## THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

## UNCLE MAX.

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CHAPTER XLV.-Continued. "He might have been here now,' I gram. bled, "if you had sllowed me to tell your brother;" for those few reproachful words

in ignorance of what was going on until Miss Darrell was out of the house. She had borne so much, and was still weak and unfit for any great excitement. My great fear was lest Miss Darrell should force her way into Gladys's presence and disturb her by a scene; and this fear kept me anxions and uneasy all about Giles ?" day.

Gladys was a trifle restless ; she wanted to drive again, and when I made her brother's absence a pretext for refusing this she pleaded for a stroll in the garden. ...It was with great difficulty that 1 at last induced her to remain quietly in her room. But when she saw that I was really serious she gave up her wishes very sweetly, and consoled herself by writing to Max, in answer to a letter that he had sent under cover to me.

It was nearly noon before Chatty brought. me a message that Miss Darrell was just up and dressed, and wished to speak to me; and

tered the couch; ornaments, jewelry, and raffles and ornaments, —when Chatty told me brushes strewed the dressing table. Miss that he wished to speak to me a moment. Darrell was sitting in an easy-chair by the | I made some excuse and joined him withsee gray hairs in the smooth dark head ; before many years were over Miss Darrell would look an old woman. I could not help wondering, as I looked at her, how any one

wondering, as 1 100860 at ...., could have called her handsome. "Chatty says Leah has gone," she said, in "that with misery. "I told her that that was too good news to be true. Is it true, Miss Garston ?"

"Yes; she has gone." "I am glad of it,,' with a vixenish tharpness that surprised me. "I hated that woman, and yet I was afraid of her too: she got me in her tolls, and then I was helpless. Where has Giles gone, Miss Garston ? Chatty said he went off in a dog-cart with his portmanteau." How I wished Chatty would hold her

tongue sometimes ! but most likely Miss Darrell had questioned her. "Mr. Hamilton's business is not our affair,

I returned, coldly.

"That means I am not to ask ; but all the same you are in his secret," with one of her old sneers. "Will he be back to night?" "No, not to-night; to-morrow morning

early." "That is all I want to know, Miss Gar ston," hesitating a little nervously. "I have never liked you, but all the same I have not

injured you. Have you not, Miss Darrell ?"

heap coals of fire on my head ?" "Possibly."

My coolness seemed to frighten her; she lost her sullen self-possession.

"Have you no heart?" she said, passion-ately. "Will you not hold up a finger to help me ? You have influence with Giles; do not deny it. If you ask him to keep me here he will not refuse you, and you will dripping on the leaves.

Chatty, and came face to face with Miss. Darrell. She was in her crampled yellow dressing gewn, and har dark hair hang over her shoulders ; her eyes looked bright and strange. I moved back a step; and laid my hand on the handle. She greeted this action with a disagreeable

brother;" for those few reproachful words laugh," hannted me. "Yes, dear; I know I was wrong,", she just now: Yes, I wanted to see Gladys; I answered, with sweefroander. "Glearth bet wished to make the feel at wretched as kind now that I banhot think why I was so I do myself; but you were too quick for me. reserved with him; the of course, "flualing be you always keep your patients under lock little, "I was afraid of Etter." "I suppose that was the reason," I re-turned, busying myself about the room; for hereinamer more than ever to might: it was I do not care to pursue the subject. Mr. not the first that that that the suppose that was the room; for hereinamer more than ever to might: it was 

reserved with him; oursel courses, insurance in good key?" ind key?" "I was afraid of Etter." "I suppose that was the reason, "I ra-""Sometimes." Isoonically, for I disliked surned, busying myself about the room; for hardmaniar more than ever to night : it was I did not care to pursue the subject. Mr. Hamilton's few words had convinced me that he thought it would be wiser to leave Gladys 'Why do you not go to bed, Miss Darrell?"

"Perhaps 1 shall when I have thoroughly tired myself. These passages have rather a ghastly look : they remind me of Leah, too," with a shudder. "Good-night, Miss Garwith a shudder. "Good-night, Miss Gar-ston; pleasant dreams to you. I suppose you have not thought better of what I said

"" No, certainly not," retreating into my room and locking the door in a panic. I heard a husky laugh answer me. Perhaps last night's watching had tired my nerves, for it was long before I could compose myself to sleep.

