

CHAPTER XVI.-(Continued.)

Doncastle nodded several times, as if omplimenting Beakbane on his remarkable grasp of the situation. "Then I understand," said Le, "that nothing is being done in the office?"

'Nothing but routine work. Why, sir, we can't even get a cheque sign-"Really!" said Lord Doncastle, symathetically. "Then the Moroccan loan is at a standstill? "Yes, my lord."

"But you are familiar with all the details' "I think I may say so, my lord."

Supposing that I obtained a power of attorney from Crampiron," said Doncastle in an entirely new tone, "do you think. Mr. Beakbane, with your ast experience, you could conclude the affair. "A power of attorney in my favor?" asked Mr. Beakbane, faintly.

"Yes." What a chance for Mr. Beakbane

ce only in his fur coat. "Do you suppose that you could get

castle replied with a touch of coldness, just the least touch of coldness, that took Beakbane, "it isn't as if Berlin was united now in the affair. Mendels-In the p sohns are dead against it-and-"I am fully acquainted with the opposition of Mendelssohus." said Lord

could manage it " Beakbane admitted. the Moroccan loan, my lord, and that is Crampiron." "I am very much indebted to you,"

Georgie." said Some "Now, out with it! What have you got up your sleeve? You always co your sympathetic relative-the one man in England who understands you!" 'I'll tell you," said Lord Doncastle,

"But not here. Come to my study, We've just got a quarter of an hour.'

## CHAPTER XVII. Fever in the Triangle,

On the same morning an evening pants that, after being flatly emerged from Downing street into Whitehall. The poster said: England by a Foreign Power, Special." Mr. Beakbane tendered a penny to a 'City Gazette. Special!

And Mr. Beakbane paid twopence. price of that newspaper goes up to the depreciation of many millions. has been known to rise to eighteen- maturity every moment: that France at my tailor's at half-past one." paid twopence for a penny sheet is a Germany had declared war on France;

from the Angl bard street. It has, of course, been a has kept a deposit account with out principal joint-stock bank for many years past, but the extent of that ac-

] that the sum witrdrawn is between three and four millions sterling. The notice of withdrawal caused the greatest surprise to the directors, who consider that the bank has scarcely been treated with consideration. No doubt France has an imperative reason for her action. What that reason is will be apparent to everyone. We need not insist on it. Nor need we enlarge on

It was decidedly an item to furnish food for thought. It was so impotrant Ministers. that all the other evening papers were obliged to copy it, giving, much against the poor," replied Lord Doncastle, af-City Gazette.

But the ineradical craven in him would not let him seize it. He had no genu-that a hall-porter would disdain. It that a hall-porter would disdain. It arrived in the city long before Mr. impolitely offered many sacks in his Beakbane. It upset the Triangle. It time. power of attorney, sir?" he fenced. I say-assuming that I could," Donangle, already brimming, ran hand-somely over, and everybody got his feet wet with the waters of apprehension

door. These were the governor and the twenty-the deputy-governor and the twenty-Doncastle. "Then you do not think you the deputy-governor and the twentyfour directors of the bank, and the oc-casion was the ordinary weekly meet-held them in the stately apartment with emphasis: "There is colly one ing of the board of the Bank of England is never ordinary. Too much de-pends on it; the bank rate depends on the long table thereof, to their ancient it; the currents of money throughout Europe depend on it; contangoes de-compelled to put on his boots in order a smiled, holding out a nard, pend on it; motor-cars and dinners at to pass from his private den, by the And almost before he was aware of the Savoy depend on it; the satisfac-famous long corridor sacred to And almost before he was aware of it, Beakbane was being persuaded with of the drawing-room by the respectful women depends on it. It is a solemn-women depends on it. It is a solemn-perhaps influenced his choice. footman who had taken possession of ity whose freshness the ages cannot footman who had taken possession of the furs. The next person who entered did so without the slightest formality: a tall, clean-shaven, spruce, correct, upright man, of uncertain age, in a grey coat and vellow gloves. This was Donman, of uncertain age, in a grey coat and yellow gloves. This was Don-castle cousin, the Viscount Somersetshire, Chancelor of the Duchey of Lan-caster, and a Cabinet Minister. He caster, and a Cabinet Minister. He was, socially, perhaps the most brillinat of the expiring glories of the English aristocracy. He had got himself into disfavor with his caste by producing a really scholarly edition of Shelley, but had regained his position by winning the Derby with a horse that started Derby with a horse that started a scare: so curiously constituted is the

