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not retain and digest even that. Last March began taking CASCARETS and since then have steadily improved, until I am as well as a constant in my life." DAVID H. MURPHY, Newark, O.



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THE USURER'S DAUGHTER

BY CHARLOTTE M. BRAEME.

INTERNATIONAL FREES ASSOCIATION.

CHAPTER XLL-(Continued.) "Very well, my dear; do just as you like; you know best, of course. I will go away at once. say that you do not feel very well. Go to your room, by all means. I hope see to this difficulty with your hus-

She looked up at him proudly. "You must not interfere, papa. shall never return to him now!" He looked pityingly at the white

face. "You appear very ill, Hildred. there nothing that I can do for you?"

"Nothing," she replied, coldly. In her heart she felt bitterly angry with her father. She had trusted him; he had misled her. She did not offer to kiss him or to touch his hand, but went quietly out of the room and upstairs, leaving him with some very unpleasant thoughts.

It had not been an agreeable interruption to his breakfast, but he tried to think little of it. It was only a quarrel, after all, and his daughter had done nothing wrong. He should make it all right in a few seconds when he saw the earl. He wrote to him before he went to the city, telling him that his wife had reached home safely, but was looking very ill.

The rest of that day Hildred remained in her room, and on the morning following she did not come downstairs. It was afternoon when Arley Ransome, with a face as pale as death, asked for admittance to her apartment. She bade him enter, and he did so, with an open letter in his hand. It was her husband's writing, she perceived.

"You have deceived me," said her father, sternly; "you told me that you had hidden nothing from me. Your husband tells me that he has hidden you here because you shot Lady Hamilton on the evening of the thirty-first -shot her with intent to murder, and that you confessed your guilt."

Without a word or a murmur she looked at him, and then fell like one dead at his feet.

CHAPTER XLIL



HE young countess, as she stood behind the alder trees of Ravensmere, had heard the sound of the shot; she was too dazed with her own grief and misery to note the direction from which it had proceeded. She had

fancied that something went whirring That something through the trees. was the ball that had been fired at Lady Hamilton, which pierced her shoulder and would have pierced her heart had it gone in the direction in which it had been aimed. For the moment Lord Caraven had been too bewildered to know what had happened; what he was saying in reality to his guest was that he liked his wife's maiden name better than any he had ever heard. Lady Hamilton, who never liked to hear any one praised but herself, asked at once what it was. He had answered, "Hildred Ransome;" and those were the words Lady Caraven had They had been no sooner uttered than Lady Hamilton fell on his shoulder with a faint, low cry-a cry that seemed almost simultaneous with

the firing of the shot. The earl knew she had been shot, but by whom or why he could not guess. He laid her down for one minute while he looked around; then it was that he saw the white face of his wife. He jumped to the conclusion that she had done it; she, and no other, was there on the spot. She had even to himself avowed her jealousy. She had followed them, and in the madness of her folly had shot Lady Hamilton. No other idea occurred to him. He said to himself at once that it was so, and he implicitly believed it. He had rushed to her and told her that she was "a guilty woman." She had owned it. they were speaking of different kinds of guilt. He meant the guilt of murder: she meant the guilt of being a spy upon him. No doubt of her guilt relieved his mind. Even in that first bewildered moment he had said to himself that she should never enter his house again, but that he would shield her because she bore his name. He had told her to remain where she was while he car-

ried the senseless lady to the house. There was terrible consternation. He had the presence of mind to throw the agitated inquirers off the scent. He said that the poachers were out-must be out, for a chance shot fired in the woods had wounded Lady Hamilton. Some of the gentlemen staying at the house went with the keepers to scour the woods. Dire were the threats of vengeance as to the rogue who had done the mischief. Meanwhile a groom was dispatched to Court Raven to summon a doctor-the wounded lady had been taken to her room and laid on the At first the earl was frightened lest the wound should prove mortal; but one of the ladies staying at the castle who knew something of surgery, declared that the wound was not dangerous, and that the ball could soon be extracted. After hearing that the earl returned to his unhappy young wife. His first great fear that she had been

guilty of murder had been removed;

should prove dangerous in the end. It was better, he thought, than she should

He made two announcements to his household, which no one even thought you will soon be better. Now try to of connecting. The first and most cheer up; it will be all right. I will startling was, of course, that Lady Hamilton had been shot accidentallya chance shot-though why a ball cartridge had been used was a puzzlesupposed to have been fired by poachers in the wood; the second was that Lady Caraven had been suddenly summoney to her father's home in London. No one dreamed of connecting the two announcements, and in the disordered state of the household it never occurred to any of the guests to question the servants as to when the countess had old soldier noted with concern how gone. She had been sent for after dinner, and the apologies that the earl made were deemed quite sufficient. Some of the guests indeed said that it was as well Lady Caraven was out of the way, as she would probably have been greatly distressed. the earl is uncertain what in his panic he said or did. The only idea quite clear to him was that he must shield the woman who bore his name.