The night passed quietly, and I woke, refreshed, to the sound of summer rain patter-ing on the shrubs. The little oak avenue looked wet and dreary ;, but no amount of rain or ontward dreariness could damp me, with the expectation of Mr. Hamilton's return; and I helped Chatty strange our rooms with great cheerfulness.

He came back earlier than I expected! I I went at once to ner. The usually luxurious room had an untidy had hardly finished settling Gladys for the inner glad than I can say. Uunliffe is a and forlorn aspect. The crumpled Indian day,—she took great pains with her toilet fine fellow; there is no one that I should like now, and was hard to please in the matter of so well for a brother."

Derrett was sitting in an easy-oneir by the index some excuse and joined him with-open window. She did not move or glance out delay. He looked much as he had the as I entered in the full light. She looked previous morning, -very worn and tired, and pinched and old and plain. Her cyclids were swollen; her complexion had a yellowish quietly, and even kindly; he asked me if I whitement as the domeniate to her Looked to the better whiteness; as I stood opposite to her, I could felt better, and how Gladys was. I was rather ashamed of my nervous manner of. answering, but that odious speech of Miss Darrell would come into my mind when he looked at me.

"Chatty says my cousin is in the diningroom: do you mind coming down with me for a few minutes? I do not wish to see her alone.'

Of course I signified my willingness to accompany him, and he walked beside me silently to the dining-room door.

Miss Darrell was sitting on the circular seat looking out on the oak avenue; she did not turn her head, and there was something hopeless in the line of her stooping shoulders. I saw her hands clutch the cushions nervously as her cousin walked straight to the window.

"Etta," he began, abruptly, "I wish you to listen to me a moment. I will spare you all I can, for Aunt Margaret's sake : I do not intend to be more hard with you than my duty demands."

"Oh, Giles I" raising her syss at this mild commencement; but they dropped again at the sight of the dark impenetrable face, which certainly had no look of pity on it. She must have felt then, what I should certainly have felt in her place, that any prayers or tears would be wasted on him.

"It would be useless, and worse than useless," he went on, "to point out to you the heinousness of your sin, perhaps I should say crime. All these years you have not fal-"No," very uneasily; but she did not meet say orime. All those years you have not fal-my eyes. "I defy you to prove that I have, tered in your releatless course; no pity for Still, if I were your enemy, ought you not to me and mine has touched your heart; you heart coals of fire on my head?"

> "Giles, I have loved you in spite of all ! Be merciful to me !" But he went on as

though he heard her no more than the rain "This home is yours no longer; you are

before be had finished she had clasped his arm with her two hands and her face was hidden in them.

"Ob, Giles ! .if you only knew what she has made me suffer !" she whispered. "We should have understood each other better if Etta had not always come between us."

Yon are right; I feel you are right, Gladys," stroking her fair hair as he spoke; then she looked up and smiled affectionately in his face.

"Uraula, will you leave me alone with my brother for a little? There is something I want to tall him !" And I went away at once. As I opened the door, Chatty came down

the passage with a pile of freshly-ironed linen. Her round face looked unusually dis-

turbed. Is going on so, ma'am," she whis pered, "it is dreadful to hear her. She is making us turn out all her drawers, and there are three big trunks to fill. She says she is going away forever." ""Hush !" I returned; with a warning look; or, at least; likely to become so.... Do your for Miss Darrell was at the door watching us. mean," as my astonished face seemed to open

for Miss Darrell was at the door watching us. She was in her yellow dressing-gown, and the old pinched look was still in her face.

"Why are you stopping to gossip, Chatty ?" she said, querulously. "I shall not have finished until midnight, at this rate. Leah would have packed by this time." And Chatty, with rather a frightened look; carried in her pile of clean linen.

I strolled about the garden for an hour, and then went back to the house. Mr. Hamilton; was just closing the door of his sister's room. He looked happier, I thought: the dark, irritable expression had left his

face. He came forward with a smile. "Gladys has been telling me, Miss Garston.

"I knew you would say so. Uncle Max Is

so good." "Well, he has secured a prize," with a slight sigh. "Gladys is a noble woman; she will make her husband a happy man. There is little doubt that Etta did mischief there; but Gladys was not willing to enter on that part of the subject. I begin to think," with a quick, searching look that somewhat disturbed me, "that we have not yet reached the limits of her mischief making."

