

THORNS AND ORANGE BLOSSOMS

CHAPTER VII-Continued, She thought over his words before she anwered them.

"I should have been very sorry, but not unhappy," she replied. "I should not have forgotten you; and I am glad, honestly glad, to see you again."

His face brightened as he gazed on her fair,

thy loveliness.
"Thank you for so much," he said. "I will teach you the rest: that is the begin-ting; the rest will come. You are glad to

e me. Heaven bless you." He bent down and kissed the fair hands money."
"I see!" he cried. "Do not be distressed about the money, Violet. I assure you that I have not sold one of my pictures, and that I had the money by me; I had, my dear, indicad." that lay so chill and quiet in his own. And that first caress ever given to her stirred the maiden depths of her heart and soul as a pebble thrown into a deep lake disturbs its surface. If Aunt Alice could but have seen that! Violet shuddered as the thought passed through her mind, and he thought "Now I shall enjoy my present," she said, her eyes brightening. "All my life I have longed for a beautiful ring. It shines, Ran-dolph, as though a myriad sunbeams were concentrated in it." passed through her mind, and he thought that she was vexed at his caress. "Oh, Violet, if you would, if you could but learn to love me a little!" he said. "Love

wins love. Will you try?"

"I might try," she whispered; "but I am not at all sure that I should succeed."

"I shall be quite content at present if you will try. You have no other admirer, and you love no one else. I see no reason, my sarling, why I should not win you in time. I will live for you; will love you so well, so dearly, that you shall not be able to help loving me. I am happier than I dared hope; I am happier than I deserve to be. You might have sent me away; you have listened, and you will love me in time. I have been talking to you all this time, and, Violet, I have not seen your eyes. Raise them to mine, sweetheart, that I may see what they

now for many weeks. Are you so content Violet, that you wish for no more?"
"It is very nice," she replied, carelessly.
"It is quite new for me to have some one who admires me, and says pretty things to me, who gives me beautiful presents and makes life more bright and cheerful for me. I am not sure that I want more." Slowly enough the white lids moved, the long fringed lashes were raised, and the dark, olet eyes looked sadly into his.
"What besutiful eyes!" he cried. "And they tell me that you do love me a little. Is

not sure that I want more."

"Now, Violet, stand still—how quickly you are walking, my darling, this morning!—stand still a moment, look into the very depths of your heart, and tell me would you like always to live in this fashion, to be no nearer and no dearer to me than you are His own were so full of passionate adoration that hers fell before them.
"I am frightened," she said, with a shudder. "My heart beats. Oh, let me run away: I must not stay here! What have you done to me? It is as though my heart and soul were stirred with mingled pleasure

She tried to draw away the little white hands; but he would not release them.
"My beautiful sweetheart, listen to me." But she interrupted him. "I am not your sweetheart. You must

very happy."

"Have you no longing to be with me always?" he asked.

"I should like to see more of you," she renot use that word to me." "That is just the question." he said.
"Will you be my sweetheart? I will not ik more just yet; consent to that and I will the happiest man in the wide world. My sweetheart, my beautiful, gentie, graceful sweetheart, will you? If you do not like me, you can bid me depart; but, if you learn to love me, you will make this earth paradise to

did not beat with rapture, nor were her lips mute with the glad surprise that comes to mute with the glad surprise that comes to most young girls when their lover speaks. "Think for a few minutes, and then answer me," Lord Ryvers went on; "and remember, me, Lord Ryvers went on; "and remember, it is not a man's fancy, but a man's life, that hangs on the word. I do not wish to influence you unduly; but, if you say me nay, I shall fling myself away as one flings away a worthless weed. Oh, Violet, is your heart cold to me; are your eyes blind, your lips dnmb? I stand here before you, my heart in my words, my life in your hands. Now tell me; will you be my sweetheart?"

He threw his arm around her with a caress. "I must be content," he said. "You are my sweetheart, and you love me after your own fashion. You will love me better some day. Can you guess, Violet, why I have wanted so much to see you this morning?".

"No," she replied; "I could never guess."

"Dear one," he said earnestly. "It is a

He threw his arm around her with a caressing gesture, as though he would protect her from everything hurtful: and it was this gesture of his, this half caress, that touched her heart. "Say 'yes,' Violet. You shall never rentit, her lover, pleaded passionately "Von to be my wife."

do not know what life is; I will teach you. Open your pure young heart to the influence of love. Whisper that one word to me He bent his handsome head to catch the faint sound. She thought for a few minutes, and

then she answered:

CHAPTER VIII.

"You have sold a picture, Randolph, I am sure," was the greeting Lord Ryvers received one morning, when he saw Violet coming from

Miss Atherton had caught a violent cold, which had caused her to relax her vigilance and send her beautiful niece out in her stead -not for long rambles for her own pleasure, that was plainly understood: but it was necessary for her to go to Warwick once or twice in the week, and also to the Hill Farm, on little matters of business; and, though it atruck Miss Atherton more than once that her niece was a long time absent, she never

dreamed of the cause.

Lord Ryvers had made himself quite at home at the Hill Farm; the tarmer and his buxom wife knew him as a young artist who admired the quite sylvan scenery of the neighbourhood. Miss Beaton's name never passed his lips; but, as by a tacit understandpassed his lips; but, as by a tacit understanding, the good-natured mistress of the farm always mentioned in his presence—quite accidentally, to all appearance—when Miss Beaton was coming—never addressing herself pointedly to him, but always to some bystander. It happened that Violet saw him every day. He was very gentle with her. He seemed to be content with the victory he had gained that evening when she had whishad gained that evening when she had whis pered her consent to be his sweetheart.

He would walk by her side and hold her

the would wak by her side and note her hand in a long, lingering clasp, but he never startled her more with passionate words or caresses. He was too wise and too intent on winning her. On this particular morning it was about half way between the farm and Acacia Cottage that they had met when she greeted him with the words:
"You have sold a picture, Randolph, I am

best."

