"He can't do it: he has no proof."

"I'll not contradict ye. But if we

Lord Linton sprang to his feet and

nor Mr. Smith, nor all the world to-

"If they're allowed to do so, they

fool enough not to stop them they

do?" passionately. "I wish to-"

Lord Linton stared at the man with

face grew white with passion as it

- to - a crime?" he said,

look in his eyes.

will."

al times.

disappear and-"

hoarse whisper.

fell upon his ear.

"Hush! Yer see its like this, the young man, a tall, clever feller, guv'nor," the visitor replied, turning who knows wots wot, as 'as come up a dirty, tattered old cap round and round in some trepidation. "Mr. Jeremiah Smith, or 'Erbert Fane, as he Lord Linton." called 'isself long ago on the stage, 'as come wery low. 'Im an' me is pals, an' shares the same apartment was to blab-Mr. Smith an' me?" in Lee's Court."

"Good heavens! Is it possible? Mr. Smith seemed a gentleman. writes," taking a letter from his pocket and glancing over it, speaks like a gentleman, and you-"

especially." with a knowing wink and sticking a finger to his nose, "when I they lose their own money an' maybe at? If John Fane and his sister know was such a common name." somebody else's that they've not come the truth, and-and can prove it.' by altogether honestly. Mr. Smith or Lord Linton-s blue eyes were blood-Fane 'opes you'll continue your kindness to 'im, my lord, and make it gether, can stop them." worth 'is while an' mine to keep your secret." And, chuckling, he seated will." Bill Grogan had consumed a called Fane." himself on one of the brocade-covered goodly supply of whiskey, but he had chairs and quietly crossed his legs.

"Mr. Smith should have come himself. He had no business to send you to my house. I refuse to hold any his legs and cleared his throat severcommunication with you. How do I know you are not an impostor?"

The grimy, ill-clad creature slipped from his chair, and going close to

His lordship staggered back, his face convulsed with terror and anger. "He told you that? Then he may starve, or shoot himself if he pleases, for all I care. I'll have nothing more

to say to him." "He wouldn't be much loss, truly. But if he were gone to-morrow, guv-'nor, you'd be no better off. For I, your humble servant, remember,'

spreading out his arms, "know every- ye, guv'nor. Ye knows all about it to South Africa." yerself. An' it all comes to this. Will Lord Linton shook from head to ye give up the whole show, or," with foot. The room seemed to swim a chuckle, "make over a little trifle or think pretty Beryl capable of conround him. Things had come to a of twelve thousand pounds to me an' stancy?" climax. On every side he saw ruin Smith, an' we'll take all the trouble staring him in the face. He had tak- off your shoulders? Yer'll know nothen possession of the name and es- on', feel nothin' 'ear nothin', see notates of Linton at the death of his thin', as I once heard in a play up cousin, knowing full well that he had the West End. The deed'll be done. no right to either-morally certain An' me an' you an' Smith, like the that Archibald's first wife had died good boys in the story books, 'ill some twelve years before he was kill- live 'appy hever after,"

Lord Linton sank into a chair by haps, several children had survived the table, and, flinging out his arms, But they are both young-and-athim. But he had asked no questions, let his head fall forward upon them tractive."

earl's daughter, had children born to Grogan, in soothing accents "Lord tremendously. She is lovely." him, and tasted all the pleasures of a love yer, it's nothin'. A mere scratch life of luxury and ease. His con- or two of the pen an' the thing's

troublesome, especially at first. But Lord Linton slutched his cheque- Miss Beryl." playing and riotous living, he had took a pen and dipped it into the ald's face as he took up his palette der. "But I confess I am full of

