A TALE OF ENGLISH LIFE.

CHAPTER XI-CONTINUED.

ed emotion-

The sun had gone behind a cloud

everything, earth, sea, and sky, seemed

to be in shadow, and she was alone, a

both to look and speak like a madman.

began to walk back to the village.

"I would leave you at once, but thi

going back to London tonight I should

"From London I shall go to India.

had made up my mind to that in case

"I am sorry," she said a little

They scarcely spoke again, before

eaching The Thwaite, and later in the

evening it became known that Sir Cuth-

CHAPTER XII.

STRIKING THE FIRST BLOW.

Eighteen months passed before Per-

the snow had not melted from the

utter loneliness and desolation, the sense

of the depth, and breadth, and height

cival and Helen came home to Brant-

like to say good-bye to your father.

"Where are you going?"

"I daresay you are right."

bert had left for London.

was unsuccessful."

that you ask me."

"I will not marry you."

May I ask why?" he said at last,

"Certainly. Questions, like hope, are cheap. I do not love you."
"At least tell me that you prefer no who seemed to her in her excitement

"Would that be any consolation to She felt more frightened than she had

"I think it would."

that consolation, which at the same time, allow me to tell you, is generally very unfounded, When a woman refuses a man because she does not care nothing, absolutely nothing, in his fav- cold. our that she cares for no one else. I could tell you, of course, that I care for no one else, but it would not be true, and you would probably find me out. I nothing. At last he spokedo prefer some one else.

"And-and-" he said.

"At present there does not seem much prospect of our marriage. But strange things happen. The world goes round, and everything in its turn comes to the

"You cannot tell me who he is." "Well, hardly," with a smile. "And even if I did, I do not see what you would have gained. You would not call

him out, would you?" "Do not jest; I implore you not to jest," he said. "You cannot possibly tell what this means to me. You would not understand if I tried to tell you, and I pray heaven that you never may un-

Understand what i she asked in ower tone, impressed almost in spite of nersen by the bitterness and despair in his face and voice.

"Understand what it is to love in vain and to see no means of having your love estisfied. It is not likely," forcing a snile, "that such a thing will" ever happen to you. But if ever you were so unfortunate, I should ask you to remember

She was silent. He was describing to har what seemed exceedingly likely to b, her own position, and for a moment an extraordinary idea occurred to her that she would tell him so. But she repressed it, and said-

"I am sorry you are so disappointed. I had no idea my refusal would wound you

so deeply. woman ; you do not yet know what men and women feel when their dearest hopes ars dashed to the ground. Are you sure," he went on passionately, "are you anre you could not love me? You an swered without much thought. Reflect, think it over. Remember, my love is not a boy's fancy, to last until something else comes to take its place. I am a man. and my love is a man's love, lasting and changeless. It will never fail you, be the years never so long. Do not throw It away in a hurry. I make no boast when I say that you will not meet such love as mine a second time in a human life. I know myself, and may I suggest that you not do yet know yourself? Give

To say that Alice remained untouched by this passionate outburst on the part of a man so silent and reserved as Sir Cothbert would be, if not wholly untrue, at least greatly exaggerated. The first time he had asked her to marry him she had refused, and he had taken his answer and gone away leaving her at peace with herself, and not very deeply moved by the occurrence. Now it was different. His love seemed to have increased since that time, and she too was changed. She could partly, at any rate, understand his feelings. She had never supposed that this grave, dignified English gentleman could plead with passion and earnestness such as he had just shown. She felt uncomfortable, for all his plealing did not in the least shake her determination, and a little frighten | conciled her to going home.

post planted in the sand to show where got on. Such went away disappointed. fell from her lips, and-Alice felt it in-

earliest callers. Alice had just come home. She had spent the season in two had stood here a couple of years ago atruction out of our travels."

London and at fashionable watering places, and she was still unmarried. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels."

