stammered. " for the best."

out of it ?

red and disturbed.

must not go !

tion between them rushed over What ! send Theodore away ? T

dore, the dear friend of her life,

as her own! Oh no ! impossible ! must not go ! Why, they belonge

she called again, desperately.

boy ?

door.

By Henrietta Dans Skinner.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS

2

BYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. Characters in the story.—Adrien and Theo-from the Royai Opera at Borlin; the latter, his are supposed to have. Madame Houteness Del contraito singer. Ramon Eugenio Disdier, a great icontraito singer. Ramon Eugenio Disdier, his valorge. Agostin, a professor of machemat-iconstraitor, aviolinasi from the Conservatory Ur-casimiro, aviolinasi from the Conservatory Ur-mark of S. Thomas d'Aquin, Paris, Adrien and Theodore Daretti the sing his daughter, Espiritu Santo. She sing they Ghost, after which she is anamed, Espiritu Santo, to Theodore Daretti. Tenpeding characters, Casimiro gotest Kom-naida and the Uaited States. Adriene accon-manda and the Uaited States. Adriene accon-mande in a United States. Alterne accon-mander in the Opera's tour throughest Kom-mander the

Don Luis di Control de la cont

to preside Adriano to mircy. She lattes Catalina. Madame Delapoule leaves Paris for five years. Chapter VI — Theodore goes to his elder brother Bindo His parting with Espiritu. Adrien woo Catalina. Her father discoun-tenances his proprisition. Chapter VII.—After an absence of five years Hortense Delapoule returns to Paris. She pro-poses to bring Catalins out on the Paris stage. She is informed of the Disdiers change of for-tune Madame Valorge's blindness. Adrien brings two of the greatest living tenors to assist Catalina in her debut. One turns out to be Theodore. Chapter VII.—Adrien and Theodore visit the Disdiers' modest home at Passy. Their am izement a: the changes tim's has effected. A trien and Theodore in a runaway accident. Their groom s verely in jured. Chapter IX.—Death of Darett's groom. Chapter X.—Teedore space of ris love for Expirate to Madame Valorge and receives en-coragement.

Chap. XI.-Adrien is displeased with the emonstrations of Madame Delepoule and

remonstrations of Monsignore Ianson. Chapter XII -- Victoire Ainsworth's sad ex perience. Adrien visits Monsignore Ianson

perfence. Adrien vila and goes to confession. Chapter XIII.—Catalina receives an ovation as Aida. She and her friends discover Oeg to be any enemy. apter XIV.-Taeodore proposes for E-n's hand. He is to receive his answer th

llowing Sunday. Chapter XV.-Adrien talks with his valet, meaning his (the valet's) flancee.

CHAPTER XVI.

"I do perceive here a divided duty."

"What is he saying to her ? What Will he be just to me? Shall I be al-These ways and all?"

These were some of the thoughts that made Teodoro restless and unhappy during that miserable week. If it were a case of sickness or affliction one could refuse to see people and at least have a little quiet in which to endure one's agony, but mere love-sickness was some-thing one could not explain, so one must keep on appearing before the world and dependent of the source it was an unbut mere love-sickness was somebe wretched. Altogether it was an uncomfortable week. " No, I must go alone," he said to

Adriano when Sunday morning came at last. "If my answer is unfavorable you could not do me any good-I must wan-der off into the woods and fight my misery by myself." And if it is favorable I should be

in the way," added his brother, cheeri-ly, and bid him God-speed.

" Espiritu, child, am I really to tell him this ?" asked Madame Valorge, with a reproachful accent in her voice.

"Just this, grandmamma. It is very good of him to think of me, and he is very dear to me; I wish him well, and shall always be glad to see him, but I cannot marry him. It is not that I do not love him, for he is, as he always has been, my very dear brother, but I do not want to marry any one just now, and he must not speak of it any more. He must let things go on just as before." "Dearest child," said Madame

Valorge, gently, feeling for her hand, I do not want to destroy your innocent illusions, but you must realize this -- if your answer to Theodore is final it impossible for things to go on as

Teodoro had gone into the salon and was awaiting his little lady-love. She mother, with a last lingering returned soon and he saw the trouble in her eyes. He sat down by her and "Be good to him ! How can I ?" exclaimed Madame Valorge, with an un-usual asperity. "What I have to tell him will wreck his whole life! How can I be good and cruel in the same breath?" held her soft hand in his, as in their

childish days. "Why did you think, dearest, that you must send me away? If you are in trouble who should share it with you Espiritu clasped her little hands tobut I?'

