

CHAPTER XXXI.

ed, with bent head.

well, it's his deal, now; and you must wait."

They reached the house in Grosvenor Square, and Mabel ran down the steps and fell upon Diana as soon ly open, calling her name and kissing

The earl was seated in the drawing room, but he rose quickly and came toward them and held out his arms to as one pats the back of a child who has just stopped short of falling off a

"You wicked girl!" he said. "What a fright you've given all of us! And tell us your adventures, eh, Mabel?" "You know?" said Diana in a low

voice. The old man nodded.

"Yes, I know, my child," he said Boftly.

him?" she murumred, glancing to- left me by the will." ward Dalesford, who stood regarding her and his father with an air of serene satisfaction. "I want to say good-by. I and my mother are start- of these amiable conspirators for her ing with a colonization party to happiness. South Africa to-morrow, Lord Wray-

The earl smiled and slowly shook said the earl.

his head. "My dear, I understand. Do you ming. think we do not know and understand and sympathize with you? But, in- of-" deed, you mustn't go. You belong to us-belong to Vane; and it would be with an imperative gesture. a great misfortune if we were to lose you. It would mean-ruin to the





house of Wrayborough."

"Misfortune-ruin, if I-I went?" said Diana, in troubled perplexity. The earl touched a bell.

Will you ask Mr. Starkey and Mr fielding if they will be so very good

and Lord Dalesford's."

"They are going to show you how mperative it is that you should notjilt Vane," put in the earl under his

"You may not be aware," said Mr. Starkey, addressing Diana, "that the Wrayborough estate is in an extremely embarrassed condition. But, yes, no doubt Lord Dalesford-"

"Oh, I've told her long ago," said Vane with a touch of impatience. "Well, you'll soon find that out for "Look here, Diana, but for your un "And he knows-?" she whisper- came to the rescue. It was Mr. Bourne "Everything. And he said Oh. merely nominal price, the Sunninglea property-property which will result in an enormous profit and a continuous and increasing revenue."

"If we hold it," said the earl soft-

"Furthermore, Mr. Bourne has made a will-" began Mr. Fielding,

Mr. Fielding smiled rather grimly "You are not asked to do so my Diana, the tears in his eyes though dear Miss Diana. The will leaves he smiled and patted her on the back everything Mr. Bourne possesses to Lord Dalesford."

Diana looked from one to the oth-

He drew her to a chair and sat beside You won't take it. Why shouldn't I? know-know the whole of his life. shall take it on one condition."

Diana raised her heavy lids. "That you share it with me-as my

wife. If you refuse, I decline the "Then you will help me-against Sunninglea property, and the money

"And we are ruined," said the earl

Diana looked from one to the other

ture of an ancient house, my dear," given her; and it was enclosed in a

She turned to him her eyes swim-

"And I-I-so shamed, so shamed

Vane strode to her and stopped her fully informed."

dark spot in the life of a relative. What about us? And our past! Heaof the second Charles, and bit his lip. "No, no; it isn't safe for us to dig up fool of a woman at once.

true. Diana. You see, my dear?" "But the world-your people?"

save her family from destruction. She went to Diana and kissed her.

"My dear, I am so glad to see you!" she said; and she said it with such evident sincerity that Diana broke

"Oh, what can I do?" she sobbed. "Marry me to-morrow morning," responded Vane promptly. Then in a lower voice he said to the others. over his shoulder: "Run away all of

CHAPTER XXXII.

One night, a week later, Desi farch stole back to his rooms. He ooked white and haggard, for he had | Sold everywhere, la boxes, 25 cents

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stes good.
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een in hiding and had had a bad

In the dingy purlieus of Brussels, that he had been recognized by Dalesford and Diana and by Garling. But the days passed and no one came with the dreaded warrant, and, according to the English newspapers—with what feverish anxiety he scanned hem!-the police had come to the Dalesford had been made by a com-

At this inelligence Desmond March began to pluck up courage. So Dalesmotion! Afraid of the scandal, the shame that would stain the family name! Well, then, he, Desmond

March, could return and brazen it out. Yes; he would venture back. If Dalesford and the girl would not give vidence, he was safe. He scarcely condescended to bestow a thought on Garling. He was powerless and not

worth consideration. It was evening, a murky evening, as he unlocked the door and stole up the stairs, and, with a sigh of satisfaction, looked round the luxurious

room. A pile of letters stood on the table, and he looked them over. There were two from Miss Bangs, and he opened one at hazard, for the envelope contained some hard substance-"It's for you to decide on the fu- it was the engagement ring he had

> "Miss Bangs returns Mr. Desmond March's ring, as she wishes to terminate her engagement with a man of

> "Vulgar fool!" he muttered with an oats. "But five minutes with her will put it right. Who has told her? Dalesford? Curse him, I'll be even

He summoned his man, had a bath ought to be more closely under police vens! Do you know how we got our and changed, and with an affectation peerage?" He glanced at the portrait of his debonair manner, left the of a lady, a lady of the dissolute court house. He had dined on board the steamer-he would go to the silly

He took a cab and reached the The earl inclined his head. "It is grand house in which Miss Bangs lived, and rang the bell confidently.

> "My mistress is not at home, sir. She is on the Continent. No. I don't know when to expect her. Not for some months, I think. No. sir. I've no address. I think she's in the

Desmond March went down the man came from out of the shadows and stood beside him. Desmond March stared and stepped back, then

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the safest, most reliable and most popular—for the common ailments of stomach, liver and bowels, is always

harshly, contemptuously.

"Ah, Garling," he said, "Glad to see vou. Are vou shadowing me?" "That's it." said Garling. He spoke

"No." he said: "there's no escape for you there, Desmond March.

That's the road to the gallows." "He's not dead!" exclaimed March unwittingly.

"No; he's not," he said.

A cab came up slowly, and, hailing it, Desmond March got in, not hurriedly, but leisurely. Garling got in beside him. Desmond March looked at him and bit his lip.

"What is your game?" he said, beween his teeth.

"Yes; I'll tell you," responded Garling in a dull, impassive voice. "I'm

eyes under their shaggy brows still fixed on his companion's face.

"Coming in? No? Going to wait outside?" asked Desmond March eeringly. "All right; suit yourself!" He walked upstairs and looked down at the street from behind the blind. Garling remained for a minute exactly as he had been left, then

Desmond March laughed, and, going to the sideboard, got some whis-

"Fellow looks mad," he muttered. "raving mad. What's it matter? He can't open his mouth; he's in no hurry to go back to stone-breaking; and a word from me would send him

He threw himself into a chair and took up a paper and turned it over listlessly. This paragraph met his

"Thanks to a splendid constitution, Lord Dalesford's recovery from the Jude's Hospital, and is now staying with his father, the Earl of Wrayborough, at Wrayborough House, Grosvenor Square. It is much to be re gretted that the police have not succeeded in finding any clue to the man rage. Surely the criminal population

surveillance." Desmond March laughed and gnawed at his lips.

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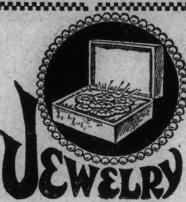
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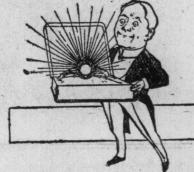
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|---------------------------|--------|----|---------|
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|--------------------------|----------|----|---------|--|
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| Gold Filled Brooches | . \$1.00 | to | \$5.00 | |
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