"I am sure," interrupted Arley Ransome, "that Lord Caraven always

seems kind to you."

"Kind!" she repeated. "He does not beat me; he is just as kind to his favorite dog as he is to me. Kind! That is not the relationship that should be between husband and wife; he does not love me, and he never will. Think of that—remember how young I am, how lonely. How am I to live through the stretch of years? My husband, papa, rarely speaks to me; he never takes the least interest in me. I do not believe that if I fell dead at his feet he would attempt to raise me from the ground."

"You exaggerate, my dear; it will all come right in time," he said

soothingly.

"It will never come right for me, papa-and you know it."

With a passionate gesture she rose from her seat. She went over to him and laid her hands on h. shoulders. She raised her sad beautiful face to

"Father," she said, "I am frightened at myself. I cannot tell—I dare not think—how it will end. I was indifferent at first, but now," she continued, in a low tone, "I begin to dislike him."

"Oh, my dear, that is very wrong—very wrong indeed: A woman

should never dislike her husband."

"Should a husband ever dislike his wife?" she asked. "Because my husband does dislike me. I am frightened at myself, for if I were to be here much longer I should hate him—hate him for his indolence, his self-indulgence, his weakness of character—hate him, because through him my whole life is spoiled."

"Hush, Hildred! I will not listen to you. You are unreasonable. You have everything that a woman's heart can wish for; you have position; you are surrounded with luxury; you have boundless wealth. What more

can you want."

"I have all that, and I am an unloved wife. I have all that, yet I would change places with the poorest peasant-woman whose husband loves

"That sounds well, my dear, but, were you to try it, you would soon change your opinion. Now be reasonable, Hildred. Be content with what you have; do not long for what you have not. I wonder at your want of reason—your want of sense. You are like a child crying for the moon. How many girls in England would have been glad of the chance to be Counters of Caraven!"

"I hate the title!" she said, with a stamp of the foot.

"You are in a passion, Hildred You are not yourself to-day. I am sorry that I called."

With an imploring gesture she held out her hands to him.
"Can you do nothing to help me, papa—nothing?"
He looked embarrassed and perplexed.

"What can I do, my dear? I can speak to Lord Caraven, but I have grave doubts as to whether that will improve matters. It is never a wise

thing to interfere between husband and wife. I could ask him to take just a little more interest in you, if you like."

"No." she cried vehemently. "You do not understand. I mean, help me that I may not hate him—help me that I may be more patient. If I hated him, I should be compelled to leave him-and I am drawing near it fast."

"You must not, Hildred. I am sure he is very lovable."

"But then, you see, papa," she objected, "he does not love me."

"He will do so in time. Every one likes Lord Caraven. He is called 'The handsome earl.' I assure you, Hildred, that there is not a woman in

London who would have refused him-not one."

"I wish that I had refused him," she said dreamily. "Papa, I am so frightened at myself. Do you know that I do not want him to love me now? I am beginning to dislike him—the sound of his voice is positively impleasant to me. I would far rather be broken-hearted, longing for his love, than be what I am now I should be a better woman if I wept for his love, instead of feeling as I do now that it is not worth having. better self is dead."

"My dear Hildred, all this is most absurd. 1 1 do dot know what you want. You tell me that your husband does not love you-you make that the groundwork of your complaint-and then you tell me you cannot ngret his want of love. The fact is, my dear, you are not yourself—you are over-tired. After your quiet life at St. Roche, all this excitement is too much for you. I should advise you to keep quiet for a few days, and then you will be all right."

The tragedy of sorrow seemed to pass from her face.
"Thank you, papa," she replied. Her hands fell tistlessly. "You speak as you think. It is not your fault that you do not understand me. We will say no more about it."

"That is right," said Arley Ransome, looking greatly relieved. "Now you speak like a reasonable woman. Philosophers say that women have impulse but no reason—I shall begin to think that they are wrong."

He talked with his usual brisk cheerfulness about many indifferent subjects, and then took his leave. But, although he had silenced his daughter, he was not disposed to allow this kind of thing to continue, if he could help it. It would end badly—his own knowledge of the world told him that. So he called at the earl's club; and there he found him as usual.

"I have just been to Halby House," he said, "and have been spending half an hour with Hildred."

The earl raised his eyebrowe, which was the only mark of interest he

thought it worth his while to bestow.
"I did not think that she looked very well, and, what was worse, she did not appear happy."

WARD III. REQUISITION.

To WILLIAM CROWE, ESQ.:

SIN,—We, the undersigned Ratepayers of WARD THERM, beg to request you that you will allow yourself to be nominated to represent this Ward in the tity Council. We feel that you possess those qualities so much needed to guard the interests of this important Ward, and should you accede to our request we pledge ourselves to use every exertion to secure your election.

Signed by over 130 Ratenavers of Ward Three.

REPLY.

TO THE ELECTORS OF WARD THREE-

TO THE ELECTORS OF WARD THERE—
GENTLEMEN,—In acceling to the request contained in the very flattering requisition with which you have favored metrics day, and again contenting to allow myself to be nonlinited to represent this Ward at the Civic Board, I do so, prompted by the desire to do whatever lies in my power to promote the interests of the Ward and the welf-re of the Civy.

Relying upon the promise contained in the requisition, and thanking you for the confidence reposed in me

in me
I have the honor to be, gent'emen,
Respectfully yours,

Tuesday, March 8, 1887.

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(To be continued.)