his face as he bowed to some one below. Ever jealous of his favor, she leaned out to see who was there is her brow darkened, and she pressed her lips angrify logether as she saw, Laurinh, we confused and retring Blanche De Laurinh. Laurian,

Laurian. Barkarn's quick, jealous eves perceived how surpassingly fair she was, her unroleved white frees floating around her and over the velvety grass, and her lovely golden hair arranged high net. She says the costing theorement was been to be any source of the same set lent a beauty of their own to ber flushed large, and the arguissful thought furthfield her-would, could Blanche supplant her in Roy Davenaff flections—be, who had once before blighted every hope also held form? If she should, and the flash of deflance in her grant such interference. In the should flexibility for Just then, he was summoned to the parlor:

cress encourse user fight in which she should fes-gest and hindrevence. The strength of the pleased to see her. The frown disappoard, and she immediately went down to the pathor, both hands extended. "It me strength of the please of the strength of the suffered her to lead have sent for me to come down. I was just withing to see you." He suffered her to lead have sent for me to come down. I was just withing to see you. He entired her to lead himself, she frew a her elbow on his knee. He did not yet speak; he was scrutinizing be-ruining doutness, creding for one. Roy?" She margung to the strength of the strength of creases, as her reliased her yet to his. "I arredy neglected my duty if I failed to do The tames they have the strength of the strength.

The tones, though contrast, were decidedly distant, and she instantly perceived it. "Hoy-what have you come to tell new? Why do you speak so formully to me? Are you anyry with me, decret? Have? of offended you? If I have, you can pumble me no more severely than by the down.

being so stern. I did not mean—that is, I did not think you Roy, hesitatingly, for, would care," returned Roy, hesitatingly, for now that the time had come, he dreaded arous

100 and the temper. "But I do care, Roy, darling. How could it be otherwise when I love you so; when every word you utter goes straight to my heart, and is never forgotten."

Her voice was low, and under her half-vailed lids, Davenal noted the witching tenderness of

her eyes. ¹⁰ You will pardon me, Barbara, if I am com-pelled to speak as I would not speak? I would

No. 1.

gladly sparse yon the emotions yon must expe-rience when I fell you wint 1 dars not delay to too from yot, when the start of the start of the too from you, while line, you and you." How a namzed expression on her face that gath-ered when he began specification, gave way to a triangulant safit and she beaned, her head ea-riting the would you ("rightin me so') I thought you were going to ball me you had will yound me." "But anyones that were her works. "It is a specification of the start will young me."

But suppose that were the news I had to

communication Like a lightning-thank she sprung from her low-sent, her vyes glowing with excitament. "Barbaran-NGI catimum light to such inn-gunge. I will herve you till you are cahin." Its aroos night howed colling. Stay, Roy, and "Nyl-stay, I will he calin. Stay, Roy, and "Willbe calin." For your sales I

tell me what it is i muss near. For your base a will be calm. As by rangic, her anger died away under like with evtaming died of lowe. Relievanity he see study hunself ; and when Relievanity he see study diffuses on his hand, he wookred how he could call her. He plitted her at that moment from the bottom of his heart

her at that moment are a real the part," he bent, "It to 'yet I more before I forced the rime. "Or furne, Barbarn, in out, I forced the rime. Our furne, Barbarn, in out, what we have both dreamed and hoped it would be. We thought it would be a lifetime together, Barbarn, but. have learned it will be before for you, before for man and."

have learned it will be letter for you, better for win quark.⁹ win quark.⁹ be obsolved withing the hands to-call dynamic better the second state of the second what do you mean, have "I mean we sire not suiled for each other ; not we should be to spind all for tagether. You the looked earnestly, yet kindly at her, Her gays were silting with a searful fre-fler backing rose and full in irrequire billows; her works were silting with a searful re-fer backing to the second state of the second merrous againstino. nervous agitation. "Yes."

That was all she said, but he heard how husky

There was an another reason as well, Barbara, "There is another reason as well, Barbara, why I feet compelled to speak thus plainly. Can you surmise it?" "You.joyo another?" Can

Let voice continued husky and low, but there seemed a sufficiently agony in her words as they fell from the red has that neither quivered or followed.

fail right and rest may take means quirter of the failtared. Insee brightened. After all, she must have discovered his love for Hianche. "Barbara, you have spolen it. I love an-other, and beg you to rolease me from my vows

to yeu." "Who is this other?"

Her unvarying tone, her scintillant eyes, did not pave the way for the answer; yet he spoke

it, bravely. "If I wound you, Barbara, I beg your par-don; but I must tell you she is Mrs. De Lau-

rian." She started as if shing by a hornet. Her face paied, her cyses seemed starting from her head; with outstretched arms and motionless form she stood, bearing: the first keen agony of a socond

aboo, bearing the first keen agony of a second rejected love. "Blancies" she repeated, in a strange, far-away, long, then bowed her pale face to her hunds.

hands. "Barbarta, you suffer sof I am not worth it, indeed I am not. Do forgive me, Barbara." He touched her, hair with his pitying fingers, hat she sprung like a tigress from under it, and

but she sprang life a tigress from under L, and recolid in confirmations wrath, the powers of the second second second second second second the second second second second second second flower, while life lasts and memory can perform her office, or reverage do her work? She atood afort from time, as if his touch were contamination. Despirable, enraged, mortfide that it was not the first time side had been cost asks, and both times for the same woman! "Go, Mr. Taprenal, and remail severe it make

"Go, Mr. Jayena, and remotive I swear to make sothe shis account between us. I swear to make you rue this day, the hour when you dared set aside the love of Barbara Lester!" And she swept past him like some destructive

tempost.

CHAPTER XXI.

A MASKED HEART.

THE sound of Blanche's light footsteps up the front stairs had not escaped Barbara's quick ears during that interval with Davenal; and

sars during that interval with Davenal; and how, asaka systept on from the room, it was to seek Binnigs. She was sitting, alone in her own room, her checks juit tinbel with a rare, sweet Bush Bat was called three by the artent look Mr. Davenal had given her as he emire by; in a half-dreamy, wholy delices sints, an as at there, none and quiet, see esting to here by a started what it was that thrilled for no. She started

as she heavd 'Barbara's rap on the door, and half-reinctantly said "Come in." Barbara

The name fell from her lips in a scream of fear, and well it might, for a vision met her eyes that would have alarmed any one.

Eyes into woond investmarined any one. Barbura was in a state of highest excitiement. The frenzy of fury caused by Roy Duvenni's amouncement was, if possible, augmented by the sight of this fair, guileless girl who had this second time wrough such desolation to her

Empurpled with rage, her red lips apart, she strode directly to Blanche, and stooping near her, so that her breath flamed on her fair face, hissed a question in her ear.

Bissed a question in her ear. "What have you been doing?" Blanche turned, a shade paler for a second, at the threatening face and manner. "What have you done, I say? Tell me, or by all the powers of evil, I'll."

A terrified little cry barst from Blanche's

hips. "Oh, Barbara, you frighten me! Don't, pray

She raised her hands deprecatingly as if to

Due raised ner minds copressingly as it to ward off a coming blow. "Don't sched, you coward, you wile, deceitful woman! Do you mean it skall not brand you with your infanous treachery, your robbery of ne, your during duplicity? Binnche De Lan-rian-no, Blanche Chetwynd, you shall suffer tog, this!"

for this?" mixed by the foor in front of Einsche, whose white hands were nervously wringing. "Yes, Blauehe Chekwrah, you have crossed ridsed every hope I had, and now Skan help you! I declare, and you shall prove ny words, that trouble shall come to you for this! There have best those bickfort de-day who have learned have best those subcrot de-day who have learned have best those bickfort de-day who have learned have best those subcrot de-day who have learned have best those subcrot de-day who have learned have best bickfort de-day who have learned have best and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the oth works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who can answer in the such works and to me, who were instance to the such works and the such works and to me who were the such works and the such works and to me who and the such works and the such works and the such works and the such work and the such works and the such work

"Then you will admit you do not love Roy Day

A bright flush overspread her cheeks. "I shall not deny it; but my love for him need not make you hate me. I shall not take him from you, Earbara." A sneering smile curled Earbara's lips. "On no wan will me therefore here the

"Ch, no, you will not, because ho himself has told me he has no further need of my friend-ship. You have not led him on, then?" Her bitingly sarcastic words only made

sing. You have not lish him on, then?" Here kittingly sarenasic works only made here have been been as a second source of the theory of the second source of the second his love for works, nover dreaming it was re-turned. If Mr. Davanal seeks me, that is uot ne who breaks your leart" shoul before the flushed, joalous worman, who seemed madelened anew as the name of her loved one met here ease.

"You lie, a false, Satanie lie, Blauche, Chei-wyndt Davenali was true to me, true as steel, ffl you came, like a smake, gliding between! ber vangenue salal follow, arme nind swift-foot-ed as Time itself. Since Noy Davenal chooses gou before me, he and his chosen one shall learn ray power, close I shall never open my mouth to speak tike aschem truth again! Then, when you drain to the last drogs your cup, you will know (never). love

Mr. Davenal had formally requested the hand of Blanche De Laurian from her parents, ex-plaining, as delicately as he could, the change pairing, as denotately as no cond, the change in his viows concerning Barbara. The Chob-wynds had, of course, been surprised, but after consideration and consultation with their wid-owed child, bestowed her hand, in engagement, upon him.

They were very happy, those lovers, whose ale fear was that Barbara would, in some manner, destroy their happiness. Roy did not fear so much for himself as for Blanche. At times Blanche would be nervous and agitated, and Dancie wona no mervous and agraved, and not willout cathes, for whenever site and far-hara were alone, Barbara would grow enraged and passionate, while in the presence of Mr, and Mrs. Chetwynd and Roy, she invariably main-tained a subduid mien that won their sympathy, while it was decreptive in the extreme. Blanche while it was deceptive in the extreme. Blanche had never told her parents of Barbarn's threats, find hever one nor percension fact marks a threads, for sile was constantly hoping this insarity, as she honessly regarded it, would wear off. She would escretcy have mentioned it to Roy, ex-cipt that he questioned her so closely that she could not woll avoid it. She

cold not will avoid it. Three weeks more after this stormy interview between Barbara and Roy, and Barbara and Bianela, rolido on, and Roy infagered at Chek-wynd Chase, loth to depart, yet unwilling to longor accept the varm invitations that were keejing him away from his basiness. Barbara mandel f hur especial duty to endewoor to persuale him to stay: and when, one arity winter's atternote, he announced his intention

of departing by the morning train, Barbara's heart gave a barset of triumpit that the moment sworthwart in the folio for the folious anger. She hated Blanche with an awful hatterd her marriage with De Lauriah bah made here thor-marriage with De Lauriah and and the the inghted on his head. But when, for the scoul time, this golden-headed, brown-eyed girl had crossed her path, she swore to remove her from it with as illuccomputedion as she had removed De Lam

But she had her part to play toward lulling any suspicion Davenal might entertain after her wild threats.

So that same evening she sought the lovers, who she knew were in the drawing-room. Their low murmuring voices reached her before she saw them.

"Baby! she to win him, who were the willow for another not a twelve-month ago! And he**yes** he loves her

yes, he loves her." She ground her white teeth together; then, by a great effort, smoothed her brow. "This will not do. I must drive this dark cloud from my face, and the secon from my lips, if not from my heart. I have a great work to accomplish—yes, two deeds to perform me here." ere long

ere long." For a single moment she paused, pressing her hands over her heart to still its loud throbbing; for with all the jealouxy, her desprateness, site could not repress those heart-beats that told her she was steeping her already guilty coult still deviate particle and the start of the start deviate particle and the start of the start deviate start of the start of the start of the start deviate start of the start deviate start of the s

the two.

the two. Davenal bowed, and Blanche clung closer to his arm as she essayed to smile a greeting. With a soft smile of her own, Bartarn ex-tended her hands. "Blanche-Roy-I am come a penitent to you to ask the forgiveness I know you will erant."

grant She looked deprecatingly at Roy, whose brow

was was stern. "You will find me changed, Koy, changed by trouble," she said, sweetly and sadiy. "When I learned the truth from your jips that day I was overcome bayond the strength of my will be endore: for that display to passion I have come, before you leave us, to kee juriton." "ity, and not the faintest +emblance of the part she was so consummately playing was visible on her face.

her face

her face. Roy bent a keenly searching look upon her. "You have threatened most fearful things, Barhara, against this innocent girl. You re-member them?" Not a tremor of the inward rage she felt was

Not a tremor of the inward rage she test was visible; she listend apparently unnoved, then locked up in a side, quick way. And it is for those very threads, wicked and in-sane as they were, that I ask you for the third time, to orgive me. Blanche, goot have a low-ing heart, you will eacord the particut Mr. Daw-nik withhold?

end withholds?" "Series to person an observation of the Dark Barbara is all for hand on Banche's shoulder. "Gladly, Barbara, and A know Boy will not be proof against our united retitions." "There, Roy, Barbara, we will all be good friends, true friends again. Although I know Barbara must ever regard me as an intruder be-and Barbara will forgive it, I will forget it, and we will all be happy."

Roy pressed her hand; then, though very dis-tantly; accepted Barbara's hesitatingly offered

"Roy, while you retain my hand I shall tell ""Roy, while you retain my hand J shall tell you a sever and chin, your congratulations. No one but Mr. and Mrs. Chetwynd knows of H, and Bianche wilh be as surprised as you. It is this: To-day, in a letter from Germany, from closed, as bused for me: but not sever closed, as bused, for me: but not sever (Roy and Bianche, an offer of marriage from Rex Chetwynd, subject to his relatives' values, for an to short per rule of marriage from Rex Chetwynd, subject to his relatives' values, and I shall accept. This is the ring he sent me to wear if I consented." "There was no enthuismin ther voice; only a

There was no enthusiam in her voice; only a anere was no entuisiam in her voice; only a quiet, proud conscioumes as she pointed to the heavy golden circlet, over which Elanche ut-tered an exclaimation of astonished delight. Roy bowed again, while a genuine-studie of joy crossed his face.

creised his face. "You have my sincere congratulations, Bar-bar-mas a sister and a cousin!" "Burbarn, dear, you arrive didiptically." "Barbarn, dear, you arrive the voreant lo wear the bonore of the house of Chetwynd-yon, so regul and beautiful. I arri so glad; may lod make yon as happy in Rex's love as I am Bay's."

in Roy's." Neither of them saw the half-scornful, half-derisive curi of Barbare's lip as Blanche bent to kiss her tingers, for Roy was too much rejoiced and relieved whan he learned of her betrothal.

He little knew that at that very moment the cloud was lowering and darkening around him with tenfold intensity; little recked fair Blanche of the tragedy so soon to be enacted.

"Then I may consider my pardon sealed?" "Signed, sealed and delivered, Barbara; and

"Signed, send and converse, business, and in token whereauto-" In an impulse of imputdent enthusiasm he bent and kissed her check. Lightly, it is true, but his touch sent the blood bounding through Barbara's veins.

But she accepted the caress with a grave bow. But she accepted the carses with a grave low: As that moment, Max, Chewynd called from the alphoing room for Blanche a moment; and, male alphoing room for Blanche a moment; and, male alpha lish hands on Earlerardy arms. " Barbarn, this would be the happest hour or yills, if Lauly knew that von wore as igno-miss adden death." Kie looked nieth." Kie observe headed or trem-ing quantum the come, invest benefits or trem-ing quantum and come, invest benefits or trem-ing quantum the set.

ble

"I know? Oh, Roy, can it be possible you ever thought I knew?"

She unsight I here's almost stanned by the errol suspicion. "How could I help it? your anger with him-

"How could I help it? your engre with him— your interview in thiat very room—" "I know," she interrupted: "I see now how it looked to you. Roy, I was angry, I did want to be revenged, but I solemuly yow. Roy, that any vergenance was superselved to you over which I had no control. J know I was passion— help hat on to marker—but to marker? Oh, "The tenrs, were standing in her eyes now, so truthful and elest."

truthful and clear. He drew a long, deep breath of exquisite re-

lief. "Thank God! I believe you, and you are

ner stater: She accepted both his eagerly proffered hands, and as she bent over them, a low cry of rage burst from her lips. "Because I am her sister!" she fairly hissed.

CHAPTER XXIL

THE SIGN.

The next morning Roy Davenal left Chet-wynd Chase, and the family settled down ones more in quiet, until the time should come when Rex arrived from Germany, and took up his permunent residence at the Chase.

Ho was expected by spring, and now, since he was to marry Earbara Lester, the Chetwynds seemed to love her more and better than before. bara a new love had spring up, and new ties bara a new love been established.

been established. Latterly, since her engagement with Rex. Barbara had grown pensive and thoughtful, and Mrs. Chetwynd attributed it to the first hat she was not in love with her afflanced husband, and would tell her the love would come, *must* come, when she was the wife of a man so perfect as Barbara candidly admitted that she had re-

Bardiam candidly admitted that ale had re-solved a severe blow when Roy Davenal had deliberately given her up, but the keen, sling-resignation, which she thought, in turn, would give pince to ber old-time existerance of spirita and, although there was ever a quite tair hang-day at Chetwynd Chase were fraught with a sevector pace out joy than any that had over preceded them. To between any bat had over preceded them, there was every fraught with a date, three, there we had a most of a star-ted for the seven the seven and bat correstive sevents pace there are been seven at both one series the sevent of the seven the sevent sevent sevents and the sevent sevent sevents are been series to the sevent sevent sevent sevent sevent sevents are sevent sevent sevent sevent sevent sevent sevent sevent sevents sevent sevent sevent sevent sevent sevent sevent sevents sevent s

At times, Mr. Chetwynd wodd stroke Blanche's gold-brown hair, and look carnestly in her bright, happy eyes as if to the more as-sure himself that the Curse was in reality ac-complished; and there was nothing more to dread.

dread. Mrs. Chetwynd usnally coincidel with her huthand in his oprinon on the subject, but the stornly denied that be Laurian's denath an her hybrial day hud any thing whatever to do with Lady Constantis's anthema. It had been a decree of Providence, she said, and though her hright gress word usabin momentarily at the memory, a thought of Ray would dispit it at

memory, a survey of the second second

would all live at the Chase. The fature was so bright and beautiful to them all—but one. No one dreamed that sor-row and anguids would yet tear their heart-strings to fragments, but she who would work it all—she to whom a betrofiled husband was coming, who was so soon to wear the bridal favors

Already the day had been appointed— Blanche's birthday, her twentieth—and on the seventeenth of April the double wedding was to

The trousseau was rapidly proparing; and ly love-tokens

the entire household had given themselves up to the joyous excitement ever incident to wedding

preparations. It was still early in March when Roy came from the West, and was not permitted to make his home away from Checkwynd Chace; a week later, and one blustery, rainy night, when in-doors escended like a piece of enchanted ground, in walked Rox Chetwynd, bronzed and bearded,

in walked Hox Chetwynd, bronzel and boarded, and as landslow as an Apello. since Barbara Millowich for the value of the second second to the second second second second second lock her in his array, and kiesed ber on her blaching checks and smiling month, and then turned and greeted affectionstely the other de-lighted members of the circle, and at once win-ang Reo Davenal by his frank, winning man-uing Reo Davenal by his frank, winning man-

ner. The family circle was now complete, and the days speed on as if shoch with fairy block cutly wayned daily developed for the bright, glocious woman who would so soon be all his own. The corremonies of this double workling were to be solomized in a manner work, the workling were to be solomized in a finance after the work-and social period of all periods. All of the works of the solution of all periods after the work-out solution.

alter several position of an parties: atter the Weid-ding, lex and Barbarn were be pass a month at Washington and further south, while Hoy and Blanche were to go Weis. A life of gayety and brightness seemed epen-ing up to the entire party, and of Darkam, es-try to confirm the productes uttered when she weight be confirmed productes uttered when the Cheutwereds.

she workd became the wffs of the youngest of the Chetwynds. It was only when alone that Barbara often wordered it the fates would smile on her wel-less hands and look at then, and smile as due less hands and look at then, and smile as due work that stained them forever in guilt-ac, and woulk ero long, be colored deeper still with rime's red dye. the wedding-day dashed beartfully clear and breidth ong of these range

beautifully clear and bright; one of these rare days in early spring, when capricious April wears her bluest skies and balmiest breezes.

The family were scattered about in their rooms, preparing for the event; only the two brides elect were together. Barbara had gone into Blanche's room, and,

Barkura had gone into Hanche's room, and, elad in a dressing-wrapiev, with her jetz-black hair streaming far down over her shuilders, was takking and hanging with Banche. If her fore I ann, I verity believe, Barkara, Now, here are all my inces and kids to be stowed away in their boxes, and I can't trust Corina here are all markars, dear, if you only would, so I can rest a minute."

room." She gathered up the delicate trifles and closed

She gathered up the termine states in the consecting door after her. She laid the filmy collars and gloves on her dressing-bureau, and then, with noiseless tread and cantious hand, locked both the doors—the and cautions hand, locked both the doors—the one opening into the hall, the other connecting with Blanche's room. Almost inperceptibly a smile of repellent heauty crept to her eyes, and a curl of scorn to

She unlocked a tiny drawer in her bureau, and took from it a small crystal vial, with a

rubber stopper. Then she hoisted both windows, and delibe-rately tied a folded handkerchief so that her

rately tied a folded handlowering too that her mouth and mostrik were evered. Upon each give, puor each collar, also prin-led several drays of the colorises liquid, her keep and the several several several several near several several several several booked out from between the heavy, clinicing masses of hair, and above the heavy, clinicing around her mouth. This mysterious dead done, she replaced the first mysterious dead done, she replaced the handkerchief from her face, leaved in drawers, locked it, and replaced the key. She went to the window, and, statching the handkerchief from her face, leaved far out, and inheid deputy of the frash, cool air. Inheid several the first several several had completely dried, and left not the faintest trave.

trace.

Carefully she arranged them in the orna-mented lox, and closed the lift. "There, Blanche Chetwynd, is your roward

mented box, and closed tue init. "Thore, Rinache Chetwynd, is yn art ywserd you think when you woar these dainty gloves, inat their touch is fatal, or that the cody col-lars that took so fair around your white throat are no less death-dealing that the hangman's nessel. Yes, my benny brite, it will be slow, "She unlocked the donys and took the horrible package to the grateful gift, and then com-menced her own preparations, unassisted by any arow her own deft fingers. Sho was grandly, radianty beautiful in her Sho was grandly, radianty beautiful in her sho was grandly, radianty beautiful in her the concet of orange bhomselving hair. Her tuliette made, she crossed from her room to one inverse her own-deft rains, where the britlai gifts were displayed—n glittering array of cost-ly low-teins.

At the door a maid-scrvant was in attend-ance, who banded her a tiny, scaled package, with the request from the donor to open it before the ceremony

fore the cercimony. Filled with natural curiosity, she returned to her proon to examine the contents. Inje-the jackage contained hardken apal, with the mysterious "D" and the semi-chain! A cold fautures crept over ther, and a gray shadow came around her tense lips; ther heart semed rising, rising to her throut, threatening

to suffocate her. This fearful token, promised by one who had died under her hand? Heavens? De Laurian

their further her hand. Hervens: De Laurian wars attice, then, and on her track! She sprung wildly from her chair, and paced the floor in intersest agitation. Then she seized a flash of some rare, pungent liquid, and moist-ened her lips, that were blue to very deathli-

ness. She bathed her clammy forebead and cold wrists, while slowly the color returned to her pallid face, and her heart ceased its dreadful jerking throbs.

Perhaps for twenty minutes she sat there, and then she pushed away the aromatic perfume, rose to her feet. I will not be threatened by him! I defy

him. to the last!

him, to the had?" The approaching footsteps of the larking lootstep were heard, and she had barryly time to drop the ominous bolon in her bacom, are Mrs. Chet-wynd opened the door, and she saw the party applets using largest." And the start of the start of the start of the to the dim perform, and, and the quiet and im-pressive softminity thin reguesd. the two beauti-tal twas a moment of happiness, even to Bar-bara-only she fell the ingest edges of that bara-only she fell the ingest edges of the strength, stered thy hand, where runnous power she could not avert.

CHAPTER XX111

THE STAR THAT WUNT OUT.

