THE HEIR MOTHERS

CHAPTER XXVIII.

"No," said Vivien, joining suddenly in the conversation. "Mr. Dorman was now he is a valued friend of mine."

With a puzzled glance the tutor looked from one to the other. Miladi smiled significantly and said some thing to him in an undertone in more attentively. Then the dinnerbell rang; and she saw miladi take the tutor's arm.

"Do you mean Oswald to dine with us, Valerie?" she asked.

"Certainly," was the abrupt reply. Miss Neslie took the boy's hand and followed the laughing pair into the dining-room. Her heart burned with in her, her angry scorn was so great that she with difficulty restrained itfor she had to uphold the honor of her race and must have no public expos-

As usual, Valerie took her seat a the head of the table, the tutor being on her right hand. Vivien, whose face burned with shame and humilia tion, saw the wondering looks of the servants: she noticed the old butler's gaze as it rested indignantly on Lacomments, the gossip, the disgust of the few faithful retainers left.

he was most polite and deferentialhe paid her compliments which sh received in perfect silence.

"He does not know his position." place himself on an equality with

Then all her late good resolutions returned to her mind. If she could benefit Oswald by talking to this man obnoxious as he was to her, she would him and try to make him understand her views concerning the child, she personal feelings, and do her duty.

She was sorely tried; before dinner even was ended it was patent to her as well as to the servants that the him, deferred to him as she would for him, messages were sent that the cook must prepare a certain number of French dishes every day. Lady Neslie asked him if he would take

Vivien was horror-stricken. What new terrible evil was this which had befallen the unhappy house of Nesthe servants would tor tete-a-tete! The boy was dismissed, and Vivien fancied-she was not sure, but she fancied-that she heard Valerie say to Monsieur de

"You will not be troubled much with him."

She asked herself whether she was in some terrible dream, some wak ing nightmare. She went to the piano and began to play. Valerie took no notice of her, and the tutor resum ed his place by miladi's side. They laughed, talked, jested; the dainty bloom deepened in Valerie's face-she was all brightness and smiles, while Vivien looked on in silent dismay.

Suddenly Lady Neslie crossed the room to speak to her.

"Vivien," she said, "Monsieur de Nouchet and I are going to Ladypool to-morrow. It will be a pleasant ride

The question was simple, the an swer difficult. Vivien asked hersel if she could condescend to make third in such a party. Her heart re belled against the bare idea; she could never bring herself to be or equal terms with them. Then conscience asked her which was the worse-that she should seem to identify herself with them, or that they should attract attention by riding about the country alone. A sudder

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escape from the dilemma occurred

"To Ladypool?" she said. "Why Valerie, there will not be time for that if Oswald's lessons begin."

"Monsieur de Nouchet will take holiday just to look about him," sh said. "I have promised to show him as to going with us."

"Heaven help me." thought Vivier 'for I know not what to do."

"I will make no engagement now she said, coldly. "I will decide in th morning.' She thought to herself that perhap

the morning might bring her wise was tired, and then she took a book She read until long past their usua hour of retiring. Valerie and the tu tor were still talking and laughing Vivien decided that, however painfu Whatever shield her presence coul throw over Valerie's want of propr

It was nearly midnight when Valer e rose and said-

"I am losing my beauty-sleep. Viv en, are you not tired?" Monsieur de Nouchet bowed pre

oundly over her ladyship's jeweled as he bade her good-night.

Miss Neslie could not sleep; she this horrible familiarity mean? How would it end? How was she to keep scathless?

The next morning she rose, hoping against hope for better things; but when she went down into the break father had preferred to sit: he asked f the papers had arrived; he named a dish that he should like for luncheon. If that breakfast had lasted nuch longer. Vivien's patience would self in every way as though he had been master of the house. Miss Nesie could hardly trust herself to think

After breakfast the horses were



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brought round. Her ladyship debonny in her riding-habit. She had a pretty jewelled riding-whip-Sir Arthur's gift-in her hand.

"I shall not ask you again to join us. Vivien." she said laughingly. have remembered the old adage—'Two are company, three are none." So the onus of the decision did not rest after all with Miss Neslie.

She watched them until out of sight, and then, with dismay on he fair face, and despair in her heart, she went to consult Gerald Dorman.

"What must I do?" she cried to him passionate wrath. "What can I do f I speak to Lady Neslie, she will only be defiant and make matters worse. Has such a thing ever been neard of, that a man should be taken nto a house and treated like the maser of it, as this stranger is?"

Gerald was at a loss what to do on advise; he could only try to sooth er and calm her angry despair.

