

E.W.GILLETT COMPANY LIMITED

TORONTO, ONT. MONTREA

## Came Too Late. been repulsed can feel, she made her

CHAPTER XIII.

The Pleader.

"Why do you not go?" she repeat

her; then, not even lifting his hat, tered the hall.

went toward his horse, which was quietly nibbling at the boughs.

hind him, a sob such as one hears

He dropped the bridle, and a shud der ran through him as he stood for a moment awestruck: then he sprang back. She was lying full length on the ground, her arms extended, her face lying upon the grass, her hands gling for calm and self-possession.

strong arms around her, his voice full of passionate love and selfreproach, calling on her name.

"Olivia! Olivia! my love! my love! Olivia!"

Weakened, exhausted, she was powerless to resist him, and he held pressed against his breast his eves looking down into hers with a mad, waiting for the verdict of a court trywild hunger an infinite codness

A moment—ah, but it was a lifetime! seemed to sweep over him, and, still a culprit

She felt the change, be it what it may, and drew back from him, lean- and downcast eyes. ing against a tree, panting and quivering.

And he stood and looked at her in silence—a terrible silence.

At last his voice came hoarsely, as

if with difficulty. "Olivia-Miss Vanley! Forgive me! got-I-I forgot! Forgive me and meant to give you more time, but-I forget every mad word-"

He hung his head. ble questioning. He had called her his dry lips. his love, had held her in his arms,

and now he asked her to forget. She drew herself up, white and trembling, but strong in her woman's anything strange in that? Why

"Forget! Yes!" she said. "But not forgive! You-you should have wait- you, do, and why shouldn't I? I'm ed until-until I told you that I have promised to be Bartley Bradstone's you!" wife, Mr. Faradeane!"

Then, drawing her skirts close, as if to avoid touching him, she swept by him, and left him standing with bowed head and heaving chest.



### **ECZEMA**

and skin irritation. As a pro entive and cure there is no tr ent to compare with Dr. Chase's intment. Use it after the bath.

It was the first great agony in Olivia's life. White to the lips, quivering with the shame which only a pure-hearted girl whose love has don't think I am."

It was easy enough to carry her within Faradeane's sight; but as she so many! Better, prettier girls than neared the Grange she felt herself I am." drooping, and she was quivering and He held up his hands as if to stay trembling in every limb as she en-

> case on her way to her room, to give cure solitude, when a footman came

handing her a card on a salver. "He money you want-" is in the drawing-room with Mr. Van-

ment then in a voice that sounded strained and unnatural, she said:

minute or two."

and flung herself on the bed, and for a few minutes lay motionless, strug-

She had passed the Rubicon: she had declared herself engaged to Bartley Bradstone, and she would carry out her resolution; but how gladly would she have died rather than go down and tell him so!

She rose after a few minutes and bathed her face, then went slowly downstairs.

Bartley Bradstone was walking to and ing his nails, and looking like a man ing him for a capital offence, and as the door opened he turned with a start that was very much like that of

Olivia did not offer him her hand, but stood before him with pale face

"You wished to see me." she said.

his restless eves to her heautiful face "Yes, I-I could not wait any longer. Forgive me! I-I was mad! I for I-I was anxious and-and upset. I haven't slept a wink since last night. Miss Vanley-Olivia-you can't guess She looked at him, a look of terri- how I love you," and he moistened

"You love me?" said Olivia, as if to

"Yes," he responded. "Is there shouldn't I love you? All-all the not made of wood or stone. I do love

"And you want me to be your wife?" calmly, coldly, almost like a statue.

Olivia-"

"It is so strange," she murmured again as if to herself. "Strange! how strange?" he echoed.

fidgeting with his handkerchief. "Strange that you should want me while I--"

look in her dreamy, tear-dimmed eyes

### said, in the tone of a person who is naking a bargain, a hard bargain.

"That's it," he assented, with feverish eagerness. "I'm content if you'll only promise to-to try and think of me as your husband. I know you won't go from your word."

"No. I shall not go from my word." she said, slowly,

"No. I know that, I know I can trust you, and that is the reason I am so anxious to get you to say that you will be my wife."

"I see," she said, her lovely eye looking beyond him into vacancy 'You are easily satisfied, Mr. Brad

the hair from her forehead as if head erect, and to assume a proud many girls who would be so glad to and haughty mien while she was hear what-what you have said to me

"You are very rich," she said,

stood and looked round him like a vent to her pent-up feelings in se- breaking in upon his protestations with calm self-possession. "Rich? Yes, I'm rich. I told you

"Mr. Bradstone, miss," he said, so-I didn't exaggerate. If it is

"I do want money!" she said, calm ly. "You promised, offered me, how

replied, promptly. "I'm not a mean man: no one has ever called me that I'll settle forty, fifty thousand "Settle," she said; "what does that

"It means for your own use; tied to you-"

father owes?" she asked.

Her lips twitched. "Forty thousand, or thereabouts." "You know, of course you know?" she asked, and her eves dwelt upon

his with a dull questioning.

His face reddened. "I-I happen to know," he answer-

"It is a large sum of money," she said; and she murmured, "Poor papa!"

"You will give it to me-give it to

"It is," he assented. "It's a big

in a low, clear voice. over to the squire. It's a large sum of money,"-slowly, reluctantly-"but it's nothing to me. You don't know- meant it. I spend all my time thinking it now. You shall have every- have an answer. It-it isn't fair, it thing you want; every wish, however isn't like you, who are so kind and extravagant, shall be gratified. I'll thoughtful always to-to other peo-

to that-" She shook her head. "I want that sum, and no other."

she said, slowly. "I want that money into the room." to do what I like with."

"And you are content?" she asked,

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"Oh, Miss Olivia!" he cried, de

"But you have bought me." she You only wish me to be your wife, and

He reddened: then turned pale.

"I-I ask no questions," he said, and pose I am the first man who's made love to you. You're too beautiful"-Olivia glanced at the glass curiously But-I'll chance all that."

"You will take the risk?" in a low voice.

Her words seemed to affect him strangely. He changed color, and darted a look of distrust and suspicion at her from his restless eyes. "What do you mean? What risk?"

he said, nervously.

She shook her head. "Risk of the future," she said. "Does anything but unhappiness and misery spring from such a marriage as this would be?"

He drew a breath-it almost seemed

"Oh, as to that," he said, "I am not uneasy. Why should we be unhappy with everything we want, everything sum, look at it as you will; but I'm that money can buy? It's the people who are poor who are miserable and discontented. They have to pinch me unconditionally," she interrupted and screw and stick in one place: while we-vou shall do as you like "Yes, I'll give it to you the day we go as you like. I'm fond of the Mamake a settlement on you in addition ple, to keep me in suspense."

"No," she said, as if to herself, "it is not fair. And I have made up my mind. I had made it up before I came

really quite believed his capacity for such a sacrifice. "Every penny. Oh,

how happy you have made me!" with humble eagerness.

And as she let her hand remain

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Will You Take

"It is so strange," she murmured,

"It is so strange," she murmured,

"You are satisfied with your bargain, content to buy me—"

He came forward with a half-fearful promptitude, and an inarticulate cry of satisfaction.

"You say 'Yes,' Olivia! If I will promise you! Why, I'd lay every penny I possess at your feet this monitoring in silver or stamps.

"You say 'Yes,' Olivia! If I will promise you! Why, I'd lay every penny I possess at your feet this monitoring in silver or stamps.

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