

CHAPTER V. EB I D "No, I did not, mamma, Bruce"-a neighboring vicar-"asked ed me who the charming girl in white was-meaning Sydney And the Countess said she had the nretties most natural figure she had seen for a long time."

"Very polite of the Countess," cold-

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one.

be invaluable-"

Love That Knew No

Bounds.

-THE

"And Mr. Duvesne watched Sydney all the time she played with th school-children at that idiotic 'gath ering nuts in May.' After you brought him to me he hardly spoke I don't think he listened when I talked. I said I was tired and would he get me some tea? And," finished Leonora, shaking her elegantly shap ed head very gravely, "he went quite, briskly. But he never came back! Instead, he followed Sydney for an hour with a heavy dish of cake!'

This was serious. Mrs. Alwyn seat ed herself for meditation, surveying the situation uneasily. Mr. Duvesne an Honorable and Reverend scion of the great Convngham family, was the man whom she was ready to move heaven and earth to gain for a son in-law-a husband for Leonora. But it was on the cards that John Al wyn's daughter might come most un desirably to the front, and, onc there, hold her own in any company The thought that the child, unwe come from her first breath, should oust the darling offspring of he first marriage was intolerable The mother, weighted with uneven bur den, puckered her brows, and bit he lips, and sighed, but saw no light through her difficulties - quick though she mostly was at finding the straightest road to her own advan-

For once Leonora's unimaginative self opened the way out of perplex ity.

"It would be awkward, mamma." she said, plaintively, "if this sort of thing always went on I should dislike Sydney-and I've no desire to do so. I can only think of one plan to set things comfortable."

"Ah!" Her mother looked up, anxious, not hopeful.

"And perhaps that isn't possible But would it not be very nice if w could get Sydney pleasantly away? Get her-married, or going to be, so she wouldn't interfere at all? Could it be done?"

Mrs. Alwyn got up and kissed he daughter rapturously. "Done! It's the very thing! An

admirably unselfish thought! I fancy I see my way. I believe I know

the very man. I won't lose a day, my

of action, but perhaps you gentlemen needn't cry out before I'm hurt night like her none the worse fo We'll see what's on the carpet now hat. Looking impatiently for your Advice'- h'm h'm - 'invaluable' b! here's the place." "Perhaps it may be as well to name he point that disturbs me now before we meet. Candidly, then, it's about Sydney; and though she is no rea elation to you, yet, as you are associated with my brother in the

nterested, as a rule. However, I

her little property which charge will end next year, fo she is twenty now). I am sure vo will not mind my troubling you with what concerns her-"

"Twenty! Is she really?" pondered Major Villiers, with another pause

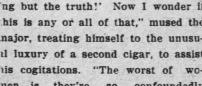
loesn't seem to hurry herself. Now.

Miss Sydney. At your service."

'How time flies, to be sure! And what's the young lady up to, I wonler! Got into some love-scrape, I'll be bound, as all girls do-except my

rusteeshin

reply, with Leonora's kind love and ny own, "Ever, dear Alfred, "Yours very truly. "HELEN ALWYN." "'The truth, the whole truth, noth-



nen is, so confoundedly crafty." Then he began his letter again.

nummed and ha'd over the commencement, underlined with his massive gold pencil the fact that Sydney's mo-

ther had no fault to find with her. tered by the water-side to Richmond niece, Leonora, by the way. She put a double mark under the sum over the bridge, and off via Victoria

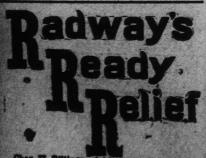
love, in attending to it."

And surely enough that same afternoon's post bore forth the first move in this newly suggested family game

CHAPTER VI.

The missive calculated to inter with our heroine's' fortune was compiled with much thought and care, addressed in her mother's faultlessly correct handwriting to one "Major Villiers, Petersham," and ran thus

"The Dale, St. Clair's, June 20. "My Dear Alfred,-It was only an nour ago, when talking with Leonora that it occurred to me your visit to s, postponed these last two sumrs, ought surely to take place this



ASTEMA

"It is really quite a misfortune that all my younger daughter's strongest be a great relief to Mrs. Alwyn, with characteristics are at variance with ather a grim smile, and "No quesher sister's; but such being the case every year we ought to blame her. At any rate, it's all done with long ago!' ceive the difficulty it is to

justice to them both, more and finally, with head well back, and steadfastly sky-gazing, he ruminated especially as Sydney has not that delong over "if Rupert is still free, and ightful pliability of disposition which feeling an inclination to settle in Leonora inherits from her dear falife.' ther-"

"Delightful pliability!" muttered the major, his gray eyebrows con **An Operation** ically raised. "Well, well! the dead know no wrong, but poor Hal used to be dubbed as weak as ditch-water when he was alive. I suppose this is

Was Ordered by His Doctor, But fact but politely." Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. "I find no fault with her. Pray lon't think I complain of her. Sh as qualities which make her much liked by some. I merely confide t the liver and bowels. ou that I foresee many embarrase tis can alr ments arising from my two families

ough each so small, especially lls. In the case de when another year makes Sydney mistress of her six thousand pounds ind leaves me so much the poorer-' treated for app "Oh, ho! The ladies don't hit it

off ,that's it in plain English," said he major, with a superior masculine no need of an doctor ckle; "but if my sister-in-law tinks I'm going to put my finger into that description of family pie, she's ak our gr very much mistaken. Never was able to argue with a woman in my

nentioned as coming into the girl's to the Club where he was likely to control so speedily, emphatically find his son discussing chops and bitscored the admission of what would

And there, sure enough, at his usu al table the corner of the handthat! But I don't some "Junior Midlands" apartment sat Mr. Rupert Villiers, but seeming ly not in the best of humors.

(To be Continued.)

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ide for his

to any address on receipt of 10c. in usly before him. "And the boy has silver or stamps. got his own income: not large, but 9518-A NEW AND PRACTICAL I'd double his allowance-put a little

besides, perhaps; he-theymight as well have it now as wa till I'm dead and buried. And they this child, Sydney, will have-have' (mentally doing a sum in division)

somewhere between two and three hundred a year. Oh!" with a proound shake of the head that seemed o clinch the matter "Runert might ndeed go further and fare worse I'll take the 11 40 up and have a talk with him."

Which conclusion reached, the major stepped in-doors, changed his

matutinal alpaca for the soberest of well-cut tweeds, informed his landlady, widow of an old Scotch sergeant that he should lunch in town, saun-

9518

silver or stamps.

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