I could have told him that I knew that. I think he meant to have have said something more ; but a slight movement in the direction | lieved you were engaged, or that, at least, of Miss Darrell's room made us separate somewhat quickly. I saw Mr. Hamilton glance uneasily at the half-closed door as he went past it. I found Gladys in tears, but she made me

understand with some difficulty that they were only tears of relief and joy.

"But I am sorry too, because I have so often grieved him so," she said, drying her eyes. "Oh, how good Giles is 1--how noble 1 --and I have mlaunderstood him so 1 he was so glad about Max, and so very, very kind. And then we talked about Eric. He says we were wrong to keep it from him, that even you were to blame in that. He thinks so highly of you, Ursula; but he said even good people make mistakes sometimes, and that this was a great mistake. I was so sorry when he said that, that I asked his pardon

over and over again." I felt that I longed to ask his pardon, too and yet the fault had been Gladys's more than mine; but I knew she had talked enough, so I kissed her, and begged her to lie down and compose herself while I got the

tea readv. We hid not see Mr. Hamilton again that right. Gladys and I sat by the open window, talking by anatches or relapsing into allence. When she had retired to rest I atole the world as an outcast; you have suffered into the passage to see what had become of Gladys to carry a heavy and bitter weight in her bosom. Pshaw! why do I reiterate these things? you know them all." were watching for some one.

On seeing me she beckoned imperiously, and I crossed the passage with some reluct

ance. "Come in a moment; I want to speak to

very crosely, but my cheeks were burning. "If this be a joke, I must tell you once for all that I dislike this sort of jokes : they are "If this be a joke, I must tell you once for all that I dialike this sort of jokes: they are not in good taste?" for I was as angry with him as possible, for who knew what nonsense he had got into his head? He looked at mosense in quite a bewildered faction; my anger was evidently incomprehensible to him. We were playing at cross-purposes. "Do joon think I am in the mood for joking?" he said, at last. "Have you were heard me jest on such subjects. Miss Garator? I thought we agreed on that point." "Do you mean you are serious?" "Defrequy serious." "Defrequy serious." "He looked uncomfortable. "Thave under" He looked uncomfortable. "Thave under"

room for doubt, ... that it is not true !-- that to bok the matter in the face. Etta has deceived me there ?" "Miss, Darrell !", soornfully; then, con-be due in another quarter of

"Miss. Darrell !", soorninity; then, con-trolling my strong indignation with an eff it. I said, more quietly, "I think that we ought to beg Mr. Tudor's pardon for dragging in his name in this way: he would hardly thank us. If I am not mistaken, he is in love with my be due in another quarter of an hour; no doubt that was why he was walking so fast. L must keep near him when he took his ticket. I had no fear of his recognizing me; he had only seen me twice, without my bonnet, and now I wore a hat that shaded my face, and cousin Jocelyn."

"Impossible 1 What a credulous fool I have been to helieve her I. Your cousin Jocelyn, do you mean Miss Jill ?" "Yes;". I returned, smiling, for a sense of

renewed happiness was stealing over me. "The foolish fellow is always following me about to talk of her. I do believe he is honestly in love with her. He saved her loose silver in my purse. I had assured my-self of this fact as I walked down the hill. life, and that makes it all the worse."

"All the better, you mean," regarding me gravely. That fixed, serious look made me rather confused.

"Would you mind telling me, Mr. Hamil-ton," I interposed, hurrledly, "what put this absurd ides into your head ?" "It was Etta," he returned, in a low voice.

"It was that night when you had been singing to us, and she came home unexpectedly." "Yes, yes, I remember;" but I could not meet his eyes.

"She told me when we got home that Mr. Tudor was in love with you, and that she bcnal for the up train, and had only time to reach the platform when the Victoria train came in. there was an understanding between you and she added that if I did not believe her I compartment, and I followed and placed my-self at the other end. I had no wish to atmight watch for myself, and I should see that

you were always together." "Well?' rather impatiently.

"I will beg your pardon afterwards for following Etta's advice, but I did watch, and it was not long before I came round to her opinion." "Mr. Hamilton !" "Wait a moment before you get angry

with me again. I never saw you in a passion before;" but I knew he was laughing at me. "Etta was certainly right in one thing: I seemed always finding you together."

