John Arthur's Ward OR THE DETECTIVE'S DAUGHTER-

Continued from 1st page. I—I thought it was somebody else

alting a comment on the disturbed parance of her young friend she med to the window and sitting down a cosy dressing-chair said "Come ecily here young lady and sit down on

"Claire my child I have a confession to make I was in the library while you ang "When sparrows build" "And" pursued Mrs Ralston, "I heard

And more than your words!" "More than—my—my words!"
"More than—my—my words!"
"Yes; I heard your heart's secret"
Claire's face drooped "What do you
mean?" she asked, deprecatingly
"My darling, I mean that your heart
spoke through your volce, and it belied
your words; why did you deny your love
for so noble a man?"
Claire transfer. car so noble a man?"

Claire raised her head "I didn't!" she said, suddenly, as if driven to bay

"No," smiled Mrs Ralston "You were a wily little serpent But you deserved him"

"I don't care," doggedly
"Now you are telling a fib!"
"Well, I am not sorry, then" getting
sold of her monitor's hand. "Why do you turn against poor me when I am trying to do my duty?"
"Because you are not doing your duty."
"Yes I am; indeed I am. You don't

Then tell me and let me be your iend and saviser"
"But you can't advise" objected Claire because you don't know the —the her one"

"And when I have Oakley, what would dist" flashed Clairs "Would also" for the work of the county of

husband!" she whispered
With the words on her lips, she fell
heavily to the floor, in a dead faint
When Mrs Ralston awoke to consciousness she was lying upon her bed with Dr
Vaughan bending over her, Olive standing near, and Claire a little aloof, looking pale and anxious Her first thought
was of the picture
"Where is it?" she murmured, addressing Claire, who stenned forward easerly

ing Claire, who stepped forward eagerly
"It is here, dear Mrs Ralston," said
Claire "I caught it from your hand
after you fell I thought—" And then she
healthrafe

hesitated
"I understand," she said, looking at the girl fixedly "Drop it from your hand Claire; drop it there," pointing to the grate "It has done its work; we need never look upon it again"
Claire obeyed her silently For the second time she had consigned to the flames she pictured face of Edward Percy To the surprise of the three who had

so lately seen her coming slowly back from the swoon, so like death Mrs Ral-ton raised herself to a sitting posture, and then slowly arose from the bed and stood upright before them, and there was a flush on her cheek and a light in her

a flush on her cheek and a light in her eyes that was new to that usually pale, and face "Dear friends," she said turning toward Clarence and Olive, who had been watching the burning of the picture with surprised and somewhat curious eyes, "I am quite recovered; and I want to think. Will you please leave me alone, quite alone, for a little while?" Olive, Claire and Clarence went slowly and stlently down to the drawing room, Claire keeping very close to her sister and carefully avoiding the eyes of the young man. Seating herself beside Olive, Claire told, in her own way, all that she knew of the affair.

Olive, Claire told, in her own way, all that she knew of the affair,
"I wanted to tell Mrs. Raiston of Madeline," she commenced, "and, not to omit anything I told her poor Philip's story—all about the two men and how the man Percy had appeared at Oakley as the lover of Miss Arthur. When I spoke his name she ran to her room almost dragging me with her and—"Suddenly she paused horrified at a sudden thought. How could she explain to these two who knew nothing of her

sudden thought. How could she explain to these two who knew nothing of her "affair" with Edward Percy—who did not dream that she had ever seen his face—her ability to recognize the picture Mrs. Ralston had shown her? "And?" interrogated Olive. Clarence Vaughan saw that there was a reason for her hesitation and while wondering what it could be, came to her rescue. And fainted, of course" said he. "Well she is better now and perhaps we shall hear the conclusion of the mystery all in good time."

