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## The Imprisoned Heiress

## The Spectre of Egremont.

"Pardon me. You look like an again to see you, for I suppose it

"It is very appropriate," declared get me, will you?" Lord Ashcroft, "You were well nam-

"Like it!" cried Lord Ashcroft, en- some one coming, and I hid behind thusiastically. "It was heavenly! But those curtains-

"I cannot tell you," she responded Ashcroft, a cloud gathering on his trust his happiness to her.

a ghost, and to give you my picture, and closed the door. He was a ter-I thought you might like it."

"I shall prize it above all things!" exclaimed his lordship. "It is far more

"Thank you," she said, with grateful smile. "You can keep it to scription of the masked intruder. remember me by. I cannot come here | "That would answer for Gosman

never moved. Ah, that must have poison he put in my water-bottle. How strange that I should have such

He almost forgot his horror at the discovery in his admiration for the to induce her to prolong her stay, he asked her many questions about the masker, watching delightedly the

I have been here a long time." "Shall I not see you again, Lady

"Not here, for that would

ly was an enemy, and he meant to it. you have saved by allowing me to see you sometimes."

The star of the heiress paled before a little while ago, and there was no the glowing sun of this young beauty,

"But why all this mystery?" he he should have come only for that." | learn her disposition, her mental re-"I can't understand it," said Lord sources, her chartcer, before he could

But with the Lady Aimee ke had no "I am glad, for I cannot. As he such thought. Her truth, gentleness, Every one is kind to me," she an- was going out he saw you in the hall, goodness and intellectuality, were ex-

trothed for the moment,

"Poor little bird, So he frightened "I will see you sometimes," said "I am very lonely Aimee complied, giving a full deoccasionally, but I have something now to look forward to-something

Ashcroft. "A large pink and white from me, Lady Aimee, in return for face, with a great red mouth that your picture?" asked Lord Asheroft. Without waiting for a reply, he been a mask. That must have been drew from his little finger a diamond solitaire, which he placed upon her

> "Too large, is it not?" he asked. "A little; but it will do very well.

He would have pressed the hand to ceremony, and as the seal to the re-solve he had formed, but he dared not

I'mable to answer these puzzling

CHAPTER XVII.

The shadow that had fallen upon her lover, also enveloped pretty Jessy Kay. Her coquettish airs were all gone, and with them had vanished her sprightliness and good humor. Her step was slower as she moved about

In truth, poor Jessy ascribed to her brought against the latter. She could not give even to herself a reason for this strange belief, but she cherished it, nevertheless, and a feeling of bitterness against her parent began to

scious of the change in his home. His fire burned as brightly as usual upon the broad hearth-stone; his meais were prepared as regularly and as neatly as possible, and none of the material comforts he required were no longer ran through the room, as

The gloom and mystery that always en since Kepp's application for Jessy's mitted the first assault upon Lord Ashcroft, and, when they did meet, Jessy noticed that he avoided her gaze, shrinking from her with an expression that seemed made up of fear

On the morning subsequent to the intrusion of his masked enemy into Lord Ashcroft's chambers, Jessy sat by her kitchen fire. Her eyes were were dried up. Her hands were folded idly in her lap, for she had no heart for working, and occasionally she uttered a sobbing sigh, like that

She was sitting thus when her advanced to the fire, rubbing his

"The morning is cold, lass," he said, uneasily, avoiding the gaze she directed to him. "Get me my great-coat. I've a long walk before me." Jessy obeyed, bringing the greatcoat from its peg on the wall and as-

isting him to put if on. 3 dis all (To be continued.)

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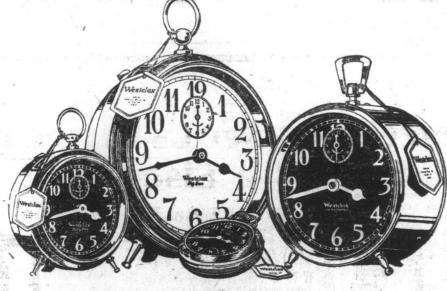
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