

### THE GYPSY QUEEN'S VOW

By JANIE O'BRIEN.

(Continued.)

To Lord Ernest Villiers it came bringing deepest regret for the bold eyed, high-hearted youth, so unjustly condemned, so wrongly accused. He thought of him as he knew him first-proud, princely, handsome, and generous. And now! that young life under the unjust sentence of the law, had passed away; that haughty head, noble even in its deamong the bleaching bones of those

guilt hardened men.

To one, in her father's castle halls, it came, bringing untold relief. He had cruelly wronged her; but he was heart be not madness." dead now, and she freely forgave him for all she had suffered. While he lived, incurable sorrow must be hers; but he was gone, and happy days might dawn for her yet. She might love another now, without feeling it a crime to do so -one noble and generous, and worthy of her in every way. One deep breath of relief, one low sigh to the memory of his sad fate, and then a look of calm, deep happiness strode over the beautiful face, such as it had not worn for years, and the beautiful head, with its wealth

tense for words. And this was Lady Maude Percy. In spite of her steady refusal of his suit, Lord Villiers had not despaired. He could not understand the cause of her strange melancholy and persistent refusal of her hand, knowing, as he did, that she loved him, but he hoped on, and waited for the time to come when

this singular fancy of hers would be gone. That time had come now. Calling one room, he was greeted with a brilliant

sudden hope. "I am truly rejoiced to see Lady forgiveness. Maude recovering her spirits again," he said, his fine eyes lit up with pleasure.

"If Lord Villiers only knew how much cause I had for that 'nameless melan choly' he would forgive me any pain may ever have caused him," she said while a shadow of the past fell darkly

over her bright young face. "And may I not know? Dearest Maude, when is this mystery to end? Am I ever to be made happy by the pos session of this dear hand?"

He took the little, white hand, small and snowy as a lily-leaf, and it was no longer withdrawn.

"Maude, Maude!" he cried in a delirium of joy, "is your dark dream in reality over? O Maude, speak and tell me! Am I to be made happy yet?"

In a moment she was in his arms, held to the true heart whose every throb was for her-her head upon the breast that was to pillow hers through life.

"Maude, Maude! my peerless darling! this is too much happiness!" he cried. in a sort of transport between the passionate kisses pressed on her warm, yield-

Blushingly she rose from his embrace, and gently extricated herself from his us more!"

he fervently exclaimed, all aglow with were his answer.

bent upon her. "Speak again, Maude! Once more

sweetest and fairest, speak!" while he seemed breathing out his very caresses. soul as he aspirated her name.

it?" she faintly said, without lifting her arms.

dark, beautiful eyes. "Not unless it is your wish to tell it.

I want to hear nothing but that you are "Some other time, when you are more "Yet, when you hear it, my lord, you

may reject the hand I have offered." "Never, never! Nothing under heaven could make me do that!"

"You speak rashly, Lord Ernest. Wait until you have heard all. I dare not accept the noble hand and heart you love. Speak of that no more. But now

offer, without revealing the one great that the worst is over, will my Maude

"It is true, nevertheless, my lord. student to spend the vacation, who was But oh, how shall I tell you? How can presented to me as Count Germaine. I confess what I have been? What I What Reginald Germaine was then, you

"O my dear lord! every word you were married. I never stopped to think speak, every caress you give me, makes my revelation the harder!" she passion-heaven for him! Three weeks longer ately cried. "And yet it must be made, he remained at Everly Hall; and then even though you should spurn me from papa sent me back to school, and he you in loathing after. Listen, my lord. went to London. You think me Lady Maude Percy?"

"Yes, dear love."

"That is not my name!" "What, Maude?"

"That is not my name. No; I am not nad, Lord Villiers, though you look as though you thought so. I have been nad once. You and all the world are deceived. I am not what I seem." "What, in heaven's name, do you

nean?" What, then, are you?" "I was a wife! I have been a mother! am a widow !"

"Maude!" "You recoil from me in horror! I knew it would be so. I deserve it-I deserve it! but O Lord Villiers, it will gradation, lay far under the deep sea kill me!" she cried, passionately wringing her hands.

"Maude, are you mad?" "I am not-oh, I am not, if a griefcrazed brain, a blighted life, a broken

"But Maude! Good heavens! You are so young\_not yet eighteen! O, it can- GREEN HEAD LIME. not be true!" he cried, incoherently. "Would to God it were not! Yet four years ago I was a wedded wife!" "Wife, mother and widow at eighteen?"

