## HELEN LAFONE: THE FOES OF A HOUSEHOLD.

A TALE OF ENGLISH LIFE.

CHAPTER XV.

choice; rather. because he was so constantly asked to go, and believing that it was all done in good-will and from simple friendliness, he considered it his duty to go, and after all it was less trouble to go than to be continually pressed for a reason for not going.

As we know, he was asked for a purpose. Time had dimmed Mrs Lafones sense of the impropriety and unreasonableness of Alice's remarks. She did earnestly desire to see her daughter married, and if at last she was pleased to prefer one man to all the others there was no harm in giving that man every chance of preferring her. She understood her daughter's character better perhaps than any one else, and she know what happened when Alice was thwarted in any one of her plans and wishes.

Thwaite, so he did not display any great excitement when Alice told him one day that her sister Gertrude was engaged, "Indeed!" he said rather indifferent-

ly. "To whom?"
"To Frank Harvey, 1 must say 1 sm rather surprised."

him ? I think I have seen him here once

cival's unsympathetic reply. will have everything in that

"I should say few girls have had more offers than you; it seems a pity that not one of hese men should have offered you a lit. le common-sense."

"I do not want common sense, I think I have enough. What I want in my hu band is sympathy, fellow feeling, power to understand my character. I don't believe that one out of all the men who have asked me to marry them had even the faintest idea of what kind of woman I really am. The life I have led has not been conducive to candor. In society women have to stifle their real nature and behave like all the rest of the Individuality must be crushed out, and uniformity is the order of the day. They say society could not exist if it were not so. I am not sure that the world could not get on very well without society, what do you think?"

Again bitterness was noticeable in her tone, but Percival my rely said,
"My opinion on the matter cannot be of much value, as I know very little about society. But it seems hard when one of society's greatest ornaments turns round and abuses the institution to which in great measure it owes its success. Is there no feeling among the members of society that they ought to stand by what !

"Ah!" she exclaimed, almost passionately, and finging away the flowers with which she had been trifling. 'It is al-ways the same. You never have believthat I was anything better than a frivolous flirt.

Percival's impulse to smile at her words was checked by the tone in which they were spoken. She did for some reason seem really unhappy and weary of her present mode of life. Nevertheless as he was not greatly interested in the matter, he answered rather indiffer-

"Nay, now you exaggarate. A woman may enjoy herself in society without being what you describe. I have certainly

to The Thwaite, though hardly from choice; rather because he was so constantly asked to go, and believing that "You wreng me!" she cried, "You wreng me!" she cried, "You

went on however, her colour returned, and the clasp of her hand relaxed; she seemed to see a loophole in what he

steemed to see a loophole in what he perhaps than any one else, and she know what happened when Alice was thwarted in any one of her plans and wishes. Percival was also a thoroughly desirable sen-in-law. After a time she saw no reason why she should not do all she could to further Alice's future.

So Percival visited steadily at The Thwaite, and the enly person whose was Alice. She was changed; as he grew accustomed to his new life and began to notice other people, it dawned upon him gradually that Alice was changed lay; he was only-conscious of a feeling that she was better to get on with than before. Though she had none of

finish?" she asked, in almost breathless sible shape in order to give Miss Lafon

"I suppose she likes him," was Perval's unsympathetic reply.
"I suppose so, and then he is rich."
"I suppose so, and then he is rich." way that she can wish for. It is very here and adopt a very unwarrantable that her love was wearing her away, she fortunate for a girl when she can be contone to a girl who speaks frankly to you. was also at times sorely angry with him tent with that and want for nothing else. I wish I could."

The last words were spoken in a lower tone and with more bitterness than was generally observable in Alice's voice.

Percival raised his eyebrows as he shall ever transgress again. You might and acknowledges one man alone as her have shown your meaning with more delicacy perhaps, but no doubt a manly must be more than friendship in her frankness is your ideal."

matter with the girl?" were his unspoken reflections. "Is she mad? She must few simple words about Gertrude's engagement she makes a regular quarrel. but it is absurd to suppose there was do, I am sure, would be to let her alone and I am sure I shall not be allowed to do that. We shall have to go through a form of making it up just to satisfy her; it is perfectly absurd. There is something wrong I am sure. Perhaps all these suitors are the wrong ones, and the right one does not come forward as he ought. I hope not, for that would and I am sure I shall not be allowed to he ought. I hope not, for that would had no strength to make the necessary make a deuce of a mess, and she is the kind of woman who ought to get married.

had no strength to make a deuce of a mess, and she is the effort to silence people's tongues. She was drifting in a rudderless boat along What an awful old maid she would make! What a contrast to Helen, who would have made the sweetest little maiden lady in the world." He smiled to himself at the thought—he generally did smile when he thought of his wife, though the smile very often ended in a Percival heard anything of what was

Meanwhile Alice walked swiftly upmay enjoy herself in society without being what you describe. I have certainly always supposed you enjoyed your life. Why should you not? As I believel said to you once before, we must take the bitter with the sweet. You had more admiration than any other woman of your years. If it sometimes palls, you must remember that your weariness comes from a surfeit, not a want, of what most women prize above everything else."

