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# "Flowers of the Valley,"

### MABEL HOWARD, OF THE LYRIC.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE STOLEN WILL. The signor opened the door slowly garden; then he turned and scrutinized as punctual." the scene behind him, and, thinking | Lord Heron crept a little nearer, and Lord Heron heard the door close af- evil.

thinking that he should like to see how ton of the wall and looked over.

He was much surprised to see that he started her. the signor was still in the garden. He was crouching in the shadow of one watching the tiresome moon, which at sight. this moment was turning night into

Keeping careful watch on the fellow's movements, Lord Heron saw him youthe stones one by one, and take out what looked like a folded parchment from the cavity he had made. Then he and, having placed the document in regarded her with an evil smile. his breast pocket, he proceeded to steal along the wall to the door.

that this document was the missing the note, but kept a tight grasp of it. place at this particular time. He there- a man of an ancient race-" fore determined to follow Ricardo.

To his surprise, the trail led to the haughty gesture. outskirts of the village to the rendezvous in the Foyles' little plantation agreed upon between Ricardo and Lady Lilian. There the signor dropped at the foot of a tree, and, after consulting his watch, lit a cigarette, and with half-closed eyes, and a smile as of anticipatory bliss, leaned back and . She tore the cover off, and opened gave himself up to pleasant reflection.

That he was waiting for some one or something was palpable, and Lord Heron's heart jumped as he heard the rustle of a woman's dress against the bracken and undergrowth.

There was a woman in the business, hen, as usual; but who could she be? It was not very light among the Heron. trees and then a tail, graceful figure emerged into the little cleared space, and the signor jumped up to greet it, Lady Lilian.

"As punctual as charming, your fadyship," said the signor, with his self upon the hand that held the note, beautiful mixture of insolence and but Lord Heron closed his fist over it and cautiously, and looked round the subservience. "And I, too, you see, am and struck him between the eyes.

everything all clear, he stole in, and listened with a dull sense of coming crouched, his eyes glaring.

"Quick!" said the woman; "I have He pondered a moment or two; then, no time to lose! Have you brought it?" and poured a stream of light upon the thinking that he should like to see now far the signor had proceeded, he got hold of a bough of the tree, and, climb-seemed so impossible.

Lord Heron's neart stood with the control of Lady Lilian! It and pallid lips, and upon the stern one of Heron Coverdale.

He broke the silence, At arm's length. drew nearer, and so incautiously that

"What is that?" she exclaimed The signor looked around, and Lord of the buttresses of the old wall, and Heron had only time to crouch out of

> lieve me. But, as you say, time is precious. Yes, I have brought the will, and

cautiously approach the sun dial, raise "I have kept my word," she said. "The paper is signed. Give me the will,

please. The signor drew it from his coat put the stones back in their places, pocket, and held it in his hand, as he "The little note?" he said, insinuat

It came to Lord Heron like a flash Lady Lilian flushed, and she held out will of Godfrey Knighton and that the "Oh, fear nothing, my lady!" he Italian had some special, sinister mo- said, drawing himself up with an air. tive for removing it from its hiding "You have to do with a man of honor,

> "I have no time to listen to your speeches, sir," she said, impatiently. "Let me have this thing, and go,

please. The signor handed the will to her

Lord Heron lay down also, but kept "You would like to know its conhimself well behind Ricardo and in tents?" he said, with a smile. "It is a such a position that the man could pardonable, a commendable curiosity. make no movement without Heron see- The light is bad. Would it be safe, do you think?" He took a taper from his

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and, and he lit the taper.

Legal terms are confusing to ladies. Observe," and he pointed to the principal clause with his long, lean finger, all, everything, land, houses, money, are left to Miss Iris Knighton-". Lady Lilian stood reading the will. The legal phraseology bewildered her, but saw that his statement respecting its purport was quite true. This Iris Knighton, whom she hated, would take

Countess of Coverdale. The signor stood holding the taper. egarding her with his mocking smile. "Please your ladyship would permit me to offer you a word of advice," he

all and leave her the bare title of

whispered. Lady Lilian looked up.

"That," he said, pointing to the will, is an awkward little document. If it were to get lost—and found——" He stopped and held the taper towards it significantly.

