PROGRESS, SATURDAY, JUNE 22 1901

On the Eve of St. Valentine.

IN TWO INSTALMENTS-PART II.

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CHAPTER I. I'll have the fair one !' said Lady Wake-man, 'I can't bear dark children.'

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man, 'I can't bear dark children.' A sigh escaped the Rev. Joseph Leek. He had hoped her ladyship might adopt both, the babies being twins. He had six boys of his own to provide for out of his slender income, and he was by no means anxious to take charge of his sister's child, though he would have taken the two had not Lady Wakeman come to his relief with her off of adopting one. 'Had you fixed on the fair one for your-selt ?' abe asked.

selt ?' she asked. 'Oh, no ! It doesn't make any difference

Self?' she asked.
'Oh, no! It doesn't make any difference to me which it is. I only hope they will grow up good girls. But my poor sister was always thoughtless and headstrong and her husband was a bad one all round.'
'A nice lookont, upon my word !' said her ladyship, laughing. 'But we'll dety heredity, you and I. and see which can turn out the best specimen of womanbood. Who was Mr. de Windt ?'
The vicar shock his mournfully.
'I haven't a notion. When Elspath married him, he was a German count. Six months later he was glad to play second cornet in a tourth rate orchestra. A month before he died he had taken up scene painting at soma low theatre.
'I don't even know his nationali y, except that he was certainly not English. His maners were all ight, and his morals were all wrong; but he msde a tolerable

were all wrong; but he made a tolerable husbard to my poor sister. and she simply adored him I believe his sudden death adored him I believe his sudden death helped to kill her.' 'Poor soul! Then you can't even leel

sure the man's name was really de Windt P'

'Not in the least, Lady Wakeman.'

'Good ! I shill take ny twin abroad for a year or two, and bring her back as Marie Wakeman, a distant cousin of my late husband's. The children need not know

husband's. The children need not know they are related unless anything happens to make it necessary to tell them.' 'Very well,' agreed Mr. Leek, 'I don't see it can make any difference; and it will prevent possible jealousy as they grow up. Elspeth might resent knowing that her sister is better off than herself.'

Elspeth might resent knowing that her sister is better off than herself." Possibly. Ask your wife to provide Marie with all necessaries, will you? Here is a cheque for twenty pounds. Keep the surplus tor the other child—I dareasy it Metropole, this day week. 1211 have and res. Leck travelled to town tor the day, taking with them the blue eyed, tair-hared Marie. And a day or two after that,they left their old home in Hampsbire, tor a living in Buckinghamsbire, which they owed to Lady Wakeman's kindness. Here nobody knew that baby Elspeth had a twin sister, or that their tather had been bandsome camp Indeed, that fact was known to very few people at all, for Mr. Leek had not cared to talk of bis sister and her husband. It is all vory well to make up one's mind to dety hereditary tendencies, but it deen to talk of bis sister and her husband. It is all vory well to make up one's mind to dety hereditary tendencies, but it deen park all word well to make up one's mind to dety hereditary tendencies, but it deen to talk of bis sister and her husband's generous allowance of more allowance of accomplication of the source of the country-mind to dety hereditary tendencies, but it deen to all word source of a complication of the source and the source and the source of the source

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account the Rev. Joseph heartily congrat account the key. Joseph nearthy congrat ulated his old friend. Elspeth did not improve with years, except in the matter of looks. She was so winsome a maid by the time she had reached her sixteenth birthday

she had reached her sixteenth birthday that three out of her six cousins were openly in love with her. She scouted the all, telling them they ought to have been girls, for they hadn't an onnce of manhood among tham. Ste had given up her childish trick of 'perverting the truth,' as she called it. On one occasion her uncle had hit upon the lucky experiment of telling her that she was a coward, explaining that the tell-ing of talsehoods is a sure sign of cow-ardice.