"It is other people's troubles," she said. "I have not any of my own, but gether in a sudden agony. Her father was be koning to her. She hesitated. "It is your free wish, child, is it one does not feel free to tell other is your free wish, child, is it asked Disdier, sharply. "If you people's affairs. However, I know now, dear Theodore, that it was not right towards you to send you away. It was like deceiving you, and there must not have changed your mind, speak now or "I have not changed my mind," she be any secrets between us now. When all is told you, then you will feel as I do, that I must stay by my father for ave decided There was a look in her eyes which Madame Valorge could not see and which made Disdier turn his " Tell me at once, dear, what the the

She ran past him into her own little secret is ! Theodore, it is this : papa-is a

room. She heard Theodore's footstep as he came into the salon and the door married man !" "Married ! Since when ?"

as he came into the salon and the dool was closed. It seemed to shut against her very heart. She was trembling all over and feeling very weak and breath-less and strange. What did grand-"Since that very winter that you first came to our house. He has never acknowledged the marriage publicly, less and strange. What did grand-mamma mean by saying that she was cruel and would wreck his whole life? She was only a little girl who had been acknowledged the marriage publicly, nor told grandmamma of it, for she adored my poor mother's memory, and he feared she would be shocked at a second marriage. Then he began to be his playmate, and how he was a grown young man, rich and beautiful and suc-cessful, with a great future before him straitened for money, for it cost him a great deal to keep up the two house-holds, and his wife was young and inand host of friends and admirers. Why should it wreck his life because an in-Why experienced and had extravagant tastes. That is why he had to sell the significant little girl, that he used to be fond of as a boy, thought she ought not to marry him? Had he not plenty to fill his life and make him happy without house, and why he was so anxious that Catalina should go on the stage. He had to confide in her, and she worked hard to support herself. Thanks to dear Madame Delepoule, Catalina's "You must forget that her? Of course it was very kind and sweet of him to ask her to be his wife, and perhaps he would be just a little disappointed. She almost hoped he would. But would he feel as she was training was no expense to papa, and she gave all the money she earned to-wards our education. And now Ra-faela and Lolita are both supporting feeling now-as if the world was a terrible blank and everything going themselves. Grandmamma's little in-come is so reduced that she and I would bout of it? Did he really need her love now just as he used to when he was a boy? Did grandmamma think that he starve if the girls did not help us ; but she knows nothing of the trouble, and we manage so that now she is blind she would suffer, suffer ? She threw out does not miss anything from her accus-The door opened suddenly and her father stood there. He looked rather tomed way of living. You must have noticed, dear Theodore, that there is almost no furniture or silver in the He has gone, Espiritu," he said, house except what she uses, and that the pictures and ornaments are nearly all gone from the walls." abruptly. "Gone !" she cried. "Gone ! Oh,

"But I do not see why all this should papa, stop him !" and she burst into tears and groped her way towards the prevent your marrying me !" exclaimed Teodoro. "Let your father acknowl-edge his wife, which is surely his duty. Madame Valorge will live with Poor little Espiritu ! Falling on her knees by the door she listened to Theodore's retreating footsteps going us, and as his son-in-law I shall have the right to help your father in his slowly down, down the long flight of steps to the garden, and a wild sense of business. It is as plain as daylight." the utter impossibility of any separa "Not so fast, dear Theodore !- that

is not all. Papa needs me to live with him. I told you his wife was extravaher. Theo gant and a poor manager ; and there is one little boy, a sickly little fellow, and dore, the dear triend of wer, knight, brother, companion, lover, knight, whose every thought and feeling were papa fears he is not getting the care he should have, but he is in such terrible straits for money that he cannot have a nurse for the child. Papa must eling belonged to if he was separated from her. She knew now that she was everything to to his wife, of course, and yet the poo little home cannot keep together as i him and yet she was sending him away I must go to him, dear Theodore She sprang up and rushed breathlessly I can keep house. I am used to econ to the window. That was he, po nizing, and I can care for the little Maxime, and there is no one else to do Theodore, walking slowly away-slowly falteringly, with head bent down and sad, troubled eyes. Something in his

