CHAPTER XVII.

are you glad or sorry, Shirley?"/ in

"I think I am sorry," Shirley said.

"Of course not," Ruby returned,

Shirley smiled, and although her face was in the shadow, a lovely rose-'Answered.'" she quoted gayly

'in red letters.' Alice, will you have

"Shirley is privileged on this the to its resting-place, stroking it fond

ly with her jewelled hand. After that there was a short silence in the pretty firelit room. Outside

his writing-table, his face grave and

"Oh. Ruby, my darling, the smal white hand.

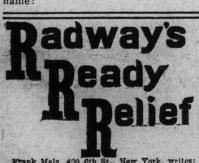
Which gathered the harebell was nev

and Shirley was thinking how slowly the minutes went by while she was

"Adonis, Adonis?" Alice questioned

"Is your memory so exceedingly short?" said Ruby, lifting her pretty dark brows. "Whom should I mean, ma chere, but Sir Hugh Glynn, of Maxwell?"

Was it fancy, or did Shirley start under Ruby's hand as she spoke the





did not expect her to live

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her who was very ill, and strangely enough, we have heard nothing of him

know that the marriag akes place to-morrow?" inquired

"I presume Guy has written

vearing the willow? Good gracious

ere she had better induce Stuart t

was concealing coquettishly with a

"Yes. Just imagine the long, dark, onely drive," he said ruefully. "Shir-

say to Guy himself," Ruby said merrily. "Be off; and, if you are going to drive, mind you don't pitch Major out under a jealous inspira-

"A happy thought! I will act up n it," said Oswald gayly, as he left

nd holding with mocking sympathy er little iewelled watch within ar

Though he isn't coming now, for what I thought a swinging gate

ner Shirley?" asked Alice merrily, as aw her cousin standing by the fire, a slim graceful figure in black velveten, with a silver dog collar clasp-

by, following Miss Fairholme. "Leave prepare herself for the startling news hat the line is blocked at Weldon and that, unless Major Stuart travels

The girls disappeared, their gay sweet voices and little high heels sounding merrily in the picture gal lery without; but Shirley stood where they had left her, looking into the fire as if she saw a pleasant

Five minutes passed; then the room door opened softly, and the intruder came forward quietly and noiselessly brace of two strong arms, which fold ed her so tenderly, yet so closely

CHAPTER XVIII

A very pleasant party gathered ound the dinner table at Fairholm o dangerously pretty, and her love

"I don't endure it-I enjoy it," said of the general conversation, which

Ruby demurely, glancing up at him brought the color into the fair pale with her sweet dark eyes. "Are you cheeks and made the long lashes going to the station, Captain Fair- droop over the levely hazel eyes. It



ame over to the Court.

Oswald, from his seat beside Ruby ever saw it bright and smiling-lived memory. Neither Guy his voice softened when he spoke to her, so that every word seemed like a caress, so tender was its intonation. (To be Continued.)

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