

W. D. WALLACH.

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A LADY'S HEART TO BE LET.

[CONCLUDED.] "Oh, you must leave me now," she said. "I see mamma and the children walking on the road. They must not see me talking to you till all is settled properly. Good-bye, dear Mr. Vickery, you do not know how happy you have made me," and off she tripped, leaving good old Vickery to pursue his homeward way, alternately upbraiding himself with being a confirmed Don Juan without knowing it, and exulting in this present happiness.

As he hardly disposed of Miss Tabitha Buckram, who the judicious reader knows perfectly well, is the real owner of "THE HEART TO BE LET," approached the seven feet, and was about to take the seal that Fanny had just vacated, when a tall figure came bounding round an angle in the path, and ran straight into her arms. "Bless my soul!" exclaimed Jack, "I beg you a thousand pardons. I hope I have not hurt you. Very clumsy of me, indeed, but I have an appointment, and my desire not to keep a lady waiting must plead my excuse for such a visit."

"Appointment?" thought Miss Buckram. "Then 'tis he—'tis my Theodore," (the name that old Vickery had signed in his letter to "Constance.") "Oh, sir," she said, "I can pardon the excess of your ardor. Those are the seven feet I believe. This is the little valley—and here—here am I."

"Young and handsome," thought Miss Buckram, gazing fondly at the stalwart Vesper. "You are quite struck too, with my appearance. It's love at first sight. I feel the soft emotion myself."

"Well, my dear madam," said Jack, seating himself beside her, "as you have taken the trouble to meet me here, I must tell you my intentions. Miss Tabitha Buckram bestowed a languishing look upon the unconscious Jack. "I am resolved," continued he, "to endure no more delay and concealment, but to be married at once."

"Ah, the ardor of youth!" sighed the Buckram, "and therefore, confide all to my uncle, and ask his consent. I know that, provided that my sweet darling, my best and truest love!"

"Oh!" exclaimed Miss Tabitha, closing her eyes. "Tell me, then," Jack resumed, "does she consent? Will she let me claim her at once?" "She will, she will," he replied, "and I, as a spinster, leaning tenderly against Jack's shoulder for support."

"Then I'm the happiest of men!" exclaimed her companion, jumping up; thereby causing poor Miss Buckram to fall full length upon the bench. "Oh, I beg your pardon again," said he, assisting her to rise, "I was so happy to remain here, please, I'll be back in half an hour, and tell you the result of my conversation with my uncle. Then away ran Jack, as fast as he had come."

"He might have touched my cheek with a chaste salute," thought Miss Tabitha, fondly watching the retreating figure. "But in no time, why, bless my soul, there's that odious old bachelor."

"Confound it!" cried Mr. Vickery, who of course, was the new comer, "here's that prying old man!" "I tell you what it is, Miss Buckram," he continued aloud, "I'm not going to stand this; I'm not going to be dodged and followed about by you. What have I done? You ain't a detective officer in disguise, are you?"

"Follow you?" retorted the Buckram, indignantly. "The man's out of his senses! and as for your insults, sir, I'd have sworn that I am no longer unprotected; my husband!" "Your husband?" said Mr. Vickery. "My intended husband will protect his bride from your coarse insinuations."

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