The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago atruction out of our travels. The couple of years ago at th Chances had not been wanting. What notice of Helen, no one spoke to her any it," was the reason of her remaining unwhen I was present. If she had spoken,
married none knew and few even cared cried aloud for help in pain, her voice ed it very well, for after a little more was alone in her room, she sat down and was the reason of her remaining unto ask. Others bore away the prizes would have been drowned in the noise which she disdained, and so there was of people sounding my praise. It is not couple of miles from home, with a man compensation. She looks little changed fair, it is not." since Helen's marriage, rather older perhaps, and with the fold between her and her head sank upon her breast. ever felt before, she made a desperate eyes a little deepened, otherwise the Then she raised it again higher than besame as ever. She said very little on fore. attempt to appear calm, and in answer "I am sorry I must rob you of even to his last words she said in a voice this occasion; the conversation was left to her mother and Helen, but her eyes which was all the colder from suppresswere reatless; they rested on every object in the room, including its mistress, "I cannot give you any hope ; I know but she said nothing. She sat there my own mind perfectly well. Let us go for him enough to marry him, it argues home; 1 am tired, and it is getting sipping her tea, and looking first at one picture or bit of china, then at another. At last she rose and crossed the room to She turned abruptly as she spoke and one of the windows, and Helen saw that her walk, too, was the same as before-For some time Sir Cuthbert said slow, measured, perhaps a little languiu.

> road is too lonely for you, and before and said, as though in explanation-"You have a beautiful view from this window." "Yes, we see right across the bay ; we

get all the sunsets without having to go Miss." out of doors. Percival and I could not patiently, "but you could not expect me in, but we finally decided we would." "When was that?" asked Mrs Lato marry you for no other reason than

fone. "I do not remember it." "It was soon after he came to live

feel a certain incapacity in action unless me,' aided by advice from the other," said was before them, and the servants had Percival, who came in that moment and guessed the subject of conversation.

slight constraint which had formerly throat. wood, and all that time they spent in marked her manager with her stepmother travelling about the Continent. This and stater; almost unconsciously her length of time spent abroad was the visitors prolonged their stay till a clock across the small, round dining table, but fulfillment of a long cherished wish of striking recalled Mrs Lafone to a sense Helen's, and, contrary to the usual ex- of the flight of time.

perience, the reality surpassed her ex-"He is really very fond of her, that is pectations. She had read and seen pic- evident," tures of Switzerland and Italy, she had daughter drove home.

"A blind man might see that," retalked to people who had studied in Germany, and she had wondered if she turned Alice, and if ever she were would ever travel. She came to the guilty of giving a snappish answer it was conclusion that it was not probable, and then.

she had passed many an hour of idle- 'I am really glad she has married so ness in imagining what she never hoped well," pursued the elder lady. "She to see. But all the chaos of snow-capp- was a great responsibility with her queer four to it, take awayrays, and if you and Gertrude had imagination was flat and tame compared married first, or she had not at all, there anything. You must go on adding till to her first sight of the Engadine on a would have been some talk; people are you can add no more.' remarkably cold June morning, when so unchangeable."

"So far there has been no opening for mountains, and some of the passes were reflections upon your character as a step- grapes. "But seriously, Percival, what mother," said Alice still caustic.

"She is very much improved in every There were certain scenes in her travels which she felt she would never not put up with her tempers. Yes, she and be gay while you can. forget. One was the first sight of those mighty snow-covered peaks towering up has been very fortunate; it is such a your roses while you may,' so to speak.' into the clear, blue sky-the sensations comfort to reflect that one has done one's duty." they gave her, the sudden feeling of

Alice made no reply. She scarcely spoke throughout the remainder of the like," of nature. Another was the day when drive, and on reaching home went straight to her room, saving she was