"That was because I often met Mr. Tudor in the village, and he turned back and walked with me a little; but we always talked of Jill. "How could I know that !" in rather an injured voice. "Were you talking of Miss

Jocelyn in the vicarage kitchen-garden that evening?" "Probably," was my cool reply; for how

could I remember all the subjects of our conversation ? "And when you went to Hyde Park Gate,

against the wooden wainscoting. you were together then,-Leah saw you,-But I could bear no more. his cap with a gesture of weariness and imand

patience. He did not see me : those sad, "How could I know that I should be watched and spied upon, and all my innocent actions misrepresented ?" I exclaimed, indig-nantly. "It was not fair, Mr. Hamilton. I blue-gray eyes were fixed on the moving landstape; but how like Gladys's they looked ! I turned aside quickly to hide my emotion. I thought of Gladys and Mr. could not have believed it of you, that you should listen to such things against me, Hamilton, and a prayer rose to my lips that That boy, too !" for their sake 1 might succeed in bringing

"Nonsense !" speaking in his old good-humored voice, and looking exceedingly the lost one back.

I sat down and oried a little for sheer har-

thought of resuming the conversation in the

'Supposing I go back to the White Cottage,'

D CATHOLIO ULI ULI CALLAND COMPANY CONTROL CON and fawning on him. "Down, down, good dog !" I heard him pleasant face opened the door ; he say, and then I whistled back Nap, who bare, and the dried her hands of came reluctantly, and with some difficulty I as she asked me my business.

lessening the distance between us; my last

taking a ticket for myself.

dashed off a message to Gladys.

necessary."

him.

I had a couple of sovereigns and a little :

the booking-office, I followed him closely,

and to my great relief neard him ask for a third-class ticket for Victoria. When he had made way for me I took the same for

myself, and then, as I had seven minutes to

spare, I went into the telegraph-office and

"Called to town on important business;

As I gave in the form I could hear the sig-

The young workman got into an empty

tract his notice ; the ill success of my former

attempt had frightened me, and I felt I dared

not address him, for fear he should leave the

train at the next station. Some workmen had got in and were talking noisily among

themselver. I did not feel that the oppor-

faign sleep, no doubt to avoid conversation

drawn sigh that every now and then escaped

I could watch him safely now, and for a

have been a youthful Apollo leaning his head (

Once he opened his eyes and pushed back

tunity would be propitious.

may be detained to-night. Will write if

ing and knock at the second door, that is his sitting, room ; he sleeps at the back, and Sawyer has the other room," "I followed these instructions," and knocked

run had brought me wishin a hundred yards of him, and I slackened my pace, and began at the front-room door; but no voice bade me come in; only a short bark and a scuffle of I remembered that the London train would feet gave me notice of the occupant: so I ventured to go in. It was a tidy little room, and had a snug

aspect. A white fox terrier with a pretty face retreated growling under a chair, but I coaxed her to come out. The steak and the loaf were on the table. But I had no time my plain gray gown was aufficiently unlike for any observation, for a voice said, "What the dress I had worn at Hyde Park Gate. I are you barking at Januy?" and the the dress I had worn at Hyde Park Gate. I are you barking at, Jenny?" and the next had a sudden qualm as the thought darted moment Eric entered the room. into my mind that he might possibly have a return-ticket; but I should know if he got

He started when he saw me caressing the

dog. "I beg your pardon for this intrusion," I for I saw I was not recoginto the Victoria train, and I determined on began, nervously, for I saw I was not recog-nized; "but I have followed you from Heathfield to tell you the good news. Mr. Hamilton, it is all found out; Miss Darrell As soon as the young workman had entered stole that check,"

I had blurted it out, fearing that he might start away from me even then: he must know that his name was cleared, and then I could persuade him to listen to me. I was right in my surmise, for as I said his name he put his hand on the door, but my next words made him drop the handle.

"What ?" he exclaimed, turning deadly pale, and I could see how his lips quivered under his moustache. "Say that again: I do not understand."

"Mr. Hamilton," I repeated, slowly, "you need not have rushed past your poor brother in that way at Victoria, for he is breaking his heart, and so is Gladys, with the longing to find you. Your name is cleared : they only want to ask your forgiveness for a'l you have suffered. It was a foul conspiracy of two women to save themselves by ruining you. Leah has made full confession. Your cousin Etta took the check out of your brother's desk."

