to the heat of the atmosphere.

"Not dancing? How is that?"

him than to argue with him, and in her present mood, whatever it was-

plied her will questions and hemmed

and strung up by all the small event

But Lord Lynmouth had mercy

What happened during that dank

"Do you remember the syringa

their scent—those beautiful days "Yes." she said faintly, and her

heart, instead of beating too rapidly.

the flower out to her, and she thought

She took it and put it in the lace of

her bodice in silence, and then, when

it was there and its strong sweet frag-

rance filled the air, he came closer and.

leaning his arm on the back of the

seat, sat looking at her intently and in

said to you?" he said presently in a low voice. "I wonder if they were

half as beautiful to you as they were

my eyes when I see those flowers of

ing lawn with cedar-trees and a be

of syringa-bushes, and in the shade of

face, and she often turns away from

him so that he cannot see it, and when

though the sun had gone in and there

is nothing left worth looking at. It

was an exaggerated feeling perhaps but he was very much in love."
A pause ensued: Hester, in con

strained silence, waiting for some-

he went on, "and everything she said

seemed to him better and wiser an sweeter and more lovable than wha

other women said. He made up h

mind that he would win her for wife if he could, but he saw that

proud. He tested his feeling for hi in many little ways, and sometimes

seemed to him that she cared for hi

a good deal and sometimes he wa

absolutely sure of it. Then one de

there came a misunderstanding, a cold

ness, a something he could not ac

the world she should ever care

nd lapsed into silonce.

exclamation, but restrained herself

with the air of telling a tale she did

dst of that suffering circumstances

ame about in such a way that he

for, and in the pain of it

would be difficult for she was

thing that she felt was coming The man made her talk to him

"Shall I tell you what comes before

his voice trembled.

into the thick of the throng.

mattered for the time.

"I-I am only looking on," she said

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HESTER, AND A LEGACY TORTURED BY

She turned out the light of the she said, trying not to look perturbed. lamp at her side and, going over to the window, looked out into the was warm, and if her cheeks looked her than the she had a late of the look of the starry night with a passionate longing in her heart. Her thoughts were nterrupted by a tap at the door, and the next instant a radiant figure entered. She could not see at first in the "I—I am indistince light who it was, but Molly Montague's voice broke upon her ear. "Miss Philips, why are you not downstairs in the ballroom? I have and dance with me-" come to fetch you. Come down at

The girl came forward to the win about the tone in which the last few dow and laid her hand on Hester's words had been uttered-a something arm, looking into her face with a both persuasive and tender that set "I cannot," replied Hester. "I am she had no voice with which to speak

not dressed—it is so late: besides, I she rose to her feet and put her hand don't know many people—" within his arm. It was easier to obey "That has nothing to do with it. my ball you know, and I am to be and she did not quite know-she fe married to-morrow, and you can't re-fuse anything I ask. I missed you—I persisted in looking at her, it he has did indeed. I looked round and saw you were not there, and came up to her in a corner, she should have made an exhibition of herself in some way, offended, if you don't come down or she felt sure: she was so overwrough

Hester was touched. "It is very kind of you," she began, have voset her self-control and placed turning and taking her hand with a her at the morey of her emotions. natural instinct to express her gratiude and forgetting for an instant the liference in their stations, "but—" waist without more ado, whired her "I will allow no 'buts'! Put on your ress at once and come down. .. Lots people will dance with you. Mi. aham will for one and-oh, heaps a strange, wonderful dream that mass of others! You must come.. I want

That was enough for Hester. No sort of desperation as the last taste one ever wanted her for herself; her of real life and happiness. His arm ociety was courted merely when she was round her waist, his will ge dwas useful or necessary. She said at ing hers. He belonged to her alone once, and gratefully— "I will come at once if you really the morrow might 4ring misery, the