ardice. From that moment a more truthful girl than Elspeth de Windt could not have been found in the United Kingdom. One other good quality she possessed besides couraged, and that was industry. She took to work of all kinds as instinc-tively as a duck takes to swimming, and, which hands and brain were lequimately while hands and brain were legitimately employed in useful service, she was as harmless as one of her immaculate boy Cousins. On her eighteenth birthday she was per

mitted to give a garden party to ber small circle of acquaintances- of friends she had none, as she counted friendship. Her uncle and aunt's present on the

Her uncle and aunt's present on the occasion was a new frock, which was not sent home until the morning of the birthday, and which proved then to be so badly made that Elspeth flew into a passion, and vowed she would make her own dresses in tuure. Her aunt commended so worthy a re solution, little thinking what would come

solution, little thinking what would come of her approval. O_A the following day Miss de Windt walked into Rockles, the nearest town, returning some three hours later with the cool announcement that she had arranged with Madame Robier, the leading dress-maker of Rockles, to become one of her indoor 'hands.'

indoor 'hands.' 'I thought I had better be indoors, you know, and, because the days are getting short, and you have often said I am not to be on the prowl alone after dusk.' Mrs. Leek was struck dumb for the time

Mrs. Leek was struck dumb for the time being. Elspeth had been so quiet of late that she had foolishly imagued the girl had made up her mind to attend more to the conventionalities of life in tuture. The Rev. Joseph rubbed his hands with glee when he heard of this new escapade. 'Leave her alone, my dear; let her be,' he said to his wite. 'She'll do now-you mark my words. I have for some time past had a growing suspicion that all her bits of naughtiness have he d their origin in nothing more evil than an unusual supply of energy.

This silenced Mrs. Leek; but, not hav-it is all very well to mike up one's mind to dety hereditary tendencies, but it does not always prove easy of accomplish-ment. By the time Elspeth de Windt was sev.

'Yes; like myseli?' 'What sort of possibilities-good or equently are. Madame Robier's assistants were ther Madame Robier's assistants were there to a girl, E:speth being far and away the most noticeable of them in her self design-ed costume of Night. A full, plainly made dress of black gauze, with dead white stars scattered over it; black gloves, stockings, and shoes. The bodice was cut square, with short sleeves, allowing glimpses of white arms to be visible above the long gloves. Round her neck was a band of black velvet, and affixed to it a brooch of paste brilliants, forming a crescent moon. Similar adornments were in her black hair, and round her waist, and there was one on each shoe. "Evil, chiefly. How superbly you dance! ¹Evil. chieff. How superbly you d where did you graduste?' ¹In the same school as yourself.' ¹Down below?' ⁰Of course.' They both laughed a little. Then be asked another question— ¹Is your neck painted?' ¹Does it look so?' ¹It is very white. Yes or no?' ¹Yes.' 'Yes.' "Yes." "I don't believe you. I shall have to find out myself before the evening is over, to punish you for that falsehood." "Proscrpine is permitted, surely, to tell an occsional fib?"

one on each shoe. Her face was painted white and pow-ered to complete the effect, which aided by her great black eyes and the straight black brows above, was sufficiently weird to look 'Not to Plu:o.' 'Do wives always tell their husbands the a trifle uncanny. truth ?

eldritch or demon.' 'I feel flattered. And you?' 'I am all demon; there is no doubt

a triffe uncanny. Her programme was filling rapidly, when a stranger was presented to her. A tall, slight, distinguished-looking man, with a face almost as white as her own, dressed entirely in black, a cavalier's cape concealing what there might possibly have been of white in the shape of collar and tie, though even these were missing, as Eleoth found Later. 'I am all demon; there is no doubt about me.' 'You look rather Mephistophelian.' 'Oh! Mephisto is altogether a too earth-ly and respectable character for me to play. I am something more out of the common, I assure you.' 'Thank you for th; warning ' 'It was not in:ended as a warning.

and he, though even these were missing, as Elspeth found later. "Goddess of Night, permit me to make the Prince of Midnight known to you!" said the master of ceremonies, im nediately passing on to perform similar good offices tor others.

It was an understood thing that every-body was to be known for the time being only as the character or thing he or she was supposed to represent.

