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#### The Romance

#### Marriage.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

brilliant and restless, filled with a Beautiful still-it would be beautiful trous, fluffy and so easy to do up. phere of perfume; before them a ed out of shape—beautiful still is the moved. saloon, dimly lit, and quiet, full of re- face she has loved so dearly and paspose and air that, by contrast, is fresh. sionately; but, ah, how changed! What This stimulating tonic will freshen Paula draws a long breath, and looks months of wild, reckless, desperate your scalp, check dandruff and falling

table stands in the centre, round which | themselves!

there sounds the voice of the croupier, year ago? calling in a monotone in French, "Lad-

they have entered the gaming-room of he asks in a deferential whisper.

The usual group surrounds the table, Old men and young, painted women, and women with grey hair, are eyes, fixed upon the fascinating table, seated, eagerly watching the revolv- answer for him. ing needle as it spins round the red-

type sit elbow to elbow with novices you stake a napoleon for me?" luck and stake a few gold pieces.

lier's arm and draws nearer the table. Pauls hangs back.

With slow, listless step it approach-

he lifts his face, and the light of the wax candles falls upon it. A hand- of light that falls from the round,

attraction, and gradually lets her wine occasionally, loses occasionally,

As she does so the dark eyes, which lend a strange, mournful beauty to the haggard face, rise and meet hers, and with a sudden thrill, an awful shock, as if something had laid a gold hand on her heart, she knows that it s Sir Herrick.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

It is Sir Herrick! And yet, is it? Is not, rather, a wild, improbable dream? Paula stands motionless, her eyes fixed upon his face, downcast now as he bends over the table; her heart throbs so that she fears the young Frenchman by her side must hear it and wonder at the cause; her faceso much of it as the mask leaves exposed to view-is pale even to the lips, and her dark eyes gleam through the holes in the mask, so that it seems to her strange that he upon whom they rest does not feel them and look up.

Hungrily, steadily she regards him It is so long since she has seen him in living reality, though not a day or night has passed but she has kept him in her mind's eye; and new a wild kind of gladness, a subtle sort of delight, takes possession of her at the thought that he is within reach of her form your plain, dull, flat hair. You The tall, graceful figure, so exquisite outstretched hand. What would he do can have it abundant, soft, glossy ly dressed in its poetical Moonligh if she were to bend forward and whis- and full of life. Just get at any drug per his name-if she were to murmur in the midst of the silence, "Rick, look

Then the joy and delight give place is changed. Behind them the bail-room, of the pale face grows upon hor. hair. It will be a mass, so soft, lusdissipation stand recorded in those hair, and help your hair to grow The saloon they have entered is deep lines about the dark eyes and long, thick, strong and beautiful. beautifully decorated, lit by wax can- clean-cut, mobile lips! What a story dles, and furnished in a tasteful of wasted time and futile regrets and interested expression. A lady, painted

ed there so silently, when suddenly who wandered by the stream just a

the saloon. It comes home to the Paula starts and looks at him as if young Frenchman at the same mo- she had indeed awakened from a the time that hangs so heavily on his ment, and he makes a half-turn; but dream, then she puts her hand upon hands, Paula does not respond, and they his arm; but suddenly an idea strikes stand looking on for a minute in sil- her, and she bends her head and whis-

"Have you ever played?" He shrugs his shoulders; but his

Paula smiles. "I-I have a fancy to 'try my luck; Gamblers of the most pronounced isn't that the proper expression? Will

He nods, with nicely concealed eagerness. It is what he has been long-

domain Fascinated by the silence, takes a napoleon from her purse and

the room opens noiselessly, the foot- per, "I will keep here in the shadow, men make way, and a tall, stalwart there is an empty place. Let me stand

"But I shall leave you unprotected." Paula smiles and gently touches his looking at the game, then drops a arm with her gloved finger, and with handful of coin upon the red and sinks a bow of implicit obedience he takes The red wins, and the new-comer pered "I play for you, mademoiselle."

lines of sorrow and the worst watch her cavalier: her eyes are fixly sad; a face that the gods might and looks back over his shoulder at