prise if the said course of action was of Courlander's Moreover the house for the sustenance of its rulers during prise if the said course of action was not regarded as the only course of ac-tion, the most ordinary and common-place course of action, in the world. "People are talking about nothing less Georgie" said Somersching nation to the scaf-Crampiron was financially above sus-picion. And yet now, there were little tricks, little runlets, faint zephyrs that Munster, K.T., the Lord Chancellor, scarcely fanned that touched the stability of Cramp-iron's as a concern. There was, fur-lowed by Mr. Luck, the First Sea Lord, ther, and still more urgent, the politi- and Sir Lionel Snow, Foreign Secrecal situation of the country, the plight tary, arm-in-arm. The Duke of Salop, of the government, and the maddening aziness of Lord Doncastle's intentions. At half past one o'clock one of those per, the City Gazette, which during a things happened that can only happen partments, arrived in the old clothes mber of years had gradually estab- in the Triangle. A statement suddenly lished a reputation for startling an- sprang up from somewhere to the ef- married daughters. And immediately not contrive to take his place without fect that a certain firm had been to afterwards, like a remedial measure, contradicted, were admitted to be ac- the Bank of England that morning and appeared the sprightly Marquis curate, came out half an hour earlier asked for an advance on admittedly than usual, that is to say, at half past first-class security and been refused. history. The Marquis was reported to eleven. Mr. Beakbane saw the poster Within a quarter of an hour that statement was known in every alley in the Triangle, and the storm in the Stock the raiment which he cast in the Withdrawal of Gold from a Foreign Power. Special." every man in the Triangle, for it can newsboy who was wearing the poster like an apron and hoarsely shrieking: that something is wrong, something effort the morning he was Lord Privy City Gazette. Special!" "Twopence, sir," said the newsboy. It's my last." for gold. It had the fatal itch to realize its securities and be on the safe and then Lord Doncastle glanced at When a newspaper really has found side. All stocks and all shares drop- the clock which had just struck, and ticularly busy with your Jwn departan item of first class thrilling news, the ped. Consols dropped two points in said: air of Central London instantly be- twenty minutes. Kaffirs slid away incomes quick with excitement, and to the depths, and Home Railways foleverybody knows by a sort of instinct lowed them-retaining, however, their there. that the thrill is genuine. And the dignity. Values, as a whole, showed a

zette, in greatprimer Devinne type (the historic type used by the City Gazette mated the worst to their friends; that Duke?" Somersetshire irreverently de-"We are in position to state that France has just withdrawn, or is about to withdraw, a very large sum in gold tal circles that the French government in the such that the frught of Cossacks out for the day. And the sector for the tart of the frught of t

Stock Exchange in existence, had lost ts head. It was nine o'clock in the its breakfast. In San Francisco it was cisco got up. state of the Triangle: panic. And the board of the Bank of Eng-

restaurants of the Triangle, fat men-cooks dressed in white were stand-ing idle between silver grills and mountains of raw chops and steaks, waiting rid flame. for regular customers who did not come.

## CHAPTER XVIII. Cabinet.

"What are the agenda of this meeting?" asked the aged Lord Riach, Lord the very serious dislocation of the money market which this immense ing treble, as he hobbled to the marble withdrawal of gold must necessarily cause." puzzled generations of dilettante Prime

the garin, due acknowledgment to the fectionately taking the gnarled hand of the antique Scotch peer. Half a The offices of the City Gazette were in Whitehall; no doubt for the same burgh was Edinburgh, and Glasgow a phens' Gazette are in the city. But the news travelled to the city in pony-"The question before your lordships." "In two words," replied Snow, "there is a desire, a clear desire, that we the news travelled to the city in pony-carts that rivalled the speed of fire-en-laughed Somersetshire, "is merely whegines, and on bicycles whose swift rid- ther we shall present ourselves with the Lord Riach cackled. He had been