"How glad I am!" he said.
"Ever since I first met an artist sketching in St. Byno's woods, I have liked men of his profession. They seem to me gentlemen, all of them. I am glad you are an artist, Randolph." she added, musingly. "I cannot imagine a bad tempered artist."

"That is not the question, Violet. The manners of artists might interest me at any other, time, but not just now. You forget the question I have asked you—will you be my wife? Think now much I love you. how "What makes you say so?" he asked,
"You' know. Oh, Randolph, how you
love mystery, and how I hate it! You know
what I found in my canary's cage this morning
—only this morning;" and the beautiful eyes
were turned on him with mingled pleasure and
tender. "What a place to not a reclaim wonder. "What a place to put a packet in!" she continued. "Suppose my aunt had gone to the cage the first thing this morning to feed the bird?" "Iknew she would not. From the chestnut

my wife? Think now much I love you, how happy you might make me; think of the pleasant life I would plan for you, and think, though your Warwickshire home is beautiful, how monotonous the life is. Listen to me sweet Violet. Just now all is bright and glad. You are young and beautiful, you are so full of vitality that the veriest trifle is a pleasure to you, and you find all existence bright and fair. But, my darling, the years will roll on, and Time, most ruthless of enemies, will come and steal your youth, your brightness, the roses from your face, and the light from your eyes. Oh, my darling, can you think of spending all your fresh bright life in that solitary house, of having no one to love but that stern, querulous aunt of yours? Oh, my darling, have pity upon yourself!"

For the first time he saw tears in her tree in the field I can see all that passes in your garden. Every morning I see you going feed your bird after you have hung its cage "I believe you know everything I do and say," she replied, laughing and blushing. "Oh, Randolph, how beautiful it is!"

"Oh, Randolph, how beautiful it is!"
That morning, on going to feed her canary, Violet found a little parcel in the cage. It was addressed to "My beautiful sweetheart," and she knew at once that Randolph had climbed the garden wall, and had placed it there for her. Opening it she found a diamond ring, and though she knew little of jewels, absent that it must have cost a large sum. So had at once jumped to the conclusion that, to buy this for her, her artist lover must have sold a picture, perhaps at a great sacrisold a picture, perhaps at a great sacri-How dearly he loved her! And her repreached her that she did not love art repreached her that sue did not be more. He looked delighted when she

"You have to choose between sunlight and darkness," he urged.

"Give me time to think," she pleaded.

"I will give you time. Take two days. This is Tuesday morning; on Thursday let me see you, even if I cannot speak to you. Let me see you standing by the great chestnut tree; and, if you will marry me, wear a bunch of scarlet geraniums in your blue dress. If I see it there, I shall thank Heaven indeed!" him more. He looked delighted when she praised his present.

"I am so glad you are pleased with it!" he said. "Have you put it on?"

"Randolph, a diamond ring! What would my aunt say? No; I have locked it up in

my aunt say? No; I have locked it up in my drawer."

Two whole days to pass in terrible suspense!

Lord Ryvers forgot all about his difficulties: he forgot his stately mother's proud aspirations, the hopes she had built up as to his future; he could think only of one thing.

I am very patient, Violet; I would wait

"You said you would be content if I would be your sweetheart," she said, half re

"You are not mercenary," he said.
"I? Oh, Randolph, what a terrible idea.

shining, you will let me come and put it on for you, will you? We have been sweethearts

She stood still, and looked at him thought-

"It says nothing," she replied. "I am

fully. "What does your heart say, Violet?" he

"I should like to see more of you, "she re-plied, "certainly."
"When I am away from you, do you count the hours and minutes until I return?"
"No; but I am pleased when you come

"Oh, beautiful statue, when will you wake into life?" he cried, "When will your heart and soul be stirred within you? You have

none of the love that burns my heart away.

How shall I teach you? When will one spark of the 'divine fire' come to you? What can I do to make you love me?"

"I do love you," she said; but there was no girlish flush on her face, no love light in her even

her eyes.
"I must be content," he said. "You are

great happiness to have you for my sweet-heart, greater than I can tell; but I want you

answered "If I were to be your wife, you would still want something more."
"Hardly; there can be nothing nearer, nothing dearer than a wife," he replied, with a half smile. "I should be more than con-

tent if you would promise that."
"It is so much to promise, Randolph," she

"If one stood here before you now, with the most ancient and honourable of titles,

with a fortune that would make you a queer of fashion, would you not marry him?"

makes his own name by his own industry and talent. I shall never make you understand

my wife? Think now much I love you, how

eyes. "You have to choose between sunlight and

said-" so much !

an aristocrat."

should see the scarlet bloom of the geraniums worn by the woman he loved. If he saw her standing beneath the chesnut tree with no scarlet flower on her bosom, he should give up title and estates, should never care for aught again in this world. Thinking of all this, he fretted at the delay.

"Why did I say I would wait two days for her answer?" he asked himself. She could have decided in one. Perhaps the more time she has to think, the less chance there will be for me."

He could do one thing that would help to pass a few hours away. He went over the next day to Warwick, and there purchased a bouquet of the finest scarlet geraniums. Quite early the following morning, before any one in the cottage was astir, he stole through the garden and placed them where Violet must them when she went to feed her bird. He stood for some minutes trying to fancy what would happen—whether she would fing them away with scorn, or whether she would take a vivid scarlet spray and fasten it in the bodice of her dress.

