A TALE OF ENGLISH LIFE.

CHAPTER X-CONTINUED.

mation with Alice, as well as her own angagement, so she said, with some hesi-

"I should like it to be soon, too, Percival. Should you think three months a very short engagement.

Three !" he cried, "I had thought of "That is absurd," with a smile, "I

could not have only a month's engage-

"'Yes; but you forget we are not be cinning now." "Everybody thinks we are. No, let

it be three menths. So three months were settled, Helen beaved a sigh of relief as she thought that in three mouths her life at

The Thwaite would be ended. After that they sat and talked of many things; they were not disturbed. Mrs Lafone was in her own room suffering from bad headache, and neither Mr La-

fone nor Alice came near them. Helen found the next week or two rather trying. She had to bear criticisms as well as congratulations. People were surprised, and did not seem to think it necessary to conceal their surprise. There was a general feeling that Percival ought to have chosen Alice. Mr Lafone had been right in saying that people had noticed how much they were together. No one had expected Helen to be married first, at apvrate. Altogether the engagement created some

little sensation in the neighborhood. Mrs Lafone was glad. True, when it ing that all the pomp and circumstance riage would leave Mrs Lafone and Alice and you are happy and prosperous, and was followed by a long and bitter fit on much freedom and remove such an everyone will see you are beautiful by such a comfort to feel she had done her to bring my own into notice."

Alice stood completely alouf, she seemed to consider that she had neither part nor lot in the engagement. All her pasaion had blazed itself out on the evening planation. She was as cold and distant as if she had been a stranger; never spoke to Helen, and scarcely ever addressed Percival. Probably people would have been very much surprised had they been told that she did not speak of the engagement because she dared not, fear- "I have come to tell you that I have ing to betray herself by saying too much If she spoke at all. She looked a little paler than usual for a day or two, and then regained her natural color.

If she said nothing, however, pone the a word, or gesture, or look passed un- cold ?" noticed and uncriticised. Every day only confirmed what Helen had said. One does not guard against a danger

She was obliged to confess that the

plete. She had never seen such perfect understanding and affection between a always to herself that all this love might leaves." and ought to have been hers.

Percival and Helen were in favor of quiet wedding, but they presently found they were not to have any voice in the matter. A large and gay company was wards; and among the guests who were

Helen was glad he was coming. cherished a secret wish that he might again ask Alice to marry him, and that this time she would content. She felt as if indulging such a desire she were wishing for the moon, but she did wish it : for, though she did not attach any great importance to what Alice had said in a moment of uncontrollable passion and excitement, she held the opinion that the sooner Alice was married the better.

The time flew by until it was the night before the wedding. There were several people staying in the house, Sir Cuthbert amongst them, and they had been dancing the greater part of the evening. Sir Cuthbert's admiration of Alice had been very marked, but not the most slanderous tongue could have ment. Alice was rather colder than usual, she acarcely danced at all, and

seemed rather unwilling to talk to him. stairs to her room, yet when she got

Helen appeared to consider. Her con- (the thick bearskin rug in front of the fire and let her thoughts wander where feelings, moved her in favor of a short they would. The person who came persistently into her mind was Dr Hazlitt and she had almost forgotten everything else in recollections of her eld friend when she was surprised to hear a knock at the door, and her astonishment was in nowise lessened when Alice came in in answer to her permission to enter. Though it was so late and Helen knew

that Alice had gone upstaire before her self, she was still in her white evening dress, even the bracelets she had worn in the evening flashed on her bare white arms. Helen herself was in her dressing gown, with her feet in small furred in a long loose plait down her book.

sister come slowly and neiselessly for- day.

been all this time making up my mind that she had to wear it again in the to come, but I thought that after all it evening, when it must appear free from would be only fair to give you due warn-

Belen frowned. Alice's words see to point to some communication the reverse to tranquillising, but she only

"I was just going to bed. I can't afford to lose my beauty sleep, and I may as well look my best tomorrow." She did her best to speak cordially, because she was so vexed with Alice for

coming.
"Your best will be very good. You are much better looking than you were a came to the point it was a little annoy- year ago. Sometimes when you are with Mr Moore you look quite beautiinseparable from a first wedding in the ful. I suppose it is because you are in family should be for Helen, but her marobstacle from their path that she forgave the time you are five-and-twenty. I do humiliation, loneliness, weariness and her stepdaughter the one crumpled leaf not like you any the better for it, but, weakness were all united as they chased on her couch of roses, and, then, as thank heaven, I never needed to run one another down her cheeks, and for she continually told her friends, it was down another woman's beauty in order the time being she felt the most mise

"We have not the least thing in comwhen she and Helen had had their ex- that very reason I have a better chance She dried her eyes, spent some time in

willingly.