"Oh, my Gcd !" he gasped, and, sitting down, he hid his face in his hands. The When we had actually left Heathfield I little fox-terrier jumped on his knee and be-stole a glance at the young man: he had gan licking his hands. "Don't Jenny: let me be," he said, in a fretful, boylsh voice that made me smile. "I must thick, for my drawn his cap over his eyes, and seemed to with the noisy crew opposite us; but that he brain seems dizzy."

was not really asleep was evident from the slight twitching of the mouth and a long-I left him quiet for a few minutes, and Jenny, after this rebuke, curled herself up at his feet and went to sleep. Then I took the chair beside him, and asked him, very quietly, if he could listen to me. He was few minutes I studied almost painfully one of frightfully pale, and his features were work-the most perfect faces I had ever seen. It ing, but he nodded assent and held his head was thin and colorless, and there were lines between his hands again, but I know he and to see on so young a face; but it might | heard every word.

I told nim as briefly as I could how Gladye had languished and pined all these years, how she had clung to th notion of his innocence and would not believe tha he was dead. He started at that, and asked what I meant. Had Giles really believed he was dead ?

"He had reason to fear so," I returned, gravely; and I told him how his watch and scarf had been found on the beach at Brighton, and how the hotel-keeper had brought them to Mr. Hamilton.

He seemed shocked at this, "I had been The journey seemed a long one. All sorts bathing," he said, in rather an ashamed "some boy must have stolen them and then dropped his booty for fear of the police. I missed them when I came out of the water, and I hunted about for them a long time. A. I was leaving the beach I saw one of Giles's friends coming down towards me, and I got it into my head that I was re-cognized. I dared not go hack to the hotel. Besides, my money was running short. I took a third-class ticket up to London, and on my way fell in with a house-painter, who gave me lodging for a few nights." "Yes, and then\_\_\_\_" for he heritated here, "Well, you see, I was just mad with them at home. I thought I could never forgive Giles that last insult. My character and honor were gone. Etta had been my secret enemy all along, because she knew I read her truly. Leah had given in her false evidence. My word was nothing. I was looked upon as a common thief. I swore that I would never cross the threshold of Gladwyn again until my name was cleared. They should not hear of me; if they thought me dead, so much the better !" "Oh, Mr. Eric, and you never considered how Gladys would auffer !" "Yes, that was my only trouble; but I thought they would turn her against me in time. I was nearly mad, I tell you: but for Phil Power I believe I should have been desperate ; but he stuck to me, and was always telling me that a man can live down anything. Indeed, but for Phil and his pretty little wife I should have starved, for I had, no notion of helping myself, and would him my telegram? He had promised to not have begged for a job to save my life, for finish our conversation this evening. I felt I could not forget I was a gentleman. But with a strange screness of longing that I Phil got me work at his governor's. So I turned house-painter, and rather liked my employment. I used to tell myself that it was better than old Armstrong's office. Why, I make two pounds a week now when we are in full work," finished the poor lad, happily the passengers were numerous and proudly. blocked up the stairs, so I reached the street My heart was yearning over him, he was so boyish and weak and impulsive; but I would not spare him. I told him that it was cowardly of him to hide himself,-that it would have been braver and nobler to have lived his life openly. "Why not have let your brother know what you were doing?" I continued. "For years this shadow has been over his home, He has believed you dead. He las even feared self-destruction This fear has embittered his life and made him a hard, unhappy man, "Do you mean Glles has suffered like that ?" he exclaimed ; and his gray eyes grew he has loved you dearly; land Gladys-But he vput up his hand, as though he could would be refreshing. Erio carried his steak dear no more. This bad, as block in the steak dear no more and the steak of the steak dear no more and the steak of t Leah donfessed; Miss Miss Miss Miss and the laughed a little nervously. "I do not know who you are and yet you must be a

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make me your slave for life." I heard this proposition with disgust. She could cringe to me whom she hated. I shook

her miserable eyes on me. "Oh, I know what you want: you cannot hide from me

under such an obligation. You are powerless to harm me, Miss Darrell; your plots are nothing to me."

"And yet a word from me would bring and have offered you a home." him to your feet."

