A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR



TWO HEARTS UNITED

CHAPTER X.

"I have worn shabby clothes, have gone about with wet feet because my boots were in holes, and I had to tramp to the factory with my work because I couldn't afford the penny

"Good Lord!" he murmured, with a sense of guilt; for her words sounded like an accusation against the world of which he was a member.

"But I consoled myself all the time with the thought of what I was-a Gresham. Nothing could rob me of in the bitterest hour. That was pride, have been all the more proud because gamekeeper." of the sufferings, the slights, the insults, he had borne?"

"But, after all, you had your consola- "I suppose he has had some difficulty tion, your support. You knew you in getting a carriage." were of high birth, that one day you "It could not be here yet," said

night climb onto the throne—as you Veronica. "Will you please put some- quickly, and putting his arm round n our troubles and struggles. We're so hard."

"Yes," she said. "In no country in the world has a man so many chances from hunger," she replied, with a "You-rude-" he stammered.

risen from the lower classes."

His eyes kindled and his face flush- lessly.

"Yes; I know all that. I used to

think that I'd fight my way and come said, out on top or somewhere near it, but -oh, well, I'm a lazy sort of beast, brought some to her. and too easily satisfied. Give me a chop and a pipe and the country to eat and smoke them in, and I'm con- founded time the carriage is-" tent. As I said, my mother used to lecture me upon my future and try- not go well together, would they?" bread and cheese make one!" poor dead soul-to inspire me with ambition. And if she had lived, per- as she took the plate. haps- But she died, and I'm just a

The statement of his status seemed to remind him of the fact that he was there was something better." talking too freely to the great lady.

"I see," he said, in a low voice. "Burchett's a long time," he said.

here are plenty of sub-

stitutes (avoid them).

but no real rival for

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"Thank you," said Veronica.

She raised her eyes-they were so very near his as he bent forward with the plate in his hand-and

"I-don't quite know. Perhaps I did not like you-anyone-to think that I was proud, proud of my birth and wealth. Perhaps it was because -Oh, I don't know! How nice this is! Though it's rather difficult eat-

She made as if to raise herself higher on the hard horse-hair cush-

have. Some of us have no such help thing under my foot? The couch is her helped her into the desired atti-

He took one of his coats from a "Thanks," she said, softly, "You We're hewers of wood and drawers nail and, folding it, raised the injured are very strong- I want to tell you foot as gently as a woman could have that I am sorry I was rude to you himself. "That's rot, though, isn't it?" lone and placed it on the improvised yesterday." Her eyes were raised to

"Are you suffering much pain?" he The transition was so sudden, the a pale face-what do you call it?thers, or they themselves even, have asked, standing and looking down at glance of the violet eyes so heart- old ivory, and long lashes-" thrilling, that Ralph caught his "No: not now. I'm suffering most breath.

"Yes," she said, almost meekly, as He looked round eagerly but help- she nibbed daintily at the bread and cheese, and looked at him with halfed; then he laughed and sighed in a "There's nothing but bread and lowered eye-lids. "I don't know what possessed me. I suppose it was tem-"Yes; give me some, please," she per. All women are bad-tempered,

> He sprang to the cupboard and "No, no," he remonstrated with an almost indignant denial. "Not all! "I'd make you a cup of tea, but You-"

there wouldn't be time-What a con-"Oh, tea with cheese! They would go together, you know- How thirsty

"Water, please," she returned, "I'll hold it," he said. "I wish smoothly. "O, thank you! But it was ungrateful as well as ill-temper-"Oh, don't apologize," she said. ed after all your-kindness." "I've known the time when bread and

"I-I-beg your pardon," he stam-Her novel humility stirred him to mered. "I didn't think for the mo "Why did you tell me that-that ing, you know-it's very dangerous-



ing in her eyes whose rays seemed to warm Ralph's heart. "It reminds me of the courtier who nearly let the King of Spain burn to death because it was not etiquette to tell him that his coat had caught alight at the fire before which his majesty was stand-

Ralph laughed, but it was a shaky

"Oh, no," he said, promptly; "not a bit. And if I had-" He checked himself and glanced through the window: but Veronica rested her head more comfortably as if she did not share his impatience.

"And what did Mr. Talbot Denby say to make you so angry?" she asked, as smoothly as before.

Ralph colored. "Oh, I don't know. He was rather trying- Then you saw us?" he broke off, penitently. "I'm sorry!"

"You should endeavor to control your temper," said Veronica, with sweet severity.

"That's so," responded Ralph, with a meekness which would have astonished and gratified Talbot Denby. "And did you take the trout to-

Ralph nodded, his brow clearing at the change to a subject free from

Mrs. Mason?" asked Veronica, after

embarrassment. "Yes, and she was very much obliged."

"Very pretty girl, her daughter," emarked Vercnica, soft as butter. "Yes, oh, yes," agreed Ralph, with out the slightest enthusiasm.

"You don't think so," she said, with wide-open eyes of surprise.

"Yes, oh, yes-at least, I haven't thought-oh, yes, I suppose she's pretty! To tell you the truth, haven't noticed her particularly."

A smile-was it of satisfaction?curved the beautiful lips and shone softly in the lovely eyes, but sh said, as if disappointed with him:

"I don't think you have very good

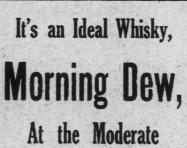
don't admire that kind of face, I sup-

"Really! And yet is is a very favorite one: fair, good complexion, with almost golden hair-"

"Yes, I know," he admitted absent-

"What type do you admire?" asked, with an affectation of casualness and indifference which a woman would have detected in a moment.

"I like a girl with soft, dark hair, and grey eyes, violet eyes, and rather



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