THE FAIR IMPOSTOR

CHAPTER XVIII. MODERN BONDAGE. (Continued.)

AWSON Slade lost no time in taking advantage of the permission which he had so dexterously won to paint Miss Woodleigh's portrait.

Immediately he got back to the Grange he dispatched Louis to town for the necessary tools, and urged him to use all speed.

'Look here, Louis,' he said, 'I want these things quickly, you understand.

Louis understood perfectly, and before half an hour had passed from the moment of receiving his orders, was on his was to the station. Mr. Slade's quickly meant very quickly, indeed; and Louis, accustomed to minister to his master's whims, reasonable or unreasonable, with implicit obedience, lost not a moment. Mr. Slade's easel and another artistic appliances arrived the next day, and Louis carried them into his master's room, with a calm countenance, as if to travel night and day, and go without sleep, and with scarcely a meal, were matters of

But, although such haste had been made in the preparations, Dawson Slade was too wise to be guilty of forcing himself too precipitously; he did not go near the Hall for some days, and when Sir Talbot and his daughter came over to the Grange to see the duchess and Gerald, he put on his hat and went out of the way.

Day and night, however, he pondered and mused over the strange mystery which surrounded her; that there was a mystery he was more convinced than ever since the incident of Lady Woodleigh's portrait. It was Lilian Woodleigh who kept that portrait hidden and concealed from prying eyes; why did she do it?

What was it that she feared? This secrecy and mystery would have cooled most men's love, but not a Dawson Slade's. His love for Lilian Woodleigh was even more passionate than his love for Hilda Fane. The vague atmosphere of romance that clung around her only heightened her charms in his eyes, and rendered the prize more worth the fight

ing for. She had dismissed him once with a single word and a gesture of scorn, but this had not slain the all-absorbing love which he had borne about, smoldering within him for months, and which leaped into flame again at

the sight of her. On the third day he went up to the Hall, with Louis carrying the easel and other implements, and was welcomed by Sir Talbot, who was stand-

ing sunning himself on the terrace. He smiled as he saw Louis' burden

and nodded with satisfaction. I was beginning to think that you had forgotten your little commission.

Mr. Slade,' he said, shaking hands. 'I hope Miss Woodleigh hasn't forgotten her promise.'

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hearing Sir Talbot's voice, came near them, he offered it to her. down the stairs

At sight of Dawson Slade, a faint asked, with a smile.

Then, as Sir Talbot, looking up at

his weapons. I was telling him that to believe in you, Mr. Slade.' we thought that he had forgotten-' smile playing about her lips.

Dawson Slade looked at her. 'Why hoped, Miss Woodleigh?' 'That you might be spared the trouble,' she answered; and-and I

shall be a bad sitter. 'I am patience itself,' he said, in a low voice; 'and you have but to say that you are tired for the brush to

drop from my hand." 'I hold you to that bargain,' she said, quietly.

'And now, about the Sir Talbot, cheerily. 'You want a good light, Mr. Slade-what do you say to the gallery?'

'Admirable!' assented Dawson

Louis was directed to set up the easel by the oriel window, and then dispatched to the servants hall to refresh himself, after his porterage.

With quiet self-possession, Dawson Slade arranged his palettes and brushes, and little tubes of color; Sir Talbot watching with that gentle smile which had come so recently to to his face, his tall figure slightly bent, his hands classed behind his

Standing by the window, with the light falling on her face, Eilian watched also; watched almost against her will, almost as if her eyes were drawn by a species of fascination to the dark, handsome face, with the calm air of power revealing itself in the leisurely, graceful way, he moved to and fro, pausing only to exchange a

remark with Sir Talbot. It did not seem possible that this placid, softly easeful man could be one with the passionate being who kept her in the dark street, while he poured out the story of his love. She an actress! Her power paled to insignificance beside his.

Suddenly he looked up. 'Are you ready, Miss Woodleigh? he asked, awakening her from her

She moved away from the window as if to a command, although no tone could have been more full of rever-

ential respect than his. 'What am I to do?' she asked. And what about the dress; is it suitable, Mr. Slade?'

He looked at her, as she stood with lowncast eyes in the morning light, as though he had not already inwardly noted every particular of the simple dress of soft, white silk, with its graceful curves and sweeps, Nothing could be better,' he said,

She will be the first Woodleigh to and turned his eyes away quickly lest his own Fiat skidded, slewed broaddo such a thing,' said Sir Talbet. they should see the sudden light of side into the fence, crashed through Dalais, F. O. 'No; I'll answer for that. Come, sir, passion in them. 'Nothing-except, if I might suggest-, and taking a They had not far to seek, for Lilian, yellow rose from a bowl that stood

'What am I to do with it?' she

flush stole over her face, that had 'If you will put it in your hair,' he looked somewhat pale before, and said, quietly, it will give the shade I she paused, with her hand on the want to complete the picture. You ebony bulustrade, against the black- see, Sir Talbot, if I am no artist, I ness of which it shone like white have learned some of their tricks."

'I confess it's an improvement,' she said, looking at the lovely face under the wealth of dark hair, all the 'Here is Mr. Slade, Lilian, with all darker for the yellow rose- '1 begin

'Do not, I implore,' said Dawson 'I said that I hoped he had for- Slade, lightly, 'or the greater will be gotten,' she corrected, with a faint your indignation when you see the libel I shall produce on Miss



Woodleigh.' As he spoke, he wheeled forward an antique chair of carved

Will you sit, Miss Woodleigh? Thus far the proceedings are as bad as those which take place in a photographer's den; but from this moment all likeness ceases. I shall not run pages, with frontispiece, short appenan iron instrument of torture into the back of your neck, orask you to smile, or frown, or twist your head into excruciatingly unnatural posi-

'I am thankful for even small mercies,' she said, with a smile. 'I am afraid you cannot take your portrait

instantaneously.' And I am glad,' he said. 'Half the pleasure of a portrait painter's work lies in the slow growth of details—the touch upon touch which produces the result—happy or otherwise. You have never sat for your portrait before?'

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Instantly there flashed across her memory the numerous imploring requests which had been addressed to her in the past time—the buried past -for a sitting, a single sitting. 'No,' she said, 'never. Am I do-

ng anything wrong? 'On the contrary, you have fallen nto the very attitude I wanted.'

"And the expression?" asked Sir Talbot. 'I shall get directly,' was the quiet

She looked up, then her eyes drooped, and with her hands folded loosely on her lap, she sat dreamily

With a few quick touches, which proved him a facile draughtsman, Dawson Slade sketched the outline of the lovely head in black chalk, looking aside now and then to talk to Sir Burke, W. J. Talbot, who stood eagerly watching the work.

To be continued.

Flirting With Death.

Brighton Beach, N.Y., July 24 .-- C. S. Bragg, the amateur driver who has Coombs, Henry, defeated Barney Oldfield, took by sheer grit Saturday afternoon one of Cuddihy, Miss Kate the most daring auto races ever seen at Brighton Beach. In the sixth event of the programme a five mile, open to amateurs only, on the turn into the homestretch, Bragg driving Dawe, Miss Mary, it into the green, turned on his power Drodge, Mrs. Milley, when he found himself still on four wheels, broke his way through the fence on to the track again, and then, by furious driving, regained all his lost distance and finished first in the phenomenally time of 4 minutes, 46 3-5 seconds. He was cheered to the Dunphie, Miss Nellie, C G.P.O. Martin, Miss F.,

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