"It was not incoded as a warning. There is enough wickedness in you to re-spond to the evil in mysell. Is it not so?" Their eyes met, and for an instant Els-peth held her breath. She had fancied he was jesting, but he certainly looked the reverse of saintly at thet more at Midnight bowed low, his eyes—black as Elspeth's own—fixed boldly on her face with the assurance of a man who felt him-

with the assurance of a man who felt him-self in company where there was no need to be on his guard. His upward-curling moustache and somewhat pointed chin gave him a Mep-nistophelian look, which took Elspeth's fancy at once, and aroused in her the pass-ing whim to meet this man on his own ground, whatever that might prove to be --not too exalted a level, she felt sure. fair consort.'

CHAPTER II.

done so. Bat she did not wish to spoil her fun; and he fancinated her in a way, and infect ed her with a spirit of diablerie which tempted her to go through the evening, as her co-workers a: Madame Robiers would He was by no means slow in giving ex pression to his discontent in finding her programme so plentifully covered with certainly do. Not one of them would have been troub-led with scruples as to encouraging this

hieroglyphics. 'I shall rub out some of them,' he said 'i shall rub out some of them.' he said coolly, suiting the action to the word. 'I am convin.ed you dance well. Those feet couldn't help doing so.' A lingering glance at the satin shoes and black clad ankles emphasized this re-

anybody eles is. So she yielded to the strong temptaiton to do what she not only knew to be wrong mark. Espeth opened her fan-a study of

night, with a white crescent moon and white stars-and looked at him over the top of it.

"You don't belong to Rocklea,' she ob served. 'I wonder who you are and where

served. 'I wonder who you are and where you come from ?' 'My name is Jones, and I hail from Lon-don,' was the prompt reply, a slight smile giving ner a glance of white, sbining 'eeth behind the firm lips. 'What is your name?' 'Proscrpine, of course !' 'Then I'll be Pluto for tonight ! Come,

"But I am engaged for it to St. Valen-tine bimself. I shall not disappoint him." "Nonsense! Come, sweetheart !"

'Pluto to his wife.' was the cool retort.

"I Proserpine was not Piuto's sweetheart, che ought to have been." Elspeth laughed and sailed away from

bin in the arms of a very hands Valentine. 'A wicked little witch, if I am any judge.

muttered the man thus left to himself. She 'She'll serve to amuse me for an hour or two. I must find out who and what she is, and then I shall know how far

selves.

and his lips on hers. Then, with a laugh, he kissed her warm

soit, throat beneath the velvet band. 'I knew it was not painted,' he murmur

Prosperpine ' She had no choice but to obey.

Sue had only been acting the part But for what purpose? At Madame Robier's door she held out ar band, saying-'Thank you for coming with me. Good-He took the hand, and raised it to his "You have not finished with me yet. Go and change your dress, and I will get you a cab Can I look out a train for you?" "No. I have only to go a couple of

"Very good. Don't try and give me the slip. I promise 1'll not follow you, or make any attempt to find out who you are. You will trust me?" 'Yes.'

'Yes.' Sae vanished into the dimly-lit passage, Sae vanished into the dimly-lit passage, which, Sne vanished into the dimly-lit passage, and he went off in search of a cab, which drove up as she re-appeared in the door-way, soberly clad in a navy llue coat and skirt, and a toque to match. He lingered a moment when he had helped her into the cab. 'Just one question. Your name is not White P'

'Perhaps not-ordinary human wives; but you are not human, you are either

White P' 'No. Good-bye and thank you so much.' 'Au revoir ! It shall not be good-bye, though I vow I'll keep my word. But I teel we shall meet again some day. Don't

torget me." 'I shall try to.' 'You won't succeed.' He bent his face to hers, but she shrank

