HELEN'S LOVERS. Anamias in an impressive aside. MISS

"Ah, Betsey, don't we often, you and 1, see a strong ship sail down the bay one morning," cried poor Miss Elizabeth, point-ing with a tragis gesture to the sea, "and a few hours later, alas, where is she? A wreck, a wreck ! Because we can't see the sunken rock upon which she founders, does that save her? Oh dear dear 1 am so that save her? Oh, dear, dear, I am so

If you go on like this, ma'am, fitting " If you go on like this, ma'am, fitting Miss Helen into parables like the preson, you will upset yourself, you will indeed. The young lady will be here in a minute and you'll be too ill to see her, through running down hill to meet misfortune. Ships sail past, a score a day, and come home, too, most times, and overfill the public houses, more shame to their crew." These worda "running down hill to

These words "running down hill to meet misfortune" suggested an action to the hearer by which she could lessen her

"Fetch my lace shawl and gaunlet gloves, Betsey," she commanded, with a sudden determination. "I will go down ions. into Noelcombe and you shall accompany me. I will see the omnibus conductor ; he promised me to inquire for the poor girl at the station, he undertook to look after her, otherwise I should have gone to met her myself—as I ought to have done, as I ought to have done." "It would have been better, ma'am, than

tying up them carnation blossoms as if Providence was mistaken in making them

'So it was ; thank you very much indeed.

"Lor' bless 'ee, mum, dorn't you spake of it. Poppet and me dorn't count an extra moile or tu; it's all in the day's job."
But Helen would not allow him to pooh his civility; she was most thankful to him, and with reason. His ready West-country courtesy had not only saved her a walk of deadly length and dreariness, but fad restored her self-assurance. She had not been compelled to resort to the weak revenge of the foolish; she had not cut of ther nose to spite her face after all.
She had certainly been bors under a likey star. If a misfortune seemed to fareat in they star. If a misfortune seemed to fareat it. She was elate with self-congratulation when a sudden memory of her moneyless and watchless condition struck her, and, slightly sobered by the recollection, she bade the carrier 'good-night,' and entered her autt's domain.
The twilight had turned to dusk, and the moon, "like a rick on fire," was rising ore rhe sea before the elder Miss Mitford returned. Too agitated to speak, she leaned on Betsey's stilly-crooked arm, with her gresc ast on the ground, a thousand fears ore whelmed her. The slugs, tempted

What mistake did the conductor mak auntie? What did he say about me?" "Well, really, I can't quite remember my love. You see I was in the stable-yard at the Mermaid Hotel—such a confusing spot, for the horses were loose and so close to me. Though they were quiet at the time and looking hot and exhausted, poor things, it does not do to trust to appearance

Never mind, love, never mind. It was a mistake, so I will not repeat what might be an annoyance to you. I make a point of be an annoyance to you. I make a point of forgetting anything unpleasing. Those kind of people do not mean any harm, not at all ; but they are not discerning." These remark wer not likely to arrest

Helen's cur osicy "I should like to near what he said." Miss Mitford was of a plastic disposition; though she formed her own opinions and preserved them, yet she was always ready to comply with the wishes of her compan-

"He didn't say much, Helen."

conductor, auntie

conductor, auntie ?"
conductor was both wrong and foolish to invent so impossible a tale to screen his fault "I had asked him to look out for you a

arched awning. "This yur be the place, mum, if yer she laughed and turned the subject.

