

'Margaret,' The GIRL ARTIST.

The Countess of Ferrers Court.

sently he rose and absently took two Floyd watched him sadly.

"Going home, Blair?" said the colonel, in that tone of forced cheerfulness which we use toward a friend

"Home?" he said, with a little start and suppressed shudder. "Good heavens, no! What should I do with the rest of the night?"

quis with a yawn. "Why not go to

grim smile. "Why should I go to

"Why, to sleep," replied the young

"Yes, but I don't sleep," came the instant retort. "No. I think I'll go down to the Green Table."

claimed the colonel. "What's the use of going to that beastly place?"

"As for that, what's the use of going to any beastly place?" said Blair, and he rang the bell and asked for his

"We'd better go with him. I suppose?" whispered the marquis; and when the footman had helped Blair on with his coat, they got theirs and followed him; Austin Ambrose walking face when poor Blair lost?" by his side, his face calm and serene with its cool, set smile.

The tables at the gaming club seem-

Neither of the men had spoken a a Dutchman."

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other results of a disordered digestive system-is

people have found them dependable, spect, their action on stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels.

he-de-devil, don't you know?"

What's come to him-what's happened head, poor old chap. Look how he's know," and he laughed grimly. "So playing now! Why, a child could beat they say I am ruined; well, what does him. And he plays so confounded it matter? If I am broke, I am the high. I've heard there's a lot of mon- only person to whom it will signify. ey in the family; but, hang it all, a If I were a married man, now, and

"I quite understand your feelings, in the lamplight; "but I haven't, you do? If you think my poor friend is well. What do fellows do when they a man to be coaxed or managed, well, go under, Austin? Why, go abroad,

hand on Blair's shoulder, he said, in stopped abruptly and looked up at the an undertone: "Old fellow, the luck sky, now streaked with the red rays is dead against you to-night; throw of the coming sun. "Oh, Austin, if I the cards up and come away." Blair turned as a man might turn

"Oh, is it you, Aldy? I beg your "No, thank you," said Blair with a what does it matter?" and he smiled. "The next best thing to winning is darling!"

"You see!" said Austin Ambrose in low voice. "What is to be done? I have tried everything, but it is of no use" then he hent over Blair, and

"Are you coming my way, Blair? I am going now."

"No, I think not," was the listless

reply. "Going? Good-night." The marquis and Colonel Floyd valked out of the club.

"I wonder what that fellow's game is." said the latter, "for, mark my words, Aldy, he has a game, all these sort of men have. Did you see his

"No. I was watching the cards," said

ed pretty well crowded, but Blair our pale-faced friend, and if it was found a chair presently and began to sorrow on his face, then I don't know see her?" play. The marquis and Colonel Floyd joy when I see it. I don't know what stood behind him with Austin Am- his game is, and I can't even guess at it, but if he isn't winning it, then I'm

word to him, beyond returning his! Blair played on until the daylight greeting as he entered the club, but came in faint streaks through the she is really dead!" now impelled by his anxiety on Blair's Venetian blinds of the card room, and account, the marquis addressed him. the hour of closing arrived. Then he "I say, Ambrose, you know," he in- rose as listless and weary, as unmov

ed and calm as when he sat down. "You have lost," said Austin Amrose, who still stood beside him.

"Yes, I think so. Oh, yes, heavily. "Heavily!" echoed Austin Ambrose My dear Blair! And you have had a un of bad luck all the week?"

"Yes, luck has been against me, ssented Blair, and he beckoned to ootman who brought him some cham-

"You don't know how much you nave lost?" continued Austin Ambrose, watching him as he drank the wine. "No, not exactly. I told them to send the IOU's to Tyler & Driver's. Are you going now? I am afraid I have kept you."

"To Tyler & Driver's!" said Austin with Blair's long strides. "My dear fellow, Tyler told me only yesterday that you had overdrawn your account, on Springtime. And there are those IOU's to-night! Good heavens, my

they say that? Well, they ought to had got a wife-" He stopped, and Austin Ambrose heaved a deep sigh. the hand that held his cigar quivered don't they? I'll go abroad. I'll go The marquis swore under his to Boulogne, and be a billiard marker, or I'll work my way out to Aus-"I will!" he said, and laying his tralia and turn cattle runner." He could only go to some place where I could forget her! She haunts me-

pardon. Want to go? All right, just me, just as she looked as she stood wait till I have had another hand. The on the hill waving her hand the last morning"-his voice broke-"the last He stopped with a great sob, and

then hurried on, drawing his hat over tated and looked down, as men do

Austin Ambrose watched him with keen scrutiny, much as a surgeon knife.

should fight against this weakness. It is ruining you, body and soul. It is

"The earl!" said poor Blair, with a bitter laugh. "What does he care?"

"Or to Violet. Don't be angry now," for Blair had turned upon him almost "Well, I wasn't. I was watching savagely. "She is your friend, and you know it. Why don't you go and

> o one!" groaned the unhappy man "I tell you my lost darling haunts me continually. I see her so plainly sometimes that i can scarcely believe

Austin Ambrose started, then smiled reassuringly to himself.

"How can I mix with my fellow

men in the state I am in? You must give me time, man!" he cried almost savagely. "Give me time!" They had reached Blair's chambers

by this time, and with a nod he turn slowly mounted the stairs.

Austin Ambrose, left alone, leant against the lamp-post and, panting a said: little, lit a cigar, his cold, gray eyes fixed upon the light that shone in Blair's window.

"You fool," he muttered. "You simple fool! I've got you in my net-and her, too! Give you time! Yes, you

could tell where he had gone, but in truth he was wandering with a knapsack on his back through an out-ofthe-way part of the country, solitary Minard's Liniment Curca Diphtheria.

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dering whether all her passionate desires would be fulfilled, when a servant opening the door quietly said: "Lord Leyton."

She started to her feet, the blood low and rather languid voice: "Oh, is that you, Blair?"

"Yes, it's I," he said, taking her and, which trembled a little, for all her efforts to keep it steady. "You didn't expect to see me. I ought to

might watch the subject upon which that which you should leave undone! he was experimenting with saw and she said, with a soft laugh. "Of course, I am glad to see you. Come "Blair," he said, panting a little, nearer the fire. It is an awful evening,

"Beastly!" he said, and he drew his chair up to the fire. "You are just in time for tea. Shall

we have lights?" "No," he replied, "unless you wan

hem. I like this firelight." "It is rather cozy," she said. "I am fond of it myself. Will you ring the

He rang the bell, and the servant prought in the tea-tray, with its little

silver kettle, and placed it upon the The fire burned brightly, the kettle sang, the richly yet tastefullyfurnished room was redolent of lux-

urious comfort, and poor Blair nestled into his chair, and thought of the Violet stole a glance at him as she

usied herself with her tea-making, and a sharp pang shot through her as she saw in the firelight the pale haggard face, which she had last seen so bright and careless.

She was just about to say: "You have been very ill, haven't you?" but once again she remembered Austin Ambrose's caution, and, instead, she

"Where have you been, Blair?" He started, and roused himself. "Lately, do you mean?" he said, looking at the fire still. "I have been wandering about Somersetshire."

"No." he answered. "I have bee you know, but I am all right now," he

"All right! Her heart ached, bu (To be Continued.)



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