

Lord Somerton's Ally.

rock upon which I can lean now! I ness, I should say, without meaning appear to be surrounded by people to be disrespectful to you, that the

and poor Elsie felt a sense of keen dis- since he's been ill, miss, an' it's pretty appointment when she had finished sure that that fine lover o' yours reading it. This is what Ernschiffe stole his papers. Mr. Vallance was

received your letter to-day, together with the copy of the Blairwood local the message of t picion you foreshadowed concerning myself have ended in vapor. What possible connection can I have with the wretched affair. The report of the burglary at the rectory has an only the rector asked me not to. If he died, it's your fault, and that lover the burglary at the rectory has an or yours; and I'll have him locked up. I have more than anything else; as sure as I live!" Elste had grown and, my darling, no matter what is said of me, I know that I have your confidence and trust. I am extremely busy, and I shall have no peace until I have cleared away the shadows that envelop me like a cloud. In my ment letter I will make an appointment to meet my dear love, and I hope that I shall have many pleasant things to say to her. When Sir John returns, our engagement shall be formally announced, and we will look with confidence toward a future which shall be spread hefore us like a garden—all loveliness and perfume. In the spread hefore us like the garden—all loveliness and perfume. By registered post I shall send my f shan't admit anybody. The rector's By registered post I shall send my idarling an engagement ring to-morrow, and in future letters can be sent to my studio, No. 26 St. John's Wood, N.W. I am writing this in local Campbell's chambers; I am using his ink and paper, but from this day our friendship ends. An enemy of Sir John Sterne is my enemy also Good-bye, my precious love; and always believe me to be yours in life and death, loy and grief. and death, joy and grief, COLIN ERNSCLIFFE.

though Elsie treasured it as one of condition. magement ring, and a blush crept into wise." her cheeks.

She spent the remainder of the morning in replying to her lover, but "I have made it my business to England." when it was finished she felt far from select half-a-dozen ladies to call at satisfied with it. Like Colin's, it was the rectory and teach the woman her never repay your kindness," the not a happy letter, though she had place, I am led to understand that young keeper replied. "A life of deheen careful not to mention several she has extracted some promise of votion won't repay the debt." matters which had occurred to her as marriage from the rector within the

called at the rectory to inquire after cover, to be forced to make that we treading on air. Mr. Vallance. Her reception by Mrs. man his wife." Groff was not at all a cordial one.

"He's real sick," that lady said, Elsie returned to the Park. shaking the crown of gaudy ribbons which ornamented her head, "an' it's



At your druggist

ople's. He ain't spake for a whole

ous the matter," Elsie said, in alarm "If I can do anything, Mrs. Groff, pray

day; an', regardless of the doctor's

"My darling! my darling! The only Sterne, an' groanin' about your busi-Colin's letter was not satisfactory, him! Oh, he's told me a good deal his description hanging about the MY DEAR LITTLE WOMAN,-I rectory. I went out an' spoke to him,

very white during this tirade, but she

"Mrs. Groff," she said, haughtily, "you forget yourself. I have no wish to hear anything more, I shall call upon Dr. Denver, and

She met Dr. Denver in the village, It was not a happy letter, and and he spoke gravely of the rector's

her most valued possessions, she had . "He is suffering with a weak heart," to confess to herself that it was vague he said; "and his nervous system is and unsatisfying. Her lover made no completely prostrated. It is a pity sexcuse for not writing sooner, no that he has no one who can be put solid excuse, and he did not renew his in immediate authority at the rectory, promise to write often. Even his re- and that jade of a woman sent away- with Annette installed as queen! ference to their next meeting was Mrs. Groff, I mean. I have small vague. Then she thought of the en- hopes of Vallance's recovery other-

last day or so, and it is my belief

The doctor went on his way, and

Somerton arrived, but his conduct toall about troubles that he ought not ward Miss Sterne was studiously polto be bothered with; yours, Miss ite. Not an action or even a glance Sterne, beggin' your pardon, an' other betrayed the fires that were burning within him. He professed to have much work to do in the neighborhood, and announced his intention to Lady Helena of purchasing considerable coperty in an adjacent village. In the afternoon Annette announ d that Stretton, the gamekeep ished to see Miss Sterne privately. He was shown into the library, and

> "It may be that I have had news for you, miss," he said, "and I should have come sooner, only I have been thinkin' over whether I ought to tell on or not."

affecting the Park and its business should be promptly reported to me

in all cases," she told him. "Well, miss, since the fire in the park, I have been very particular to keep a close watch," went on Stretton without makin' any special noise

The man held out a meerschaum

CHAPTER XVIII.

