

E.W.GILLETT COMPANY LIMITED

CHAPTER XI. The Accident.

"I'm not hurt. I am sure." she said. and she stood upright and felt-

woman-like-for her hat. He thought-man-like-that she had struck her head; and his anxiety grew

seemed unconsciously to lift her of

cd out her arms, and looked up at hin with a flickering laugh.

"I don't think I have broken anything," she said, her color coming and going, "No. I am sure I have not! Oh please, don't mind me; the poor hor-

"Never mind the horses!" he said almost curtly. "Hold on to my arm

held it firmly.

"I haven't even broken my leg," she said, forcing a laugh. "And I don' see how I could have done! I am not to think of me! The horses-"

He paid not the slightest regard until he had assured himself that she could walk without pain, then she heard him draw a breath and murmur, "Thank God!" with fervent solemnity. Then, still holding her arm tightly.

he led her to the bank.

please!" he said.

"Yes," she said obediently, and she allowed him, without the faintest protest, to wrap the shawl round her, noticing how careful and gentle the strong hands became in the act.

She looked up for a second and met his eyes, still full of the deepest anxiety, then lowered hers suddenly, and he hurried to the side of the coachman One horse was standing quivering in every limb, but the other was still

cably jumbled up with the harness. She noticed that he seemed to take in all the details of the situation with instant promptitude, and she watched him, still under half-lowered lids, as he took out a claspknife and cut the trace, and gently, but firmly, got the

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etter. Good-night."

"No, sir; thank you," replied the coachman, after a glance at his fellow servant. "But her ladyship?" he asked, anxiously

replied Cyril, under his breath. "Thank God for that, sir!"

"Amen!" responded Cyril, almos naudibly.

"Yes, sir, I don't know what my and this is my first accident—to speak them as you did. It's a mercy you wasn't got down under 'em and kick-

"Never mind that," said Cyril, quickly, and with a warning glance toward Norah. "Let us see what damage is done." and he went and exam-

ined the carriage. "The wheel's broke, sir," announced

"And the pole's gone like matchwood," said the coachman, dolefully "I'm afraid it's impossible to take her ladyship home," he added, reluctantly. What was it made Cyril's heart leap

"It is not very far to the Court," he said. "I will see Lady Norah safely

The coachman touched his hat.

"Thank you, sir." "if you are sure you and the footman are uninjured, you had better lead the horses to the village and leave him here by the carriage until you can get

The coachman touched his hat. "Yes, sir," he said; "but I'd better the right one, instead of the left. take the horses back to Ferndale as soon as possible. My mistress will be

it has." blank side in rather shaky characters. for there was a funny feeling in his

Lady Norah is quite safe and unhurt, and will have reached the Court before you get this. The coachman was not in any way in fault.

CYRIL BURNE. He read this to the men, and they ouched their hats gratefully.

"Thank you, sir," said the coad 'There is no need to mention that; and sent it by the coachman." of the wreck further out of the road." and he went to help them, but he voice, she murmured:

stopped suddenly, and his face grew nomentarily pale. "Never mind," he said; "the footman will see that no one runs into it."

to say," he said, cheerfully, "but the ooner you and they are home, the

"It is all right," he said, answering he look. "Neither of them is hurt, and the horses seem very little the orse, barring the fright. It has been wonderful escape. And you?" His

"I have come off better even than the horses," she said, "for I am not

eves wandered over her anxiously

even frightened." "And you can walk?" he asked She rose promptly, but he took her

"I am afraid you will have to walk

can walk home quite easily, and woul

"It would not give me trouble," he said, quietly. "But ill news flies apace, and the earl might hear of the accident, and be alarmed on your ac

"Yes, yes," she assented at once, will walk, please."

tried hard to suppress.

you will not let me go with you, there is only one other way; I will stay by

She caught her lip in her teeth, and

He thought that she meant him to

will send him any help if he wants it?" Cyirl's face cleared like sunshine

"Yes, yes," he said, and he gave the message to the footman and was back "You must take my arm," he said,

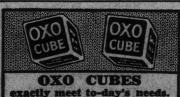
"Well, then," said Cyril, for the two and though he tried to speak in a piciously joyous thrill in it.

lent as they made their way along the terrible anxious if we're late, and lane filled with the perfume of a summer's night. Above them the moon slowly sailed upward, a thrush sang picked it up. "There it is," he said. Cyril nodded, and taking an envel-sleepily somewhere in the hedge, and lying in the road, apparently inextri- ope from his pocket, wrote on the the bats whirled through the silver "It is not so pretty as its light, and

> light. but, as she said, she was not frightenseemed to her as if he must hear it most embarrassing, and suddenly

Norah almost stopped. "Lady Ferndale!" she said, in a tone of remorse. "She will think that it is her forefinger. worse than it is, and I forgot to send

word for a moment, then, in a low



A CUBE TO A CUP.

"You seem to have thought of every-

He laughed softly. "That was not much to think of

ady Norah." "And yet I forgot it." she breathed

Why, the shock alone was enough to

able to tell Lady Ferndale how it all

send the footman, and turned, a little that it seemed almost impossible to

"Kind to you!" he echoed, almost rebelliously. "How could they help

The warmth, and something more than warmth, the subdued passion in his tone sent the blood to her face,

exclaimed, with girlish eagerness, and in a low voice, as if she feared to

"Yes," he said at once; "would you

The silence at last grew tangible, al- stood still as a stone-but, ah! how unlike a stone with that fast beating heart!-and Norah, entirely absorbed in the curious insect, touched it with

"I don't quite like it," she said, had ever imagined. "No, I am sure I don't like it," and she laughed.

"Then, good-by, glowworm," he said. Poor thing, I pity you!" he added, inaudibly, as he laid it on the grass; "to be disliked by her!"

"I dare say he is immensely relieved," said Norah.

"Ah, he didn't know when he was

eint shudder run through him.

d and looked at him. (To be Continued.)

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