CHAPTER X .- CONTINUED.

"Why Benny dear darling Benny "
she cried, joyfully carassing the dog
with loving fingers. "How did you
find me out, you precious little darling "
Benny flew around and around his
mistress, expressing his satisfaction
by a series of short, sharp barks, and
ended by leaping into Roxy's arms,
and nestling close up against her face;
and then, nll at once, the girl became
aware that a tall dark figure was obstructing the light from the window,
and discovered, to her great confusion, that Archie Marston was watching the scene with eyes of quiet
amusement.
"Good-afternoon, Roxy," he said,
litting his hat with a courteous grace
that had come down to him through
generations of high-bred gentlemen.
"What a happy little dog glanny is,
And I thought he had forgotten all
about you, and was getting fond of
me. I have brought him as a present
to you. Will you accept him from
me?"
Roxy litted her tearful face in innocent surprise.

me. The works are the form to you. Will you accept him from me?"

Roxy lifted her tearful face in innocent surprise.

"You have brought Benny here for me to keep?" she asked, doubtfully.

"Oh, you cannot be in earnest! Why. you bought him only yesterday!"

"I bought him for you, Roxy," explained Archie. "I saw how fond you were of the little fellow, and I knew Gib would sell him to some one, so I took him. I meant to have told you yesterday, but I thought perhaps you would rather have him here with you, than leave him under your brother's charge."

Boxy's eyes filled again with tears, and Archie thought how pretty she looked with her flushed cheeks and sparkling earnest face.

"You are very, very kind, Mr. Marston," she said, slowly, "and I should like to keep him—oh, so dearly—but I think perhaps I ought not to take him from you! You bought him at our house, and it seems now as if I had begged him away from you; but, indeed, indeed I did not think of such a thing!"

"And indeed, indeed, you did not do with new town and it seems had not an extended a common to the content of the conte

begged him away from you; but, indeed, indeed I did not think of such a thing."

"And indeed, indeed you did not do such a thing," laughed Aīchie, mimicking her tragic tones and looking straight down into the velvet-black eyes. "You shall keep the dog little Roxy, and, whenever you see him, you must remember that the one who gave him to you is your friend. I wonder if you ever think of the old days when you were an apple-faced little girl, in short frocks and white aprons; Laurie and I used to quarrel who should draw you home from school on their sled. I remember how awfully out up we boys were when you stopped coming."

Koxy sighed heavily, and her small fingers trembled as she caressed Benny's ourly black head.
"I never should have been sent to such a school as Miss Bradden's," she said, seriously, "It was all nonsense for a girl, in my situation to be studying and playing with all the young aristocrate of the place; but poor Aunt Zoey was determined to make a lady of me and educate me for a teacher. And this is the end of it all." She pointed to the heap of sewing; and, putting Benny gently down frem hate.

Archibald watched her as she filled

haste.
Archibald watched her as she filled
the even crescents of shining white
silk, and a curious smile passed over

the even crescents of shining white silk, and a curious smile passed over his face.

"Your sund Zoey was right," he said, with an air of judicial decision. "You would make as nice a lady as any in the land, if you only had a chance. Why do you not keep on with your studies?"

Roxy's face clouded over, and she drew out her floss with an impatient jerk that ruffled the silky surface of the scallop.

"Why do I not travel in Europe, and polish my manners by mingling in the best society abroad?" she asked, bitterly. "Mr. Marston, you are very kind to speak to me at all, for you know what my home is, and have seen the life I live with my father and brother, but you must remember that my life is to be one of work, and you must not make me more unhappy by suggesting impossibilities; I am a seamstress, engaged to sew for your aunt, and I must try and earn my wages. I will accept Benny, and I thank you for the gift. But you had better go away now, and let me finish this work."

Archibald, however, did not take

thank you for the gift. But you had better go a way now, and let me finish this work."

Archibald, however, did not take this hint, but, settling himself upon the window sill, sat watching her as she bent over her sewing.

"I do not want to go away just yef," he said, meekly. "I will be very quiet and not disturb you, but I wanted to ask you about your aunt Zoey. Where is she now?"

Roxy shook her head sadly. "We do not know." she said. "She sprained her foot, and had to give up rope-walking, and then she was engaged to sing in the chorus of the Italian Opera, for she had a lovely voice. Then shejwrote to me to come to New York, and she would have my voice cultivated. We were going to accomplish wonders, and I was to be a great singer; but she was taken sick, find all our airy castles fell to pieces. We have not heard from her in a long time now, and father thinks she must be dead. She was so good and generous, and now I have no one who loves me, or cares to help me!"

Roxy bit her scarlet lips to keep them from trembling, and wiped away, the scalding tears that were dimming the lustrous light of her soft, dark over, and her montion corresame Archibald Marston's self-control. He was fond of pretty girls, and he had always afond of pretty girls, and he had always afond of pretty girls, and he had always afond of pretty girls, and he had always and show the said in the Viscoral Organs.

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the distrous light of the sold and the control. He was fond of pretty girls, and he had always been especially partial to the curly-haired, black-eyed little maiden, who used to study with him at school, and play with him at recess, and who had, of late years, grown into such piquant, blushing beauty, so he yielded to the impulse of compassion, and springing from his low seat and tropping on one knee before her, seized both of her small hands in one of his, and with the other threw the piece of white cashmere carelessly to the floor and lifted the drooping face.

"Roxy, dear little Roxy!" he cried, passionately, "do not talk like that. I love you and.

"There was a sound of rusting silken draperies close beside them. Archie sprang quickly to his feet, and Roxy struggled to lisengang her fingers from the firm clasp in which they were imprisoned; but it was too late, for Mrs. Budworth was surveying them with a stony glare of indignation.

"This is a very pretty tableau, Miss

them whole a study of the control of

gentlemen of the house. You will boline me by dropping my nephew's hand, and devoting yourself to my work; and I must say that I do not at all approve of the reckless manner in which you have treated this delicate white cashmers, tumbling it about upon the floer as if it were of no consequence, so, if you please, I will remove it from your liands altogether. I dare say Winnie can finish the embroidery."

TO BE CONTINUED



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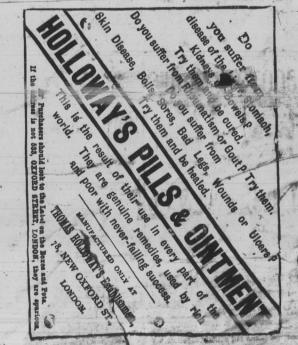
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