

Love That Knew No Bounds.

CHAPTER VIII.

The earl, schooled to phlegmatic calm by serving in a permanent government post under half a dozen different administrations, took the approaching reception very coolly, bu ciated the complexities of the situation, and were most actively on the alert to prevent the slightest flaw in

As four o'clock approached peep at her visiting list. "Now, my dears, there's the first ring. Do, pray put plenty of spirit into the nex three hours, and as we've undertaken this 'thing' let it be a success!"

freight to the departure of the last a meeting that well earned Oakleigh Place a character for hospitality, anits guests.

For a long hour the roll of wheel yellow-bodied landeau of the Erpinghams, their many-quartered shield upon its doors to the roughest of country round abouts, did gayly robed figures debouch under the wide north portico A radius of twenty miles supplied Squires, squiresses squireens, professional people few and well selected, parsons innumer curates-bu was drawn. My lady his bankers, had ventured once upon a time to lift his eyes to Leonora Villiers, drove by the Comynghams' gate as Mrs. Alwyn turned in at the same and this practical exposition of her superiority made her pulses beat all exultant, revived the glories of her Guyswick reign, and by a hundred delight. If Leonora- Ah! on the failed not to note, eyes and lips were questioning who she was the whole afternoon through.

Sydney, willingly released by Mrs. Alwyn, found her way with Mary Dacie among the wide south stretch of flower-parterres, and through the conservatories, fragrant with her graceful young figure so perfectly at ease in, perhaps, the simplest whom he was recalling Madras ex-

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toilet present, that a battery of ad miring, approving glances followed wherever she went, to her companon's excessive satisfaction. clare, mother, her eyes were as blue as sapphires!" Mary Dacie reported at home. "I do wish you could have seen her! People kept wanting to wile her away from me, but the foolish child wouldn't leave me once!")

The rector of St. Clair's was standing at the edge of Lady Comyngham's circle; he had just made his bows apologizing for having brought with him a friend, a guest of two days only, whom the countess had mos cordially welcomed. Now both me eaned on the gray terrace-wall watching the moving, many-colored

"A sight worth looking at," said the stranger, "and people, too. Who are those?" as a pair of figures ap proached across the grass. "A lady in a blue gown, who smiles as if sh didn't know what ill-temper meant and one in white, much younger, un commonly good-looking, but of tot ally different mettle."

The rector laughed as he followe his friend's glance.

"Much travelling sharpens one" skill in observation, I suppose, Dray ton," he said, "for you are right abou those two. The elder is our doctor's not been stolen away long before now. The other-well, I call her child, but she's that no longer, though she brings me her Latin exercise wice a week still—she's a young lady now, I suppose, and, I confess marvellous favorite of mine. I I'm not mistaken, there's stay and spirit in her for more than the likely possibilities of life."

"Well, she's out of the way of un likely ones down here," returned Mr Drayton (which showed him less philosopher than observer); "but i looks make one's fortune she ough to secure a good one"

"Then we'll wish her a safer road o prosperity," said the rector, hal ocose, half grave, "for her step oup at present, though she is years older, and, most people say, far hand

"And is this last beauty present?" "Come this way, and I'll introduce

And moving on a few yards, the rector made known to Mrs. Alwyr and Miss Villiers.

"Mr. Richard Drayton, an old pu pil of mine, though" with a gleam o sedate mischief-"no credit to me." And then he had to break off hi friendly slanders, to shake hands and talk the regulation two minutes with the earl.

"Quite unfair of Mr. Vaughan, I protest, to take away your reputation Fifty-first, whose band was delighting the company, an old comrade, with

dur demands explanation."

"Which is easy enough, luckily, nerely means that, having head for

"Abroad? Oh, really!" accounts," thought the lady, "for your just a little unkempt, un-English look, sir.") "And may I ask in what quarter of the world you have been?" "South America. Chiefly Brazil."

"Most interesting. I am sure the superb trees and plants here make equator. Leonora, dear, Mr. Drayton has been actually fortune-telling, as he says, in the land of humminghirds!

Leonora had taken the gentleman's introduction with rather too obvious indifference. A badly clad, middleaged man was scarcely a desirable cavalier even for a few minutes Now, however, her mother's tone warned her to be gracious. So she donned an ever-ready smile, of which an inexhaustible stock as even and

expressive as a row of steel buttons was always in reserve, and repeated, "In the land of humming-birds How most sweet! And did you find

"Find-er-oh, I see! The fortune Not I!" Leonora's gleam of liveliness died out instantly. "No, I camback after fifteen years, rich in ex perience, but very little else. Luck ily, a nest was provided for me here in the old country, or I might have had to go on knocking about to th

"A nest? You mean a home?" ask ed Mrs. Alwyn, while Leonora yawn ed behind her sunshade.

