

For Love of a Woman:

New Romeo and Juliet.

CHAPTER XXIV. IN THE HOUR OF NEED.

It need scarcely be remarked that attended to pay gentlemen visits at their chambers. Scandal is only too ready to seize upon the slightest excuse for the exercise of its malignity, and the fact, if it were known, that Lady Grace Peyton had been seen in Cecil Neville's rooms would be quite sufficient to set evil tongues wagging.

All this flashed across Cecil Neville's mind as she stood in the door- the Spartan may have smiled while way, picture of queenty beauty which the fox was gnawing at his bosom. seemed to light up the room, and "You look very tired," she said, made the sheriff's officer stare with all his eves

flush on his face denoting his em- you come and drive with me-come

mention her name before the man. She bit her lip and looked from one

"I-I thought you were alone," she said, in a low voice full of confusion

and anxiety. The officer rose and made a light

"I'll step outside, my lord," he said.

respectfully, and he did so. done anything very wrong in coming? I did not stop to think. I was so anxious that I thought I would come up

"Will you not sit down?" he said, gravely, and he placed a chair for

She sank into it, and looked up at

"What news is there? Have you

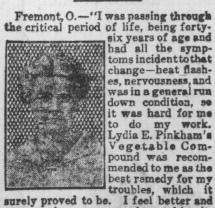
"Yes: I have had news." he said, in a low voice. "My uncle was right, and you and I were wrong, Lady Grace. Miss Marlowe"-his voice grew grim -"has, sailed for Australia."

"Oh, no. No! But alone?" she breath-

"No, not alone. She went with this Mr. Garland," he said, sternly.

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She held out her hand to him "Oh, I am so sorry! What can I say. lear Lord Neville, to comfort you?"

He smiled wearily. "Nothing, I am afraid. There is no common. Yes. I have got to bear it!" "There-there is no doubt about it?"

she asked "None whatever," he replied. "I is amongst them, together with this

"How had, how heartless she must be!" she murmured indignantly.

He winced and looked aside. Even in this, the first hour of his trouble, he could scarcely endure to hear Doris "I don't know," he said. "I ca

scarcely believe that she has done what she has. It seems more like a dream than sober reality. But I supose every man in my case feels like

"If I could only do something for and looking up into his face with the sympathy which, coming from a woman, is so percious to a man, especial-

after a moment's pause. "What will you do with youreslf to-day? Will you Lord Cecil went forward, a slight don't think me obtrusive!-but will membrance of the situation. "But am forgetting! I-I ought not to be here-ought I? Lord Neville, you don't hink ill of me for coming?" and the colour rose to her face, and she dropped her eloquent eyes as if with a

> sudden shame. "Think ill of you, Lady Grace!" he echoed, impetuously. "What, for coming to try and help a poor fellow with

"Ah!" she said, in a low voice: "that I have been foolish and—and forward

in coming here to you like this?" Cecil would certainly have been obiged to admit that she had been foolish: but what man in his position ever

"I think you have done a very kind action, Lady Grace," he said, gravely

She looked at him with an intelli gent flash of her eyes. "You were going to say that no one

need know. You forget the cabman nd the man outside." Lord Cecil bit his lip.

"At any rate, no one else need know." he said. "The cahman does no

"I engaged him from just outside f concern

"Cabman are discreet," he said, to "But the man-who is he. Lord

Neville?" He wiped his moustache, and made great business of it.

"Oh! a man I do business with," said; "nobody of any consequence. He does not know you. I'll answer for it.

"Not until this moment ealised what I have done," she said,

"Don't be uneasy, Lady Grace," he said, soothingly, "Let me discharge this cabman and call another-" "Very well," she said; then she added, tremulously, "but will you

come back with me?" promptly, and he seized his hat.

will come and see Lord Peyton-"My father is away yachting," she said: "but come as far as the house, if you will."

Then he stopped and turned crimson, and stared at her, the picture of a man embarrassed beyond measure.

ed, almost clasping her hands.

understand! I'd give all I'm worth"he laughed bitterly, and corrected himself-"ten years of my life, to come with you, but-"

He turned away, and sat down his hat almost savagely.

ed, anxiously, and there seemed to him a touch of reproach in her voice which maddened him. "But I will not ask you to explain. Good-bye," and she turned away without offering her

He sprang forward, then pulled up,

She passed out, closing the door after her. On the bottom of the stairs manded. hand, and he followed her to the door; there, she turned and, looking at him, Cecil, confusedly, calmly said:

"You are a sheriff's officer?"

