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### The Shadow of the Future.

CHAPTER XVI. "THERE'S MANY A SLIP-"

In the warm early evening of the day following Sydney's visit to Stillcote-Upton, Mrs. Alwyn and her nephew strolled up and down the lawn at | suit began." the Dale in conclave of a peculiarly

Each had a design, definite and very similar, at heart. Both were bent on good offices yet, Aunt Helen." having it discussed and done with before Sydney's return, which was expected in some half-hour; and their conversation hovered about the important point, like bees over a blossom, undecided whereabout to commence operations. Leonora, rather partial generally to a twilight stroll with her London cousin, kept out of the way now, obedient to a hint from her mother. But she made herself heard, if not seen. Her florid execution of "Rohert, toi que j'aime." was frightening the sparrows from their nets in the ivy though it was quite past their proper "young miss yonder, she could screech

mighty fine, an' no mistake." "Your father admires that cavatina

sing brilliantly indeed. We must get ought not to trouble your father after

norrow night; when Sydney and I-

"Well? When Sydney and you---?" "Have just such a stroll as thiswith your good leave, Aunt Helen." "Or without it, I suspect, by then,"

she answered, with a satisfied laugh. "I hope we may take it for granted without going far wrong," replied Mr. Rupert, with easy assurance, "unless you mean to change sides and give my lady fair to some one else at the last

"Which is very probable, is it not? You forget, my dear nephew, how your "Indeed, I do nothing of the sort;

nor that I am your debtor from that moment, and have not done with your This was nearing business, but each

politely gave the other the pas on the rather delicate ground approached. "Ah! a few hours may change your modest deference, Mr. Rupert." (No response to this. The young man was

cautious. It seemed she must go first.) But, by the way, before Sydney comes I was wanting to say that I hope your father will not think we have asked ment just for business purposes. I should be sorry for him to fancy that."

"Not the least likely, seeing he angabout the drawing-room windows, led unblushingly for an invitation. His pretext of just running down to resign bedtime, and her "grace pour mot, his trusteeship formally was a most grace pour toi," pierced the still air transparent excuse, Aunt Helen, for beyond the Dale to cottage tenements, satisfying himself that all was safe and evoking the doubtful compliment that sure between Sydney and me. He is spending a great deal of ardor on the whole affair, I assure you."

"Which is amiable of him," murmurso much," said Mrs. Alwyn, when the ed Mrs. Alwyn, not giving utterance to last vocal entreaty died out, exhausted, her uppermost thought that the son singing it, and thinks Leonora almost quality throughout the "affair." "So helm instantly. we must let him share our pleasure to Mr. Rupert's glance followed the the full, Rupert. I know Sydney will Least of all at such a time as I hope gyrations of a bat overhead to conceal be enchanted to see him. They have a we are coming to. I'm certain, Aunt a suspicious smile. His excellent fa- good deal in common, I think. Both Helen, Sydney and I would both think ther knew about as much of music as impressionable, enthusiastic, eh? And it unfair for you to bear the outlay They Feel the Strain Without Knew he himself of warfare. But on no ac- -er-not very businesslike, is it not that is for our glorification." count would he gainsay the major's so? Which brings me to what I was flattery. So he agreed, "Leonora does going to mention to you-for really we

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rangements. I think you and I should undertake them."

"Most willingly, Aunt Helen." "You won't consider me premature

I trust?"

"Not the least likely." "Then I had been considering, tha as possibly you will not wish for a

very long engagement-" "A month. Not a day more. A fellow feels unsettled with-with that sort of thing" (and others unnamable—unpaid bills, to wit) "hanging over him. must make Sydney look at it in the same light, and fix the middle of July." "Then the middle of July will be a

very expensive time to me, Rupert." Mr. Villiers barely restrained chuckle. Of all moves on the board, this was just the most advantageous for him that Mrs. Alwyn could have made. Now he thanked his stars he had got the cue to cutting his difficulties

"A very expensive time!" he repeat ed, gravely. "Ah! I suppose so. You ladies won't be contented, I presume, unless you have the ceremony in grand style.

"Grand! Oh, dear, no! But becomngly. And you have no idea how expenses run up at such a time."

"Ah! I haven't a doubt of it," Rupert acquiesced. "I've been thinking of pretty much the same sort of thing myself. You see, when a fellow gets married he has to clear up all round, as it were, and confoundedly awkward he finds it sometimes."

"I quite believe it." "I'm glad you do. The pater, you see hasn't a notion of how much is wanted for this sort of thing; though"-with a twinge of compunction-"he means to be liberal, of course. But figures run

"They do indeed, Rupert." "And house-furnishing makes off with ten times more than a man with my short income can get together. And

'Unquestionably, Rupert. But I am sure if this is put in the proper light to Sydney she will see that it is her

duty her delightful duty, to assist with what you name.' "Oh, you think she won't object to

"Certainly not-if explained as should take care to explain it. You would probably have to restrain her being too free-handed. But everything, with her-forgive me the expressionpeculiar disposition, depends on how the matter is put before her."