lapse of fifteen years, had begun to Bill Grogan crept up behind him, to that side, Lady Linton, please." feel perfectly secure in his position, flushed and excited. "Twelve thouswhen quite suddenly a change came. and - not a penny less, mind; and remark. "Thanks, thatis very nice." His sins had found him out. First make it payable over the counter. vague rumors reached him. There were No crossin's an' things o' that sort, terday at Riversdale, Mr. Fairfax?" Fanes living, he heard who claimed mind yer. That's it," following the "Yes, and was charmed with your to be Archibald's children. He smiled formation of every letter as Linton little son. He will make a beautiful at that, and flattered himself that filled in the cheque. Splendid. A full picture, Lady Linton." they could do him no harm. But when twelve thous. An' mind yer, it's She smiled; then sighed heavily. he met Jeremiah Smith, an out-at-cheap at the money. A nasty job. "He is good-looking certainly. A real father's son, and retire in your fa-rather see him stronger and less the-elbows actor, who proved to him Full of risk an' danger. Now, then," Fane. But alas! he is sadly delithat he was the Fane whom Madeline with a loud curse, "Why the mischief cate." Delorme, the beautiful young actress, don't ye sign? I hear some one com- "He has a bright spirit. I was had loved and married, he trembled in'. Be quick, man; be quick. Yer struck with his likeness to Miss Bervl

money on condition that he told no Lord Linton let the pen fall from Lady Linton laughed increduously. had caused him some pricking of con- ed face.

man turned up and assured him that and Smith will do what you promise? meet this girl." he was in possession of his secret, You'll spend my money and leave me "You shall have that pleasure this and that he must either submit to his just where I am this moment - sur- very afternoon, Lady Linton. Miss rounded by enemies, dangers and diffi- Fane and my sisters are coming here

feeling ill and weak, and there was him under his breath. "Yer goin' to moment." an ugly look about his visitor that draw back, are ye?" he said, with a "Then the sitting is at an end. Mr. made him shrink from laying hands sneer. "Well, then, give us a bit now Fairfax?" upon his sturdy, thick-set form. So -just for expenses. Two thous., say, he clenched his fists and ground his an' promise to pay the rest when - Linton." teeth in silence, and, staggering to- well," laughing, "when the job's done."

Lord Linton wrote and signed the "Oh, come now, guv'nor, don't take smaller cheque, and as he finished, alon so. Me an' Smith's ready to act most before the ink was dry, Gromy youngest sister." fair an' square and tell no tales, gan seized it and thrust it into his "The bride-elect?" I

What do you call acting fair and square?" burst from Tristram's white ticlers when yer will. Yer've got the Sir Henry Dunstable is an old friend address of me an' the pal. Lee's of ours. Oh, Sir Henry, I congratu-The man cast a furtive glance Court, top floor back. Adoo. Mum's late you heartily," adding in a somethe word. 'Er ladyship's 'ome from what loud aside. "She is charming." 'er drive. I 'ear the swish of petti-

think the information's worth, an' The door opened quickly, a tall, wot yer think ought to be done. If slender girl in a dark blue travelling rough work's to be the order of the dress stood upon the threshold. Bill feller to stop at anything. If there's aware of her presence, fell back with

hands about and clearing his throat, 'Papaa, are you ill? What has that terrible man been saying. Oh!" with a shudder, "he looked wicked, horribly wicked," she cried, laying her hand upon her father's shoulder. "Richardson should not admit such

"Margaret!" Lord Linton cried with rived and presently quite a number of

#### CHAPTER XXXVIII

When Lady Linton left her husband she drove straight to Gerald Fairexpress to Sir Peter Goldsmid's office fax's studio and was soon on the trait was being painted.

They were talking of people things fitfully when she suddenly sprang the question on the artist: "By-the-by, Mr. Fairfax, can you

tell me who that lovely girl is near Hampton will soon return well and - made all things right. But now I am strode up and down the room, his whom Lord Hampton was sitting at uninjured." face drawn and white, a wild, hunted the opera? You were in the box with them, so you must know who she is."

> "Certainly, Lady Linton. She is a visitor of my sister. Her name is pecting the real cause of his sister's

"Nor is it at all common, Lady Linton. shot, his lips were blue, "neither you "I think it is. Mrs. Danvers has a

now this girl turns up. Everyone is acquaintance." saying she is a nobody and yet she is Gerald reddened to, his hair. "Ev-

is a nobleman's daughter." "Dear me! Then Lord Hampton is "But what the mischief am I to not making a mesalliance after all.

Bill Grogan crossed and recrossed sure." another.'

bated breath. "You would tempt me say "if Lord Hampton ever marries written." in a Miss Fane?' Is there any doubt about the matter? Has she refused him? Or Grogan's answer was a laugh that has that worldly-minded old grandwas not a pleasant one, and Tris- mother of his forbidden them to get was cruel and his name has been slan- his way across the room in her ditram, Lord Linton, writhed, and his married?"

