PIUOK

BY JOHN STRANG WINTER.

CHAPTER VII

GLIVE'S YALLINTIE

O't expect at lon faits, and note of these where were at lon faits, and note of these where were at lon faits, and note of these where were at lon faits, and note of these where were at lon faits, and note of these where were at lon faits, and note of these where were at lon faits, and note of these where were at lon faits and note of the same where were at lon faits and note of these where were at lon fait in the week where were at lon fait in the week where were at lon fait in the week where were at lon fait in the same where were at long at long ago gladly have taken Oilve away from Copple-the way from To him we were the four the same while and the week were the four that it is fait to the lossen, and nothing happened to make the true state of flavorses failings clear to her.

During the first week in February, however, he went up to town on a two day leave—a fact which Oilve learned while as large reception near Gaystown, owhich she had gone solely because the advanced that he went of the wear of the four war in Lancy was in the room when she and her mother untered, as also was D'Albiac. Kow, D'Albiac very soon relapsed into sich fast. On that consion he managed to have we would go on any more forever. Then, as also began to treather conventional gowers and, as a general rie, when holding intercourse with a lady, was, if not very librarily helped out, apit to sick fast. On that consion he managed to have a conversation which went on it whitpers, or at least in an undertone, just baired farey say.

Test, but to be married. That was the voice of the solution where the work is a support of the same and the fair would be army, the policy have the world be a many thing about his being manwried," said Latty.

"Not Oh, has you have been away to have been to come and every with her for the policy of the same visit for the case—a letter in the life, careless in the colonel told me this morning. It is the colonel told me this morning. It is the colonel told me t

"Tag; upto to be married." That was the "Tag; upto to be married." That was the "Tag; upto to be married." That was the "to make it may a be a sum of the policy of the po

tog tailend, a great deal, and Lucy very little; so presently Olive drew rein, and said she had come far anough.

"Shall you be at home this afternoon?" Hartog asked. "If so, I will ride over, if I may."

"Yes, do I believe several people are coming in for tan." Olive answered; then looked deprectingly at Lucy and said: "Won't you come, too! You have not been near as for ages."

For a mouteaut it seemed as if every drop of blood in poor Lucy's body had flows to his face; the next instant it was as white as chall.

"The awfully sorwry," be startmered; "but be could be a mother day," said Olive, holding out her hand to him.

"I will," he answered.

But he did not; no, not for many a day after.

Olive felt braver and better as she rode lack to Copplethwaite alone; the was on the high road to making friends again with.

"The proof to making friends again with."

"I hope you will be very happy," the lady."

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"I hope you will be very happy," the lady."

Olive, felts braver and better as sie rode hack to Copplethwaite alone; she was on the high road to making, friends again with Capt Lucy, who would never, never, she knew, tama her with what she was so desperately anxious to hide from Capt. Hark, ness in particular, and from the world in general—that she had allowed her fancy to be taken by a man who had passed her over for another. Even to hetreif she would not admit that her heart had been fouched at all.

It was marretuse how much better she resided home she had sally not be truth, Mrs. Stamer," he said, politely, "that is a question I have not think that, after all, she did not care yery much about it.

As she had said to Martog some people.

"Er—thanks, very many," returned Harkmess in particular, and from the world in general—that she had said to make the was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she had said to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy," even to hereaft she was careful to say has "fancy,

wall.

As he had said to Eartog some subpleases coming for test; and a wary fair mumber did come—there must have been twenty.

Hartog servived in good time and stayed in the lest, though he had not much opportunity of saying anything of a private nature to Olive; is did, however, have a chance of aning has if she were going to hear Trobelli and fishward Lifesh in the Gayatown town hall the believe serving.

"To, most of course we see," Olive an amount to show a kindly interest." The sure I shall see you going?

"To, most of course we see," Olive an amount to show a kindly interest." The sure I shall see you there, then?

"Total you wan't be able to do that for we hook she only three left on that row," Olive he said, with a laugh.

"What washessee? Then I shall sit and look mandarously at the wrotched companial the creating. I hope you will wear as the mandarously." I shall do my best to got a seat next you not going to wish me your pardon, Mr. Hartog; what did you got so sick and weary of continued. "To be sure I shall see you will wear as the said mandatomy the said, with a laugh.

"What washessee? Then I shall sit and look mandarously at the wrotched companial the creating. I hope you will wear as the said mandarously." I hope you did not take only shall see any so that the four you.

"To be sure. I shall see you there, then?" To be sure. I shall see you going?

"To be sure. I shall see you there, then?" To be sure. I shall see you got a seat next you going?

"To be sure. I shall see you there, then?" To be sure. I shall see you got you go got so sick and weary of continued you got so sick and weary of continued and shall see you will wear as the suiden deepening of the lovely bloom upon her cheeks, replied that he only said her washes the continued.]

"You are oto well, we had not much opportunity." The property of the

in comparison with the treasure of Olive's promise? But Olive knew nothing of this, and so the wretched night passed over in deing achiling.

The day, which broke cold and gray upon a chilly world, was the 18th of February, After some two hours fifth, broken and uncasy stumber Olive opened her eyes, and, as might be expected, with a racking headache.

Her first thought was to tell her maid that she would remain in bed; but second thoughts sadi: "No; get up."

After her oup of ten she decided to go for a ride, just as a means of gotting away by the sessif, and also to do away with the ill stream of the that she either had, a headache of the presence of the present of the presence of the presence of the presence of the presenc

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enchanting than ever!" she replied, with an enthusiasm such as one might expect from a young lady whose soul was in Elysium.