THE STAR THAT WUNT OUT. THE most of a lawners quested rapidly to the pairs who ways whiling away their time in the enjoyment of travel, and by the last of May, Chekwynd Chase was in order to receive the brillal perty again. In the second flaor entirely refurnished; one in the second flaor entirely refurnished; one in the vesters able of the unsoin, upholistered in the vesters who of the unsoin, upholistered in the vesters who of the second rapidly of the second model of the second rapidly of the the vesters who of the unsoin, upholistered in The drawing-room had been beautified anew bars could not bat see, when she refurned, how heres of Chevynel Chase. Site had come back as radiant and beautiful a cover, dataing all eyes and carrying capitly a vertice of the bars. We will have and beautiful a cover, dataing all eyes and carrying capitly and the bars been the pick the had are verted wall one. Well, how east has had are well and come back as a site how how bar ways were and despondent at intervals, and beautiful the unsoint of the second and the second and the number of the second charge and the second and the bard of the second wall of the second and the bard of the second wall are the pick the bard and the bard are the unsoint of the second and the second and the bard of the second wall are the pick the bard. Site was in the second and the second and the bard are bard of the bard. Site was the the order of the second and the bard of the bard wall bard of the bar

nervons and desponderit at intervals, and so early tired out. such that a little for during Her checks had only the mathet at the theory perceptible to her mother's anxious eyes. She was not II, she said, only she foil so foil verish; and, as Roy said, so easily frictigued. She ate quite well, and slept well, but there was a comperson diminution of vitality that could not

a concious diminution of vitality that could not be mistaken. The very chocyst port wine was ordered her The very chorphysician, and daily excepte m the open air; pichny of muscle and merriment, and obling must worry or annoy. Every day she and Barbara divore out in their elegant little poxy pineton; of evenings there were social parties at the Chane, boating on the

ver, and moonlight croquet on the lawn. Still, despite her care, her tonics, her cheerful

companionship, it was patent to every one that Mrs. Davenal was going into a decline—one of those sure, slow-creeping, insidious diseases that are so common among, and fatal to, American

Then, in the home circle at Chetwynd Chase own could stop the fearful drain that same hand was all the while making upon Blanche Daven.

was all the while making upon Bianche Daven-al's fair young life. "Traie desarted! by her! That was Barba-ran Chatwynh tailman that kupit the festering sore of rovengo inflaming to fierce heat; and, while her view was low and soft, her oyes ten-while her view was low and soft, her oyes ten-while her view was low and soft, her oyes ten-ched was soft in viewel will must more stretched a could by forth in viewel willow inquench-ache dastructure. aide destruction.

It was soul-harrowing—that this guileless woman, who had loved Barbara so, and who now, of all the dear ones, turned to her most naturally for affection and confidence, should be going on, and on, poweriess, to her doom ; hereind, mother, father, consist, friends, all mu is their bolooms, never dreaming its doubth-lead-ing fange were robbing them of what they held nearest, dearest, best. nearest, dearest, best. All these days—and even more kindly as the

All these days—and even more kindly as the creeping langtor strengthened into marked de-bility, and Blanche kept her chair in the most comfortable nook, almost from morning till night, Barbara was so attentive, so tenderly kind.

It was a touching picture-that of Blanche, as she reclined so weariedly in a large, cushioned easy-chair, her face more beautiful than ever in its wan, spiriluelle pallor; her bright, sunny brown hair, that had been cut short when the first of those terrible headaches made their appearance, curling in loose, wavy rings around her forehead, and just touching the little ears, the fair throat and

Her hands were thin, and she often showed Barbara how loose her wedding-ring was getting to be

The bar is now noise new vectoring-ring was ground. Hours and hours the two young married ladies would sit together, talking, generally, about the one saliget that engrossed so much of Blanche's initie garments, fashioned with fenkel fugges and tastful skill, would be often seen on her lap, and at times, her trembling hands would fall killsels) down among the phuny lace and fall killsels would an experiment of the second their task, eveet though it was. So the shadow brooded and brooded; little by little the silver liming faded from the edges of her land, and when, me day. Blanche told koy the slowing and when, me day. Blanche told koy the slowing when, me day. Blanche told koy the fat had goue forth—Blanche would never brighten their family circle again. There was ever a paraive salmes over thet-mutin, asked them if they coulds'; If they seedidr's help Mrs. Davenal. Mrs. Checkward mit the grobability of her early death. He fought against the knowledge that was not the grobability of her early death. He fought against the knowledge that was recepting over limit, her seisted against the slow covery, avery before his eyes. But there coulds when it hey could als'; They arread, although not early in the blustering pring days when Blanche did not arise from her bet, fault then the attending physicians sail bro bet, and then the attending physicians sail pring days when Blanche did not arise from pring days when Blanche did not earlie the slow cover her month did. Hours and hours the two young married ladies

that unbearable sensation of weakness and eno-ing strength and vitality. She know she would dis-alive's ornother and the know she would dis-alive's ornother and very cain and peaceful, even to the ead, and diod one still, starry night, just as the clock in the observatory struck twolve, with her little hing arm around Koy's neck in a painfully fight with the observatory discover and the second structure of the start of the second structure of the second struc-ture of the second structure of the second s mother's.

Her last smile was on Barbara, and then, so violent was her grief, that Rex le from the solemn chamber of death. led her away

from the solerm chamber of death. After the line's guid of grief had filed away, Barbara insisted upon performing for Mrs. Dav-that that possess such an unspeakable anguids in the doing as we realize how grateful, how gentle would have been the thanks of the one who now like so still, so unconscious of our soft touches, all deat to our passionate crise, and dumb to our

The second secon

the funeral

CHAPTER XXIV.

A STRANGE NIGHT'S WORK.

A STRANCE STORT'S WORK. BELOW stars darkness and mbroken silence reignod supreme at Obstvynd Chase. Above, in their chamber, Mr. and Mrs. Cheb-wynd wero alone, suffering together for their lin the room that had been Blanche's Roy Davenal walled the floor in a raging agony of orrow that could find no relied, while Rex Chebwynd strove to coussile him. Chebwynd strove to coussile him. Barb towned to the strove of the beavy damask curtains dirawn within. Brilliant lamps burned on her dressing-bureau, and Bar-lears burself stood befores the mirror arranging large herweif stood befores the mirror arranging. Presently there canne a low, cauttons tap on her door that elicited from her a quick, subdued reply.

"Yes, Regina. It is you?" "It's Regina." was the answer, in the same low, muffled tone; and then Barbara opened the door, and admitted her dressing-maid. She was a tall, sallow-skinmed, bushy-haired wo-man, with thin, hard lips that looked as if they never could give or take a kiss; eyes that were small and intensely black, with an expression of merciless cruelty and shrewd cunning comed in them.

Altogether an ill-favored person, but one who had been proved to be an invaluable ser-vant at Chetwynd Chase, particularly to Barbara.

Vania is the University of a characterization of the second secon

on a tour of inspection." Regina took from the bureau one of the silver and crystal lamps, and preceded Barbara as they silently left the room, Barbara locking her door after her. Regina led the way up three flights of stairs,

and into the observatory. Regina set down the lamp on the center-ta-

ble, and went across the room to the side near-est the flight of stairs by which they had ascended.

She carefully felt along the wainscot; t She carefully felt along the wainseot; then suddenly pressing hard against the spot she had been seeking for and found, the panel syring wavy to the foor, revealing a short flight of steps, leading directly up, apparently to the roof of the observatory. Up these stops the two women went, when, instead of ending upon the roof, they termina-ted at a door that Regim, unlocked with a key the same of the conservatory helow into of much

the size of the conservatory below, but of much er ceiling.

lower celling: It was a room of whose existence at Chet-wrold Chase no soul knew except Barbara aud lor ally; whose discovery had been made in a remarkably accidental manner by Barbarn, mother before, and who had then resolved what use she should make of it. From the ex-mother before, and who had then resolved what use she should make of it. From the ex-tension environment is the observatory roof-ing to give a more imposing hight to the struc-ture. ture

ture. There were no windows in the wall; but a large irro-grated skylight lighted it from the rod. The room was comfortably furnished for a bedroom, and as Barbara entered, she cash an approving glance around. A Brussel's carped, worn, but skill whole, covered the floor; a bed-stead, very plain, but as comfortable and next seed with a line functionary or the straight and the seed with a line function for the straight and the seed with a line function for the straight and the seed with a line function for the straight and the set of the straight and the straight and the set of the straight and the straight and the set of the straight and the straight and the set of the straight and the straight and the set of the straight and the straight and the straight and the set of the straight and the straight and the set of the straight and the straight a straight and the set of the straight and the straight as the straight as the set of the straight and the straight as the straight and the set of the straight as the straight as the straight as the set of the straight as the straight as the straight as the set of the straight as the straight as the straight as the straight as the set of the straight as the straight as the straight as the straight as the set of the straight as the set of the straight as t ered with a linen towel; a chair; a large, well-cushioned rocking-chair, with a foot-rest; a washstand, with a set of white stone china, and

washstand, with a set of 'white stone china, and a little stand, whereon lay a book or two, and a basket containing sewing implements. Over the skylight a light white curtain had been fractioned in the priori when the standard green dramask screen, furnished with rings and breasr rolls, wasarranged to be drawn at pleasure. "I hoge it suits Mrs. Chevryond, for I have had my hands well employed in getting all bese things here without help and unoiserred." fortable than I thought it would be. It really is oute a pleasant room, Rectina."

fortable than I thought it would be. It really is quite a pleasant room, Hegina." Too see I could not manage for any fre-store running through the skylight would at-tract attention. There's my little gas-tore, though, that I make my tea with in my own room. She might have that here till the would need the set of the the set of the set of the would be gets more settled. If the warm senong BOOD

"Perhaps you had better bring it in to night, and then every thing is in perfect readiness. Have you the key with you--the key of the vanith If is, we may as well go nove as wait difference. Bring my waterproof and get yours and the other, and is tu go out by the servants' entrance. Regins, you are sure the maids are all to bed? Perhaps you had better bring it in to-night,

all to begin " "I know they are; there is not a soul in the house awake who will leave their rooms to-light—unless Mr. Rex does "Infurity, as Mr. Davenal wished him to re-light—unless the two women, clothed in their long black cloaks, glided rapid-like two restliess spirite the timely-lighted, marrow corridor that was only used by the ser-At the end of the information survey and a flight of stairs, equally narrow and gloomy, led down

to a small back porch, adjoining the kitchen Diazaa.

It was only a step from this to a thick group of syringh trees; and suce behind that, no vigilant watcher from Chetwynd Chuse could ha seen these women as they glided along, toward the river's edge.

It was only a walk of about ten minutes to the low marble vault of the Chetwynds that

the low marple value of the Catewynos that was built at the extreme eige of the estate. Regins had no difficulty in fitting the iron key in the ponderous lock, while Barbara Push-ed equilar the heavy doer. A deethly, dank, chill air rushed out, that

sant cold, creeping shivers ever them, yet holdly Barbara entered, holding her lantern, t at she had carried concealed under her cloak, so that

tis dull rays illuminated a way for her, and walked up to Blanche Davenal's casket. There sho lay, the fair, pale lily, just as they had left her, hours before.

With a steady hand, Barbara took the key from Regina and crashed in the glass that cov-ered Blanche, as far down as her wuist.

"Now, Regina, help me lift her out, and wrap the cloak around her. We have not a moment to sparo-for I can detect a slight warm mois-ture upon her face. She will revive fully in less than an hour."

ass than an hour." They had not removing from her coffin the slight form, and wrapping closely around it the heavy, muffing closely, legina and Barbara carried her carefully out, and, after securing the door again, and concealing the lan-tern, they easily lifted Blanche and hastened hit seemed as it the vertices of the second second second it seemed as it the vertices of the second s

homeward. It seemed as if the very fates of evil were with them that night, for they reached the Chase in perfect security, and in silence and safety carried their unconscious burden to the secret chamber that had been prepared for its reception.

Regina carefully disrobed the resurrected girl of the satin grave-clothes, and removed the still blooming, fragrant flowers from the nerveless hands

A warm suit of flannel was put on her, then one of her own night-dresses, and she was covered up in the bed to await the doom, far worse than death, that the sleepless vengeance of Barbara Chetwynd had planned.

bara Chetwynd had plainhed. For a moment afterward, the two women stood gazing down om the beautiful, gale face; then Ragina looked up at Barbara, her small, snaky eves full of hidden evil. "If they only knew, down-stairs, Mrs. Chetwy wynd, Those drops are magical, are they not' wynd. State wynd. The state of the state of the wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state of the state of the state of the state wynd. The state of the state wynd. The state of the stat

them." " And all the time they will mourn her dead." " All the time they will mourn her dead." re-parted Earthann, with triumphont itermes-methods and the second second second second second second and yet she will live on and on-and know what it is to feel the weight of my hand. It's a sorry thing, Regina, for any one to cross my path-especially frice." There was a hidden meaning in her works; and the severing-wonan was not slow to detect and the severing-wonan two states to detect

and the seving woman was not slow to detect the pointed words. "Indeed it is, Mrs. Chetwynd, and you may rest assured I will be faithful." "It will be best," returned Barbara, tersely. "You may give me the vault-key, Regina. It may be wanted, and I only can avoid its being

¹¹⁰ to see the set of think they will discover the absence of Mrs. Davenal! Surely some one of the family will go there one day again, soon." A little look of contemptuous score swept over Barbara's face.

A nitle look of contemptuous sions swept-over Barbara's face. The proof really millions for a moment, Re- The proof really millions for a moment, Re- marks to betrary me after all my encoessful work thus far! No, index!! I shall myself fill Mrs. Davenal's cofin with a durany dressed in her grave-clothes, and made sufficiently heavy to correspond to her weight. Then 1 when a strange undertaker from New York, whom I myself shall see, comes to place the permanent wooden lid upon the cestel, I my-self shall superintend the operation, and see that he evinces no undue curiosity. Maanwille, until this can be necomplicated and the set of the vanit, as a fresh sight of Blanche will but the vanit, as a fresh sight of Blanche will but the vanit, as a fresh sight of Blanche will but easy to use a limiter store, and not my easy to all will be so distoreside. Regina, ever thinking of others' sorrow, and not my A role of absolute triumor rung in her voice.

A note of absolute triumpy rung in her voice, and Regina's eyes hocked the admiration she full-and a little of the fear. A silence followed Barbara's words occupied in heir keaw working on signs of returning life accept by an involuntary moisture that had now spread over her whole body. Very gradually the expression of her marble-serenity of repress to a half-troubled look.

"See," said Regina, touching Barbara's arm. "Sie seems to know beforehand the trouble she's waking to." "And well she may," returned Barbara, cold-by, "for it will be trouble such as no woman of living under the same rood with parents who mourn their childlessness, with a hastand who is distracted because he is widowed? Under the very roof. Regina, and breathing the same air, and yet as far removed as though Bernity's Soesan rolled between. Oh! I shall punish he? So shall know mow how she has beite widow her mother, and I will laund when she uraws to ed my heart: She shall see him, her husbard, her mother, and I will langk when she prays to me for morey? Regim, I will make her look Davenia also wealls half demented around the grounds, yearning for his detail love! And when ber child is born. I will tantalize her with the joy it would give its father to take it in his arms and look into its qeyes!

must have fainted. I thought I was dying. I

meet inves fainted. I thought I was dying. I much bake down how?" She snulled in Earlarn's face, but there was no answering smile; and the black yes looked down with a terrible firs smoldering in them. Enable is standly robiced it. ...where an If Why, Barbarn, this is not my room?" She had gazed idly around at first, then a will, hewildered expression earns to her eyes, "It is down or how. Elamatam and will be for many long days to come." Eisianche struggled to her elbow, and in her weak condition, the erition called a damp per "Bet idlow as gently exposultating, dear." Her viole was gently exposultating, and Bar-baras eanne thrillingly back in drawful Bar-taris eanne thrillingly back in drawful earlard "the source more. Blanche, or your prion,

trast. "It is your room, Blanche, or your prison,

told me. I was degraded that you might be lifted to the glorious honor of being called Mrs. De Laurian! But it was an empty honor, was

Intest to the globous waves of the second se



"YES, BLANCHE CHETWYND, YOU HAVE CROSSED MY PATH THE SECOND TIME !"- Page 14.

And, in all the intensity of her hate and re-venge, Barbara had raised her hands aloft as if in adjuration of some potent power, while Re-gina, with a deuthly shiver of horror and fasei-nated fear, turned toward the bed again, just as a low, quivering sign came from Blanche Dave-nal's lips.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE TIGRESS CLAWS.

A SLIGHT shiver thrilled over Blanche's frame; then she wearily raised her hand and passed it over her eyes. "Roy, dear."

passed it over her eyes, "Roy, dear." It was the dearest name of all she spoke in a low, faint tone, as she had been wont to do when awaking from her troubled dreams.

Barbara stepped to her side, motioning Regina

out of sight. "I am with you, Blanche. Roy is not here," She opened her eyes in sudden apprehension. "Roy not here! is he ill-oh, I remember. I

whichever you prefer. And Jam your jailer. Do you understand now? do you remember what I promised you months ago when you stole Roy Dorenal from me! Ah, Blanche Dav-enal, I have not forgotten that?" A look of intense horror crept to Blanche's

"Oh, Barbara! Barbara! what do you mean

"Oh, Barbara: Barbara: what do you mean: Don't talk so to me, you frighten me so, and I am so weak!" "Yes, you are weak, Blanche Davenal, but I am strong! I have in my heart the accumulated strength of vengeance that will burst on you-Stength of vengeance that will burst on *join*-70°, who have stood in my way not only once, but twice! Blanche, you married Gervaise De Laurian-well, and I killed him?' A scream of terror burst from Blanche's lips, and she sunk hack upon the pillows, trembling libe a hunded dear

and she sum nack upon the pinows, tremoung like a hunded deer. "Yes, I killed him," wont on Barbara, merci-lessly, "because he had wronged me, outraged me, described me, all for you. I was his wife, Blancho Davenal, but not in name, he coolly

husband, and now, now, because you dared take my other lover from me, I have taken you from

Buscendi, and now, nov, because yon dared take mining the second seco

Blanche had sprung from the bed with intense

excitement, and now stood with her long casteement, and now stood with her long, sweeping robe, and strained eyes, as if utterly unable to comprehend. "Deal? buried? I?" She gasped the words in inarticulate bewil-demunt"

"Even so—that was your shroud, and those the flowers you carried with you to the Chet-wynd wallt."

A shriek of horror came as Barbara's words fell, coldly and cruelly on her half-demented

¹⁰ Senses, "That is not all, Blanche Davenal. If you hate and fear me now, you will shrink in utter mortal terror when you learn that all that long, wasting illness, that feigned death and genuine funeral, was the work of my hands-these funcral, was the work of my hards—these hands, tath, helpiess as you are now, are lifted in curses on you and yours! I policined you, dainly thied of two lovers! and the decline was ment did not full me, and it has brought you here, from your coffin, to your prison, where you shall live, and live, and live, to feel the re-venge of a disgraded, betrayed woman!? Blanche covered here face with her hands to shat out the backed light of Barbarn's wyes that

shut out the baleful light of Barbara's eyes that glowered down in her own. "God help me! God help me!" she moaned, in ther despair of soul, as she staggered to the "That's nonsense," rejoined Barbara, meer-ingly. "You will near in time to entire the punishment I have for you, and until you do, your religion will not serve you much. I tail your religion will not serve you much. I tail your religion will not serve you much. I tail your religion will not serve you much. I tail your ray of the serve of the serve pany flaves endured. Regin." The woman stepped from the foot of the bed, will her she had stooped. Hancha looked up, will her she had stooped. Hancha looked up, "Oh, Regin, gow yill help me! You will

the wroman's test. "Oh, Regima, you will help me! You will tell me where i am and how to get away? Oh, Regima, if you'll ealy tell my hutshand diwar? "Barbarn laughed." "Bribes are of no awall. This wroman is in my unploy, and she knows what to expect if Har Jow. Thenese tons aware found to the set of the point intense tons aware found to the set of the large set of the large set of the large set of the large set of the large set of the large set of the large set of the se

w, intense tones were fearful to listen Her lo

Her low, intense tones were rearing to inseen to; and Blanche turned away in pitful anguish. "I was about to say, Regina, that you will obey to the tittle the instructions I have given you. You may return to your room now." Regina noiselessly departed, leaving the two

nle

"I am going myself now, and I shall pass the oom where Roy is walking the floor in agony at will not let him sleep. It's a shame, isn't room wh iti

A sardonic smile curved her red lips as she

"May God be merciful to your last "May God be merciful to your last extremity, Barbara, and forgive me if I pray to

"Indeed you may well wish you were dead; "Indeed you will rue the day when you were

And when Blanche lifted her agonized face again she was alone.

again she was alone. Language seems weak to portray the feelings that filled and overpowered her as she walked, in feeble weakness, the floor of her prison. Utter agony of soul to discover in what cir-

Utter agony of soul to discover in what cir-cumstances site was placed; utility hereidemeant "Dead and buried" she had been, "Foj-sond" she had been, "Be Laurian a vicitin by Barbarn's hand-Barbara a double-dyed mur-chear, dear How-The though the was dead, and here she was, firing, suffering, and under the same roof, Rerbara had said. It has hand area

She feared she was going crazy; her head was so vague and wild.

so vague and wild. "Under the same roof!" It could not be; this room was so strange, and she knew Chet-wynd Chase so well.

And then Barbara—that was the knowledge that made her wild, frantic. She fell on her knees beside the bed, and, in

She feil on her knoce beside the bed, and, in the darkmess of phat lone place, Blanch Boanche com-mitted her ways unto Him, and implored lowed in Him imscritable Providence, and for faibt to believe all would come right at last. Her heart blod, and her tars fell thick and fast when she arose from hor knoce: and yet there was a secret consciousness of a ray of

deep, inward peace. Prostrated though she was, both by the drug

that had so long been sapping the foundations of her life, and the severe mental suffering she had undergone, she arose and groped her way to the wall of the room, wondering, in an uncer-

to the wall of the room, wondering, in an integr-tain sort of way, if she could recognize any fea-tures of it again, now that the light was gone. But there was no window from which to hang a signal of distress, and she need not have tried the door, for she well knew it was double-Where was she?

With a feeling of anguishful despair, she leaned against the wall, feeling almost suffo-cated with her grief.

"Can I be really dying! I feel so strange, so strange" she muranured. "I must live. I will live for Toy? The power dispelled the nervous chimers that had clouded her brain. "Let me try to think, calmly and dispassion-actly," she thought, and, grouping her way back to the churt, stated herself wearlly. "If an willin Chetryan Chase, as Barbara

"iII am within Chetwynd Chais, as Barbarn said, thi is some hitherio unknown room, of witose location no one knows but Barbara and Begins. Barbara hats mo," and, wild the gene Barbara hats mo," and wild the "and inhends I shall be her victim, as poor Gor-vaise was-Heavens I and we never knew--I dare not think of 12." be dead and buried, and no one but Barbars and Begins knows I am alive; and hore, in my father's house, a prison-er, I must live in solitode; ny babe will be loom--and they will never know itbook in the doed fullen blichtinger wom me?"

deed fallen blightingly upon me!

CHAPTER XXVI

CHAFIER XXVI. AT THE DEAD VAULT. "BEX. dear, I find it necessary to go to New York to-day. You can spare me?" Young Mrs. Chekwynd lookod down in her husband's eyes as ahe can ue up beside him while he sat reading the norming paper. "Spare yout We never can space you, dar-"Spare yout We never can space you, dar-"Spare yout We never can space you, dar-

ling; so good a daughter and so fond a wife is indispensable to us. But I guess I can let you

go

go." He reached his hand to caress hers, that lay lightly on his shoulder, and smiled at her. "And you will be so kind and attentive to Mrs. Chetwynd, dear! She needs constant be bernand Roy talk over their griefs, IE will be more ihan also can stand." with the so can stand, my own sweet wire was the humband's tender, complimentary re-but the source of the source of the source of the source the source of the source of the source of the source the humband's tender, complimentary re-but humband's tender, complimentary re-turb to the source of the source o

ply, "Then let me kiss you good-by till luncheon —I will be back by then." And, with tenderest caresses and kisses, Bar-And, with tenderest caresses and kisses, Bar-

bara started on the errand that, had he known its import, and more particularly all connected with it, would have frozen those kisses into

The first statistic personality all collected curves on his lips. Barbara made a plain, elegant traveling toilet, and reached the depot in ample time for the train that took her to New York. Arrived at the Chambers stars to the dull, dingy shop of an undertaker in Second avenue, and the communicate her errand, and made all the arrangements she had intended. A few purchases of musics and then to he depot light hand at Curvier's, and then to he depot hundres to catch the train home by linehead.

huncheon

Her package she carried to her own room at once, and then changed her black velvet walk-ing-suit for an afternoon home dress—a trailing silk of richest black.

Since in receive Discr. The family were gathered in the dining-room around the table, on which a light lunch of oyster patties, cold honed turkey and dry but-tered toast was sprend; with coffee for the la-dies, and Port for the gentlemen. It was partales of almost in signee, and add-

It was partaken of almost in silence, and add-ed to the gloom of their somer black garments, was the moaning of the March winds outside, and the cold, cheeries gray sky that was slowly covering up the last traces of the blac. As usual after huncheon, while Mr. Chekwynd, Rox and Roy remained for their cigars, Mrs. stitnercome. A array, well-lightod, education furnished apartment, opposite the parlor, at the front of the house.

furnished apartmeni, opposite the parlor, at the front of the house. It wore a remarkably homelike look, even on that cloudy, heerless March afternoon. A bright sea-coal fire was mapping and crack-ing in the graze, its raddy goiv reflected on the glib bunches of grazes that ornamented the wall by the velvet drugs, or not the wave drawn up by the velvet drugs, or not the wave drawn up by the velvet drugs, or not the wave drawn up tool before higher chairs, and a crimsonhroes-telle loungs was wheeled up to the elony center-table, whereon lay books, magazines and the popular weeklies.

table, whereon lay books, magazines and the popular weeklies. And still, delightfully pleasant as this room popared, with all these appliances of luxury and taste, its long, bright crimson damak cur-tains, looped away by gold bands, its costly landscape paintings, in their massive frames, its event the start of the start of the start of the landscape paintings, in their massive starts are applied by the start of the start of the start of the landscape paintings, in the start of the own sheeting a maximum.

own sleeping apartment. On one table lay a splendidly embroidered mat, of gold and crystal beads on crimson vel-yet, that Blanche had made for the steroescope

On the marble mantel was a magnificent drapery of crimson velvet, embroidered with gold braid and edged with a wide, heavy gold fringe; there were ottomans, worked in Afighan stitch, and a gorgeous-hued blanket of the same fringe; there were ottomans, worked in Alfghan stitch, and a gorgeous-hued blanket of the same style thrown over the back of the sofa, that Blanche had made "to throw over mamma when she lay down," and a pillow to match. Little wonder was it then that Mrs. Chet-wynd's heart bled afresh whenever she entered this room and saw over and over again the mute reminders of her daughter's love.

