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"GEORGINA'S REASONS.

A NEW AND PASCINATING CONTIN-UED STORY.

BY HENRY JAMES.

and when Georgina declared that she couldn't go home, that she wished to be with her and not with her mother, that she couldn't expose herself—she couldn't—and that she must remain with her and her only till the day they should sail, the poor lady was forced to make that day a reality. She was overmastered, she was cajoled, she was, to a certain extent, fascinated. She had to accept Georgina's rigidity (she had none of her own to oppose to it; she was only violent, she was not continuous); and once she did this, it was plain, after and once she did this, it was plain, after all, that to take her young friend to Europe was to help her, and to leave her alone was not to help her. Geor-gina literally frightened Mrs. Portico into compliance. She was evidently capable of strange things if thrown upon her own devices. So, from one day to another Mrs. Portico announced that she was really at last about to sail for foreign lands (her doctor having told her that if she didn't look out she would get too old to enjoy them), and that she had invited that healthy Miss Gressic, who could stand so long on her feet, to accompany her. There was joy in the house of Gressie at the announ for, though the danger was over, it was a great general advantage to Georgina to go, and the Gressies were always elated at the prospect of an advantage. There was a danger that she might meet Mr. Benyon on the other side of the world; but it didn't seem likely that Mrs. Portico would lend herself to a plot of that kind. If she had taken it into her head to favor their love effair she her head to favor their love affair, she would have done it frankly, and Georgina would have been married by this time. Her arrangements were made as quickly as her decision had been—or rather had appeared—slow; for this concerned those agile young men downtown. Georgina was perpetually at her house; it was understood in Twelfth street that she was talking over her future travels with her kind friend. Talk there was, of course, to a considerable

degree; but after it was settled they should start nothing more was said about the motive of the journey. Nothing was said, that is, till the night before they sailed; then a few words passed between them. Georgina had already taken leave of her relations in Twelfth street, and was to sleep at Mrs. Portico's in order to go down to the ship at an early hour. The two ladies were sitting to gether in the frelight, silent with the consciousness of corded luggage, when the elder one suddenly remarked to her companion that she seemed to be taking a great deal upon herself in assuming that Raymond Benyon wouldn't force life, and if it had not been for two conher hand. He might choose to acknow-ledge his child, if she didn't; there were promises and promises, and many people would consider they had been let off when circumstances were so altered. She would have to reckon with Mr. Benyon more than she thought.

She was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was that she must keep hold of the mother till she had got possession of the infant. Meanwhile, in this forced was the deference was the deference was the deference was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was that she must keep hold of the mother till she had got possession of the infant. Meanwhile, in this forced was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was that she must keep hold of the mother till she had got possession of the infant. Meanwhile, in this forced was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed such a trust in her; the other was the deference who had reposed were promises and promises, and many "I know what I am about," Georgina

answered. "There is only one promise for him. I don't know what you mean by circumstances being altered." "Everything seems to me to be altered," poor Mrs. Portico murmured, rather

"Well, he isn't, and he never will! I am sure of him—as sure as that I sit here. Do you think I would have looked at him if I hadn't known he was a man "You have chosen him well, my dear,"

said Mrs. Portico, who by this time was reduced to a kind of bewildered ac-"Of course I have chosen him well! In such a matter as this he will be perfectly splendid." Then suddenly: "Per-

fectly splendid—that's why I cared for him!" she repeated, with a flash of incongruous passion. This seemed to Mrs. Portico audacious to the point of being sublime; but she had given up trying to understand anything that the girl might say or do. She understood less and less, after they had had been born to him, and that Geordisembarked in England and begun to travel southward; and she understood least of all when in the middle of the consent to it, she, Mrs. Portico, would consent to it, she, Mrs. Portico, would be consented to the consent to it. winter, the event came off with which, in imagination, she had tried to familarize herself, but which, when it occurred seemed to her beyond measure strange and dreadful. It took place at Genoa, for Georgina had made up her mind that there would be more privacy in a big town than in a little; and she wrote to America that both Mrs. Portico and she had fallen in love with the place, and would spend two c three months there. At that time peo in the United States knew much less than to-day about the comparative attractions of foreign cities, and it was not thought surprising that absent New-Yorkers should wish to linger in a seaport where they might find apartments, according to Georgina's report, in a palace painted in fresco by Vandyke and Titian. Georgina in her letters omitted, it will be seen, no detail that could give color to Mrs. Portico's long stay at Genoa. In such a palace where the travelers hired twenty gilded rooms for the most insignificant sum-a remarkably fine boy came into the world. Nothing could have been more success ful or comfortable than this transaction Mrs. Portico was almost appalled at the facility and felicity of it. She was by

this time in a pretty bad way, andwhat had never happened to her before in her life—she suffered from chronic depression of spirits. She hated to have to lie; and now she was lying all the time. Everything she wrote home, every thing that had been said or done in connection with their stay at Genoa, was a lie. The way they remained indoors to avoid meeting chance compatriots was a lie. Compatriots at Genoa, at that period, were very rare; but nothing could exceed the business-like completeness of Georgina's precautions. Her nerves, her self-possession, her apparent want of feeling, excited on Mrs. Portico's part a kind of gloomy suspense; a mor-bid anxiety to see how far her companion would go took possession of the excellent woman, who, a few months before, hated to fix her mind on disagreeable things. Georgina went very far indeed; she did everything in her power to dissimulate the origin of her child. The record of its birth was made under a false name, and he was baptized at the nearest church by a Catholic priest. A magnificent Contadina was brought to light by