He had made his home at "The Barley Mow," a pretty wayside inn that might have all my life for you rather than lose you. Sweetheart it was the second of June when I first saw you, and the harvest moon will soon proachfully, half in surprise, "and I have been your sweetheart all these weeks, Ran-dolph. What more do you want?" "What more?" and he looked at her in surprise. "Everything, Violet. But tell me why you think I have sold a picture."
"Because that ring must have cost so much

He had made his home at "The Barley Mow," a pretty wayside inn that might have been the original of the world-famous "Maypole." This morning the landlady of "The Barley Mow," as she carried away his untouched breakfast, said to him:

"You are not well. sir; you walk too much or you work too hard; give yourself a day's set?"

day's rest,"

He laughed to himself. What rest would there be for him until he had learned his

The breakfast being carried away, he went out. Better would it be fo spend the minutes of consuming torture out in the open air, "I? Oh, Randolph, what a terrible idea: I mercenary—"
"I was thinking." he interrupted, "that you would not enjoy anything that you thought had cost anyone else a sacrifice. If you thought I had sold a picture to buy that ring, you would not care for it."
"I should not care for it so much," she replied. "I have heard my aunt speak of diamonds; I know how valuable they are. I never thought I should have a diamond ring."

"I fain would speak, yet dare not, for Her gentle soul's distress. " What is to me one sorrow more, So that she has one less?

"Yet I could wish, when I am dead, Her eyes should look through mine; And on my heart engraven read This motto 'Dir Allein,'" How the words seemed to echo through his brain over and over again! Then a bird flew from the great oak tree, and he thought of Swinburne's beautiful line:

"A bird to the right sung follow." The bird did fly to the right; it went over the river, and into the orchard that belonged to Acacia Cottage. He would follow; he had told her that he should be there by ten, and it was yet only nine. Would she have found the geraniums? And, if she had, would she

wear them?

He could see all over the garden and orchard from the green lane that ran parallel with them, and there he stood awaiting his doom. He saw the birds seeking and enjoying the ripest plums, then flying in search of other sweets; he saw a kitten, soft and white as a snowball, creep along the wall, climb the tree, and lie in wait for a small bird, and then he saw the flutter of a blue dress amongst the trees. His suspense would soon be ended now.

Down the garden paths, over the grass, Jown the garden paths, over the grass, across to the white rails, came Violet; and then sue stood for one minute under the branches of the linden tree,

Lord Ryvers' eyes flashed with happy pride, his face flushed with passionate delight, his heart beat fast, his pulse thrilled. She had looked over the hedge into the lane, and he saw the gleem of golden hair, the beauty of her pure young face, and—ah, Heaven be thanked l—the scarlet geraniums on her breast.

CHAPTER IX.

That same afternoon Lord Ryvers went bordly to Acacia Cottage. After all, to face a tail, angular lady with a great dislike to his a tail, angular lady with a great dislike to his sex was not perhaps the most alarming ordeal in the world. He knocked at the door, which, in answer to his summons, was opened by the little maid. She looked considerably alarmed at the sight of the tall handsome stranger, so imposing a visitor never having, within her experience, called upon her mistress.

"I want to see Miss Atherton." said the young load. ""is abe at home?"

young lord; "is she at home?"

The little maid dropped a curtsey, but made no reply; her astonishment and fright seemed to have stricken her dumb.

"Do you think I could see Miss Atherton?" repeated Lord Ryvers, a trifle impatiently,

speak.
Still without a word she ushered the visitor into the little parlour. Lord Ryvers had not long to wait before Miss Atherton made her appearance. She hastily closed the door behind her, then, turning, confronted her unwelcome guest. She looked ready to encounter a legion of lovers; there was no sign of qualling in her was or farce.

a tegion of tovers; there was no sign of qualing in her eyes or farce.

"You wished to see me," she began sternly.

"Yes," he replied. "I should be glad to have a few minutes' conversation with you."

"You are the young man with whom I met my niece once?" she said, severely.

"I am that most fortunate of men," he replied.

"If you are going to refuse me this, it would have been better never to be kind to me at all—a thousand times better!" he declared, passionately. "I could not lose you now. A month since I might have borne it, and have lived. Think of it, Violet. If you will marry me you shall have your heart's desire. I will take you to see the fairest lands on which the sun shines; you shall see earth's noblest cities, Italy's art treasures, Switzerreplied.
Miss Atherton turned half contemptuously

away. "What do you want with me?" she questioned, curtly.

"I love your niece, and I have come to ask your permission to marry her." he said, plunging without any preamble into the subject nearest his heart.

noblest cities, Italy's art treasures, Switzer-land's snow-capped mountains, all the beauties and marvels of creation; you shall have every wish gratified."

"You talk like a prince, Randolph," she answered, calmly, "How could you do all this? It would take a fortune."

"I would spend a hundred fortunes on you," he answered, eagerly,

"But you must have them first," she rejoined, laughingly; "and you have not."

"I will make them," he said. "Violet, you told me once that yon would not marry an aristocrat." "That you will never obtain," said Miss Atherton, coldly.

"Then, madam, with all due deference to you, I shall marry her without," he replied.

"We shall see," said the lady, still calmly.

"For my own part, I would rather see my place looked up in a lunatic saylum than the said that the said the said that the said the said that the sa niece locked up in a lunatic asylum married."

Lord Ryvers bowed, for he was at a loss for

words. "Young man," said Miss Atherton, solemn ly, "do not standing there bowing at me.
Does my niece know of this nonsense?"

"Miss Beaton did not know of my inten-"No," she replied, with sovereign con-tempt; "I would never be false to the opin-ions of my life. I will marry a man who tion to call this afternoon. The fact of the matter is that I really could not wait any onger."
She glanced at him angrily. how I dislike the aristocracy. You would have no chance at all if you were an aristocrat, Randolph," she added, laughing; "but it is greatly in your favour that you are an artist. Of all professions, I like that of an artist heat."

She glanced at him angrily.

"You will have to exercise your patience to a much greater extent," she said. "I shall countenance nothing of the kind." Then, with stern mien, she rang the bell. Did no remembrance come to her of the old sweet time when her heart had beaten, and her eyes had grown dim with tears? "Tell Miss Beaton I want her." she said to the wondering maid; and after a brief interval. maid; and after a brief interval, Violet ap-

maid; and after a brief interval, Violet appeared.