As she entered this apartment, leaning on Barbara's strong, firm arm, all her loss came vividly upon her, and her tears fell thick and

vividity upon ner, mas as fast. "If I could only look at her again, Barbara; "If I could just kiss her once more, and touch those dear, thin hunds!" "It could looy ou no good," answered Barba-it could looy ou no good, "answered Barba-loge to disturb the dead atter they are once laid away."

But it wouldn't hurt her, Barbara! I'd be careful not to hurt her-my own, own Blanche

Blanche!" wild not hurt her: I did not "Of come verback hurt her: I did not hurt have been been have been been her have been her her her her her her her ortainly think, den Afts. Chetwynd, that in your state of mind, and consequent physical weakness, you could do nothing more impru-dent. As I said at first, it can do you no poss-big gool, and I am confident the satisfaction of would not repay for the consequent harvowing

would not repay for the consequent narrowing of your feelings anew." Mrs. Chetwynd's tears were falling like glis-toning crystals on her heavily creped dress, and Barbara, with her contemptious, pitcless suffi-a sche stood over her, was smoothing back the Detrains, with ner contemptions, pintess super family strated him, when out with yields subver-since Blanche had died; and her furgers were cool and mesmeric in their touch, so that Mrs. Chetwynd, even amid all the grief that was consuming her, realized what a confort her adopted daughter was. Thished, rejoined them, and a general conversa-tion ensued, while Barbara, after an hour, ex-cused herself, and retired to her own room. There was a sufficiency of work for her to do, and, securing her doors from possible intruders, also sub down, with a calmity-triumphant face, with creditable skill she stiffed a dummy, that would about answer to Elanche's size thissed, and around the head she pinned a drask maphy.

clothes, and ar damask napkin.

damask napsm. This done, she wrapped a waterproof around it, and laid it on a shelf of her wardrobe; she carrefully collected all shreds and litter from the earpet, and burned them. By this time it was half-past five-a half-hour of the dinner-time of Chefwynd Chase; and in-

tensely dark

She rung She rung for Regina to light the lamps, and then, with all the graceful precision that char-acterized her movements, began some slight alterations in her toilet.

terations in her tollet. "Signe contact, and sub-stituted one of filmy lace; for the jci jeweily site wore heavy Etruscan gold, and wound a string of gold beads in her hair. Contact of gold beads in her hair. Contact her will to all the family, that her would not put on strict mourning for Blanche. She would wear black dresses and mantics, but wished to reserve the right of her usual onn-ments. She was satisfied they all were con-vinces how deeply she lamented dear Blanche's wishes in this respect. And they accorded her a meed of praise for her sound good ense.

And they accorded her a meed of praise for her sound good sense. And Barbara, radiant in her elegant mourn-ing dresses, laughed at her beautiful reflection, and thought how admirably black became ker; yes lighted up with a half-follows admiration as the watched her mistress class the space golden bracelets and adjust the sparking ruby ring—thad been a welding gift for Blanche. While we are st diamet. Regins, you fill at ones how they are st diamet. Regins, you fill at ones know their use. Then, while the servants are at their table, you may carry this," and sho opened the wardrobe door and showed the lay form. "I so know where to place it. Regins, back."

At dinner that night, Barbara was unusually pensive and quiet. Once or twice she raised her hand to her forehead, and pressed it there,

her hand to her foreboad, and present it there, as it to ease some distress. Her husband was not slow to note all this, and anxiously inquired if she was ill. No, she was not ill, but she believed also had No, she was not ill, but she believed also had vitirs to her borom aftud descrit, and lay down. Rex attended her to her room, and insisted upon bathing her temples with the fragrant, aromatic tollet-vinegar, until she assured him she felts on unch better, thanks to his affection-ate solicitude, that she only required to retire the borotime. The to she as wall as usual

early to bed, in order to awake as well as usual in the morning. Rex kissed her good-night, and rung for Re-glina, bilding her take excellent care of her mis-trees, and directing her to knock at his dressing room door if Mrs. Chetwynd were restless during the night.

"And now, Regina, tell me quickly, for I have wasted too much time already in trying to the compression of the second second second ducation of the second second second second dummy look at all natural?" "You will be perfectly satisfied with every-thing when you see, Mrs. Chetwynd. Hero is your waterpoot and will; do I go with you

No. 1.

"You remain here and tell any one who in-quires that I am sleeping and must not be dis-turbed. Give me the key."

quires tans 1 am siesping and must not be dis-tracted. Efform miles key-toned. Efform miles key-foarless and alone. At the vauit, she called in a low whisper, and received as castitons an answer: while from the shadro of the burdlin politisk wall wall. Scarcely a word was interchanged while the two stood effect by side and the man screwed down the lid. Then Barbara paid hims a large word bulk active along in this damp, uncenny place, her eyes blating file stars, and her teeths glearning in a smile of faarth Joy. "Barbar barbar barbar barbar place her eyes blating file stars, and her teeths glearning in a smile of rearth Joy. "Barbar barbar barbar barbar barbar with a hitle cary his occide up—and faced Gervaise De Laurian!

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE PRISONER'S GUEST.

THE PRISONER'S GUEST. FOR a moment Rabrian was paralyzed with horror and fear; her lips turned suben, and a blar came suddivily bofore here eyes. "Ston--pour" "Is not --pour" "Is not --pour" "Is a cottainly myself, Mrs. Chefwynd--but hat was altogether unusual for her. "I is a cottainly myself, Mrs. Chefwynd--both ber hands before her eyes as if to shut out her did chill was shivering over her; sho put "I an aware I am not be mot be mot belowed both her hands before her eyes as if to shut out the smilling, flendisf face opposite her. "I an aware I am not be mot be mot belowed both an count of the story I might tell of a cortain affair in which I played rabler comple-centain the in which I played rabler comple-centain the post of the mystery that hangs "Then your we come to betway me, have you?" Her voise was hoarse and husly as she asked 19 guestion. "Chefformed that duesded the guestion"

the question. "Well, Mrs. Chetwynd, that depends. I would like, however, to know what all this ane

He laid his hand on what had been Blanche's coffin, and stared at Barbara with a terrible

coffin, and stared at Barbara with a terrible earnestness of meaning in his eyes. What was she to do! That question went thundering through hee browin, domanding an answer; it curdled her very heart as also real man could bring her to-this iman whom she had tried to murdler. Oh! the terrifle forms her es-cited imaging her to-this iman whom she had tried to murdler. Oh! the terrifle forms her es-cited imaging her to-this hoses for seconds while she strove to think rationally. He had eccaped her-how, *how* had she blunderedt-but also know she had missed her aim, and that he whould be have her aim, and that he struction as her own had sought to do with him.

on miny would have have built be down to the struction as her own had sought to do with him, and was even now seeking to do another? Should she cury him meroy? Should she hum-ble berself before him-she who was so brave before? His voice scattered the lightning train

of through the void scattered are agricultured and "Mirs. Chebwynd, this plate bears the name of my wife-my lawful wife. I see it reads, 'Bianche C. Davenal, aged twenty-two.'" She did not answer; and he went on, watch-

SHe did how answer, and how when one and ing her closely: "I have a fancy to see how she looks; she was to beantiful on our wedding-day." "He deliberately opened his stout-bladed knife, and began unserwing; the iid. "Nol nol you shall not touch it! She is not interest of the stouch it?"

"No! no! you shall not touch if!. She is not your wife—you have not the triphil" your wife—you have not the triphil" wranched it frie with search an effort, smiling that same smile of conselose power. "I have not the right" Beidogs if I had not the spitchrift Beidogs if I had not the spitchorthy, who could prevent me I anroly not a womage arm; and it would searcely not for you womage the spitch." to shrick for help.

to simplify for help." . How true his words were! how completely he was impaling here. A little curse was on here "I field need how more than to have the sease that lies how more than to have the sease stand "I field need how more thanks of the sease stand A tense within the line gathered around Barbara's lips, and she 'quietly stepped, asida, conactous now, with the 'consciounces' of despair, that it would avail here nothing to interfere. She watched him as he rupidly removed the genore, and help the last one was how one course help-or, the calloweil

left ft—or, the gallows! De Laurian lifted the lid and laid it do

De Laurian intect the net and mid lf 00WR, glancing carelessly at the safts shroud and the tips of the slippers. He carefully unpinned the napkin, and then Barbara stepped closely up to him, so that her hot breath fiamed against his

cheeks, and her eyes glared almost in his own as he turned with an ejaculation of surprise and

fury. "What does it mean? Woman-flend, explain this mystery, or by all the memories of the time when I laid, as dead, in a vault like this—I'll

lock you allve in this place?" "I said it was not your wife. Perhaps you believe me now?" The intense calm in her voice was ominous and awful; but De Laurian ouly bent his face

"Where's Blanche? What do you mean to do with her-or it, if she is dead? Barbara, I demand the answer-is she dead? where is sha

And if I refuse to answer?" She smiled

mockingly. "You dare not, you vile witch you! I'll put you in that coffin, and screw down that lid un-

hanged!" His eyes blazed like a madman's, and a scream of awful horror came from Barbara's lips. "Take your hands off me, you monster! My life is sweet to me, and to save it, I'll tell you

He smiled coolly again, but retained his hold, though loosened, on her fair throat. "You'll swear to tell me all-ALL without re-

¹⁰ You'll swar to fell me all—ALL without re-servation?" Stremet like over boldy. ¹¹ Stremet like over boldy. ¹² Stremet like over bold stremet. ¹² You will take vour each not to betray me. ¹² You will take vour each not to betray me. ¹² You will take variable the organization ¹³ You will streme anything. ¹⁴ how power, 14 lightly, ¹⁴ at streme grither crime to his dark eyes ¹⁴ You will be achieve the organization of the streme ¹⁴ you will be achieve any be spoke, and I at ¹⁴ thin the coffin again, he screwed down the lid, ¹⁴ at at streme that had come over this man. ¹⁴ The organization is a spoke streme of the streme streme change that had come over this man. ¹⁴ The organization of the streme streme of the spoke ¹⁵ coming that had come over this man. ¹⁵ com whose power alse knew she would never ¹⁵ again be free! ¹⁵ and ¹⁵ for the spoke of the streme had would never ¹⁵ again be free! ¹⁵ and ¹⁵ come of the streme had would never ¹⁵ again be free! ¹⁵ and ¹⁵ come of the streme had would never ¹⁵ again be free! ¹⁵ and ¹⁵ come of the streme had would never ¹⁵ again be free! ¹⁵ and ¹⁵ come of the streme had would never ¹⁵ again be free! ¹⁵ and ¹⁵ come of the streme had would never ¹⁵ again ¹⁵ come of the streme had would never ¹⁵ again ¹⁵ come of the streme had would never ¹⁵ again ¹⁵ come ¹⁵ c

should exceed his own; and if he attempted playing her false-! The thought lent courage, and there came to her check, as the two walked silently along through the wind and darkness, a flush of rethrough the newed hope,

newed hope. "I am going to Chetwynd Chase," she said, at length, to De Laurian, as they reached the side entrance. "So an I." he returned, quietly. She turned around in quick surprise and

⁴⁴⁰ "So and I," he returned, quiedy. She turned around in quick surprise and aarm. "Tota to to Chetwynd Chasn". "Jota to to Chetwynd Chasn". "Isota to the theorem is the transfer of the trespective of the transfer of the transfer of

Up the dark, described staffs she left him, ho the observatory. A grim sullip parted his lips as he walled there a moment, in cheddinee to ber words; he remembered it well. Up the upper flight of staffs she went, closely followed by De Laurian. ¹⁴ You will wait while I see if Blanche is dressed.¹⁴ Up the dark, deserted stairs she led him, to

19

dressed." She opened the door; a faint light was burning, and Bianche sat sewing by the little stand. As Barbarn cunterd she turned wearing ya aromd, but said nothing. She had learned how useless was entreaty, low tutle were prayers for mer-cy. Other words she had no desire to speak. Barbarn went up to her, a cold, steely gutter in Barbarn went up to her, a cold, steely gutter

"I have brought you a visitor—your husband

A scream burst from Blanche's lips at the

A scream burst from Blanche's lips at the words. "My husband! my Roy! Oh, Barbara, I am schankrid, Iso thankrid! I kneek you could not always be so obstinato. Koy, dear, Roy! come here bentiful oyes wore all alight with sadden joy, and Barbara's heart throbbed with mallclous gice, as she watched for the tableau. The door opened widely: a footstep was heard, and with a cry of exquisit joy, Blaiche ex-tended her arms to— Gerraiso De Laurian!

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE OPAL-STONE MYSTERY.

THE CY of exultant delight suddenly froze on Blanche's lips; her extended arms fell to her side, and, still leaning forward, she seemed transfixed by the Medusa sight that met her

staring eyes, Barbara could see the suddenly-accelerated heaving of her chest, and the stony rigidity her

nearing of how cheets, and the stony rigidity here figure assumed an encode in a graceful, half-de-be Laurian and still speeches, and the same and with interned here the same start and were regarding a ghostly visitant, Elianche avaited the nearer approach. Then his voles, low, not suptender, broke the "Elianche-mw vertha"

Blanche-my wife!"

At the ominous words, a low, horrified cry burst from her lips; and she staggered back, beating at the air with her hands as if to keep

off some frightful demon. "Do not be afraid of me—I assure you I am no arisen dead; no restless spirit come to haunt

you." Blanche had gained the chair, and leaned hack among its cuitons, her face covered with her hands, and tutkening low, piltdl means. Blanchef' I only desired, very natarnily, I think, to see my wife, whom I have not seen since the wedding-day. Blanche, dearest, you have no welcomed for your husband?" IHs affectionate epiDest, and the fourful memo-les.

ries it rocalled, hen speece to her man-partagese him-Dorit dont talk so to mol Oh, why did you come! What have I done to be thus tor-mentfolf I It were only deal" There was infinite agony in her low, from-hing voice, and the looked up at De Laurian, shuffed or have the bachene, with imploring a bachene in bachene.

Immed eves, that would have melted the stori-est heather. " whose based was fire, whose beat of the store of the store of the store of the beat of the store of the store of the store of the lis handmore head." "It is passing straing, my Blanche, that you a stalk cells and the store of t

Blanchs, dow, 'you will forget him, and let me be alt-inall' All the old him witchisty was quivering in his volce, and his dirkt, nistrone avers were beaming in her own tearch, pleading coses as they had dong in thisse bryone, happy days, they had dong in thisse bryone, happy days, heavy, involumently due shrunk a sway. "How ous you disk it? How cos you hid me, forget Roy-my own, own Roy! Oh, Mr. De Lauriza, his is late a forget angular without adding fais bitter drop to lise overflowing cop? all hisseading the control to heavy of the second preference to me?" He spoke callndy and dispasionatoly, bits Blanche saw the steely glitter coming in his eyes.

Barbara remembered a time when he had more heartlessly cast her off for this very woman he now was suing to; and an exultant thrill of proud triumph shot from her eyes. For a moment Blanche made no answer; then she arcss from her chair, slowly, and as if the act caused her a severe effort. She stepped up to be Laurian, and hid her cold, trembling hand on he det from direct her add, heunting

hand on his sitever, and income ner sad, manning over to his dark face. "I will answer you in all truth, and in all sciennity; as I would if my mother heard me, and Roy Davenal stood by my side; as I am willing—and believe they do—bath God and His angels hear me." An impressive silence followed; then she

An impressive silence tourses, sees are went on. "I loved you, Mr. De Laurian, with all the love of any heart. Had you not met with the terrible misfortume that caused me, and all how been at two, bwing with until death partied us, for loved you, Mr. De Laurian." Her voice, so pathetic and sweet, was digni-fied and slightly distant; De Laurian and Bar-bara histoned atomively. "But I thought you were dead; I learned to reard you as gone from us forever, and I

"But T manufactures" regard you as gone from us forever, and I mourned truly for you. Then, Mr. De Laurian, when genite-formed the mass headed my heart, I searce to love Mr. Davesai, as I love him to-affectionate husdand. I think there requires no additional explanation." Sho turned back to her seat, as though dis-missing the subject forever, followed by De "I do require further explanation. I desire to know it a lifetime of confinement in this do-rightful apartments is to your taskel Wold you relability and the seat and the seat and working the subject for the seat and the seat overhain marry again some time, than be re-stored to them all as my wife, what you really work.

Her lips quivered at the cold words; then she bowed her head slowly. "I can do no more than suffer, and be true to

Roy." "As you please, madam. I admire your

"Interpret the second s

grinnly as she observed nin scarav-unaverse-grin. Will come again—perhaps I will find you. "I. Wulldon III the interm, can I serve you in any way?" She turned her eyes on him in dumb agaith-"I want holing bit to be released from this prison—you will not do that; why should I suf-"You know the conditions upon which you walk forth. There are none other," " He motioned to Barbars to precede him down; and looking the door of the room, the two, who were baiving such a despreting game at crosswere playing such a desperate game at cross-purposes, went silently down to the outer enpurpo

De Laurian raised his hat in elaborate cour-

"I have the honor to both bid you good-night

and beware i remember the broken opal stone. It has a story you little suspect." Before her wondering lips could frame a ques-tion or retort, he was gone through the darkness. As she stood there, where he left her, the

Before her wordering lips could frame a ques-tion or retor, he wis gost burnogh the darkness. As also shoot there, where he left her, the great clock in the stabil service twelve; and it so slow, distinct and echoing they aver as they fairly thundered on the night-wind. "Her flery eyes peered out into the dense dark-mess like demonst syes, and a tings of passionate step led into this pitfall over which she knew De Laurian's hand was suspending her? She knew him well; and also knew that, fired by the memory of her table attempt to nurder the step led into the deshift." "To the deshift" "Often as she had contemplated the desh to chers, never and it fully come home to her be-fore that there would come a time in her exp-fuse which would is dark and the deshift." "Be knew the deshift" Often as she had contemplated the deshift of there, never and it fully come home to her be-fore that there would come a time in her exp-fuse would come it fulls are her, with stony eyes, full in the face. But soright, somehow, and gloony thoughts would come; fury floong has be would be ken be able down as here would be the sould be deshift of the soright, somehow, and gloony thoughts would come; fury floong has been only the sould be an the face. "Be the oright, somehow, and gloony thoughts would come; if y floong has been only the sould be an in the source of a same here here with stony were "werevers." In the date besen the knowl-

"Note could, up definition of the second sec

Regins was dozing in the chair by the grate, but aroused as Barbara suddenly raised the flame of the lamp, almost exclaiming as she caught a glance from Mrs. Chetwynd's lurid eye

es. "Go at once to Mrs. Davenal's room, Regina," a commanded, in a whisper. "She has been "Go at once to mrs. Davenaus room, roema, ale commanded, in a whisper. "Sho has been fearfully excited the last few hours, and may need your care and skill before morning." Regims had gone, and Barbara had exchanged her garments for her night-wrapper, when there came a low tap on her door. "Yee-who is it?"

" Yes-who is if?" "It is I, dearest. You are better then?" She crossed the room and unfastened the door. Rex met her with a kiss as he wound his arm around her slender waist.

around her slender waist. "You have rested well, Barbarn i Regina guarded you faithfully, for twice i inquired and "I was have my order, dear, "she said, tender-"J, "and I am very much relieved, thank you." "I have been with Koy all the evening, Bar-bara. I fear he will loss his reason under this idolatroualy. However, I have persuaded him to consent to a three months' trip to the Conti-nent-perhage Mr. and Mrs. Chetwynd will ac-company him. "the phases you are willing I "I for the trip to the good states and the sensitial."

"If you will not go-unless you are willing I should leave you. It shall be as you decide, darling."

CHAPTER XXIX. DE LAURIAN AGAIN.

BARBARA could not sleep that night; restless and wakeful, she passed the hours in busy thought.

First, sh e must thwart De Laurian, no matt what he did; again, a new and unexpected aid to her, was this sudden decision of the Chet-wynds to go to Europe. Of course Rex must go, and equally positive was it, that she must stay. Some one would be obliged to look after Chetwynd Chase, and she was the one, whom no persuasions or arguments should deter from

Chekwynid Chase, and and was the only whom her kind sacrifice. Manish should deker from ner kind sacrifice. Manish should deker from hances with fervaise De Laurian, and then throw his defeat in his face. Using the second should be any should be any light, and the heavies and then morning light, and the heavies and should be any perfectly content to be commissurated in her ap-pearance as the inevitable results of the head-metry and her checks pale when show the de-heavies and the inevitable results of the head-metry and her checks pale when showed the head-metry and her checks and the start of the same the best showed and the inevitable results of the head-metry of the start one, obviously—was discussed thoroughly, and the decision was made that Mr. There were to be no preparations of packing

could procure the necessary accommodiations. There were to be no preparations of packing beyond the simplest needs; nothing new to bought or mark, so that all bustle was obviated, and the Continental tour was as quickly begun of the simulation of the simulatis of the simulation of the simulation ally she spoke.

She pressed Roy's hands in silent sympathy, and he blessed her for it, while Rex was equally loud in praises and severe in expressions of dis-

1000 in praises and severe in expressions of dm-appointment. So she had the "upper hand," and sent the bereaved family off with smilles—saddened, yet cheerful—and then returned to the deserted mansion in heart-swelling triumph. She rung for Regins, when she had sat for an beaution of the second sec

hour in meditative reverie. There was an unusual flush on the woman's face, and a suspicion of moisture in her snaky,

inco, and a suspicion of moisture in her snaky, bright eyes, "Wall?" Barbara said, as the woman entered, "It is well, indeed. Mrs. Davenal gave birth to a daughter this morning as five." Barbara started.

Barbars started. "I am glad ifs over. And she is woll?" "An ean be expected—but, oh! so stricken in soil, and so patient under it all." "That will do," returned Barbars, curtiy, "Stattiment does not become you, at all. As I have not seen Mirs. Davonal for a fortuight-will pay har a call later in the day. I sent for you, Regima, to give notice to the servants that they can take a holdary of a month—be-ginning with Monday week next. Their wages will go on as usual." will go on as usual.

"And if I might ask, who is to do all the work?

Barbara frowned at the flippant question. "You-or I, if you are not able."

Regina was silenced, and Barbara dismissed r with a gesture. After she had gone Barbara sat several mo-

A Train a sesture. The train a sesture of the sentence of the sesture of the sente longer. "The house will be empty, excepting Regima and 1—d on to count any others. It shall be securely fastemed on all sides, and we will see it for the set of the set

when she saw how secure they were from any

when she saw how secure they were from any possible intruder. If was not until them—when Blanche's baby was nearly three weeks old—that Barkara kept her word of seeing her. There was not a heart in the world, except Barkara Chetowynd's, that would not have Barkara Chetowynd's, that would not have barkara and a secure product as able litted her that fair neal a worsy routher as able litted her melted into infinite pity and compassion toward) that fair, pade young mothers, as she lifted her eyes, in mute, touching entresty, to Harbari's face, when she eame in and stood, hulf-frown-ing, half-amiling, at the infant that hay on Elanche's boson, its tim y putk faits doubled up Elanche's boson, its tim y putk faits doubled For a moment neither of the two spoke, though Elanche's treembing ifts, and dumbly anguish-ful eyes were more idoquent than language could have been.

ful eyes were more eloquent than language could have been. "Woll," said Barbara, after the moment had expired, "the have looks like Roy—very much indeed. Wouldn't he like to see her?" A mean of pain the trattalzing works called for What had a solve mover. To a second the second second second that the second second second second to the second second second second second to the second second second second second the second second second second second that the second second second second second the second second second second second the second sec

dauchter after me?" A perceptible shiver thrilled Blanche's frame, and Barbara laughed. "You would not want to curse her so, would you? But Mrs. Davenal, if you will feil me what the name is to be, I will do you any small favor you will name." A final of excitement sprung to Blanche's

cheeks.

cheeks. "Oh, will you, will you let me go down and see them? Earbaral Earbaral I will go down on my knees in the humblest entreaty! I will pray to you as I never prayed to mortal before) to, Barfara, I will forgive you to the intermost sake, for my guilesse haby sake, lot me be re-sides, for my guilesse haby sake, lot me be re-sides, for my guilesse haby sake, lot me be re-sher was kneeling forore Barbara now, with same obsequed around her baby, the other

an arm clasped around her baby, the other reached to Barbara's hand that she was pressing with an agony of persuasion. An expression of extremest surprise crept into Barbara's eyes. "That is an unprecedented favor to ask; yet, if-

Her half hesitating manner implied that she

Her half hesitating manner implied that she was not as invulnerable to Blanche's pleadings as she had been hitherto. And the feart-site prizoner was strengthened with a new, wildly different strengthened with a new, wildly different strengthened by the strengtheneration of the strengtheneration of the purpheneration strengtheneration of the strengtheneration of the will pardon you I am certain." "And if I allow you to go down to your own room, or the lower to go down to your own room, or the lower to "."