"Why cannot one of your sisters go instead of you?

attitude pierced her tender heart through and through. "Theodore !" she cried, and with trembling fingers "Because they are all doing some thing to earn their living. I am the only useless one. But Lolita, who is tore open the window fastenings. "Theodore !" and the tall figure slowonly absent from home for a few hours ly turned ; the blond head was raised, day, can do for grandmamma, with the blue eyes met hers. " Theodore the help of one maid-of-all-work, though she could not be of as much use eyes were blinded so that she could no as I in papa's unhappy household. You see how it is, dear Theodore, I am the longer see him, and she stretched out hands towards him. Then she only one that can go to him and be of drew back hastily, and running to the any use.'

door crossed the hall and in another Teodoro still rebelled. "I only want to be sure that you are moment was flying down the stairs. Oh, had he seen her? Could she reach not over-anxious to sacrifice yourself You know you dote on sacrifices, dear, She could not see in her excitebut you must not be selfish about it ment and tears, but now she reached the lower landing, and surely some one Remember, it is only ten minutes since was there ! She fell forward with a glad little cry. "Theodore ! Oh, my darling ! I could not let you go ! you confessed that you had only thought of yourself and not at all of joy, you had to come to me! We are one already in heart and soul, one forallect that every sacri Oh, Theodore !" and she was laughing and crying in his dear arms and leaning fice you make is one for me too "Which of course you are delighted to make," she said gayly. Then reach-ing up she took his face between her ing up she took his face between her breathlessly against him. He held her very close. "Thank God !" he murmured, and then he was silent-dumb in two hands and smiled lovingly into his very thankfulness. "It-it couldn't be any other way, eyes. " Dear Theodore, isn't it enough happiness for the present that we are betrothed, that we can see each other as often as we want to, and have the right to each other's love and confidnce ? Let us enjoy the present. " It is certainly a great improvement head back and gazed deep down into head back and gazed deep down into the soft, tearful eyes. "Theodoro, you see I only thought of myself at first, and it seemed as if I could bear it alore, but when it came over me how much you would suffer too, then I couldn't bear it any longer." He stooped and touched his lips to hers, and her soft hands were clasped about on the past," admitted he. "You don't know what I have been through in the past six weary months." "It has been hard for me, too," she said gently. "I know, dear," he said, kindly. "You must have had many painful times. How could your father ask you and her soft hands were clasped about to bear so much for him, my delicate, gentle little spirit ?" his neck. Then at last he spoke. "Espiritu! Espiritu! My light, my " Oh, I didn't mean about his affairs," e stammered. "I meant—I meant it life, my peace! My first, my only love! Soul of my soul, God wills it! We must live and die together!" And she stammered. "I meant-I meant it had been hard for me on your account !" "Oh !" he said, awkwardly. Then, as she hung her head very low and looked very much abashed, he said they climbed slowly up the stair, he, with his arm about her, and she, sweet and joyous, smiling up at him and mur-muring, "Ah, yes ! we could not ever be really parted !" Oh !" again. Disdier, standing at the head of the stairs, saw them coming up sighter and withdrew in some agitation. Es-piritu disengaged herself from Teo-dors's arm and an lighter from Teo-" I was afraid," she tried to explain, " when I saw how big and handsome you were grown, and what a success you were making, that you would not need my poor love and sympathy any piritu disengaged herselt from feo-doro's arm and ran lightly after him. "Do not fear, papa, that I will ever leave you as long as you have need of me. Theodoro will never ask me to do Tedi stared at her. "I see," he nid, at last. "You only love me to do said, at last. "You only love me to do me good. Well, I have been wretched We will tell him all, and he is so enough to please you, and you had the good sense to see, just in the nick of time, that you could do me as much good, so noble, he will see at once what Disdier sighed and looked uneasy good in success as in failure, perhaps I do not think it will be necessary ore so. Adriano says that too much tell him all, child. Remember my affairs are my own. If I leave you alone together for awhile, I expect you success is very dangerous and wrecks many men who have gone through to guard closely your father's honor." "From Theodore?" asked Espiritu, in trouble. How could she have a secret from him? "Oh, I suppose he will have to learn, poverty and sorrow unscathed. It takes a strong character to stand the test of success. "Perhaps I ought to refuse you again, for your own good !" she sugbring forth !" "On, I suppose he will have obtain sooner or later," grumbled Disdier, un-willingly. He felt ashamed of himself for having accepted Espiritu's sacri-fice, and ashamed now to face her young lover with the truth. It was hard enough to manage affairs in one's erm hencehold without having outsiders gested, slyly. "I do not mean success in love," he corrected, hastily. "But you are a strong character, Theodore. "I? Oh no, I am not strong. What are you thinking of ?" "But you are having success, and

