Lady Hayward had been to London to see her lawyers about some urgent business and, leaving Lord Hayward to entertain the guests during her short absence, had gone alone, or rather with her maid. She had staid the night in town in order to bring with her a new pointed. dress for a ball which was to be given fasted, of course, at any time during at the castle the following evening.

At last the carriage dashed up to the door, driven very fast, for the coachman knew it was late. The first person quiet-looking, well-dressd young woman -the maid evidently. She quickly

just time.' He followed her up to her dressing-He followed her up to her dressing-room, where tea was waiting on a little table near the fire. Lady Hayward's table near the fire. Lady Hayward's afterward, that her sister had been late maid had just put an easy wrapper that morning! temptingly ready, and was busy getting The servants all came in, led by the out a dinner dress for her mistress.

the perfectly-trained servant vanished tain.

'I wonder whether it's that girl, after all!' exclaimed Lord Hayward; The moment the door closed on the last 'yet it seems impossible.'

'Don't talk erigmas,' said Lady ward. Hayward imperiously; 'there isn't time. out her tea as she spoke, and now be-

gan to sip it. 'More things have disappeared,' said Lord Hayward, in a low voice, and this time it's worse. The old duchess Hayward gave the order. has lost a big diamond ring, and your sister's diamond necklace is gone.'

Lady Hayward put down her tea. 'Vernon, this is awful, she said. 'What are we to do? Who can it be?

was with me in town.' 'Ah, but we can't tell exactly what time the things were taken; she may have gotten rid of them in London. It was when you took her to town with you last that your diamond brooch

'So it was,' said Lady Hayward. But that makes no difference. The brooch was taken while we were away, Besides, the thing is absurd. Taylor is above suspicion, I know the girl so well. Why, Vernon, she went with me all through France and Italy when I joined you in Rome; we were always together, and I used to talk to her a ward, a little crossly. great deal. She is a very superior

suspect Taylor.' 'Well, there is no one else,' said Lord Hayward dejectedly, 'except poor glance Ludy Flayward had seen a curilittle Rose Mai hering.'

o it was on the face of it. They knew out a quiver on her face. Rose Mannering's family well; she was a lady, and little more than a child. A silence fellowed, during which both looked into the fire for inspiration All the servants in the house were born of families who had been for genera tions on the estate. The idea of suspecting any of them was too painful. Taylor was the only exception, and she had been with Lady Hayward two

'I begin to believe,' said Lady Hay ward, 'that it is one of our guests.' 'Good heavens, Kate, what an idea.'

'Can you suggest anything else?' 'No, I can't. There's some infernal deviltry at work, but beat my brains how I will, I can't see where it comes

from.' I tell you what we must do, Vernon, said Lady Hayward decisively. 'We must be very careful, not frighten any one, and keep our own counsel. Ride over to the town early to-morrow morning and telegraph to Scotland Yard for a detective to come down disguised to the hall. There will be so many people the servants won't have time to notice him. He must stop on as a visitor until he finds out something.' 'That will do.' exclaimed Lord Hay-

'Now go,' said Lady Hayward, ringing the bell for Taylor; 'I must dress at

As he went out he met the maid in the doorway, and gave her a more curious look than usual. The result was only to give up his idea as preposterous. She had a very gentle, good face; her soft brown hair, brushed smothly over her ears, gave it an almost Puritanic look. Lady Hayward had made something of a friend of her, and the girl had never presumed in the least upon Vernon, are you a brute?' I believe you it, but had always retained her sub- are laughing.

dued, sweet manner. Lady Hayward scrutinized her, too, during the process of dressing, but she shrank from the thoughts in her own mind. She had grown fond of her treasure of a maid, and felt ashamed of her quickly suppressed suspicions.

Early next mornnig the telegram was sent to Scotland Yard by Lord Hayward who rode over alone to send it and waited for the answer. The reply seemed to please him and he rode back in good spirits to a late breakfast He even faced, with moderate cheerfulness, Lady Hayward's eldest sister, who was in a frightful state about her necklace. This lady was one of his pet aversions: she was not pretty or cle er like his wife, but she was more irreproachable, more moral, more perfect, and she was an old maid. Probably she was the only person in the world of whom Lady Hayward was afraid. Miss Collette was a severe censor in all things and kept her eyeglass well fixed maker younger sister who had an imon her younger sister who had an important position to fill before the world. At present Miss Collette was very anbeing done about the thefts; she had found out before that the exemplary

Cecelia could not hold her tongue. This extreme discretion having been observed, the Scotland Yard detective arrived as a visitor, and no one paid arrived as a visitor, and no one paid any particular attention to him. He was very quiet and adopted the character of the man who does not dance, or talk, or do anything, and it answer- GO-DEN BALL CORNER. ed admirably. A number of other men the commodious warerooms recently of FOTHERINGHAM & CO. with superb shirt-fronts hung about the doorways and looked bored. Mr. Hawk was admirably gotten up for the purpose, and had only to mingle with these others and looked as bored as they.