"I do not want him there," I replied, irri-tated at this persistence. "I do not wish you to mention his name to me; if you do so

foolish, would he be likely to listen to me !" walk on.

I tried to keep back the rebellious color bid all such communication."

that rose to my face at her words. "Do not cheat yourself with this insape belief," I returned, quietly. "Mr. Hamilton is inexorable when he has decided on anything."

"Inexorable ! you may well say so !" rock-"Giles is hard, -oruel in his wrath : he will send me away and never see me again." And now the tears began to flow. "Miss Darrell," I continued, pityingly,

"for your own sake, listen to me a moment. You have failed most miserably in the past : let the future years be years of repentance and atonement. Mr. Hamilton will not forgive until you have proved yourself worthy forgiveness: remember you owe the future to him,

She stared at me for a moment as though turned her back on me and went on rocking herself. "Too late !" I heard her mutter I cannot be good without him." And. room.

She could bring him to my feet with a She could bring him to my feet with a 'not leave her 'without' this vague word of word. Was this the trith, or only an idle boast! No matter; I would not owe even his love to this woman! 'I don live without 'for five her'. I heard, her weeping, bitterly in you, Giles, my Giles, 'I' whispered ; but hot tears burnt my checks as I spole. In the afternoon, I saw Miss Darrell pacing up and down the asphalt walk. Gladys saw her too, and turned awy from the widder in a full the afternoon Mr. 'Hamilton joined her too, and turned awy from the widder in a full the turnet room Mr.' Hamilton joined

swer. Towards evening I heard her foot steps perambulating the long parage; and seitly turned the key in the lock without Gladys noticing the movement. Gladys noticed very little in that sweet dreamy mood that had come to her; her own thoughts occupied her; her lover's letter had more than contented her.

About ten o'clock I went in search

no ht companion for my sisters, even if I could bear to shelter a truitor under my roof. If I know my present feelings, I will nevar my head, feeling unable to answer her. "I could help you," she persisted, fixing willingly see your face again: whether I ever willingly see your face again: whether I ever

do see it depends on your future conduct.' "Oh, for pity's sake, Giles !" She was writhing now. In spite of all her sins against that you are unhappy. I know where the writhing now. In spite of all her sins against hinderance lies; one word from me would him, she had loved him in her perverse way.

word? "No," I returned, indignantly. "Do you? think that I would owe anything to you? I would rather be unhappy all my life than be under such an obligation. You around the taken would a the such an obligation. You around the taken would rather be unhappy all my life than be under such an obligation. You around the taken to it. The Alnwicks are kind, worthy people —not rich in this world's goods or what the them once when they were in bitter straits in return they have acceded to my request

"I will not go !" she sobbed passionately. "I wuld rather you should kill me, Giles, than treat me with such cruelty !"

"They are old," he went on, calmly, "but

"Un your head be your own obstinacy," she returned, angrily; but I could see the despair in her eyes, and I answered that, "Miss Darrell," I went on, more gently, "I cannot help you in this. How could I ask Mr. Hamilton to keep you under his work knowing that you have poisoned his domestic applied it will be curtailed or stopped alto-happiness? Even il I could be so mad or gether. Your maintenance will be arranged between the Alnwicks and myself, and, un-"You know he worships the ground you is distinctly not my purpose now, -no letter from you will be read or answered, and I for

"I cannot-I cannot bear it !" she scream. ed, springing to her feet; but he waved her back with such a look that her arms dropped to her side.

"No scene, I beg," in a tone of disgust. "Let me finish quietly what I have to say,--ing herself in on uncontrollable excitement. Miss Garston," turning to me, "could you spare Chatty to help my cousin pack her clothes and books ! for we shall start early in the morning. Mr. Alnwick has promised to meet us half-way."

"I can set Chatty at liberty for the day,"

was my answer. "Very well. Etta, you may as well go at once. Your meals will be served in your room. I do not wish you to resume your usual habits : this is my house, not yours.