He looked rather surprised. "Yes. I am, my lady," he admitted. it. I mean that there's been some un I suppose his lordship told you?"

gaze, and he looked rather uncertain one-someone who's got a grudge

"I see you do!" she said. "Well, yes, my lady. You see, I get about a good deal," he added, apologetically, "and anybody who is accustomed to seeing much of the upper en, knows Lady Grace Peyton."

name, and bit her lip.

Cecil Neville because he is in trouble. am a very great friend of him.' The man nodded appreciatively. He took her words as meaning that she

was engaged to Lord Cecil. "He is in great trouble, is he not?" "Well, yes, he is," he replied, "That s, he is in just a bit of a hole at present. It's not much of a hole, but he seems as if he couldn't get out of it." "You have arrested him for debt,

most reluctantly. "I suppose he has told you, and it's no use my denying lady, especially if-begging our pardon for the liberty-you are going to help him; and I suppose you

"Yes," she said, quietly. "What is

He handed her the paper. "Is that all?"

"All I'm concerned with," he replied,

significantly "I will pay it," she said, after moment's reflection. "Will you come

He hesitated a moment, then put on his hat with a certain amount of

"Yes, I will! It's not usual, but I'd

rust your ladyship to the utmost." "Walk down the street and beckon the cab to follow, please," she said. 'I do not wish Lord Neville to see us together. I do not wish him to know anything of what I have done. Can I

"You can, my lady," he said. They drove in silence to the West End branch of the bank, which was only half a mile off, and Lady Grace drew a cheque for the amount and

handed it to the officer, who took it with unfeigned pleasure. "I can't tell you now how glad I am ou came, Lady Grace," he said. "If ever I've had a disagreeable job, this one of Lord Neville's was one. Most of em treat one like dirt, and give a lot of trouble into the bargain. I've met with rough usage sometimes, my lady; out Lord Neville, though he's young and full of go, so to speak, has behav-

as if I had the feelings of a man. Yes, he's a nobleman, every inch of him and-I hope you won't laugh, my lady! -but I declare, if I'd had the money, I'd have lent it him myself rather than taken him off. There's the receipt."

paper in her hand; then she said: "Take it to Lord Neville, and put an end to his anxiety; but, remember your promise, and do not tell him from whom you got the money."

She thought a moment, holding the

ed like a gentleman, and treated, me

Then she lowered her veil and left

He walked back to Clarges Street—
almost ran, indeed—and, opening the "Nothing, nothing," he hastened to door in response to Lord Cecil's reassure her, though his voice was gloomy "Come in," entered, and pant-

man, emphatically. "But I spoke the truth when I said you were a real nobleman. And I didn't hurry back because I was afraid. No-I knew you'd wait. You are the right sort, you are, "I don't understand," she murmur-

"Thanks," said Lord Cecil, curtly;

Lord Cecil took it up indifferently;

port, he started and flushed. "Why, what does this mean?" he de-

she found the man sitting with his "It means that the claim is settled. hands in his pockets, his hat on the and that you are a fee man, my lord," back of his head; but he sprang up said the officer, warmly; "and if you'll and removed his hat as she appeared. allow me to offer my respectful con-She made a slight gesture with her gratulations and a word of warning-" "A word of warning?" said Lord

"Yes, my lord. This businessthough it's all right in a legal wayhas had a curious feature or two about "No matter," she said. "Do you pect. You see, though the amounts were owing to several persons origin-His eyes dropped before her steady ally, they've been bought up by someagainst you. Can you guess who it is?

Lord Cecil shook his head. "I know no one who has any grudge against me" he said still hewildered "Very well, my lord, all the more reason that you should keep your eyes open. At any rate, you're clear of 'em She looked round as he spoke her now, and I wish you good-day. You won't be sorry to see the back of me. I

> the man turned, with his hand on the door. "Someone has paid this money.

> The man shook his head "A friend who wishes to remain unknown, my lord," he said.

Lord Cecil stared at him. "A friend who- Nonsense man! must know! Who was it-the mas quis?

The man shook his head again. "I'm pledged, my lord," he said

"Not the marquis? I know of no one else- Stop!" His face went crimson The lady who was here"-he sprang forward and seized the man's arm i a grip like that of a vise+"was it

"I'm pledged, my lord. I've given my word. I have, indeed." Lord Cecil dropped his arm.

(To be Continued.)

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