

CHAPTER XXIII.

An Entangling Web.

indecision, he said, quietly: "Is anything the matter, Lady

quest; but, as if he had divined her

his eyes.

His eyes did not quail, and not a

"Not a very difficult search, is it? not?"

difficult. Harman-her aunt-is afraid that she did not return to Santleigh last night." "No!" he responded, raising he

brows. "But there is nothing very man? She may have stayed at Fern

"Oh, we have thought of that," said Norah, almost impatiently. Guildford Berton's presence made the affair still more distasteful to her, and she began to regret that she had not sent Harman

occurred to others at the beginning.

replied Harman, almost inaudibly.

"Ah, yes," he murmured, glancing at Norah, who sat looking straight in not there yourself, Mrs. Harman? last. No doubt some one left the fet-

"I will help you to find her." he sail

day. The girl is well known, and l dare say dozens of her friends know where she is." Norah inclined her head with a con

conies, but walked them slowly, and she said.

"Her ladyship's got a tender heart

same half-absent, half-troubled expression. The vague, indefinable fear or presentiment was weighing upon her more heavily each minute. Sud-

know anything, please?" she said.

Guildford Berton walked to the kno

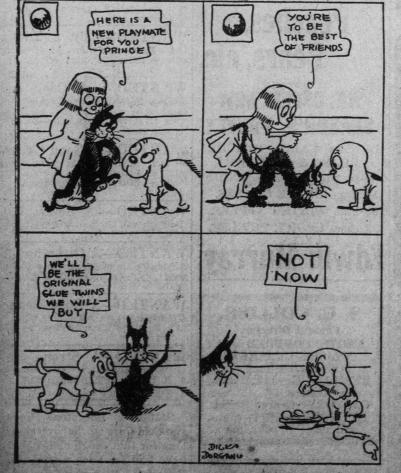
They looked at each other silently

"You were at the fete last night. said Norah. "Did none of you see her

when you were coming away?"

and whispered to her, evidently urging a little and dropped a courtesy. It was the girl who had wished Becca good-night as Cyril was writing the

The Question is-What is Friendship? By Dorgan.



Norah leaned forward eagerly, an Jarman sat with clashed hands and

home?" said Norah. "Why did she not come with you?"

The girl looked down "I don't know, my lady. I did no

"Was she alone?" asked Guildfor

looked down at the ground.

and inert, was alive with groups who plunged forward; but she pulled then up instantly, and looked at the girl steadily, though she felt a thrill ru

"Yes, my lady, quite sure. Ther was a streak of light where they were and I saw him quite plainly. Oh, I an quite sure it was the artist gentle

Norah sat with tightly compresse lips, looking before her, and there was a moment's silence. Guildford Berton broke it.

said to her in a low voice. "Mr. Buri may have been helping her with he all the evening."

A faint dash of color rose to Norah's

"Did no one see her after that?" asked of the group generally. The girls shook their heads

"No, sir. No, my lady, none of "Can any of you tell Lady Norah saw her after that."

> "Perhaps we had better ask M Burne?" he said to Norah in the same low voice. "I don't suppose he car

Norah inclined her head slightly. evebrows came out. It was Mr. Fur the filling of his pipe. Then he touched his hat, half-lifting it in London fashion, and, going to a bench outside the inn, sat down, and leisurely lit his pipe, and sat smoking, apparently naving little attention to what was

Guildford Berton glanced at him half-curiously, and was entering the inn door, when Mrs. Brown appeared. She looked flurried and upset, and

"Good-morning, Mrs. Brown," said Guildford Berton. "Is Mr. Burne in?" "Mr. Burne, sir?" she replied. "Oh, no, sir; he's not here. He hasn't been

Guildford Berton gave a little start,

said in a nervous way. "But'he's been ressed for the ball, and-and-that's step in, sir, and you, my lady? I'm all in a fluster this morning, what sudden, and Mr. Cyril Burne not co

Mrs. Brown," said Guildford Berton "You expected Mr. Burne to return

"Why, of course, sir," she replied ack; but I thought that he'd stayed at Ferndale, perhaps-"

Norah forced herself to speak.

