he engagement has been broken. You

have never cared for gayety in any

form since my dear lord's death, and

me have almost become alienated by

guests partially intoxicated with a

The young barrister's hands clinch-

"It is cruel-cruel!" he said; "but

crowd of his evil companions."

and contempt for her son.

the barrister smiled.

-the general contour of your face is

"It is, indeed," replied Herbert

Since the earl's illness Stanhope,

(To be continued.)

CHAPTER I.

After a few days the earl and his

than hers. Young, healthy, gifted

with rarest beauty, heiress to one of

clever and witty, loved and adored

wherever she went, able to do any-

thing she wished-what brighter life

ury that her heart desired.

tho rule of my life."

Dilemma the few intimate friends who visited

The Picnic **WoodallForest**

CHAPTER XLL

"Mc. Gardner and I dine at the ab-

The young barrister almost resented the brusque manner of Lord Cecil, nunciation - some great self-sac- ers. and he noticed that he never called rifice." the sweet and gracious lady by the

Once or twice he caught Lady Mr. Gardner, I do not know why I have told you; but I feel that there is Stanhope gazing at him in a strangely wistful way, and he wondered why no breach of faith in doing so. I feel his heart went out to her. Was it be- that I can trust you. Do you know cause he pitied her the possession of why? It has only just occurred to a son who was so inconsiderate to- me." ward her-a son who barely troubled himself to be civil, much less to show Lady Stanhope. I am pleased to think very long. Our nearest and I may say that you should be interested in me,"

He left the room whistling, to speak to a groom who had come to make a report concerning a horse that was then she regarded him earnestly, sick. There was a sorrowful light in saying: Lady Stanhope's eyes as they followed him.

"I believe that you are my son's Your eyes are darker, but there is friend, Mr. Gardner?" she said, pres- the same grave-earnestness in them "I am, indeed," was the earnest ret the same. Is it not wonderful how

ply. To himself he thought: "I will be these chance likenesses occur?"

"I am glad to hear it, and I be- Gardner, a painful flush spreading lieve that you have some control over over his face. He wondered what this him. I cannot understand the change proud patrician would think of him, in him of late, and am half-fearful if she knew that his origin was a that he is resenting my objections to mystery. people who are not only vulgar but At this juncture Lord Cecil came Iris; she will be the first to call upon vicious. He has a strange temper, and in, and announced that the condition you. Clyffe Hall is very ancient and we have one of the Earl of Swinford had much sympathy in common. He does not re- improved. He was quite sensible, and with it." semble his father, either. My hus- his speech was partially restored. band was a simple and kindly man. These are strange words for a mother had sent a servant daily for news of to speak to one who is almost a his progress. stranger, Mr. Gardner, but you must not think ill of me for it."

"I could never do that, Lady Stanhope. Lord Cecil and I have not been covered that the horsey people to whom he has been so fond of extending his patronage are little better than human sharks. I even believe that he is bent seriously upon giving up the old life, for he has sent to me, as an old friend, as a legal adviser, to help him out of some trouble, the nature of which he has not yet explained."

Lady Stanhope's fine face lighted daughter found themselves comfort-

ably established in their magnificent "I could not trust him in better home. A beautiful suite of rooms had hands," she said. "I had some hopes of his reformation when I considered that a marriage between him and Lady Gladys Howard was a settled on the western side of the building. thing, and I cannot understand why



agnificence of her home. As far as she could see over the undulating

tho grandeur, and the time-honored

ured; "and it is that I may so live epitaph that can be placed above me vill be, 'Held with honor.'" A footman came slowly toward her,

and she turned away lest he should ee the tears in her eyes. It was only message to say that Lord Caledon was in the breakfast-room- awaiting er ladyship's presence.

"I hope I have not detained you, papa!" she cried when she entered terrace that I could hardly leave it." "There are few places like Cale-

don," returned the earl complacently. "There are few people like you, my son's conduct. When annoyed with papa," she said, kissing the kind face me, he has appeared before my looking so admiringly at her.

CHAPTER II.

The breakfast-table was cleared, ed, and he felt his heart burning with but the earl and his daughter still pity for Lady Stanhope, with rage lingered in the pretty, airy, bright room. Lord Caledon had opened the bey to-day," Lord Coci. told. Lady let us hope that there is soon to be a leading articles; Mrs. Bellew was Stanhope, at the breakfast table next change in him for the better. I can busy with some fine lace-work; and say that something has deeply moved Lady Iris was gazing thoughtfully him, and that he meditates some re- from the window at the spring flow-

"You will not let anything that I I was here last I was a child, and I have said influence you against him. had no greater interest than in a new dress or a doll. Now I should much like to know who are our neighbors." With an amused smile the earl

"I shall be very pleased, my dear Iris, to put yu quite auo courant with "I am interested in all that you say, the neighborhood. It will not take best, neighbor is Lady Clyflarde of

She was silent for a few moments, "I remember her," said Lady Iris. "She is tall, with dark eyes and hair." "Yes, that is Lady Clyflarde. Her "I like you, Mr. Gardner, because son Sir Fulke succeeded last year. you remind me of my dead husband. Do you remember Fulke at all?"

"No, not at all, papa," was the

oung man; besides which, he has a

great political career before him." "I hope he will enjoy it, papa," she ness "I shall be pleased to see Lady Clyflarde again."

"She has often talked about you, beautiful-you will be delighted

Turning to him suddenly, she asked

"Who has bought Hyne Court, papa?" I heard that it was sold." "Ah, Iris, you have touched now upon the weak point of the whole county! When poor Lord Hyne died, is affairs were in a terrible state of mbarrassment. Everything was sold from the old house where the lynes have lived long generations to he rings its last mistress had worn. The Court and everything else-plate, pictures, horses, and carriages-were purchased by one of the wealthiest men in England—a wealthy man, but horror-you understand, Iris-a

"In what way, papa?" she asked, gently.

he made his money—imagine how!" "Made it?" she questioned, with a

"Yes, he has accumulated this enor-He worked himself into a better posioverlooker of a mine, and then he hit upon some great invention and was taken into partnership.

(To be continued.)



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