Percival and she visited one of the glaciers, and after climbing for some tired. distance found themselves in a region of She shut the door and threw herself the most complete and death-like still- into a chair. She felt angry and bitter. ness, which was suddenly broken by the However she treated other people, she fall of a rock somewhere-it might be was generally frank with herself, and close at hand, it might be far away- she did not attempt to deny that she had time and distance seemed nothing in the taken some pains with her dress for this presence of these eternal snows and particular call. Twice she had inspected fathomless heights and depths. Other the arrangement of her hair, and after scenes and feelings might vanish and be each inspection had told her to do it forgotten : those two would remain with again ; only the third time had she been her to her life's end. She admired and satisfied with it. She had put on that enjoyed Italy, Germany gave her a sense one of all her dresses in which she most of home, but Switzerland went to her admired herself, and she had get out heart. She did not often speak of it. with the intention of fascinating Perci-She never urged her friends to go there, val. He had hardly looked at or spoker but she herself loved it as she had never to her after the first greetings, and when imagined she could care for any country, he had handed her the second cup of and it was only the thought of Os- coffee, which she had accepted merely motherly in its autumn beauty which re- that she might take it from his hand, hehad hardly let his eyes fall upon her. ed, for the road along which they had | As soon as she was settled at Brant- He had stood in that attitude sacred to come was very lonely; so far as she wood she became overwhelmed with call- minhood, leaning against the chimnevhey were the only people ers. People had not been able to shake piece, his hands loosely clasped behind She began to recall all she had off the idea that it was Alice whom Per- him and his eyes bent upon his wife. read in novels of what took place on such cival ought to have married, and many following every movement of her small accasions. They had long passed the came to see how the husband and wife white hands, hearing every word which

and side of their path spread wide, level love and sympathy between them, they head, every motion of her figure. She and she asked no end of questions about tracts of sand upon which it was not safe were so dependent on one another. It bit her lips till the blood came as she the places we went to when we were even to set foot. She began to regret was evident there had been no mistake. remembered it all and realized what it away. She seemed to have been to ar admission that there was some one Another thing came upon them like a meant. She clenched her hands till the most of them, but she did not seem to the preferred to her present suitor. Sup- revelation; it was suddenly discovered gloves split as she thought of them and remember much about anything except some Sir Cuthbert in his rage should say that Helen was beautiful. She was very pictured what they would be doing at the hotels. She always asked me at that since she would not marry him she little changed; her slender figure was as this moment, and for the rest of the which hotel we stayed, and if it did not should marry no one, and should drag graceful as ever; neither hair nor eyes evening. They would talk over their happen to be the same one at which she her with him into the sands. She her- had changed colour, he complexion was visitors, they would separate to dress had been I could see she thought we had had put the idea into his head a neither paler nor more brilliant than be- for dinner, they would dine and spend put up with very inferior accommodation. short time before, and she was utterly fore; but whereas before her marriage the evening together, just they two, alhis mercy. There was neither house she had been considered merely a well- ways they two. They would have so enjoyed it all, and I said I fisttered my ner human being within reach of ler looking girl, she was now seen to be ab much to talk about, past experiences to self you had. Then she sighed and said voice. An unreasoning terror crept into solutely beautiful. Alice's prophecy recall, plans for the future to make, and she seemed to have seen exerything; her heart, which yet she did her best to had been fulfilled, though sooner than always together, with no one to come in nothing gave her any real pleasure. The tide was coming up, the she had anticipated. At two-and-twenty between them; always together all their

monotonous roll of the waves out in Helen was considered as beautiful as her live long. the open sea came distinctly to her ears sister, though in a different way. Perci- "Oh, I cannot bear it, I cannot," she tions?"

val heard it, and while secretly exulting cried, spring from her chair and pushing

The last words were almost wailed out,

"An eye for an eye," she said, "She cheated and brought shame upon me, and if I can do the same for her, I will." She had unconsciously spoken the last words aloud and she was startled to hear her maid say close to her-"I beg your pardon, Miss."

"What?" she asked, turning round abruptly.

"I thought you spoke, Miss," said the girl, a little intimidated by the young Alice met Helen's eyes fixed upon her, lady's manner. "Why should I speak when I imagined myself to be alone? What have you pose."

"It is time for you to dress for dinner

"Take my dress off, and another make up our minds for some time do not fasten it so ridiculously tight at to come."
whether we would have that window put the throat that I am nearly choked." "She sa

about a fortnight after Mrs Lafone and I hardly noticed what she said after- looked out. Brantwood stood on high "When we were each beginning to for which I am sure you will not thank They were at the dinner table, dessert

left the room. Helen sat opposite to not," Mrs Lafone and her daughter sat a her husband, looking wonderfully beaulong time. They were the only callers tiful in her rich dress, with late, creamy afternoon tea, and this is the result," waters caught and threw back the radithat afternoon, and had the field to roses in her chestnut hair, and a string he said in such severe tones that the ance above, and had the appearance of a themselves. Helen, too, had lost the of pearls round her slender, white look in his eyes was necessary to belie patch of molten gold or silver. A flock There was a great deal of admiration in Percival's eyes as he looked at her

there was also much amusement that his wife's lips parted in a smile as she re-

"Is it something very bad? Do let me hear the worst at once?