He speke indifferently and gravely It might be that his tone was colder than he knew. To Alice every word seemed like a drop of icy water upon her burning heart. She felt as though he had expressed contempt for her. She almost

he remained stupidly sunt in mental contemplation of his wife's charms. She knew that in his own mind he compared every woman he met to Helen; and what had Helen been? Nothing more than an ordinary bright, cheerful girl, with perhaps rather more than the average amount of intelligence. She herself laid claim to longings and aspirations above those of the common run of people; she was dissatisfied with her brilliant lot; she exacted more from her

It was true that he went a great deal (hated him and his cool, calm eyes, which ears, and he would have nothing to say to her; he handled her doubts and wishes in the most commonplace way, and clung stupidly to the idea that Helen had been a pearl among women. She almost hated him one moment, only to feel the next that she was hopelessly in "I am sure mamma has been putting these ideas into your mind." love with him, and that her love threat ened to master her. So far Percival had no suspicion of the truth, but when she

> half with another feeling, which was more like triumph.
>
> "I cannot go on like this forever; as long as I can hide it I will, but I know the time will come when I can hide it no longer, and then he must marry me or—What she would do if Percival did not marry her she did not say; perhaps she had not made up her mind.
>
> are naturally observant in such matters, and also because you do not care whether I live or die."
>
> Percival selden talked seriously to Alice, so now, without noticing what she said, he replied—"Do not die now, just when the summer is coming. It is a bad time to choose; put it off a little, until next winter at any rate."
>
> "You serve vant in such matters, and also because you do not care whether I live or die." more like triumph.
>
> "I cannot go on like this forever; as long as I can hide it I will, but I know the time will come when I can hide it no

would lose all control over herself? She shivered at the thought, half with fear,

tasul, half hesitatingly, and with her than before. Though she had none of the qualities which were necessary to attract him, he had a kind of brotherly regard for her, and he felt she was improving, without troubling about the cause of the improvement. He never felt much interest in the people at The Thwaite, so he did not display any great excitement when Alice told him one day that her sixts Garttude was engaged.

Less interest of the improvement when Alice told him one day that her sixts Garttude was engaged.

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Less interest of the person who addressed to have grown larger. She eye fixed upon her lap. At the last had never been sweet tempered, in her best and most lovable days she had been wont to take offence at trifles, and to consider any attempt to prefer another to herself as a direct and studied insult.

Now her temper was painfully and alarmingly uncertain. Were the words and manner of the person who addressed them, and looked to consider any attempt to prefer another to herself as a direct and studied insult.

Now her temper was painfully and alarmingly uncertain. Were the words and manner of the person who addressed to have grown larger.

Less is a sult hat her lap. At the last had never been sweet tempered, in her been word looked to consider any attempt to the reside and most lovable days she had been wont to take offence at trifles, and to consider any attempt to herself as a direct and studied insult.

Now her temper was painfully and alarmingly uncertain. Were the words and manner of the person who addressed to have grown larger.

The provider which were been sweet tempered, in her had never been sweet tempered, in her had never been sweet tempered, in her had never been sweet tempered. go on.

"What do I think? Why do you not would not be twisted into some imposreason for considering herself injured. Do you not think your mother could She appeared to be burning with fever; her surprised."
Why, is there anything wrong with advise you better?"
He had no intention of speaking of a red spet, brighter than usual, in

advise you better?"

He had no intention of speaking of a red spet, brighter than usual, in the radecent kind of fellow."

Alice could not help laughing.

Once or twice, Percival! Gertrude would be angry, indeed, if she thought you supposed her capable of getting engaged to a man who had been here once or twice."

Pencival said nothing. The thought which was vaguely present in his mind was that he had never supposed Gertrude to be capable of anything, because he never thought of her. Alice went on remains the never thought of her. Alice went on remains the last six months, and now I suppose he will be here more than ever. What surprises me is that Gertrude should take the first who comes in that way. She is very pretty and is sure to have plenty of other offers. Frank Harvey is so very common-place."

"I suppose she likes him," was Percival sunsympathetic reply.

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"I suppose she likes him," was Percival sunsympathetic reply. strangely upon your position er to make. If she loved Percival so

rankness is your ideal."