The first presentation of "Cordelia" yet you are not going to wreck and was drawing near. It was by sheer force of will that Catalina held herself "But I may if I do not have you to keep me straight !" "If I thought that of you I would not marry you at all. I like a man who can stand alone and does not have to be together. She knew that there was more than her personal success involved, there was the vindication of those who had selected her to create the character had selected her to create the character in preference to her rivals, Lenor-mand and Strong, a half Paris was in arms to forward or to prevent her suc-cess. Harrassed and nervous, the girl began to lose sleep and appetite, and propped up all the time. Besides, I find it hard enough to be good with my

wee, small temptations; how in the world can I be of any help to you in your big ones ?" Teodoro grew very serious. "Think there were dark circles under her large have your languid eyes. To add to her anxieties, Disdier confided to his daughter his what it would be for me to have ; constant companionship, to live in ever-increasing money-troubles, and she had less than ever to spare to her grandhome that you would create for me, to nome that you would create for me, to breathe its pure, sweet atmosphere always. I am speaking from the moral side only, the need my soul has of you. When it comes to the need my heart has of you, why, then, dearest, it is simply a question of my life. It would not be living to be without you "" mother and sisters, for her Paris engage-ment did not pay her as well as her London and Russian ones of the previous season, and she had the expense of new wardrobes to meet. "Madame Valorge has had to be told

a question of my file. To work and a set of the set of A knight must obey orders. I was ordered away. My lady would have none of me; what could " Oh, Theodore, how could I ! But

it did seem best not to drag you into our troubles and into a long, hopeless engagement." The engagement cannot be as hopeless as not being engaged at all," he

said, cheerily. "We are friends and lovers forever now, and we will marry some day when God wills and our duties to others permit. Do you not see that this is far better both for me and for ards were below her own!

You must forget that I ever did that, my darling." "Forget ?" he exclaimed,

gazing down at her adoringly. "Do you think I can ever forget such an experi-I can only keep up health and earn a goed salary that is all I ask." ence? I do not remember clearly the scene with your father and Madame Valorge, for I was too dazed, too aston-ished and bewildered. I kept saying "If you were well married to a man of means you need not worry about these things. A man like Daretti, for inthings. A man like Daretti, for in-stance, who is in the same profession, and who could not object to the con-'It must be a mistake--it must be a mistake !'' I do not know how I got mistake ! nection, since his brother marries your out of the room or down-stairs. think your father was sorry for me, he sister. Catalina turned very pale, and interwas so kind, and that made it seem rupted her father with a nervous, hasty gesture. "Never speak of him in that more certain and dreadful. Then Madame Valorge was crying, and I knew that she was disappointed and would not send me away if she could help it. There ! You are crying way, as the kindest of brothers, and I owe my whole success in Paris to him, but he has never had a thought of me !" "Never had a thought of you!"

'Oh, I was so bad !" she sobbed. choed Disdier, with a short, dry laugh. Why, child ! he thought enough of you clinging to him. "I made every one so unhappy ! But I did not mean to ! to ask me for your hand six years ago, and seemed dreadfully cut up when I I did not think I was of so much importance thought best to refuse him.