"The shadow of the shaft, upon the road. "Your state of the shaft, upon the road. "Your cart is very comfortable, I am glad I missed the omnibus now; I couldn't have seen the county half so well from it." "So it was; thank you very much indeed, "Cart is very contor able, I am glad I missed the omnibus now; I couldn't have seen the shadder of the shaft." "So it was; thank you very much indeed, "So it was; thank you very much indeed, "Cart is very contor of the calumny, but she laughed and turned the subject. "Durba family four family f "Every one is coming," she answered confidentially. "We have been so lucky-hardly one refusal. All the right people i the house." She ran through a string on noble names glibly, and in rather a raise

bored. "I have not enjoyed an evening so much "I have not enjyed an evening so much am afraid." "I have not enjyed an evening so much am afraid." "Lor' bless 'ee, mum, dorn't you spake "Lor' bless 'ee, mum, dorn't you spake of it. Poppet and me dorn tcount an extra moile or tu; it's all in the day's job." interest in which had developed int anxiety; for he twisted it about and crane

sole of his shoe. "Have you asked any of the other people?" he inquired, indifferently. "Whom do you mean ?" "Why, the — the — what do-you-call them ?—the villagers. The parson and the doctor, and the lawyer and the old ladies, don't you know? The people one only sees in church " in church.

no !" and laughed. Then Bertie, still occupied with the for-mation of his foot, spoke more briskly than he had hitherto don

orrent the sea before the enter returned. Too agitated to speak, she leaned or Betsey's stiffly-crooked arm, with her erges cast on the ground, a thousand fears forth by the falling dew, might feast un-disturbed for once in their lives; she was foo preoccupied to remember them. Even Betsey was perturbed; her rugged face was solemn, and she gave quite as high a jump, and gasped quite as fast and breathlessly as or is a state of the sole dozen more people won't crowd us out, and if I'm to stand for this side of the county it I m to stand for this side of the county at the next election it won't do to risk unpenderity and that unpopularity and that sort of thing by want of civility. People like to be asked, and it ought to be done. I feel very strongly about it myself—I always have done so. I should like to know why they shouldn't be asked, and come, too ! Surely there are plenty of old ladies in Noelcombe ? Poor old souls !—a ball would cheer them up a bit. You needn't laugh. I don't want them to dance—I don't mean that—but the looking on and all the rest of it. I'm not chaffing. An : I want some more invitations

are devoted to her and so is papa. They have asked us all there on the 29th. Didn't she tell you? Hasn't she asked you?" "She said something about polo at their place, and a golf or tennis week—I forgot which. It made me hot to think of such ''You are too societed metric," wild An "You are too societed metric, and to which his mother replied with "nods", was of "You are too societed metric, and to which his mother replied with "nods", was of and becks and wreathed smiles," was of "You are too societed metric, and to which his mother replied with "nods", was of and becks and wreathed smiles," was of "You are too societed metric."

really are. You are getting disagreeable." At thatmoment the chorus of "Killaloo"—

Too long, yous long, the Continent, we learnt

ang out through the room.

"Pretty thing that !" growled the young man—" just like 'White Wings' or Lady Lucy. Sort of thing you never get sick of —grows on you—just suits a night like

He pointed through the open window to the poinced through the open window to where the moon traced its pathway across the dark, heaving sea—to where the black cliffs towered, standing on guard upon either side of the left chasm in which twinkled the black of the left chasm in which twinkled the ights of the village. Anastasia did not look at the view, but

she looked keenly at her brother. "Did Troubadour win the Norchester stakes?" she inquired with apparent irrele-

"Walk over," laconically. "Then what's the matter, Bertie ? When

nushed tones announced— " Lady Jones and Mr. Jones !" Then followed some embarassing moments, luring which Miss Elizabeth woke up in a sewildered condition : Lady Jones nervously "Then what's the matter, Bertie? When you are crusty something quite extraordin-ary must have happened." "I'm all right, my dear ; there is noth-ing earthly the matter with me. I suppose a fellow needn't make a fool of himself un-less it is agreeable to him. Lady Lucy is everything that is correct, but she can't sing. and unintelligibly endeavored to explain the object of her call, stared Helen out of coun object of her call, stared Helen out of coun-tenance and broke the foreleg of the dainty chair upon the edge of which she had placed herself on her entry. Strangely enough the usually composed Helen had momentarily lost her self-posses-sion, but soon regaining it, she found Lady Jones another and a firmer chair, helped her out with her disclosures, and sustained the conversation until her aunt finally emerged

"Her voice was soft and low, A cooing kind of voice, you know, Except when she began to sing, And then it was a fearful thing."