She was gone, leaving Percival look.

heart? He aw and thought nothing;
he remained absorbed in Helen's meming after her and wondering if she were in her right mind.

"What in the name of heaven is the world contained any other woman.

"What in the name of heaven is the world contained any other woman. What, in the name of heaven, is the felt for the moment as if she hated him, natter with the girl?" were his unspokently afterwards to be as firmly only directly afterwards. Her love be mad. Ever since I knew her she has been having on and off near he has for him was such as she had never imbeen harping on and off upon her unhappiness and the disadvantages under which she has labored, and now out of a shout Gartrude's entered about the indifference with which she received and rejected an offer, that, it was useless to expect from her what was She is in a fearful rage about something, not in her; she never could love any anything in what I said to justify that torrent of wrath. She must have been angry about something else to begin any about something else to begin love for Percival. Had she not to a love for Percival. with, and made my words an excuse for letting it out. The best thing I could feeling seemed to have grown strong and let her come round in her own way, knew that people were beginning to enough to destroy her self-respect. She

Sometimes she wondered whether

nervous contraction of the eyebrows and sometimes a hardly noticeable shudder.

An analysis of what was said. Probably not; gossip and scandal did not seem to penetrate to Brantwood. The doors were closed to anything of body. She locked the door and began to pace up and down like an animal confined in a cage. She was still trembling,

oldest and least susceptible of all a soft green was creeping; the bird were sing-ing and the garden was full at leaven

A rug was spread upon the grass, and of the rug were low wicker chairs and a low wicker table, covered with work ma-terials, embroidery ailks, finnikin acis sors and thimble, together with the oper

volume of a novel.

Alice had a bit of work in her hand, Alice had a bit of work in her hand, but she was doing nothing. She sat leaning back in her chair, her hands lying rather limply upon her knees. Her eyes were bent upon the ground, and the point of her slender, embroidered slipper fidgeted about one particular spot in the design of the rug. She looked gloomy and unhappy; there was a listliness in her whole attitude and expression; her voice seemed changed as she said—
"I am sure mamma has been autting

"Why do you suppose they should not originate with me?"
"Partly because I do not think men are naturally observant in such matters,

"You speak very comfortably," show-ing both in voice and manner that his words had offended her. "No doubt

you have never been unhappy in your life." He again passed by her words, merely

saying—
"But what can possibly make you un happy, if I may be allowed to ask?"

Her eyes flashed, and she absolutely et her teeth with anger. She fought against it for a moment, and then, una-ble altogether to control herself, flung away the work she had held in her hand. What is the matter?" asked Perci

val, looking up in amazement.

The little outburst had relieved her; her voice was calm, though not steady, as she replied,
"I ran the needle into my finger just

He said nothing for a moment, then

"At least give me a clue."

"I have given you a hundred, if you only chose to see them," she said bit-

"I am afraid I am very blind."

"You are, very blind."
He said no more. It was evident that Alice was in a very bad temper; for the present even his influence over her was gone. He was utterly in the dark as regarded the meaning of her last words, and he did not know what to say to conciliate her. He thought he would wait for her to speak first, He had not to wait long. In a few moments her frown was smoothed away, and her lips parted in a half-smile, as she said— "Now you are angry with me, and

you have ever suffered from unstrung to irritate a person in that condition. I must ask your indulgence on the ground rude.

"Not at all; please do not say any more about it.' any one else, and, of course, I abuse

your patience. It is always sc. "You will make me feel ashamed if you say anything more," he said, feeling a slight degree of alarm at this sudden appeal. "If you really do not feel wen, Miss Lafone, I would suggest that you go away from home for a time."
He always called her "Miss Lafone.

Since Helen's death she had made such a point of always addressing him as 'Mr Moore" that he did not feel justified in calling her anything else.

"Do you suppose it would do me good to go away?" she asked, and she spoke in the same listless voice in which she had begun the conversation. "Possibly; and in no case could it do

you any harm. Spring is always a try-ing time, particularly, I think, when one spends it in the place where one has been all through the winter. You might go away for a while to brace yourself up for your London season. I suppose you will spend the summer in London, as usual."
"I do not know," she answered rather

pettishly. "Why should I go to London? I am tired of London." "In that case," was his reply, given

with aggravating common not go there this year." "I must go some where, I should die of dullness if I stayed in the country."
"It is a pity you have no settled occupation. You would not then find

any place dull.' Perhaps you would advise me to go out as a governess or a lady help. I suppose if I did that I should have settled occupation?"

TO BE CONTINUED,

The Time to Act.

