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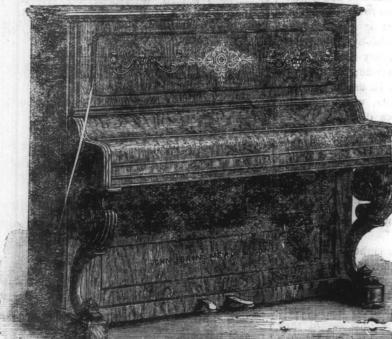
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CAMERON'S "SHADOW LOVE

By the Author of Dora Thorne.

CHAPTER XVII. (Continued.)

She had some pale blue flowers fastened

her hair; and Alida, who had a true Paris ienne's eye for the beautiful, declared that she had never seen her lady look so well before. The delicate rose-bloom was heightened, the light in the violet eyes deepened. She smiled as she looked at her reflection in the mirror.

Lord Rylestone surely could not fail to admire and like her.

Her heart beat quickly as she entered the room where he was. She had so longed to see him, she had counted the hours until he came but now, when she saw him and could speak to him, her courage failed.

He held out his hand to her as she entered the room, thining to himself what a superb marchioness she would make, smiling as the fair face grew crimson, and the golden head was raised in stately grace.

'We shall never meet as strangers again! he said; 'I am beginning to look upon you as part of Walton now.'

They were simple words, apparently with little meaning, but they seemed eloquent enough to her. Her eyes shone with the brightness of stars.

'You have altered since I saw you,' said Lord Rylestone; 'you have lost your old, sad, depressed look. You must have found Brighton and its neighborhood very beneficial.'

She smiled: how little he knew-how little

'I am happier and better than I was on the day I went to Brighton,' she said-' but I want to talk of you, not of myself. You will spend the day with us, of course.'

Yes, he would be only too happy to do so; Mr. Beale was to meet him, and with Miss Cameron's permission, they would read and sign all the necessary documents.

'Then I shall be really your tenant!' she said. 'How strange the circumstance seems! 'It is very pleasant to me, remember,' he returned, 'I shall like to think that my home is in the hands of one who values it as you do.'

'Do you like going to Canada?' she asked, with curious abruptness.

' For some reasons, but not for others. The peculiar position in which I am placed obliges me to do something, and I do not know that I could have a finer opening than this.'

'It will lead to something better, then? she interrogated.

'Yes, there is not the least doubt of itthat is my chief aim in going.'

She saw that he had not the remotest idea that it was she who had befriended him. She raised her face to his. 'How came Sir John to offer the appoint-

ment to you?' she asked. 'I cannot tell, unless he has dealings with

some good spirit, and the good spirit told him that I stood in urgent need of it.'

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE hours on that day went all too quickly. Adelaide noted them as they vanished. Each time the silvery chimes of the ormolu clock sounded they brought fresh pain to her. This one day for which she had longed so intensely was passing quickly, and when it had come to a close he would be gone and for years she would not see him.

Allan was very kind and considerate. She saw his face flush crimson when the question of rent for Walton was under consideration. She knew that the impulse was strong upon him to refuse it-to beg of her to make the place her home just as long as she would. And then, with a laugh that had some little tinge of bitterness in it, he remembered himself.

'I had forgotten that I am a poor man,' he

Mr. Beale, with his quick business like tact, managed to get over every difficulty, and the result was a very harmonious meeting. The lawyer decided on what terms Miss Cameron should take Walton; and by the time all was satisfactorily arranged it was the hour for

'My one beautiful day,' thought Miss Cam- to her. eron-' it is going so quickly. There are but four hours more, and then he will be gone.'

Madame, who had been present all the whole interview, and who had watched keenly, and listened attentively, drew her own conclusions.

He is as far from loving her as ever,' she said to herself. 'He is her friend, but he will never be more; and she, poor, simple, foolish child, will never love him less.'

The happy excitement of his presence was enough for Miss Cameron: She did not stay to analyze her own thoughts, to measure his words. She remembered only that he was in her presence, and that to-morrow he would be gone. She would make the most of her time while it lasted. She went down to dinner, looking very beautiful in a dress of superb white silk, trimmed with pale green leaves. She wore a suite of pearls, the late lord's gift, and altogether she looked delicately lovely.

Allan had been very kind to her. No word that could by the wildest imagination be construed into an attempt at flirtation had crossed his lips, but his kindness had given her fresh life, and seemed more to her than the love of

When dinner was over, and madame was playing chess with the lawyer, Adelaide went out on the balcony, and Lord Rylestone fol-

'My time is getting short,' he said-I must leave at nine.'

She made no reply; she was looking over the stone balustrade, and he thought she was gazing on the scene below. It was very fair, the soft, sweet evening scene; the trees of the park stood tall and dark in the fading sunlight; the roar of the great London world seemed stilled; the wind whispered soft and low, the flowers were breathing fragrance, the pretty mignonette and climbing plants half filled the balcony; and above all were the solemn, tremulous stars.

When I am in Canada I shall remember this pretty scene,' said Lord Rylestone, 'a one remembers a sweet strain of music, the words of a song, or the beauty of a picture.'

As he spoke he looked at her. The golden hair gleamed; the proud, pale, beautiful face, with the green foliage as a background, was perfect; the white face and clear pearls all went toward making the sweetest picture he had ever seen. Yet, when he spoke, he was thinking not so much of her as of the pretty evening scene.

'Shall you remember it?' she continued, quietly. 'Ah! Lord Rylestone, when you think of it, will you think of me?'

Her voice trembled with passionate emotion, but he did not notice it. He thought her words were simply the ordinary request that one friend would make to another.

'Think of you? Most certainly I shall Miss Cameron; we have been fellow-sufferers.

and therefore should be friends.' 'I have few friends,' she said, 'and I like to think that in far-off Canada I shall have a

staunch one.'

'You will, indeed. How sweet that mignonette is! What is the botanical name for it? I remember—Reseda Odorata. I shall always associate Reseda and you in my thoughts. A spray of mignonette will bring this balcony and the pale starlight, the golden gleam of your hair, the memory of your face, all as clearly and as vividly as I see them now.'

'And, when you think of me, will you al ways remember that I am so sorry for the unconscious wrong I have done you—that I would willingly undergo almost anything to undo it?'

'I will not forget,' he said.

And then over the trees in the park came the clear, full sound of a church clock striking nine. Each stroke, to Miss Cameron, seemed clearly and distinctly on the warm, fragrant air to carry with it the voice of inexorable

'Nine o'clock,' said Lord Ryleston. 'I must go.'

She could not turn round with a careless resture and speak indifferent words, she could not smile, she could not hold out her handshe was mute, dumb, dazed, with her passion-

'I heard a little rumor to-day,' he added, and, if the circumstance alluded to will promote your happiness, Miss Cameron, I shall hope that it may take place.'

But she did not hear him. A great wave of sorrow had overwhelmed her; the rush of many waters was in her ears. Slowly she came to the full recollection of where she was and what she was doing. Lord Rylestone was bidding her farewell-her one happy day was over, and he was going away for years.

She turned her pale, proud face toward him, and he was struck by the anguish in her eyes. Still he did not think it was for him; she could have but one source of annoyance—the will. So, impulsively enough, he held out his hand

'Promise me,' he said, 'that you will think no more of that horrible will.' The hand he touched was so cold that startled him.

I will try,' she said, faintly. (To be Continued.)

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JOHN MAGOR.

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