Next time you need not think, you must know it," said Teodoro. He longed to clasp her to his breast and overwhelm staring eyes and nervously her with affection and caresses, but he knew instinctively that any such impetuosity on his part would startle he nd make her shrink away from him, while now that he was so quiet and selfrestrained, almost distant with her, she had courage to express all that her ten-der heart felt for him. Such tenderness was too precious to run any risk of frightening it away. "I am coming to the bright part now

Espirtu, so do not cry any more! It seemed to me impossible that I should be going away from you. I could not think nor speak nor see. My brain kept repeating 'It is impossible !'" "And I felt that too, as soon as you

were gone. That is what made me call after you. I could not help it, Theoindeed I could not help it! And, thank God, you heard me!' "And if I had not?"

"I would have run after you all the way to Paris !"

Then he clasped her in his arms with all the pent-up ardor of his youthful soul. "Espiritu, Espiritu!" he cried. Can I ever forget the sound of your voice as it came to me through the gloom and waked me from that wretche dream? Oh, my darling, it was worth while to have gone through all that darkness and misery for the glory of Oh my hope, my ne to me! We are such an awakening!

now.' was calmer now, though JUNE 21, 1902.

At one of their last rehearsals in At one of their last rehearsals in Madame Delepoule's salon, Miss Car-son came up coquettishly to Daretti and help up laughingly a hand on which a large diamond ring glistened conspicuously. "My best wishes!" said Daretti.

She knew that there

add to her anxieties

courteously. "And who is the fortu-nate man, that I may congratulate him?" "And who is the fortu-She was piqued that showed s little surprise or discomfiture.

· Pistols for two and coffee for one. for Mr. Oeglaire," she pouted; but at the mention of this name Daretti cor tainly looked dismayed enough to suit her caprice. "There is nothing like her caprice. "There i having a friend at court," she explained gayly. "Now we shall get some beau-tiful press notices for Catalina. My gayly. engagement is on just in the nick of time to boom 'Cordelia.' Now every. thing will come our way."

Bat Adriano was seriously disturbed. This engagement seemed to confirm his of my marriage," complained Disdier, and now I must acknowledge it to the suspicions of Miss Carson, and he membered with consternation the hours that he and Choulex had spent coachworld, since Espiritu is coming to try and keep my unhappy household to-gether. It will make a pretty dish of gossip. I wish at least I could put off ing Catalina with this scheming rival present, taking it all in, and no doubt the announcement till this ' Cordelia making capital out of these lessons His tenderness and solicitude for Cata-lina increased visibly. His blood affair is settled. A scandal about your father will only add to your difficulties. Tather will only add to your difficulties. Besides," he continued, hesitatingly, "I fear it will injure your chances of marriage. I should have liked to see my daughter with a title and fortune safely secured before it was necessary to publish my secrets to the world." Cataling bluebed. She tried hard to boiled as he thought of her cowardly foes, and it was well for Oeglaire that he did not cross Daretti's path in these

days. Choulex watched the growing preoccupation of his friend with grave, silent eyes. There was a deep pain gnawing at his big heart, but the wo-Catalina blushed. She tried hard to honor her father, but so often his standman and the man who were dearest him on earth had need of his co-ope ards were below her own: "If Sir Guy made me an offer, father, I must tell him all. I could keep nothhis co-operation just now. He would give them o his best, and then, if necessary to the happiness, he could efface himse Surely his love was equal to that. ing from him that might make him choose differently. Dear papa, do not dream of titles and fortunes for me! If himself.