100m, or the tower floor—whichever you predict —you promise to—" "I will promise blindly whatever you ask. Oh, Barbara, I am so glad, so eostatically thankful. Come, right away, Barbara. I am all ready."

thankful. "Gome, right away, 'Barbara. I am all ready." She trembled with the reaction that had so addedly come to har, and here hrown eyes wore a "Bertram, I am all ready—see, I have," a "Bertram, I am all ready—see, I have, " a blanket about the baby, and I am note at all chilly. *Do* come, I am so impatient." A stratego semile crossed Barbara's lips as she "Come, then, I will trans to your word." A shriet of joy she could not control burst from her lips, and shivering from head to foot through which an identify the set of the steps, through the observatory, down the stairs," through which ale went in islent astonishment that their existence had never been known to her, to the dear old familiar floor blow. She through which ale went in islent astonishment that got a different distring from her, thinking her a departed spirit or would her wing and break he berretting. Batta trouble her and break here here the at brink from her, thinking her a departed spirit or would her here and break here here the set in the structure of here and break here here the set. Binche walked here and break here set in the set in the structure here and break here here the set. Binche walked

had so nearly snapped asunder? In such imaginings as these, Blanche walked down to the light and joy she knew would greet

6

"Barbara," she said, lowly, "it must be as late as eleven o'clock; do you not think they will all be sleeping? Do you not think I will frighten them by appearing so suddenly?" Barbara smiled—one of her olden-time smiles, so kindly and heartfelt, Blanche thought—poor, innecent child!

innocent child!

innocent child! "Ever thoughtful, Blanche, for others, rather than self. Suppose you go to Roy's room-be and explain as rationally as you can, without implicating any one until later." Blanche pressed Barbara's innd ardently. "I known my hesband will not be alarmed, for he known how traily. I love hug. And will gou the shows how traily. I love hug. And will gou the shows how traily. I love hug. And will gou the shows how traily. I love hug. And will gou the shows how traily. I love hug. And will gou the shows how traily. I love hug. And will gou the shows how traily a love hug. And will gou the shows how traily a love hug. And will gou the shows how traily a love hug. And will gou the shows how how traily a love hug. And will gou the shows how the show the shows how the show the show the show the shows how the shows how the shows how the sho

break the news to my mother?" "I will, and we may well anticipate the most joyons re-union the world ever saw, in a very few minutes.

joyos rejunion the world ever saw, in a very we minutes. Terebiling in every link, and her heart papi-diction her. Binnche cristel to sufficient her. Binnche cristel the corridor to the door of the old-time room, while in the shadowy corner, Barbaras sneered at the rin mocking, inaging slisnes. Binnche almost flew across data and the state of the state of the state of the old-time room, while in the shadowy are of disaportintent foll from her lips, fol-lowed by another of state of the state of the door of the state of the provide the state of the state state state of the state of the state of the state state state of the state of the state of the state state state of the state of the state of the state state state of the state of the state of the state state state of the state of the state of the state of the state state of the state of the state of the state state state of the state of the state of the state of the state state of the state of the state of the state of the state state of the state of the state of the state of the state state of the state of the state of the state of the state state of the state state of the state of the state of the state of the state state of the state of the state of the state of the state state of the state of the state of the state of the state state of the state of the

CHAPTER XXX.

THE FOE IN THE HOUSE.

THE FOE IN THE HOUSE. WITH an easy, gravoid locariesy, Mr. De Laurian threve his clarar into the draves grave, white heat and chargrin of Barbarris face, and the pitful griof in Blanche's. "Blanche, my dear, my delight at seeing you me to offer you an easy chair, and, at the same time, my congratulations. Mrs. Chetwynd, your most obedient." It was wonderful, the cool, indifferent air he it was wonderful, the cool, indifferent air he

"How did you gain access to this honse?" Barbara spoke hoarsely, and her black eyes fiamed maledictions on his head as he easily and

course I should not have ventured, by using the indukiesy my revered fatherin-haw gave me, unless I had been assured the family were all off for Europe, and—" "Europe!" and Bianche sprung from the chair, pake as death. "Oh, Barbara, them you have deceived me again! How can I bear if The hirt factors, forced from a doublu-barind

The hot tears, forced from a doubly-bruis heart, fell on her baby's face, making it move restlessly in its slumber.

rescassive in its siumber. "My tears scorch you, don't they little one? Oh, I would to God we were both sleeping the sleep that tears could not disturb, nor any trouble awaken."

She spoke in passionate earnestness, such as neither Barbara nor De Laurian had ever seen

neither Barbara nor De Laurian had ever seen her evine before. "You must not wish such a terrible calamity, Binche, for who knows wink good fortune will yet dissipate the cloud that seems so dense?" He glanced at Barbara as he spoke, with an even the second second barbara and the second second "It's not at all probable that Mrs. Davenal will ever find her condition bettered, air," she retorted, coldly; "at least, not while I am alive."

reloted, colity; "at reast, nor wave -alive," on may die," ho returned, carelessly, "It to faufide." "Mr. De Laurina."- and by a mighty effort she foreset herself to be calm outwardly, while a fearful free was ranging within..." you have intraded yourself upon me to-sight as no gen-liman avoidit; will you be so good as to re-liman avoidit; will you be so good as to re-

lighting would, an jow by a set "if my presence annoys you, madam, per-haps you will be rejoiced to learn that I did not come to Chetwynd Chase to see you. I came purposely to see Blanche, and for a cause that

purposely to see Blanche, and for a cause that will not namo ber, I am sure." His brows; wore a gathering frown as he ad-dressed Barbarn, and then, not waiting for any answer she might give, turned away as if utter-ly ignoring her, and leaned respectfully on the back of the tail toohic chair Blanche occupied. "If you will promise to forget and forgite

the thoughtless words I used to you the last time I saw you, Blanche, I will promise to forget that I have lost you forever, and, to prove how sin-cere I am, I am going to save you."

I have lost you forever, that to prove got this cere I an, I am going to save you." Barbara sprung across the floor like a tigress and contronted him. "I will not listen to such language, Garvaise "Eanely, you can play queen of high tragedy as well not as ever, perceive." Binnche had arisen from hore chair in painful aspense as he addressed her. "You will hake me away where I will be add "You will hake me away where I will be and esen gring you since I saw you hast been gring you since I saw you hast But do not toll me, unless you will. Another disp-pointment will kill me, I know." "I' will not fail you, Blanche. This very that waits at the gate." He turned around to enjoy the blank expres-sion of Barbara's face, that rapidly changed to one of despente alarm. "I will how be well set states first! You

"I will kill her where she stands first! You shall not thwart me after all these months and

years." " " *ivill* thwart you, Barbara Chetwynd. I have a memory that can never die of the hours I hovered over death's chasms, and by that memory I swear to baffle you and deliver Blanche."

Blanche." He spoke with awfully stern quiet, and Bar-bara knew he was no mean adversary with which to measure lances. "And I," she retorted, in an equally intense tone," "am ever haunted by the memory of an hour wherein I learned what you had made met

Several seconds a deathly silence reigned; Blanche jerked the tassel again and again, but there was no answer, and she turned, half-deairingly to De Laurian. He smiled assuringly.

is a antited assuringly. "Never mind; it is as I expected. I merely wished Regina to be summoned to demonstrate to Mrs. Chetwynd how utterly powerless she is to prevent this step." A fear crept into Barbara's eyes. Was there a consolracy!

a conspiracy) "For the skot of fithly unres, Mrs. Chekwyrd, Regina has left your service and entered mine. Skot awaits in the carriage, with all the naces-sary garments." "So, you see," he want on, relentlessly, "you can't depend upon what anybody mys; for in-isance, when I vowed to all and abet you in longing Blanche a prisoner under her father's Tights factor of

ittle flecks of foam gathered in the c rners

reof.". factor of form gathered in the connex liferbare's higs, and be even glowared life an infuriated basis brought subleady basis. Here "Blanches, I am going watch har linguage seemed to have left her. "Blanche, I am going watch Mrs. Chei-the Affghan of the soft and wrap if around you and the little one, and hasten to the gate harf is shall direct at her temple. Do you take the Affghan of the soft and wrap if around you and the little one, and hasten to the gate harf is shall direct at her temple. Do you take the Affghan of the soft and wrap if around you and the little one, and hasten to the gate harf here the soft and hasten to the gate har the soft and the soft and hasten the soft hard here the soft a banket should be the watch degues, who litted Blanche in, and then soft heredf, taking in tender, piving and writed Reign, who litted Blanche in, and then soft heredf, taking in tender, piving and the over to his side. In the drawing room the two still stood, si-lent and motioniess, a terrible tableau to look "The top the part of the soft and the soft."

upon.

upon. Step by step De Laurian retraced his way to the door, his eyes never roaming from that rigid, stony face, to which the revolver was re-leathesily pointed. As the door he bowed, gayly. " day server, madam. Shall I wish you pleas-ing the mage meffort to speak, and De Laurian beard her swallow, as if a lump were in her threat.

heart are the start of the star

you yet, He sn

you yet." He smiled, mockingly, and closed the door. She heard the snap of the dead latch, and knew she was alone, at the witching midnight, in the house where she had wrought such dire misery. she heard the crunching of the carriage wheels as they rolled rapidly away; and she

knew, as in a dream, that Blanche Davenal was knew, as in a treating that plantine bayend was safe from ker jenlous wrath and hate, but-and a forvent hope arose in her breast that De Lau-rian would prove a more terrible foe to her than ever she had been!

That, would prove a more torrises to eto mer tam. That, be Laurian intended to restore Blanche to her parents, husband and home she had not the remotest idea. She knew him far too well to give him any credit for such nobility of the finance of the such provention of the get Blanche into his over proventions on the get Blanche into his over proventions on the get Blanche into his over proventions on the new conford which she hould better dor' Remain, as usual, at Chetvynd Chase? Unless DE Laurian Chose to expose her, there was no reason why she should leave it. But she how conford which she hould leave it. But she how conford which she hould leave it. But she how conford provide the should leave it. But she how conford provide the she hould leave it. But she how conford provide the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the she hould leave it. But she how conford and the shear the shear the shear the shear the how conford and the shear the shear the shear the shear the shear the how conford the shear the shear the shear the shear the shear the shear the how conford the shear the shear

crave. There

crave. There was not much to attach her to Chet-wynd Chase, now that the object of her sweet revenge was, indeed, heyroud her power. for the Chetwynds: and if, the had, the faar of expo-sure would drive her away. Yes, she would go away. No human being should know where, and only De Laurian, why. Afterward—a whid, unnatural glitter in her eyes alone denoted the current of her thoughts

as she ascended the stairs to pack a hand-satchel. At sunrise next morning she was gone, and the Chase was deserted and gloomy.

CHAPTER XXXI.

BEATING AGAINST THE BARS.

THE carriage containing the party from Chet-wynd Chase drove rapidly along the star-lighted road, the silence within unbroken by conversa-

road, the silence when universe of y-concess-tion. A short distance only had been traversed, when Blanche fell asleer, overcome by the ex-citement she had undergone, and assisted by the Li was early daybreak when she avoke, and found the carriage had drawn up before the door of a large, handsome building of brick and marble trummings; one of a row precisely like it.

She looked anxiously from the window, and saw De Laurian gathering up the parcels "Why, Regina, this is New York!" She spoke in some suspicion.

"New York, ma'nn, and a great deal better than Chetwynd Chase. Let me take the baby, while you alight." De Laurian gravely and kindly assisted her from the carriage and up the marble steps to

from the carriage and up the marble stops to the entrance. " You will be obliged to remain here, Blanche, until I can preserve the address of your party in Embler's, when I will bala the transformer of will be controlled in the start of the store will be controlled by the start of the store ders to do everything for your confort." He was so grave, so kind and considerate that Blanche's heart ached for him. He must have suffered hearther ached for him. Bo

Here eves were bright with tears as she seated hereself in the chair he drew up to the window, "Oh, Mr. De Laurian, how can I ever thank you? It seems so strange to think you should be doing all this."

He turned his head away for a second, as if to hide some emotion. "I only desire to secure your truest friend-ship in the place of the dearcr sentiment I lost. Regina, will you see that the cook has break-fast nu?" fast nn?

Blanche was so grateful to him. Every thing was arranged with such perfect good taste; a furnished house, a competent housekeeper, and Regina. What could be nicer! And sue shud-dered as she contrasted this delightfully cozy home with her cheerless room at Chetwynd Chase,

Chase. She asked Regina on what street they were, but Regina didn't know. Blanche did not much care, so happy was she with her baby, her personal liberty, and the assurance of De Laurian that he had telegraphed to her father at Liverpool, where his permanent address was loft.

left. It might be several days before an answer came. De Laurian said, for the party might be traveling through some quiet little town where mail communication was infrequent. But be bade Blanche cheer up and wait pa-

A week rolled by, and there came no answer-ing telegram; Blanche wondered a little at first, then grew nervous and speculative, and finally sent Regima to ask Mr. De Laurian to come up to the partor, she must see him. He was finishing a clear when the message was delivored.

"I shall be with her at once, Regina," and he lowered his voice to one of confidential mean-ing. "I depend upon you You will not fail?"

No. 1.

She bowed her assurance, and allowed De Laurian to precede her from the room. As he passed up the basement stairs, with a rurious smile on his face, he looked back a mo-

"Yon may as well secure the doors, as I ex-

plained." Then he ascended leisurely, and entered the drawing-room, shutting the door as he passed

drawing-room nutures, are seen as through through through through through through through through the second through the second to the second

De Laurian lookod across the room at Blanche's sweet, girlish face, all aglow with the returning spirits that lent such radiant beauty

her. He moved his chair nearer to her before he

spoke. "I think I know the reason, Blanche. Do you wish it?"

You wish 16? There was something in his peculiar tone of voice, no less than language, that made her in-stantly raise her eyes to his own in a vague un-

easiness. "Certainly, Mr. De Laurian, if you know

He deliberately rose from his chair and crossed the narrow space that intervened between him-self and Blanche. Laying his hand lightly on the back of her chair, he bent his head to her face, and very quictly, vary meaningly, told it

to her. "Because, Blancho, I did not telegraph.

She sprung affrightedly from her chair, and onfronted him with dilated eyes. "You did not telegraph? Mr. De Laurian,

You have assured mo time after time that you did so. Sho was alarmed, and he saw that such was

the caso. "Sit down again, Blanche, and let me ex-

plain" to be again, balances, not not set to the set "No, I would rather stand. But, Mr. De Laurian, you can by on a will set and a dis-patch. Mil you not by on livel". Sternly, and Blancho, with a sinding beart, wondered what we calcimity was about to overtake her. "On, that draadhai, draadhul Curse of Che-ther and the senther and the set of the same reason. Do you suppose for one mo-ment ther I am going to surrender my soft to Then her heart indeed almost broke with the

agen ner neart indesd almost broke with the ominous words, and she skrunk away, into the furthest course of the room, her startled eyes fixed on his smiling, handsome face. 9 You are, not repulsed by my truthfulness Bianche?

Mrs. Davenal, in the future, whenever you address me! da

Her indignant tones made no difference to his stern, mocking smile. "You speak treason, Blanche. Did I not,

¹⁴ You speak tession, Blancke, Did I nok, with my own hands, place the marriage-ring on your inager 1 Am I not alive before you to the second se

cannot but secretly confirm the truth." "Your reasoning is worthy a worthar, ho ra-joinad, pleasantly," still if I choose to assume may logal autority of the lived here not its or-tensible mistress a work; I have mettioned you army wife, and the child is supposed to be ours. What will you do, Hanchoff Metting and the child is supposed to be ours.

moved to the door.

moyed to the door. "I will this moment leave the place I regard-ed as an asylum in my distress. Better, far better the prison room at Chetwynd Chase than this gilded cage and you for a jailor." De Lanrian interposed between her and the

door. "No, no, Blanche! do you think I shall allow "No, no, Binnebe; do you think 1 shall allow any such shallow excuses to billind moly deed. You are my wife, and as such shall to laim you before the world. As my wife, you have no need to have your havin. By more protection if or, my owith upon it, you shall remain are with me so long as I choose to

remain here with me so long as 1 choose to remain." "Mr. De Laurian," and Blanche replied in low, thariling tons, and as she moved from the sharker rese almost startled him. "do you desire me to understand that I am a prisoner here, in New York, with a dozen policement in call from any window in the honse?" "Ho howed politely. "Yoa are perfectly correct in your surmises. Of what avail are a whole signal does it you down a move well granted that it is decidedly impossible to raise them, the shutters so ar-

ranged that you cannot gesture through them, and the walls so thick no voice or combination The hot color rushed to her face.

Monster! how ever could I have trusted

you?" An anusce I away there to use it reacts a An anusce I away field from his lips. "I have asked myself that question more than one. It is ranked myself that question more the tended hand and acounted face, as if the horror of the position had unmarved ber. "Mr. De Laurian, surely, savely you do not "I do mean all, and more than I say." His even, dispassionate tones fell like a death-sall on how ears. everypeed her face, and a chilling terror crept into her savet, hunted everys.

channes write write her write come when, in selection and ashes, you will come when, in selection and ashes, you will repeat this deed [, who never have wronged you in word or deed, do not regard you my jailer, or this house my prison. I am in the hands of an all-wise God, and this dense cloud through which I am groping is a Providential dispensation, which, though I cannot comprehend, I do not presume a mastion and accept, as withmissively as I

though I cannot comprehend, I do not presume to question, and acorety, as webbnissively as I can, and trying to heave that there is light. Her rowners, half-pittin words elitoted but a stately bend of his hardened neck as he passed through the door, and assuring himself as he went that the entrances were all secured beyond the possibility of mistake.

CHAPTER XXXII

A STRANGE, STRANGE STORY.

CHAPTER XXXII A STANOG, STANOS STORY. As soon as De Laurian had returned to the beament discontent of the program of the standard of the program of the standard of the standa

Mrs. Davenal." "Oh, no. I. know that. Indeed you have been most kind in your attention and services, services of the transmission of the services of the services of the transmission of the service of the services of the transmission of the service of the servic

check before she answered. "I cannot remember the exact day when I first know of it."

r evasive answer elicited surprise from

Binneha, "Why o you blush soi' Is there any mystery that you are connected with! Regina, dear Regina, tell me all, and let us be friends that can connect each other, on whom each can de-pendent of the source of the source of the Blue de

Blanche wound her arm in sweet persuasion around the woman's neck, and felt that strong,

Blanche wound her arm in sweet porsuasion aromat ties wonaw's neck, and felt fluit strong, marchine frame shivering under its trans, "the strong shift of the strong strong strong strong for a strong strong strong strong strong strong fluit strong strong strong strong strong and strong strong strong strong strong and strong strong strong strong strong and strong st

Regina bent her head a moment as if deciding a vexed question; when she raised it and smiled at Blanche, she looked like a new being, so com-pletely had Blanche's womanliness worked upon her rough spirit, and aroused the softer sensibili-ties of a nature blunted by circumstances. ⁶ Mrs. Davenal, do you remember when I first subcred service at Chebwynd Chase?" ⁴ Distinctly; it was just previous to my mar-riage to Mr. De Laurian." ⁵ She involuntarity shivered as she spoke of it, and at its mention, Regina's round, bead-like

and to be instant, regime round, bearing "You are right. I came introcommended, just when you were short of help, offering to forfait a month's wages if my services were not attisfactory. Miss Barbara was not at home

There was strange significance in her voice; a mingled augor and sorrow. "No, she was—voit know where she was, Regins, those weeks we all supposed her on a wist?" "I'de and I knew long before I heard her

visit?¹ "I do; and I knew long before I heard her tell you the story that night in the observatory chamber. I knew it and knew ker, and knew Mr. De Laurian long before I ever saw Chci-wynd Chuse. I knew you too, Mrs. Davenal, we have a start of the story of t when you were a baby no bigger than the little one yonder."

There was calm truthfulness in her eyes and woice, and manner, although Blanche stared in-creditiously at her.

There was caim tratatiness in nor eyes and workshould a ber, Hough Blanche stared in-workshould a ber, an going back to the beginning, Mrs. Davenal, and I am not going to keep any Mrs. Davenal, and I am not going to keep any Mrs. Davenal, and I am not going to keep any Mrs. Davenal, and I am not going to keep any Again that samo significance of language, and Blanches looked back in those upty, truthful syst with glance stress to you and yours." Again that samo significance of language, and Blanches looked back in those upty, truthful syst with glance of beneficient of language, and Blanches looked back in those upty, truthful syst would sware faulty affress? Have you ever done so bacore! When, Ragina? She was not pous; her with a conveniable ex-cilement as she waited for a solution to this mystery.

"First of all, Mrs. Davenal, I have to tell you that when you were born I was the nurse who took care of your mother and yourself. There is nothing wonderful in that, is there?" "No; it is simply a coincidence. Go on."

Blanche spoke in a low, intense voice that be-rayed her deep interest. "Yes, it was an incident that has molded my traye

"Yes, it was an incident that has moneen my life, more or less, ever since—that, for the past year, has affected it entirely. Had I never hired to Mrs. Checkwynd, I would have been a happier woman to-day, with a less horrible load oternal-ly crushing me down." She paused and gazed dreamily at her lis-

20

"Oh, do go on," said Blanche, almost in a whisper. "Mrs. Davenal, are you afraid of Mr. De Lau-

She asked the question abruptly. "Afraid! Oh, Regina, I do not know how I regard him. He terrifies me so; he abused Barbara so-

"Well, I am more afraid of him than any

Blanche interrupted her in a low, stern tone. "And yet you deliberately act in his employ

¹¹ You demonstrative fact in ms one-selentiously. I followed him because I might be near poor, that I might serve you, though in-directly, and, if media be, are you as I would in directly, and, if media be, are you as I would in whem I promised allegiance as I have primi-latik, as I shall break it with whom I broke my faith, as I shall break it with him." A little sob of joy broke from Blanchie lips directly and the shall break it with the error of this borns. For each the site of the me go out of his borns. For each the site door, will your baby in your arms free to go to a hold to awart hie answer of a holfman. You will of course send-or anywhere you dooges."

choose

Blache rapturously kissed the brown, horny hand that she moistened with her glad tears. "God ever bless you, Regina! And now for

"God ever bies you, Reginal 'And now for the rest of your strange story." "A' A year ago, while Bathara—you will learn Laurian were on their pair to the start of the laurian were on their pair to the start of the bis sequents are a transfer of a start band had given me, and for while I preferred its value in morely, fat leves limes depende in my poy-metry in the start of the start of the start some oil fushioned curiosities for a priorities some oil fushioned curiosities for a priorities. some old-fashioned curiosities for a priceles bauble I heard him offer a hundred dollars for.

bauble 1 heard mim offer a hundred collars for, "I looked up at him, wondering why he was so larish of momey and I so poor, when I sud-denly caught sight of a broken gold chain and an orgal stone—the other half of the ornament na

and our other sum for a sum for. "My heart gave a bound-J possessed the re-maining portion of that chain and opal, and my checks crimisoned as I was thus suddenly re-minded of how I came by it.

"I offered to show him the gem; he accom-panied me home, and paid me the money for my treasure, and as much more for the informa-

tion I gave him; and as it startled him, so will it startle you, Mrs. Davenal Blanche was listening intently, and Regina

Deancne was insteming intentity, and Regina wont slowly on. "I told him there was a legend connected with that broken opal stone, that was marked as though the entire stone had borne three perfect letters, 'D D D.'

"Sure enough, when he compared the half he had and the half I had, the surmise was correct. He told me then how he had stolen the chain rou will remember he pretended it fell into a rating? He let it fall up his cont-sleeve." grating?

Blanche started with surprise. "I remember it well. Can it be possible? It was our only relic of Barbara's identity, if ever it should be traced out.

Is snould be traced out." "It was traced out, Mrs. Davenal. I held the key to unlock that secret, and Gervaise De Lau-rian's money bought the koy. He knew then, before he deserted Barbara, who ske was; he knows to-day who she is. Would you like to

know²⁷ Hogrina acked the question almost pityingly. "Indeed, I would." "Mrs. Bavenal, do not hate har for what das "Mrs. Bavenal, do not hat har for what one is also be also be also be also be also be able to be also be also be also be also be the second beam of the second beam of the state - your younger, twin-sister, born an hour after yourself."