"Neither." Gerald turned away his head. "But Lord Hampton has benn worst of him. We, his children, have portant," she reflected, wishing, with "It doesn't require me to tempt ordered to join his regiment and go"

"And you don't believe that 'ab-

sence makes the heart grow fonder.' Gerald flushed hotly. "I did not

say that, Lady Linton. But you must not forget the fortunes of war." "No, indeed. So that is why the

young couple looked so miserable. Are they very devoted, Mr. Fairfax?" Gerald clenched his fists. "That is not a question that any outside per-

son can well answer, Lady Linton. "You admire Miss Beryl tremedously. I see."

"I admire Miss Fane-as you say -Lady Linton smiled audibly. step-daughter is Miss Fane, Mr. Fairfax. I think we shall call this girl

A curious look passed across Gerand brushes once more. "A little more doubt."

he said, taking no notice of her last "You saw Miss Fane and Hugo yes-

Kane."

one, and for the time, even though his fingers, and, turning, looked "Now, that's absurd. And yet," with grave mistake was made, the world a comical glance. "You foolish man. little Hugo's letter of that morning steadily into Grogan's drunken, wick- a sudden start, "now that you mention it - there is something - and science, he felt secure. And now this "And how am I to know that you -I declare, I am most anxious to

to tea very soon. In fact, I think I

"For to-day," bowing, "yes, Lady

The door opened softly and some one peeped in. "Gerald," said Enid's voice, "may we come in?" "Certainly. Lady Linton, this

"The bride-elect?" Lady Linton said with a gracious smile. "I am de-"There isn't a minute. Further per- lighted to meet you, Miss Faitfax.

"Gerald," said Marion. "Beryl's brother arrived unexpectedly, and we made him come with us.' Gerald changed color, and looked from his sister to Lady Linton. "I am glad to hear it. But-" Then

quickly, "Where is he?" "With Beryl in your little smoking den. He seems excited and does not want to come in. He." in a low tone, "does not care to meet," with a glance at Lady Linton, "her lady-

"That's nonsense. I'll arrange that." And he hurried out of

In his absence several persons arpeople were buzzing round the studio. examining, criticising, and admiring the pictures and sketches upon the

of triumph in her voice. "And before found Beryl and John Fane standing less something very unexpected haptelling anyone about it, I have come together by the window. Beryl intro-pens, we'll leave things as they are." duced her brother at once, and Gerald grasped and shook his hand warm- said, with a quick start and flush.

> "You will both come into the happiness." studio," he said. "There are many "But our father's name? Oh, John, people coming I would like you to she longs to see that cleared."

to consult the great lawyer, an' prove raised dais in the chair in which she just said good-bye to Lord Hampton, how one turns - no matter what one 'imself the son of 'is father, the late was wont to recline whilst her por- to whom, as you know, she is engag- does." He sank into a chair and cov-

sion of mute anguish, and Gerald me what it may, I will not." Gerald bent down and peered into turned away, a sharp pain at his heart, his eyes dim with tears.

"And then," John said, little suswoe, and not noticing Gerald's emo-"Really?" Her eyebrows were tion, "I think it wiser not to meet "What the deuce are you driving slightly raised. "I had no idea Fane Lady Linton, who, I am told, is still and congratulated her and Sir Henry there.

you should not meet her," Gerald said brusquely. "She knows all about you, pictures as she went, but without steward, it seems, of that name; and and is anxious to make your sister's

and what I am, seems unnecessary, while that very soon she would slip all his wits about him. "An' if you's ervone says wrong. Miss Beryl Fane You understand what my position is, away and go home. Mr. Fairfax. Beryl says you know everything."

dered, dragged in the mud. Everyone rection. has judged him falsely-believed the "How fussy he looks; and how imbeen kept in the background, not al- an extraordinary feeling that somelowed to raise our heads-forced into thing unpleasant was going to occur, a false and humiliating position, that she could in some way avoid whilst others have enjoyed what was meeting and talking to the consequenours, and another man bore the name tial solicitor. "One would think he that should be mine."

against you. You have been badly tle ironically, "he has thought of treated all round."

grasping relative."

looked at him in horror - "that you know what I should do. In his prewould accuse Lord Linton of being sent humor Linton is not likely to aware all the time that wrong was raise my allowance or give me a being done, and that he fraudulently handsome present. Indeed, I am usurped your rightful place?"

sert." in a tremulous voice. "Do not con- ly towards him. "This is, indeed,

demn him unheard. He may have be- pleasure." lieved as we did." his hand caressingly round her shoul- progressing?"