If she had dared Claire would have given him a glance of gratitude. As it

given him a glance of gratitude. As it was she only averted her face and felt was she only averted her face and felt herself a great hypocrite.
Doctor Vaughan was to remain for lunch; and while he talked quietly with Olive, Claire sat considering what they would say if they knew ali. Presently her reverie was interrupted by the entrance of a servant, who said—
"Mrs. Halston wishes Miss Keith to come to her."
Mrs. Halston advanced to meet the girl as she entered the room and laying a hand upon her shoulder said "I understood you to say that your sister knows nothing of your acquaintance with that

nothing of your acquaintance with that man. Am I right?"

"Yes."

"And you do not wish her to know?"

Claire hesitated. "I did not then think it was wrong to conceal it from her," she said finally; "but now if you think "But I do not think it best my darling I should have been convinced of his identity even had I not used the picture as a test We will say nothing on that subject And now let us go down-stairs for we have work to do!"

CHAPTER XLV MRS. RALSTON'S STORY.

Raiston entered the drawing-room pose shining in her eyes
"Dear friends," she said, "sit near me "Dear friends," she said, "sit near me and give me your attention I have a story to tell, and I must not fatigue my-self too much in the telling."

"I will make brief mention of myself," mid the lady sinking back in the luxurious chair with a slightly weary smile "My life has never been a bright one Married for the first time at the age of sixteen, my childhood was prematurely

blighted and my first real trouble fell upon me It was not a happy marriage and during the years of my first husband's life I became more and more alienated from my relatives

"When at last my husband died I was thirty-six years old and owing to illhealth looked much older But—I was wealthy Then I met a man younger than myself and very handsome I was weak and foolish I believed in him and —married him For four years he squandered my money and made my life a burden At last when I could endure no longer and when because he had inherited a fortune from some relative I knew he would trouble himself little as to particulars I caused him to believe me dead and burled

"In reality I was in better health than usual and while he was spending his cost of his safety, or my fortune, if need

"In reality I was in better health than usual and while he was spending his new fortune and fancying me in the grave, I sailed for Europe Before I departed, however, I saw him once more, myself unseen It is this part of my story that will make your hearts glad" "I was going to Europe in company with some friends of Mrs Lord who, of course, knew my secret They twice postponed their time for salling, and while waiting for them I went with my maid to a little mountain inn where travelers only came for a day, and then went on up the mountain

when I first arrived the garrulous "When I first arrived the garrulous hostess made frequent mention of a hunting party that had gone up the mountain a few days before, stopping for dinner at the inn I had been nearly two weeks in my mountain retreat when my maid came rushing in, one day, crying out that the hunting party had come back, and that one of their number had been badly burt

"Well, they brought the wounded man "well, they brought the wounded man up-stairs, and put him in the room that adjoined my sleeping apartment. The partitions between were of the sham kind—merely boards papered over After he was settled and the hum of many voices died away, I went into my little

"Well I do know you"

"There it is!" burst forth the champion of the absent "You know me but you don't know what a worthless unattractive little imp I am compared to her You don't know her but you shall! And when you do poor me will have to take a seat lower down in the tabernacle of your affections"

"I had scarcely entered when a voice from the next room, a man's voice, deep and full, although then subdued startled me I listened unthinkingly 'There's no use in being weak about this business,' he said 'Of course you can make me trouble if you like, but hang me, Percy, I can't see how it will benefit you'

"I see you are amazed, Doctor Vaughan,

in the next room, and I arose and went to her. She was a quick-witted creature, and knew just what to do. She made me put on a hat and veil, and throw a shawl about me 'and then bade me go downstairs, while she knocked at the door of the sick-room. When I heard it open I was to come up and while she made a pretense of offering her services in case of need I could obtain over her shoulder a view of the occupants of the room. Her ruse was successful. When I ascended the 'stairs, I obtained a full view of the two men. I should know the dark face of the tall stranger if I came upon it in Africa. "To do myself justice, I never once thought of the wrong they were doing their victim; never realized that it was my duty to denounce them. Having seen the face of my husband I had but one idea one desire; to get away anywhere the farther the better. "Early the next moring I was en route to the city and there to my infinite relief I found my friends ready to sail. When at last I was actually on the ocean and realized that I was safe from discovery I began to think of the victim whose name I had not heard. But it was too late then and I tried to ease my conscience by thinking that after all as Edward was not dangerously hurt it might not turn out a serious matter. I watched the papers but somehow the accounts of the trial all missed me."