Blanche jumped from her chair in a transport of astonishment.

of astonishment. "Regina, what do you mean to tell me? She —she MY sister? the child of my parents? And I, they never know it? Rogina, how can I be-lieve this strange, incredible story?" "Incredible as it may seem, I can prove it, and show you why your parents means it means how it?

and show you why your parents never knew it -why the mother never knew she gave birth to -why the mother never knew she gave birth to a second daughter. "For the three months I was in attendance

upon her provious to her illness, my heart used to ache to hear her lament over that fatal Curse she feared would yet fall on a child of hers.

she has often fallen on her knees and prayed that God would give her sons and no daughters. "She was so gentle and patient amid all her troubles, that I used to wish I could die to gain her her wish.

her her wish. "But, when the trial came, you, her daugh-ter was born, and, overcome by the fear that you would never be followed by a brother, and thus the fatal legacy be turmed aside. Mrs. Chet-wynd was seized with fearful convulsions that threatened her life.

"Horrified by the sight, Mr. Chetwynd was unable to remain in the room; Mrs. Chetwynd becoming easier, the physician left her in my care a moment or so while he followed the al-most fainting gentleman to render some encour-

aging assistance. "He was gone probably half an hour, leaving orders with me to call him if there was the

orders with mo to call him if there was the adjuste change. Mrs. Davenal, that Barbara "Them it was, Mrs. Davenal, that Barbara "I remembered all your poor mother's pray-ers, I knew you would not inherit the by ... thought, to conceal this birth from everybody, and allow Mrs. Chestyvani, if shie recovered, to learn, little by little, that no fatal curse fell on von. She might a thribate it to whatever cause She might attribute it to whatever cause

Jearn, little, by little, that 'no fatal curse fell on you. She might a trituke it to whatever cause in plasmed. "Bo have the bala energy I keyth her, named be have a second string of the second string of the at her father's door, knowing your mo-her's great-havetadeness and kindness." Binst, the seavered opti and horkon chain thay mother womder what it could mean. We di-sided, one day, that it had meant her initials, and marveled at its similarity to the logendary three D's, that donoted the 'lokinong'. Desertion are brock at donoted the 'lokinong'. Desertion are brock of the the second the donoted the 'lokinong'. Desertion are brock of the the second the 'lokinong'. Desertion are brock of the 'lokinong'. Desertion are brock of the second the 'lokinong'. Desertion are brock of the brock of the 'lokinong'. Desertion to dock of the second the 'lokinong'. The brock of the brock the child to be positive. The brock the laking is and 1 might claim her in the desture by it—the proof would be positive. The brock the second the family leggery. It seems that i aucceeded are faulty." "Them, when you and De Laurianf' Bianche

her family legray. It seems that I succeeded partially." "Thom, when you asw De Laurian?" Blanche "That foregotien. Yee, when I saw him, and had told him all this story, and he, in turn, told he his, I hated him, despised him, and *feared* him; yee, according to his directions, sought an though I octoantally wont hh his intervist tolearn, if I could, what Barbara would to owhen she returned, as bofts are sale would, to renew my watching correspond by the babies I now had *footo*. and I berries the babies I now had *footo*. warchill care over both the bables I once had soloved. But, when Barbara made me her con-fidente, and I learned the infernal blackness of her soil, I leathed her in proportion as I pitled you. How I folt when I knew abe intended poisoning De Laurian, deeply though I disliked him and censured him! It was I, Mrs. Davenal, who managed to dilute the drug with which sho watched over him n his coffn in the woult, knowing death was but simulated. He doesn't know, though, that he over his secure to mo, how, though, that he over his secure to mo, with my own hands unsereved the coffin fine. I could not see nurder done." Blanche was shivering from head to foot with his weidt, drampe you fail, and yes, impired by

has weard, strange techar, and yee, inspired by the fascination, urged Regina to go on. "There is little else to tell, Mrs. Davenal. I used to think at times I would lose my senses when I saw her pour the daily drop of liquid poison in your wine, your medicine or your soup. I used to wondor if I should not expose poison in your wine, your medicine or your soup. I used to wondow if 1 should not expose if all, regardless of the reckless punishment she would not have besided prings me. But I was would not have besided prings me. But I was down to your grave, knowing, however, that you would be rescued from it, and swearing then to save you some time, when her cat-like or the save you some time, when her cat-like "We will forget it all, deer Reginal. You will be my helper now'l you will save me from the Laurian, who severs I am his wife, and the 'I will ach textify the text of the save or the point and the text of the save me from the laurian, who severs I am his wife, and the 'I will ach textify the text of the save or the you are safe in your motion the save in the save of the save in the ablessing that perhaps will sweep like the nave.

The woman's hard eyes filled with tears, and

The woman's narri eyes fulled with tears, and her voice was hasky and hoarse. "Indeed, you shall never be censured—never! But where shall 1 got You will go too?" "If I may: when De Laurian goes out after dinner, and laves you in my care, we will go. Once on the sirect, we can fly to wherever you with "

'It must not be to Chetwynd Chase! I mus "It must not be to thetwyin these in the telegraph at once to Roy, and wait at a hotel until he comes. I can readily prove my iden-tity to Braxton and Drayton, our solicitors, and the attest we though its hoursed for the they will see that my choque is honored for the amount we need."

amount wo need." Her checks were glowing with vivid joy, and her eyes overflowed with nervous thankfulness as she arrose to take her babe, that, awaleened, smiled in her face.

smilled in her face. "It seems as if my little ghrl appreciated my feelings, doesn't it, Regina? If Roy and mother could but see her! my precious little one!" Regina bent a smille of encouraging sympathy

her.

upon her. "Have patience, Mrs. Davenal. It will only be a fortnight at the furthest before they arrive home; for, of course, they will not delay a mo-ment. And I think the meeting will repay you

nome, i.e., to: think the meeting will repay you for all you have undergone." "It almost takes away my breath to think of it! Regina, if you will, I profer hunch here in my room; and then, *how* shall I pass the three long hours between now and liberty?"

CHAPTER XXXIII

AN OLD FIRIND. AN OLD FIRIND. INSTEAD of waiting the three hours that in-tervened between her luncheon hour and the dimer-time, Regins told Blanche a better op-portunity presented itself for their immediate removal. moval. Mr. De Laurian had left word that he

called out of the city and desired dinner de-layed about an hour.

He had left no special message for Blanche's security, doubtless feeling perfect confidence in the woman he had obtained to take charge of he

Here, and the set of t ed through the front door, that Regina unlocked

for her. Once outside, on the top of the marble flight of steps, her bead graw giddy with the sublem. Interpret of the sub-stance and the air as she did that warm, pleasant and the air as she did that warm, pleasant and the air as she did that warm, pleasant flied with such an overpowering sense of thank-tal, trianghant Joy, that she seemed treading on air.

Regina put down the dead latch, and followed Blanche's rapid footstant At the first corner she glanced up, and learn

At the first corner she glanced up, and learn-cel, for the first time, in what strest she had been staying; without a moment's heefafter the staying stress of the stress stress and here the city stall Park. Here she summond a neat little coupe, and he, her bake not length a were drawn direct to she, her bake not length a were drawn of the startling truth to either of the partners that Mrs. Royal Davenal was alive and desired only Rearing around the whole of the wild

Regina evidently told the whole of the wild Regima evidently told the whole of the wild story, for she was closeted in the private office nearly an hour; and then, bewildered and in-credulous, a white-headed oid gentleman came out to the door of the coupe. He just glanced in, and classed his hands in stricken axtonihment, as though the proof were more strange than the story.

"God bless me! Can it be possible? Is it ally you, my dear child?" really you, my dear child?" A soft smile-Blanche's very own-answered

him. I am more than happy to say that it really is

¹¹¹ I am more than happy to say that it really is I. Mr. Drayton, Lam surv you congratulate me? And then she told him she needed money and advice; both of which he gave her, and even accompanied her to the office, and himself sent theilspatch by table. Mrs. Drayton would only be too delighted and thankful to see her. She would be gate and well cared for until her party returned. And nothing loath, Blanche made her abode friend, to avait the narry al those would be rate and then the narry al the more of these who would then the set her and the set of these who would then the set her arts and the set of these who would then the set her arts and the more set of these who would then the set her arts and the set of these who would

friend, to await the arrival of those who would greet her as from the dead.

greet her as from the dead. They were very quiet, happy days to her, al-beit darkened at times by scorching memories. It really was worse to her, all those remem-brances, in that a sister's hand had done the

deed. But was Barbara her sister, her mother's child? How could Mrs. Chetwynd have lived with her so many, many years, and never have recognized, by natural instinct, that she was her owni

owni Blanche was sorely puzzled about it. Over and over again she questioned Regina, always eliciting the same unvarying story. Mr. Drayton, to whom Blanche confided every

Mir. Drayton, to wnom bianche connact every thing, questioned and cross-questioned the pa-tient, stolid woman, and he was satisfied of the perfect truth of her story. Blanche had asked him if it would be lawful for Gervaise De Laurian to hold her as his wife. He assured her that, married as she had been the black of the story of the of which he

to Roy Davenal after so long a time of suitab to hoy Davenai atter so long a time of suitable waiting, and under such unquestionable circum-stances, she was legally Royal Davenal's wife, ou whom Mr. De Laurian had not the sightest lawful or moral claim. Moreover, it did not look well for De Laurian to have kent bimasfi bidden so long. He muct

Moreover, ic duo not nook went for De Laurian to have kept himself hidden so long. He must have cared nothing at all for Blanche, or he would have hastened to her at once and ex-plained every thing. That waiting, until Blanche was married again, and then coming forward to harass her, was extremely against

forward to harass her, was extremely against him. why had he ach as a sharpe of at-Agatod murdle brought against Bachage of at-def and the state of the state of the state wyndd? Why had he permitted her to go on in her even way, and then revenge himself upon her in sopecular a manneer. Min. Danyton curfully examined the case in all its ageets, and identical upon three points: all its ageets, and identical upon three points: Blanche should secure aged divorce from Gervaise De Laurian. A support of the state attempt upon his life made by Mrs. Barbara Chelwynd--then Barbara Lester--she could not evel should her the provention. Laurian him self should be the provention. Laurian him self should be the provention. Third, it remained at Blanche's own option to arrost her on a charge of attempted murder, if she was still at Chelwyni Chase, which he very "the questione", importance in the state and the she her secured.

arres, net on a conryc of arcsing of arcsing marder, it much questioned. "Champed he very much questioned." The first of Mr. Drayton's 'miggestions was immediately attended to, so that before the family rat down to dinner Mr. Drayton and Bauche lad mode all necessary preliminary ar-rangements with an influential lawyer, who obtain a dereve very shortly." The second suggestion she had nothing to do with; the last affected her most painfully. How could she, even after all she had under-gene at Bartara's hands, deliberately deliver her up to justice! Had she been a stranger, but her sider-as she now duly believed-mo, she could not over do that.

she could not over do that. So, her mind freed from its burdens, Blanche passed happily the days that intervened bo-tween her departure from De Laurian's house and the expected arrival of the steamer that should bring father, mother, cousin and hus-hered.

Mr. Drayton had received no reply to his tolegram, and, indeed, he had not expected it. He knew well that the miraculous news he had sent with the summons—" The dead is risen —Blanche is alive—come at once "--would speed them on their way at the first available oppor-tunities.

tunity. However, because he thought Blanche would be pleased, he had also telegraphed to the office of the Curard Line in Liverpool for the list of cabin passengers that should sail by the first hom-bound vessel. Three days after had come a reply; a list of

seventy names was sent, and among them these of Mr. Rexton Chetwynd, wife and servant, Royal Davenal, Rex Chetwynd, Jr., per steam-" Pacific."

Anxiously had Blanche watched the sunris Anknowsy had bianche warches the sunra-ings and sunsettings, and now, a fortnight and three days after she had joined the Draytons' family circle, the kind-hearted old maa came rushing down from his office at the unseasona-tic how of tamber ble hour of twelve

"Blanche, dear child! the Pacific's in!"

CHAPTER XXXIV. THE VACANT CRIR.

THE VACANT CRUE. VERY COLV indeed looked the diming-room of Mr. Do Laurian's house that evening as he en-tered it from the glars and racket outside in the city streets. His business completed to his sat-isation, has the hitry displicitly mood as he isation, how the hitry displicitly mood as he isation, and the hitry displicitly mood as he he as a street of the second street of the the elegant diming-room. In the hit he def the house. Regit was miny, he had seen as he passed by, and no noises were to be heard in the house look in his chart, careleasly toying with his silver teaspoon as he glanced over the verified page of the state of the state overling page of the state of the state over the second which was unusual, Blanche preferring her meals in her own room.

meals in her own room.

But to-day, so sure was he that she would have acceded to his demands, that before he had left the house he had given orders for the

had left the noise new prove that second place. The table was richly decorated with massive place, gleaming crystal and rose and gold-band-ed Serres China, and it had been the thought of how Blanche's sweet face would look behind the coffee urn that had sped him home that even-

ing. Through the orange-silk curtains the last sun-setting rays were falling, and yet Blanche had

not come, or sent. Where was she then, he wondered! At first, he had believed her repuise was genuine, and he had bit hit jus in disappointament; but, as he not but resolution her indignant denial. He grew impatiest, and rung for Regina. Receiving no answer to his imperative sum-nos, and not daring to think anything could be the matter, he himself went up-stairs direct but jus from the sum of the second second second to the first second s

to the front chamber which Blanche nad occu-pied. To his horror and consternation it was empty! To his horror and consternation it was empty! She and Regima ware gone; Blanche had es-entities and the second second second second second to consider what to do. There was but one explanation to the disap-pearance. Regima had played him false, and, together with Blanche, had sought safety and liberty. rty.

The old witch! the treacherous cat!"

"The old wirch the treacherous cau:" The words hissed from his lips as he paced to and fro in the elegant room, his eyes bloodshot with anger, his lips trembling with passion un-der his amber mustache.

what angeer, his the treatmonth with passion un-der his amber mustache. She had not returned to Chetwynd Chase he folt almost certain; in New York, who was there to whom she could fly? He bit his ilps as he thought of Braxton and

Drayton.

Drayton. "It is to them she has appealed, and I doubt not that by this very moment that long-delayed message is on its way! Perdition seize me for trusting to any woman? His delicate dinner was untouched that night,

His delicate dimar was untouched that night, and the man had his orders to take it away; while be Laurian, too restless to remain seated, too angry to enjoy a cigar, wandered aim-lessiy through the house. He had been at great expense in farnishing it, as he believed Blanche would approve. Verything had been done with an eye to her basie, and she had been done with an eye to her basie, and she induced cordially admired, fittle basie, and she induced to a glided cage for

He would be obliged to go to work very cau He would be conged to go to work very case tiously to gain the class of her whereabouts; and as he had but lately mingled among men as he used to do, he rather dreaded any notoriety when it became known that not be alone, but

he used to do, he rather dreaded any notoriety when it bocame known had not he slow, but Born do Derves. He new, any praves. He new, any wells as old Mr. Drayton, that he could not compel Blanche to render him obedi-sone; and he also heav that Blanche would be approved, by all the world in her aligsiance to E he small and wallbed all that night, hyving his plans. And when morning came he had decided hat "the grame was not world the could.". In other words, his love for Blanche was secondary to the desire be had fit to her alight here and haffs flasting the had fit to himble here-and haffs flasting the had fit to only part, he was pot at all so willing that Blanche should escape oscily from his hands. She had defied him in word and deed; she had

She had defied him in word and deed; she had diwarted him when all bings second most am-picious. He had rescued her, and now he was very moth disposed to hum her down on an-other track, just to show her she could not, with impusity, afford to baffe him. night have won-The immediate lady, her sures and hely had cover as excidentic, have non-

gone so suddenly; but no questions were pre-

sumed upon. The next morning after Blanche's escape a red flag was hung out the window; the furni-ture sold at a "tremendous sacrifice," and No. — — street, left alone in its glory. Mr. De Laurian had driven away in a coupe,

and that was the end of the little episode in

and that was the end of the little episode in that divection. Ford, during the two weeks that Blanche was at Brayton's, awaiting her husband's and pa-rents' coming. De Laurian was not idle. The second second second second second second from which place he pursue his investigations as to Blanche's whereabouts. A private detec-tive was acquinited with the leading facts, and requested to discover her present aboid. Twenty-eighth street, but that a divorce was lied against him in King's office, that peers had been and across the Atlancie of Mr. Davenal's bring the party, and that Regina was in con-stant, devoked atlendance upon her young mis-trees.

To all this array of facts, De Laurian listened most earnestly; paid the detective and dismissed him

him. So, then, all was fair weather, with Mrs. Roy Davenal. She had weathered the storms and was anchored fast in the harbor. He smiled as he thought that, then coolly lighted a cigar and commenced smoking it, as he slowly promended the apartment he called

his. A week of the time since Blanche had escaped him had passed, and he had been nursing in his him had passed in the diver him. It mat him had passed, and he had been nursing in his heart the suggestions it had given him. It mat-tered not that Blanche had suffered so that she was all unsiming herself in the matter; his own heart, as base as ever beat, was still revengeful, if not jealcus, and the novelty of being baffled by her lent strength to his determination to

by her leut strength to his determination to reach her yet. His thoughts were intensely occupied now by a villations scheme ho had arranged for her. Barbara Chetwynd was out of the way; Re-gins should not suspect; Slanche believed her-self perfectly sceure; hence, it was the time to write, if ever.

strike, if ever. The only difficulty he experienced was, whether it would "pay "him all the trouble he would be obliged to take. With his cigar in his mouth he walked out into Broadway to decide.

The entire family of the Draytons had driven in their barouche down to the Cunard landing to welcome the returning party, whose arrival was the occasion of so strange and ecstatic a

joy. Blanche, almost faint from her eager impa-tience, remained at the house, where she might meet them and be greeted by the solemn privacy

Above-stairs, Regina watched the little Con-

Above-stairs, Regima watched the little Con-stanzia, as the slept among hor laces and ruffles --the little one of whose existence its father did not know, or grandparents dream. Bianche had dressed the baby with infinite care, in a roke worthy its name and relation-tone, and so worthy its name and relation-and elegant pearl and ruby armlets looped its abserves. sleeves.

sizeres. The young mother had kissed it and given it to Ragina while also went down to the parior. before a cill resulted up to the door, and, through the hot, blinding tears that hung like mist over the starking of ups. Blanche awy firmt Ray leap the starking of ups. Blanche awy firmt Ray leap the starking of ups. Blanche awy firmt Ray leap the starking of ups. Blanche awy firmt Ray leap the starking of the starking of the starking of the the starking of the starking of the starking of the the starking of the starking of the starking of the the starking of the starkin

r in his arms. It was a wild, fearful embrace; that graspi

his loved from the grave, as it were; while the mother, in an agony of tears, so keen were her emotions, clasped a hand, and Mr. Chetwynd another

Scarcely a word was spoken; a solemn, holy joy, too deep for utterance, bound them in si-

Th en Roy led her away to the window, and gazed in her soft, sweet eyes, as though his senses never again could be filled with the sight of her

Later, when their tongues were unloosened, and questions could be asked and answered, the whole pitifully-sad story was told, from beginning t

to end. first Mr. and Mrs. Chetwynd could not At first Mr. and Mrs. Chefwynd could not credit the truth, but when Regina was called down from the simubering babe, and Mr. Dray-ton added his belief, they, too, were counstrained to accept the nurveicome truth. If was a great abook to bleem, and Rox, as he listened in diamb abook on prove pitiful to babold, as all his love hioro. Microo, was swept away at one fell blow. blow,

"And yet I will refuse to credit all," he said, oudly. "I will see her first, and then-and proudly.

then—" His face grew stony with the anguish sug-gested, and he turned away to bids it. sweets scoret, then, when Mrs. Chetvyrad was excernesity questioning Regins, and Mr. Drayton engaging her father in conversation, also slipped from the room, with beating heart, to bring her litic Constantiad down. But Koy's watehrild yes

saw her depart, and immediately he followed

her, overtaking her at the foot of the stairs. "I couldn't lose the sight of you so soon, even for a moment. Oh, my darling, my own dar

ling wife!" Blanche nestled in his strong, glad arms with perfect peace shining from her eves.

"You never can know, much as you love me, Roy, all the terrible anguish I have passed through. But I am more than repaid, dearest, through. But I am more than repeat, desreet, by this hour; and when you learn what I have been holding in reserve, you will be happing year "w've a happing daughter, alive and well, Lithle Constanta." His face lighted up with a luminous pride. "My darling Blanche I indeed I am doubly her father's besinge—this tother little treasure smatched from the grave." With light stops and happy hearts, that left impress on their expectant faces, they andred refl.

cri

Blanche tenderly removed the linen sheet and a piercing scream burst from her. "Who has taken her out? Roy-where is my

hal VY

baby i'' Her loud, agonized scream brought Regina in breathless haste. Her countenance turned fair-ly green with fear as she gazed, half bowildered,

If green with rear as sne gazed, halt bewindered, at the empty crib. "May God help you—but I solemnly believe your baby has been stolen by Gervaise De Lau-rian! I left her sleeping filteen minutes ago, and no one in this house has come up-stairs."

With a fearful, heart-curdling cry, Blanche sunk insensible beside the little vacant crib.

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE "STAR" OF THE BOARDS.

The intensest confusion and excitement in-stantly began their roign in Mr. Drayton's man-

stantly began their reign in Mr. Drayton's man-tim. The second state of the second state of the second benefits at the Unnard wharf, had, with com-mendable discretion, prolonged their drive home in order that the meeting might be private, drove up to learn the pithil news just as it be-came invow. Words seemed so powerless to depict the terrile angulat that came upon that than Mrs. Davenal's halvy had been kitinapped. It seemed so much hardre to be borne, under the peculiar circumstances that had reunited benet in the the news were forth, as it dil, apreading like wildfire, sympathy and tanders desistence came poaring in the for the territy of the child, or information that would lead to the recovery.

s recovery. Detectives were sent out on Gervaise De Lau-

rian's track, for there was not the slightest doubt but that he had done, or instigated, the deed

deed. But success was not to be now. Various false rumors reached them from day to day, but these all proved as such, and when a fortnight had gone, there was less clue than 07

ever. Through all these trials, Blanche, the long-tried, sore-afflicted mother, by in a delirium of the sore-afflicted mother, by in a delirium of and death, how feared, if the wore at last avrod, her reason never could stand the shock. But when, the fever-light field, she opened those and, and eyes that should never smile gain, that would ever hear that brooding, etc-gain, that would ever hear that brooding, etc-

mail shadow in their brown deeps, they knew she was sane, and for it thanked the inscrutable Mercy that had mixed so bitter a cup for them

Mercy that had introd so brees a cup to the to drink. Pallid, trembling, and heartbroken, she de-sired to be taken home to Chetwynd Chase; and, with sad good-byes, they left the hospita-ble house of the Draytons, and returned to their the house of the Draytons, and returned to their silent, long-deserted home, just as the first Sep-tember days began, and there another surprise awaited them.

awaited them. They found the servants had returned from a holiday Mrs. Rex had given them—Regins hav-ing prepared them for that news—and finding the mansion deserted by Barbara, had taken upon themselves to force an entrance into the servants' wing, beyond which they had not in-tervated

uded. Much as Mr. Chetwynd and his wife, and

The second secon

And all this while not a word had ever come of Barbara. Columns of personals had been printed in the Horald, in all imaginable forms, but had failed to elicit a word from ber. Rex, restless and miserable, when the first

poignancy of his grief wore off, left Chetwyrd Chase on a tour of investigation, and the immepoignancy of his griet wore off, leit Chctwyrol. Classe on a tour of investigation, and the immr-diate family settled down in a quict, rctir-way, sacing risidors, of course, when they came, and paysing a few calls that courtesy imper-tively demanded, and which their sorrows could not be allowed to meddle with. And all these days Blanche Davenal's heart

And all these days Blanche Davenal's heart was sinking, sinking with despirit her whole mature cryping out against the awful, inhuman Gervaise De Laurion— He had not remained in New York after the day of the Chetvynds arrival ; if was very warm, and, in obselfence to all his impales, have variant and the second second second second in an animes pleasure tour. Long Branch, Saratoga, Newport, wers in turn patronized; ithen, enumel, and pleasaro-turn patronized; ithen, enumel, and pleasaro-and if he enjoyed himself, tour it all over the continent.

continent

continent. As with Graphic De Laurian to will was to the monitory and weeping amid the October brightness that glowed around Chetwynd Chase —he smoked his cigar in a fashionable restan-rani in London, and wondered how he should pass the first evening of his arrival. Conspicu-tions among the pheards on the wall of the black ous among the pheards on the wall of the black black of the state of the state of the black of the state of the state of the black W yndham, the charming actress and songetress, that night appared in the famous role of "Mu-riel, the Avenger," in "Hunted Down." Her wondrous talent was too grand to express. All decima in the famous the stress terms, so De Laurian strolled through the streets to the Prince of Wales Theater, where this star of the hippost magnitude condescended to shins, se-carred a set in the parquety and, au aul with As with Gervaise De Laurian to will was to

the highest magnitude condescended to shine, se-cured a seat in the parquette, and, as usual with gentlemen of his style, began looking around for pretty women's faces. To the preceding farce he paid no attention, nor was it until thunders of applaues shock the house, as Miss Wyndham came gracefully to the footlights, that he turned his eyes to the

stage. He saw a magnificent-looking woman, cold as

He saw a magnificent-looking woman, cold as an iceberg, haughty as an empress, bowing to the admiring crowd. He saw the darkiy flash-ing eyes, the streaming reven black hair, the or the streaming reven black hair, the *Could* it be possible? Was he in a trance, or *Could* it be possible? Was he in a trance, or were all these people around him living beingst Was he really himself, and was that brilliant woman on the boards of the Frince of Wales Theater she whom he had betrayed, who had him?" hin

him f^{*} His eyes were riveted eagerly on her, watch-ing every motion as she moved about the stage. Gradually he decided that the resemblance was not so great as he at first thought. Miss Wynd-ham's voice, though mellow and pleasant, had not that rich redundancy of musical boue that "here" had, with a curve on bic structift.