Adriano felt the need of open-air exercise after the confining work of hearsal and composition. Sir Guy Ainsworth usually put in his appear-ance these lovely spring afternoon and insisted upon Daretti's taking

tramps with him into the suburb Adriano dreaded receiving the young Englishman's confidence. Whistling to Advance distance whistling to Englishman's confidence. Whistling to his dogs, who bounded along joyously at his dogs, who bounded along involution of the started off with a firm de his heels, he started off with termination to steer clear of all dan gerously sentimental subjects. As they strode along in the gay spring sunshi they discussed dogs, horses, sports in general, clubs, politics, travel, the latest books, and, finally, though Dar-

etti had staved it off as long as he could, opera. He knew what that would infallibly lead to, and before long the young baronet was blushing stammering. "You see, Daretti, I don't under-

Catalina rose to her feet and with stand the way foreigners manage these affairs. Now, if she was an English girl, I should just propose to her, don't clasped hands moved tremblingly to where her father sat. "Asked for my hand ?" she exclaimed you know, point-blank, and there would be the end of it. But I know your foreign way is different, and I never "Adrien asked for my hand, and you re-fused him? Oh, papa, what do you mean? It is some dreadful mistake!" have the chance to see her alone. She always has a maid, or else Disdier glanced up with surprise and trouble to the agitated girl. "Good Delepoule is watching her like a cat. Heavens, Catalina! You don't mean I beg pardon, I don't mean anything against the old lady, she is really aw that you care ?" he asked, hoarsely. fully jolly, but I don't feel at ease, He was a selfish man in many respects, fully jolly, but I don't feel at ease, don't you know? I want to do things in the way that Miss Disdier and her family would like, and I thought per-haps you could help me. Now Daretti, what must I do, and do you think I stand the ghost of a chance with them all ?'

It was truly an embarassing position for Adriano. The young lady in ques-tiou had been the object of his own courtship six years before, and he suspected that Choulex intended to pro pose for her hand shortly. He liked Ainsworth, and wanted to deal fairly with him, but Chouley was the dearly loved friend of many years. What is the world was he to do? After all is What in was Catalina's own affair. If she liked Ainsworth better than Choulex, then Casimir would have to bear it. nothing that he, Adriano, could do would make it any easier for him. Catalina had a right to know what was to her. She was old enough, seen enough of the world now offered to her. and had and had seen enough of the work how to decide wisely for herself. "All right, Ainsworth," he said, heartily. "I will do my best for you. My honest opinion is that you could do nothing better than to propose to her yourself, in your own downright, Eng-lish fashion." Ainsworth drew a long sigh of relief. Answorth drew a long sign of refiel "I am so glad you feel that way, Dar-etti. I shall feel more like a man if I speak for myself. I beg pardon; I don't mean anything against your cus-terns then are all night for those who toms, they are all right for the are used to them, but it is like talking a foreign language to me. I can express myself so much better in my own tongue, don't you know?' Adriano did know and laughed goodnaturedly. "Tell me, Ainsworth, how do your family feel about this? Will they receive her well?" "Mother and the girls had rather I "Mother and the girts had rates -married an Englishwoman, of course-that's very natural, don't you know? But they will be glad to have me marry at all, and they cannot help liking her when they know her. Vic, of course, will be delighted. I hope you will meet Victorie scop. Darotti, I really should I really should Victoire soon, Daretti. like you to for several reasons." "I should be greatly interested to see Lady Ainsworth. What you have told me of her story is very pathetic. One thinks of her as something apart and holy, almost like a consecrated "Well, I don't know that I want you exactly," to think of her in that way exactly, said Ainsworth, with an embarrassed smile. "I should like to see her marry again; it was all so unhappy and un-satisfactory, don't you know, just a sort for fifteen of prolonged death-bed for fifteen months. I always felt as if we ought not to have allowed it, for it was not as if she had cared much for him. You know, I don't think she really cared for him at all. It was just an impulse of compassion and gratitude." Don't tell me that," said Adriano, to think of her as 'a widow indeed.'' "Well, you see, I want you to know her, and you wouldn't understand her if I didn't tell you. She never could have been happy with him. She had the most exalted ideals, and poor Phil couldn't come up even to the average standards. There was much that we tried to hush

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but he lingered on so l of things had to be expla of things had to be expla They made me tell her, never forget the anguish It almos be expla my dying day It almost She is the mere shadow self. I overheard her on thought no one was near, God, make him well, but i

let me die !' " "I am almost a strange said Adriano, hesitati trust me with very sacred "I feel impelled to do said

I feel imperied to do I can't tell you why, exce to be frank, I wish you tw each other! I long to happy, she has had such a loves music passions would be awfully cong never seen any fellow bu thought was suited to that sort of thing, don't

Adriano was well user suggestions and offers of should have been harde them unmoved, but he and looked deeply emba worth hastened to add: Of course this is just

"Of course this is jushas come into my head a breathed it to her. T English way. You may free, and that would kn all on the head." me as you do, Ainswo

were, as I am, fancy-fre find her adorable, as i be. I can only hope regret have reason to "I am not afraid of

fellow! But let the fut itself. I am awfully o you have done for me.