Lady Hayward was delighted at this excellent effacement of himself and kept her eye on him with great interest. She managed to speak to him very late when the party was breaking up. He had discovered nothing so far-not even a "clew"- and she went to bed disap-

Visitors at Hayward Castle breakhold always assembled to morning prayers at a quarter to 9, and breakfast formally began directly afterwards. who emerged from it was an exceedingly

Mr. Hawk had learned this and was in the breakfast-room early—the only guest present. No one else turned up disappeared and was followed by Lady
Hayward, who instantly seized her
selves, Rose Mannering, who always husband's arm.

'I want to speak to you,' said Lord
Hayward, 'hefore you dress; there's
was too tired to come down, though no one was stricter, theoretically, on the

'I will send for you in a few min-utes Taylor,' said Lady Hayward; and Lady Hayward read prayers. Mr Hawk sat very quietly in the shadow of a cur-

With all decorum the servants filed out again, and Mr. Hawk did not move. of them he leaned over to Lord Hay-

'My Lord,' he said, 'may the men What is the matter? She was pouring servants watch the windows of this room outside for a few minutes ! Don't ask me to explain, there's no time to lose. The old butler came in at that moment, carrying a silver coffee pot. Lord

> 'And tell them to keep their eyes open,' added Mr. Hawk. 'We've got to deal with the lightest pair of heels

in the kingdom.' Lady Hayward listened and looked It's absurd to talk abo. Taylor; she her heart in her mouth. What was

coming next? 'Your ladyship,' said Mr. Hawk may I send for your maid?' Lord Hayward rang instantly. 'Why should you suspect her?' pro-

tested Lady Hayward. 'She is a most superior girl. She has travelled with me and I know her well. No suspicion must fall on her unless you have

Mr. Hawk rose and went anxiously to the door. The order had been given, but scarcely a moment had elapsed. 'Do you expect her to come here in less than a moment?' asked Lady Hay Just then Taylor appeared at the

girl. No; it would be most unjust to door; the butler was behind her. She came in and the door was shut, the butler remaining outside. At the first ous look on the girl's face—one she had THE single Store in the Subscriber's Building the Mossas Mass & Son Poor little Rose Mannering, was never seen there before. But immedithe governess who took charge of their ately she was herself again, and now she stood before Lord and Lady Hayward 'Absurd!' said Lady Hayward. And stood before Lord and Lady Hayward. and the detective, perfectly quiet, with-

'John,' said Mr. Hawk, 'this is really trick to have played. For two years you have been wanted, and I knew you eren't out of the country; but I'd no dea you could be doing such a thing as

While he spoke Mr. Hawk had approached Taylor and put a pair of handcuffs on her. There had been a little by-play first; Taylor had scanned the windows and instantly saw they were

'So the game's up,' she said suddenly, ourteen years,' answered Mr. Hawk.

'Yes, my lady's maid, to the tune of 'What does it mean?' cried Lady Hayward, 'I can't understand!' Mr. Hawk snatched the dainty little Parisian cap, the smooth brown wig

om Taylor's head and flung them on he floor. In an instant the gentle irl's face became a man's, smooth and on the South side of Northwest River ookat just now. The head was covered with a dark, very short growth of

'I'll take him off,' said Mr. Hawk. It is too much for her ladyship. 'Mr. Hawk!' Mr. Hawk!' cried poor ady Hayward, 'put on his wig and take him away as a woman? I'll give

Mr. Hawk scemed suddenly to under-'Your ladyskip may depend on me,'

e said solemnly, and he put the wig nd cap on again with the greatest olemnity. 'Vernon,' exclaimed Lady Hayward hysterically, the moment the door was shut, 'promise you'll keep the secret-

don't tell anyone-don't tell Cecilia.

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