He bent his face to hers, but sue survey back. 'Please not !' 'Forgive me- for this, and for all! By Heaven, we must meet again ! It is tor-ture to part from you. I love you; and, sooner or later, my love will find you. Had he spoken truth ? His words rang in her ears and echoed her heart as ane covered her face with

certainly looked the reverse of saintly at that monest. After their second waltz, he drew her away behind a bank of paims and other greenery, and kissed her torehead, saying again in his cool way— 'Pluto to his wite. You please me well fair concert? In her heart as she covered her face with her hands, ashamed, even in the darkness, to remember how low she had tallen that

evening. 'What an awful lot of wickedness there fair consort.' Should she repulse him ? Had the night been at an end instead of still so young, she would assuredly have "What an awini lot of wickedness there must be in me ? she thought despairingly. 'But I feel somehow as though he under-stood. Shall I ever see him again? Oh, I hope—I hope I shall !' Then, with a sort of shock, she remem-bered her aunt, and blamed herselt afresh to having how hearthms convert to the

for having been heartless enough to for-get even for a moment that she was ill.

CHAPTER III.

Mrs. Leek had a sharp attack of pneu-monis, through which her niece attended her with more zeal than skill. So lacking did Elepeth find herself in the useful art of nursing, that she made up her mind to "cut the dreasmaking," and enter at some hospital for the necessary training audacious stranger. 'I may never see bim again,' she said to herselt, 'and he can't find out who I am. It's against the rules for anyone to be told who training. She could make her own dresses now,

to do what she not only knew to be wrong but felt to be an insult to her sell-respect. At the end of their third waltz, she al-lowed him to give her champagne, another step in the wrong direction, for she was not used to taking anything, and it quickly went to her head. They were alone in a nook he had con-trived by moving a large screen, which now effictually hid their little table and them-selves. She could make her own dresses now, after a tashion; at any rate, she had learn-ed enough to be able to put to rights any dressmaker she might, in iuture, employ— and that was all she desired. But she kept her new resolve to herself until such time as her aunt should be well enough to dispense with her services. When, at length, tast happy day ar-rlved, it was destined to close the reverse of happily for all at the vicarage. Elspeth was sitting with Mrs. Lisek, after lunch, industriously darning socks for her uncle and cousins, and only awaiting the return of the former from a batch of chris-

In an instant his arms were about her, return of the former from a batch of chris-tenings he had on hand, to moo: the subject 'Lie still against my heart, sweet

of her proposed new departure. The vicar did not get home until five o'clock, and then he brought with him a countenance so serious and perturbed that Elspeth guessed at once what had hap-pened; he had heard of her behaviour at Closing her eyes in semi costasy, semi-consciousness, she leant agginst him while he kissed her at will, on lace, and

the fancy dress ball. She had known it would come sooner or neck and arms. But the effect of the champagne she had later; but she had hoped to get away first, shrinking curiously from the look of pain and disappointment which she telt would wallowed did not last long She soon made a slight effort to free her He only clasped her closer, whispering be visible on the two faces she loved in

I can go with her.' He asked for the desired information of the master of ceremonies. 'I known it's against the rules, but I am sure I have met her before, and yet she

How Cr Col. D. C

Medler min time New M gregate at C naturally ffe early life. and the Cliff thrilling ex The reminise

comment up Well, said happened. Judge McC by the India -'83 or '84 some time a things had q I had been

to Silver Ci and of cours dians. My to let him re tied him to t ets and lay d how long I a awakened by back. As s I saw that I fitteen India

and had then Well, sir, I could not yzed. I sat dians, and t

hair stiffen standing stra I thought in my life. hand to bles kill me and would shoot

