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CHAPTER III.

"Never 'mind, mother darling," Jack said soothingly. "Uncle Gilbert will tell us.'

"Ah, but he will tell it so differently!" she moaned. "I must-I must-She struggled into a sitting posture

again, resting on Shirley's shoulder and supported in her arms, and began to speak hurriedly, yet faintly, making pitiful efforts to gather her

and I was so young," she said brokenly-"I did not know-who could have guessed?-it was all like a play -and-no church-and-" Her voice failed, her head fell back wear-

the other wildly; and Shirley bent

"Never mind, dear, we shall know was not married, Rowland-tell me 1 by and by. Meanwhile lie still and rest; you are so weary." "So weary-yes. We have travel- met across the pillows, the blue ones

led a long way, you know; but we can dim with tears, the hazel eyes wide

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with the ghost of a smile passing ov- "What does she mean?" Shirley some one who-who was very kind, Jack answered, a new gravity and Shirley. I could not walk, you

ied you to the boat mother Am I

went to church!" continued Marian Ross, in her low feeble tones. o thank him for you?" ou are my husband, Rowland!" "Yes, thank him and the doctor." "Shee thinks she is talking to fa

ther," Jack said tremulously. "Mother don't you know us? Don't you kno "Shirley?" she repeated vacantly

tenderness on-his boyish face

"Nothing, dear-she wanders,

"Not his wife-oh no we neve

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Little Shirley and Jack! Jack, tak

Suddenly the large dark eyes open d; the painful, eager, puzzled look become dim and glassy; but they smiled.

"Never mind," she said, in a faint Nurse's Years clear, happy tone: "Shirley will not judge her mother: I do not mind Shirley. It is getting dark now, and

Dark! And the sun's rays were it, for she had gone home.

Gone home, without telling the seret which had weighed upon her for score of years, without warning her trughter against the fate which had fellen upon her! Ah if she could

have seen into the future, she could ot have gone home with that peaceul smile upon her face.

CHAPTER IV.

"To go, or not to go-that is the estion; and, upon my word, it cems such a kindly hospitable invitaaccepting it!"

CHATHAM, Ont.

As he spoke, Guy Stuart poured out a second cup of coffee, sugared and creamed it with due deliberation and proceeded to discuss his breakfriend and host, Sir Hugh Glynn, sitting opposite to him at the long dining table, looked meditatively at note lying before him.

"Of course, it is very civil and al that." he said, in rather a plaintive tone: "but we are quite strangers i this part of the world, and we no no know what we should be committing ourselves to by accepting."

"At the most to a few days of un congenial society," Major Stuart answered carelessly-"and perhaps bad

"The last is a very serious condi dently some notion of comfort and

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ossess his friend's delicate appreciaion of the art of cookery, and to him Brillat-Savarin was nothing more or

loubt they know all about them."

"Fairbolme is about seven miles rom here." Sir Hugh said meditativey; "so that I could ride over and see ainly it would be a change. Aren't ou getting just a little bit tired of ny society, Guy?"

"Not a bit," Major Stuart answered neartily. "I have not had a glimpse of you for nearly three years, renember, until that lucky meeting at

liscover your whereabouts. You were Slynn is evidently a person of sommportance in the world of fashior and distinction."

Sir Hugh laughed carelessly. H vas a singularly handsome man, with complexion as fair as any girl's wide, sleepy blue eyes, a heavy fair mustache, and soft fair hair. His novements were slow, listless, ess size and presence, the charge c effeminancy might have been laid at

"Well, what are we to do about this should like a change. He says he would call if he were not laid up with the gout, but that his son called a day or two since. I don't remembe, the circumstance."

"Don't you? I do. It was the day e went into Dumfife. On our return we found his card in the ball, and Martin said he had ridden over. H s in the-the Hussars."

"Oh, well, I wish her ladyship would let us have her menu and a lis of the members of her household: said the young baronet laughing. " find that ladies who have marriageable daughters are generally ver civil to me, Stuart, and I dare so you have found the same."

"I? Hugo mio, you forget. I ar not a baronet with an unlimited rent roll," answered Major Stuart, laugh

"Unlimited! I find mine limited nough," Sir Hugh said lightly. amiss. It added this place and nearly sions, and I needed it." .

"Not a legacy to be despised," obmaternal persecution which invariably follows such an eligible unmarried man as yourself." And again Guy Stuart's 'eyes, with a laugh i

their depths, sought his friend's face, and Sir Hugh, meeting the glance laughed also.

(To be Continued.)

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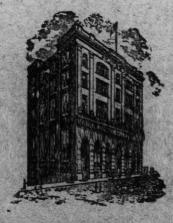
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