

abother had found my queen, and laid a title and his money at her feet? No!" he says, "I know my Jeannemy Jeanne! Then they go slowly back-very

says, quietly. "Jeanne shall be happy." slowly, in silence. Just as they are in sight of th house, Aunt Jane's slovenly figure covered by its cooking apron, appears in a doorway, and without a word Jeanne slips from his arm and vanishes.

Vernon Vane emits his short laugh and makes for the foe. "Good-morning, Mr. Vane," says

Aunt Jane, holding out a floury hand and withdrawing it with a laugh. "Wasn't-that Jeanne with you?" breaks off. "Yes," says Vane, with a smile "May I come in?" and he follows her

into the kitchen. "You'll get all over flour," she says, as he sits himself upon a broad table

and looks at her with a quiet smile on his handsome face. "Do you want to peer into the mysteries of puff-paste? Where is Jeanne?" "Jeanne has fled." he says.

world. What do you say to the Honor-"Fled?" echoes Aunt Jane; then she

able Clarence Fitzjames?" looks up, struck by the way in which What Jeanne says is-nothing; but he says "Jeanne," and half reads the she starts suddenly and looks aside.

"Oh, what is it?" she says.

story in his eyes.

* * ****** "A' comical one, but one which, be "And they have not eaten me, you ing in a good humor this morning, I see!" he says, half an hour afterpromised to obey. I am to go up to the wards, as Jeanne and he are sitting in Park, and break the news of his lordship's departure to 'the Lambtons. the arbor. "There is only Hal left.' Poor Maud! Poor Georgina!-happy "Dear old Hal!" murmurs Jeanne. Maud! happy Georgina! if they were like a worm in the bud, feed on his "And I do not greatly fear him. And now, my Jeanne, you shall be my only wise enough to know their es- damask cheeks," there was every dog cape from a man who would have about the place who got a kind word queen, and I will be your slave. Now. what are your majesty's commands.

Jeanne does not know what it is to

"I have that; you can trust me," he that?"

be rich. If you have enough to make

her happy-

married them for their money. If poor and a caress from her; old Griffin, yard. By the way, I have received a com-Lane had lived another six months, one of them would have been the Hon- Nancy Bell, puffing at his pipe, and mand already this morning," he orable Mrs. Fitzjames. Ah, Jeanne!" Jeanne looks up eagerly. scorn, "you wanted to know the world. these last few days, would scarcely

Vane nods with a smile. "Early as I was, birds of a brighter Here is a little piece of it for you! feather were about. Who do you think What do you think of it?" I met in the village?" "No-no!" she says, still pale and

roubled. "I do not now. I will stay in of the long journey which would fol-Jeanne thinks "Old Griffin?" "No, that was down on the beach; Newton Regis all my life; I may, may low hard upon the marriage cere some one who deems himself of more not? importance than all the Griffins in the "For just one month, darling,'

whispers, "and then you shall see the world, with me by your side, to keep all harmful things from even touch-

ing the skirts of my little white dove "Yes," continues Vane, leaning back "A-a month!" says Jeanne, inocently. Then her face crimsons. -And the Worst is Yet to Come

Oh, no-no! not so soon!" she says, catching her breath-"not so soon!" But, mingled with her fear is remulous gleam of half-terrified de light in her dark eyes; and Verne knows that she will yield.

assumed skin of impassive languor."

"And-and the command," says

Jeanne, speaking at last, "what was

Vane frowns.

CHAPTER XII. A STRANGER IN EDEN. It is a month since Vernon Vane sa

on Aunt Jane's kitchen table among the flour, and the June sun, as it sinks slowly and regretfully to its rest, turns the red bricks of the old house into a vivid crimson, Every door and window is open, and the passer-by, if he cares to listen, may hear, from the first floor, that confused commingling of chatter and exclamation which pro ceeds from women in excitement. The aforesaid passer-by may also, if he be observant, remark an unwonted air of movement stirring about the place; mething is going to happen. Up in the room, from which the voices float lown into the road, the mystery is exlained, for a small group of ladie

are gathered around the bed, wrapped n an ecstasy of admiration and deight at the vision of a white satin ridal dress smothered in lace, tosether with the usual paraphermalia nsidered necessary for those young dies who are about to change thei

At the centre of the group is Aunt ane, half triumphantly, half tearfuly, holding up the veil and orangems, and clustered around her are Georgina and Maud and Mrs

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than smiles at a wedding.

And, indeed, now that the time has

come for Jeanne to spread her wings,

it is wonderful how many hearts are

wrung in regret for her going. To say

nothing of poor Bell, who has "never

told his love, but let concealment

who sat for hours and stared at the

sighing his heart out; and, lastly,

let her out of his sight, and, for all

doleful whenever mention was made

his whistling and shouting, looked

chapped, roughened hands and cracked lips, stops colds-almost overnight. Gentle and antiseptic as well as safe and thoroug

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