

The Mystery of Rutledge Hall "The Cloud With a Silver Lining"

CHAPTER III.

"'There was deep, calm shade in the "Are you not going to congratulate cloister. ne. Dolly?" Sidney forced herself to Though the burning sun was high But no peace there to her despair. ask at last. But ever a mournful cry. "To marry Frank Greville!" Dolly said unsteadily, without heeding the "'Ah, me, my love, that cloudless love Not less sweet for its bitter stain ! Is it fair that a love so pleasant prove question. "Oh, Sidney, you are jesting-are you not?" Only to end in pain? "Your news has taken Dolly so "'There was hollow roll of---much by surprise that she cannot find Sidney!" Dolly broke off suddenly her congratulations, Sidney," said. with a little excited cry. Stephen Daunt, gently-so gently that Stephen glanced over in some sur the very gentleness of his voice made prise at the two girls, and saw that Miss Arnold shiver. "But you know, Dolly had caught Sidney's hand as dear, do you not, that no one can she was turning over the music-page, wish you all happiness more truly and and was looking at it eagerly, while arnestly than we do " Sidney's face was as white and color "Yes;" Sidney answered softly; but less as that of a little marble statuetshe did not look at him as she spoke. te behind her: but she was smiling. 'Dolly, won't you speak to me? Won't "Sidney, oh, Sidney, what does you say that you are glad?" mean?" Dolly said, eagerly and ex-"How can I say it when it would citedly, her blue eyes full of quese a falsehood?" the girl said pastioning and delight. "Does it meanionately. "I am not glad, Sidney!" oh, Stephen!" "Then I must be content with your " The young man had joined them congratulations," Sidney said, turnnow, and saw what had startled his ing to Stephen, and speaking with a sister. On the fourth finger of Sidproud pained calmness. "I ought to ney's left hand was a thick gold ring have offered you mine before now, set with three brilliants. she added. "I ought to have told you There was a minute's silence; the that your wishes for my happiness are delight was fading slowly from Dolnot-for they could not be-truer or ly's blue eyes, and a look of incredumore earnest than mine for yours, place. lity and sorrow came in its

orchead with a little laugh. "I have made a stupid mistake," she said tremulously. "I thought-I un-You must forgive my too early congratulations, Stephen," she added more firmly. "When you want them, they will be as sincere as "Stephen," Dolly whispered, as they lrove homeward together-and,) as

and pushed back her hair from he

she spoke, the girl kept her eyes steadily averted from her brother's face, for, without looking, she could see the pain there-"what made Sidney do it, I wonder? She is not happy: no one could look into her face and think she was happy." "I always thought she cared for Greville, Dolly." Dolly shook her bright head em-

phatically. 'She liked him, but not in that way, Stephen!" she added, after a little

"What, dear?" "Do you know. I think Sidney looks as if she had been forced into something against her will-frightened into it, as it were?"

pause.

"Your fancy, Dolly," he answered, sadly. "If it is not for love of Frank that she has engaged herself to him, why should she have done so?"

Ah why indeed? Many months of doubt, of suffering, of anguish, had to be passed through before that ques tion was answered.

CHAPTER IV.

Where is the meet to-day, Sidney "In the three-acre field, papa." "There is always a pretty meet there." Dr. Arnold said, cheerfully "I hope you will have a pleasant ride my dear."

"Thank you, papa. It is sure to be full meet, you know, for Mr. Rutledge and his wife have returned home, and we shall all be curious t

have a glimpse of the bride." "So they have come back." Dr. Arold said. "I did not know. I wish Stephen Daunt would come to his enses and return home also; they miss him awfully at Lambswold." Sidney's little fingers, which had been fastening a little knot of violets in the button-hole of her habit, were rather awkward and unsteady apparently, for the operation took a long time to perform. Dr. Arnold, who had been reading his letters in the

study, finished their perusal and b

"I wish you would ride with us

gan to examine his visiting-list.

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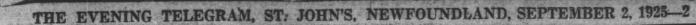
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Stephen's face was set and stern. "Thank you, Sidney," he responded. Sidney was very pale; but she was gently, taking the little unsteady still smiling, a strange fixed smile hand-Sidney could steady her voice, which moved her lips but did not but not the little trembling fingers; reach her eyes, which were down-"I know that, dear. But why do you cast and fixed upon her ring. congratulate me now? Is there any "I meant to tell you," she said,

special reason?" slowly "But there-there has been "Is there not?" she said, suddenly, no opportunity, and"-with a little raising her eyes to his. "Are you not laugh-"my engagement is only a few engaged also? Ah, believe me, I hope hours old. Let me tell you now, Dolyou will be happy! And-and-she ly-I meant that you should hear it is so beautiful that she cannot but be first from myself. I have promised good." to marry Frank Greville in the

"Do you mean Miss Neil?" he askspring." "Frank Greville!" Dolly echoed, with an irrepressible accent of pain in her bright voice. "Frank Gremine; for she is engaged to him, you ville!" know not to me."

