

Love That Knew No Bounds.

CHAPTER XVII.

"Come"-essaying to draw her to the sofa-"tell me what it all means. my dearest. I may say that, may

"Wait." she said, and freeing herself, took a chair close by. "Rupert, I wish mamma had told you everything. But you do know about my father's money going, do you not-all of

"Yes-all but your mother's and yours, luckily." What was she driv-

"All but ours-her's and mineluckily, I suppose, or I might never have been able to do what I shall now. For did you know, too, Rupert

that many people-very poor oneshad lent papa their money, and-and have never had it back from then til

"Well, yes, I think I know what you are alluding to," he said, assuming carelessness. "but that business was wound up ages ago. All these great smashes involve a lot of little interests. It never can be helped You must not think of concerning vourself about it. How came you t

hear of it even?" "It was chance, or"-looking be youd him, with what he silently dubbed a fanatical sort of resolve, tha made him very uncomfortable-"o: something wiser that took me amons ! these very people on Wednesday. So I know all about them. And the money that is mine to-day is just a very little over the bare sums they lent. So, Rupert, I am going to pay it to them."

"Sydney! Impossible!"

She watched him while she unfolded her plan. Now her spirit sunk, and her head drooped.

short of an idiot, would say, let alone without me.' any one who cares for you, as I do. Listen to me"-halting before her-"I to drive a man mad!" do assure you occurrences like these are as common as-as-ditch-water. Your father's business was purity it- to some hovel of a home-" self compared to most failures. These people you talk about ought to have

watched their own interests better than they did. But for them to go and ake up their grievances!-for you to hought of for an instant. It would most preposterous absurdity."

He had overshot the mark. Sydne; tood up, too, confronting him. Th eside himself with anger. He walked from her frowning, and stood a the window, staring moodily out.

"I thought it was just possible, he said, sadly, "that you might have ded with me. But I see now, ought not to have expected it."

roughly, "we have all been expecting

bly, and putting her-little as you in end it-putting her unjustly to much pain? Why, you would be treating me cruelly. For you must have seen what I have been wanting to tell you for weeks. You are not going to case away what I was going to offer, jus that you may carry out the scheme of one day's surprise-are you, Syd

Such a void was there in her lifenote as young bud-laden branches sway before the whisper of the

spring's south wind. "Oh! must it be one or the other?" she cried. And Rupert Villiers caugh at a method of hedging out of the dil

"See now," he ventured, "how vould this do? Make me your almoner. Let me take a thousand pounds ind give it among these peoplelouceur they ought to be gratefu o you forever for. Then we-you and I, Sydney-would contrive to be his, and put an end to all this trouole, and give me leave to be happy!

She moved away from his offered

"Rupert, I should neither feel myself a wife worthy any man's love lead father's, if I say 'yes,' " she an "Ah!" she said, "I was afraid you me a place in your home, why, I mus go without it." She stopped herself "Afraid!" he exclaimed, getting up sharply in a sob. What woman feels excitedly. "Why, my dear-why, no sting in the discovery that it is Sydney, you must have known what her purse, and not herself, which is I should say. It's only what any man, coveted? "And you can be happy

"Sydney, you are obstinate enough

"No. I expect nothing of the sort." "And there vegetate on my salary?"

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Forgive me, and leave me." But the baffled suitor was over boiling now with disappointed rage

and gave it coarsely rein. Would you expect me to mari you on my own beggarly pittance

"Mr. Villiers! Go!"

She gave her order still as a statue -only her bosom, not her voice up aised. He could have bitten his ongue out for the lapse the moment it was uttered. But there was no quarter in her attitude. He dared no disobey. He turned slowly on his

In the room below, Mrs. Alwyn almer, much ean-de-Cologned, and al-volatiled, met him with.

"Well, Rupert, well? What's to be

"Nothing," he answered, sullenly but to get our breakfasts. Then 1 nay go and meet my father. Leonora. ere's something I've no use for now f you care for gewgaws, take it." He tossed the sapphire ring across he table, and then the three sat lown to anything but a lively meal. An hour later Mr. Villiers went of o Hedyngham to fetch the major, damping his cheery "Well, may I wish ou many happy returns of the day ny boy?" with a surly "No, you may not, sir"-and disclosing on the re turn drive the source of this miser-

Astounded, the old officer could only repeat, "Bless my heart! I never heard such a thing, never! To heart!"-till, finding these ejaculaory minute-guns only increased his son's irritation, he held his peace while the last two miles were bring-

That sorely tried lady received him with tears, and plunged into her afflictions as she shook hands.

"Now, Major Villiers, you see what Sydney is, Now you will find the difficulty of dealing with her disposihave known, though, unhappily, I let poor Rupert overrule me, she went tion. Without my leave she must go further, forsooth, and hear some whining farrago, which, instead of plained, she prefers investigating through that most impertinently in- O. MUSTAD & SON, the largest manuterfering Mr. Cheene. And this is the upshot. She takes her destiny into

herself. She is willful-willful to the verge of wickedness. My only consolation is, come what may, the work is none of mine!"

Knowing the domestic drama from its first scenes, and disposed, spite of his disappointment, to view the culninority one solitary girl, spending per worldly all to redeem her fa

"Suppose I go and speak to Sydney nyself," he volunteered, "and see if I can win her to look at things differently."

"Oh, by all means go, Major!" his hostess cried, "but as to moving her, h-f!" expressively, "as well expect

in any quarter; how quixotic her conduct would sound to the world: how unlooked-for her money was by these statute-run creditors, and therefore "how unnecessary-er-as not expecting anything, my dear, what a pity-as it were, to-to open old wounds-"

"What! Even to heal them?" she said, her pale face irradiating with something better far than loveliness. "Did you know, Major Villiers, what sort of people they are I want to make amends to?"

"Not exactly," he confessed. "Mr Russell told me of an effort to get at some of your mother's settlement, but e-but it was resisted. And if had known every single case I could not have given up a penny of the trust money. That could only be dealt with by principals."

"And it is going to be." Then Sydney told him simply who "her creditors" were. The old, the poor, the struggling, trusting, de-"And now." she said. looking steadfastly at him through the heavy drops gathering in her eyes, "will you tell me, quite truly. Major Villiers, if you think I do well or ill to pay them?"

(To be Continued.)

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