As she ceased speaking her eyes rested sadly upon the face of Olive, and she in the next room, and I arose and went to her. She was a quick-witted creature,

As she ceased speaking her eyes rested sadly upon the face of Olive, and she started forward suddenly saying "Doctor she is going to faint!"

"No," gasped Olive, half-rising, "I—I—"

And she fell forward to be caught in the ready arms of Clarence Vaughan. When at last they succeeded in arousing her from that death-like stupor, and she could sit up and look about her, slowly recalling events, Mrs. Raiston stepped readily into the position of leader, and turning to Claipe said.—

"Go and see that lunch is served immediately dear. We have much to do

mediately dear. We have much to do before night, and must not work fastbefore hight, and must not work lasting."

"Oh," cried Olive, as Claire disappeared, "is this true? Will Philip be released at last, released with every doubt cleared away, every suspicion removed?

Tell me I cannot realize it,"

"It is true, dear Mrs. Girard; and now you must not dive way to weakness. We

you must not give way to weakness. We dare not lose time. Dr. Vaughan, yourself and I, in putting these facts in the hands of the right parties must hasten the legal process by which Philip will be released.

When Claire Keith returned she found them deep in a discussion as to the quickest way of effecting the release of Philip Girard. "Let me settle it" she said imperious-

"Let me settle it" she said imperiously. "To-day you will go to see Philip's
lawyers, and when this stupid law process is put in motion, Olive—I know herwill go straight and set heself down
outside the very prison gates. But your
beautiful laws can lock an honest man
up much quicker than they can let him
out, and can serve a warrant sooner than
the startly act of justice. So if you please do a tardy act of justice, So if you please
I am going down to Oakley to arrest
that vile Lucian Davlin and get him off
poor Madeline's hands."
"You!" cried the two ladies in the

same breath.
"Yes, Il Philip won't want anyone
but Olive, and Olive will snub me unmercifully if I venture to offer myself as mercifully if I venture to offer myself as an escort, I'm going to do myself the honor of seeing Mr. Davlin arrested."

"Claire is right," said Mrs. Ralston; "the man must be arrested immediately."

"And," intercupted Olive, "you must all three go to Bellair; that is," looking at Mrs. Ralston, "if—"

"If I will go?" interrupted that lady. "Yes I too intend to be present when Miss Payne gives her enemy up to justice."

"Are you in earnest about going to Bellair, Miss Keith?" Clarence Vaughan asked. "Shall you go really?" Claire bestowed upon him a wilful little nod over her shoulder, saying, as she did so: "I shall, 'really." I am confident that something will be a shad of the shadowed by the same of the sam

that something will happen there and I want a chance to faint!" CORA "STIRS UP THE ANIMALS." It was evening—the evening of the day on which Mrs. Raiston had made her startling revelation. Madeline Payne stood alone in her own room, looking

cause the last knot in the tangle will not come straight—good gracious, how like a pun that sounds! How much longer must I smile upon these wretches? How much longer must I conceal my real feelings? I will put my forces into action, and make my last, desperate venture, for this is becoming intolerable. I must force, or buy, this secret from Edward Percy, at the cost of his safety, or my fortune, if need be."

"Mercy!" she ejaculated, "who on earth can be plowing through this storm? And on what errand? It looks like—and, as I live, it is, yes, it is, Mr. Edward Percy! He is too dainty to expose himself for nothing. I must look into this."

