HELEN LAFONE : THE FOES OF A HOUSEHOLD.

2

A TALE OF ENGLISH LIFE.

CHAPTER IV-CONTINUED.

"I must not build upon it" she (the time comes to take it. It is provok thought ("it" referring to Percival's evi- ing to think of all the biscuits I threw dent preference for her.) "He likes me, away so gaily."

and we are friends ; but we shall never It was interesting to watch the water be anything more. Somehow I do not so long as there was sufficient light, but seem to have it in me to inspire people when an hour had gone by it was dark with a very deep attachment. It will and telerably cold. She could not try last but one month longer, then Alice to keep warm by walking, for the shore will come, and it will all be at an end. was too rocky and uneven to make walk-I shall have to behave as though I did ing in the dark practicable, until she was not notice any charge, and I am not at very much colder than at present.

all sure that I shall be able to. As any There was nothing to do but sit and rate it will be very difficult, I wonder clever idea. if I shall ever learn not to act upon im-About nine o'clock that same evening pulse. I made such good resolutions at

first, because I knew he would only care for me as long as he could compare me with no one else. I kept my resolution for some time, and then he was so kind and pleasant, I could not help liked in their crewel work. After the ing him ; whenever we talked we seemed usual greetings had been exchanged. to have so much in common. At last I Percival looked round for Helen, and threw prudence to the winds, and not finding her began to feel that the thought I would have one pleasant sumobject of his coming had vanished. He mer in my life at any rate. The only waited, but she did not appear, and he the dark rocks. fault is that it has been much too pleasant. I have enjoyed myself as I never crossed the room to Gertrude, who was sitting apart from the others, and asked did before. I did not think it would be "Is not your sister at home? I a) hard to give up at the end." should like to see her." ;

Her face had grown very thoughtful and rather sad as these thoughts passed lunch, and did not come home to dinner through her mind, and she presently It is so silly of her tol'do these things went on-

"If I only felt sure, if I could only get she only gets into scrapes." rid of this feeling that hel likes me, do you suppose shelis ?" marely because there is no one else to like ; though, after all why should he like Alice best ? Every one else does, little I daresay she will come in.' but he is different from other people. He likes me because we are alike, and he would have nothing in common with amazement and anger. "I have been at her. However time will show." Dr Hazlitt's all evening and have seen

She half sighed, and went on thinking without changing her position. The soft beams of a September sun filtered down through a haze, golden where the sun touched it; in the distance, over the water and the half-veiled hills, a soft blue-grey. The sky was blue-grey too ; it was difficult to say where the sky ended and the haze began. There was no wind, only a fitful breath of air which scarcely lifted the leaves, or ruffled Helen's hair or the lace on the hat lying by her side. She was quite alone, not even a boat was visible.

She sat and dreamed heedless of time and, what in this place was of equal importance, tide also ; and she was considerably surprised to find on rousing herself from her meditations that the sun was low, the warmth gone from the air, and the tide coming steadily in.

It must have been the withdrawal of the sun that roused her, there being in this foolish, thoughtless way, and, rest is nothing." depend upon it, she will come home nothing else to do so, for her medits

THE HURON SIGNAL. FRIDAY, DEC. 30, 1887.

he only knew that Helen was in danger or out of danger by this time, and his gave him new strength, and placed him heart felt sick at the thought. He dared in a moment at Percival's side. not entertain the idea To be of any Yes, she was there, lying on a shelf of good he must persuade himself that she might yet be helped, and he was down at the beach and getting off a boat in gestion and rowed round the island they less time than he believed any man had must inevitably have seen her. How done it before. He took Dixon with she had got there was apparent enough

water faster than one, "Row for your life, Dixon," he said when they were off.

"I'll do my best, sir, never fear. Where will you be going first, sir, think can tell.' vou ?