"Things will probably alter in 'ew days," he said. "Lady Neslie evi dently likes her relative. After she has shown him the country, and the will doubtless behave differently."

"And in the meantime, what abou the scandal?" asked Miss Neslie. ' saw the strange looks vesterday of the faces of the servants. Think o he scandal, the comments, and the gossip, when it is known that Lady Neslie and her son's tutor ride out ogether—that he in fact lives with us as one of ourselves."

"We can only hope that Lady Neslie will remember public opinion, and think twice before she outrages it,'

And, when Vivien began to think matters over, she saw she could only await the course of events.

Things did not improve. Monsieur le Nouchet took luncheon with them he spent the afternoon in loitering through the conservatories with miladi; he dined and spent the evening with them. There had been no alluion to the boy or his lessons. Vivien bore the iregularity patiently that for yourself. The change will be day, but she promised herself that wonderful. You need a spring medishe would speak on the following

down to breakfast with them no one but herself knew: vet she saw that, if rise to all kinds of gossip amongst the servants, and that above all things plied by Reuter. A native stockade she wished to avoid. She went down-Nouchet's Valerie said-

We will go to Nuneham Park."

and looked the tutor full in the face. "When do you think, Monsieur," she

ect attack, he glanced at miladi.

"And that will not be just yet," said Valerie. "You will begin when I tell you—not before. Have you any reas- | badly wounded in the left arm. on for wishing to know, Vivien?"

"Only that people will think it very strange you should engage a tutor take charge of the men." He was taken back to the base, and next who never gives a lesson." answered Miss Neslie.

"Never mind that," laughed Valerie; "if Mrs. Grundy chooses to ask rude burnt out. It is believed that among questions, refer her to me."

The tutor looked again from one to he other. "Who is Mrs. Grundy?" he asked,

vonderingly. "A lady whom I like to pique and to startle," said Valerie. "I will man-

age my own affairs, Vivien, thank And that day Gerald Dorman re-

sumed his teaching of the boy. CHAPTER XXIX.

The unpleasant state of matters at Lancewood had already lasted a fortnight. Once or twice the tutor had sent for the boy, and had attempted to teach him, but the lesson had been of short duration, and had seemed to coal in the market. consist of play.

Viiven had had much to contend vith. The old butler, Holmes, had asked for an interview with her, an with many apologies inquired if

was true that the tutor was to dine scended, looking very bright and every day with the family, and if he was to continue serving him with the best wines and liquors.

"You must obey Lady Vivien," re-

"I will do so if you order it, Miss Neslie; but I beg leave to say that I am an old servant-Sir Arthur trusted me; and, if it were not for your sake, Miss Neslie, I would not remain at Lancewood."

She raised her fair startled face to

"Why not, Holmes?" she asked. "People are saving queer things about Lancewood, miss. I have lived nere as man and boy. The name of this place is dear to me. I never thought to hear Lancewood lightly

Vivien's face flushed hotly. "Who does speak lightly of it?" she asked.

"Everyone, Miss Neslie, who knows what is going on here. My lady is foreign, and perhaps does not know English customs, or she would no always be seen riding and talking with the young heir's tutor. I beg your pardon, miss, but it hurts me."

"And it hurts her, yet how was she prevent it? What was she to do? The old servant saw the weary ex pression on the beautiful face. She

"You must not think of leaving us Holmes: you must remain with us for the honor of the house." And after And it hurts her, yet how was she lost his life than have gone away.

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(To be Continued.)

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edge of a clearing 200 yards wide round the stockade, which was made Then Vivien seemed to think it was of a double row of logs 10 feet high surrounded by a trench staked at the cutter. Cleans instantly. Price a couple of feet long.

The British dispositions were very skilful. The attacking party, under asked, "of beginning Sir Oswald's les- Liuetenant Irvine, rushed the gate of the stockade with great bravery and heavy firing started. Our men pene- and G. Langmead's. For whole-Somewhat taken aback at this di- trated the stockade and got into the stockade trench, but the enemy re-"Whenever Lady Neslie thinks though firing on the attackers.

From two long huts astride the gate of the stockade Lieutenant Irvine was morning his arm was taken off, he died the same night.

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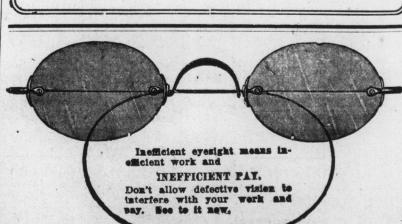
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