Elsie was so startled by the game-

you have promised me, and - your confidence shan't be misplaced."

tell tale pipe in a place of safety.

from Mr. Ernseliffe to-day or te-mor- of this Carnish product.

Jones, the head keeper, has not work. up with rheumatiz. He wants to live with a married son at Deal, thinkin' that the sea air will cure him."

Elsie replied, promptly. "His pension papers shall be made out and signed I will call upon him to-day, and you this should be so; that the China is made up into sheets about eight may consider yourself head keeper Clay cannot be used in our own counfeet square. Strips of fibre from the and take possession of Jones' cottage try, thus saving the long voyage dry stem are used as thread and the as soon as he has gone."

Stretten was delighted. He at once saw visions of a pretty little home

"But I cannot spare my maid yet, Stretton," Elsie added, smiling at his pleasure. "You may tell her of your good fortune, but Annette must remain with me until Sir John returns to

"I am sure, madam, that he can

"I can trust you, Stretton," was all that Elsie said, and the young fel-She took it to the post herself, and that he would rather die than re- low went away, feeling that he was

As he closed the library door be hind him he saw Lord Somerton strolling across the hall, a cigar between The next morning Lord George his lips, and there was a look in his evil eyes that the young keeper never

(To be continued.)



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PARTS OF THE GLOBE, LIT-PRECIOUS CHINA CLAY.

ansported to all parts of the world pipe which Elsie had seen in Erns- valuable deposits of white clay which has long gone by the name of China in the districts between Par and Fal-

ery frequently, at stations where the

"You have not mentioned the matter vessels of anything between three hundred to three thousand tons lying than that. I am not forgetful of what waiting to receive cargoes of the clay. which they carry to the most distant

It is simply amazing to think that Elsie flushed with mertification, as the Saucy Sarah, Little Wonder, Ses she turned to an escritoire to put the Rever, etc., which look as though they would have hard work even to get British workmen. But perhaps we do safely round Land's End, are soon to not really lose by the present system. "Thank you, Stretton," she said.
"It may mean much, and it may mean mense journey to Japan, China, and the South Sea Islands, all of which little. At present I cannot understand it. I may have an explanation are enormous users and big buyers

row."

But those who man these little ships think little of the risks which loom so large in the eyes of the landsbut the young samekeeper stammered man. True British sea-degs of the old school, they accept the dangers of their calling as a matter of course. now would be a good time to reward Their adventurous defiance of the elements is, to them, all part of the day's tually destroy the industry.

been fit for a long time, and he only The clay is medelled by the clever is stripped to a height of about ten hangs on so that Sir John won't for- fingers of Japanese and Chinese work- feet. This bark stripping can be done get his pension. He's nearly doubled ers into cups and saucers, ornaments at twelvementh intervals, the third or and decorative work, beautified with fourth bark making the finest cloth most fascinating designs, frequently in colors of all kinds. It is then re- cloth, and strips from four to eight experted back to Great Britain and feet in length are beaten with a maiother European countries, and al- let to the thickness of heavy brown ways finds a big and ready sale in the paper. It is then sun-dried, when it London market.

It seems strange, of course, that and flaws are patched and the cloth

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### Cloth From Trees

In tropical Africa grows a tree the bark of which serves the natives a making bark cloth, although the intreduction of cotton cloth will even-

The inner bark is used for the takes on a terra-cotta shade. Heles

taken by men. Bark cloth is also used for making water baskets. For this purpose the tree is ringed in two places four to five feet apart, a slit being made between the rings and the whole sheet removed intact. The incurved sides are kept apart by skewers, the ends being doubled up and sewn at the orners and the cross ends sewn to their nearest skewer.

In addition, the bark is used for door hinges, drinking vessels, grain drums, cradles, beehives, nets, game traps, blankets, fishing lines, rope, cord, and thread.

### Killed by Molten Slag

Six Victims of Disaster in Steelworks

Brief evidence by a doctor, and one other witness concluded the inquest at Middlesbrough on the six victims of an accident at the steelworks. When hoisting a great ladle containing about 12 tons of molten slag and metal the wire rope snapped, and from the falling ladle there was sent a fountain of scorching, searing metal which resulted in six deaths. One man, the doctor stated, was burnt over the whole of the body. Another was driven mad with pain and ran wildly through the works.—Mr. Laurence Emnis, general manager of Dorman, Long and Co., attributed the accident to the metal boiling over and burn-ing through the wire rope. The firm were prepared to adopt any safe-guards, but on this point they had not come to any conclusion. The wire

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