"Think of the most disagreeable thing you can, then add another a thousand more times disagreeable to it, and you will begin to approach the truth," Helen laughed outright as she said-

"Think of a number, double it, add

"And then double it," her eyes ing, as she helped herself to some

is it ?". "You may well say seriously; we shall way. I expect she found Percival would be serious enough before long. Laugh

"Percival, what is it? How can you saidgo on talking such nonsense before telling me? Afterwards say what you

"You hear the naked truth. I have asked Alice here on a visit, to stay." "Percival! she said almost in

whisper." "Didn't I tell von it was as bad as could be?" he began in a tone of earnest, self justification. "I prepared you ; you can't say that I did not give to use it.' you full warning."

"I said, first imagine the worst, and

get out of it." "Well," with a sigh of resignation

very worst. When did you see What put it into your head ?" "It was when I was out this afteroon. I was riding to the Lower Fold Farm, and I met Alice, also riding. I

asked her where she was going to, and she said she did not know.' He paused a moment, but as said nothing he went on.

"I said 'Oh,' but as she made no move to go on I could only suggest we should ride together."

"Of course."

"You see I could not do less, and as we could not ride in silence we began to law," said his wife with an effort. ased to be safe walking, and now on No one could help seeing the perfect stinctively-admiring every turn of her talk. We kept first to general subjects,

> "Dear me ! Now what answer did you make to these interesting communica-

offered to pay us a visit."

"Well ?"

range that. But not only have her at large and luxurious dressing room, the your own convenience."

"Did she give no reason for wanting thoughts when they concerned herself,

"She said something about it would object in showing her the room. be so quaint to see Helen in her own house, but I was so annoyed at the whole roundings indoors were all that could be "Helen." said Percival one evening affair and the way she had let me in that desired, she went to the window and Alice had called, "I have done a thing wards. You know had you been with ground and commanded a magainteent me this would not have happened, I am view. Even she was for a moment lost sure, and I asked you to come."

er conscience stricken, "but I could ting; the sands glittered almost like gold

wife, rising. "It is too late for tonight's cries, With awkward gait they stepped post, but it will be so much done."

very amiable reply from Alice, which an- and flew of to a more hospitable part c noved Helen almost more than all the the shore. Below her window the rest of the business, but she prepared to rustled and ighed in the breeze; the receive her sister with all cutward signs flower beds vere a blaze of color, and of hospitality and goodwill.

he twirled the note between his fingers, like stretches of smerald moss. A climbwhy she wants to come at all. It is ing Dijon rose nodded in at the open absurd to suppose that there is anything window; just below a purple clematis attractive here; she does not like you, apread its broad, rich blossoms. She and is no friend of mine. If looked at it all, and then turned away it were not too monstrous an idea to en with a dark look upon her beautiful of spite," and as he spoke he crushed teeth as she mut

visit she had been trying to find a reason fer it, and had finnally found one so ment until I had grown to be her rival. little satisfactory that she could not sug. She is my first rival, and and shall be my gest it to her husband. Presently she last. The day when she comes to

"I am giving her the largest bedroom in the house, and I have fitted up that little place opening out of it as a sitting room. She may take the hint or she may not."

"Most decidedly not, in my opinion. She is not the kind of woman to make use of a private sitting-room when she is

away from home." ray from home."

"Still, it will be there if she does care and often this with great difficulty.