Your only course now must be obedience and submission. Let your future conduct atone my words held some hope for her; then shall to me for the past, that I may remember. He turned away then, but I could not see his face working. He had dearly loved this with a strange sinking of heart, Inleft the miserable creature, and had cared for her as that we though she had been his sister, and he could not leave her without this vague word of

us, in the turret-room." Directly he came in seems " she said once; but I made no she that he meant to tell her everything, that swer. Towards evening I heard her foot. he thought it best that she should hear it from him to the second se planation or expression of feeling ; but it was not possible for Gladys to hear that Eric's hame was cleared without keen emotion. "Oh, thank God for this other mercy !" she sobbed, bursting into tears; and presently, as he went on, she crept closer to him, and

' ane said much excited. "I sent Chatty to bed. We have finished packing,-oh, quite finished. Giles will be satisfied with my obedience; and now I want you to tell me what you and he were saying about Mr. Cunliffe. 'But her

white lips looked whiter as she spoke. "Excuse me, Miss Darrell," I returned ; but she stopped me,

"You are going to say that it is no busi-ness of mine. You are always cautious, Miss Garston; but 1 am resolved to know this. or I will refuse to leave the house to-morrow morning. Are they engaged? is that what Giles meant when he said he was a fine fellow?

I thought it wiser to tell her the truth. "They are engaged."

"And Giles knows it, and gives his con sent ?"

"Most gladly and willingly,"

"I wish I could kill them both !" was the sullen reply; and then, without taking any further notice of me, she sat down on one o the boxes and hid her face in her hands, and when I tried to speak to her she shook her day or two. head with a gesture of impatience and despair.

"The game is played out; I may as well go," she muttered; and seeing her in this imood I thought it better to leave her; but I slept uneasily, and often started up in bed fancying I heard something. I remembered her words with horror : the whole scene was like a hightmare to me; -- the disordered and desolate room, with the great heavily corded trunks, the dim light, the wretched woman in her yellow dressing gown sitting crouched on a box. "Can this be love !" I thought, with a shudder,-" this compound of vanity and selfishness ?" and I felt how different was my feeling with Giles. The barrier might never be broken down between us, I might never be to him more than I was now, but all my life I should love and honor him as the

noblest man I knew on God's earth.

CHAPTER XLVI.

NAP BARKS IN THE STABLE-YARD. I was arranging some flowers that Max had sent us the next morning, and waiting for Gladys to join me, when Mr. Hamilton came in.

"Where is Gladys?" he asked, looking round the room ; but when he heard that she had not finished dressing, he would not hear

of my disturbing her. () "It is no matter," he went on. "I shall be back before she is in bed. I only wanted to tell her that I have seen Cunliffe. in I breakfasted with him this morning. He will

(1. Yes, I suppose so," I returned, carelessly. 1. What splendid carnations these are, Mr. Hamilton !! You have not any so good at

Gladwyn," af f ( then the "Conliffe must spare me some outlings." he replied, rather absently; then, without looking at me, and in a peculiar voice, "Is it still a secret, Miss Garston, or may I be

allowed to congratulate you ?". I dropped the carnations as though they suddenly scorched me.

"Why should you congratulate me, Mr. Hamilton?"

"I inought you considered me a friend."

pleased. "He is five-and-twenty, and a very of fears tormented me. I remembered Mr. good-looking fellow: a girl might do worse | Hamilton was in London: there was danged Hamilton was in London : there was danger for herself than marry Lawrence Tudor."

of encountering him at Victoria. It was five now ; he might possibly return to dinner, I "But I intend to have him as my cousin some day," was my reply; but at this mo-ment Chatty came to tell Mr. Hamilton that the boxes were in the cart, and Miss Darrell could scarcely breathe as this new terror presented itself to me, for if Eric caught sight of his prother all would be lost. waiting in the carriage. "Confound it ! I had forgotten all about

When the train stopped, I followed the young workman as clearly as possible. As Etts," he returned, impatiently. "Well, it cannot be helped : we must finish our conver-sation this evening." And with a smile that we were turning in the subterranean passage for the District Railway, my heart seemed to stop. There was Mr. Hamilton reading his told of restored confidence he went off paper under the clock : we actually passed

within twenty yards of him, and he did not piness, for I knew the barrier was broken at raise his eyes. I am sure Eric saw him, for last, and that we should soon arrive at a com. he suddenly dived into the passage, and I had much trouble to keep him in sight : as it plete understanding. It was hard that he should have to leave me just then; and the was, I was only just in time to hear him ask for a third-class single to Bishop's Road.