"That is right! I can't allow you to rope up here alone. Be quick and I vill find you some partners. Mind, shall look out for you, so you dare anda. She ran off, and left Hester to dress down the steps and turned into

quickly as she could. This was not one of the garden paths. the choice between the black gown lighting up the paths and the white and the white one, her wardrobe being of the simplest. But the white syringa-bushes. There was a gardengown was a very pretty one, and with seat among these bushes, half buried its lace ruffles round her shoulders and its satin ribbon round her slender they sat down. Before them lay a waist was very becoming too. It was basin of water, in the middle of which unfortunate, however, that she was a little fountain was spurting gently tired and in low spirits: her cheeks on to the water-livies and goldash belooked pale and wan, and when she low with a soothing sound: the moon placed a great bunch of red roses at some over all and the scent of flow her breast their brilliant coloring on- ers filled the air. went downstairs at last with very while. Hester did not ask why he had mixed feelings. Among the crowd of brought her there, and he did no beautiful and well dressed women she offer any explanation. They could not shine, away from all the woods, and her heart and Mrs Vavasour's unkind speeches was beating like a frantic thing strugstill weighed heavily at her heart. In her present mood Lord Lynnsouth's kinduress—and he might hossib'y be kind to her—would only he an additional name she felt.

Was beating like a trantac thing strue gling to get free. She sat silent, with her hands, cold and trembling, clasp ed on her lap. She was waiting for something, she did not know what.

The scene was a gay one. The ball- bushes near him and, breaking off an additional pain, she felt. oom was large and opened on to a spray of syringa blossom, held it i conv leading into the gardens. his hand an instant, lined the walls and promenaded he halls. Softly-shaded lamps, big the plants, sweet-smelling flowers were in profusion, and through the midst of this scene passed Hester with mingled ear and longing in her heart. She lipped into the ballroom and sat waltz was in progress and Lord came to a sudden stop and her hands wn on a vacant scat near the door. nmouth was dancing with the bella grew colder. the room. Hester happened to cat h ght of him at once, and as she did the weight at her beaut grew pavier. She watched them jealously. The lady was not only beautiful, but perfect dancer. She moved like a

other about the room, obedient to Lord Lyrmouth danced with an silence. Englishman's usual gloom. His was not the light style; he did not study picturesque ike Captain Lovelace skim the Fortesme Featherstone. bump and pound Eke Chief Justice to me?" Hester's eves were fixed on this

ouple in particular when her the ughts ere interrupted by a voice at her lad to see you at 'ast. Mr. Graham dance?"-and off whisked the bride to-morrow on the arm of a gay

m to win his way with Hester. "May I have the honour?" he asked ame down to look on,' she replied. It is very kind of you to trouble

pleasure! You don't dance? Then let us sit here. Conversation is sometimes very pleasant when one is not like myself, an enthusiastic dancer." They had just managed to struggle

had brought forward and about which he evinced a calm and well-bred interest, when a voice at her side broke In a moment the tragedies on the railway went out of her head she forgot the pompous Member of

rgot that she was tired and that Mrs. Vavasour had snubbed her: she orgot everything except the fact that was Lord Lynmouth who was She was very badin love indeed, there was no denyng that, when the mere sound of his ice put her in such a flutter.

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ing up with the quick jealousy of love "You know I d'd not!" he said She looked down again and there

as a little pause. After a minute c wo he continued his story "The girl was sweet and good, h the man could not love her. He tried but it was no use, for love is a spon tancous thing and cannot be forced she never knew. It was like a dreamone that he really loved. Her face used to rise up before him and come be reality-and she clung to it with a tween him and the girl he was engaged to. He worried himself unceasingly over her reason for being unkind to him, and wondered what could have made her change so suddenly for those few minutes, and though He was thankful when the engage present was hers, and nothing else free to see her again and force her give her reasons. Before he could d The waltz came to an end, and Lord Lynmouth led her out on the verchanged. He found himself a beggar They went along the veranda and or something very like it, and in the few days that chance gave him of meeting the girl he cared for, his moon and stars were shining softly,

for him to speak to her of love. "I know that," said Hester in loved her then, whatever you may have done before, or you could never

(To be continued.)

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rushed headlong on his fate and told her that he loved her. She told him in return that he was the last man Hester uttered a little involuntary

Opposite Park

"The words were unnecessarily for Stationery, Books the girls of think," he continued, stell and British Papers ot know; "at any rate, they caused of all kinds. e man an amount of suffering that is needless to describe. In the

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