If you are threatened with Headache, Constipation, Buliousness or weakness, procure at once a bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters and use it according to instructions. Prompt action is necessary in order that your trouble may be cured before it becomes chronic. Nobody of Kansas City ventures out

of their houses either day or night with-out a revolver. In the day time the weapon is needed as a protection against

Household Hints.

Never let tes boil. Hold a hot shovel over furniture to To extract ink from wood, cour with sand wet with water and ammonia.

Thea riese with strong saleratus water.

To give a good oak color to a pine floor wash in a solution of one pound of cop-per, as dissolved in one gallon of strong

serted by the hornet's, bound on the throat with a piece of flannel, will cure the most malignant sore throat. To whiten the hands melt half as

glycerine and one pound of mutton tallow, and apply every night. Salt and water will prevent the hair from falling out, and will cause new hair to grow. Do not use so atrong as to

leave white particles upon the hair wicen Mahogany furniture should be washed with warm water and soap; an applica-tion of beeswax and sweet oil upon a soft

To restore gilding to picture frames remove all dust with a soft brosh, and wash the gilding in warm water in which an onion has been boiled; dry quickly with soft rags.

A free application of soft soap to a fresh burn almost instantly removes the fire from the flesh. If the injury is very severe, as soon as the pain ceases apply linseed oil, and then dust over with fine flour. When this covering dressing until a good coating is obtain ed. When the latter dries, allow it to stand until it cracks and falls off, as it

will do in a day or two, and a new skin will be found to have formed where the skin was burned. The great trouble with house plants, in watering, is letting the pots be exposed to the sun. The fibrous roots soon grow to the side of the rot, and these are baked in full sunshine, trebly He said nothing for a moment, then hot coming through glass, which condenses its rays; the root tips are soon killed. The whole ball of earth is baked over and over, daily, and yet people wonder why they don't succeed with are unhappy?"

"No," her voice suddenly taking a hard tone. "If you cannot find out for your self, I will not tell you."

ed over and over, daily, and yet people wonder why they don't succeed with house plants. Shade the sides of the sides of the pots always, either by

plunging in a box of sand, moss, cocoa fibre or ashes, or place a thin board on edge across the front of the plant shelf, that will come almost to the top of the pots. Let the plants have the sun; but shade the pots. CREAM PIE .- Beat one-half cup flour, one-half cup sugar and the yolks of three eggs together, stir into one pint of boiling milk. Bake the crust, add the filling and frost the top with the whites, after

which set in the oven to brown : flavor to suit the taste. This makes two pies on small round tins, and looks and tastes to suit the most fastidious. CHOCOLATE PUDDING -Make a corn

starch pudding with a pint of milk, two tablespoonfuls of corn starch, whites of four eggs and one-half of sugar; flavor with vanilla. Take out now one-third of the pudding, and to the remainder add a bar of chocolate grated and dissolved in must ask your indulgence on the ground that I am not well. But I was very colate pudding in the mould wet in cold water, smooth the top, then add the corn starch pudding, smooth it also, next the boiled custard.

LEMON BREAD PUDDING -One pint of fine bread crumbs, yolks of four eggs. one quart of rich milk, two tablespoor fuls of melted butter, and one cup of sugar. Flavor with lemon. Cover and bake about one-half hour. Beat the four whites to a stiff froth, mix with it a tea cupful of powdered sugar and the juice of a lemon. Spread over the pudding and return until slightly singed.

DISH FOR LUNCHEON. - Take pieces of cold meats of any kind, chop fine, season with pepper and salt, just a little onion break over the meat two or three eggs add a small piece of butter, stir all together; pour it upon nicely buttered toast, serve hot, garnish with parsley.

Pigs' FERT. - Wrap each foot in a cotcon bandage wound about it two or three times, and cord it with twine. When all the feet are ready plunge them into boiling water, and boil them four hours. Let them remain in the bandages until they are needed to fry, boil or pickle. The skin will hold together while cook ing, and when eaten they will be as tender and delicate as possible.

To Use Cold Ham.—It often happens that one has left slices of cold boiled ham, which are nice in every way, but still are not presentable on the platter. There are two ways in which they may be used to advantage. The first is to chop the ham fine, and mix it with bread crumbs which have been moistened with well-beaten eggs. Mix in the shape of balls, and fry in a little hot lard. other way is, after chopping the ham, to mix egg with it, heat it in a sauce-pan in which you have first put a lump of but-ter. When the eggs are cooked, serve with dry toast. This may be spread on the toast if you choose.

A Considerate Tramp

Tamp-Can you give me a bite to eat, madam?
Woman—1 can give you some cold meat. But if you'll split enough wood for me to make a fire with I'll warm it

Tramp—You are very kind, madam; but I wouldn't think of putting you to all that trouble. Give it to me cold.

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best cathartic in use."

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