"It would be better, yes," she said, etween her teeth, but her face blanched, and she shrank a little. "A thousand times safer: safe bind-

safe find safe hurn-safe lose! But.

first-may I beg your ladyship to give

me the little note?" and he grinned and showed his teeth. Lady Lilian took the promissory note from the bosom of her dress, and held

t to him at arm's length. He took it, and gallantly pressed it to his lips. "Now, my lady," he said, holding the

Lady Lilian took it in her hand, and raised the will above it, and the signor examined her signature to the note. As they stood thus, their heads close together and the flame of the tager nearly touching the will, a hand, with seemed stretched down from the skies, seized the note and the will, and, start-

ing back, they looked up and saw Lord

Lady Lilian uttered a low cry, and shrank back against the trunk of a tree, where she leaned as if palsied. Lord Heron did not recognize it as Ricardo, who had been as paralyzed as she for a moment, screamed out an oath, and seemed about to throw him-He staggered, and would have fallen

but for the limb of a tree, and there he For a moment there was silence. The moon sallied out from behind a cloud Lord Heron's heart stood still. The trio-upon Lady Lilian's white face

> as she had offered it to Ricardo—he xtended the note to her. "Permit me to restore you your pro-

perty, Lady Lilian," he said. That was all, but the tone in which the few words were spoken conveyed a volume. Its scorn, sorrow, and fierce indignation seemed to blast her.

With a sudden effort, she drew herself from the supporting branch, and, taking the note, tore it into fragments. "You-you spy!" she hissed, and her eyes grew fixed on something behind

As if warned by the expression in them, Heron Coverdale turned, and Ricardo's knife, instead of entering his back, struck against the front of his With a suppressed howl of disap-

pointment, Ricardo stepped back and raised the knife again Heron flung himself upon him, and in an instant the two were locked in

Lady Lilian interrupted him with a a death struggle. Lady Lilian's face burned redly in the moonlight, and her eyes gleamed. "Stab him! Kill him!" she hissed, beside herself with rage and jealousy.

"I will give you all I promised! More -more! Kill him!" Like a snake, the signor writhed and struggled to free his hand; but Heron held it at the wrist in a grip of steel, and, giving it a turn, the knife fell on the mossy sward. The next instant Ricardo was lying beside it, and Heron Coverdale's foot was on his chest. Lady Lilian uttered a cry-it-was more like a sob-of balked vengeance,

glided from the spot, and passed from Lord Coverdale's path forever! Before permitting Ricardo to depart, Lord Heron made him sign a statement admitting his guilt in suppressing the will of Godfrey Knighton. He then dismissed the signor with instruction to await Mr. Barrington's orders to leave the country.

and then, drawing her cloak round her,

# One of the Great Unborn

(To be continued)

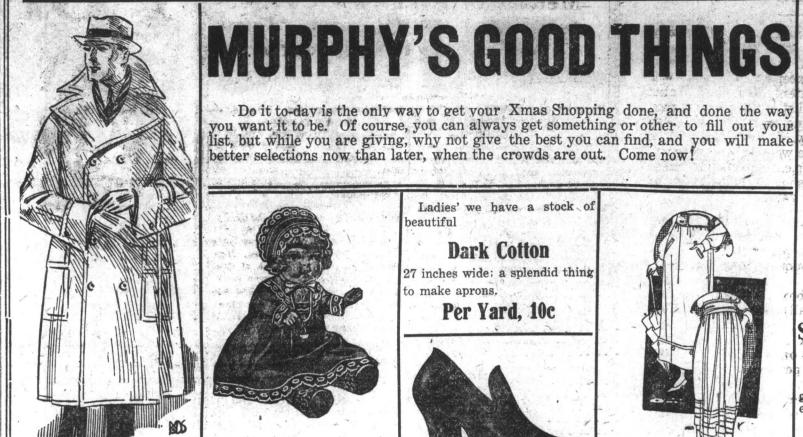
One day a lady noticed a little boy seated on a doorstep. Going up to him, she said: "Well, my little chap, how is it you are sitting outside on the doorstep, when I see through the window all the other young folks inside playing games and having a good time? Why aren't you inside joining in the

"Oh, I'm in this game all right," replied the boy. "They're playing at being married, and I'm the baby." "But what are you doing out here?"

"Waiting to go in. Yer see, I ain't

COWAN says Calendars will be cheaper next year. Why dars now? Don't promise your order until you see his Samples.

# She intimated an assent with her she intimated an assent with her and, and he lit the taper. "Permit me to explain," he said. Legal terms are confusing to ladies. Observe," and he pointed to the prin-



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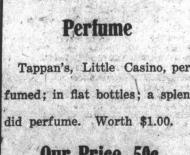
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