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REAR BUR REAL

Thone 461.

"Oh, I know him well enough," He was obliged to do so, in a sense.

tening to him I seem to be talking or really there is nothing against the less hair.

listening to a man who is wearing a man, though you and I don't like

ate incisiveness of a surgeon reveal- man who is always on guard; and I proachable life; lives quietly in quite choice of a servant, for he had taken

ing a human deformity. The opposi- never part from Talbot Denby with- modest rooms in Chelsea; goes into Gibbon from the "Prisoners' Aid So-

tion were chuckling and cheering and out thinking, "There is a mystery the proper kind of society; entertains ciety." The man was a convicted

about that man; there is something in his friends occasionally in an unob-

sigh and a weary glance round the shadow of a doubt. His party will

crowded House, still listening - with have to do something to shut those

strained attention and tense excite- thin lips of his or he'll ruin them.

ment to Mr. Denby's cutting phrases. How the other side cheer! And yet

borough, and he do not get on very a touch of colour in that white face

well together," said Welch, after a of his, not the trace of a smile in his

"I hear that his uncle, Lord Lyn- he seems quite unmoved; there isn't

so well as you do."

his life he is concealing'"

"You ought to have taken to fic- vices."

tion," remarked Welch, with a smile.

"I wish I had: anything but this!"

said the famous Mr. Bouchier, with a

assented Mr. Bouchier. "Talbot Den-

TWO HEARTS UNITED

CHAPTER IV.

It was clumsily drawn, was full of

pitfalls, and delightfully open to ad-

verse criticism; and Mr. Talbot Den-

by, as he stood with one white

shapely hand resting lightly on the

hench in front of him, and the other

thrust half into his pocket, was dis-

secting it with all the cold, deliber-

exchanging delighted glances, while

his own party, inwardly squirming.

tried to look scornful or unconcern-

ed: but Talbot Denby went on his

vitriolic way unelated by the cheers,

undaunted by the murmurs which

now and then 'reached him from the

"Denby's in fine form to-night,"

said Mr. Bouchier, the well-known in-

dependent member, to his crony, Mr

Welch, as they sat in their usual pla-

ces below the gangway and listened

"Yes, he's a clever beggar; and

to the cold, metallic voice.

Welch nodded.

benches behind him.

friends. He is the coming man, there relling-I should say Talbot Denby she rode across the moor had cloud

don't like him. But I don't know him not until Talbot's father died that the a pleasant coolness as he walked

earl recognized and took up Talbot.

said Bouchier; "but I don't like him Talbot being the heir and next in Mansions, Chelsea. He let himself in

any better than you do. He's one of succession. The earl makes him a with his latch-key and went into the

the best-looking men in the House, very good allowance, and they see dining-room where Gibbon, his man

and his manners are simply perfect; each other occasionally and keep the had set a spirit stand and syphon and

and yet there is something about the peace, mainly owing to Talbot, who a biscuit-box on the table as usual.

man that repels one. Oh, I don't is too wise to quarrel with his bread Talbot Denby rang the bell and

mean because he has a slash at his and butter; in fact, too wise to quar- Gibbon appeared. He was not alto-

party now and again: that's the fash- rel with anyone. That's his way. He gether unlike his master: a tall, thin

ion: it pays. It is something in the will be quite affable and friendly with man with downcast eyes and a re-

expression of his eyes, in his voice. his party, notwithstanding this speech pressed manner; a toneless kind of

Whenever I am talking to him or lis- which is making them all mad. And man with colourless eyes and colour-

mask: I am always suspicious of a him. He leads, apparently, an irre- somewhat peculiar method in his

trusive way, and appears to have no

"Just the man to succeed; and of his

success to-night there can't be

"Just so," observed Mr.

across the vard and, calling a cab,

was driven to his flat in Charlcote

Mr. Talbot Denby had shown a

thief; but his master did not appear

to be afraid to trust him, and his

trust had not been misplaced. Whe-

ther swayed by love or fear or grat-

itude, Gibbon was that extremely

rara avis, a faithful, devoted servant.

"I am going out again, Gibbon,"

said Mr. Denby. "You need not wait

sir." and, with a glance round the

if there was anything wanting,

his colourless eves as if to

nor left of him, as if he were familiar with the place, passed through a door into the usual kind of shop parlor, in which there was yet another door. He gave the four knocks on fective than when he's turning on his the old man has a genius for quar- shone so brilliantly on Veronica as this, and it was opened by a short. can be no doubt of that. And yet I gets his bitterness from him. It was ed over, and the air was blowing with

thick-necked, oily, foreign Jew, with a villainous countenance which was rendered still more villainous by the smirk with which he welcomed his visitor

"Goot-efening, goot-efening, sare!" he said, in a hoarse whisper, half servile, half impudent, and with a confidential leer which one would have thought would have been an irresistible temptation to the great Mr. Talbot Denby to strike him across his thick. evil lips. "I wass afraid you washn't coming; you wash so unlucky the other night. But there! Luck ish alwaysh changing; thatsh the beauty of it; thatsh what makes it so-what you call it-fashinating. Come this way; there ish a goot

company to-night." Round the table were seated about a dozen men; a motley crew. There was the dissipated "gentleman" with blood-shot eyes and bags under them; the swarthy Pole with hollow cheeks and pointed chin adorned by a blue stubble; the well-to-do Jew merchant in evening dress, with a diamond stud in his creased shirt-front and rings half way up the fingers of his dirty hands; the gilded "youth about town" with a vacuous smile on his flushed

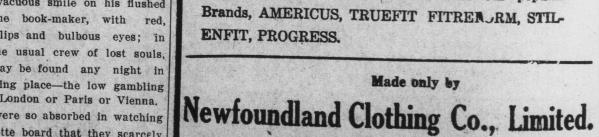
short, the usual crew of lost souls. which may be found any night in their fitting place-the low gambling hells of London or Paris or Vienna. They were so absorbed in watching

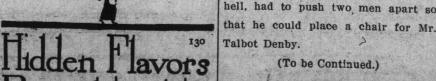
swollen lips and bulbous eyes; in

hell, had to push two men apart so

the roulette board that they scarcely noticed the entrance of the newcomer, and Isaacs, the keeper of the

face: the book-maker, with red,





"Yes.

(To be Continued.)

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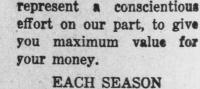
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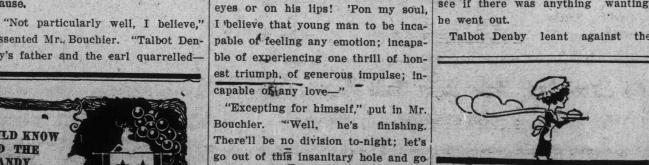


pause.

he's never more clever nor more ef- by's father and the earl quarrelled- ble of experiencing one thrill of honest triumph, of generous impulse; incapable of any love-" "Excepting for himself," put in Mr. Bouchier. "Well, he's finishing. There'll be no division to-night; let's go out of this insanitary hole and go to bed." Mr. Talbot Denby concluded not with an eloquent peroration, but with

a short sentence which seemed like the last cut of a lancet, the last thrust Droug ntout by of a poisoned dagger; then, while the opposition was still cheering and laughing, he took his hat and, passing through his "friends" with his white, impassive face and half closed eyes, he left the House.

The evening of the day which had



(14] 星期

Welch

up."