various parts of the country; in the Cockpit, in the old Foreign Office, in given me thirty in a hundred and run of No. 10 Downing street, in the chamand woe. In the parlor of the Bank of England of No. 10 Downing street, in the cash scheme, and I stated planty of the bark of England of No. 10 Downing street, in the cash ber known as the Reputation Room in the same house; one was even held on really popular measure, such as Old twenty-six persons were known to be sitting at a table behind a guarded rie's private house in Combe Wood. what was said at the other, had always

these were plain white panels reaching The dregamed his position by winning the Derby with a horse that started thirty-six to one against. He was the of clock there is the inception of a scare: so curiously constituted is the English money market. Were that convocation of babbing for four hours, the exchange of the whole world would lose their presence of mind and every value to be something.
"Well, Georgie, my poor boy." he greeted Lord Doncastle, throwing two colock there is the mercury before a storm.
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On the day of Mr. Beakbane's interview with the British Empire blushing like the meeting of the board to conclude early to the end of the current quarter? It would be a man in the Triangle expected the meeting of the board that too much to do. And yet no principal would go to lunch is that started at him bland.
"Are people really talking about resignation?" he demanded with that and of ignorant and innocent simplicity which invariably indicated that Lord Doncastle had conceived some utterly astounding course of action, and that he would exhibit the extremest surprise if the said course of action was
"Are people really talking about resignation?" he demanded with that and of ignorant and innocent simplicity which invariably indicated that Lord Doncastle had conceived some utterly astounding course of action, and that he would exhibit the extremest surprise if the said course of action was
"Course of action was casually, like the spills, for some un discoverable purpose. A fire of Wall fold, but it had at least assumed that tumnal browns of the Cockpit garden. who thought that ministers were still cheek-rumors came in bearing a marked resemblance who had been made postmaster-genera because there is less scope for blundering in the post office than in other dewhich were the despair of his seven Wym, the greatest dandy in English never to wear a pair of trousers twice; the beginning of Christian era to the by the skin of their teeth, strolled in "Are we all here?"

He well knew that they were all

"Where's Mr. Bott?" asked someone "Oh! Confound Bott!" exclaimed the

But the fact that Mr. Beakbane had declared war on Germany; that Everybody was thunderstruck. The

when, thanks to its relations with a Crampirons wouldn't pay sixpence in manded. German butler, it was able to predict the pound; that Lord Doncastle had And the Duke gazed at Somersetthe fall of Bismarck) were printed the resigned, and that the King had sent shire serenly: "What the devil has for the leader of the Opposition; that that got to do with you, young man?"

-Scottish Bank, Lom-has, of course, been a burg was going to cut the painter, and less the interests of Empire make such

ount was a secret between the Anglo- the earth were busy with columns of extreme enemies, was the Chancellor of having regard to the previous close re-

London Stock Evchange, the malmest His absence was therefore the iss ex- ment, the great and good public may rest of the world wrong. cusable. is head. It was nine o'clock in the "He will be coming direct " said borning in New York; New York left Doncastie. And Doncastle toos the ar achair at tact." only six o'clock, and dark; San Fran- the head of the table, and the rest sat cisco got up. One word alone could describe the down, in attitudes more or less easy. It was a melancholy gathering, and a short-tempered, an anxious, a timid and still sat in its mysterious conclave. The hands of the pneumatic clock in yet terribly hungry. Each blamed the ront of the Manision House were ap- other, and all blamed Lord Doncastle, soaching three, and yet the parlor had whose intentions none could pretend to

> "What's this canard that the City Gazette is calling for a penny?" the Marquis of Wym asked in a low tone to his neighbor.

"It isn't a canard," the Foreign Se retary called out from across the table. "It's quite true. And I'd give a clerk so to the lions to know how they got hold of it." "What does it mean, then?" the Mar-

quis persisted. "Gentlemen," Doncastle demanded their attention, politely but firmly. He turned to Snow. "Sir Lionel," he said, 'what have you to report from Sandringham?