" Lady Lucy sings beautifully," his sister said, rather stiffly. "Good-by, Bertie. You are such dull company, I'm off.

only do their duty as well in the ball-roo s they are sure to do in the supper-room

Mr. Jones was still staring at his foot, hi

is neck to enable him to catch sight of the

Miss Anastasia said, "Good gracious

"It is a great mistake to make enemies.

ale of his shoe.

She had not gone more than two steps when he called her back. Anastasia returned—no one ever dreamed of disputing Mr. Jones' wishes; but she was impatient at his demands on her time. With half a dozen young men within hail, the bes this grim, uncomplaisant brother was a unmitigated bore.

What do you want ?" Well, I wanted to hear'-he spok

out with her disclosures, and sustained the conversation until her aunt finally emerged from the land of dreams and became her placid and tranquil self. "I tis solong since I had the pleasure of seeing you, Lady Jones, that for the first moment, I hardly knew you," she apolo-gized. "It seemed so stupid, but unfortu-nately I left my spectacles on the garden seat below the magnolia, and without them I am nearly blind, I am indeed." "My eyes fail me, too, Miss Mitford, but I'm sorry to say I don't wear spectacles, but these awkward pinch-noses which my gicls prefer, though they fall from my nose as often as I place them there."

"Well, I wanted to hear"—he spoke slowly; he was staring hard at his foot, as though its appearance at the end of his trousers was an interesting novelty—" I wanted to hear how many people are com-ing to this ball, and who they are, and what sort of entertainment it's likely to be." This was an engrossing and a sensible topic, into which Anastasia could enter. "But I notice that your--ahem—your asses are suspended from your neck by a chain, which is very convenient; my specta-cles frequently get mislaid. It is impossi-ble," with a gentle sigh, "to attach specta-

Mr. Jones, to do him justice, was be-having with tact, he looked as though he having with tact, he looked as though he was in the habit of paying afternoon calls with his mother, and appeared quite at home on the tiny chair in the corner, where he had retreated on his arrival, and from whence, for the first few moments, he watched the scene in silence. As soon as the elder ladies were fairly engaged in conversation, Helen turned and spoke to this unasservive enest: though she voice ; it is curious that such names should require emphasizing. "It ought to go off well. There are plenty of men, if they will

spoke to this unasservive guest; though she was conscious that his eye rested more persistently upon her than was quite in accordance with good manners, she no longer appeared to resent it. If he had approved her, soiled, weary, and travel-stained, as she had appeared the previous day, it was not probable that his admiration would lessen on the second sight of the girl, who, for some inexplicable reason had mended her manner as much as she had improved her appearance. Voctories improved her appearance. Yesterday h had fancied her gauche, constrained, shy he now she was gracious, self-possessed and smiling, and although there was something in her ceremonious civility which balked his endeavors to arrive at that easy, hail-fellow-well met stage of intimacy, which he usually adopted with those fortunate girls to whom he took a liking, yet he was not inclined to quarrel with her demeanor; after all it was a change, and variety is refreshing. He had come for the purpose of inviting

"It is a great instake to make elemes, he began, as though he was delivering a lecture and was a little pressed for time; "the greatest mistake in the world, Anas-tasia. We ought to ask everybody; we ought to make a point of asking everybody. There is no end of room in this house; a here a nearly world, erowd us out, and He had come for the purpose of inviting her to the ball, and he saw no reason for concealing his purpose, so he immediately approached the subject. "My mother's brought you a card," he said, and then urged her to accept the invi-tation

your offer." "It was no case of trespassing," he re-turned, answering the twinkle with a laugh, "the cart was there and the empty seat ready for you. "Upon my word, I was miserable the whole evening at the thought of your walking home; I couldn't forget it, but it was your own fault." A very steady and expressive glance from his companion disconcerted the sneaker.