While she was musing at the window, Cora, curled up behind one of the crimson curtains of the red parlor, had become the possessor of a valuable secret. She had entered the room but a few moments before Finding it dimly lighted, and heated to a sümmer temperature, she ensoned herself a la Sultana in one of the deep window embrasures, and lay sulkily watching the flying snowfakes and the fast coming night. Presently the sound of approaching footsteps, and almost simultaneously the opening of the door, disturbed her quiet. With a quick movement, she drew the curtains together and sat, a ellent listener, to a brief dialogue.

The newcomers were Miss Arthur and The newcomers were Miss Arthur and Edward Percy. After a few sentences had been interchanged, Percy left the room and then it was that Madeline saw him take his way toward the village.

Presently Miss Arthur also quitted the room; and going straight up-stairs, Cora knocked at Madeline's door. "Now, then," muttered she, "I'll stir up the animals." animals." "
Madeline did not look especially grati-

fled at sight of her visitor, but Cora en-tered with scant ceremony. Pushing the door shut with unnecessary emphasis, she turned upon her, saying, rather unis then you do poor me will have to take seat lower down in the tabernacle of our affections"

I wonder if this 'other' would so eadily resign her lover to you?" she laid "Would she!" flashed Claire "Would he not? Has she not? Ah, if you knew her, you would never say that!" Then and don't capturing the other hand of the lady, she said in quieter but very grave tones "Can you listen to a long story," whelly largered tones that I knew so well is seen how it will benefit you. "I see how it will benefit you"

"I see you are amazed, Doctor Vaughan, and Mrs Girard is turning pale You are beginning to guess the truth Yes, it was bedward Percy who answered the first speaker and—Edward Percy is my husband "At the first sound of the other voice, I sank down sick with fear lest the man should in some way find me out Sitting there I heard him say in the half fretful the privately married to-morrow morning."

Madeline lafighed bitterly "As you have told me a secret, and as I don't want to remain in your debt, I will tell you one in return. Lucian Davilin is my lover, but I am his bitterest foe!"

Cora came closer and looked her eagerly in the face "What has he sho done on the rewere boys, or men, in the world"

"You may find out later! just now ware even Understand, no word of wanning to him, if you yalue your safety. Obey my wishes, and when I am done with you, you may go free. Attempts treachery, and I will give you up to justice."

"I think I may," replied Madeline, and the leagman from his hand The boy without waiting for her words of the sunting rand Mr. Pever, and it to the lone is shoulder: "No answer!"

Men Cora retired to her own room, to chuckle over the discomfiture in store for the sunting rand Mr. Pever, and it to the lands shoulder: "No answer!"

Men Cora retired to her own room, to chuckle over the discomfiture in store for the sunting rand Mr. Pever, and to words.

When Cora retired to her own room, to chuckle over the discomfiture in store for the sunting rand Mr. Pever, and to words.

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When Cora retired to her own room, to chuckle over the shoulder: "No answer!"

Men Cora retired to her own room, to chuckle over the shoulder: "No answer!"

Men Cora retired to her own ro

chuckle over the discomfiture in store for the spinster and Mr Percy, and to won-der wrathfully what the mystery concern-ing Miss Payne and Lucian could mean, Madeline stood for many minutes lost in

longed to lean across the table and dash her hand full in that smiling blonde face. But she looked at him instead quite tranquilly, and said with a queer smile: "Then you would do me a favor even at

"Would I not?" fervently. "Only command me, Miss Payne."
"I will take you at your word, then.
Mr. Percy you will oblige me very much
by putting off your marriage with Miss by putting off your marriage with Miss Arthur one week longer."

Here was a bomb-shell. It electrified the languid gentleman He became suddenly animated by fear "What—what do you mean, Miss Payne?" starting half out of his seat and nervously sitting down again

"Precisely what I say, sir It does not please me to have my relative leave my house to be married in this clandestine manner There, don't ask me how I discovered what you thought was a profound

covered what you thought was a profound secret You see I did discover it Will you put off this romantic marriage—to oblige Percy was trying hard to think If he could believe it was because he had found favor in her eyes, that she asked this But no; even his vanity could not credit that suggestion Of late she had openly shown a preference for Daylin What.