She looked so shy, so coy, so lovely, as she entered, blushing and startled, that the young lord lost his head altogether, and was on the point of committing himself in unpardonable fashion, when a look from Miss Atherton restrained him.

"Violet," said her aunt, grimly, "this young man has come to ask me if he may marry yau. I say 'No.' You hear me Violet? I object to it."

Beautiful, blushing Violet looked at her lover as though she would say, "You must

lover as though she would say, "You must take up the challeage, Randolph."

Stepping forward, he took his stand by Violet's side; then he clasped one of her little white hands in his, Miss Atherton looking on with cold displeasure. on with cold displeasure.
"We hope," he said, "that you will give

your permission. We shall be married in any case; but Violet would be much happier if you consented, for she cannot forget all your kindness to her."

"It needs no stranger to tell me that," said
Miss Atherton. "Violet, do you—do you
love this young man? Do you wish to marry
him?" with an air of lofty disdain.

"I should not mind, aunt," answered Vio-

a passing reminiscence of the old passion.

If the man she had loved so faithfully had If the man she had loved so faithfully had asked her to marry him, she would not have answered in calm tones like Violet. She hated the very thought of love and matrimony; but she turned from her niece with a gesture of contempt to Lord Ryvers.

"Am I to understand that my niece professes to love you?"

"I am more than content," he replied.
"If Miss Beaton will marry me, I will make herthehappiestwife in the world, and I will devote my whole life to her."

"You do not seem to me. Violet, to know

mind," said Miss Atherton. "Do" ou love this young man or not ?"
"I—I like him very much, aunt," faltered

"I—I like him very much, aunt," faltered the girl.

"Like him!" repeated Miss Atherton, scornfully, "What a word to use! Do you love him, child? Do you feel as though you would die if you lost him?"

For once the passion that had so long been repressed shone in Miss Atherton's face, and the two young people standing before her looked at her in wonder. It was as though a ghost had suddenly appeared before them, and vanished as it came.

"Speak up bravely!" whispered the young fellow. "Have no fear, Violet. Say that you love me."

fellow. "Have no fear, Violet. Say that you love me."
Then she looked up, with sweet, shy eyes.
"I do love, aunt and, if you are willing, I should like to marry, him."
Miss Atherton looked at her niece's lover.
How handsome he was! If she hadnot heard that he was an artist, she would have felt convinced that he was an aristocrat. The lofty bearing, the carriage of the head, the perfect features, all indicated high birth and breeding. Well, no wonder that her niece, foolish Violet, had been struck with him. nad been struck with him.
"I know," said Miss Atherton, speaking

n her usual calm, even tones once more that I might as well try to stop the rush o "that I might as well try to stop the rush of the river as prevent the marriage of two young people, if they are bent upon it; but I suppose the madness of levers will in some degree be swayed by common sense. You wish to marry my niece, sir. Now, tell me whether your means are sufficient to keep her, to surround her with the comforts to which she has always been accustomed."

A hot flush suffused Violet's fair face, while Lord Ryvers could acareely restrain himself from bursting into loud laughter.

"I am bound to ask you whether your income is adequate to support the burden you propose to take upon yourself," persisted Miss Atherton.

"I am an artist, madam." he replied

Atherton.

"I am an artist, madam," he replied.

"But do you earn money enough to live upon?" the lady asked. "That is the practical question. It is all very well for a man to call himself an artist. The question is, what does he make by his art?"

"I can keep myself with perfect ease, madam," replied Lord Ryvers, with a smile,
"And what of my niece?" asked Miss Atherton.

erton.
"I can give the same answer as to you nice." he replied. "If you will forgive me, for saying so, I shall provide her with even greater comforts than you have done." "What proof have you to give me of this? she asked

"I can only give you my word," he answered, with some little pride—"nothing else. If you trust your niece to me, you must take my word that I shall love, cherish, and protect 'Have you a home for her?" inquired Miss

"Have you a home for her?" inquired Miss Atherton. "I do not approve of young people going into apartments."
He thought of Ryversdale, and smiled.
"I thought," he replied, "of going abroad for a year or two. Violet would like such an arrangement, I believe; so should I."
Miss Atherton raised her hands and eyes in protest. This was indeed the climax. To go abroad, to wander like vagrants all over the Continent! Nothing could be worse than wandering artists. Miss Atherton was at her wits' end.

"I suppose," she said, despairingly, "that nothing will prevent this absurd nonsense, that no prayer or pleading of mine can put a stop to this imprudent marriage?"

"I am sure not," replied Lord Ryvers,
"Then I wash my hands of it," she said,

"Then I wash my hands of it," she said, solemnly. "You have had the candour to tell me that my refusal or consent will make no difference. It is useless to forbid; I will not consent. I leave you to please yourselves; but I protest against it."

There was a moment of blank silence; then Violet spoke, her face pale with emotion.

"Aunt, have you nothing to say to me kinder than this? I have no father to bless me, no mother to kins me."

me, no mother to kias me."

"I cannot speak kindly in a matter of which I so "strongly disapprove," said Miss Atherton, with energy, as to the consent to our union nor give it your sanction," said Lord Ryvers. "Then if I ask you to allow the marriage of the low the low the marriage of the low the low

low the marriage to take place, we will say, on the twenty-second of September, you will accede to my request?"

"I will neither accede nor refuse," replied such a foolish, senseless marriage. I can do no more. My niace is under my charge; until now she has been an adopted daughter to me. If she chooses to marry, I shall accompany her to church, and see that all is company her to church, and see that all is right; but the day she leaves my house to be-come your wife, she leaves it forever." He turned with reckless impulse to Violet, and took her in his arms; he kissed the

quivering lips and weeping eyes.

"My darling," he said, "do not be distressed. It is time I took you away. If she is cruel, I will be kind; my love shall make up to you for the loss of all others."