Sir Lionel was that week the min

should remain where we are. It is con sidered-" And the Foreign Secretary proceeded o detail a conversation of the kind which never by any accident gets into

the newspapers. time. Cabinet meetings have been held in billiard-room," Sir Lionel went on. scheme, and I stated plainly that the Age Pensions." Here several men groaned under their breath, for the such a measure, the Oppositoin is bound oppose it. Let them. Let us allow ourselves a tactical defeat. We en go to the country with a good cry and win on it handsomely.' "And then forget all about Old Age

ensions," Mr. Luck interjected. "Or pass a very modified measure, said Sir Lionel calmly. "No government to which I have the honor to belong," said the Duke of Salop, drily, "will father any scheme for pauperizing the proletariate at my expense."

"Eh?" snarled the aged Riach, cock ing an ear. "What about the expense of commissariat?" "No government to which I have the honor to belong." the Duke shouted, "will father any scheme for pauperizing the proletariat at my expense.' "But you won't mind the proletariat pauperizing you with a couple of thousand a year or so when you retire, Sa lop!" Lord Riach cackled. No one laughed.

"Of course you informed His Ma jesty that France was making every effort to arrange a loan on her own as count to the Sultan?" Doncastle ques ned Sir Lionel with undiminish onchalance. "I did."

"Is that the meaning of this with drawal of three millions?" asked the Marquis of Wym. Mr. Luck, who, although he was in

charge of the Admiralty, really understood financial questions, looked pain-"No," he said. "The three miled: lions are being withdrawn as a precaution which, I imagine, will prov unnecessary.

"You think so " Doncastle smiled. "Yes," said Mr. Luck. "What chance there of a war now?" "There is every chance," replied Lord Doncastle, gazing round the table. "I fancy I may say that, in certain circumstances, a war must come about. And"-he paused impressively-"if a war comes about we shall be sure of a majority.

Something in his tone gave hope to hopeless, and ever, trifling away time on the proletariat, "I should like," said Lord Doncastle, 'briefly to resume the facts.'

Absently he broke a captain biscuit And as he was doing so, Mr. Bott, Home Secretary, martially entered, wideawake in hand. The man had actually forgotten to leave it with the servants in the anteroom Although this was his seventeenth Cabinet meeting, it was the first at which he had been late, and he could self-consciousness, especially as his movements were watched in absolute silence.

"Good morning, gentlemen." he said. putting his hat under his chair, "I am very sorry to be late, Lord Doncastle," he raised his voice. "But I was de-tained at the last moment by an inquiry from Bedford as to whether a tedegram just received at the prison the there, and purporting to be signed with this nephew, Jack Prester, was a gov-"It was," admitted 'Doncastle, bland-

"I regret," said Mr. Bott. "that at a time when your lordship must be parment, you should have been troubled to take charge of mine." Mr. Bott was obviously furious. He glared defiance at the congregated ar-

stocracy of the kingdom. "No trouble, I assure you," answered height of the newsboy's fancy. It Rumors were born and grew up to Duke of Salop, testily. "I've got to be Lord Doncastle with exquisite calm. "It was a minor but rather pressing point about a condemned man having spectacle of Salop going to his tailor's access to his daughter, and as there fair indication that the impulse to buy was no ordinary one. On the news pages of the City Ga-No the news pages of the City Ga-"The thing is of no importance," re-torted Mr. Bott. "Feeling sure that the telegram was a practical joke on some one's part, I wired that no special privileges were on any account to be given Crampiron."

Lord Doncastle bit his lip. "But naturally I will telegraph fresh instructions." Mr. Bott added, afraid of his own audacity.

"You will be very kind," Lord Donastle murmured. "Crampiron!" ejaculated the Lord Chancellor. "By the way, Mr. Bott, I

compliment you on your originality in taking a seat beside my old friend, Walworth at Crampiron's trial; but a romantic tragedy still lingering about ed to his master's solloquies, heard him ped three alarm clocks when I suns Scottish and its client. We may say figures headed by the fact that the the Exchequer, and lived next door. lations of Crampiron with the govern-

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"Not such a lack of tact as Grering him full between the eyes.