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id, she had ceveloped a larger	tresh source of annoyance arose.	sure I have met her before, and yet she	this tashion.	·Uacle !'		
riginal ein than her eix boy co.s-	Miss E speth de Windt was reported to	denies me the privilege of old acquaintance	For a short while longer she yielded to			
boast among them.	have been seen irequently taking evening	ship.'	the fascination he exercised over her, so	Sae started to her feet, and stared at		
ure they were remarkably good	walks in the company of the hairdresser's	'She's a Miss White'-he had been told	enthralling her senses that she had no real	him.	and a second	
y good.	assistant, next door to Madame Robier's	that Elipeth had started her business life	wish to be released.	It was the first really harsh speech he		
ever did wrong, except by the	establishment.	under that name, out of regard to her	It was not until she heard a voice calling	had ever made to her; the scoldings she		
ccident; they did not know how	This was too much even for the vicar to	aunt's feelings.	her by her assumed name of 'Miss White'	had received from time to time had all		
a to want to be naughty.	pass over.	'I thought as much. And her occupa-	that she insisted upon throwing off those	come from her aunt.	a company and a state of the	
ole six were models of propriety	He cycled into Rockles and asked his	tion ?'	encircling arms.	The vicar turned to his wife.		
parent's perpetual pride and joy.	niece of it was true.	'Dressmaking.'	Going round the screen she looked to see	'You were right, and I was wrong.	and the second second	
	'Oa, quite,' she owned, with a twinkle	'Exactly. Thank you.'	who cailed.	That dressmaking fad has proved her	1	
peth made up for the lot,	in her rare black eyes. 'He wants to		The master of ceremonies stood a short	ruin. On the night you ware taken ill,		
destructive, decentiut, passion.	marry me, too ! Think of my having had	self as he walked off.		she was masquerading at a fancy ball-	and the second	
edient-everything in the way of	a bona-file proposal, uncle ! It was this	Of course he saw through the other man's	dis a :ce away, asking-	a very mixed affair-at which	and the second second	
ss that so young a child could be.	way: I wanted to learn hair dressing-it	little game ; but he did not think 'Miss	'Has nobody seen her? Where the	she made herselt conspicuous by her en-		
ld stories, apparently for the	way: I wanted to learn mair dressing-it	White	dickens has she got to ? Miss White !'	couragement of a man she could not have		
of making them up, certainly not	might come in useful, you see -so I got	while would object to his giving her	'I am here. What is it ? '	known anything about, for he was a		
ne feared punishment.	Charlie Hobbs to give me lessons. Nice	away to this striking-looking stranger.	He gave her a note	stranger to the neighborhood. Notwith-		
uld take a hearty slapping with a	name, Hobbs, isn't it ? So poetical, you	For the next dance she was promised to	'Messenger said it is important.'	standing this, she leit the assembly rooms		
cared not at all for being shut	can rhyme it so easily. Well, Charlie is an	the bank clerk, appropriately got up as	She recognised her uncle's handwriting.	in his company, shortly before receiving	and the second second second second	
or a day on a diet of bread and	enterprising youth, and, when he found I	Money, with coins sewn all over his clothes	Opening it, with a sinking heart, and a	my note announcing your illness, and took		
	had a decided talent for dressing bair, I	but she had no hesitation in throwing him	vague anticipation of evil, she read-	him to the house which she had chosen to		
nerally found occupation for her	suppose he thought we might work up a	over for Prince Midnigat, who she found,	'My DEAR CHILD, -Your sunt is very		A CARLES AND A CARLES	
meliness.	good thing between us. It's rather a pity;	had scrawled probably his rightini initials	ill. Come at once.	'Uncle !' said Elspeth again, with the	the second second	
was breakable within her reach	b :cause I had to tell him last night that I	on her card, 'A. C.'	'UNCLE JOE.'			
break : should no other amuse.	have no leanings in that direction, and he	'I wonder what A. C' stands lotr' she		light of battle in her eye. I don't know		
ossible she would strip the paper	went off in a huff, leaving me to find my	thought, when his arm encircled her, and	All the diablerie had vanished from the	who told you all this, but it is not true.'		
wa'ls.	way back alone."	she half closed her eyes in dreamy con-	eyes she raised to meet Prince Midnight's,	Your proof to the contrary ?' inquired	the state of the second	