"When I was young," cried Miss Atherton, "girls had more modesty, young men more

girls had more modesty, young men mor

elt-restraint."
"I should think you never were young, is the right sense of the word, Miss Atherton!" cried the young lord, angered by the tears of his betrothed. Had she never been? Over the seared.

highted heart passed a wave of memory.

"I do not wish to be cruel," she said. "I did not intend to make you unhappy, Violet; but I detest the very thought of matrimony, and I think it is a sad thing to see a young girl like you ruin her whole life in this mad fashion;" and, in spite of herself, a sigh escaned the grim woman as she thought here rashion;" and, in spite of herself, a sigh escaped the grim woman as she thought how fair a thing was going out from her own life.
"It is a settled thing," said the young lord.
"Violet is my bethrothed wife, and, on the twenty-second of September, she will be my very own. But, in the interim, when may I have now itself the second." be permitted to see her?"

The house is open; you will never be refused admittance when you call; and you may call," she added, half unwillingly, "whenever vou like."

bered pressing invitations lavished upon him by Belgravian mothers, prettily worded notes he had been in the habit of constantly receiving, and he enjoyed the present contrast. This was wooing in the face of difficulties, and no mistake! "I thank you, madam," he said. "I

ahall call twice every day," he added, raising his head with something of defiance—"once in the morning for a short time, to see how my —my future wife is; and I shall ask that I may spend my evenings with her."
"My house will never be my wn" declared Miss Atherton, a trifle irritably, "with

clared Miss Atherton, a trule irritally, "with a young man prowling about it."
"I will not prowl about the house, Miss Atherton," he replied, with some spirit. "I assure you that no one is less inclined to play the part of a tame cat than am I. When the evenings are fine, Violet and I shall enjoy a wak together. I shall not need to intrude on your hospitality."

She liked him all the better for that little display of spirit. Her heart was just a little display of spirit. display of spirit. Her heart was just a little touched by his handsome face and manly way. Perhaps there was a slight feeling of envy that her niece should win such a hus-

oand, while the man whom she had loved had

band, while the man whom she had loved had forsaken her.

"Do you love my niece?" she aseked, with another of those sudden gleams of passion.

"I love her with my whole heart," he replied; and Miss Atherton said no more.

All the chivalry of the lover's heart was touched by the sweet, pained face of the girl. It did seem hard that her engagement and marriage should be dicussed in this cold, calm manner.

"I should not mind, aunt," answered Vioet, faintly.

Then Miss Atherton's heart thrilled with a passing reminiscence of the old passion. If the man she had loved so faithfully had sked her to marry him, she would not have asswered in calm tones like Violet. She had the very thought of love and matrinony; but she turned from her niece with a gesture of contempt to Lord Ryvers.

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"My darling," he said, taking her hand in his own warm clasp, "I am grieved for you; but I will make it all up to you. In the future my life shall be devoted to your service."

"I do not wish to interrupt any septimental scenes," said Miss Atherton, "but I wish to make one remark—it is a commonplace one, I am aware. You tell me that you hope to keep your wife and yourself by your work. What is to become of your work, if you are to visit my niece twice each day, and to spend the rest of your life in paying her devoted manner.

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"I do not wish to interrupt a

quotation, 'To work is to play,' I must change it into this 'To work is to love.' I must prove my love by my work."

"It will be well if you do so, "she observed, quietly. "And now if you have no more to say on the matter, I will leave you."

"You will let Violet remain with me for a few minutes?" he entreated.

Miss Atherton shrugged her shoulders.

"In ten minutes' time Violet will be wanted to make tes; she can remain with you until then. I wish you good afternoon," she said, ungraciously.

with head erect, Miss Atherton quitted the

room: yet, as she crossed the little hall, something that had been long dead in her heart awoke, and filled her eyes with tears.

Ah, that sweet long ago! Her hair was not gray then, but waving and bright. She was not angular, grim, and stern in those days, but blithe and happy. Alas for the lost youth, the lost, lost love! Alas for the days which would return no more!
"It will be just the same with her." she

thought. "She will love and hope, trust and wait, and meet with betrayal in the end." Meanwhile the young lover impatiently clasped his beautiful sweetheart in his arms. "My darling," he cried, "what a terrible woman for you to live with! How well you have been the tribuse and the same that the sa ave borne the trying ordeal through which you have passed !"
"Randolph," she said, gently, "why have you taken me so entirely by surprise? Why did you not tell me you were coming to see my

"For the best of all reasons, my dear. You would not have allowed me to come; you would have found a hundred reasons why my visit should be deferred. Now, is not that

visit should be deferred. Now, is not that true. Violet?"

"Perhaps so," she replied.

"And my dear," he said. "It is all very well; but I could not bear much more of this suspense. Oh, Violet, my darling, will you ever understand how tender and deep is my love for you?" To be Continued.

WOMAN'S KINGDOM.

The Dimple on Her Cheek, Within a nest of roses,
Half hidden from the sight,
Until a smile discloses
Its loveliness aright,
Behold the work of Cupid,
Who wrought it in a freak,
The witching little dimple—
The dimple of her cheek!

The Sirens' lays and glances
To lure the sailor nigh;
The perilous romances
Of fabled Lorelei,
And all the spells of Circe
Are reft of charm and weak,
Beside the dainty dimple—
The dimple on her cheek!

Were these the golden ages
Of knights and troubadours,
Who brighten olden pages
With tourneys and amours.
What lances would be broken—
What silver lutes would speak,
In honour of the dimple—
The dimple on her cheek!

Fashion Notes, The capote of medium size is the bonnet o Ostrich feathers will trim a great many of be fashionable grey and brown gowns this Black crepe lisse trims the neck and sleeves of many of the newest black silk iresees.

mere, lined with plush, and having a crape bood, trimmed with lace. Pretty Parisian capotes are made of velvet applique on coloured lace, with a bunch of velvet flowers on one side.

A great deal of very fine black Bruss s used for short veils, instead of the dotted veiling so popular a short time ago.

