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CHAPTER XXIX. Only a Dream.

"And then I knew that either some work had come between this utterly heartless, and I resolved to go to my friend and help him smash up his illusions, help him tear this Fata Morgana from his heart, and be a man again."

A solemn silence reigned in the room.

Jack's voice broke it again. "I inquired about her afterward, and I heard that the man who won her heart-if she possessed one-was s certain Guildford Berton-" Cyril started.

"I saw him before I came away. A good-looking man-just the man to touch a statue in the semblance of a woman; just the man to take effect upon-" He stopped suddenly,'and a change came over his face. "Stop. Don't heed what I said, lad! By Heaven! even as I spoke the recollection of her face broke in upon me, and cannot-I cannot believe her false, aye, even with her own words in my ears---'

Cyril started up with a harsh laugh. "I know," he cried. "Oh, I know! She has cast her spell over you! Butbut-oh, Jack, I'd written to her-I was going to send it to-morrow!" He took a letter from his pocket. "Here it is! See!" He tore it into fragments and tossed it onto the wood fire burning on the open hearth. "I'm awake now, thanks to you, and there goes the great-the one sweet dream visits.

of my life! Fill your glass Jack-

fill it up, and let us drink perdition to

And with a laugh that was more

like a sob, he raised his glass on

Certainly Guildford Berton's luck

stood by him with extraordinary

faithfulness, for, if Jack had not gone

to Brittany, Norah would have had

CHAPTER XXX.

In the Face of Death.

earl's side. Paralysis does not al-

ways destroy life; it is sometimes

satisfied with killing the brain, de-

priving its victim of the use of his

limbs, and rendering him helpless

and expressionless as a child.

For days Norah scarcely left the

all women."

high.

that letter!

p with pillows, and it seemed to Norah that, though he could not speak, ha understood what she said to him. She noticed, with the improven n his stregth, a certain change in his manner-if, indeed, anything so nexpressive could be called many

spoke to him, and often in the night watches, when she thought him asleep, she would find his eyes set upon her fixedly, as if he were trying

She would have loved her father with all a daughter's love from the first moment of her home-coming indeed, she had loved him though he ad done his best to freeze all tender

ness within her: but now that he was thrown upon her care the treasures of love and tenderness in her hear welled out toward him, and she loved him as only a woman can love the

eing who is dependent upon her. The nurse and doctor, who had ooked upon her as just a fashionabl and perhaps spoiled beauty, were in wardly astonished at her devotion, and the doctor declared that it was ot he, but Lady Norah, who kept life going in the feeble striicken frame. Mr. Guildford Berton still remained

in the house, and, as of old, transacted all business for the earl.

cognition

to the sick room, and stood beside the bed murmurin the old man . and at earl fixed his eves upon him with strange look which Norah could not interpret; but he never attempted to speak, and showed neither pleasure

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'etherick."