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"Mr. Burne did not stay at Ferndal Park," she said, and her voice sounder strangely in her own ears.

"Then where can he have gone, n lady?" continued Mrs. Brown, as if she as you may say, without a word warning; but he wouldn't go up to London in his dancing things, would he, my lady?"

Nor did not reply, but Guildford Berton nodded.

"Just so, Mrs. Brown; as you say, that is not very likely. But I don't quite see where he could have staye

dale-but, Lor', sir, it's a rough place and Mr. Cyril Burne wouldn't have thought anything of walking home here. No, he wouldn't have stayed there, and if he had he'd have come his things."

Guildford Berton went up to the

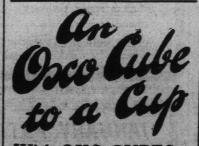
to get puzzled. "Really, I think My Burne's disappearance as remarkable as Becca South's."

this morning?" asked Guildford Ber ton of Mrs. Brown, and she seemed "Lor', no, sir! Beggin' your par

don, I should think I've been asked

At this fresh link of connection be

"But pray don't you trouble to do



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This week at

A. & S. Rodger's

Messages.

10.30 AM.

BUCHAREST.

BERLIN, To-day. st was a gay Capital e times with a population of near-0,000 and frequently alluded to as Prize of the East. It covers an execess of twenty square miles ining the royal residence, gov-ent buildings and other notable ures. It is the centre of a con-

ERMAN SUBS SHELL FUNCHAL, MADEIRA.

LONDON, To-day. The French gunboat "Surprise" was mk by German submarines off Fundal, in Madeira, according to an anouncement by the Portuguese Minisf Marine in a wireless despatch yed from Lisbon; 34 of the crew the gunboat perished. A few Portu-lesse were also killed aboard the leamers Kangaroo and Daira which ere torpedoed, according to the de-patch. An Exchange Telegraph from leira says that 34 persons in the bombardment of The submarine shelled re for two hours, especially buildings. Only small damage done. The steamers Kangaroo

LABORITES REGRET PARLIA-MENTARY CRISIS.

LONDON, To-day That the Laborites are not likely to apport Lloyd George's Administra on was further indicated at a meet of the Parliamentary Committee Trades Unions to-day, which adoptresolution unanimously expre atesmen influenced by the Pre-impaign, have, in the hour of the tion's crisis entirely failed to ob-ve that loyalty and ontinues further: "We earnes ope the present unseemly quarre mongst those entrusted with great esponsibilities shall immediately ase so as to set a better example workers."

LLOYD GEORGE TO FORM MINIS-

LONDON, To-day. evening to Bonar Law, who intimated that he was unable to form an Ad-ministration. The King summoned loyd George, who at His Majesty'

DEPLORABLE ACCIDENT KILLS

WOMEN. LONDON, To-day Twenty-six women were killed as bout 30 injured by an explosion in nunitions factory last night, accoring to an official announcement whadds that the effect of the accident

GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER LAND.

LONDON, To-day. In order the better to secure food supply King George has sign Order-in-Council empowering Board of Agriculture to take over occupied or occupied land for the pose of cultivation.

A NATIONAL MINISTRY. LONDON, To-day
The Press Association says it lear that on Bonar Law's advice K George asked Lloyd George to for a Government, and that it understand a good authority that Lloyd Geo

LORD DERBY'S SENSIBLE WORD to do with intrigue, if it peal to conflicting Ministers to s their differences. To go back Party Administration, he said, wo spell ruin for this Country. "Is it much to ask for reciprocal considering the want the best men of parties. I fell it will arouse an elere probably in the country if we perhaps a new Leadership, and and still the best men of both sides

he proper carrying on of the war. ATHENS IN AN ANXIOUS CONDITION.

A Havas despatch from Athens s. he entire French colony left Atheesterday. The foreign colonies n il all the hotels at Piraeus. Ma

DN'T KNOW THE REAL TRU'S ABOUT ATHENS.