"heres" had. Again, and with a curse on his stupidity, he remembered "her" hair was brown, deeply, darkly brown, "its true, but very unlike Miss Wyndham's ebon tresses that curled in loose masses from forehead to waist, while "here" had fallen one heavy, arrowy tress, almost to

had fallen one heavy, arrowy tress, almost to her kness. But this Miss Wyndham was superlaitely lovely: she was the "rags" and more than all, so, weary of the same old faces, this bright, sunnay soyd one impressed him keenly, and be incritived quite earnestly about her. He learned he was only "Miss" on this strape; He learned he was only "Miss" on the stape; had, to earn her fortune by her art. Not a word that she uttered escaped him; his administion increased, his interest despend; and administion increased, his interest despend; and her feet, at the conclusion of "Hunted Down," there was one thuy offering of a tubercee and there was one tiny offering of a tuberose and jessamine leaves, to which was attached a card bearing the name of the giver—"Gervaise De

CHAPTER XXXVI

VENGEANCE AT LAST.

IT was a delightful apartment in which Ethel Vyndham, the popular actress, was sitting, late

A little distance off stood a beautiful walnut A little distance off shoot a beautiful walnut cradle, with a high canopy of azure sik under white lace; in the cozy nest slept the actress babe; and watching if, with an expression on her face that you never would have dreamed could have saddhened its ripe, rare beauty. She had not removed her dress of amber satin in which also had performed he last act, and her white arms and neck till be last act, and months that had flashed with every turn of her

body

And her darkly-pale face, where it seemed a smile never again could come, was bent in ear-

nest attention over the sleeping child. "Grace," she said, in those low, pleasant tones, to a colored nurse who dozed in her chair,

"Zella has not awakened since I went out? Bring me those smaller bouquets from the table, and take these boots off for me."

and fails these boots off for ne." In the total She leaned wearity back in the cushioned chair, watching the woman, as she defty so-lected the desired articles, with that listless, cum, unambificus air so strangely at variance with the joiquant brilliancy she assumed on the stage. One by one she lifted the flowers and in-haled their fragmence; then, removing from the rest the day gramy of geranium and tuberose, As if straing by a scorpion, she sprung from her chair, dashing her lapful of blossoms right and left.

are char, usually the laptic of bossons right and left. "Leave me alone, Grace, at once." Her voice was husky, and had a far-away, unnatural sound, that made the babe in its slum-bers start, as if affrighted. Then, when the ser-vant had obeyed, she sunk down again in her chair, a vivid, glowing spot of crimson on either cheek, and a bright intensity of light in her

Several mixtures she as there are up to more Saveral mixtures she as there, patting her foot against the plushy pink carpet, the carmine on the checks fading to asken paller, *this* Hars he crossed my path again, just when 1 deemed my past life so nearly forgotten mail the excito-ment of the present? I am doomed, *doomed* to measure inacces with this man—and why should TA shiver run over her at some memory. "Thi of nearly forgotten and the askiver run over her at some memory." "Thi of nearly forgotten my writing deak?" "This of nearly forgotten my writing deak?"

mess

"If Mr. De Laurian desires the acquaintance Miss Ethel Wyndham, he can learn her address the manager. Miss Wyndham receives few cal bot will admit Mr. De Laurian upon one conditio that he consents to see her en margue."

that he consents to see her en mutique." "Take this to Manager Robbe, Greece, in the morning, early; now, assist me to undress." with he inverse, the to seen robbe, of receive with the inverse, the to seen robbe, or and from spain of courting the drowsy god, arose, throw around her a white eashmere wrapper, and, in her tarc, dimpled feet, commenced a long, restless promenade. All through the early hours of that cold,

All through the early hours of that cold, gray autumn morning, she paced the floor; at times wrapped in deepest depression of spirits, and then the said, worried look in her eyes chased suddenly away by one of bitter wrath and in-tenset aritizition.

suddenly away by one of bitter wrath and in-tenset agricus at the strong life. That devices the highly, in this have, stronge life. That devices the highly in this have, stronge life. That devices other days, but it arrises like a mighty avalanche when I think upon himi. I hate him with an unearthly hatted! I field from the temptation, and the formptation has followed me! The very

and the femptation has followed me! The very liner of Fats has led him to me? "She chapted her hands tightly together; the "I will do it; his very name has first the worst passions of my heart! I darw declare I will do it, with that innocent, guileless babe ting kingped Blanche's baby—chat have never touched it but in tenderster, care, shall seize on Gerraise De Laurian, who has followed me on big domi'' when the brillingt eves idenumed

to his doom." And then, when the brilliant eyes gloamed with all the intensity of her soul, and that strange, rare smile, so terrible, lingered on her coral-red lips, you knew it was Barbara Chet-wynd to whom Gervaise De Laurian was being

coral-red lips, you know it was fastratar Check wind to whom Gerraise De Lauran was being herizon Destiny'. When the thishing norming broke, she had made her broukfast toilet; later, drove out her broughan with Girac and Little "Zella," as also was cover, and also returned to her rooms, a note awaited that, when she read, palod her checks for a second. Then the proud light returned to her eyes. She had searcely given the directions when he summors acome from the dor. Bis hadily adjusted the mask, prove a glow-costume, and bowed a cold, graceful greeting to Gervaise De Laurian.

"I can not tell you how grateful I am to you, Mrs. Wyndham, for your condescension in al-lowing me to pay my admiring respects to you in parsen."

sne bowed gracefully in return for the im-plied compliment. "I am a triffe surprised that you addressed me as 'Mrs.' How did you learn I was mar-ried."

"Runor said so. I beg pardon most humbly if I was mistaken. I can but envy the memory of the husband you were such a treasure to." A little low laugh rippled behind the mask. "All husbands are not appreciative, Mr. De

Laurian.

" I can not imagine yours being otherwise. He would be a very brute." "So I thought; will you close the window, plasse! I really think I am chilly." Therefore, the second second second second second tered request, and when be returned, draw his chair closer to her side. Shodid not repute the movement, and De Laurian, emboldened, took one of her hands in his. Ho felt it termibe glightly; had be known why! but he did not, and at he known why! but he did not, and at he work why! but he did not, and at he work why! but he did not, hence the second second second second second leaned nearer her."

needs, he fett a tank of the source of the source face from "I regret you desire to hide your face from ne, dear lady. Why not let me look and adore, me, dear lady. Wi as I did last night?

A nearer acquaintance might disenchant

"A nearer acquaintance might discentant you, you know." "'Impossible! the memory of your beautiful face will hauft me forever. Can I not persuade you to unmask?" His low, eager tones were almost whispered

"Did you not know that everybody wears "Did you not know that everybody wears masques, Mr. De Laurian? Not of crepe, like this, to be sure, or perhaps not at all visible to human eyes. How am I to know you are what you appear?" you appear

Although her words were earnest, her man-ner was light and jesting; but he could not see the terrible, momentarily kindling fires in her

"For instance," she went on, "when I am on Beneath ""For instance," sike went or, "when I am on the stage, I am as a masked worman. Beenath my smiles and gayety I hile more servow and bitter cup to drink; I have been through many deep waters, and, Mr. De Laurian, you may not believe me, but I am thirtisting for revenge! But what high tragedy am I including inf Come, Shu aroos "from her chairs and went across the Shu aroos".

She arose from her chair and went across the oor to the cradle, where the child lay, awake a. and smiling

and smiling. Do Laurian gave a casual look preparatory to the flattery he supposed expected from him. Internet abrupping back toward-the child, and turned abrupping back toward. There she stood, in all her awful beauty— Barbara Chetwynd! Thrunsfixel with the suddemness of the shock, her name.

her name But the thunder of her voice rolled in his

ears. "We meet again, face to face, for the last time, Gervaise De Laurian! Look at me, for I am she! look at the child, for it is Blanche Da-

For a moment only he recoiled in horror; For a moment only he recoiled in horror; then, his lips curling with contempt, would have left the room without another word. But Barbara sprung before him with a high,

But Harkara sprung before him with a high, shrill laugh. "No, Gervaise De Laurian, I have sworn by all the powers of Hadle study you do not escape me again: Ones, furie you halfed me, and the tered the house where that siegening buly lay, while all was confusion and giad excitement below, and stole it to punish its mother, I vain-ly thought to explate my sins by goodness and kindness but. But what you, inmought, came ored hungrily for vengeance. I will have my vengeance, Gervaise De Laurian, and you shall know what it is to be hunted down by the wo-man you digraced, deserted."

know what it is to be nunted down by the wo-man you disgraced, descretel?" Her majestic form seemed to tower above him. He saw her eyes, flashing like a mad wo-man's. He heard the quick low breathing; and then some bright object flashed from her bosem;

then some bright object flasted from her becom; a noise, a deality borror-tancies, a deality borror-tancies, a deality borror-tancies and the source of the source of the the Sox of Elevrity: I he lay as he foll, graceful even in the rigidity of doath, while Barbara. looked grinuly down as her work; reclass of the crowd surging up the stains who had heard the shot; reclass of the stains who had heard the shot; reclass of the stains who had heard the shot; reclass of the stains who had heard the shot; reclass of the The down lines one: the source the second-and

The door burst open; the excited crowd rushed in, and then Barbara started in affright. She cast one look at the foremost figure, and

Sho cast one look at the foremost figure, and with a cry of infinite agroup, spoke his name, "Nol not not Rex Chetwynd," Then, with the speed of a lightning flash, she snatched the tiny revolver, placed it against her temple, drew the trigger, and fell a corpse across Gervaise De Laurian's body!

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

THE MYSTERY NO MORE.

STRANGE as they seemed, Barbara Chetwynd's st words were true; it was indeed her husband. has words were study it was indeed her husband, Rex Chekwynd, who had gone on his loving, hopoful task of finding, somewhere in the wide, wide world, the wife of his boson whom he so workhiped, and, though against whom such awful calumnies had been hurled, he could not believe on yill a of finding a creative

awini caluminies nad been hurled, he could not believe so ville, so fiendish a creature. From Chetwynd Chase be had wandered aim-lessly westward; while in Chicago, he had picked up a London paper, and casually read the advertisement of the "charming Miss Wyndham."

266 With pseuliar force, the similarity of a part of the name had occurred to him. His one ob-ject in him was to hearn from Barbards own and the second of the second second second abide; this might be she; at any rate sho was as upper a well follow this imaginary thread in the dreadful langles are any. Bo he sailed for layerpool, and arrived in from our walls beats provide to the tragely. Frimes of Wasie Enhoster, and learned the ad-dress of Mrs. Ethel Wyntham, and was wonder-layer and scanning eyes, had come the part of the second the beard. The very moment he passed her door, with histories and the heavy ful, and the infants to write a documing eyes, had come the part of the tragedy. The very that a plance the and side. Y dia with a pollociman, he entered the room, in time to see, but powerlass to provent, the torrible comparing of the tragedy. The notes that a plance to be the avertifi-tion of the tragedy. The second that a plance to more bitm the avertifi-trading of the tragedy. He should the the the first second takeous of the strength the more the second takeous of the strength the more the second takeous of the strength the second the second takeous of the strength the second the second takeous of the strength the second the second the second takeous of the strength the second the second takeous of the strength the second to be found takeous of the strength the second the second takeous of the stren

to him. His heart was bursting with anguish as he kneit beside the ill-starerd pair; little did he dream how fearfully their row had been kept, although made in mockery by the one, and earnest by the other, that "Death alone should part them?"

part therein" The crowd stood back a moment, awed by his story sorrow, as he softly smoothed her bright hair, and cheed her hervity ished cyn-tropic hair and the store of the softly softly and gested him to retire, he mechanically walked for the craids, where little Constanzia kay, in terri-fiel atlance, her brown eyes raised in pitzons; withit antiverty, her ting hips quivering with dread

fresh pang of anguish thrilled his very t-strings. Barbara's child—and perhaps heart-strings. De

No, he would not harbor the thought. She was dead now, as well past any more sinning as repenting. As he stood there, looking at the baby and

As the islow there, looking at the laby and hardly seeing it, came the passing thought of how different the home at Clarkwynd Chase Uought suddenly suffocated him. Blanche's child! Might it not be Blanche's of a verity' be Laurian was supposed to have abducted li-and there lay De Laurian, dead. and there lay De Laurian, dead. Blanche's child, and communicated his su-picious to the officer. Grace said the child was draw Wyndhardre as far as abe knew, and that then Sch. The officer frogaric if there was any package

The officer inquired if there was any package of clothes anywhere that the actress took spe-cial care off

cial cars of i Grace said there was; a bundle locked up in a drawer that han never was allowed to open Sbe had eeen Mrs. Wyrndhaum oftan have it, but beyond the glimpee of something blue sho did not know what it contained. The drawer was broken open, mider the effi-ors' directions, and the package given to Mr.

cer's directions, and the package given to Mr. Catvernd. Catvernd. Catvernd. In a constraint of the second has I am surger that child is my covering, I will describe its can-bends an advertised. There will be a blue silk salk, fringed at the ends; an embroridered mul-ter indication of the second second second the initials for Constancia Chetwynd blue 'the The package was opened, and Mr. Chetwynd's list found complete, while, as though the 'the first as all second second second second second first as all second will be the second second second second second first as all second diverse from dervised be Laurian. The diverse from dervise be Laurian. The second to be presented second seco "Balore

He secured the services of the colored wom He securit the services of the coorder woman, forace, and took immediate passage home, hav-ing seen the last rites performed over the re-mains of the beautiful woman, who, with her headiong passions, her flery temper, had inher-ited, to a terrible fatality, first. "disknor, then deservice, and finally death, the Curse of Chetwynd Chase

The first gathering shades of Christman Forwares were failing over Clastwyni Chain lights Christwid Gyber up the leafless avanue to the home he wisi going to bless, but from which he light at the rightness was forever field for him. Rapidly the carriage containing its previous leafled force up, and realised in at the front en-

Bidding Grace remain where she was until he backnowl, Rozsprung out and wont up the steps, hour, and without any trouble he made his way to the diamic room, where he supposed the fami-ly were at dimer. He was not mistaken; they were at dimer, and he was in their midts before any one saw and he was in their midts before any one saw

him

him. The greetings were quict, but full of love anarrows, he sturned to Blanche. "I have brunned to Blanche." "I have brunght you a Christmas present; you will accept iff" A wan little suntis overed for a moment on A wan it is sufficient overed for a moment on a strain the sufficient overed for a moment on a strain the sufficient overed for a moment on a strain the sufficient overed for a moment on the sufficient overed for a moment of the sufficient over the sufficient over the sufficient over a strain the sufficient over the sufficient

happy once more." A shade crossed his face as he answered very

A shade crosses are gently: gently: Christmas gift. I will tail you once for all, that Barbara is dead, and Gervasis De Laurian also alsops his hast sleep. I saw them both. When, or where, or how, never shall cross my lips, Got willing. All it ask is, never mention it to mean the scalar statement of the statement of the mean statement of the statement of the scalar statement of the scala

A solemn awe-struck silence fell on them; and God only knows the feeling of their hearts as they sat there, not crushed, but sorely hurt by the blow.

by the blow. "But let us cast aside gloomy thoughts. The past can not be recalled; and I am going to give Blanche her Ciristmans present." He went to the window and beckneel to of her burden. With rapid, irregular steps he crossed the room to Hanche, who, with sudden, excited manner, had risen from her chair. "O'h, Ract-Ract.-" Her eager question, it havings an Ract crossed the room to her, and had the similar, beautiful bay in her arms—her arms, her very own!

We leave them to their rapturous cestasy on that never-to-be-forgotten Christmas Eve, when, by the same Hand that led Blancho through or some same mand that led Blancho through such raging waters, she was brought to a great glorious light that never was dimmed again by the shadow even of "The Curse of Chetwynd Chase." Chase

THE END.

DREAM, MY BABY.

A CRADLE-SONG

BY SHEN E. REXFORD, Author of "Silver Threads Among the Gold."

Mother's baby, rock and rest; Little birds are fast salesp; Close benasth bar mother's itenset, Close binasth bar mother's itenset, Close withing, mother sings, Close within the mother sams, Fold thy little, unfledged wings, Safe from any rode alarms, Sweet, my baby, on my breast, Dream you hapyg flowms of res

a of reat

Bream your happy aroans of res Sweet, my baby, from the nest, Little birds will some day fly To the East, and to the West, Wild their prestry wings to try. But if nest, my bird, or far, Never can you find the spot, Unders the mother-love is not. When the mother-love is not. Befrain-Sweet, my baby, etc.

Hefrain-Sweet, my baby, etc. Oh, my baby, mother prays, As abe clasps you closer still, All sweet bings, for coming days, And pot any earthly iii. Alwary, oblig, remember this, Mother's heart is warm and true, And she tells you with a kiss, There'll be always room for you. Befrain-Sweet, my baby, otc.

WOOED.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

You say you love me, and your clasping fingers Enfold my hand; yet all the time I feel Another's touch, which thrills me while it lingers, And wakes again the grief I would conceal.

Thear you speak; but from another whispers His words of love, so low and sweet, to me, as when we heard the night-wind chanting vespers, So long ago, beside the mournful sea.

bo jong ago, nearbo two housing of eas. I see your faces, while thinking of another's, Whose eyes are tender with the love he knows. Ob, sweet blue blossoms, bidden under grasses, Beneath the coveriet of whiter snows!

Denegati his correction of the mark more in A h friend, I would not, if I could, deceive you; I cannot love you as you sak me to! My heart is mine no more; I cannot give you The boon for which a lover comes to woo.

The point is in a grave which dead leaves cover-A low, green grave, beside the far-of see, Where sleeps my lost one, who was once my lover, And sleeping there, I know he dreams of me.

THE SECRETS OF THE ROSE.

Vot. 1

BY MARIE & LADD.

"O rose, sweet rose, who knows, who knows If my lover be false or krue," A maiden cried; "if love abide Who knows, fair rose, but your" At my latice be breakes, in tender lay, Words that are dearer than I can say, Old words, yet forever new.

A fragrant sigh to the maiden nigh, 1 breathed from my petals wide: "Bloving Bearst, I cannot impart If good or ill betide-True or fake, I can nover tell, The years that pass with pean or knell May leave yod, or not, his bride."

Gi

"The very tree that hardored me Has parted oft with a flowor Givon or sent, a token lent To further a loving hour; The hour, oftlimes, has passed along, And love was proved but an idle song To trill in a lady's bower.

And yet I know a rose that alow

- "And yot i know a rose that how Imparts the pertune sweet, Guarded with care, by a lady lair, As the type of a full to complete, And the years that have passed since first she That present ose to her troubled breast Have teen happy as they were fleet.

"At lattice or gate, then, hasts or wait, While the hour wild love is rife. And dress your dream, by the stars that gleam, For it is but once in life. And the tender words that fall from his lip, Like next ar distilled, like a goldness sip, Though yeu may be, or not, his wife."

NAMELESS LOVE.

BY MATTIE DYER BRITTS.

Oh, is there no name for a feeling like this-No word for emotion like mine?

- No word for emotion like mine? Cannot the most delicate (accy that is, The depths of affection define? It cannot be friendailp-on, that is too cold— And love is so often of earth, and kindles the queltest on shrines made of gold— But this is of heavenly birth.
- Duting in the work of the sum of high pooe, Wildo accurbing where's he may film, Wildo accurbing where's he may film, and noise of these foolings are write. No, this is affection as pure as a dore, As work as to such are called and Bar work as to such are called and Bar work as to such are called and Bar work as to such are called and bore and bore shall find it a mane?

BARTERED.

BY HENRI MONTCALM.

So shand wo here just as one year ago We shood upon this beach. Three selfsamp aces Cheret up to kins your feet; this same damp brease Toyad with your hair as it is doing now. One little year! Oh, Godi that is do come and found yeu here Unanhanged as these!

For I am true. Were all tre said unspoken, Thick yes I love the less because in valid spins? Thick yes I love the less because in valor the Though the dear bond that fettered mo is broken, Bill by this silver sea. With youder moon to mediate for me, I ask the chain.

Got you are not the same as you were than, Who ones so fond art now so stern and sold. You do not thrill to mest mas of rdd; You are not glad that we are met again. Tou will not look at me,

And yet, how beautiful this fourt see has been To one of us! E'en now methicks i d choese -Though thowing that is bould but hows to less-fo draw you closer to me once again; Just as of old to kins To us how on the one abort bour of blass To bar an age of pain.

Well, be it sol Go sell yoursell for gold. I would not hold You to your feeble yow. Test when there burns upon your perjured how with The unhallowed lise that marks you bought and sold. Of true low slife thing- your heart will blood As mine does now.

But fix your stopy gase upon the sea Calmiy controlled.

ting-place;

What shall be said to night between us two? I have to thank you for this little grace That you have come to the old trysting-place This the last favor i shall sek of you. I could not brook To leave you to him with no parting look Upon your face.

- In the water same it runner is in many it. It brings to may been as foolds of rest-it likeling any barries of sate-it locations every trouble picture! And if, 'mid the birkness our mortal tonghess frame, No word for such fielding is given, Wo'll whiper the angels to lend us a name Andapset in the bingroups of Heavail

LORD LISLE'S DAUGHTER.



Lord Lisle's Daughter.

BY C. M. BRAEME.

CHAPTER I.

14

THE COTTAGE IN THE LANE.

CHAPTER I. THE COTTAGE IN THE LANE. As actist might have sketched Deepdale as the model and type of an English village. It hide thealt under the spreading shade of sall pleasat partone synchic synchronic synchronic synchronic pleasat partone synch is quick, varied charm, pleasat partone synch is quick, varied synch who divel in Deepdule—far behind the rest who divel in Deepdule—far behind the rest The weather and the crops were their work. Strangers soldom came near the village, the anilway had no broken quor its transqui calan. The houses quot not broken quor its transqui calan. The houses quot of cottages stood under the all popal reses quother in the midt of dower theore, bart hidden by huxminst foliage. Perhaps the most juctures que spot in Deepdale was Meqdow Lane, one of these broad green ince only seen in England; the bardes field variant is clear, england; ple clear the bardes field variant is clear, england; ple clear the bardes field variant is clear, england; ple clear the bardes field variant is clear, england; ple clear and wild hower se growing in clear, england; ple clear and wild hower se growing in the potentiate.

with who roses and eganatics, nawthorn trees perfuming the clear, summer air, and wild flow-ers growing in rich profusion. A little cottage shood at the end of the lane. Claude Lorraine would have made a grand pio-ture of it. A little cottage, with bright win-dows encircled by guelder roses and woodbines;

thre or it. A little contage, with neight win-coult be oblic jamine flowers show illue pale-stars. A group of tail chestruit brees stood near, and a preity brook ran singing by: On this evening, when our story opens, a young lady arrivel at Deeplale. She came from some neighboring bown, in a shalby-a little child. The driver, obeying the lady's directions, inquired tor Mrs. Hivers, of Ros-mary Cottage and some of the village yeeple, attracted and half-dazzied by the fly, shalby as it was, showed the way to the cottage in Mc blook Lame. But our the correspondence of the structure on the cottage of the simple of the direction of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the simple of the simple of the schedule of the simple of the sis

ox tue canis in nor arms. "Tell me," she said, gently, "how long you a wait. Give me as much time as you can." "I must be back by eleven, if possible," he can wait.

replied. "Then I will be at the inn by ten," she said, turning from him, and clasping the child in her arms. She walked quickly down the green lane;

A LAST EMBRACE .- Page 27.

then site say down upon the truths of an old free, and gazed around her. Based around here: Based around here: Based around here in the same stirred and she based over it. Kinsing the itilite face with a wintral love pitful to see: then she placed the child for a for minutes standing by hor side. "This will be not daring here." Here such "Based around the side around the same "State will be not daring here." The same side "Ness'evel same standing the includic then she ress, took up her previous treasure, and walked on to the cotage, and gantly rapped at the door. If an expected out with highly blancking we subostood there.

man, who chere the same said. "Can it, "I never believed it," she said. "Can it, really be you, Miss Margaret? I thought the news too good to be true. "It was quite true, nu

news too good to be true." "It was quite true, nurse. I could not loave my darling in any care but yours." Mrs. Rivers took the child from the lady's arms, and placed a large chair for her. "I have not long to stay," said the fair young visitor; "let me keep baby in my arms while I

¹⁰ That you shall," replied Mrs. Rivers, gently; "That you shall," replied Mrs. Rivers, gently; "it is hard enough for you. Ab, Miss Marga-ret! I call you 'Miss' still. I cannot remem-ber that you are a marriel lady, with a baby i your own. It is not long since I nursed

YOD." "Not so very long," was the repty; "but I have lived many lives since then." As the halfy spoke, a look of pain passed over her lovely features. "All my other troubles seen like play, nurse," the continued, "in concarison with the parting of A surfare most of two restruction to the parting of A surfare most of two restructions."