Lord Doncastle made a gesture ensuming the facts of the situation. Mr. I think it is no exaggeration to say ermany, our position the position of

joining silence on his cousin, and pro-ceeded with his statement. "I was just England has lent it again. Shall I tell Bott," he said with fine equanimity. that, after I had arranged with Crampron to take Mr. Courlander's place in floating the Moroccan loan through our party, was assured. War between our friend Germany and our friend France was a certainty. We had, therefore, nothing to fear. Even when Crampiron was accused, and arrested; even when the Sultan fell ill and delayed everything, we still remained fairly safe, for the loan was in good

hands. But the conviction and senencing of Crampiron had brought us within sight of disaster. We are iden-tified with Crampiron. His shame is ours. I have made careful inquiries and ascertained that no person but Crampiron could carry through the loan with sufficient quickness to forestall our ood friend France. War is therefore young directors were forced to retire ndefinitely postponed, to my intense regret. I say 'to my intense regret,' cause, as I cannot too often reiterate, a European war is our only chance for continuing to hold the confidence of rector was a professional banker That the country, and therefore our only chance of stopping that fatal tide of hysteric legislation which the Opposition are sure to initiate when they have turned us out."

"For my part," Mr. Bott intercepted, "and on behalf of my friends, I must express my sorrow that a great Engish political party should deliberately lesire a sanguinary war in order to ling to office." "The destinies of this Empire," re blied Lord Doncastle, rising, "cannot be swayed by a facile humanitarianism." "Hear!" muttered the Earl of Mun-

'Moreover," Doncastle continued, "in

siring an immediate war we are acuated by the highest motives. All our try a lead. I will put the two alternais well aware of this, and in a few years will have cured the attack, and once more attained superiority over the French army. The fight must come sooner or later, and if it came later France would lose." He drank the of-ficial water, and went on: "I have, I trust, made it clear to you all that, al-though there are doubliess many men in the city who could save us if they were given time, there is only one man who can save us in the time at our disposal — Crampiron, who is to be counted among the financial geniuses of the century. Crampiron, however, is to be done. It appears to me that our line of action is obvious—so obvious

Majesty must be requested to reprieve gramme of legislation." rampiron."

The Cabinet was staggered into muteness. Yet Doncastle had the air of having uttered nothing but a platitude. "But Crampiron is guilty! Cramp-ron has confessed!" Mr. Bott protest-

ed. shocked. 'What of that? We have to think of the Empire," said Lord Doncastle, leisurely sitting down.

"The Opposition press will have omething to say, and there will be rude questions in the House," said Mr. Luck. not remain in office a fortnight, and the good we have been able to do in five ing to play patience?" "As for questions in the House of years of uninterrupted work will be "No," said Lady Mary. "Emile has And she wiped her eyes. Emile and Millicent exchanged "It is monstrous, monstrous!" cried Mr. Bott, breaking with all traditions in a whom Crampiron was unfortunate enough to assassinate, and that she nervous system had been deranged by of Downing street decorum. The scene was just beginning to proprotested against the execution. Let the experiences which Fate had allo me point out to you that Crampiron ted to her, and she was liable to sud ide Viscount Somersetshire with that nusement which his cynicism loved, confessed of his own accord, that he is den breakdowns whose symptoms were an ageing man with a very honorable excessively disconcerting. when a diversion was caused by the arval of Sir John Prester, Chancellor of cord, and that from my personal that evening Lady Mary was more sen knowledge of him I am sure that in re- sitive than usual, for Sir Francis Par the Exchequer, breathless. Sir John Prester was a bachelor of turn for a reprieve he would do his culier, the lawyer, had been down, and Lady Mary had had to sign many pa luty as the greatest force in the city sixty-five, who for forty-four years had of London." pers in connection with the exceeding ly complex devolution of Carl Courland Doncastle sat down. Mr. Bott did not waste a moment. He er's possessions.

enjoyed an income of fifty thousand a year, and to whom clung the faded ronance of an early calamity in love. Sir John, at the age of 23, had been engaged to the great h leiress of the lay who had run off with a Russian attache. Sir John had consoled self with sport and politics. He was still handsome. The Russian attache had died in Siberia and the great heir-

ess mourned him in a secluded villa on the heights above San Remo. It was story that had inspired several novlists Sir John had come from the city, where he had multifarious connections.