, on the whole, her uncle and	The vicar laughed; he couldn't help	tent as they went down the room to the	as he asked-	her uacle briefly.		Service and the service of
red more than she did from her	himself.	strains ot 'Morgenblatter.' 'He doesn't	Nothing serious, I hope?'	'Mr. Wood, who acted as master of		
nt.	Her way of describing her first 'ro-	look an Arthur, nor an Alec, nor any.	'Yes; my aunt is ill. I must go to her.'	ceremonies for the evening, could contra-		
was not easy to help loving the	mance' was so comic, with that wicked	thing in daily use.'	In an instant he was as changed as her-	dict the latter part of it.		
and her easy to may have be	twinkle of the eye to give expression to it,	'Thoughts worth a penny?' he asked	.selt.	Unfortunately, I was referred to Mr.	and the state of the state	
s a fascinating little witch, with	'I came over to scold you, you monkey.		'How can I help you?'	Wood for corroboration of the report,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
her's nower of pleasing, and with	What am I to say to your aunt P'	Money would not buy them!	'By leaving me, and forgetting that you	which I retused to believe until I hau this		
the talant into the hargein	I Fell har I have learned as much of	No? They must be very precious! Why	have met me. I have been mad, and this	word for the truth of 1'.'		
Id sing like a nightingale, nick	dressing making in a month as some girls	did you paint your face? Parhaps, though	is my punishment.'	"He has lied !' said El peth deliberately,	1	
on any instrument that came in	do in a year; Madame Robier says so.	it is your custom!'	Dou't taik nonsense child : wast	not waiting to choose her words. He		
dance like a tairy and draw five	And say that my present 'young man' is a	'No? I am no Jezebel. Of course I	matters it how one behaves in a scene like	gave me your note himselt at the Assembly	and the second second second	
h more by no means unlike what	bank clerk : it's quite time I knew some-	know it's usual now a-days, but no sen-	this? But, if it really troubles you, I will	Rooms, in the presence of the gentleman	and the second	
ad them to be that is to say	thing of banking. When I am tired of him,	sible girl does it.'	promise to go away, and not try to see you		A state of the state of the	
andoubtedly a cow, and a step a	I shall go in for a lawyer.'	'You call yourself a sensible girl?'	again, when I have done what I can to	"With whom you had sat out three dances		
			help you. It is no use to rebel; I am used	running, Miss de Windt, during which		
wever peculiar their anatomical	wheeled homewards.	'Then why paint for to night?'	to having my way. Where have you to	time you were hidden from view behind a		
. M. Task and his mile homail	'She all right,' he told his wife. 'We		gop'	large screen which your gentleman friend		
le Mr. Lack and his wife bewail.	need not be in the least une say about her.'	when I am excited, and a rosy Night is	'To Madame Robier's first. I must get	had carolully arranged for the purpose.'		
histortune in having so great a			rid of this paint, and change my dress. It	The mixture of truth and talsehood in		
ility left on their hands, they	change his mind had he been in the Rock-	Dum is rosy sometimes. Could you	is only in the next street ; we can walk.'	the report which had reached the vicar's		and the second
willingly have parted with the		1	He wrapped her cloak around her, and	ears wes difficult for Espeth to sitt un-		
and the state of the state	lea Assembly Rooms on a certain evening	I preferred Night, Night is myster-	they started at once, he thinking rapidly	aided.		
Vakeman's report of the little	some weeks later.	ous, and suggestive of all sorts of hidden	the while.	Had Mr. Wood forgotten the circum-		
more promising.	A lancy dress ball had been announced	sestbilition ?	It was evident he had made a mistake in	stance of the delivery of the note, or had		

Lady Marie wa

She appeared to be a tolerally normal for St. Valentine's Eve. specimen of juvenile humanity, on which It was a mixed affair, as such balls so "Like yoursell?"

taking her for a 'dressmaking hand.'

-1 Continued on page fifteen.

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thing more The first Nicholas, i Michigan, v and brother and heavy s miles offsuo back Edith through log boat, which ed, and also On a prev snow for six work the wh When Ed vears old, Oakland, C. Chabot to I disappeared seized the

> her head paddled wit

until a boat Marie P

Island, was

saw a man a

boat by the