"But really I have smiled Adriano. "I couraged you to do w yourself."

That is everything to face a 'no' when from herself, but I co thought of its coming dozen strangers. Ge low! I suppose I sh night at the Ussegli promised to go with V come round and go with

"I feel like a trai everybody," thought whistled to the dogs an up the stairs; "but in telling him that I Catalina myself, and trying for her now, a Delepoule is bitterly These things are neith if Catalina cares for manage her own low enough on my hands y imir, and now even O

It's love that makes t -round, round, till I An hour later he s alon, dressed for the were some minutes be be served, and he cal him and put them tricks in succession friendly cat to crawl and shoulders and dozen times before his knee. Finding t ing somewhat indiffe ed the dogs took up window, where they sers-by with interest meaning grow long while his chair, his hands pockets and the ca fully between was an unusual remain so long ably found his thoug

ey ran somewha vein 'I wonder what requisite in choosin clined to say cong think I could get of

auick

was not in sympath; convictions. She is

firm about that last

through life with

not take a joke or things! I do not a

tiful if her face is o

and Heaven delive

woman! If she c

dress I will none

nd have

but he could not bear the sight of suffering. This weakness was at the bottom of all his trouble. The fear of wounding Madame Valorge had made him conceal his marriage, and the dread of his wife's tears had made him go into debt and accept his children's help rather than refuse to gratify her ex

travagances. "Tell me all, father," begged Catalina-" tell me all."

"I talked it over with your grandmother," he explained, apologetically. "She thought, as I did, that you should finish your studies before we talked of marriage. Besides, I knew the necessity for you to work and help educate your sisters, and Daretti was not then the rich man he is now. At present it is very different. You are mistress of is very different. Fou are inserted your art, and have secured a fine position, and he is a man of wealth. What seemed inadvisable then is desirable

papa! Adrien Daretti has been

She was calmer now, though she sighed heavily. "I dare say you were right, papa. I did not dream that he thought of me." She hesitated, then added, "How far off those days seem 1 won Her father noticed the quiver in her Her father housed the quiver in her voice. "He has never married, Cata-lina," he suggested. She turned away a moment, then she came and stood by his side and drew her arm round his neck. "Dear papa, no doubt it has long since passed from his mind. Do not think of it any more! Only pray for my success and strength.' It was easy for Catalina to tell he father not to think of a marriage between herself and Daretti, but it was another thing to keep the thought from her own mind. Thrown as she was with him daily in the close companionship of many mutual interests, it was im-possible to her to preserve the attitude of sisterly unconsciousness that had been easy and natural so long as she thought him only friend and brother. But now that she knew he might have been her husband, knew that he had once thought of her as wife and might so think of her again, her manner towards him changed in spite of herself. It was impossible now to keep back the conscious blush from her check or the tell-tale shyness from her eyes. She only dreaded lest he should notice and nderstand the change. The annoyances that cropped up on every side with regard to the unfortunate opera of "Cordelia" almost discouraged even Adriano, experienced as he was in the treacherous, guerilla war-fare of operatic enmities. He was a daring soldier, and had he been alone he would have fought against every odds with valor. The blood of generations of military ancestors warned in his veins, and he almost enjoyed lead-ing the forlorn hope into battle. But was not alone. He could see that Catalina was gradually sinking under the struggle. There was a hunted, anxious look in her eyes that troubled tim, as it did Madame Delepoule. Again and again Daretti offered to give the production of the opera, but the rl was obstinate. Encouraged, girl urged on by Miss Carson, she deter-mined to do desperate battle with her foes, little dreaming what the cost

before. He will not care to come back. Oh, Theodore !" You may never see him again." Espiritu trembled. Her cheeks,

which had not been as pink lately as they used to be, now grew very red and her eyes filled with tears. She glanced

-I cannot, indeed.