etary." And he laughed. ernor of the Bank of England. In a few sentences, characterized by strong emotion, he related what was happening in the city; he had been warned that very morning by his nephew. He spoke from the middle of the room, fidgeted now and then with his grey hat. He found it and rose. but hyacinthine locks. And before anyone could stop him he had fairly aunched himself on his favorite topic, the preposterous constitution of the Bank of England. He had preached sign. against the preposterous constitution of the Bank of England for four decades. He had issued the most sole warnings. He had introduced bill after oill. He had even moved amendments awkwardly to the rest, and departed. to the address to the Throne about the Bank of England. And though everyone admitted that he was entirely right nd that the constitution of the Bank he change. of England was indefensible and highly angerous, he had never been able to persuade any ministry to do anything. He could not understand his failure. and tight-rope walker. He was an accomplished financier, but

There was a picture postcard fro Maurice for his mother. It was dated 'We should be desolated to lose your avaluable services, Mr. Bott," said Paris, and as Maurice had written Lord Doncastle, "but as the whole of message on the front of it, there had Another silence. Mr. Bott felt under his chair for his him, and that he did not know whe very well in Paris, that Curtis was with at. He found it and rose. "I am a man of principle," he said, love to his mother. The servant he with a shaking voice, "though I did offered the newspaper to Millicent, bi work on a farm for fifteen years. I re- Millicent with a gesture had directed him to hand it to Emile. Emile w 'You take with you our respect, at any now the sole man of the party. rate," Sir John Prester murmured to him as he strode towards the door. The Abraham Crampiron's sentence ha two shook hands. Mr. Bott bowed very been commuted to twenty years' pen servitude; and an unofficial state Viscount Somersetshire was appointthat Crampiron's confession was no d to the Home Secretaryship, and the generally understood to have be etropolitan police were enchanted at made in a moment of pique caused domestic misfortunes, and that cert Thus did Doncastle accomplish the cumstances of a strongly exter nost impossible of all the impossible tory nature had been placed before the feats which he had performed in his new Home Secretary, whose first ong and dazzling career as a juggler etc., etc. "Anything in the paper?" que As he was untying his cravat that Lady Mary, passing the card to Mil he had lived to sixty-five without learnnight, he gazed at various reassuring telegrams, from Sandringham, from cent. The card had brought balm t ing that political questions are decided to her soul. by instinct, a polite name for prejudice, Bedford, from the city, from Berlin,

and not by reason, Such simplicity was pathetic. The Cabinet had to listen to him as he smiled at his image in the glass;

very rudely described it as a lack of

"That is scarcely a fair way of put-

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spirit. I saw yesterday that the Times ly. "And what did I say would occur when there was a real panic? It is o curring. There is no genuine gold re-serve in the country. The business Champiron an earldom after the had men of this country depend on the committed a murder," Mr. Bott flashed joint-stock banks, and the joint-stock ack, aiming at Doncastle and hitting banks depend on the Bank of England There are five hundred millions of private deposits with joint-stock banks, ng it, you know," Somersetshire drawl- and when everyone wants to realize at once, the joint-stock banks must go t the Bank of England for their cash Will they get it? No. The Bank of you how much cash there is at this instant in the banking department of the One million two Bank of England? hundred and ninety-eight thousand ne hundred and eighteen pounds! Less than a million and a half as an ultimate reserve against a possible call of five hundred millions! Germany can afford to keep a reserve of seventeen millions of gold locked up in the fortress of Spandau in case of war, but England cannot afford even a decent reserve for the legitimate purposes of commerce! The Bank rate will go up two per cent., and the Bank will re-fuse to do the very thing it ought to do o restore confidence-lend money freefrom the twenty millions lying idle in its issue department-simply because the power on the board rests solely with a set of nervous old dod-dering idiots. What would be said of any business concern of which the while the old ones remained in office? That is what obtains at the Bank of widow and daughter of the mu England. What would be said of a joint-stock bank of which no one diis what obtains at the Bank of Eng-land! Doncastle, pass me a biscuit." theory into practice, it had proved be extraordinarily natural and rig And Prester John fell into a chair, a Norah?" Conventionality would he

And Doncastle rose again.

absolutely unmoved, "Sir John's very grave news confirms me in my intention of urging you to adopt a heroic course. There can be no doubt that this lamentable financial crisis has been ed at Tudor Hundreds without Mau

"But-" began Mr. Bott.

prang forward. "All the sophistries of the Prime Minister," he exclaimed. niscarriage of justice, a scandalous nisuse of administrative power." A pause ensued.