"To the island, of course. If she is there, she will be tired of it by this time, raised herself on one elbow, and blinkand if she is not ---"

He did not finish his sentence, neither did Dixon finish it for him ; they rowed on in silence. They made rapid way, the wind was

wait, though for what she had no very in their favor and the boat was a light begun to despair of ever leaving this Before long the outline of the island

Percival walked into the drawing room became visible, and resting for a second and called and shouted all the time." at The Thwaite. Perfect silence reignon their oars, they could hear the lapping ed. Mr Lafone had fallen asleep over of the water against the stones. "Take care where you lard, sir, there his newspaper; Mrs Lafone and her second daughter, Gertrude, were absorbare some nasty places."

"There is no telling on which side she will be." said Percival. "though I should and hunger, I suppose."

her white dress,

"She is not in ; she went out after

"But if she has not come home, where

nothing at all of your sister."

shortly, annoyed at his tone.

have happened to her."

inquiringly.

"If she is not there, I suppose she

"I suppose she is : but it is late

But she got no reply. Percival stepp

entrance, and. after repeating what he

had said to Gertrude, went on.

and make some inquiries."

try in search of her."

mewhere else," she replied rather

'Miss Lafone.

think on this, in case any one came." Nearer and nearer they came, till the could distinguish a white patch against

"She's here," said Moore ; "that is "Try to bear one wrench of pain, and And he called loudly.

found !

But there was no answer.

CHAPTER V.

GUIDED BY CIRCUMSTANCES.

"By your leave, sir," said Dixon when "I expect she has gone to Dr Hazthe echo of Percival's voice had died litt's ; she often does. If you wait a way without provoking any reply. Miss Lafone had on a black dress today, "You take things yery much fo not a white one." granted," he said, divided between

Percival made no answer. He had thrown the boat on the beach, and now ose up to step out of it, saying, "Light the lantern, Dixon, and be

ouick about it. I want to begin to look for her."

Dixon did as he was bidden, and they left the boat and began clambering over her to be out alone; something may the rocks in silence. Naturally the first point in their search was the white patch "What should happen to her ?" still which had cheated Percival, and which proved so be nothing but a particularly white block of limestone ; but close to ed up to Mr Lafone, who had roused it Percival picked up a crumbled ball of from his slumber at the young man's paper, which he unrolled as he said : "She is here, all the same, Dixon ;

this is one of your bags." "You will excuse my leaving you so "I give the same kind of hag to every abruptly, but I cannot help feeling un- body," murmured Dixon, but he had not easy about her, I will go to the village the heart to cast open doubt upon the young man's hopes.

"You are very kind, but I think you "We'll find her nov," said Mr Moore are giving yourself unnecessary trouble. in a tone of resolution, "She is here on It is not the first time Helen has behaved the island; that's the chief thing, the

did not look at him. It flashed into his mind that Mrs Lafone had been lecturing her, and a wave of indignation rushed into his heart. rock completely hidden from the shore, "I shall come and see how you are to though had they followed Dixon's sug-

morrow," he said. Good night." Her answering "Good night" was hardly audible, and as he left the room his face was whiter and his mouth more him ; his help might be needed, and at as Percival tried to lift her up, and had anyrate two of them would get over the to [desist almost immediately, because set than usual. When Perdival reached the Thwaite

she uttered a sharp cry of pain. "She must have sprained her ankle, on the following afternoon-business which could not be postponed had kept he said, "and how to get her out of here him chafing all morning at home-he without giving her pain is more than I found Helen on the couch, but not in the drawing room. He was taken to a

The pain must have brought Helen back to full consciousness, for she now ing in the light of the lantern, saidturbed. He was glad of it and wonder-"Mr Moore, is that you ?"

"Yes. Thank heaven you room to receive him. "Thank heaven, you are here. I had Solitude with Helen was necessary to place alive. Have you been here long ?

"We have been all over the island, had already known that he loved Helen, "I never heard you. J must have fainted again."