Payne, you have taken me by storm. If I may not ask how you made this discov-Payne, you have taken me by storm. If I may not ask how you made this discovery, may I not, at least, beg to know why you make this demand?"

"I have told you; it shocks my sense of propriety."

"Pardon me if I say there must be its will be its w of propriety."
"Pardon me if I say there must be

"You are pardoned," coolly; "now, do you grant my request?" Percy arose from the table flushed and

angry. "Pardon me, Miss Payne, you demand too much."
"Nevertheless, I do demand it."
"And I beg to decline."
"Then I must deal with Miss Arthur.
The knowledge that you have one wife in the grave, and another under this very roof, may have the desired effect upon her."

Berry dropped back in his chair, pale

roof, may have the desired effect upon her."

Percy dropped back in his chair, pale as sahes. All was lost, then. Cora had betrayed him! But he resolved not to commit himself. Perhaps Madeline had only verbal information. While he was trying to frame a speech, however, she knocked this last prop from under him.

"I may as well assure you that parleying is useless. I have known, from the first moment you entered this house, just upon what terms you stood with Mrs. Arthur. Don't trouble yourself to ask how I know. Perhaps you have been puzzled to know why Mrs. Arthur and her brother so suddenly became cordial and invited you to Oakley, where you so much desired to be. Let me enlighten you. They fancied that you had regained possession of important documents—two marriage certificates, in fact—for they had lost them."

"What?" ejaculated Percy.

had lost them."
"What?" ejaculated Percy.
"And—I found them," added Madeline. His countenance fell again. "They are in my possession," pursued she "Shall I show them to Miss Arthur,

she "Shall I show them to Miss Arthur, or not?"

"It can't make much difference now," said the man, sullenly
"Let us understand each other fully," said Madeline. "I am not acting in concert with Cora Arthur. She is even more in my power than you are I have no desire to undeceive Miss Arthur Neither do I wish you to leave Oakley On the contrary. I want you here; you can be of ser-I wish you to leave Oakley On the con-trary, I want you here; you can be of ser-vice to me, by and by And I pledge you my word that so long as you remain un-der this roof, those papers shall not be used against you"

"And if I don't choose to remain?"

Madeline laughed "Then you must take the consequences," she said, care-lessly

take the consequences," she said, care-lessly
"And what will they be?"
"Exposure and arrest"
Percy drew pen, ink, and paper toward
him "What shall I write to the clergy-man?" he asked, sullenly
"Whatever you choose And I will send
it Make your peace with Miss Arthur,
too, in your own way" too, in your own way"
"And when I leave Oakley, what

"And when I leave Oakley, what them?" he grunted
"Then, if you have fulfilled the conditions, I will burn the papers in your presence, and you are free henosforth.."
"There is the note," he said, flinging it toward her as soon as written. "After all, I may as well be in your power as in hers," and again he arose to go from the room.

shoulder: "No answer!"

Madeline gazed for a moment after the flying figure and wonderingly opened the message This is what she read:— "Be at H——'s to-night when evening train comes down We are ready for action; have found a witness C V"

ing Miss Payne and Lucian could mean, Madeline stood for many minutes lost in thought

Finally she threw herself down upon a couch, uttering a half sigh, and looking utterly weary and perplexed A moment and the girl said to her:—

"When Miss Arthur retires for the night, which won't be for some time, do see Mr Percy when he is alone, mind, and tell him Miss Payne destrees him to wait her pleasure in the library"

Joliffe bowed and went out again like a cat

When, at last, the other members of that incongruous family circle were safely out of the way, Madeline, warned by the ever-present, soundless Joliffe, 'awaited in the library the coming of Mr Percy