"Does anyone agree with Mr. Bott?" nquired Lord Doncastle, Not a sound.

"There is one thing," said Mr. Bott. An appeal to His Majesty's clemency can only go through me as Home Sec

which had reached him in response to his decisive and audacious action stood there, with the faint scent of and his valet, who was quite accustor "You caused the old fellow to give night,

A Span

away his life. You've given him his life back again. So that's all right." CHAPTER XIX,

Strange Behavior of Millicent. "Good-night, dear Lady Mary," said Vorah.

"Going to bed?" Norah embraced the old lady with apulsive warmth as she reclined in er easy chair. "You must be tired, poor thing!"

urmured Lady Mary. "Sleep well." "Good-night, Millicent." Good-night, dearest."

The two girls kissed 'Good-night, Mr. Berger." "Good-night."

Holding aside the portiere for her, he nook her hand, and bowed. He had not yet decided how to address her. whether as "Mrs. Maurice" or "Norah. The one form was as beset with difficulties as the other.

And Norah, dressed in black, paster from the inner, or green, drawing-room at Tudor Hundreds, down the centre of the empty but illumina vastness of the central, or ye drawing-room, and so disapp hrough the portieres leading third one. Emile Berger watched proud and sensitive movement then returned to his seat in the sr drawing-room between Lady Mary Millicent. There was a silence in th room. Tears had come into the ey Lady Mary. It had seemed, in the strange thing, an almost impor thing, that the daughter of a murder should accept the hospitality of But the arrangement had been bro about by the calm, inflexible Millicent, and, once developed fr theory into practice, it had proved No one replied. No one could reply. As Millicent had said to Lord Don castle: "What have we against forlorn and yet a very dignified fig- held that Norah's presence under t Courlander roof would be intolerade But common sense, acting in concer "Gentlemen," said he in his soft voice with the passible yet intense kindline trary.

largely brought about by the uncer-tainty as to the Crampiron business there. But Maurice was not there for tainty as to the Crampiron Dusiness and by fears as to the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and tics. t is for us to show a decided and tics. t is for us to show a decided and tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of poli-tics. t is for us to show a decided and the course of politics. a determined front, to give the coun-a noutburst, in front of Millicent and Emile, that had been as terrible as it true and by the highest motives. All our try a lead. I will put the two alterna-continental agents tell us that at the present moment France must win in a struggle. And France ought to win. Her army is in admirable condition, to be overwhelmed with astonishment. whereas the forces of Germany are suffering from a bad attack of vanity and conceit. The German war Cabinet is well aware of this, and in a few

s to be done. It appears to me that our line of action is obvious—so obvious hat I scarcely need indicate it. His transfer our beneficent pro-transfer our beneficent pro-it was that Millicent had insisted upon Norah assuming a place in the household. "When Maurice comes back," "Pardon me," Lord Doncastle raised Millicent had said, "he will find her his finger. "On the other hand, if we here, and the path will be open for a do not act, the panic will grow. Com- reconciliation." Millicent's practical merce wild be dislocated, trade tempor- talent for handling tragic situations of arily ruined. Germany, while suffering unique delicacy and difficulty as though a diplomatic defeat at the moment, will they were everyday matters was in-enjoy a terrible victory later on. In deed remarkable. She fearlessly took ten years she will dominate Europe; the snake by the neck and proved that

"I'm going to read Loti's Percheur d'Islande," Emile explained.

at a white heat, "cannot hide the pa-tent fact that he is advocating a gross the Iceland Fisherman of Pierre Loti would be beneficial to her mother's nerves, and Emile's eyes replied that it would. In her youth Lady Mary had been a fair French scholar, and it verted and flattered her now, in her age to listen to French read as Emile cou read.

> Just then a servant came in with the post and a London evening paper

## (To be Continued.)

BOMBARDED

Ye Poet-Nothing can stop time Ye Troubadour-I don't know. I s der my lady's window the other

and the second second