

## MR. JERMYN'S RACQUET.

"Green last night," he said, "I felt doubtful whether I should be able to play to-day."

They had moved forward, and were standing in the doorway now. The quiet gray smoke of the little town was going up to the still heavens, and fairly like white sails were dancing all about in the bay. The straight road, sloping down to the town from this, was already thickly strewn with gaily dressed people coming to witness the match, and the enclosure around the tennis ground had rapidly begun to fill. They were alone again—Mr. Jermyrn and Miss Raymond. With his left arm he carefully raised a field glass to examine the bay.

Did he know? Aurora Raymond's heart was beating.

"Mr. Jermyrn," she began, hesitatingly. He lowered the field glass and turned to her.

"I beg your pardon," said he, coolly. She felt her face flush under his eyes; she paused an instant, and held out her hand for the field glass.

"May I have a look at the bay?" she inquired, hesitatingly.

"Certainly," said Mr. Jermyrn. "I should have thought, however, that an examination of the tennis court was more in your way. Pardon me, that is the proper focus for the bay."

Did he know? She had been screwing and unscrewing it blindly. At his last words she checked herself, and looked straight through it.

"I can see—a frigate," she said, with no other object than that of at least saying something. He crossed his arms and leaned against a pillar.

"Well," smiled he. "Now turn it on the tennis court for a change. Perhaps you may see—a racquet?"

The rich color swept all over her face. She lowered the glass at once, her lips quivering.

"Mr. Jermyrn," she began for the second time. "Pardon me," he interrupted quickly.

"You must turn the screw in the other direction, if you really wish to focus the court."

"Mr. Jermyrn," she broke out passionately, "you know I don't wish to look at the tennis court! And then, as he started down at her with an expression of intense surprise, she added contentedly:

"I—I—just see I have never got over my distaste to the game."

Mr. Jermyrn smiled. Whether he knew it or not—it was probable that he did—his smile was exceedingly charming.

"Ah, Miss Raymond," he said, quietly, "nor over your old antipathy to tennis racquets."

Before she had time to answer him, or to recover herself, he turned abruptly away. The day had passed on. The noise and excitement of the tennis match, the confusion of luncheon, the match again, and now it was evening.

How had Miss Raymond got through it all? As she once more sat down in her room she could hardly tell. It seemed as if she were only just waking from an unconscious dream. She had been too tired to think of anything but the tennis court, and she had been so tired that she had not even noticed the time.

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