Sidney tried to speak again; but "To Mr. Rutledge?" the words died away upon her lips.

What had she done, she wondered For a moment the handsome, kindly be a man careful, almost mean, in his vaguely, to bring that look of incredu- face bending over Sidney faded from expenditure, not spending a third of right ankle. He heard the shouts of lous pain into Dolly's bright blue eyes before her, the room whirled round his income. to chase the pretty pink color from, and round, there was a strange sing- It was an old attachment, people he was all right, and asked them to her cheek

ly loosed her hand, and it fell heav- again; but some furious words of same time as Squire Rutledge's en- was found that the broken rope was ily upon the keys of the piano, making Frank Greville's seemed to ring again gagement to Miss Nell, the beautiful twenty feet too short. a long discordant sound which seem- and again through her brain. He had governess at Lambswold, who had There was nothing to do but seek ed to shiver through the silent room. threatened to- She lifted her hand taken all hearts by storm on her ar- the aid of the guides in the valley



The roped party reached the sum-Sidney said, wistfully. day, papa," mit safely in fine weather, but during camp fatigued, declaring that they when she had secured the violets. the descent the wind changed sud- had lost their way in the fog, and had "I wish I could, dear; but it is imdenly, and in the thick fog that fol- failed to find the path to the valley. possible. Eliot's adsence doubles my lowed the Alpinists lost their way. work just now, you know. Frank is Baud, who was leading carefully and a much better escort for you, Sidney; testing the snow before him, suddenly two Alpinists, after a rest, set out Lausanne. and I don't think he will object to called a halt as his ice axe had sunk again and managed to reach the val-

to its "hilt' in the snow.

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going well and the search party was

expected, a new disaster happened.

The two Alpinists who had been sent

in search of aid returned to the

fny adsence!" and called to the women next to him with the aid of lanterns. Sidney smiled rather sadly and absently. Frank was the most attentive to come closer in order to give him of fiances, as all Ashford said when more rope, as he intended to jump speaking of the engagement, which across the crevasse.

had caused no surprise in the town. Into Space.

Frank Greville, Lawyer Greville's While the woman was approaching only son, was a very eligible party; the snow bridge collapsed and Baud ed, with a slight smile. "She is very he was handsome, a trifle weak-mind- fell into space, the taut rope snapping beautiful, and I dare say very good; ed perhaps, and somewhat of a dandy; under his weight, and the woman was but that is Rutledge's business, not but his father was a wealthy man, through another snow bridge lower thrown on the path. Baud passed whose profession was a lucrative one, down, and finally landed with a and who had been eminently success- smash, on a deep bed of snow 150 feet

ful in it, and he was also known to below, which happily held him. Baud found that he was not serious ly injured, but felt a sharp pain in the his comrades, and shouted back that

ing noise in her ears-but for a mo- said, speaking of the engagement, lower the rope and help him out. Fis In the silence which followed, Dol- ment only. The next she was calm which had been made public at the companions unwound the rope from their waists and lowered it, when it

rival at Ashford some few months he- below, and two of the Alpinish set fore; and, while it took no one by out on the difficult journey in the for, while the woman and another climber surprise, the second engagement caus- remained on the spot to talk to and ed very general comment. Squire cheer up the victim, who, however, Rutledge had been such a confirmed took the matter lightly.

old bachelor that the first feeling was incredulity, and then derision, for the

In a short time Baud began singsquire was fully thirty years older ing, and his two comrades above than the bride-elect, and Miss Neil's joined in the chorus, hoping to keep name had been coupled with Stephen up the spirits of the victim. At this point, when everything seemed to be Daunt's almost ever since her arriv-

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PLUNGES 150 FEET DOWN A CREVASSE. Charles Baud, an engineer of Lau

ankle and was partly frozen. Blankets were wound around him, and he was placed in a sack and then dragged over the glacier to the Diablerets Baud was not informed of this unhut, where the party passed the night. foreseen and serious situation. The Next day the five Alpinists reached Baud, except for a broken ankle, ley. A strong party of guides mounted

He knew he was above a crevasse, and rescued Baud during the night was little the worse for his experi- McMURDO & CO., LTD., Druggists, ence

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