Alice did not speak for a moment. words, then she went on-

not forgotten all we said that evening. You were right. Mr Moore does love you, I have watched you very carefully, Sir Cuthbert Maitland - that is, he staywant to know what right you have to so distance from The Thwaite. He spent less she watched Moore and Helen, not much love, when I am left out in the the whole of the wedding day at the La.

and I were engaged a month before you saw him come into the room where she came home. He had not seen you. How sat. She knew quite well why he had can you talk in that way? There is come. It was not a pleasant smile. plenty of love for you if you will only total ignorance of her feelings, he had avmnathy between these two was com- take it. Sir Cuthbert wants to marry chosen his time badly. She was not one vou as Percival wants to marry me."

man and a woman—they seemed made is he not? He has asked me once to be of revenging herself by marriage; that for one another. She watched them as his wife, and he would have asked me would be no revenge at all. if facinated, with a growing feeling of again tonight if I would have let him. would care nothing for it and it would may and bitterness at her heart, saying He will find an opportunity before he mo doubt set Helen's mind at ease, which

ly he loves you enough ?"

perhaps the one woman in society who do him no harm, rather be a useful lesdoes believe in love, and I do not see why son to him, from which he might draw to be invited to witness the wedding, I should not have my share. You say profit for the future. So when Sir Cuthand to partake of the breakfast after- there was no thought of me when you bert came into the drawing room, where and Mr Moore were engaged. Just so, she sat with the entertainment of half a maked and accepted was Sir Cuthbert If he had known us both from the be- dozen commonplace people upon her ginning I do not think things would have hands, she smiled. been as they are now."

> me," said Helen, rising. "For your graciousness peculiar to herself. No one own sake say no more. If that is all knew how she managed that gesture like you came for, please go away. I wish to a queen extending her hand to a subthink of other things tonight."

> "You can afford to despise them now. How long you will continue to do so are," she said, "prostrate with our enafter your marriage time will show. Brantwood is not a thousand miles from another. I think we must have exhaust-

> > CHAPTER XI.

CLEARING THE FIELD FOR ACTION.

The day after the wedding, life felt ery flat at The Thwaste. Though Hel. stay with us half an hour, you will have en was not a favorite daughter, whose withdrawal from the family would leave shall say whatever you will, if only it is asserted that he met with any encourage a blank which could never be filled up, she was missed. She had always made you never waste your breath in idle her presence felt in the house, and lat- words." terly she had been the person of most Helen felt very tired as she went up importance in the family. When all the weeks of excitement and preparation fore were not to be thought of without there all cesire to go to bed left her. had found their crowning point in the bitterness, and so long as nothing hap The quiet and solitude seemed to rest wedding day, that over, it was imposs- pened to divert her thoughts she must

some of the wedding guests were pro- a special meaning. She knew what he village in an easterly direction, and for go, and said all those other things. I longing their stay a few days beyond the had come to ask, and she knew what event for which they had come to The Thwaite, and occupation was found in entertaining them. One person at any entertaining them. One person at any entertaining them. One person at any entertaining them is a superson at any entertaining them. One person at any entertaining them is a superson at any entertaining them. One person at any entertaining them is a superson at any entertaining them. One person at any entertaining them is a superson at any entertaining them. One person at any entertaining them is a superson at any entertaining them. One person at any entertaining them is a superson at any entertaining them. entertaining them. One person at any number of the thought.

The state was glad of this compation. Alice

"And if I do what you ask, what shall low water it was easy to everstep the low to enawer.

"You are rate was glad of this occupation. Alice had borne herself all through the trying hours of the wedding day with marvellous composure and self-control. She had been a little paler and her eyes a beauty on the state one's feet at high tide, and at low water it was easy to everstep the low atom water it was easy to everstep the little brighter than usual, perhaps, but she had filled her post of chief bridesmaid with perfect grace and diguity. She had stood in her white dress beside Helen, and had held her gloves and bouquet without in the least betraying that her feelings on the subject of the wedding were in any way different from those with which it was supposed to inspire everyone else. She had played her part very well. Helen, with the recollection of the previous night still in her mind, had been rather surprised to see how

But when it was over, after the bride and bridegroom had gone away, and shortly before dinner, those who were left behind were allowed to go to their room and enjoy a little rest, the reacbedroom altppers, and her hair hanging tion came, and her breakdown was all the more complete in proportion to the "What is it, Alice ?" she asked as her perfect self-control she had displayed all