Wondering much what the haughty helress could have to communicate to him, and dimly hoping that the tide was turning in his favor, Mr Percy entered the presence of the arbiter of his fate Bowing like a courtier, he approached her

"Miss Payne has deigned to honor me with an interview" he said in his slowest softest most irresistible manner. "I can never be sufficiently grateful"

Madeline motioned him to a seat opposite her own saying with an odd smile: "You shall at least have an opportunity for repaying your debt of gratitude, sir, and that immediately"

Percy took the seat indicated and bowed gratefully "Command me, Miss Payne"

"It rests with you," Madeline began, "whether we shall be from to-night neutral toward each other, or enemies" emines!" he exclaimed "Oh, that would be impossible"

Madeline was full of inward rage She longed to lean across the table and dash her hand full in that smilling blonde face But she looked at him instead quite tran
Madeline was full of inward rage She longed to lean across the table and dash her hand full in that smilling blonde face But she looked at him instead quite tran-

cian Davlin.

"Good morning, Miss Payne," he said, lifting his hat with his usual grace. "I am happy to know that we have one taste in common—a love of nature in disguise. Is not the wintry world beautiful?"

"Beautiful, indeed," replied Madeline, resuming her walk homeward. "The trees are fairy palaces. It is lovelier than summer, is it not?"

"It is very lovely," gazing not at the trees but down into her face, "but—so cold."

She understood his meaning and replied, calmly: "Cold? Yes; it is not summer."
"No," he assented, with a sad into mideline looked up and about her, and smiled as she did so. "Yes," she replied "it will be summer—soon."

He had turned and retraced 'Ms steps at her side. She was walking swiftiy again and for some time neither spoke. When they entered the grounds of the manor, he said, half deprecatingly:—

"Madeline, may I ask this one question?"

that suggestion of late she had openly shown a preference for Davlin What, then, could be her motive? Could it be that at the instigation of Cora she had sought this interview?

He rallied his forces and replied: "Miss

He rallied his forces and replied: "Miss

"Will you tell me what were your thoughts Meddlings"."

CHAPTER XLVIII. THE SWORD OF FATE. Evening at Oakley. At last the long day was done: the **BATH GLOVES**

moment. Some were loitering on the terrace, where the shadows fell thickest.
Madeline stepped through the gap saying softly: "Joliffe!"
Immediately the form emerged from the shadow It was the cat-like waiting-

"it's all right, Miss," she said in a whisper "They are all in the drawing-room but I think they are getting un-

room but I think they are getting uneasy?

"Well I will not keep them in suspense long" said Madeline and in the darkness she smiled triumphantly "Lead on, Joliffe?

Silently they moved on, and paused again at the side entrance; the one from which Cora had endeavored to escape but a short time before. Madeline opened the door, and in another moment she, with Mrs. Ralston, Claire Keith. Clarence Vaughan and two strangers, stood within the walls of Oakley.

They moved on like shadows to the rear end of the hall, up the servant's stairway, and straight to the west wing. Evidently they were expected here, too, for in obedience to a light tap the door opened and they passed quietly within opened and they passed quietly within the outer room of John Arthur's prison

"Close the door Henry" said Madeline.
"So far, so good" she pronounced.
"Now can you make yourselves comfortable here for a little while? Hagar and Joliffe will know just what to do as soon as I have, myself, viewed the field of battle; or perhaps I had better pilot you in person."

in person."

"As you please," said the foremost of
the strangers. "I think we understand
each other."

"Then we won't lose time," said Madeline. "Henry call Dr. Le Guise." eline. "Henry call Dr. Le Guise."

Henry tapped at the door of the inner room, and in a trice the worthy Professor stood in their midst. He glanced from one to another in amazement, and the look of confidence forsook his face. "Have no uneasiness" sir" said Madeline seeing the fear in his face; "these ladies and gentlemen will not interfere with you. They are here because it is desirable that the people below should not know of their proximity just yet. You are about to aid us, and need have no fear for yourself."

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