A black veivet dog-collar, dotted with jewels, usually diamonds and pearls, is fashionable to wear with full dress toilets.

Black face scarfs are used in place of furtippets by many girls. They are tied tightly around the throat and knotted in a bow beneath the chin.

Birds and butterflies of the most tropical appearance are placed flat on the corsages and draperies of many gauzy and tinsel-embroi-A fringe of fishes' tails is the fashionable rimming for sealskin and other cloaks.
Aigrettes, made of fine sable tails, trim tur-

ders are made of white Breton laces and beaded black lace as a dressy addition to dark silk toilets for the afternoon and for

quiet dinners. Gloves, thirty-one inches long, in mousque-taire-shape, without a single button, are made of reddish tan Suede leather, to be worn with any evening dress, either white, black,

Handkerchiefs for demi-toilet are of the finest and whitest cambric, and have borders of humming birds, embroidered in brilliant hues of geometrical hemstitched designs, with knots of bright-tinted flowers embroidered upon them. A novelty for evening dresses is net studded

with silk flowers in relief—not embroidered—but wonderful reproductions of the blossoms. Yellow tulle has silken white ears upon it, and gray tulle has bunches of lilacs

and pausies.

Persian shawls with an elaborate silk design on a novel ground are cut up into visites,
and their fine colouring produces an effective
wrap for the carriage and for evening wear. Chenille of all the colours in the pattern makes an appropriate trimming of fringe. For and About Woman, A lady, in London Truth, says the noses of

A hady, in London Truth, says the noses of English ladies are deteriorating.

When a bachelor says he is single from choice, it makes him mad to ask him why the girl made choice of some other fellow. Susie Bates, of Clinton, Me., is twelve years old and weighs 187 pounds. The who Bates that has not been heard from. "Violent gals have done much damage in this county," says a New Hampshire luca sheet. We suppose the editor wrote "gales, but the compositor knew better.

"My, how your daughter has grown!" said a lady visitor to Mrs. Jones. "Yes," at this moment chipped in saucy brother Bob, "mother's switch will soon fit sister." "What?" said a young beau, "you havn't noticed what a dumpish, stupid girl she is? It's positively frightful. I never called on her that she didn't go to sleep in half an

pleted a quilt containing thirty pieces, upon she has been working for 14,480 years. That looks wrong, but it corresponds with our A rural debating society was debating the question: "Which is the most solemn ceremony, a funeral or a marrage?" when it was noticed that all the married men agreed that

A maiden lady in Goderich has just com-

wedding was. "Did you put your arm around her waist?" asked the counsel in a breach of promise case. "Well, yes, I did," admitted the plaintiff, "She asked me to, and I never decline a pressing invition like that." A new invention has been discovered l

A new invention has been discovered by the ladies to kill off the surplus in their ranks. They chew cotton rags to improve their complexions, and as the cotton is bleached with arsenic they have what is popularly known as the "dead drop" on the druggists. The girls can now get their com-plexions by the yard. Choking mucus dislodged, membrane cleansed and healed, breath sweetened, smell, taste, and hearing restored, and ravages checked.

Cough, Bronchitis. Droppings into the Throat, Pains in the Chest, Dyspepsia, Wasting of Strenth and Flesh, Loss of Sleep, etc., cured.

One bottle Radical Cure, one box Catarrhal Solvent, and one Dr. Sanford's Inhaler, in one package, of all druggists, for \$1. Ask for Sanporan's RADICAL CURE, a pure distillation of Witch Hazel, Am. Pine, Ca. Fir, Marigold, Clover Blogsoms, etc. POTTER DRUG AND CHEMICAL CO., Boston.

plexions by the yard.

A society journal, in printing advice to young couples about to be married, advises them to have the house furnished, so that they can commence housekeeping right after the wedding. Now let us also whisper a hint to all prospective grooms: Be sure to get your latch key before you get your wife. It will save explanations and protestatious later. IS THE CRY SUFFERING NERVE The Bangs of To-Day. Despite all the censure and ridicule showered upon the "bang" of the present, it is far.

preferable to the fashion of dragging the hair severely off from the face, leaving the fore-head entirely bare. The colour of the hair always harmonizes with the colour of the skin; and nature intended that the one should set-off the other. Note the effect of a colour put

off the other. Note the effect of a colour put next to a woman's face with no intervening hair. Happily, we of to-day see faces and hair, not faces and bonnets. Indeed, although many of the old costumes were charmingly graceful, there are few of us who would care to exchange our own varied fashions for the styles of any past epoch, however grand they might have been. Sham "Duties to Society."

It is a wise and suggestive saying that Wilkie Collins puts in the mouth of one of his characters: that one may live comfortably on a certain income named, "provide that she does not owe duties to society. How many a piece of extravagance is excused and glossed over with the plea that really one was obliged to do this or that—that it wouldn't look well not to, etc. But who is really deceived by the excuse or the foolish and trail? There are homes that are made act itself? There are homes that are made wretched through this notion of a duty to society which conflicts with duty to the family. If every woman leoked faithfully to her work at home, lived within her means, attended to each real obligation, there would be fewer discontented women vainly seeking

for an outlet for their surplus energy. Bigh-Heeled Shoes, The feet not only look smaller in tight and

The feet not only look smaller in tight and high-heeled shoes, but really become smaller, but it is at the expense of health, the cutting off the blood supply to the foot and the forcing the bones injuriously together. The trouble begins in childhood. The shoes of children are almost invariably too close-fitting, cramping the growth and deforming the young bones. It is even asserted that high-heeled shoes worn by children have produced curvature of the spine, and it is not incredible, and frequently the breaking down of girls at school is directly attributable to abused feet. It is indeed, to be hoped that the time is not far distant when our demand will be for "a normal, healthy foot in a will be for "a normal, healthy foot in a natural and comfortable covering, and not for a crippled and distorted, withered, ugly "club," bound in an instrument of torture,"

Woman and her Clothes. It is singular that the average woman has so few well defined preferences in regard to the fashion of her own clothes. She waits to be told whether she shall wear her skirts long or short; her sleeves close or full; her bodice or short; her sleeves close or full; her bodice straig, to or en basque, its neck high or low; her skirts weighted with material enough to kill (in time) the strongest man or so scant she cannot climb a door-step unaided. There is a little advance. Thousands used to ask, "What is fashionable in colour and design?" and blindly follow. Now, in asking such questions they usually state their own good or bad points, and ask how they can adapt styles and colours to them. This develops another curious fact, that women have no illusions in regard to themselves, and to one who does not know them, or is never likely to see sions in regard to themselves, and to one who does not know them, or is never likely to see or become personally acquainted with them, they speak of their own short-comings, of "sallowness," of the possession of a "good" or "poor" figure, and other more or less noticeable defect of face or form, with relentiess accuracy and from a purely impersonal point of view.