It was not very long before the doctor arrived, and then all alarm was at an end. He found the ball at once: it had not gone very deep into the shoulder. It was extracted and the wound bound up.

Then lovely Lady Hamilton raised her golden head and asked, languid-

"Shall I be very ill, doctor?" "No, I hope not. You will suffer a

little pain-nothing much, I trust." "Shall I be ill for a long time?" she asked. "Ah, me, how little I dreamed that I was coming to Ravensmere to be

"It is very unfortunate," said the doctor; "but I do not think you will be ill very long, Lady Hamilton. You must take heart." "To think that of all the people in

the world they should select me! suppose it was quite an accident, though. They were poachers, I am told. Now, doctor, I want to ask you a very serious question."

The doctor seemed to imply by his manner that he was all attention. "I shall be very happy to answer it, if it lies in my power," he said.

"Tell me, shall I lose-that is-will my temporary seclusion interfere at all with what I may call my good looks?"

He told himself that the amusement he felt must be carefully concealed. "I think," he replied, confidentially, that I may reassure your ladyship. do not see how it can possibly affect you in that fashion, and the needed

rest will be most beneficial to you." Then she was content to remain in her room, not suffering very much

The keepers had made strenuous efforts to find the poachers, but they had evidently made their escape, frightened doubtless at what they had done. No trace of them could be found.

It was with a sense of relief that Lord Caraven went to his room that night. He wanted to be alone to think over the events of the day. He found himself dwelling less on the terrible fact that his wife had shot Lady Hamilton than on the wonderful fact that she loved him.

"I have gone mad-I love you-let me die!"

The words haunted him like the refrain of a song. He could not sleep. All night the pale, passionate, beautiful face was before him. The words rang in his ears as they had rung when he saw Hildred in the starlight, pleading, praying, accusing him, all in one vehement storm of words.



"SHALL I BE VERY ILL?"

he would see her until he died. He felt as though she had been a stranger to him until then. The passionate love which had flamed into hot jealousy had been hidden under a cold, calm exterior. How she loved him. He had never seen any woman's face light up so splendidly. For the first time in his life he had owned to himself that by the side of her magnificent beauty blonde loveliness faded into nothing. He wondered that he had lived so long in the house with her, so long under one roof, yet he had not noticed that which every one else remarked.

He was struck most of all by the fact that she loved him. It did not matter there remained the fear lest the wound | him as no one else ever would or could; | book.—Ex.

and it flashed across him that the wife he had neglected and despised was, notwithstanding what she had done, one of the noblest women in the world. If it had but been different: if he had but thought more of her before this happened! How she must have loved him to let herself drift into such a crime! Was there any one who had ever loved him half so well?

"I wish it had never happened," he said to himself. "She is a noble woman in spite of all, and I-well, I could have loved her, but now she must never return."

Yet it showed how strongly his feelings were swayed when he thought far less of wounded Lady Hamilton than of the fact that his wife loved him.

He could not sleep or rest. Never had his pillow seemed so hard, his thoughts so troublesome. The excitement had been too much for him. Wherever he went, whatever he did. his thoughts were with Hildred. Had she reached Arley Ransome's house? Had he acted wisely in letting her go alone? Would any clew to her guilt ever be found? These questions foilowed him, haunted him, pursued him. If he went to talk to any of his visitors, the conversation was sure to turn upon the poachers and Lady Hamilton

Wearled of it all he sought refuge with Sir Raoul in his room; and the worn and haggard the handsome earl

CHAPTER XLIII.



ET me stay with you, Raoul," said the earl on entering his room; "my guesta tease me to death. One hears of nothing but Lady Hamilton and the poachers. have had to tell the story over and over again, until 1

am fairly tired of it. Let me find rest here. Sir Raoul looked at the earl's hag-

"Poor boy," he said; "it is rather hard for you, certainly. I promise you that I will mention neither Lady

Hamilton nor the poachers."
"Poachers!" replied the earl, contemptuously, "Surely youpaused; he had been on the brink of betraying the secret that he had sworn never to reveal.

Sir Raoul laughed. "It seems to me," he said, that you are just as bad as any one else. You cannot keep away from the topic."