She had dismissed her maid. "I wanted to speak to you. I slid not her own hands she had taken off her uppose you would be in bed yet. I have white silk gown, and but for the fact crease or crumple would have trampled it under foot in her rage and disappoint ment. Her bouquet-Percival's gifthad been visited with the fate which fear of comment had prevented from falling on her dress, She had pulled it in two, torned and rubbed the flowers to pieces and ended by tossing the whole into the fire. She was one of those who when they were angry, must have an object upon which to vent their wrath. Had the flowers not been at hand, she would probably have torn her lace pocket handkerchief to shreds, and have felt hetter for it. The expression on her face as she dispatched the unoffending flowers was not pleasant.

But in time her rage exhausted itsel able and abandoned of women. But "Sit down if you have come to talk," this mood also passed. She remembersaid Helen, pushing a chair towards her. ed that it was not yet night, when she could indulge her feelings for an unlimitmon, either physically or mentally," she ed time. She would soon have to go went on, net taking the chair, "and for down stairs to dinner, and play her part. removing all traces of tears from her cheeks, and rang for her maid. By the she was quite herself again, the only She hardly seemed to hear Helen's sign of her trouble being a slight heaviness of her eyes which was easily eaplained as the result of a little head-

ache. Among the guests who stayed on was and should be a fool to deny it; and I ed on with his friend, who lived a little fone's, and on the following day called "Alice, do be reasonable ! Percival in the morning. Alice smiled as she of those women whose hearts are to be "Sir Cuthbert? Yes, he is faithful, caught in the rebound. She had no ides was not at all what she desired. No. "Why will you not merry him? Sure- she was not going to marry Sir Cuth bert; as as she had suffered and was suf-"Recause I do not love him. I am fering, so he might suffer too. It would "You are thrice welcome," she said

"You shall not say such things to extending her hand with an almost regal ject, and at the same time like a greeting from friend to friend. "Here we deavors to pass the time and amuse one ed all our wit last night, for there is not a spark in the whole party this morn-

"He must be dull indeed who doe not find his wit in your presence.

"What a pretty speech ! I declare is quite a pleasure to hear you. If you roused us all. Stay with us, and you something worth listening to, and I know

There was a tone of mockery in her voice. The proceedings of the day be-

"What could I ask more than to be allowed to spend more time with you than I had ventured to hope ?"

In spite of himself he was influenced by her words, "I am in a generous mood, I delight to give," He did not reflect that there are people who say things at one moment for the mere pleasure of taking them back the next, and he did not know that Alice guessed why he had come, and to ease her own pain, was playing with him as a cat plays with a

"Tell us," went on Alice, "how you think the bride looked yesterday ?" "I fear I cannot tell you. I scarcely looked at the bride."

"Oh, fie! you did not do your duty. At a wedding, everyone looks at the bride, and the bride alone." He bowed, saying—
"I will try to remember next time.

"Next time! You say that signifi. I am forced to follow a tyrant." cantly. When do you suppose next time will be ?"

"My own wedding, I hope." "Good gracious! you are on the of marriage, and you never told Pray repair your fault at once, and tell us all about her—her name and every-thing. Is it anyone I know? I cannot imagine," after a moment spent apparently in deep reflection, "who it can possibly be."

"I cannot tell you the lady's name. ecause I have not yet obtained her con-'You amaze me-upon my word, you

amaze me. You are the boldest man ever knew, to make sure of the lady's nsent in advance." "I do not presume to make sure, but

man is forbidden to hope." "Oh, no, to be sure-hope

ough. It is to be had for the asking, Perhaps that is the reason," with anoth r little laugh, "why it is so seldom of

"I hope my hope is of some use."

"Otherwise is would not be hope at all. Take my advice," she went on, not hope. It is a waste of time, and gene- tion. time she was ready to go down stairs your mind at once, without hopes and he said, "and how could I satisfy my fears, and go straight to the point. If conscience and your parents for such foolyou are successful, well and good; if not, resign yourself, and hope for better luck next time."

"Can you give me no better advice than that ?"

"No better! le it not very good t is what I should do if I were a man." "And your 'next time?" Would it be with the same woman or another?"

"How can I tell," shrugging her shoulders. "It would depend so much upon the woman. On the whole I think would prefer it to be with another."