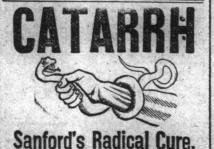
Child Life in France. Nursery life in France does not exist. Babies are not relegated to the sole care of servants; even women in the highest position let baby sleep in a cot by their bedside—the foreign fathers not objecting—and preside at its daily ablutions. After that, the morning walk is taken by baby in company with its mother and its nurse, which effectually disposes of all sly slaps and cross behaviour on the part of the latter, or of clandestine meetings with the life-gualisman or the foot-soldier. When there is company baby is present, is taught to smile and behave nicely, and the nurse, who on her part knows how to comport herself, retires with her charge into a corner of the apartment, prattling, laughing, and amusing it, while madame is occupied with her more serious duties. In the afternoon baby drives out with mamma and nurse, and when she is a trifle older dines down stairs at midday, with her father and mother, the nurse standing behind her chair, cutting up her food, and superintending her movements and mode of asting. Thus haby expended. Nursery life in France does not exist,

ments and mode of eating. Thus baby es-capes the interminable nursery meals, the bread and cheese and beer three times a day, and the nurse's vulgar gossip with her willing subalterns and satellites, possibly also the un

refined remarks upon her mistress and her Depth in Mourning.

There is a movement in the wearing and making of mourning for near and dear friends which needs to be chronicled. It may be because so many have discontinued the wearing of mourning altogether that those who still continue the custom consider it necessary to emphasize it as much as possible. A mourning outfit recently made exhibited scarcely continue the custom consider it necessary to emphasize it as much as possible. A mourning outfit recently made exhibited scarcely anything upon the first dresses, but the heavy folds of double English crepe, the depth of which upon the skirt was nearly to the waist, the lower reaching above the knee. The bonnet was entirely of crepe, and its trimming was a veil fastened so as to fall at the back to the top of a broad band of crepe that bordered the coat. The material was fine, double, jet black, Henrietta cloth, and the lining of the coat was heavy-dull armure silk. For morning wear at home was a long black cashmere, princesse cut, with small, dull, "black currant" buttons and black pleated crepe lisse at the neck and wrists. The battlemented band at the throat disclosed the crepe lisse between the squares. The home dinner dress was of rich but dull armure silk with demi-train bordered deeply with solid crepe, small de Medici collar-of crepe with inside pleating of crepe lisse (black), and de Medici cuffs of crepe turned upon the arm. What is called a plastron, formed of foids of crape, constituted the front of the bodice. Heavy folds of crepe arranged as a diagonal apron traversed the upper front of the skirt and assisted to form the drapery, which was massed on the point of the bodice. Lace of any versed the upper front of the skirt and assisted to form the drapery, which was massed on the point of the bodice. Lace of any kind, black or white, is not permitted so long as crepe is worn, but when that is removed black isce and beaded work may be used for ornamentation and finish off the dull and lustreless kinds.

The standard of height for the French cavalry has been fixed as follows: Reserve, 1.70 to 1.75 metres; Line, 1.64 to 1.70 metres; ight cavalry, 1.59 to 1.64 metres (a metre is



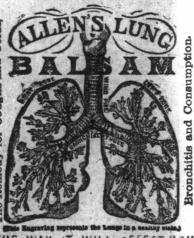
Head Colds, Watery Discharges from the Nond Kyes, Ringing Noises in the Head, Nervoleadache and Fever instantly relieved.
Cheking mucus dislodged, membrane cleans



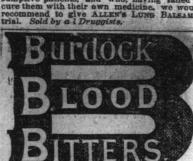
THE GREAT DR. DIO LEWIS

His Outspoken Opinion.

The very marked testimonials from College Professors, respectable Physicians, and other gentleinen of intelligence and character to the value of Warner's SAFE Cure, published in the editorial columns of our best newspapers, have greatly surprised me. Many of these gentlemen I know, and reading their testimony I was impelled to purchase some bottles of Warner's SAFE Cure and analyze it. Besides, I took some, swallowing three times the prescribed quantity. I am satisfied the medicine is not injurious, and will frankly add that if I found myself the victim of a serious kidney trouble I should use this preparation. The truth is, the medical profession stands dazed and kelpless in the presence of more than one kidney malady, while the testimony of hundreds of intelligent and very reputable gentlemen hardly leaves room to doubt that Mr. H. H. Warner jas fallen upon one of those happy discoveries which occasionally bring below at freith the settlement of these happy discoveries which occasionally pring below at freith the settlement of these happy discoveries which occasionally pring below at freith the settlement of these happy discoveries which occasionally pring below at freith the settlement of the set the settlement of these happy discoveries which occasionally pring below at the settlement of the set the settlement of the settlement of the set the settlement of the set the settlement of the set the settlement of the settlement of the set the settlement of the set the settlement of the set the settlement of the His Outspoken Opinion.