the doctor in a village in the hills, and

in s big, brown, barbarous creature, who,

to do her justice, was full of handsome,

familiar smiles and coarse tenderness,

was constituted nurse to Raymond

Benyen's son. She nursed him for a fortnight under the mother's eye, and she was then sent back to her village with the baby in her arms and sundry gold coin knotted into a corner of her pocket-handkerchief. Mr. Gressie had given his daughter a liberal letter of credit on a London banker, and she was credit on a London banker, and she was able, for the present, to make abundant provision for the little one. She called Mrs. Portico's attention to the fact that she spent none of her money on futilities; she kept it all for her small pensioner in the Genoese hills. Mrs. Portico beheld these strange doings with a stupefaction that occasionally broke into passionate protest; then she relapsed into a brooding sense of having now been an accomplice so far that she must he

an accomplice so far that she must be an accomplice to the end. The two ladies went down to Rome—Georgina was in wonderful trim—to finish the season, and here Mrs. Portico became convinced that she intended to abandon her offspring. She had not driven into the country to see the nursling before leaving Genoa—she had said that she couldn't bear to see it in such a place and among such people. Mrs. Portico, it must be added, had felt the force of this plea—felt it as regards a plan of her own, given up after being hotly entertained for a few hours, of devoting a day, by herself, to a visit to the big Contactina. It seemed to her that if she should see the child in the sordid hands to which Georgina had consigned it she would become still

more of a participant than she was already. This young woman's blooming hrdness, after they got to Rome, acted upon her like a kind of Medusa musk. She had seen a horrible thing, she had been mixed up with it, and her motherly heart had received a mortal chill. It that, though Georgina would continue to send the infant money in considerable quantities, she had dispossessed herself of it forever. Together with this induction a fixed idea settled in her mind —the project of taking the baby her-self, of making him her own, of arranging that matter with the father. The countenance she had given Georgina up to this point was an effective pledge that she would not expose her; but she could adopt the child without exposing her; she could say that he was a lovely

baby—he was lovely fortunately—whom she had picked up in a poor village in Italy—a village that had been devastated by brigands. She would pretend—she could pretend! Everything was imposture now, and she could go on to lie as she had begun. The falsity of the whole business sickened her; it made her so yellow that she scarcely knew herself in her glass. None the less, to rescue the child, even if she had to become falser still, would be in some measure an atonement for the treachery to which she had already lent herself. She began to hate Georgina, who had drawn her into such a criminal way of siderations she would have insisted on their separating. One was the deference panion increased; Georgina came to appear to her a creature of iron; she was exceedingly afraid of her, and it seemed to her now a wonder of wonders.

J. B. ARMSTRONG, that she should ever have trusted he enough to come so far. Georgina showed no consciousness of the change in Mrs. Portico, though there was, in-deed, at present, not even a pretense of confidence between the two. Gressie-that was another lie, to which

Mrs. Portico had to lend herself-was bent on enjoying Europe, and was especially delighted with Rome. She certainly had the courage of her under-taking, and she confessed to Mrs. Portico that she had left Raymond Benyon, and meant to continue to leave him, in ignorance of what had taken place at Genoa. There was a certain confidence it must be said, in that. He was now in Pickles' Shoe Store, Chinese waters, and she probably would not see him for years. Mrs. Portico took counsel with herself, and the result of her cogitation was that she wrote to bring him up much better than that. She knew not how to address her letter, and Georgina, even if she should know, which was doubtful, would never tell her; so she sent the missive to the care of the Secretary of the Navy, at Wash ington, with an earnest request that it might immediately be forwarded. Such was Mrs. Portico's last effort in this strange business of Georgina's. I relate

rather a complicated fact in a very few words when I say that the poor lady's anxieties, indignations, repentances, preyed upon her until they fairly broke her down. Various persons whom she knew in Rome notified her that the air of the Seven Hills was plainly unfavor able to her, and she had made up he mind to return to her native land, when she found that in her depressed condition malarial fever had laid its hand upon her. She was unable to move, and the matter was settled for her in the course of an illness which, happily, was not prolonged. I have said that she was not obstinate, and the resistance that she made on the present occasion was not worthy even of her spasmodic energy. Brain fever made its appearance, and she died at the end of three weeks, during which Georgina's attention to her patient and protectress had been unremitting. There were other Americans at Rome who, after this sad event, extended to the bereaved young lady every comfort and hospitality She had no lack of opportunities for re turning under a proper escort to New York. She selected, you may be sure, the best, and re-entered her father's house, where she took to plain dressing for she sent all her pocket-money, with

the utmost secrecy, to the little boy in the Genoese hills. CHAPTER IV.

like you? He is under no obligation, and he has the ship to look after. should he sit for an hour at a time, and why should he be so pleasant?" "Do vou think he is very pleasant?" TO BE CONTINUED.

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