"Do not buoy yourself up with false

hopes. Remember that little saying then pile another on top of it." You which you once came across and found know I did, Helen; you a/e trying to so true. "Things are what they are, and the consequence of them will be what they will be." Alice is coming, 'tell me all about it; let me hear the and we shall have the full benefit of her society as long as she is here. We can only hope that she will soon get tired of a dull, old married couple like ourselves

> Helen did not reply, and after a pause Percival went on -"Each time I have seen Alice since w came home she has called me Mr Moore. Surely that is unnecessary. I always

and leave us to our own devices again.

call her Alice. Why does she do it, do you suppose?" "She has odd ideas at times. I suppose she and I are not sisters she does not look upon you as her brother-in-

Percival raised his evebrows. "Isn't that a little fer-fetched? I the continues I shall have to change to

Miss Lafone." "No. don't," said Helen impulsively. Whatever she does do not you change it would be absurd. I should not like people to hear it, they would think we

had gone mad. Percival attached too little importance to the matter to say any more about it.

and the subject dropped. The following day Alice came. Her boxes were brought in the morning, and their size and number filled Helen with diamay, causing her to groan inwardly, though she made no remark upon them. Alice herself rode over just before

Not a sincere one I am afraid. I sput dinner, and as she was alone, her hor and triumphant, pretended to be disgusted that the beauty which he had
been accustomed to consider his own
private property now belonged to every
one.

Mrs Lafone and Alice were among the
earliest callers. Alice had just come

the window open as high as it would go,
on a gentle and sympathetic manner,
and as she was alone, her horse
on a gentle and sympathetic manner,
and as she was alone, her horse
had to be put up. It was rather like an
installation, Helen thought; but she
young surfeited with pleasure. I then
throw in, just as a finish off, that one
leaned out almost panting for breath.

"What right has she to se much love,
earliest callers. Alice had just come
while I am left here starving. If we THI

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He sabou and his a apina with face blood once meet of the sastay Thin Ahe ters the Cur noh had Mai Hers the lear she was hot

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have with much less ceremony, "I don't know; if she did she conceal- When Helen had gone away and Alice conversation of the same kind the said drew her breath. This was the beginnthat it was very dull at The Thwaite just ing of the campaign which she had now, and would she be intruding if she planned with much care and thought. and she was anxious that all should go well. First she examined the room in "Well, you see she had me again. I which she sat; it was large and lofty. sould only say what happiness a visit and well lighted; she could not com

from her would give us, and ask her to plain that Helen had taken advantage of come. You must owe I could not do her being a relative to give her interior accommodation. The room was ex-"No ; I do not see what else you could quisitely furnished in the most modern have done; but it is annoying. You know style; everything that could possibly be we had agreed to have no one here this imagined as adding to the comfort and autumn; we want a little quiet after convenience of the occupant was there. eighteen months of hotel life. Did you There were two doors in the room in addition to the one by which she had come "No; I thought you had better ar- in; one led into an almost extravagantly the other into a tastefully furnished "I must write and do my duty, I sup- little sitting-room with a lovely view from the oriel window. Alice had re-"Yes ; do your duty in the same spirit pressed a smile when Helen called her of self-sacrifice in which I have done attention to the room. As before said, she was very quick at reading people's

and she had instantly guessed Helen's Having satisfied herself that her surin admiration of the beauty of the scene. "I know," said his wife, looking rath- The tide was out, and the sun was setin the brilliant evening light. Here and "You never will go between lunch and there a little pool left by the retreating of seagulis wheeled over the sands, and "I will go and write now," said his settled fown with harsh, melancho'y along, dipping their head from ti The note was written, and brought a time. Then with one accord they rose

fragrant with the acent of many sweet. "I cannot imagine," said Percival, as old-fashioned flowers; the lawns were

the sheet of writing paper into and flung it into the fire.

Helen said nothing. Ever since Perdouble-dealing, and I I bide my time it cival had told her of Alize's projected may be mine yet. She made a false calculation when she hid her engageand bees me to spare her husband to her, will be the sweetest of my life."

(TO BE CONTINUED.) I have been afflicted with catarrh

20 years. It became chronic and the was a constant dropping of muco matter. It extended to my threa causing hoarseness and great difficult in speaking, indeed for years I was n also, to a great extent, lost the sense hearing in the left ear, and of tast By the use of Ely's Cream Balm droppings of mucous has ceased and voice and hearing has greatly improve —Jas. W. Davidson, Attorney at La

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