

THE BELLE

CHAPTER X.

"Gone-aye-and showed a remarkable clean pair o' heels, too. He came ished like one. Be open with me, lass. for I know thee wast led away to disobey your fond father by the scamp Did he leave thee e'er a word now?" Muriel shook her head.

The father slapped his triumphantly.

"By heaven, I thought not!" said. "It's sure and certain that h was after my poor bit of money. regular speculation, lass, as they calls it in Lunnun, depend upon it. Bu down stairs and whistle the him down the wind. There's as good fisdeed, far better ones than him's that's given thee the go-by, waiting for the simple 'yes.' Wynter Leigh was a vil lain as well as a fool!"

With these words he had passed the boundary of her endurance. She rose beautiful and brave as a leopardess her usually mild eyes, flashing fire on him, and her small hands clenched at her sides.

"Wynter Leigh is an honest and true hearted man, and if there is one in the world, and until it is proven to me that he is other than that will never cease to love him!"

Then she sank into the chair, and her hands.

The farmer started grimly at her then in silence left the room.

Two days later Squire Heather bridge was filled with concern for poor Jaffer's ignorance, and declared that he would send him to school. It was shocking to see the grandson of

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> such a well-conducted old lady a Goody running about as ignorant and silly as a savage. And consequently much to the edification of the village ers, who one and all sang praises to the benevolence and kind-hearted ness of the young squire, poor, sim ple-minded Jaffer was conveyed to school two counties off.

> No sooner had Jaffer gone than ugl umors, at first dim and undefined but gradually growing into somethin definite, arose concerning the sud denly vanished Mr. Leigh.

count of his pecuniary troubles as or

that of some lady-love. These rum

ors, of course, reached Rubywood

and found their way to the quiet littl

coom to which Muriel was still con

ined; but nothing occurred to con

firm or justify them until some mon

ths later, when the farmer, who has

comfortably seated in the villag

phaeton, and for the first time fo

many months addressed her kindly.

They were talking of the coming

she spoke but rarely and always it

habitual to her now-and the farme

"I've bought the Holme, lass."

Muriel started and turned her head

The farmer whipped the mare an

"I thought I'd tell you, in case

some one else did it blundering-like.

Don't you think I'm going to rake u:

the old trouble again, because I'n

not. I've taken you at your word, and

I'm ready to believe that you won't

look at another man till this young

vaga-Wynter Leigh-is proved what

"What do they say he is?" she ask

"That he was as false in love as he

was in farming-wrong at bottom

lass; and a gay deceiver. They do

say that there's a lady pining her

where he came from. I cannot say i

it's true, for you may be sure that I

haven't stopped to make enquiries. All

that I do mean to say is that it goes

against my natural pride to hear my

away and sharing pity with her."

"It is false!" said Muriel.

plunged into the subject.

all the world says he is."

"And-and I really don't know what to do. But I must find him. Are you sure you can give me no informa Somebody had seen or heard some tion? Has he left no servant of any thing, and at last it was getting gen kind who would be likely to know his erally believed that the poor, young farmer had really been compelled to fly the Holme, not so much on ac

business with Mr. Leigh-"

"The only man who knew anything of him or his affairs left the place the moment he heard of his master's flight-followed him, I suppose," said

bewildered to aswer. The lady, evi-

dently amused at his bewilderment, transferring her attention to the pale, beautiful face of Muriel.

"Yes," he said, "you are going right

"Mr. Wynter Leigh's?" asked the

"No. Farmer Holt's," replied the

"Are there two places called th

"Not in this part of the country

"And Mr. Leigh does not live at this

"No, he doesn't," replied the farm-

"Gone!" echoed the lady faintly

and the farmer, noting her tone of dis-

"Yes, gone," he reepated: "left sud-

"And for where?" asked the lady.

"Ah! said Farmer Holt, drawing

long breath, "that's just what no one

knows. He left - fled, as one may

say, from the country like a thief in

"This is most strange!" exclaimed

the lady; sinking back in the carriage

undecided. "I-I had most important

"No doubt," remarked the farme

where he has gone."

who appeared very much startled.

may, looked at Muriel significantly.

er. "He did, but he has gone."

one?" said the lady, looking displeas-

lady, as if to make assurance double

"The Holme," she repeated.

The lady looked surprised.

or the Holme."

old man grimly.

Holme?" she asked.

said the farmer.

certain.

"I don't understand it," said th lady, with an anxious sigh, "Well, am very much obliged to you. Will you tell my man to drive on, please Stop! whom is this Mr. Holt whom you say has bought or holds this

"He's your dutiful servant, madam, a grim bow and setting the mare going as the postillion started the season- Muriel listening rather, for chaise.

by father or daughter. Muriel looking straight before her with the same

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own lass mated to some other miles It is so easy to overlook the warn "Very likely," said the farmer worry over little things, that many a grimly; "I only tell thee what I've man does not realize his danger un-til on the verge of breakdown. Like the writer of the letter quoted below, you can call a halt to the

wasting process and restore vim and energy to the nervous system by us-ing Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. This great food cure has a wonderful record of cures.

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pale face and sad, calm eves, the olnan breaking into spasmodic whis ling occasionally and flippings of th mare. At last he said quietly:

"It's true, lass, you see. That fine adv was the one we've heard of no doubt of it. She'll follow him, for she looks like it: but my modest lass will act sensibly and bid good-by to all thoughts of him forever." and Muriel's eves filled with tears bu she said nothing.

and looking very much annoyed and But Farmer Holt had conquered. That same evening the young squire came hurriedly into the parlor. and to his surprise and embarrass-

It was the first time they had me since the evening of his avowal and for a moment he turned as pale as she herself, but the next he took the hand she held out for him, and bent over it, murmuring indistinct thankfulness for her recovery from the illness which was the accepted reason for her confinement to her apartments.

While they stood silent the farmer ame in, rubbing his hands, and winked with a world of joyous cunning a the young squire.

"Well, lads and lasses," he cried cheerfully, "here we are again, al snug and comfortable after a spell of nasty weather. Sit ye down, lad, and take a bit of supper with us. Murie can find ve a spare knife and fori

And while Muriel went to appris Janey of the addition to the party, the old man leaned over to the squire

"It's all right, lad! She'll be dutiful girl and have thee. Ha! ha! tle tantrum; shows she's got spirit and can keep her word like a Holt. By the next morning it was known ar and wide that Miss Muriel had ecovered from her illness and that she would become the mistress of the

(To be continued.)

Nothing Doing.



The times are swift, so help me Bob, and you can't be a-sleep ing if you wou get and hold job that's real worth the keer ing. You'll have to hump yoursel old scout, achiev ing and pursuing and putting laz ness to rout, or there'll be nothing do

ing. Some youths acquire a punk re nown that gives poor satisfaction they loaf and languish in the town and always at action. They tall of wrestle and of scrap and other games a-brewing, and when they try to get a snap, there's always nothing doing. Some clerks are always much afraid that they may, absent-minded do more than that for which they're paid; such lads, by folly blinded, wil run against a snag some day that they'll be always ruing; when they re uest increase of pay there will h age pets bad habits are acquiring cigars and loaded cigarettes they're diligently firing; they're betting on some dinky race, they're playing pool and chewing; and when they want to get a place there will be nothing do

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