"Agaia ?" "Yes; I know I fainted before. was so cold, and I felt sick with pain would wait, watch her, and feel perfect-

"Bow did you hurt yourself ?" "I was trying to keep warm by walk ng, and I slipped in the dark, and must have sprained my ankle." presence, as it were, chosen as his wife

I will have you out of this and on your way home in ten minutes." He was as good as his word. In very short time he had rescued her from changed. He had hardly been able to her awkward couch, and was carrying her to the boat, preceeded by Dixon,

holding the lanteru. She did not speak nor apparently fighting desperately sgainst the fear, notice anything. She did not seem to rapidly growing into a certainty, that ee Dixon, or to feel any curiosity as to Helen had met with a fatal accident. how Percival had found her. She spoke Now she was lying alive and safe within first when they were in the boat, Dixon reach of his hand. The revulsion of feelrowing and Percival sitting near to ing was more than he could bear with where he had laid her down and made outward composure, and he felt thank-

her as comfortable as possible. She was ful for the darkness which hid his face conscious of the movement of the boat, from the eyes of his companions. The and, putting out her hand, she laid it on very narrowness of her escape showed Percival's sleeve, saying-"Mr Moore.'

"I am here." "I am not dreaming, you are really ere ; I am no longer on the island ?"

"Yes, rowing across the bay." "But you are sitting here, who is row-"Dixon." "Dixon "" ahe repeated, in a puzzled one. "What has he to do with it?"

"Never mind now," he said gently. "Do not talk, you are too tired : I will tell you when we get home. She obeyed him, and did not speak

CHAPTER V.

GUIDED BY CIRCUMSTANCES.

"Mr Lafone was irritable. He could

proceedings.

again until after a long and painful. transit Percival laid her on the couch in the drawing room at The Thwaite. Their arrival created some little sensation, but Percival cut all inquires very

short, and leaving Helen in the hands of "Much better, thanks," she replied in

"She's here, Dixon; she's here," which Her lips were trembling a little, and she always the alternative which made you do such a feolish thing? You must have knows what an awful risk you ran.

"It was only because I was stunid enough to forget the time," and said de-precatingly. "If I had kept my eyes open I should have got home all right, and no one would have been any the wiser unless I had chosen to tell them. I assure you there is a perfectly safe way over the sands ; it is only because the

country people are wanting in courage that they try to make others believe it is dangerous. If you like I wi'l take you some day, and you shall see for your-

She spoke quite eagerly at the last. as little morning room where he knew callers were never entertained, and where though she were proposing a most enjoyable excursion. Percival could not therefore he and Helen could be undishelp emiliog as he replied.

"I shall certainly not encourage such ed whether any thoughts of his visit had reckless risk of life. Dixon taid you been in her mind when she chose this told him you had done it before, is it 80 ?"

'Yes, I went once last summer. I the purpose with which he had come had long suspected the danger to be exover. The events of the previous evenaggerated, so I determined to try for ing had revolutionised his feelings. He myself."

"And the experiment was so successand above all things desired her for his wife ; but he had not intended to ask ful that you came to the conclusion you could repeat it as often as you choose, It her to marry him yet. He thought he without danger."

TO BE CONTINUED.

ing. There was a vague idea floating in Merchants can get their Bill Heads, Letter-Heads, &c., &c. printed at this office for very little more than they generally pay for the paper, and it helps to advertuse their business. Call and see samples and get prices. his mind that he would wait till Alice came home. He thought it would please Helen to be singled out in her sister's

"Not Bulk, but Business"!

in the blaze of Alice's beauty. The is the way a Western man put it in ex-pressing to a friend his complete satis-faction in the use of Dr. Pierce's Pleasnight before he had various good reasons for not acting in haste ; now all was ant Purgative Pellets. So small and yet so effectual, they bid fair to supplant speak as they rowed home from the entirely the old-style pill. An ever-ready remedy for Sick and Bilious Head island, his emotion had been so great. ache, Biliousness, Constipation and all blood disorders. Mild in action, wond-erful in effect ! Put up in vials, conven-ient to carry. Their use attended with no discomfort ! These sterling merits A few moments before he had been ecount for their great popularity.

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all through the night and prevented his Norwich, Conn., recommends Ayer's Pills as the best of all remedies for sleeping. When he had slept, it had Intermittent Fevers."

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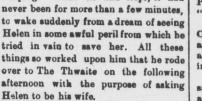
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Helen to be his wife. "How do you feel this afternoon ?

he asked when they had shaken hands, and he had taken the low wicker chair which stood so temptingly near the couch.