It excites expectoration and causes the lungs to throw off the phlegm or mucous; changes the secretions and purifies the blood; heals the irritated parts; gives strength to the digestive organs; brings the liver to its proper action, and imparts strength to the whole system. SUGH IS THE IMMEDIATE AND SATISFACTORY RFFECT that it is varranted to break up the most dispressing cough in a few hours' time, it not of too long standing. It is warranted to GIVE ENTIRE SATISFACTION, EVEN IN THE most confirmed cases of Consumption! It is warranted not to produce costiveness (which is the case with most remedies), or affect the head, as it contains no opium in any form. It is warrantea to be perfectly harmics to the most delicate child, although it is an active and powerful remedy for restoring the system. There is no real necessity for so many deaths by Consumption, when Allen's Long Balean will prevent it if only taken in time. Physicians having consumptive patients, and who, having failed to cure them with their own medicine, we would recommend to give Allen's Long Balean a trial. Sold by a 1 Druggists.



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Libry a positive remedy for the above disease; by its example of the worst kind; and of long standing have but cases of the worst kind; and of long standing have but cases of the worst kind; and of long standing have but lead to the worst kind; and of long standing have but lead to the worst kind; and of long standing have been supported by the worst kind; and the worst

ORUNKENNESS

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AGRICULTU

We will always be pleased of enquiry from farmers on ing agricultural interests, a given as soon as practicable KNEE-SPRI

Moosimin—I have a colt who got hurt in a snow desprung. Please let me know department if there is any cu

evenly dressed, and apply a b dines to the back tendons, re-four weeks. As soon as sprin colt out to grass, and there w bility of a perfect cure. UNFAIR TREATMENT

HILLSBURG—I have a heifer who has overrun her time t is her first calf. We have be her to see if she was quiet, b from ner udder but blood an colour. Would a hurt of of an or would it arise from other ome what would benefit it. You should not endeavour tion has taken place in the ndder twice a day with luk then dry thoroughly with a so

BEAMSVILLE—I have a fine pld who is now getting string me what caused, or where is to the cured, if it can please teld of or him. Stringhalt is a disease of th owing itself by spasmodic of the muscles of the hind le Bary to have recourse to treat tion does not injure the anima spring comes give him a ru six weeks.

SCOURS IN S

WARMINISTER—Please give scours in sheep. I have lost to are sick. The sheep only live after they become ill. Give a drachm of rhubarb, seed oil, to be followed in a quarter of an ounce of prepare pint of lukewarm milk. Cs yield to this treatment will be pared chalk, one ounce, powd half ounce, powdered ginger powdered opium, i drachm, pint of pepperment tea. and g two tablespoonfuls morning a

A correspondent offers the to "Walton's" query in our isth, who asked for a reme lameness: — "Push your colt up stall; box him there, leaving !

STIFLE JOINT LA

play sideways; box him in f play sideways; box him in fi behind, breach high, leaving play back and forward. Place belly for him to rest on when the sed unhaltered. Place the stepping forward supported by Push the bone back to its place the horse in that box five wee be properly lighted; no cross syes, blister as directed in T quent treatment. gentle exerc quent treatment, gentle exercand then steady moderate wolfeed on soft food. We cured been lame eighteen months by ment."

Mr. John Collins, a practice demar, contributes the follow subject:—"I often notice in the partment of The Mail, enqui method of ridding cattle from method of ridding cattle from that I possess the grand secret to impart to those who need it, once simple, safe, cheap and a couple of common red bricks and free as possible from grit them on a table, one on the oth together into dust, then put I flour dredger or rough pepper along the back and behind the the animal affected, and I will lar for every louse that will dredged, if it is properly done to the property done the same animal affected, and it is properly done the same animal affected, and I will dredged, if it is properly done the same animal affected in the properly done the same animal affected in the properly done animal affected in the properly done the same animal affected in the properly done animal affected in the properly done animal affected in the properly done animal affected in the property don

> BURNT OR GROU! G. B. D.-Will you please ans of THE MAIL wh between ground bones and to ton of ground bones as good tons of burnt?

Burnt bones, or bone black, charring the bones in close v named when compared with is generally admitted that becasioned by the charring pro-it would amount to one-baif decided. Perhaps some of have tested burnt and ground their experience for the ben and others. Bones may be re-very useful without a large a and very little expenditure, break them with a sledge, an in alternate layers with sta layers of bones to be about When completed, cover the inches of soil. The bones rea-add to the strength of the comoccasioned by the charring pr

the strength of the c A CASE OF OVER. WESTPORT.—I have a valuable side indications of great pair and being unable to rise again was affected with inflamation we administered sweet spirits gin, spirits of turpentine, and inflamation has entirely left hit lame in one of his hind quarte way under him at every step. caused by a want of proper acon that side, as the severity of rested on that leg or quarter for rested on that leg or quarter for

rested on that leg or quarter fr He cats and drinks well, loo eyes, keeps his flesh and does eyes, keeps his flesh and does any way unless this weakness, him useless if it is not ren give me information as to wh remove this lameness? Your horse is affected with from an excess of albumen in of standing idle aday or two erous supply of food. Feed mone drachm iodine of pota morning, and continue for cease, and if no relief in the food in the foo

FROZEN WHEAT

North-West farmer regarding wheat for seed purposes. The tioned to several persons, amor Rennie, seedsman, of this city, ed with a number of frozen ker the North-West. The result pectations of all who had take subject, as about sixty per cer sprouted, and gave every indichealthy plants.

A correspondent in Puslinch ing noticed the enquiry, sent which is a commendable acchange of ideas and experience is always a source of bene have grown beautiful wheat wheat which came from the Wellington county. I was of since seed wheat (not frozen) in considerable quantities fronly took one bag, as on clos ceived it had lost its vitality what did come up withstood yellowed and put back our ow respontent advises North-We their frozen wheat through a then test its vitality in a box n the North-West. The result

HUMBERSTONE—I have a hebest founder and lifting of the pain inwardly." Sometimes he and at others he lifts—just rais ground when standing. Occa his leg out sideways. I was to the second secon

CHEST FOUN