"Yes; I think so, too. That Marguerite song is charming, and just the thing for St. Valentine. By the by, did you get many valentines?"

"A few"—the bright, smiles beaming out again instantly; "and very nice ones. Oh, they are beginning again! What a bore! Never mind, we shall see you afterwards."

Olive was supremely happy that night as the recalled the soft and gentle look in his eyes, the tender tones of his voice, the smile upon his lips, as he ested her, "Will you not wish ine joy also?" She felt that life was good, most good. Oh, how far, far away seemed the miseries of doubt and uncertainty through which she had but just passed!

The will come to morrow, "was her last the come." "He will come to morrow," was her last come ous thought that night. "He will com to-day," her first waking one of the morrow

to-day," her first waking one of the morrow
She liad luncheon by herself, for her parents had gone to lunch at a house some
miles away. Not that she minded in the
least. She made a very decent meal off
friesmeed chicken and jelly, and then went
upstairs to change her pretty gown for a
prettier out, in anticipation of ate coming.
Just as she clasped her broad gold collar,
from which the sapphire locket himg by a
large hook, she heard the sound of horses'
hoofs upon the drive below. She did not
wat an instant, but, anatching up her handkerchief, ran down into the hall, where she
came face to face with—Mr. Hartog.

CHAPTER VIIL For a moment the disappointment was all most too great for her to speak; then she re covered herself, and held out her hand to

covered herself, and held out her hand to him.

"I am all alone," she said, with a great assumption of cheery friendliness. "My peogle have gone out to lunch. Come into the morning room."

The morning room was the favorite sitting room at Copplethwaite, and where the ladies of the house almost always sat. Harteg followed her there, and closed the door behind them—followed her to the hearth, and there startled her by taking both her hands in his. "Oh my darling, my darling!" his cried, passionately. "How shall I thank you.—how shall I ever thank you?"

"Thank me!" Olive stammered.
"Do you know," he went on, "that last night I did not dare to look at you for an hour or more, for fear you should have rejected my valentine and me alike; and then, when I saw this"—touching the lockst—"my heart began to beat so fast, I thought I should have died of suffocation!"

Now, as every one knows, thoughts fly

should have died of suffocation!"

Now, as every one knows, thoughts fly much faster than words; and while he was speaking Olive had time to think a good deal—to realize that the initials A. H. stood for Anthony Hartog, not for Ashford Harkness, to realize that Harkness, had been speaking of some one else when he answered Mrs. Stamer's question, to the effect that he had not asked the lady to name the wedding day: to realize that Harkness was engaged day: to realize that Harkness was engaged. day; to realize that Harkness was engaged to some one else; to remember that she had that she should wear it that evening to re-member that she had worn it, and that, in mistaking the giver of it, she had made a mistake she would never retrieve to her

mistake she would never retrieve to her life's end.

She remembered, now, that in showing the letter and locket neither she nor her mother had mentioned a name, both using only the familiar pronoun by which we so often speak of a well understood person. If she drew back now, her mother would know n a moment that she had been mistaken; and not even her mother must ever know it!

Then, if she drew back now, Hartog would know it, too, who might even be stung by the knowledge into telling Harkness himself, the last in the world who must ever know it. No—like one flash of lightning did these thoughts all rush through her brain—

know it. No—like one flash of lightning did
these thoughts all rush through her brain—
she must abide by the consequences of her
grievous mistake, be they what they might.
It was at this point that she all at once
frightened Hartog almost out of his seven
senses by bursting into violent weeping.

"My darling, my darling!" he cried, soothingly. "Fray don't cry so; don't, darling,
I know all this has upset you—no wonder,
but you make me feel such a brute—you do,
indeed."

Evantually. Olive draw herself away and indeed." Eventually, Olive draw herself away, and began to dry her eyes, saying, meetly, that she was very sorry; she hadn't meant to be stupid; but—but—she couldn't help it; this last with a wretched little sob, to end the

scupa; out—out—she couldn's help it; this last with a wretched little sob, to end the sentence.

At this Hartog took another tack,
"You couldn't help it!" he cried. "Why, you shall cry all day long, if you like!" at which Olive burst out laughing as unexpectedly and as suddenly as, two minutes before, she had burst out crying.
"There, that's better!" he exclaimed, admiringly. "I thought it was something rather new to see you like this. You are upset by all this, darling—no wonder. I was nearly out of my mind with suspense all yesterday. Oh, if you only knew the utter relief it was to see my locket resting on your pretty white neck!"

"I thought you said just now that it nearly suffocated you," Olive objected. She had found her voice at last, and made an immense effort to appear natural and at ease.

"So it did; but it was with joy. Why, I very nearly jumped over the people in front of me to give you a kiss' there and then! And, by the by, Olive, you'll give me one now, won't you!"

So Olive did—at least she submitted in a passive, unresisting way to be kissed by him, and in his bits Hartog never noticed

"And you like your locket?" he asked, after

"And you like your locket?" he asked, after a while, "Immeusely!" answered she; which was true enough, poor little soul.

"I have brought you a ring—not quite to match it, but still with sapphires," he went on. "You will let me put it on your finger, Olive!" Olivef" she said; but all at once abe began to feel faint and sick.

It was a lovely ring, as she admitted when she saw it—a large half-hoop of three diamonds and two sapphires; the diamonds very white and full of fre; the sapphires of the true "lucky" blue.

"It is a beautiful ring," she said, holding it between finger and thumb.

"Let me gut it on." Then he took it from her and slipped it on the right finger. "I hope it fits well. I have heard it is unlucky to have them altered; and we must have no

to have them altered; and we must have no ill-luck, must we!"

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