He was going to reply, when some one oined in the conversation, and soon afterwards the gong sounded for luncheon. After luncheon, Sir Cuthbert came to Alice as she stood in one of the drawing room windows, and said,

"Do you feel inclined for a walk this ine afternoon, Miss Lafone ?"

"You have seriously taken upon you self the task of entertaining us, I see, shs said, smiling. "Yes, a walk would be a good thing; it would brace us up and give us an appetite for dinner. That is why people take walks, is it not?] never, for my part, could see any other advantage to be gained from plodding along dull country roads. Who is for walk?" she went on, turning to the interior of the room.

Several people declared themselves for walk, and though this was not exactly what Sir Cuthbert had intended when he suggested that way of spending the afternoon, he consoled himself with the thought that, perhaps, after all, he would find it as easy to be alone with Alice in that way as any other. The rest of the party would probably pair off among themselves, leaving them undisturbed. He would trust to fortune.

In a little while those who were going were ready, and left the house together. "Where shall we go?" asked Alice. when they reached the high road. Sir

must decide."

thought struck him. "You promise to abide by my de-cision?" he asked, speaking pointedly to

"Oh, yes," she replied lightly, "sine I know it will be wise and good. "Well then, I choose the shore road.

"The shore road," as it was called, was in some ways the least attractive in ber sufficiently, and she subsided to the ible not to feel rather lost. Fortunately think of them. Her last words, too, had the neighborhood. It led out of the would be the mext to which you would

some distance ran parallel with the bay. should hardly have expected that

an hour? But today I am in a generous some extent, divided into uninteresting of saying one word with which you could mood; I delight to give. You shall potato and turnip fields. In addition to have a reward, and as my rewards are always substantial, you shall stay to stony and rough; highly unfitted for "I think I have every reason to be," ladies who were more accustomed to she said, seizing this pretext for finding

driving than walking.
"The shore road!" echoed those who

"You are under no necessity to come, he replied, laconically. "Se far as I repromised to abide by my choice.'

"And she has no intention of breaking had seen Sir Cuthbert's intention from the first, and had done her best to de-feat it. The little fraud which he had should ever speak of you save with repracticed upon her to gain his own ends spect, and in such a way as to command tickled her fancy, and she laughed mer-tickled her fancy, and she laughed mer-She was silent, and after a short. him for his skitl.

"Go your ways, good people," she said, laughing and waving her hand to them as she moved away. "Bound by no oaths, you can wander where you will

They walked away, leaving the other to their own devices, and for a little time they did not speak. They went along the road leading from The Thwaite to the village, and through the village itself, in silence. It was only when they had left the last house some distance behind them, and exchanged the high for the shore road, which stretched before them in all its monotony, that their tongues were loosened.

By this time Alice had begun rather to me again?" repent her temerity in thus giving Sir Cuthbert the opportunity he had been seeking. Her readiness to be alone with hard tone. She seemed, indeed, unhim might give him erroneous ideas as to conscious of the pain she was inflicting. the nature of her answer. However, it She shed no tears; she made no pretty was done now; the only thing was to be feminine speeches about the pain it gave firm, and not allow herself to be moved her to refuse so true a love; and while from her original decision by any prayers she spoke she was twirling her muff in and entreaties.

nch things as first came into her head. hoped. Hope had stolen in at first al-The tide was out, and she suggested they most in spite of himself, but latterly he should exchange the rough road they had taken pleasure in making room for were treading for the sands, which just it in his heart. Alice was young, he here, at anyrate, were sufficiently hard knew she liked him, and she loved no and dry for walking with comfort, though one else. Surely he could prevail. It poking at him, but bending all her at- a little further on they resumed their old was a very hard blow when she answertention upon one of the feathers of her character of treacherous quickness. Sir ed in that short, decided way. screen, which had become loose, "do not Cuthbert did not approve of the sugges-

> hardiness ?" She shrugged her shoulders and laugh-

ed. saving. "If there is danger it is all the more

comantic; come let us go. You might be able to rescue me from some fearful peril, and then you would be a hero in peril, and then you would be a hero in Flora became nervous and fretful in my eyes forever afterwards. Would not striving after fashion, and a sickly famithat be worth something?" He smiled and said-

"Just now I am poor-spirited enough prefer conversation to heroic deeds, Do you remember what we were speak

ing of before lunch ?" She knitted her delicately-marked eye

rows in apparent perplexity. Was it not of this walk? Ah. that was after lunch. No, you tax my emory too heavily. I have no idea. "Is your memory so bad?"