Carnation cottage, the sound of a ring at the front gate tinkled through the open window, and mingled so harmoniously with the jubilant song of the canary that Miss Elizabeth—who was dozing in an arm-chair A very sceady and expressive glance from his companion disconcerted the speaker. "If it wasn't your own fault I don't know who was to blame," he added, with some defiance. "When I was half-way home I nearly turned back to try my luck again with you, but, remembering your face as I had last seen it, I thought it wiser not to try." Elizabeth—who was dozing in an arm-chair with her cap straying, as was its wont, over her left column of curls, and her plump brown hands clasped on her rounded knees neither stirred nor sighed.

try." "Had you come you would have been too heither sturred nor sighed. Helen, who was arranging some freshly-cut roses in a basket as she hummed her favorite, "A man who would. woo a fair maid," in subdued notes, saw a shadow cross the lawn; so, roses in hand, she rose and twitched the offending cap into place in view of an emergency in the shape of visitors. She had resumed her some and

"Had you come you would have been too late to find me for I soon met with a—a— carriage in which I drove home." "Not really? You don't mean it, I thought all the cabs and carts were well on their way back before you left the and twitched the offending cap into place in view of an emergency in the shape of visitors. She had resumed her song and her occupation when Julia, awed by the stateliness of a powdered footman and ex-cited by the unwonted sight of a gentleman caller, opened the door timidly, and in hushed tones announced— "Lady Lones and Mr. Lones !" station.

"You had forgotten the carrier's cart." He laughed, they were sailing unplea-antly near the wind, he must change the ubject.

So you came in the guise of a parcel, "So you came in the guise or a parcer, what a fortunate career! I am glad you were spared the walk, though I am inclined to think you deserved to suffer for refusing my escort," then, with a sudden, happy thought, "You pass through pretty country on the way here, don't you'

" Exceedingly," with a disappointing lack of enthusiasm. You do not know the Rivers Meet Vale

near here No, but I heard of it."

"No, but I heard of it." "You must see it." "Yes, I should like to go there." "It's a perfect bit of scenery. It heats anything I ever saw in any country, and I have done a tiresome bit of knocking about in my life. The rivers come in contact in a marrow valley between a brace of granite tors; there is such a turnult over the meeting of the waters that you can hear the splashing and the roar half a mile off. Bowlders from the cliff have rolled down into the bed of the river, and the water lashes at them all day long and sends up clouds of spray which keep the air cool even on the hottest summer morning. The on the hottest summer morning. Osmunda Regalis grows eight feet high on the banks ; inland you get a view over the moor, and seaward you can see right away beyond Morte Point."

"How beautiful."

" Indeed, it is beautiful !"

Scenery was a stimulating and stirring copic; Mr. Jones felt that hitherto he had ot fully appreciated the beauties of North Devon.

Devon. "The morning after the ball we are going to drive up there for a blow," he continued. "We are all going, a largish party, we shall take lunch and make a day of it. It's rather a difficult place to get at, the roads are ex-ecrable. You will come with us, won't you ? You would love the Vale and my mother would he so pleased to have you."

You would have the vale and my mother would be so pleased to have you." Helen's eyes had sunk to the roses on her knee, she hesitated and he cagerly pressed his advantage. "I will get the carrier's cart if that is the

only conveyance you fancy, and if I mayn't drive you, at least I may walk at the horse's head and crack the whip occasionally. "May I leave it open ?"

" May I leave it open ?" " No," he said, boldly, "that is just what you may not do. I hate uncertainty worse than misfortune. If you will come it will be avery hird of one of your of you will come it will be very kind of you; if you won't I will make up my mind to bear the disap-pointment."

