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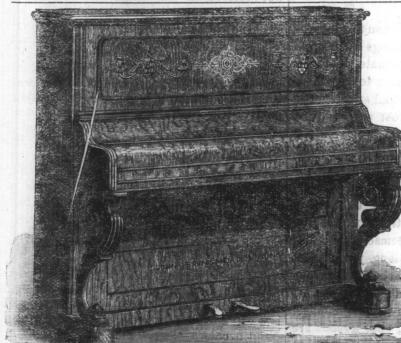
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"SHADOW LOVE."

By the Author of Dora Thorne.

CHAPTER XVII.

(Continued.)

'I am very pleased,' returned madame. She knew, just as though she had been told through whose influence that offer had been made; but madame had more than an ordinary share of tact. Miss Cameron had not mentioned the matter to her, so she would not appear to suspect anything of it.

When does he go?' she asked.

'In three weeks time. He says that h shall be in London to make his arrangements. and then he will call upon us.' And, as Adelaide thought of the infinite pleasure that interview would give her, she smiled with such grace and sweetness that madame was struck

'How can he be so blind-this Lord Ryle stone?' thought madame. 'How can he fail to see that she loves him as few men are loved?' Still, being the soul of discretion, and that discretion eminently French, she said nothing of what she thought.

But Adelaide was not quite so reticent. She had no thought whatever of letting her secret be even ever so dimly guessed at; but it was wonderful how many times each day his name was on her lips. It was easy to see that her mind and heart were full of him. Madame smiled at the transparency of her secret. Of the day that he would come of what he would do, of what he would say, of how he would like Canada, she never seemed to tire of thinking or speaking. If the old proverb that 'out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh' was true, then indeed was Adelaide Cameron's heart full of the man who had put her quietly out of his life and had refused to enrich himself by marying her.

Lord Rylestone had his faults, and though he had a perfect right to please himself, still it was not quite right of him to keep his marriage a secret. He would have proclaimed it throughout the world, rather than have hidden it, if he had thought doing so would have prevented the least evil. He had not the faintest idea that Adelaide even liked him, in a very limited sense of the word. He was willing to befriend her, and help her, ready to be of service to her, kindly compassionate because of her loneliness, sorry for her because he saw that she felt acute sorrow and displeasure concerning the late lord's will; but that she was disposed to like him, that she gave him her kindest thoughts, he never even dreamed. If any one had told him that she loved him, he would have laughed the idea to scorn. If he had even gleaned from her letters or her manner that she was disposed to like him, he would have told her his secret directly-he would have confided his love-story and his marriage to her; as it was, he would just as soon have thought of confiding in the Empress of China. Adelaide Cameron was nothing to him but the niece of the man from whom he had inherited his title and estate, the girl who had unwillingly deprived him of a noble fortune, who had with himself suffered untold annovance from a capricious and unjust will. She was a girl who had a claim upon his compassion and his services, because through him she had suffered great humiliation. He could now see the one weak point of his life-the one way in which he had done wrong. When he had heard the will read, he ought at once to have said-

'I cannot comply with the condition as to marriage, for I am pledged to marry a lady whom I love.'

If he had but said that at the time, all would have been plain sailing for him afterward. He could not imagine why he had not. It seemed so simple, so straightforward; but at the time it had not occurred to him, and now it was too late. Not having said it before, he could not say it now; he had been so bewildered at the time, so unhappy, so dazed by the sudden blow, that he had not been able to collect his

Still there was no harm done; he was not responsible to any one for his actions-he was his own master, he had done that which had seemed best for Margarita's happiness and his

He was to go to London for a few days be fore he started for Canada, and then, as he told Miss Cameron, he would wait upon her. It was purely a business call; there were sever-

al documents to be read over, agreements and HEAVY BLACK OATS. inventories to be signed, before she could beome his tenant, and all this he proposed to do when he paid his visit. He was singularly free from vanity, or he would have guessed from Adelaide's letter how pleased she was at the notion of seeing him. She wrote to ask him to dine with them and spend a long evening, so that they may have a long talk over all that was to be done at Walton while he was

The contents of that letter Lord Rylestone read aloud to his wife and he did not see the shadow of pain that flitted over the beautiful dark face as he did so.

'Miss Cameron often writes to you, Allan,

'Yes; her letters are all about Walton. It is astonishing how fond she is of the place,' he returned carelessly; and then he continued, You were saying to me the other day, Margarita, that you did not like letter-writing.'

' Nor do I, except when the letters are to you,' she confessed.

He laughed at her words. 'Some day, when you have time,' he continued, 'I should like you to look over Miss Cameron's letters; they are admirable-so well written and so amusing. She seems to have the peculiar art of making an incident out of

The least wish that he expressed was law to

the smallest thing that occurs. You should

'I will read them,' she promised. And then you will know more about Walton than ever I could tell you, he continued. 'I do not think there is a leafy nook, a venerable tree, a running rill, that is not mentioned in Miss Cameron's letters. You will learn every detail of the place by heart in reading them. I have not made any particular point of saving them, but I believe that you will find most of St. John's - - Newfoundland. them on the letter file.

'I will collect them,' she said, calmly, 'and read them when you are gone.'

If any vague suspicion of jealousy had ever crossed her mind, it must have died when he asked her to read those letters. She smiled even at herself, but for all that the vague. nameless fear of Adelaide Cameron remained.

When Lord Rylestone went to London, as arranged, he had first to wait upon the Earl of Barton, and then to make a few business calls. Amongst other visits, he paid one to Mr.

'I saw our beautiful young heiress the other day,' said the lawyer to him.

'How greatly she is admired! Between ourselves, I am told that the Marquis of Hedington is quite epris. It would be a fine thing for her. He is a clever man.'

'I should say that she could not do better,' returned Lord Rylestone.

'Miss Cameron is beautiful enough for wealth to be dispensed with; as she has both she must be irresistable.'

'I wish you had found her so, my lord,' said the old man, with a courtly bow.

Lord Rylestone laughed

'I am sure the Marquis of Hedington does not wish so,' he said. ' I am delighted to hear of her success. She deserves it all.'

As he went on to Miss Cameron's residence he could not help thinking of what he had heard. It would be strange if, after all, she became the Marchioness of Hedington.

'I feel sure,' he thought, 'if the late lord had taken her to London for only one season, he would never have made that will. would have seen that with her great loveliness she could have done far better than marry Lord Rylestone of Walton.'

As he entered the house he never even guessed how its mistress had prepared to receive him, how restless she had been from the time that she had heard that he was coming until he came. He knew no more of that flutter of half awakened hope and expectation than he did of the hopes of one he had never met. She had really known no rest, she had lain awake whole nights thinking what she should say to him, and how she should say it, wondering if he would be kinder to her, more interested in her, or if they would meet coldly as they had met

Alida, her maid, could not imagine 'what had come to Miss Cameron.' She had always been so easily pleased-nay, almost indifferent-about her toilet, but on this day, when a visitor was expected, nothing pleased her.

At last, to the little Parisienne's intense relief, she decided upon a dress that suited her fair queenly loveliness to perfection-a pale, soft, shining blue silk, with delicate lace at the throat and wrists.

(To be Continued.)

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