Mis Lafone and her maid, he retired to a voice like her own again. "My ankle

him all in a moment what her loss would have been to him. The carelessness

tions were not of a nature to end from lack of material, but she sat up and looked about her with a view to returning home. As yet the tide was not high, but she knew the coast itoo well to draw any encouragement from that. The tide came creeping in to a certain point, then a wave suddendy arose and with one

bound filled every curve of the bay, his coming. Percival rushed down to the village, covered every inch of sand. A very short look from Helen's long-sighted eyes showed her that within ten minutes her island would be a veritable island The greater number had not seen her at all, one or two had met her, but in the and herself a prisoner in it till the tide turned. Then it would be dark, and madness to attempt to get across the clue at all. But a woman said she had sand. If she could not escape after this seen Miss Lafone in "Dixon's shop." "Dixon kept the principal grocer's tide, she must remain until the aftershop in the place, and Percival knew

noon of the following day. "It is now unfortunate," she thought that he was rather a friend of Helen's, with a smile, "that no one knows where so thinking it possible she might have even from themselyes. The thought in life. Still it was always a comfort to retold him where she was going, he ran the mind of each was-I am-except Dixon," with a glance at into the shop sayingthe paper bag lying at her feet. "and he may have the sense to reveal my where-"Dixon, have you seen Miss Lafone this afternoon ?" abouts or he may not.'

All this time she had been looking out "Miss Lafone ? yes, sir, she was here about three o'clock buying biscuits." over the bay, and as the above thought "Never mind what she bought ; did passed throught her mind, "the waye,"

she say where she was going ?" as it was called in the neighborhood, "Yes. sir, she said she was goingcame rushing in, covering everything why, sir, has she not come home ?" and lapping up against the rocks upon which she stood. Percival clenched his hands as he re-

plied with a tone of sharpness which was "There is my last chance gone." she said alond, with a little laugh. "How not often in his voice. idiotic of me to forget the time like this, "No, she has not come home. Tell and how angry they will be when I don't me where she went to, can't you ?" The come in to dinner.' She looked at her watch. It was half-

past six.

'I should have been late in any case," and doing. ahe thought. "It is better to be altogether prevented from coming by an accident, than to be merely late through forgetfulness ; in our family at least. Let me regain myself." face. She sat down again and watched the

water plashing and swaying against the are you mad ?" "What could I do, sir ? I said it was rocks. The tide was in, and seemed to be settling down until it was called off surely a bold thing to do. but she said

elsewhere. She sat absorbed in thought she had done it before." "Come down to the shore with me and until it suddenly occurred to her that she felt hungry, and she was struck with help me off with a boat. She may have tern, which in the despondency of the dismay.

"Dear me." she thought, "I suppose I side or something, but if she has not, by and was off over the rocks as though they shall have nothing to eat until tomorrow heaven, Dixon, I'll have you up for were the level pavement of a street afternoon ; hew am I to last so long. I murder !" shall hardly feel equal to my walk, when He did not know what he was saying, could, andh card the words-

HOR PUTTINES STOL OF

"She did not while you are wandering over the coun observed Dixon modestly. "I daresay she did not hear ; she may

"Possibly ; but I cannot leave it to be on the other side. I'll cell again." chance. Good night." And he called again, repeatedly, rais-He was gone without shaking hands. ing his voice afresh at every few steps They heard the hall door fall to after they took, but he never heard any anhim, and then they returned to the oc- ewering cry.

cupations which had been interrupted by "There is nothing for it but to go right round the island," he said doggedly. not altogether silence a voice which kept "Give me the lantern, Dixon. You whispering that he had been wrong in so inquiring of every one he met if they don't flash it round enough. We see quietly taking for granted that Helen's could give him news of Miss Lafone. nothing but what is just under our feet." non-appearance was caused by her hav-Dixon surrendered the lantern, and ing paid an impromptu visit to Dr Hazthey made the complete tour of the litt, and that he might so have felt more main street of the village, which was no island, until they stood again on the anxiety about the fate of his eldest, spot where they had landed, with the daughter. Of course he did not like the knowledge that they had seached the feeling that he was to blame, and that island over and found nothing. had it not been for the zeal and pertin-