'It must depend upon my aunt," with

an accession of dignity that the young man did not seem to remark. "I thought it depended on you," he said frankly, "If it depends on her it is easily arranged," and, forthwith, he rose from his arlanged, and, forthwith, he rose from his chair, quitted his nonplussed companion, and, turning his shoulder upon her, ad-dressed Miss Elizabeth. He had hardly fuished his petition for permission for Helen to join their Rivers Meet picnic before it

was gratefully accorded. "Whose picnic is it, Albert," asked Lady Jones, rising as she spoke preparatory to taking leave. "I hadn't heard a word of it. Dear me, I fancy you must have made mistake for I do ot think we are invited. "It's all right, mother," he replied, camly. "The girls are going and all the people in the house. It is our own picnic, but its rather premature to talk of it, for the weather's so uncommonly unsettled down here in the West." h

and becks and wreathed smiles," was of some length, and bore the following fruit. During the ensuing afternoon, when Miss Mitford and her niece were seated in the cool, flower-scented little drawing-room at You are too spoiled, Bertie," said An-sia, shrugging her shoulders. "you,

We larn to sing it aisy, that song the Mar

solemn, and she gave quite as high a jump, and gasped quite as fast and breathlessly as did her mistress when a girl's head was hrust through the open spare room window and a lively voice cried— "Oh, here you are, at last ! I am un-packing, I will come down." And the next moment Helen herself came "ChAPTER V.

And the next moment Helen herself came out of the porch door to meet them. "My dear, my dear, how you have fright-ened me ! What happened ? Where have you been ? There, take me indoors, Helen, I am trembling sadly, I should like to rest." "I am so dreadfully sorry, Aunt Eliza-beth ; but really, upon my word, it was not my own fault."

my own fault.'

my own fault." "Kiss me, my love; now that you are here, I mind nothing. Oaly that conductor fibrerased my alarm. I know so little about girls; they are odd nowadays, quite changed since my youth. Betsey didn't believe it, but, then, Betsey never believes anything, you know." for humors. If the wit was weak among the party at Newton, the laughter was strong, and there was plenty of it, and the music of laughter is pleasant to hear in a world where it does not always overbound. A group of men and girls were gathered round the piano, which, with an accom-naniment of hance. you know

Then Helen, her aunt and Betsey hanging on her words and asking many questions, gave a detailed account of the day's occur-rences. She omitted all mention of Mr. Jones' name, however, and slurred over the explanations of how she lost the omnibus.

And you came here in the carrier's cart -how extremely uncomfortable you must have been.

"It was rather jolty down the hills, Aunt Elizabeth." Aunt Elizabeth and she were having

supper. Betsy hovered about them, joining every now and then uninvited in the conversation.

" The carrier is a civil man ; he admired my wallflowers so much in the spring—a dark variety, Helen, and particularly sweet-scented; would your father care for some seedlings, do you think ?" uoted, v

"He would love them, auntie; so

'I am still thinking of the carrier, Helen; he and Mr. Jones are so very unlike. It is extraordinary that such an intelligent person as the conductor could have been so mistaken." "Here Betsy made some remark about

chaffing, An; I want some more invitation Anastasia looked perplexed, and spok coldly—"Thanks for indulging me wit

"O saw ye bonnie Lesley As she gaed o'er the border i She's gane, like Alexander, To spread her conquest farther." Burns,

coldly—" Thanks for indulging me with your maiden speech, Bertie—not very elegant, but emphatic. So you will sup-port women's rights, and old women's rights in particular? Most benevolent of you !" " I want those invitations sent cut " Dinner was over-an excellent dinner it had been, such as leaves those who have been happy enough to discuss it in the best of humors. If the wit was weak among the I want those invitations sent out." he

brother repeated. He did not often exert himself to expres a wish, but when he did so his family knew that, come what might, that wish would eventually be fulfilled.

A group of men and girls were gathered round the piano, which, with an accom paniment of banjo, bones, and vigorous by leading the popular strains of that curi-ous tune "Killaloo." (Then you had better speak to mother. She is always eager to gather in from the hedges and highways. No doubt she will be charmed to send every tradesman in the village a card." This last whim of Bertie's was pre-posterous and the index

by leading the popular strains of the second single strong and shoke—do something. I saw Lady g Lucy looking over here just now; it's rather uncivil of you not to talk to her. You have been so stupid all the evening; " "* That polished horde, formed of the tart is the post of the second single strong in the second single strong in the second strong in the second strong in the second single strong in the second strong in the s

* That polished horde, formed of two him to occupy his window-seat alone.