evening made me naturally a little narvous. I did not dare enter the same compartment. but I got into the next, and now and then, I thought once; but I knew he would follow me there, and that it would seem idle coquet-ting on my part. It would be more dignified when our train stopped at the different stations, I could hear him distinctly taking to a fellow-workman, in a refined, gentleto wait and hear what he had to say. I manly voice, that would have attracted at should go back to the White Cottage in a tention to him anywhere. Once the other man called him Jack, and asked where he hung out, and I noticed this question was Gladys came out of her room when she heard the wheels, and proposed that we cleverly eluded, but I heard him say aftershould go down into the drawing-room, wards that he was in regular work, and liked his present governor, and that the old woman his present governor, and that the old woman who looked after him was a tidy, decent lady, and kept things comfortable. My thoughts strayed a little after this, The sight of Mr. Hamilton had, disturbed me. What would he think when Gladys showed, believe that he will be angry : oh, no, no. finish our conversation this evening. I felt Max found us very busy in the drawing-should not see Gladwyn that night. My ab-soom. I was just carrying out a work-box sence of mind nearly cost me dear, for I had idea that we had reached Bishop's Road until Eric passed my window, and with a smothered exclamation I opened the door: to find him only a few yards before me.

My patience was being severely exercised after this, for Eric did not go straight to his and put her hands in his, and as I closed the door Max took her in his arms. The pealodgings. He went into his butcher's first, and after a few minutes' delay-for there were customers in the shop-came out with a newspaper parcel in his hand. Then he went cock screen fell at my feet, the ivory fan and a hideous little Chinese god rolled noisily on into a grocer's, and through the window I the oilcloth. 1 smiled as 'I picked them up. could see him putting little packets of tea My dear Max and his Lady of Delight were and sugar in his pocket. be a just

His next business was to the baker's, and here a three-cornered crusty losf was the result. The poor young fellow was evidently providing his evening meal, and the sight of these homely delloader reminded me that I breakfasted with him this morning. He will and he would come again later in the evening. providing his evening inpart of the presently to see her. He looks I I was rather glad, when he said this, for I these homely delicable reminded me that I the years younger. Miss Garston? And,'as wanted togo down to the White Cottage and was tired and hungry and that a oup of teal at that he continued, in rather a see Mrs. Barton, and I, could not have latt, would be refreshing. It is in contrained with us, '' the house walle he was there. Yes, Max and three-cornered loaf, jauntily, and every was certainly right; it, would be better for his nick was certainly right; it, it, would be better for his nick was constrained with us, '' the house walle, her was certainly right; it, would be better for his nick was constrained in constrained with us.'' the house again when Mr. Hamilton was mates of "Jack the Whistler," (a) a such by

> We were threading the labyrinth of streets that He beeland. Bishop's Road Station : I was beginning to, feel weary and discouraged, when Line stopped suddenly, before a neat, ooking house of two stories, with very bright and then it went up to my own room, and put, soking nouse of two stories, with very bright on my hat, it is here our cradited to the stating "I thought Nap would like a run down the road, ind licould always make Tinker keep, int his latch key, let himself in, and blossed the peace, so it went into the stable yard in search of him. He was evidently there, for I could hear him barking excitedly. The next

friend." of your sister Gladys, and I have been nurs-ing her in this last illness."

(To be Continued.) HOLE BUAR SHI

Good resolutions, like a squalling haby at

joy were full. Max remained to luncheon, but he wept away soon afterwards. Gladys must rest, and he would come again later in the evening.

at home. I made Gladys take postession of her favorite little couch in the drawing room, but she detained me for some time talking about Max, until I refused to hear another word,

and then I went up to my own room, and put,

moment a young workman came out of the to the door and knocked boldly. My time thurch, should be carried out,

"Poor, poor Etta !" she sighed. "I try to pity and be sorry for her, but it is impossible not to be glad that she has gone. I want to look at every room, Ursula, and to realize that 1 am to have my own lovely home in Deace. We must send for Lady Betty ; and Hiles must know about Claude. I do not thing will make Giles angry now,'

room. I was just carrying out a work-box and a novel that belonged to Miss Darrell, and Gladys had picked up a peacock-feather screen; and a carved ivory fan, and two or three little knick knacks. "Take them all away, Ursula dear," she pleaded, with a faint shudder; but as she put them in my arms there were Max's eyes watching us from the threshold. I saw her go up to him as simply as a child,

together at last. I felt as though my cup of