

not gained all she had plotted and

Here was Rivershall, her own, to

crepe more closely round her.

Yet the evening was inviting, and

with listless feet she wandered to the

At the commencement of the thick

rosery and thence into the shrubbery.

growth of dark-hued plants she stop-

ped; gloom of every kind oppressed

As she turned to go back to the

ing in a low key within a few feet

The mistress of Rivershall started

and paused. To whom could her mis-

tress be speaking within the secret

that might give her some little power

over the woman who held so much

shrubs and peered through the leaves.

It was a man, tall and commanding

of figure; the face was turned from

She waited, trying to catch his voice

but he spoke only once and in so low

a tone that she could not catch it.

She could see Miss Lucas' face,

nowever, and that was a study; such

assion bursting through the evident

effort to restrain it, and working on

the thin lips and gleaming in the

ambush of the shrubbery?

and frightened her.

of her.

THE PANGS OF REMORSE A COMPLICATED TANGLE.

CHAPTER XVII

Lady Melville seemed shy of visit-| panion's yoke and that it was galling ors All who called at Rivershall to her soul, were denied; showers of cards from The summer wore on-it had old and new friends fell disregarded. brought no gladness to the mistress Mr. Besant himself, who, now that of Rivershall; it had brought the

the house had been thoroughly clean- most intense anguish to Clarence Clifsed, had ventured to pay a friendly fordffi its time had been fraught with visit, was refused, and rode away as great disappointment to Lord Harblack in the face as his mourning coat. court, and to all three the coming sea-

People said that even the poor, dead- sons were without hope. and-gone squire had been more so- Without hope to Lady Melville they ciable, and grew curious to see this were for a certainty, for as she sat by lady, who, once the glass-of fashion, the fire-the drawing rooms, great now shut herself up in her newly ac- and small, were never without onequired house and played the hermit. | she thought bitterly of all she had

chen spread to the village and hence to dead sea fruit on her lips. She had

The magnates of the district wagged sinned for even. their heads and sighed piteously.

"Ah," said they, "something wrong remind her daily, hourly, of what she There, sir you may depend upon it. had done to gain it. But where was Never could understand the Melville, he, the stern, sad-hearted Claude Ainsfamily never. Always touched, in my ley, the man she loved more than she opinion"—and the wise one would tap had loved anyone? his forehead significantly.

But Lady Melville was not mad, that Miss Lucas knew, and yet she she was only low-spirited and ner- would not could not ask her, and as yous. She grew more nervous each she sat beside the fire gazing into its pitch of timidity and feeble-minded- ed if he would ever come, if the womness that Miss Lucas was obliged to an who held her in her power would accompany her on the short trips choose to fulfill her promise and bring across the great hall or up the long him. corridor, and even then my lady! As she thought this she shuddered would quicken her steps at the slight- What was love but a mockery to her est noise, and looked on either side of now?

The shallow pretense which Miss fearful, nervous fashion, and stole to Lucas had broken through on the oc- the window, very much as Lilian Melcasion of Lord Harcourt's visit was ville would have stolen, save that hers kept up now in the strictest and most; was pure grief, and this woman's revigilant manner. It was always with morse. an air and tone of respect that the It was sunset the evening closing governess spoke or listened to her in; to the proud, regretful woman mistress, and she never addressed her, the hour was typical of her mood. without the prefix of "my lady" or The days were closing in and she felt it; all the sky was red and flerce-

The greatest stickler for outward the spirit of unrest sat heavily upon respect could not have found a crevice her. in Miss Lucas' armor of behavior in With a sigh and a shudder she opwhich to lodge the arrow of com- ened the casement and stepped on plaint; yet all the while the broken- the lawn. It was the first time she spirited, fearful-hearted woman knew had been out for some days. that she had taken her quiet com-

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to persuade or convince, and once the silent watcher thought she heard her

The man listened to it all and seemed, as he looked, immovable.

Miss Lucas' voice grew louder, and Lady Melville, straining her sense of hearing to its utmost limit, caught:

"Wait, wait, I say; a thousand times, wait! Your revenge is none she murmured. "And yet that face!" the less, rather it is a hundredfold! and a violet shudder shook her whole Do wait, Melchior. Look at me, Have frame, "That face has been dead for I not waited? There is nothing to fear from her: she is a weak imbecile, halting between the grave and the woman-to be connected with? And madhouse. There is nothing to fear from him, shut up in France, and for perfectly-distinctly. I could repeat the others, you say they are, or they every word.' soon will be, where they will be powerless. All is safe here and I watch for the day when the consummation shall be attained. Look at me, Mel- murmured, "I will ask if anyone chior; have I done nothing worthy brought me in. They might have

the cruelest and most heartless. I ask bring me to!" so little. Stay till the time comes. Can you refuse?"

The laugh ran through the listener's ears like ice.

"You are eloquent, Kate, and I find She had an instinctive assurance in my hand, and my fingers itch to let them fall. I am like the execumy revenge. Look you, Kate, the for my wasted, blighted life; and you ask me to wait?"

"I do," she breathed, catching at his cloak, and turning her eyes to his downcast ones. "I do, for I will give you yet a more glorious revenge, cap will put you in their place-master here of their house and lands, sitting, if you shall will it, like an eagle on

the ruins of Rivershall!" "What?" he exclaimed. "How?" "How?" she whispered, huskily. "She is in my power, I tell you, and must do or sign what I choose. Is it from anthrax. Each brush is packed The air seemed strange to her and not easy to guess the rest? Rivershall in an individual carton and sells for she drew her shawl of pure China

> He turned his face at the woman. all ablaze with passion, and Lady Mel- tlemen.-july16,3i,th

Yet scarcely saw it, for, with a cry, she slipped to the ground and heard F. SMALLWOOD'S.—july10,tf no more.



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Miss Lucas found her there and guessed what had happened. With great care she had her carried back to the drawing room and laid upon

The window was closed and the fire

Miss Lucas herself secretly charged the servants to deny that they had seen Lady Melville leave the drawng room, much less had helped t carry her back,

Then Miss Lucas posted herself at the door and waited until her ladyship should come to.

In about an hour the fainting fit gave way and the terrified woman opened her eyes, remembered the garden and the voice and looked round expecting to find herself among the plants of the shrubbery.

Instead the luxurious walls and furniture of her own drawing room me

She rose after a while, saw that the She was talking fast, trying either fire had died out, and glanced at the

years-years. And if it had not, how could it be possible for that dreadful

of a reward? Do not leave me, do not done so, and yet they would not, dare desert me, for it you go, it is desertion not, leave me there without trying to

He murmured something and laugh- Pears' for Health and Beauty

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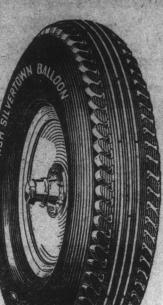
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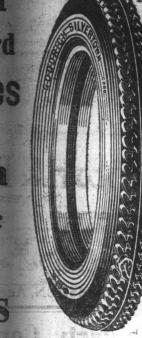
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