Maude, Maude-how can I realize "Oh, I was crazed! I was mad! and did love him so, then. Not as I love you, Lord Ernest, with a woman's strong, undying affection, but with the wild passionate fervor of youth, I must

of raven ringlets, dropped on her arm, in have inherited my dead mother's Span- LE PAGE'S LIQUID GLUE. a voiceless thanksgiving, in a joy too in- ish blood; for no calm-pulsed English girl ever felt like that." "O Lady Maude\_Lady Maude! could hardly have believed a messenge from heaven had he told me this."

"God be merciful to human error! long life of sorrow and remorse atone for that first rash fault." He was pacing up and down the long room with rapid and excited strides\_ up and down, with brain and heart in a tumult-and his pride for one moment morning, and finding her in the drawing overcame and mastered his love. For

one brief moment only-for then his smile, with a quick flush of pleasure, and eyes fell on the drooping figure and de. Cut Glass Toilet Bottles, a manner so different from her custom- spair-bowed young head, and the anary one, that his heart bounded with guished attitude went to his heart, bringing back a full tide of pity, love, and "My own life's darling still!

Maude, if you must grieve, it shall be on my breast. If you have erred, so, too, have I-so have we all, often. I will forget all but that you have promised my arms should be your home forever!" "And you forgive and love me still? By all the well-known makers; viz:-O Lord Ernest!"

He kissed away her tears. "One thing more dearest. Who was my Maude's first love?"

He felt a convulsive shiver run through the delicate form he held. "Tell me, Maude : for I must know." "O, Saints in Heaven! how can I! O Lord Ernest this humiliation is more

than I can endure." "Speak, Maude, for I must know." She lifted her eyes to his, full of un-"If you can take me as I am, if you speakable anguish, and then dropped her can forgive and forget the past, I am head heavily again; for in that fixed, yours Ernest!" she said in a thrilling grave, noble face, full of love and pity show the

as it was, there was no yielding now. "Tell me, Maude, who was the hus- Finest Stock ofand of your childhood?" From the pale, quivering lip in a dying whisper, dropp ed the words: Reginald

Germaine, the gipsy!" There was a moment's death-like silence. At last he said: "Heaven be merciful to the dead!

Look up, my precious Maude; for Opposite City Hall, Queen Street, nothing on earth shall ever come between

Calm and clear, on the troubled wave "O Maude, my beautiful darling! May of her tempest-tossed soul, the low words heaven forever bless you for this!" fell: but only her deep, convulsive so bs MONUMENTAL WORKS

"Maude!-my own dear Maude!" he She had sunk into a seat, and bent cried at last, alarmed by her passion of her head into her hand, not daring to grief "cease this wild weeping. Forget meet the full, falcon gaze, flashing with the troubled past, dear love; for there deepest tenderness, that she knew was are many happy days in store for us

But still she wept on-wildly, vehelet me hear those precious words from mently, at first-until her strong pasyour own sweet lips, Maude! Maude, sion of grief had passed away. He let her sob on in quiet now, with no attempt

He wreathed his arms around her, to check her grief, except by his silent

"But you have not heard all, my lord. last thanking him by a radiant look, This secret—do you not wish to hear and the soft, thrilling clasp of her white "I will not ask you to explain now,

sweet Maude," he softly whispered. composed, you shall tell me all. "No\_no; better now\_far better now;

and then, while life lasts, neither you nor I, Ernest, will ever breathe one word of the dark, sorrowful story again. O Ernest! can all the fondest love of a lifetime suffice to repay you for the forgiveness you have shown me to-day?" "I am more than repaid now, dear

tell me all?" "I have not much to tell, Ernest; but saint? You are as perfect in soul before you and I met, when a child of as in body. O Maude, I cannot believe fourteen, I was on a visit to my Uncle Everly's. My cousin Huhert, home from college, brought with him a fellow who have seen him do not need to know. Handsome, dashing, fascinating, he took Encircling her with his arm, he drew her every heart by storm, winning love by down until her white face lay hidden in his breast, and then pressing his lips to I was a dreamy, romantic school-girl;

the dark ripples of hair sweeping against and in this bold reckless boy, handsom as an angel, I saw the living embodiment-of my most glorious ideal. From morning till night we were together, and Ernest, can you understand that wild dream?" How I loved him then, words are weak to express, how I loathed and despised him after no words can ever tell. Ernest, he persuaded me can ever tell. Ernest, he persuaded me mean ever tell. Ernest, he persuaded me an ever tell, every mith him one night; and we remain the can ever tell. Ernest, he persuaded me an every tell. Ernest, he persuaded me tell. Er his cheek, he murmured, in tenderest as an angel, I saw the living embodi-"Tell me now, Maude, and fear not; for and Ernest, can you understand that nothing you can say will convince me you wild dream?" How I loved him then, are not as pure and unsullied as the angels themselves. What is this terrible loathed and despised him after no words can ever tell. Ernest, he persuaded me

(To be Continued.)

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