"Well, now, his hour of retribution ment you may demand the restitution Fairfax." of your name and property. With all the proofs that you possess, ready to not?" lay before him, you need not hesitate. And if he is wise he will give

John resumed his feverish pacing up and down in silence. "It will not be fret about Hugo. But what did he difficult after all, and need entail no think of Margaret? Did he not long disgrace upon him or his," Gerald to paint her?"

Pretty Hugo - and beautiful, stately receive you?" Margaret. Oh, God! I cannot strike the blow that will make them paupers. For their father - their mother, I "I'll not give up yet. I love her, and Grogan ground his teeth and cursed hear them in the next room this very hear on good authority, are up to I swear I'll win her. Things may their eyes in debt. Did I assert my happen before long," he said fiercely, claim now, Riversdale would go. Their home, their happiness. Oh, nofor their sake-I cannot cannot do

"That I call a trifle quixotic," Gerald said, with an indignant move- part of the country yet?" ment. "You should consider your sis-

her to his side. "Beryl won't mind; and then she has won a good man's love. Lord Hampton has asked her to guest of these Fairfax people be his wife, believing her to be a no-

"If she marries Lord Hampton the truth must be told," Gerald said

Lord Hampton does not love you well enough to marry you for yourself alone? The girl shrank from his side, and

she grew very white. "Lord Hampshe answered with a weary ton. sigh, "loves me only too well. I do not think he will ever ask a question about my birth."

one is asking who you are." Beryl tossed her shapely head and laughed, as she put her hand in that of her brother.

"Let them ask. I don't care. Neither does Hampton. Till John chooses not a word is to be said. I would not hurt Margaret Fane or darling little

"Will mother agree to that?" Beryl

"I think so. She only desires our

John passed his hand across his "My sister." John answered, in a brow. "And so do I. But, oh! Beryl, ered his face with his hands. "Oh, Margaret," he murmued, "had your "Partings are always sad," he saa love been mine - had you promised "Partings are always sad," he to marry me, responded to my love, said, with an effort, "But Lord not knowing who I was, I could have powerless; and I dare not spoil your Beryl looked at him with an expres- life, bring you to poverty - and, cost

### CHAPTER XXXIX.

Having spoken a few words to Enid on their approaching marriage, Lady Linton turned away and went slowly round the big studio, examining the any very lively feeling of interest. She was not a judge or a lover of art, "To meet and talk to her as a and looked at Gerald's paintings in a friend, when, if she only knew who careless way, thinking to herself the

"I'd like to make quite sure that that ruffianly fellow was safely off the "Everything. Madeline Delorme, the premises, she thought. "And really, What nonsense people do talk, to be actress who died some fifteen years there is no one here so very interestago, and whom your father saw that ing. Yesterday Mr. Fairfax inade a "If Lord Hampton ever marries night, was my sister. His wife, the point of Linton coming with me this Miss Fane he will certainly not make other and older Madeline Delorme, afternoon, and now he doesn't seem "There's many a thing happens to a mesalliance," Gerald said. "She is had been dead long, long before. So to mind. Ah!" she paused suddenly people nowadays," he remarked quiet- in every sense his equal, in one way had he lived he would have given the before the portrait of Madeline Fair-Lord Linton whispered a few words ly. "They meet with accidents and -as far above him as the stars in lie direct to all the false stories cir- fax, known to the world as Madeline culated at the time. Or, perhaps, in- Delorme. "What a lovely face. I nev-"How rapturous! But why do you deed, they would never have been er saw such an exquisite creature. Who on earth can she be?" She glanc-John paced the room from end to ed round, hoping to see someone who end in a state of feverish excitement. could enlighten her upon the subject, "That is true, I feel sure. But fate and saw Sir Julian Goldsmid pushing

had some strange news to communi-"Circumstances have certainly been cate to me. Perhaps," smiling a litsome fresh plan for subjugating the "Circumstances!" John's eyes were fair Margaret and winning her affeckeep him quiet. If he were to turn "You don't mean to say"-Gerald nasty and ask for his money, I don't doubtful whether he could do so with-"That is just what I say and as- out some difficulty. How do you do, Sir Julian?" with a gracious smile, "Oh, John! be merciful," Beryl said and extending her hand almost eager-