"Oh, dreadfully. I remember no thing, especially nothing disagreeable. "I hope I am not going to recall anything very disagreeable. Do you remember last summer my asking you to Bitters. This invaluable medicine is be my wife ?" She would have given a great deal

ould she have answered easily-"No, did you really? How odd ! ad forgotten all about it."

But she was rather influenced by the umors of others, and as Sir Cuthbert spoke with perfect seriousness, she an wered involuntarily in the same tone. "Certainly, I remember that perfect ly well."

"Do you also remember why you re used me ?" "That too. It was because I did no

care for you enough. "Yes, but you said nothing of pro-

ferring any one else. So I concluded

easonably or not, that your heart was free, and I determined if it was to be done, to win a different answer from you some time. From then till now I have never seen yeu. I have purposely avoided places where I thought I might Cathbert, this is your expedition, you meet you. I was resolved, while waiting, to put my love to the test, to make Sir Cuthbert reflected. There was surer than sure of it. It was not to be rather a bewildering choice of beautiful overthrown; I find I cannot live withwalks at Osmotherly. Suddenly a out you. With you for my wife, I should be the happiest of men; without you, the most miserable. When I came here I had made up my mind what to do, and I ask you again, will you be my wife ?"

"Then," she said with the air of one who has made a discovery, "it was of before lunch, me you were speaking when you hoped your own wedding

Her manner showed plainly that she was sunoyed. Sir Cuthbert made haste

fault with him. "You spoke before a whole roomful of people in such a way knew it, in dismay. "What a horrid that they were amused. I suppose you road to choose; we shall all come home do not imagine I allow myself to be ridiculed in that way."

"Miss Lafone, I beg of you sider what you say. How could you member it was only Miss Lafone who suppose I should speak of you in such. a. way as you describe. I am convinced that no one but yourself heard what I her promise," said Alice, laughing. She said, and even had they done, no one could have found fault with it. I feel

nause he went on.

"All this time you have not answered my question. I have hoped for a long time, and-"

"If I remember rightly," she inter rupted, "when we were talking before lunch I told you that hope was a very feelish feeling in which to indulge."

He bit his lip, and his face went shade paler. "What am I to conclude from that?

he asked at length. "I should think you might draw your own conclusions.

"You force me to pronounce my own condemnation," he said, with some constraint. "Do you mean that you refuse

"Yes. I will not marry you." The words were hard and sooken in a her hands.

She began to talk, therefore, about | Sir Cuthbert said nothing. He had

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

here were five fair sisters, and each Flors would fain be a fashionable dame; Scholarly Susan's selection was books; Coquettish Cora cared more for good looks;

looks; Anna, ambitious, aspired after wealth: Sensible Sarah sought first for good health.
So she took Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and grew healthy and blooming. Cora's beauty quickly faded; Susan's eyesight failed from over study; ly kept Anna's husband poor. But sensible Sarah grew daily more healthy, charming and intelligent, and she married rich.

A Minnesota newspaper reports one of the cleanest and quickest c ing jobs on record. A prairie fire went through six acres of corn in five minutes, completely burning away every husk, leaving the corn on the stalks clean and bright, and in no way injured by the fire and amoke,

Thousands Suffering Thousands of people are suffering un told miseries from constipation, headache, biliousness and weakness that sold by all dealers at One Dollar per

It is Absurd

bottle, thus placing it within the reach

For people to expect a cure for Indigeswhat is unwholesome; but if anything will sharpen the appetite and give tone to the digestive organs, it is Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Thousands all over the land testify to the merits of this medicine. Mrs. Sarah Burroughs, of 248 Eighth

street, South Boston, writes : "My hus oand has taken Ayer's Sarsaparilla, for Dyspepsia and torpid liver, and has been greatly benefited

A Confirmed Dyspeptic. C. Canterbury, of 141 Franklin st.,

Boston, Mass., writes, that, suffering for years from Indigestion, he was at last induced so try Ayer's Sarasparilla. and, by its use, was entirely cured. and Mrs. Joseph Aubin, of High atreet, Holyoke, Mass., suffered for over a year from Dyspepsia, so that she could not eat substantial food, became very weak, and was unable to care for her family. Neither the medicines prescribed by physicians, nor any of the remedies advertised for the cure of Dyspepsia, helped her, until she commenced the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. "Three bottles of this medicine," she writes, cured me."

Aver's Sarsaparilla. Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Price \$1; six bottles, \$6. Worth \$5 a bottle.

Fourteenth c A carved foot Cabinets and Parlor suites alike, are in fas Desks for off Faraiture care to make their cu A hat rack is ing erect ovals call hats.

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