"Espiritu has talked this over with me openly and freely," said her father. "It is her own wish that this should come to an end. She believes it to be best both for him and for her.'

Madame Valorge was troubled. Espiritu, darling ! You are not making this sucrifice for me, are you? member, child, this marriage would be my dearest wish. I love Theodore as a my dearest wish. I love Theodore as a son, and I should feel happier to think you were so well provided for. Things can be arranged somehow for the blind Do not make such a mistake for my sake.

Espiritu knelt by her grandmother's side and wound her arms lovingly about " I would gladly make any sacrifice for you, who have b en the dearest of mothers to me, but truly I am not doing so now. If it were only that, why, you could live with us, of course, and we would all be so happy together. No, it is—it is—" she glanced up at her father, " quite another reason, and I cannot be his wife. Tell him, as really gently as you can, that I am just as and of him as ever, and he must not mind, but must be our dear brother just s right.' as before.

Madame Valorge sighed. She wished that Ramon were a hundred miles away so that she could talk tenderly and so that she could take tenderly and openly with the girl, as a mother would. But he was the child's own father and had the first right to her confidence. Oh, if she could only see Espiritu! If her eyes could only follow the color in her cheek, the quiver of her lip, or the tell-tale glances of her eyes; but all was dark, and the sweet voice betrayed dark, and the sweet voice betrayed nothing but a gentle compassion for the pain she was inflicting. "He is coming now," said Disdier, impatiently, opening the door into the adjoining room and signing to Espiritu

own household without having outsiders step in ! to leave them.

one already in heart and soul, one offer ever in life or death, always one!" RC² Gently, very gently she loosed her-self from his embrace, smiling all the while into his face and repeating, "Yes, always one, far or near, in life or death, always one!" He had to let her go, he could not hold her against her wish,

and they were sitting demurely hand in hand in the old childish fashion when a little later the door opened and Madame Valorge stood on the threshold.

In a moment they were at her feet and she was sobbing over them and blessing them, pressing them again and again to her heart with broken words of

joy and thanksgiving. "Your father has told me all at last,"

"Your lather has told me all at last," she said, sadly, when the first excite-ment was over and they were sitting on either side of her and she held their dear hands clasped in hers — " told me what I should have known six years ago. Oh, my poor dear little girls, what a heavy load you have had to earry to try and ease your old grandmother's burand ease your old grandmother's bur-dens! It was hard for me at first to forgive your father his distrust of me. I had long ago made up my mind that a second marriage was inevitable, but he has suffered severely for his fault and I can but overlook it. Theodore, Espiritu, you are both very young. You can wait a little while yet, and you will be all the stronger and better for the test of your patience and fidelity. Believe me, my children, when God places an evident daty in our paths He attaches a special blessing to its fulfilment. Go to your father's unhappy home, my little Espiritu, like a dove of peace, and when the way is once made clear for you to enter upon your own married life your past sacrifice will be rewarded a hundred-fold. And you, Theodore, for the love you bear her, the years of your waiting and service will be as so many days, and they will be hallowed to you by the spirit of pure, unselfish devotion. Courage, my children! The end of your waiting may be nearer than you think We never know what the morrow will

CHAPTER XVII.

"As a twig trembles which a bird Lights on to sing, then leaves unbent, So is my memory thrilled and stirred— I only know she came and went." —Lowell,

shall she drag roun slang. I do not th mestic a woman e ionship must be clothes and food. try to make my co poor! I should e down to save he should desert her Then she would c I did not love Lord ! what a bor on his feet with a that startled the The dogs jumped dow-seat, and can inquiringly on his stirred herself, a rubbed her head I suppose you foolish fellow, an with very little Adriano, half alc cat with one has toyed with the d deep into their really flatter my were poor and couple of rooms olly sort of a hu a good many pri well seasoned v and a little fun. the old days who mind poverty ! work together, to make the coff all, and, mor to be very good " You see. confidingly tow failure or succ pends not so m as upon charact and cheerful go ation and det best of things success. And it should be a

discover that]