"I hope so, little sister," John put Linton. And how is your portrait

"That I cannot tell you. The artist will not allow me to see it yet." "Indeed?" raising his brows. "He has come," Gerald said. "Any mo- gives himself airs, then, does Mr.

"He's a rising man, they say. Why

"He was at Riversdale vesterday?" "Yes, and is delighted with poor up everything quietly-recognize you Hugo-says he will make an enchantat once, openly and frankly, as your ing portrait. But I," sighing, "would beautiful."

"Time will make him both. Don't

will believe him, and his children-" He never mentioned her. He is not in John started and grew red, then love with her; really, to my mind, pale. "His children," he moaned. Margaret is nothing in particular. "Ah! Fairfax, there's the trouble. She looks nice at times. How did she

"Coldly, and once more refused me with scorn. But," clenching his fist, "that may make her glad to be my

the dangerous young steward left that Sir Julian glanced round the room,

And she, he says, is like Hugo."

"Curiously like. A very lovely "And is her brother handsome

"Hardly that, but a fine fellow." "That is generous, since he your rival."

(To be continued.)



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Smith have got to say."

"After this young feller, John," "and continued his tormentor, "there's his painting. pretty Miss Beryl. She's on a visit with the Fairfax family, an' if they "Gentlemen comes low, sometimes, take up the case, an' we join in, it'll Fane." .go hard with you, my lord."

Lord Linton's face grew ghastly in its pallor.

in his ear.

thing wot 'e knows."

ed, and that his second wife and, permade no inquiries. For years all and groaned heavily. had gone well. Everything had pros- "I wouldn't take a pered with him. He had married an like that so much to "eart," science, 'tis true, was sometimes done."

in excitement and champagne, card- book and, then sitting up suddenly, managed to stifle that, and, after a ink. with fear. He had given him some name."

demands or give up everything. Tristram Fane longed to turn and culties." kick the fellow out. But he was

wards a chair, sank into it, helpless and inert. if only you'll do the same by us."

lips. 'What do you want?" round the room. "My pal wished me to set a few facks before ye, an' then see wot yer | coats." day, I'm yer man. Smith's not hup touched his forelock and slunk to much. But Bill Grogan is not a her into the hall. Lord Linton, people to be removed, he'll remove a gasping sob, and covered his face them for," waving his big, grimy with his hands.

"As if," with a leer and a wink. "yer didn't know." 'You're drunk, Bill Grogan, and you'd better get out of this while you can walk. I'll call anywhere you like a start of surprise. "You? Why are to-morrow and hear what you and you here? You came without permis-

"What do you mean? Who's to be

sion. You-" Smith have got to say."

"Yes, dear papa, I did. But," she bent and kissed him, "I have made a strange discovery." There was a note his tiny smoking-room, and her he litter margaret rane or darring little walls and easels.

Hugo for the world."

John took her in his arms and kissed him tiny smoking-room, and her he ed her. "Thank you, dearest. So, un-

meet."

low voice, "is in trouble. She has it is hard - very hard. No matter INCORPORATED

ed to be married." Gerald grew white to the lips.

"I see no earthly reason why

blazing: "in the shape of a wicked, tions. Well, I must humor him and

vor.

ter, if not yourself." John took Beryl's hand and drew

sternly. "Is that so, Beryl? Do you think

"But his friends will," Gerald said, in an excited way. "Even now, every-

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"I am delighted to meet you, Lady

continued. "If he declares that a Lady Linton laughed and gave him

wife." Lady Linton changed color. "Really, Sir Julian, you sound alarming. Has

then looked steadily into Lady Linton's face. "Yes. He is here to-day, some where. His sister, Miss Beryl, is "So the artist told me just now.