"A That poilshed horde, formed of two him to occupy his window-seat alone. mighty tribes, the Bores and Bored,'" he He, however, did not remain where she quoted, with a comprehensive glance first had left him, but, crossing the room, seated at the musicians, and then round the room. himself by the side of his mother, with "My dear An, I can't tune myself up to whom he conversed for some time. Lady

"My dear An, I can't tune myself up to whom he conversed for some time. Lady concert pitch in heat like this. Lady Lucy Jones still possessed one joy which was is all very well, but she is not invigorating ; unquenched by the pomp of her riches—the she is as mild as buttermilk." she is as mild as buttermilk." Inve of her son, her handsome, charming His sister looked at him rather anxiously, son, who treated her with a gentle tender

and knitted her eyebrows. "She is perfectly charming, Bertie; we had strangled the dawning shadow of a sus

Her smiling indifference to the whole

question was rather astonishing to one whose desire, opinion or remark usually received the undivided attention of that "You don't care for dancing?" hazarded. "Perhaps you don't go to balls?" "I was at a ball last week," she replied,

"I was at a ball last week, she replice, "I am very fond of dancing." "Perhaps you have had too much of it? One gets sick of anything." She smiled at him without answering—a

be smiled at him without answering—a provoking smile because it was ambiguous. He thought those gray eyes of hers with which she looked straight into his, were very clear and cold, but wonderfully pretty; he thought she looked like a rose herself in her pink cotton gown and her hands filled with roses ; he thought he should like to own that cloth of gold bud with which she toyed half-absently while she talked. He wished she would be less unapproachable

wished she would be less unapproachable and more responsive. "Perhaps," he began again, still search-ing for a cause for her refusal, "you don't care for a ball out of your own neighbor-hood? Do strangers bore you?" "On the contrary—1 like change, and therefore a change of face."

therefore a change of face." "Then, why," doggedly, "won't you come to us?"

"I am sorry," with that formal air of politeness that was artificial, he knew, and which annoyed him, "that I am unable to

which annoyed him, " that I am unable to accept your kind invitation." "I am most unlucky," he returned, with a smile, "you will accept nothing of mine— not even a lift in my dog-cart." It was the first time he had alluded to

their prior acquaintance, and she blushed a little when he did so, though she answered littl with that calm savor faire and self-reliance which seemed to place her at a great dis-tance off and reversed their former position, to his disadvantage.

"Yesterday you were a stranger to me," she said, demurely.

"So is a cabman'a stranger, but you drive in his cab all right." "I pay a cabman."

'You could pay me, if you like."

"I had no money. charming "I would have put it down," he said, "I would have taken out the fare in dances." "You were very kind," with a misWhen the visitors had gone the elder Miss Mitford waxed eloquent over their charms and flooded her discourse with their praises.

' Such genial and friendly people, love the young man so handsome and so easy. If poor Lady Jones is not quite what we are accustomed to in polish, yet her deficienciés are concealed by good nature. People are sadly unkind about them. Jealousy, love, is at the root of all unkindness. Between ourselves, Helen, I think that nice young man has taken a fancy to you. You have no idea how he stared when you were bidding his mamma good-bye; it was almost uncivil; but then he has such handsome

He is very self-satisfied and conceited." said the younger lady with cold delibera-Jon.

Dear, dear, you astonish me, Helen. From you manner and general air I quite thought—well, well, I really couldn't tell you what I did think—old maids are fanci-

" I wonder if they are as fanciful as young ones," thought the girl, dipping her sweet face down in the basket of roses before her and smiling rather grimly.

(To be Continued.

Goodheart's Sudden Change.

Returned tourist-Is Mr. Goodheart still paying attentions to your daughter ? Indeed he isn't paying her any atten.

Indeed? Did he jilt her ?" "No. He married her."

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tion at all.