Neither spoke; both were thinking acity of a comparative stranger Helen Helen was thinking how much happier the same thing, and trying to hide it might have paid for her whim with her flect that after all it was really she who "Suppose she has slipped in the dark,

lest her footing, and fallen into the he who had shown less than a father's water." concern for his daughter's safety, but And to prevent the thought from gainshe who had displayed more than a girl's ing ground, each tried to suggest some folly and wrong-headedness. These

thing fresh to do, comtorting thoughts helped to restore "Suppose we set that dead tree there Mr Lafone's equanimity. alight," was Percival's rather desperate idea. "It would show us the whole

place ; she could not help seeing us then. It would burn while we went round again." "Suppose we pull round the island,

sir," said Dixon. "We'd may be get a fore, and was crossing the hall, and givlast words were spoken almost savagely, better view of the shore than stumbling ing only very divided attention to what for a vague fear was beginning to work along as we have been doing." at his heart, and he wanted to be up

Even as they stood deliberating they heard a sound like a sigh or a moan, "She said she was going to walk to the island across the sands," replied the among the rocks a little to their right. which seemed to come from the ground savingman, his face growing white with the As they held their breath to hear if it same fear which he saw in Percival's were not repeated, it came again, and was this time followed by a faint mur-"And you let her ! Good God, Dixon, mur, though they could distinguish no

articulate words. But Moore did not wait for words.

When the sigh, coming from the same white and faint, and there was a smell of place and in the same tone as before. came to his ear, he caught up the lanthe room.

reached the island and be kept by the moment had been placed on the ground, Dixon scrambled after him as best he

the dining-room with her father and was not sprained, only badly twisted, gave him an account of the evening's Dr. Hazlitt said." "Oh, he did come, then ?"

"Why-did you know he was coming ?"

"I called last night on my way home. He was not in, but I left a message suggesting that he should cast a professional eye on you."

There was a shade more color in her cheeks as she said-

"How good you are. It is to you I we being out of pain now. Mamma did not think it necessary to send for him, and I suffered a good deal all night: but when he came this merning he bound my foot up on scientific principles, so that it gives me very little pain."

the mere presence of Percival in the room made her; Percival was thinking how he should best approach what it was was to blame for it all, that it was not in his mind to say.

"Tell me," said Helen at last, "how you came to find out or know that I had gone out at all. You told me nothing last night."

He told her the the whole history, and she listened in silence, more moved than Unwilling as Moore was to go without she cared to show.

seeing Helen again, the time passed. "And," concluded Percival, his voice a and no message coming from her, he was little deeper than usual, "if I had been forced to conclude that she had been put half an hour later in getting here, or had to bed, and that it was of no use pronot thought of seeing Dixon so soon, longing his visit. He rose to go thereyou would have been left where you were all night. For half an hour would have made all the difference in the tide. Mr Lafone was saying, being engaged in It had turned before we set out, and composing a message for Helen, when Mrs though you did not know it, before we Lafone came out of the drawing-room. landed there was hardly water to float

us. We could not possibly have crossed the sands after dark, and we should have had to remain on shore, knowing where you were and unable to get to you." A weekly feast of good things to the boys and girls in every family which it visits.— It is wonderful in its wealth of pictures, in-formation, and interest.—*Christian Advocate*,

that Helen thought she ought to take a lighter view of the matter, so she said

"Well, at any rate, you would know I mingled brandy and eau de Cologne in was there, and not in any real danger, He bent down to her, and his voice only discomfort."

"There was decidedly real danger was hardly steady as he askedafter you hurt your foot, besides I spoke

He had, as he spoke, put his hand wrongly ; we did not know, and that into her outstretched one, and for an was the trouble. We supposed and answer she gave it a slight pressure, hoped you would be there, but there was





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"I am ashamed to trouble you any more, Mr Moore, but Helen insists upon seeing you again before she goes to bed.' Percival was within the room almost

"You are feeling better ?"

La superior with

before she had finished speaking, and a couple of strides took him to the side of Helen's couch. She was still looking almost gaily.