A sudden mist of tears gathered in her eyes

as she spoke. as she spoke. "Caim yourself," said the nurse. "I will make you some tea, and then you shall tell me your stavy." While Mrs. Rivers busied herself in preparing.

While Mrs, Rivers busied bersaff in proparing thea, the dark sat with the child in liter arms. She hild her fair young face on the little golden for the same sate of the sate of the sate of the forgetten by who can who beact them. The western sunbeams came in rat the open window; but they brought no message of hope for her, whose heart was sad even unto death. She tried to drink the task kind hands brought

Since angle to arrive the test shift addition provides here, but the boundly cakes, the golden housy, and ripe-fruit, Mrs. Rivers offened her in vain. "Now, nay dear," said the nurse, when the simple meal ended, "come out into the garden. You shall, sit under the laburrunn tree while you

You shall six under the laboratum free while you tell me all about it—where your husband has gone—why you karo you can trast me.³ As the spoke, the nurse placed a chair cutatie the porch, and then sated herself by the lady's side; and the child, as though knowing how you those teacher arms musc loose their hold, have the state of the state of the loss of the bold of the spoke of the state of the loss of the bold of the spoke of the state of the lady have "You lest my futher's horse when he failed; he did not live long after that. My mother took

me to London, and put me to school there. She died when I reached my fiftcenth year, and I was left quite alone. I wrote to you sometimes; but with that one exception there was no Im-man being who took any interest in me. My

mun being who book any interest in me. My father's friends, who curvel, ine when he was rich, forgot my existence, even. "Auto before my modifier's douth, sho placed in relation for the lessons I gave. I was tanget in relation for the lessons I gave, I was tanget and the state of the state my first situation as governmess. It was conditioned a very good at the children, who resides as Hurst Hall, the Norfolk. "A state of the state of the state ing skey I could not put to music the song of the bird; nor can I describe the dois away my hus-ame over my flow who may father failed and client. After that, my first state relation, and its A for that, my first state and the rescent backpusses of young prints, I known nothing, and does a force that one evening. A my how were dist of the thirty that one were ingressed on the sched-ower that the state one evening. I had done something that did not please my hows not the scheder state that the scheder have have have were fail or not; but one evening. A my how have made a spreader stagely to my cone vening. I had done something that did not please my hows. Scheder my have, and the please of young prints. I known hold how something that did not please my hows. Scheder my hows. The state the scheder have have hold hows. I went out into the garvier, had heat hold have the heat were the state on the scheder have hold have my have hold have the heat have hold have my have hold have have hold have hold have have hold have heat have hold have have hold have heat have hold have hold have ha oone sometiming and into the prease arrs. Sector, and she spoke angrity to me. When the chil-dren had gone to bed, and my time was my own, I went out into the garden: -4, had been asked to train some choice rose-trees, and as: boit over the roses, the tears fall from my eyes upon the flowers

and the down in the set is the from my equal with the downers. If the down full of bitms, new, that boyless that set is the solution of the set is the solution set is the solution of the set is the solution of the solut

tired on the interval explicit, 'but, it was "Hencottic,' that hield for styring such brave, noble words, I can nown reast in such as a fast he howers gave forth a sweeter fragmank this the howers gave forth a sweeter fragmank this heaving the same of the gray and dull. I lived in a rese-colored dram-a golden light at fails over me, and drazed myses. "Nurse, I cannot tall you my husbandis then, I shall keep no secret from you has that promised him, and I must keep my.

A look of great anxiety came over Mrs.

All look of great anxiety came over Mrs. "It in the second secon anguna co-morrow. will you take charge of my child for three years. I will reward you handsomely at the end of that time, when I shall return, and make some further arrange-ments. What do you say, nurse? Will you un-dertake the trust?

CHAPTER II.

A MOTHER'S GOOD-BY.

A MOTHER'S 4000-BT. There was a moment of mbroken silence when the lady ceased speaking, and the woman by hor side answered gravely, "I accept the charge, my dear. I will take care of blees and a start of the second second blees and a start of the second blee

The pale, sweet face brightened as she spoke. 'You, too, have a little daughter," she con-ned. "Where is she? Will you let me see The pal tinued.

her?" "I have a pretty child," said Mrs. Rivers; "and, Miss Margaret, I named her after you, but we call her 'Rita.' My poor husband used to say Margaret was too long for every-day use. She is gone to one of my neighbors. I will fetch her?"

her." In a few minutes the woman returned, lead-ing by the hand a beautiful child of four years old—a child Murillo would have been charmed with; dark in features and eyes, with black, shining hard constraing in histo waves upon her pretty abcultors; ips as the work would be ines, and little white bedth that gleamed like

pearls. The lady cried out in admiration when she saw her, and a look of gratifiel vanity stole "AA," said the nurse, "may little Rits is very pretty; but I look upon beauty as a 'fatal dower." What has it done for you, Nies Mar-garet, my dearl-and there for you, Nies Mar-garet, my dearl-and there for you. Nies Mar-ber on the said there is not like on the said the s

you." "No," replied the lady. "My hair and eyes are dark; her little curis are like pale gold; her eyes are blue as a summer sky. I do not know whether dhers would form the same opinion as whether dhers would form the same opinion as

whether others would form the same option as it, but, to me, she has an angolf scae." She them reised her own child in her arms. The little girl was nearly there years old, and a greater contrast to the dark-feedured little could not have been found. She was small, but of little limb was most excutisical have sketched for a child laphaie over with golden curits; a fair, spiritual face, bearing even, then

an impress of high-bred refinement; delicate white arms and hands, fair as a illy, and ex-quisitely shaped. As the lady held the child, she kissed the sweet face with a passionate love pitiful to see.

platnit to see. "We are three Margarets," she said, with a smile. "You must call my darling 'Daisy', nurse-dhe looks like a pretty pale flower-'Daisy Howard," and some time I will surprise her by giving her a name far prettier than that -her own. Rita, you will be kind to Daisy, will you not?" will you not?"

The two children played upon the grass to-ether, while the lady, in rapid, nervous words, ontinued her instructions.

sne said. "As soon as I reach India, Nil send you more. Spare no expense over my child Let her be distinity dressed and cared for. I have had a portrait taken of her-three, in fact, night, or to-morrow, before leaving, I will send you the other." 'I have brought you forty pounds, nurse 'said. " As soon as I reach India, I will sen

night or to morrow before heaving, I will send you he other." There was a sharp ring of pain in the ladys token as the continued: "I have a looket for her. It contains her father's hair and mine when bein historic." And have a looket for her it contains the father's hair and mine the night before he went. It is of rare pearing into a will passion of weight, "I have a looket for her it ho not let her forget me, Morning and her it ho not let her forget me, Morning and her it ho not let her forget me, Morning and her it ho not let her forget me, Morning and her it ho not let her forget me, Morning and her it ho not let her forget me, Morning and her it horing mother of ar away." "That she shall do, "said the aurre, genity." "Three years will soon pass," said the sal young mother. "But I know, now, what peo-le suffer when they come to die. Death can "You will see her again," said Mr, Rivers, gendty," and she will soon learn to be happy." "Happy without me?" sighed the lady. "But there presees. Let me have her to myself, aurse, for one half-hour. I must leave you before is her mitted the pretty forurant carlien. whose

for one half-hour. I must leave you before the particle the precty fragmant gardan, where her foed were never more to tread, and followed the nurse into a little bedroom. A white bed, with white hangings, stood there, and the lady her by it, holding the child in her arms. "Takie care of her, ye heavenly guardinas"; her orice, "it's reads my beart to leave her, sevent face to her over, "shall you forget mel-ter my kiese lie varm on your lips. Lock at no. Let my face sink into your herat. I shall tool the origot of your tender hands-beart stays with you. I call your pretty volce, and the sound of your footsteps. My beart stays with you. I call you heaven to guard my little child while I am away?" Her warm, heurs rained upon the we golden

guard my little child while I am away!" Her warn tours rained upon the wee golden head, and then she began to murmur sweet, carressing words, such us only loving mothers use. The child's eyes closed, and she laid it down upon the white bed. Just then the nurse came once more to the

door

oor. "It is growing late, my dear," she said. "My baby is asleep," replied the lady; "I ill leave her now." She bent over the little face, and for the last will le

Successful over the intue inco, and for the last time pressed her quivering lips fervently upon it. "Good-by, my darling—good-by, my pretty little child!" she moaned, as she quitted the room. "Do not speak to me, nurse; the bitter-ness of death is upon me—my heart is break-

ness of densar is upon an information of the source of the second second We will be source of weeping passed over, and the pake wild face grow still. They spoke no word while the elder woran wrapped the thin shawl round the childish figure. "Shall I go with you, my dear, to the inn?" as adad, sently.

"Shall 1 go wish you, my seen the she saked, gently. "No; do not leave the children," replied the lady: "I thall be better alone." She bent her head on the nurse's shoulder, then kissed her face, with lips so white and cold, they startled her old friend. She said nothing; startled her old friend. She said nothing;

they startlied her old friend. She said nothing: her sorrow was too deep for words. "Tell me what ship you sail im?" asked Mrs. Rivers. "Our doctor has all the grand papers, and he will know when it reaches India." "It is called the Ocean Queen," replied the lady: "it sails to-morrow. Ishall write to you by every main, nurse, and you must do the same dence will, I shall return, and she will not have forgotten me.

"She will not forget you, my dear; she will be your face every night in her dreams," said Irs. Rivers. "God speed you, and send you

see your face every night in her dromans" said Mrs. Rivers. "God speed you, and send you back to us in safety." The lady lingered for a few minutes near the cottage-door, longing to look once more at the sleeping child; but, as she stood, the church-clock chimad the hour of ten, and she turned with rapid steps to walk down the lane. She could weep alone there, and call her baby's mans. There was no more need to repress the bitter porrow—he sighs and tears that could not be controlled.

The last memory that lived with the sad young mother was of the star-life sky and the fragrant green lane. She walked on rapidly; and having reached the little inn, where the carriage was waiting for her, she immediately took her de-

writing for her, she immediately took for de-parture. . On the following day, the postmen brought a post of the following day, the postmen brought a opened it, and crief out with delight at the pretty picture it contained. "Daisy portrait." IS—" The picture of a sweetly pretty little ing over with golden crief. More was a long letter, containing many directions, one of which was that the golden crief. Mould not be cut, but and an even the strengthener with the post of the method of the strengthener with the strengthener with the the Bible tree to the figure perturbation and, reach-ing the strengthener with placed if there with the the Bible from the shell placed if there with

. Mrs. Rivers took the little portrait, and, reaching the Bible from the shelf, placed it there with the letter. Nothing warned her, as she did so, that, by this simple act, she was in some measure shaping the destay of three lives. Both letter and picture lay there for many years; they were not seen again until the night when the fact set of the strong store. It have a strong store it and one of strong store.

Daisy and Rifa trembled in the balance. [Iwas a strange story, but one hears of stran-ger every day. Sixteen years ago, Margaret Howard, as she called herself, was the petted, indulged heiress of Stephen Arle, a rich mer-chant, who lived in one of the southern counties of England. Susan Rivers was her nurse, and very dearly did she love the pretty child of whom she had charge.

During all these years, Susan Rivers never lost sight of her mistress and little Margaret. The sign of her instress and has dimagare. She went occasionally to see them, and was not happy or contented unless she heard, at stated times, from them. But Susan married soon after Mrs, Arle died, and went away to Deep-dalo. She married her cousin, a handsome, dark-eyed sailor, who had loved her for many years. Margaret wrote to tell her old nurse she was

married, and again when her baby was born; but Susan Rivers had cares and sorrows of her own. Her husband died, and she mourned long for him. He left a little fortune behind him-fust sufficient to keep his wife and child in com-fort.

ber aumente to keep int wire and entit in compare, When the nurse heard again from Margaret, it was to ask if she would take charge of her child, the result of which has been detailed. When Captain Arthur's wire set sait with a locan Queen, see one in the world knew to whom also had confided has itils daughter, except Mrs-want in her buse. Mrs. Marcham was sorry to issue the gentle young mistress, who had been so kind to her; bus the was going to juin her brother in America. She left England he day after the Ocean Queen sailed for India. The tragtcal story of Lord Links daughter, market in the young with the was done for the day after the Ocean Queen sailed for India. The tragtcal story of Lord Links daughter Markham versioned in England, it would never have been written.

Markham venaiaed in England, it would never the Decover with the ought there wou d be pierty of time wiles the reached India for the there was a second the second the second the pierty of time wiles the reached India for the pierty house at Deepdals, where sub had left The Markon many seconds: one of them is, how the Ocean Queen was lost. It sailed from England with more than two hourdred scale on lossift, and a valuable cargo. It was wrecked to write the second of the interpiert of the second lossift, and a sub the second of the second lossift and a sub the second of the second of the lossift and the second of the nighty deep was used to the second of the second of the second driving winds had sent the vessel to its ruin. No one heart the second of the second of the stated driving winds had sent the vessel to its ruin. No one heart the face, turved in nuits application to the darkling sky; one where last last with a sreat, sed there was never more to be the second of a brave combinement the was never memory the second of the darkling sky; one where last memory was

of a brave countenance she was never more to of a brave countenance see was never more to see; of a childsb volce she was never more to hear; of a little golden head never more to be pillowed on her breust; of a sunny garden where so lately she had sat with the child in her arms; of the fragrant green hand and the star-lit night

of the fragrant green iand and the star-lit high when he had wert aload for the little one who was never to call her mother again. It was long before the loss of the Ocean Queen was known in England or in India. To Captain Arthur Wyverne, lying ill under the burning an, longing for the wife whose presence would bring him new life, it proved almost a death-blow. But sorrow and despair were unavailing waves chanted a requisen over the wind and perished with the ill-lated vessel.

CHAPTER III. DAISY.

THE news reached Deepdale at last. The day THE news reached Deepdale at last. The day came when the good nurse's friend, the doctor, called upon her and showed her the paragraph in the paper that told how the Ocean Queen was lost, and in what latitude the Trident found some portion of the wreck floating on the ocean. It esement incredible to Mrs. River that one whom she had thendry nurses and loved should have much with so tragicol a fate; that the bright, hop-ful if a should end in the springible of

beauty. She took little Daisy in her arms, and promised she would take her methor's place, and the little one smiled at her kisses and tears, all unconscious of the loss no earthly love could ever repair.

ever repair. Months rolled on, and no tidings came to Mix. Rivers. No case wrote about the child, no one channed is. There or the their sea there does not a search of the search of the Months became years, and the silence was still unbroken. Is be outid not write to Dalsy's father, for she knew nothing of his name or ad-frees. At leagth Mix. Rivers fell sure that one of two things had happened. Either the mar-riage had not been a legal oue, and the Captain neither wished or intended to claim his child, or

neither wished or intended to claim his child, or lew ras dead, and no one cloic know of it. When two years had passed away, the good any one, or of having to give up the child she loved denriy as her own. She never agole to little Disky of the sad young mother agole to little Disky of the sad young mother he holt ndian akiss. Daixy, who never forgot the word, called the nurse "Mamma," and was at times she used hersal? was this allower with brought up as one of Susan ruvers own churden. At times sho asked hersoff was this silence wise, and one look at the child's happy face con-vinced her it was so. Why disturb the sweet, happy content by speaking of hopes and draams that might never be realized? Daisy was hapschool herself, where she had received a plain, sensible education. She spoke well and gram-matically. Quick to learn, she had caught up the refined tone and accent of her mistress. Listening to Rits and Daisy, one felt sure they

the refined tone and accent of her mistress. Listening to Kilk and Daky, one foll sure they had been accustomet to speak with intelligent both were gifted with muscled volce—Hints, rich, clear, and ringing; Dakys, sweet as the nurmar of the sommer wind. "The house left to Mys, Rivers was known as most the source wind." The house left to Mys, Rivers was known as most the source wind. The house left to Mys, Rivers was known as most the source wind. The house left to Mys, Rivers was known as most the source with the group of trees, wherein the rooks, for many long years, had upon as a nost respectable woman—not admis-sible anongst the "genty" of Quesn's Lynne, shib anongst the "genty" of Quesn's Lynne, sha anongst household it we assometimes hard work to pay her way and provide all that was wanted for the two young girls. The yours passed over, and no word is we anno school; havy were hold quick, and harmed rap-idly; tut there was a great dilference in their notives. Daiy loved study for its own sake. Rita looked upon it as a means to an end. "They did not presenble each other in any way.

illa looked upon it as a means to an end. They did not resemble each other in any way, asse two who believed themselves to be sisters. a describing Rita, people always called her boautiful," in speaking of Daisy, one invaria-+1"I used to dream, when I was quite a little girl, about that same face," said Dasy, "years ago, before we left Deepdale; "and I dream of it still. It grows more vague and indistance though, and seems to smile more saily every time the investment till more fit before".

time the dream comes." "Why did you never tell me of it before?" "I cannot tell. I heard you say so often that dreams were all nonsense," she replied; "but I must have seen the picture of such a face ame time

time." It was quite possible that the child still dreamod of her mokler. She was userly three years old when hat mokler left her, to find death in the deep sea. The dream might year death in the deep sea. The dream might year still remain a the child relation of the still waits in the child relation of the still beaus. hours. The

question made Nurse Rivers again ask herself whether she ought to tell the young girl the true story of her life. "Not yet," she said -"not yet: There will be tears enough, and sorrow enough, in the days to come. I will net

sorrow effough, in the skyst to come. I will new watch har you? itseen an effor vues make When bary you an effort was make the structure of the structure of the structure hard superintendont of a large schoul in Queen's Lyman struck with her lady like demeanor, mod-et manner, and quuck intelligence, offer ber a situation as junior bascher in her school. In place of sairry, sho was to receive isokon an



'I WILL MAKE YOU SO HAPPY, MY DANLING," HE SAID .- PRge 30.

py, loving Mrs. Rivers as her mother, and the beautiful, vivacious Rita as her sister. So Dais grew-all unconscious of her own

provides a set of the set of the

there were schools, where, at a moderate rate, it was possible to procure a really good and sound education for her children. She wished them both to be well educated and lady-like. Whatever might be Daisy's future, she ought to receive the best training she could afford her: receive two test training and could allow here then if ever she were chained by those who had a right to her, she could take her place among them without shause. As for filtas, she gave promise of such magnificent beauty, that her mother began to form aublidous hopes and Mrs. Rivers had been for years at a good

bly characterized her as "sweet." She had a by characterized ner as "sweet. She had a fair, spiritual face, with calm, clear brows, and tender violet eyes, full of truth and purity; her pure, sensitive lips had a smilo sweet as a sun-beam; her golden hair rippled over white dim-pled shoulders; there was an air of graceful, high bred refinement about her that did not be-

high-bred refinement about her that did not be-long to the more bountiful Rits. In Dairy. She lowed her adopted mother, quite believing eith was her own. She was proved of her brilliant state, and perfectly astiefled with her station of Lie, She had no longing for rich dresses and Lie, She had no longing for rich dresses and She never fell jealous or envious when the Lyno Gacette told of gay balls and rices in which she had no share. The world, as yet, had not never quickbard her pulse, or flughed her face.

fouched net--us warm, passionate oreatin nan never quickoned her pluse, or fitshad her face. There was one thing about her that good Mrs. Rivers would fain have seen altered--that was, a quiet gravity, that at times almost amounted to sadness. At times, too, Daisy startled her nurse.

"Mother!" she said one morning, suddenly; "have I ever seen in my life a lady with a beautiful though saf face, and mournful, loving eyes? I dream so often of such a face, I must have seen it."

Mrs. Rivers was more startled than she cared to own

"I cannot tell, my dear," she replied.

FRge of a second sec Our ways in life will neve aisy," said the young beauty. ambit

So Daisy went to Miss Toffles, thereby, in some measure, scaling her own fate. The school was some three miles distant, and she was al-Was some three mules distant, and sho was al-lowed to so home only at stated intervals. There she quickly learned all that Miss Toffles could teach. When Daisy reached ber nine-teamth year, she was both educated and accoun-pliched, and Mrs. Rivers booked with proud sat-isfaction upon the girl whom she loved dearly as her own child.

CHAPTER IV.

RITA.

DNE lovely evening, toward the end of Au-gust, a young girl walked slowly down the long with the slow start. Far out in the distance shy the brightow start. Far out in the distance gentle murnur, and fell with a musical ripple; the sixy was all aflance with besuitiful colors but neither the beauty of color or sound made any impression upon the young girl. Naver music of wind and waves. music of wind and waves

Yet that countemance should have belonged to

one capable of approximiting both. It is addom inch worklow in volume is in any, r. force or inch worklow is brokings in any r. force or inch worklow is brokings in a sec. It is belonged rather to the daughters of smmy Spain. It was a face to bat draw all eyes and charmed all hearts—so bright and glowing, so piquant d charming. Such hearty might have been and charming. Such hearty might have been had invihed it upon Ars. Hvere only child have a second the second second second had invihed it upon Ars. Hvere only child hearty the high-bred at or refinement that charming have shown to an inordinate de-gree on Ris was prout to an inordinate de-gree on the was proved to an inordinate de-gree of her beauty. A vain longing for riches and grandour consumed her. She longed for all that weath can procure—for rich dresses and couly jevel. All the she on in stein-1-she could but go among the gay and fashionable. There was no so in holds to compare with her. What was the use of such a face and, such a figure if also very to live always unknown at There was no one in looks to compare with her. What was thus use of such a face and, such a What was thus use of such a face and, such a "Hock's Nest" If sub could but once gain ad-"Hock's Nest" If sub could but once gain ad-red for bearty; so, at least, romances aid. Who could tail what might be in store for her introduce in the great world. these would so it is the fact in the state of the sub-tive to be one of the quenes of that gay world where she longed to shine! All these thoughts rushed through the vain, worldly heart of Rita as she strolled that sum-are way into give the sub-strong the sub-or sub-or sub-tion of sub-tion of sub-tion of the sub-tion of the sub-strong the sub-tion of the sub-tion of the sub-strong the sub-tion of the sub-strong the sub-tion of the sub-strong t

sion. Mrs. Rivers did not understand her own child. Mrs. Rivers did not understand her own child. She looked wistfully sometimes at the proud girl, and thought how her life was wasted in the solitude of "Rooks' Nest." But of the dreams and aspirations—the hopes and longings that filled her daughter's heart—she knew noth-

ing. A change came at last for Margaret Rivers not love—at least, not love in its highest, holiest sense of the word; but there came a break in the monotony of her life.

the monotony of her life. One morning, as size was walking from her home to Queen's Lynne, she met a handsome young man, with one of the few young girls she knew. All three want to Queen's Lynne to gener; and, during that walk, list hall that oncerned Halph Ashton. He was first-mater and, although young, there was no may see the concerned Ralph Ashton. He was a first-mate; and, although young, show was no one so the coast so skillfal or so trustworthy as he. Ho had visited; of pold easily expred and lavishly gent; of would that he might accommuted the only cared to do so. Then Rits looked at him. Rich-he might be rich, if he had any motive for saving and mak-

16.1, if all but in a second state of the s

He interrupted her cagerly. "So you ought to do-so you will," he said. "All that is fairest and brightest in this world ought to be laid at your feet. Ah, if it were but mine".

"Elia called, but the words sunk deeply rino ber heart. She mets Ralph Ashton again and again—sometimes on the shady high road, and sometimes by the seavehore. Reh besdeal little sometimes by the seavehore. Reh besdeal little and elsever; if the secrets of deep sease vere known to him, and he could trade upon them, it was possible statis in time her nights be rich, and people spoke strangely of him, and hinted at ange cargoes run in during the dead of night, and prophesied that Ralph Ashton's momey would never do him any good. But Rita head-love that had mastered him, and brought him a size to her ford. Rita smiled, but the words sunk deeply into

love that had mastered him, and brought him a slave to her fost. No one word did she ever say to her mother of Daiay relative to this strange lover, with his dark, handsome face and musical volves. This dark handsome face and musical volves. This him, and she had one heaving the row mother speak of him as an adventurer. She met him, to because she liked him, but because she liked the fattery of his love. It was pleasant to sig on the shore, while he told her of the time what where she would be looked upon as a queen-how he would work for her, foll for her, slave for her until every wish of her heart was grati-ted. fied.

And when he, loving her with all the strength of his wild nature, asked her to be his wife, she did not promise at first, but she did not refuse.