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though luxurious fashion. A large remorse in the shadows of the eyes and masked, who sits near him, drops her fan; he picks it up and restores are seated a circle of men and women. Oh, Rick! is it you, or but the it to her as heedless of her bewitching She is wondering why they are seat- wreck of the stalwart, glorious youth smile as if she were an animated doll; every now and then he forgets to place his stake, and sits lost in thought, his The voice of the Frenchman recails lips tightly compressed, his brows ies and gentlemen, the game is made!" her to the present and the situation. | knit. It is quite evident that he cares Then it strikes her suddenly that "Will mademoiselle wish to return?" nothing for the game; that the great goddess Chance has no charm for him; and that he is simply striving to kill

> Presently, gradually, the desire that possesses every woman to be near the man she loves takes hold of Paula. She feels drawn towards that motionless figure with the pale, sorrowful face; she looks at her partner and cavalier. He is absorbed in the game, and like a true gambler has forgotten her, at least for the present.

Noiselessly she glides in the shadow

starts affrightedly, he turns his head

whilom guardian: he is deep in the thing else but rouge-et-noir: his nice pretty little face is all aglow, his eyes are shining with excitement; there are—though Paula notices them notin front of him. Fortune has favoured Herrick pushes his last piece on the table and rises, waits until it is swept way by the croupier, then moves his thair back, and turns to leave the

His movement has been so unexpect-

ed by Pausi-did she think he would fashion sit forever—that she is powerless to draw back, to move; and he turns full upon her, his arm knocking the fan rom her weak, uncertain grasp.

He looks surprised at the apparition of a masked lady so close behind him; then, concluding that she is one of the usual idle spectators, he stoops, picks up her fan and hands it, with a simple: "Pardon, mademoiselle."

Paula helds out her hand with verted face; she feels as if the mask were useless to conceal her, not knowng, in her inexperience, that the little ban of satin, simple as it looks, and though it hides but the upper part of per face, is one of the most effective of disguises, and murmurs a:

He would have bowed and passed on; but with her murmur she glances across at the young Frenchman, and Sir Herrick, following her eyes, takes in the state of affairs in a moment Her attendant and escort has forgotten her, deserted her for the more fascinating goddess-Chance.

Then he pauses and looks at her strayed from the adjoining ball-room.

He looks at her with faint interest hair taking one small strand at a make any call upon his attention; but Instantly, as if by magic, the scene to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness you have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness your her close to sadness as the haggard weariness your have doubled the heauty of your her close to sadness and her weariness your her close to saddless and her weariness your her w

"Mademoiselle is waiting for some she is in aWorth costume.

Paula inclines her head and glances across at the Frenchman.

Sir Herrick looks at the young fellow with a half-amused, half-bitter smile.

"Shall I-" he says; then, as Paula shakes her head, he says :"Perhaps you will permit me the honour of attending you until your friend has finished his game?" Paula does not speak. She knows

her his arm, and indicates a seat be-She puts a quivering finger on his

through her! And he leads her calmly, absently to the settee. She is no more to him than the painted lady to whom he restored the

fan a few minutes ago. Trembling, she sinks upon the satin south, longing, yet dreading, that he should leave her. For if he should go, when-ah, when! shall she see him again? And even to have him near her, design is also attractive for other comto hear his voice is so precious.

He leans against the wall of white paint and gilding, watching the young to which a sash of ribbon or material

days, months to Paula. A mist seems to fill the room and envelop the players. Is she going to faint? The horror silver or 1c. and 2c. stamps. An awful audacity has taken pos- the dread creates causes her to move and draw a long breath.

a slight start; "did you speak? I am

and speaking in English.

He stops and looks down at her with

"You are English?" he says, almo

(to be continued.)

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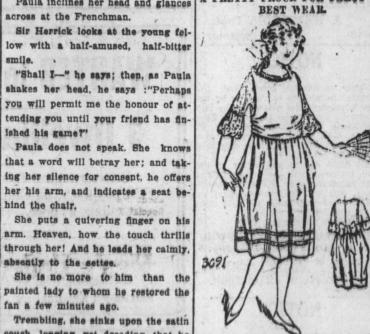
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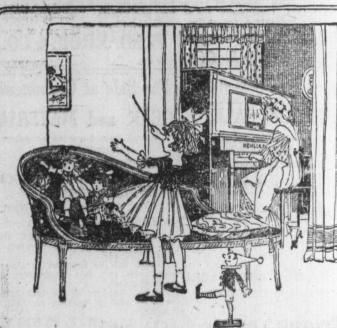
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