"Then, my dear aunt, to be perfectly candid, will you undertake to see if she has any objection to leaving a-athousand or so-a couple, perhaps, just loose, so as to start us off respectably, and leave us a margin for-well, things we may not have thought of, you understand? 'Tisn't wise to have to feel hampered for a five-pound note the first year one is married."

"Nor at any other time, Rupert!" A gentle reminder, this, that other interests were on the carpet besides on the final D; "he remembered Grisi had not been too lavish of the same his own. Mr. Villiers answered the

"Especially, as you see, my income is on the verge of being lessened." "Exactly so. I should think if Syd- that they can drive this way without ney asked you to manipulate all her feeling any strain. They may not first quarter's income over the business, that wouldn't leave you much to the bad, would it?"

an appreciable trifle to the good. Ru- necessarily mean slow driving, just a pert was thoughtful beyond his sex. pace which I can easily maintain) save space. What an excellent husband he would make poor Sydney! Mrs. Alwyn felt quite a glow of regard for him, pleasant fellow that he was! She took his arm affectionately, with "That would do! That would do"-"ample," she was on the point of saying, but substituted, "as I should contrive it." There was nomeed to arm Rupert with the notion that he was acting very liberally. She preferred the obligation to rest with her. So she concluded, "And I will arrange that other point, Rupert, and take the pains to settle it speedily, as

"Thanks, very much." It took a load off his mind, and he could add, with quite a cool air, "Of course you see why it is so desirable?"

"Perfectly." ("Hang it, I hope not!" hought the gentleman.) "And now, if we are to dine at eight, I think it time we went in-doors, Rupert."

He took off his straw hat with "Then au revoir, mamma!"—and profoundly contented with the compact just concluded, went gayly into the house, up to his own room three steps at a time, singing "Love in her eyes sits playing" so lustily over his quarter of an hour's dressing that the persecuted sparrows outside had no chance of beauty sleep till he had descended to the drawing-room in that evening garb which, if he might believe he testimony of many mirrors, invested him with

"Sydney not come!" he said, impatintly, on entering, and Leonora, the one occupant of the apartment, replied, rather sareastically—for though all this exaltation of Sydney was needful neans to a desirable end, she was getthoroughly tired of it:

"No, actually not here yet, poor, poor tupert. So you must wait a little long n before you can verify the charm ditty you have been waking up schoes with so melodiously." (To be continued)

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a great nerve machine. He me at all. drives because it

a trip of any length leaves him ner-

I could not understand why he felt

he drives himself.

It is a point of honor with him to a light one, in traffic. Instead of go- amount of power. ing with the rank and file, he weaves in and out, constantly jockeying for women. Is it worth it in life any position; if he is held up anywhere by a railroad train or a drawbridge he strains constantly at the leash of the interruption. And this is not

only when he is in a hurry but all the driving a nervous strain? I don't. The five, or at the very most ten miles an hour that he gains in this strength. way are taken right out of his own nerves, to say nothing of the nerves

of anyone who drives with him. Is it worth it? Are those extra five miles that represent the difference between comfortable, relaxed, calm, driving, and and plenty of it used. Add a pinch of tense, concentrated, nervous driving cornstarch also. extremely cogent reason for getting

somewhere in a hurry?

Personally I don't think that they are. I know many people will claim consciously feel the strain and yet subconsciously be experiencing it. In my own case I know that an hour's On the contrary, it would leave her unhurried driving (and that doesn't

Does it tire you tires me less than a few minutes to drive an auto- pushing past everyone. Several times I have foolishly tried keeping up with heavier cars and found that bunch of nerves which centres just over the who regards it as solar plexus bound up in knots in a few minutes. Whereas two or three strain to drive a hours leisurely driving hardly tired

Other people will say they enjoy is the easiest driving in this tense concentrated way to get to way. Very likely. Just as many of places, but he us enjoy other forms of nerve stimudoes not espec- lation that are bad for us. ially enjoy it and Many People Live at the Five-Miles-

More-an-Hour Rate.

so strongly on the subject until I the time at this five-miles-more-androve with him and then I fully un- hour rate. And that extra five miles an hour takes more out of them than He doesn't just drive the machine, the 25 or 30 miles an hour to which it is added. This is the law of energy. It takes a certain amount of horse-power to make a motor boat go eight or ten miles an hour, for every pass all but the highest powered cars mile beyond that you gain you must on the road, although his own car is put in an entirely disproportionate

And it is the same with men and more than in auto driving? I doubt it. That is unless one has some very urgent reason for getting something done in a hurry and, having counted the cost, is willing to pay the price. But one should realize the price and should realize that one cannot keep on paying it without putting a mertgage on one's future health and

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For serving cold beverages on the summer porch, use paper cups in a wire frame such as is used for sterilizing infants' bottles.

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