She wanted time to consider; and as the monot-onous weeks passed on, and nothing happened, ale began to think that marrying Ralph Ash-ton was the wisset thing she could do. He promised to take her far away from these parts. Whether he believed himself that he could ac-

Whether he balleved himself that he could accomplish all he promised to do, no one can say; but sho balleved it, because sho wished it. have considered its because show should be the have considerability allow from smugging ex-pedition, but, in his love for Rita, ho was sin-cere and horset. And when, one summer even-ing, after much pleading, the haughty lips multed, and said " Yos," gomine tears fell from his eyes

¹¹ I will make you so happy, my darling," he said; "every wish of your heart shall be gratified. You love me, Rita, do you not?" "Yes," she said, gently; 'I love you." But, you so have a sub spoke, her thoughts were busy with the future, and the one haunting question avore substact". A dual while Kalph poured out his love a best were aver again all the dol arguments and reasons that had decided her upon accepting him.

him. Is was arranged between them that nothing should be said at present to Mrs. Rivers. The marriage could not take place for the next year and a haif. In one month Halph was going on a voyage—one that would bring in plenty of money; it was not worth while mentioning the

engagement until that voyage was over. "But you will be true to me, Rita?" said he. "Remember, you hold my life and soul in your hands.

"Refine the second marks and a second mark of the s

ear-drops in your ears." The diamonds were not brighter or more full

The diamonds werea not brighter or more full of fire than the dark eyes missi in multe wonder and startled admiration to his face. "On, Ralph" she said; " how lovely, how "On the startled admiration to his face. She was so pleased, and locked as beautiful in her joy, that Ralph Astton would glady have apriled with all be had, in the works for such a parted with all be had, in the works for such a parted with all be had, in the works for such a parted with all be had, in the works for such a parted with all be had, in the works for such a parted with all be had, in the works for such a parted with all be had, in the works for such a parted with all be had, in the works for such a parted with the thought not, cared not. She never grave one thought to any sacrifice he might have made to procure so locsity a present for her; or of the how that had acti-tication of the such as the such as the such as the work beauty, and how the jewels would in crease ft. ase it.

crease it. Ralph Ashton had but another fortnight to remain in England; and one evening, when the itide was out, and the sam setting, he went to meet Rita on the sands. As the time approached for his departure, something like fear and donth to procession of undustif Rita would be true to him during his abaneous. Site who local use-tith

He began to voulder if Kita would be true to him during his absence. Show who loved wealth, and longed for grandeur—would size ho true if a lover should come with goid and fortunal. A lower should come with goid and fortunal is a constraint of the start of the start of the his dark face. For many months they had met words that would have burned their way to apother heart; but he did ho for fungation that a pother heart; but he did ho for fungation that ever softened for him. "He would see her this versing," he said to himself; "and bind her to him by a vow so solarm, that she, who feared days he had not seen her: "Mex Hiven's lay ill, and her daughter could not lave the house; hut to night abe had promised to come, and he knew to-night she had promised to come, and he knew she would keep her word.

CHAPTER V.

A LOVER. THE evening had come, and Ralph Ashton proceeded to the sea-shore to meet the haughty beauty he so passionately loved, and to bind her, if possible to a vow of constancy, from which she, should never swerve. The tide was out, and the sun was setting behind a red bank of ud

Rita saw her lover approaching; she noted he anxious, depressed look on the face usually

This may be lower approximate the face usually so bright and hopeful. "I had presed look on the face usually still," may mother is still very far from well, but you wanted me, and 1 am here. Tell me quickly what it is—ny time must be short." They as to how upon two large stones, and the revear rolled in dreamily, noiselessly, at their

feet. "I am not happy, Bita," said he. "I wish I could stay near you, you are so enchanting.

Some one is sure to try and steal you from me while I am away There is not much to fear," she replied, with

a smile and a sigh. "Even should it be so," he continued,

"Even should it be so," he continued, "you would be constant to me, would you not, Rifa," There was not a quiver on the proud lips that said, calmly, "Of course I should, Raipb," and her eyes, still bent on the waves, never sought bits.

her eyes, still bent on the waves, never sought his. "Tell me so, in another tone of volce," he refield, "lock me, as though you loved me. It is a terrible thing to win the whole of a man's would be dangerous to deserve me, Rita, my whole life and love lie at your feet. I, who fear nothing – the wildest storm never daunted me-and yet I tremble at one word or look of yours. You are my own, and I am yours; deal gently "fith me-tell me you'ry me." for the passion of his words alarmed her; but he listened in wain for the true ring in that musical voice—it was not there.

listened in vafar for the true ring in that musical voice—it was not there. ... and the state of the state of the state of the outer for balance is and a state of the state without you, Shar, the world would be adreary blank. Were you to die, my daring, I could not survive you. If you deceived me—" "What should you dot" she asked. "I would follow you through the wide would," he said; " and when I found you, as truly as the mwait!"

Bin sets, i would be a set of the "Do not talk in that wild way, Ralph," she

id; "you alarm me." In one moment the fierce look had left his

In one moment the ferce look had lett us face, and he was himself again. "Forgive me, Rita," he said, humbly: "the very thought drives me to despair. You will be true to me—will you not, darling? When you are my wife, I shall be a good man. I must do something for the kind heaven that gives mo unit discusse. It is not only that gives mo unit discusse. It is not only that be and gently with me. I have staked all my life on one throw." with me. throw

When do you go?" she asked. His unusual ousness dismayed her. She was there to

"When do you go?" she asked. His unusual seriousness dismayed her. She was there to listen to praises, not threats. "Any fully full down-more fact, but no change, no cloud came over it; "and you have promised no, Rits, we shall be married on the first week of "D" return"" "D" of the shall be married on the first week of "D" return"."

y word." He looked over the wide sea, and again to the shining sky. "Rita," h

y. he said, suddenly, "I shall bind you wow. You are mine before heaven. "Rita," he said, suddenly, "I shall bind you to me by a vow. You are mine before heaven. Swear to me that you will never care for another, and that, until you die, you will be faithful to me."

faithful to me." She would have hesitated, but there was a look in his face that compelled her to obedience. The bloom faced from her countenance as the repeated after him words so solerm—her whole soil was subdued by their strength. "There," said Kalph Ashton, releasing her hands; "I am quite satisfied. Neither you nor any other woman breaking dare break such an Lorge after Fields Ashton left her Marcarat

Long untra-Rivers and transming by the sear-not of the fibres, structure have a search of the fibres, true loves she hand won-mot of the strong, passionsto heart that hay in the r hand--not of the soul she might help to save, but of the old, could? For the first time that ovening, sho realized wint she had done. Raiph Ashron's hold upon her was for life. He would never let her go. Had she done the best she could? True, the her sould she done the best she could? The realized wint she had done. Raiph Ashron's realized wint she had done. Raiph Ashron's the her sould be the best she could? The her go. Had she done the best she could? The realized wint her done is the best she could? The her go and the start of the she her were to be the same she may be shown for her sever to taink he could repeat the gift. All the visions now. Over and over again hen asked herself if, with her glorious dower of heauty, she had dowe her best. Long after Ralph Ashton left her, Margaret

What her geories doi: to a many first of the mysterious voice of No warning comes in the mysterious voice of the sea, or in the music of the summer night, to tell her that on this very evening the crisis of

tell hor that on this very evening the cruss or. Her life had begun. She sat watching the waves mult het fide began to roll in more quickly; and the light faded in the vestern sky. Then Risk, robsing "Redok" Near" is some distance from Queen's Lynne, and the evening had grown dark before site searched horns.

Lymns, and the evening had grown dark before als reached home. Gaptistan when also stood All visions were motioned homes. The second home homes and the second homes and homes had long been attending her, but did not say she was in any immediate danger. When Rits left her that evening to meet her lover, one of her neigh-hors offered to sit with her while the young girl was out. This same worman meb her now at the door, with a pale, seared face.

"Miss Rita," she cried—" where have you een? Your mother has been taken so ill, I

been! Your mother has been taken so ill, i thought you wolld never see her again." And when Rits stood by her mother's bed-side, and saw the fatal change that had come over the kindly, hounly face, tears of genuine "'You' her is very ill," said the doctor, gently, "the immediate danger seems to have passed, but she must be carcilly watched all night: and if the least change takes place, such for me."

night: and if the least change takes place, send. "Dark ways on many offers of assistances, but Rite saw her mother wished to be left alone with her. In her cool, grand war, sie bade "good-night" to those who would fain have the larms of that the light should not fail on her mother's face, prepared cooling drinks, and then oak her seat by her dying mother's side. If it is to hate the light should not fail on her mother's face, prepared cooling drinks, and then oak her seat by her dying mother's side. If it is all not live until the num rises to-morrow. I feel death-cold at my heart, and I must see live borne of the side woman; " and the should be seen the side woman." I can feel that the end of my life has cound. I should have as Rown aldor agoin signify nothing; they cannot know. I feel it, and I must see Dasy."

But midnight had struck before a me could be found to go for Daisy. It was a long walk there, and Rita knew the summer mora-ing would dawn before her sister could reach home. She told her mother so; and Susan Riv-ers, turning her pullid face to the wall, moaned

etc., turning mer paint nece to new wai, monites "Are we quite alone, Rinaf" asked the sick woman, in a low, faint voice. "Quite alone, mother," said the young girl. The moonbeams peeped in at the window, throwing long lines of alver, faith the new first was under the distant bracking of the waves. Margaret Rivers never forgot that night—its solemn silence and din light. I mave a secret, Rita," add the faint voice; "I have bed faith granty can must hold it in charge, sacredy, as I have dons." The long night wore on, and Daisy did not come.

come. "Rita," said the dying woman; "unlock that little box for me, and take out the parcel that

lies thore," "In any late late of the partice time Rita object (her mothers tremshing fingers could not unfasten the string; also opened i,— and there lay a ring of pearls, a locket, with fair and dark hair entwined; the initial "M" of letters, writes in a rain, electate hand. "These are Datys", said Susan; "give them to her. Band down, Rita, hower still, while I toll you the secret I have ever ballevel hard ber of satter, as you have ever ballevel her to be;" ment.

ment

ment. "Are you dreaming, mother?" she said. "No," roplied Mrs. Rivers; "these things prove my story is no dream. Look in the rogis-ter at St. John's, in Deepdale; there you will find I have only one child.—Margaret, my only daughter. Daily eino child of mine." "Who is she?" asked Rita, in utter annaze-

"That is the story I must tell you; and you must repeat every word to her, if -- if I do not see her again."

the here get in " " work to here, i.e. a to be over " I have never spoken much to your of my early life, Rite," continued her mother, "and my silence has been for Daiys' asko. My parents were respectable west-country poople, who sent net to school, and did thair best for mo. When they died, I went out to service. I never had one adaptive, Miss Margaret Arie; and, had one daughter, Miss Margaret Arie; and her was intrasted to no.", the eatire charge of her was intrasted to no.".

her was intrusted to me." Mrs. Rivers then proceeded to tell her daugh-ter all the particulars relative to the bankruptcy and death of Miss Arle's father; of the young hady's marriage; and the leaving of her child in her charge, as already unfolded to the

in her charge, as arready untotices to see reader. "Sho was," concluded her mother, "but a little child when we lot Despitale, and came to Queen's Lynne. For my dead mistress's sake, I but's of the set of the set of the set of the Daily is other than. In oon sever dreams that peets it. I tell you now, Rita; for I shall see her mother in another world, and she will ask me if I have done my best."

CHAPTER VI.

TEMPTATION

THERE was silence for some minutes, and Mrs. River's voice had grown faint and exhansted. Rita sat lost in bewildered surprise, "And what am I to do, mother?" she asked,

'Give these to Daisy," she replied; "this locket and ring, with the letters. Tell her the story I have told you. Tell her I have no clue to her father's name save that he was called

"I will not only and the dying woman, "I have "For you," said the dying woman, "I have no fear. This little house will always be your over. You will have money sufficient to sup-port you. Had heaven so willed it, I should be always would be have held your own. x. port you. Had heaven so willed it, I should fike to have level long enough to have held your of viewn in my evel long enough to have held your of viewn in my edual . Lut how loves of mo-er way in the strong light of sterminy. I have often thought you proud and vain. Ah, Rita' you will lie some aday where I an right non-re-ent nhe world's hourses and riches. Ah, me, that paint I shall not see Dairy again; kiss her for ma and tell her how well llow here." Ballor settled on her face; and Rita well hast-ly to summon aid. But no human help could avail for MR. Rivers-the find had gone forth. The doctor was summoned; friends came, and there set. She kine the data her face in reset. She kine the data her forth more Mrs. Rivers did - before Dairy came home-Hits gathered the contents of the little pared together, and placed them carvfully in "The together, and placed them carvfully in to have lived long enough to have held your

er own box. "There will be time enough for telling her

"There will be time enough for testing ner that strange story," she thought. And Daisy, all unconscious, kneit by her supposed mothers is side, and souldel her last moments with genite, lowing care. She closed the And eyes that head always head head closed her closed the side of the side of

Friends and neighbors comforted the Priends and noighbors conformed the two present gibs, use the second at the strange, dreamy look on Ritle's face. There was not much time for two funeral. Forg-tions had to be made for the funeral. Forg-vidow lady, Mrs. Foren, took up her abode at the cottage, where mourning dresses and ar-rangements for the funeral deepened the gloom

the consister or the index may be a set of the young girls. Rife said, to herself, that there was no oppor-tunity of telling Daky the set over until after the famma i. As she watched her adopted siter, as finds that it is a set of the set of the set of the finds of the young set of the set of the set of the finds of the set of the set of the set of the high-bred relinement; the spiritual expression of the sweat, pars face; the little hands, so the sight, girls finds figure. Could it be possible that this girl, whom she had always young of you have a struck by the difference. Which had noble factor is the set of the set of the set of and noble factor i. Set of the set of the set of the could it be! *

very birth was a shame and disgrace. Which could it be? Her mother be outsrtained ernel doubt; could the be? Her mother be one just cases. In the deal s-box containing her trust. She read Margaret Arle's lotters over and over again. All there could he no doubt, she spoke so provally of her husband; it had been a real marriage, Rita folt surs, and no mock one. Was her built for any start of the second start of the second start hubble of the second start of the second start hubble of the second start of the second start and — would enter, by right, that gay world Rita thought paradias. She would he rich and hubble of the second start of the second start of the second start of the second start Riter child, and she the Captein's daughter to a waking dream. If it had been as de would her har. She see here it negative had been Mrs. Hiver's child, and her hubble words found. Then they would win his love. He would surely be placed with had how the words found. The her would win his hord. He would surely be hard. Be are here it negative data words found her. She save here it negative data words have here the set here in the start, which words how here the child words found hard had here with the gay, the great, and the noble all here with the gay, the great, and the noble of here with the set prestruct has the cold real here with the set prestruct has the cold real here with the set prestruct has the cold real here with the here here here and here basing and the here here here and here basing the set here basing the here here here and here basing the set here with the here here here and here basing the set were back to here hild here more basing slape.

and not for hereelf. With a deep sigh, the relocked the box, and went back to the little room where Daisy slept. The moon shone brightly; one of its silvery beams touched Daisy's face, lingering almost lovingly on the clear, calm brow, and the deli-

cate, spiritual features." Rita bent over her cate, spiritual features." Rita bent over her, silently wondering—until wonder became jealons pain—what the future held in store for the sleeping girl. Studdenly, across her face there came a strange expression, as of a wild, deep thought: it lingered there, filling the dark eyes with closer

thought: it ingered there, many the cark eyes with gloom. She held out her hands in horror, as though trying to drive it from her, but it would not go. "Not now," she whispered to horseid. "I will not think of it now. I have to kiss my

will not think of it now. I have to kiss my mother's face again." Yet the thought had a weird fascination for her. She could not setep, she could not rest; ideas crowded upon her almost against her will; plans and arrangements suggested themeeives to her. Early morn found Margaret Rivers paile and absorbed. the dow was the one on

pale and absorbed. The sun rowe, and the day was the one ap-pointed for Mrs. Rivers' funeral. The two girls want together to be durk accord room where she lary, and took their last farewell of her. Warm she had always denrif yord; but no tears dimmed the dark eyes that had so strange an expression.

the boost on the set of the set o oth dead.

position—1 usity's mother and her own—were At first, the thought that glenced through her mind shocked her; it was too base a betrayal of her mother's trust. In the genty and subtry it shok hack, and nestled there, a welcome gust. Stall she all not dark, while her mother lay she stood, as it were, alone in the world, she made up her mind. It was a florce battle: there was something of good in the wain, world'y, ambitious rature, good in the vain, world'y, ambitious rature, but the good was conquered on that summer light when she stood at the window watching the gust stars. The temptation was too strong there are not not object to a was lost.

called be Margaret, and had given to Daisy the same name. Margaret Rivers was, according to the register, the only child Mrs. Rivers had. There could be no difficulty in that. Every one would readily believe Daisy to be that child. Who could say the was not! Her mother had Who could say he was not? Her mother had known fow people at Deepdale, and they were nover likely to hear of the circumstances again. Possession, in this case, was more than nine points of the law. She had the ring, the locket, the isters, and, above all, the story. She need not alter one work of it. She had but to put hereaft in Dairy's place. She thought over sparse Arch and child, and could not find one weak noint.

garet Arle and child, and could not find one weak point. "After all," she said to herself, as the volce of conscience tried to make itself heard—"what does it matter! If ever Capitain Arthur comes to light he will find a daughter to be proved of, and i simil make a better lady than Daisy even could. To deprive him of a child would be very out. To deprive him of a child would be very could. To deprive him of a child would be very another cannot matter much." It was after midnicht who Bits aver to

another cannot matter much." It was after midnight when Rita went to Dalsy, and calling her gently, roused her from sleep. The young maiden opened her eyes in wonder, and Rita shrunk from the pure, clear glance.

"Don't be angry, Daisy; I could not help waking you. You are going back to-morrow, and I want to tell you something before you retairm

turn." Daisy looked up in some surprise. "What is it, dear" increding "reality, " Are you in trouble, or have goth accurate Rite flucture as should be accurate to the secret; our black concentration." "Dono Liste's Dunder and the concentration "No 9 of the Further Levin and samples with No 9.9 of the Further Levin and samples with the secret; our concentration of the sample samples with the secret; our concentration of the sample samples with the sample sample samples are samples and the samples of the sample samples are samples are samples are samples of the sample samples are samples are samples and the sample samples are samples are samples are samples are samples and the sample samples are samples in No. 2, of the FIRST BURNSON Irving, complete. for TEN CENTS. ROBINS \$ 36.36 TION

CURRENT EVENTS.

INGENIOUS persons were selling eggs at \$1.80 per dozen the other day in Portland, Me., when the suspicious police seized their stock, and dis-covered that the shells had been filled with a choice article of whisity. An egg-sell-ent way of evading the "Maine Liquor Law," we should say

say. If is said that but four of the 58 signers of the Declaration of Independence of Texas are now eitizen of Hempstead, Waller County, Texas, aged 76; John W. Bunton, of Mountain City, Hays County, aged 63; W. B. Scates, of Sher-man, Colorado County, aged 74, and Charles B. Showart, of Moutgomery County, aged 70.

Stewart, of Monigomery County, aged 70. True founder of the Ragged Schools of Eng-land was a poor cobbier of London. He began bell. The for magnet boys in his cobbiers school, but they listened to the kindly works of Robert Raikes. From that small beginning sprung the Ragged Schools of England, raising sprung to do one of the greatest benefactors of mankind. mankind.

mankind. True Booton Advertiser mildly declaros war against the English sparrows, condemning them as quarrelsome and unsocial. "All our little American songetors," if any Anrassed by upmosity and limit by the makes up in upmosity and limit by the makes up in li is driving them away, and giving in its stead its ovan unknowli criss and the onatter of its constant bickering under our windows. It is prolific to a marval, and if delicately favored, Egypt," Arress a filterolation feators closed in the bards

Egypt.¹ Arrea a silver-plaing factory closed is busi-ness not along ago, at New Harvan, the floor of he plaing room was taken up and burned, and \$95! worth of silver was extracted from the abas. Both gold and silver are very apit to be of worked n inmibile particles in the garments and assaying. A instreed verse belonging for such a workman has been found on calculation to contain \$20 worth of the precious motals. In the office of one of the largest dealers in speci-in this city, the sweepings and dust of the place their hands after counting money were car-their lands after counting money were can-their day, and laway produced more than enough gold and silver to repay extraction.

Or all the vanities and abundities of fashion that have reprint to the olivarity, none perhaps is more useless and ridiculous than that of wear-ing ear-rings. No part of the human body is so litic affacted by the ordinary changes of life where 'God put it, it is erect, shell-shaped, transparent, and deliotally beautiful. But Satan has defiled the serity, and point is mark upon the most beautiful and enduring things. It has put the mark of their order of the series of history of the world, so and fare Eve was driven out of Eden, managed to put his mark on tho is her side and the begars in her 'ays, are so allow the virtue of the order of the variant's on tho is her side and the begars in her 'ays, are so allow the virtues of this deforming and barbarous custom. OF all the vanities and absurdities of fashion

custom. Prrrsturos is fairly entitled to rank as the Sheffield of America. The sturdy enterprise of the steel manufactures has not only achieved for Pittaburg the highest reputation as a pro-time far has of any competitors in the an-nual amount produced, the aggregate annual production of all the works being 30,00 tons. The fall capacity being over 30,000 tons. The dege tools agricultural tools, aprings, acles, plows, etc., are made here in every grade; in steel that is not produced in Pittaburg. The dege tools agricultural tools, aprings, acles, plows, etc., are made here in every grade; in steel that is not produced in Pittaburg. The has, this rele works of Jensey City, which probably produce about 6,000 tons annually. To buse class he not a rangeen, there are

In the table of the second sec

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Fleeing From Love.

BY MRS. HARRIET IRVING

In which the 'Grand Passion' has a wonderfully fine presentation in a story of the deepest interest-at times startling, and sustained in the almost terrible strength of its drama proper, wherein a most beautiful young woman is buffeted by a fate that a lofty spirit only carries to a refuge. It is one of those works of the creative genius of authors that is so real, so to the very life of body, heart and soul, that it reads, indeed, like "an ower true tale," and will delight and satisfy all who have a taste for the better class of fiction.

Given Complete in Number Two, together with a liberal installment of the beautiful Se-rial of English Heart and Home Life,

Lord Lisle's Daughter.

which will charm every reader-one of the "Sweetest Stories" of the year, all will say.

FANCY AND FACT.

A MAN should live with his income, even if he has to borrow to do it.

A SWEETHEART is called a turtle dove : so a coquette must be a mock-turtle dow

ANY young man is made better by a sister's love. The love of another fellow's sister will do.

THE average ago of sheep is ten years, cows fifteen, hogs fifteen, and horses not used as bearers of burden twenty.

FOOLS and their money soon part. It's worth while being a fool, to have the money to part with, though.

"CHANGE cars!" is what a bootblack said to a countryman the other day, when he had finish ed one of his brogans.

Sweet are the uses of adversity. A cross-yed schoolma'am can keep twice the usual number of children in order at once.

An electric light on board Her Majesty's steamer Alexandre enables a person three miles distant to read a newspaper.

"WE'VE got to economize, or this country is ruined," was the soliloquy of a St. Louis hus-band as he kindled the fire with his wife's bustle.

As eminent statistician estimates that there are 400,000 yards of rag carpet in Vermont, and that every third family has a quilting frame to lend.

A GROCER had a pound of sugar returned with a note saying: "Too much sand for table use, and not enough for building purposes."

Some physicians now claim that the general provalence of diphtheria is due in a great de-gree to the gas which is thrown off from coal stores and ill-ventilated rooms.

"At a Des moines dinner party the other day," says an exchange, "all the dishes were over 109 years old." How'l Isi the possible? Oh, yes; we see; boarding-house roast chicken.

AFTER all, manking is as changed very little with the lapse of time. In a little tavern, re-cently dug out at Fompeii, the usual slate and pencil were found hanging on the back of the door.

THEY were talking of a death when one man asked: "What were his last words?" "He didn't say anything," was the reply. "That's just like him," said the first man with an ap-proving nod; "there was no gas about him. He was all business."

HERE is a good business-like opitaph: "Here lies Jane Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, marble cutter. This monument was crected by her hus-band as a tribute to her memory and a specimen of his work. Monuments of the same style, of his work. \$250."

LITTLE MISS.—Papa, I can eat a pieco more currant tart, please? Papa.—No, my child; I have ahrady said that you have had sufficient. Little Miss.—Well, papa, then why do we so often sing that favorite hymn of yours, where it says, "Field me till I want no more?" She had the tart.

had the tart. The plantation negroos were engaged in pitching oppers. It was discovered that after pitching a while several coppers were missing, any but his own jennies. One oil negro, whose oppers had mysteriously disappeared, at length becoming satisfied in his mind that there was foul play going on, and observing that GBs of now and then of jerking his right foot up to his hard, called a pause in the gamo, saying. "De gemman wif de tar on his heel will plazes to withorsw." The supercised individual relumities without the mysterious disappearance of any more cop-pers. ners

The mysterious disappearance of all halo dop-provements and the set of the s