"Exactly so. A little property dow in Dorsetshire. Nothing grand, bu more than I ever expected from a old uncle. At a place called Gran fylde. Do you know it?"

A shadow of some disturbanpassed over the lady's countenance but she hastened to answer,

"Not the least. I never was nea such a place that I'm aware of. You ntend to live there?"

"Perhaps or sell it. I've com lown to consult my old tutor. He' always ready to help his men throug! any problem. There never was kinder, wiser head than Rober Vaughan's."

"Undoubtedly. Just so," murmure Mrs. Alwyn; but her attention was al astray. The next moment she rose and swept down all a-sparkle in sat in and jet, on a gentleman just pass

"Oh, Mr. Duvesne, can you tell u is that exquisite tree yonder a Cryp tomeria japonica? You don't know Oh, but you can see by the little cones. My daughter does admire so. I have been wanting her to go down and examine it closely, but my foot is a trifle sprained, and I have to

"Then will Miss Villiers go botan izing with me?" said the handsom young divine, and with a satisfied blush, and a shake of her delicate grenadine plumage, the young lady stepped daintily off beside him, over the complete stretch of lawn, vastly

envied by the female observers. Afraid of exhibiting her triumph in this manoeuver by too long gazing, Mrs. Alwyn turned to swell the group of matrons about Lady Avena Massy's chair, thinking placidly, "One is best quietly rid of that Mr. Drayton" (an opinion she lived to repent), while this gentleman, deserted, after watching what he privately dubbed "that extraordinarily elegant pinkand-white piece of empty-headedness," took a couple of steps backward, and was within an ace of knocking Mary Dacie down the ter

"Ten thousand pardons!" he exclaimed, hat in hand. "What a dolt I was not to look where I was going! do hope you'll forgive me!"

"Quite easily," replied Mary Dacie her balance restored. umor never ruffled: "all the

And Mr. Vaughan joining them hey all fell talking together, and

"Now, don't say that, Miss Dacie. begged Richard Drayton. "It makes

me feel what a selfish brute I am for enjoying myself, when an old chum of my young days is in a most confounded plight. I've been doggedly keeping the notion at arm's length the afternoon. Now you've brought it to the front again. Our friend here," signifying Mr. Vaughan,

"knows all about it. It's one of his

old Greek class, like me." and wherefore of such things."

"Helpless! hopeless!" said Sydney, softly, to Mr. Drayton-a very tender womanly pity darkening her eyes and trembling upon her parted lips. "Is your friend's troubles so very heavy? Can not any one ease him or bear i for him?"

were ten years younger I'd fall in 9367. - A COMFORTABLE HOUSE love with this girl!" he said to himself; but aloud, "No, I'm afraid even time can't mend this matter. As he used to say in our old school-days. 'He's in a muddle now, and no mistake!' But we need not worry you

with the tale. Miss Alwyn, for you

can not help him any more than our-

Richard Drayton looked kindly

down on the young questioner. "If I

selves." "I wish I could," she repeated, wistfully. And-what-what chord of memory had been touched? The band was playing "Auld Lang Syne," her father's old song that he never wearied of having her sing to him in the twilight; but it was not that, or not altogether-rather a something very dim, a sound out of a long, long ago past, a ghost of some pain that flitted by and made her turn aside to hide the wave of inexplicable sadness passing over her. The next moment it had to be dispersed. Un came Ma

"Now, Miss Sydney, I'm commis sioned to fetch you. Miss Dacie, ar you ready? Mrs. Alwyn is leaving, and, with hand-shakings and farewells, they separated-Richard Drayon muttering as they left

ior Villiers

"Alwyn, Alwyn! I know I've seen that name somewhere lately. Where

A tide of adieus followed. In another hour Lady Comyngham was resting from her labors with.

"What a blessed relief that the thing is over! I do trust we've con tented everyone (2) - And the memor able day was done.

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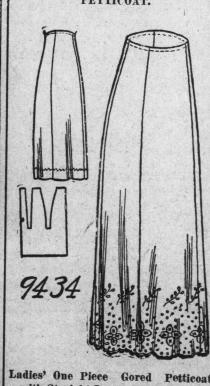
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