"We will discuss the weather, the last new book, politics, the papers-anything," proposed the earl; and then he added: "That reminds me-some version of this story is sure, I suppose, to get abroad. The papers will make a sensational affair of it."

"I thought we were to avoid the topic," said Sir Raoul quietly.

you have touched upon it again." "And to make matters worse," remarked the earl. with a gesture of weary despair, "here comes the doc-

Dr. Randall entered the room unansounced and in great haste.

The earl sprang to his feet at the ound of his agitated voice, his face growing pale and anxious. "Surely," he said, "Lady Hamilton is

"No, she seems better. It is not about Lady Hamilton that I want you,

Lord Caraven. I was sent for the moment I left here in behalf of the man who used to act as your steward-John Blantyre.' "John Blantyre," said the earl, vaguely. "Is he ill?" The subject did not interest him very much-indeed, he

thought it trivial amidst the excitement of his own affairs. "No, not ill in the common acceptation of the term," answered the doc-

tor. "He is dying, I fear." (To be Continued.)

Tardy Reckoning.

"Ste-raw-berries, nice ripe ste-rawberries," shouted the street vender as his horse jogged slowly through Bagley avenue. "How much are they?" asked the pretty young housewife who had hailed the peddler by waving a towel. "Ten cent a quart, mam. All Michigan strawberries, and the dew's on 'em yet, mam." "But I want a bushel, I'm going to have a sort of strawberry festival just among my relations, and I wouldn't run out of them for the world. How much for a bushel?"
"Three and a half, mam." "Too much. You'll have to do better than that or I'll try some one else."

"I'll throw off a quarter," he said, and she nodded so that her voice might not betray her exultation. The he carried in thirty-two of the little measures that have the waistband about two inches from the bottom, received his money, and did not linger. Three minutes later the little woman rushed in the street, her eyebrows knitted, and her dimpled hands clinched, one over a lead pencil and the other over a crumpled piece of paper. But the peddler had vanished.-Detroit Free Press.

"Paw," asked Elmer Grayneck, who had an inquiring mine, "what is a cycloramo?" "It's a mighty good thing to keep away from, that's what it is!" replied that astute agriculturist. his father. "Don't you remember that contraption that you seen a sharper workin' at the county fair, where you put your money on different colored spots, an' the swindler whirled a p'inter around, an' the more you'd put down the less you took up? Wa'al, that was a cyclorama."-New York Journal.

Gentle Blut. He-Your sweet face is my book of about anything else. He had read her life. I swear it. She-But your oath truth and love in her face. She loved is not valid until you have kissed the

A powder to be shaken into the shoes. At this season your feet feel swollen, nervous and hot, and get tired If you have smarting feet or tight shoes, try Allen's Foot-Ease. It cools the feet and makes walking easy Cures swollen and swenting feet, blis ters and callous spots. Relieves corns and bunions of all pain and gives rest and comfort. Try it today. Sold by all druggists and shee stores for 25 Trial package free. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

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For 40 years Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry has been curing sum-mer complaints, dysentery, diarrhoa, bloody flux, pain in the stomach, and it has never yet failed to do everything

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SINGULAR STATEMENT.

From Mrs. Rank to Mrs. Pinkham.

The following letter to Mrs. Pinkham from Mrs. M. RANE, No. 2,354 East Susquehanna Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., is a remarkable statement of relief from utter discouragement. She

"I never can find words with which to thank you for what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done

"Some years ago I had womb trouble and doctored for a long time, not seeing any improvement. At times I would feel well enough, and other times was miserable. So it went on until last October, I felt something terrible creeping over me, I knew not what, but kept getting worse. I can hardly explain my feelings at that time. I was so depressed in spirits that I did not wish to live, although I had everything to live for. Had hysteria, was very nervous; could not sleep and was not safe to be left

"Indeed, I thought I would lose my mind. No one knows what I endured. "I continued this way until the last of February, when I saw in a paper a testimonial of a lady whose case was similar to mine, and who had been cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I determined to try it, and felt better after the first dose. I

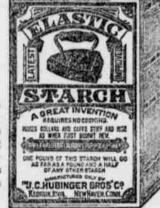
well woman, and can say from my heart, 'Thank God for such a medicine."" Mrs. Pinkham invites all suffering women to write to her at Lynn, Mass., for advice. All such letters are seen

continued taking it, and to-day am a

and answered by women only. W.N.U .-- DETROIT -- NO. 28 -- 1898

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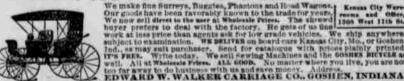
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