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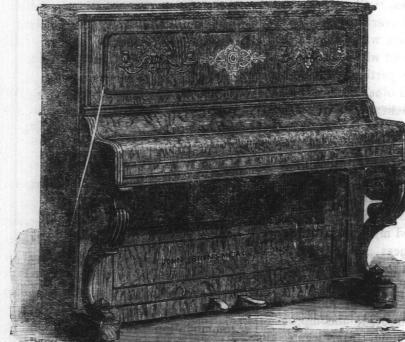
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CAMERON'S "SHADOW LOVE.

By the Author of Dora Thorne

CHAPTER XV.

(Continued.) 'I am reasonable now,' she said, slowly

tell me what the letter means, Allan.' 'My dear child, what it means matters little, since it alarms you. I shall not even think of

'But you will tell me what it means?' she pleaded.

'It means that the Earl of Barton is going to Canada, and wants some one to go with him, as second in command to himself, do you see? 'Yes. I understand,' she replied with the

same strange gentleness.

'As Sir John says, it is not much-he little knows, Margarita, what three thousand per annum would be to us—it is not much, but it will lead to more. The Earl of Barton is a great man-I should say few statemen in England surpass or even equal him; he has immense power-and you see, dear, if I give him satisfaction in this, there is no knowing where it might end.'

'It would be your stepping-stone to fortune, she said, slowly.

'Yes, you have aptly described it, dear.' She drew his face down to her own.

'Allan,' she whispered, 'if you go could not go with you?'

He thought for a few moments before he answered her, and then his words came very slowly.

'I am afraid not, dear. I remember just such another expedition some years ago. I was only a boy then, but I heard them say that Lord Riversham asked permission to take his wife, and was refused. You see there is a great deal of traveling up and down the country; it would be almost impossible to find suitable accommodation for ladies.'

Then no ladies will be of the party?' she

' No, I am sure the Countess of Barton wil not go-she loves her London circle too well and we should all be expected to follow our leader's example. But what any one else does has no interest for us, sweet. I will not leave you. I would not see that dear face grow white, and those bright eyes dim with fear, not even to be made Governor-General of Canada. You believe me, Margarita?'

'I believe you,' she replied.

'I shall write at once and tell Sir John that am compelled to decline.' She laid her hand gently on his arm.

Wait, Allan, until to-night,' she said. want you to think-I want to think myself. I is your stepping-stone to fortune-we must

'It is not rash to remain with my beautiful wife,' he said, laughingly.

' It might be rash to refuse three thousand year,' she rejoined, trying to smile. 'Do not answer the letter until to-night, Allan. I am going now to-to tie up those falling roses; after tea we will talk about it, and then de-

He clasped her in his arms, and whispered loving, passionate words to her; he kissed the beautiful face; he told her over and over again, that he loved her better than all the world beside; perish fortune, perish position, he wanted none of it-he wanted only her-the sweetest, dearest, truest, and most loving wife that man ever had; and she listened without speaking, but her arms tightened their clasp on him.

'You are very silent, Margarita,' he said, presently

'Am I? I must go to my roses, or they will be dead. See how many papers have come

He did not notice how she hid her pale face from him-how she walked with uncertain steps from the room, and when she reached the door turned to look at him. Such a look it was, so full of passionate sorrow, of despairing anguish, that had he seen it he would rather have died than leave her. But he had already opened one of the newspapers, thinking to himself that he would never leave Mar-

She went to her roses—the flowers which only that morning she had pitied because they must die. She raised the rich drooping heads, and then let them fall with a passionate cry.

Better to die-better to die!' She passed on, leaving them to their fate,

She wandered to the very end of the garden, where tall trees shaded the path so as to darker it, and there she stood still.

'I wanted to be alone,' she said aloudalone with my sorrow. Oh, my love, my love, you must leave me, and I shall die!'

That was the burden of her tears. He must go. All her passionate love could not prevent her seeing that. Once he had sacrificed himself for her, now it was her turn to sacrifice herself for him.

She had stood between him and better for tune, inasmuch as he had married her, poor and obscure, when he might have married one who could have brought him wealth and noble connections; now she in her turn must sacrifice herself for him. She believed it to be her duty as though an angel from heaven had stood forth and told her so.

She saw herself calm with the grandeur of a great sorrow, persuading him to go, telling him it was for the best, it was a stepping-stone to fortune-telling him he must be brave, and do without her for a few years. She raised her despairing face to the skies; her voice was Rodgers' Celebrated Pocket Knives in great variety. The Anchor Pens, Gummed Luggage Labels, Manilla and Standard Tags. despairing face to the skies; her voice was hoarse with emotion.

'He is my own love and my all, yet I must persuade him to go.'

She tried to nerve herself by remembering how often before their marriage she had offered him his freedom because 'it would be better for him'-how often since she had reproached herself for spoiling his prospects in marrying him-how often she had longed that by some great sacrifice on her part she could bring him wealth and prospetity. Now the time was come; wealth, future greatness, future power were sure to be his if she could but be brave enough to urge him to leave her.

'And I ought to do it,' she said. 'Oh pitying Heaven, give me strength!'

CHAPTER XVI.

During the remainder of the day on which Sir John Freeling's letter offering the colonial diplomatic appointment reached Allan, Margarita tried to keep away from her husband. She made a hundred different pretexts for not sitting with him. She was busy in the garden -in her room. Lord Ryleston had never spent a day so completely alone since they had been married. She wanted to get over the first shock of her heart-break alone and in silence. for all that was best and most reasonable in her had decided that he must go.

Look at it how she would, there seemed to be no alternative. After all, it was an incongrous position for Cord Rylestone to be in-it could not last. He could not be expected to live always in the little villa, content to bury himself and his talents-to give up his life to one idea, and that simply love of her.

She remembered to have read that love was but one phase of a man's life, while it was the centre and soul of a woman's existence. To man it was but one phase out of many; to woman it constituted all. And, though Ma" garita would most willingly, most cheerfully, have lived her whole life at Marpeth, content to be unknown, content to live without seeing or speeking to any one but her husband, she could not expect that he would be willing to do the same. Nor would it be reasonable Heaven had given him many fair gifts; he must use them. She might clasp her arms round his neck and beseech him to stay-and he would stay, she felt sure; but that would not be right. She was bound to do her best for him, and that best did not consist in trying to keep him there chained to her side, his talents wasted, his life blighted-that would be selfish love. No, she must bid him go; she must urge him to act; she must tell him that life held something grander and higher for him even than love; she must be what all good women should be-a guide and teacher. Here was a chance for him of which any

man might be proud-a chance for him to be come famous in the annals of his country. The gauntlet of fame was thrown down to him; she must urge him to take it up. Life's grand challenge had been offered to him; he must not refuse it-he must respond to it at

The thought that ultimately decided he was this. He would go if he were not married -if he were alone in the world he would never dream of throwing away so grand an opportunity; why should he now? A wife should prove a spur to a man's energies, not a weight which dragged him down. So, as she sat unconscious of the warmth and fragrance of the fair morning, the certain conviction came to her that he must go. At first the cloud of despair that hung over her was so dark that she could not see one ray of hope but as the sun shone and the flowers bloomed, as birds broke into song and the soft cooing of the wood-pigeons reached her ears, almost insensibly there came to her a gleam of hope and comfort.

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OHN MAGOR.