BY ANTHONY HOPE

regret it. And he was glad to be using his brains again. If they took the two thousand, if Iver got the Masters estate and entire control of Blinkhampton for twenty-two thousand, Duplay would have had a hand in a good bargain. He thought the Sloyds would yield. "Be strong about it," Iver had said. "These young fellows have plenty of enterprise, plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big and plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big above the twenty thousand of course) and there is an an an again. We want," Harry pursued. "We've paid Masters twenty thousand. We may be to to use the town they wark to keep his temporate that he felt than the black dislike that he used to harbor. Harry's misfortune that he get than the black dislike that he felt than the black dislike that he used to harbor. Harry's misfortune that he get to have a sain. In his quiet room in Duke Street, The touch of patronage came again. In the touch of patronage came again

ing in directly, he held the door and allowed another to pass in front of him. Oh, nonse Duplay jumped up with a muttered exclamation. What the deuce was Harry Tristram doing there? Harry advanced Major Duplay rose with a decisive air.

"Twenty out of pocket—thirty profit." "Your minded malice."

Tristram doing there? Harry advanced helding out his hand.

"We neither of us thought we should meet in this way, Major Duplay? The world's full of surprises. I've learnt that anyhow, and I dare say you've with an eager gesture are learned to the said, "and my own too. I must say good-afternoon."

"Pray, Major Duplay, don't be so abprice. Good-by." He turned away and walked quickly down the street.

"Yes," said Harry thoughtfully. "Yes, so I did. Well, I suppose I had my price. Good-by." He turned away and walked quickly down the street.

"Pray, Major Duplay don't be so abprice. Good-by." He turned away and walked quickly down the street.

"What was his price?" asked the Mashould be admitted. Again, the

Sloyd and I have made up our minds exactly what we ought to have."

It was the same manner that the Major remembered seeing by the Poolperhaps a trifle less aggressive, but making up for that by an even increased self-confidence. Duplay had thought of his former successful rival as a broken man. He was not that. He had uever thought of him as a speculator in building land. Seemingly that was what he had become.

Sloyd and I have made up our minds sexactly what we ought to have."

Sloyd subsided, apologetic but evidently terrified. Alas, that the grit had been supplied! But for that a triumph must have awaited the Major. Harry turned to Duplay.

"I asked you before if you'd authority to treat. I ask you now if you've authority to refuse to discuss absurdities."

"I asked you before if you'd authority to refuse to discuss absurdities."

"I asked you before if you'd authority to refuse to discuss absurdities."

"I asked you before if you'd authority to refuse to discuss absurdities."

"You didn't come to me, so I came to you," she explained, as though the explanation were quite sufficient.

She brought this was not the question now. Duplay sought the telegraph office and informed Iver of the uncompromising attitude of the enemy. He added that Harry Tristram was in the business and that Harry suggested an interview. It was perhaps the most significant tribute that Harry had yet received when, after a few minutes of surprise and a broken man. He was not that was not the question now.

"You didn't come to me, so I came to you," she explained, as though the tribute of the land was not the question now.

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"You didn't come to me, so I came to you," she explained, as though the tribute of the land was not the question now.

"You didn't come to me, so I came to you," she explained and that Harry had yet received when, after a few minutes of surprise and a tribute of the uncompromising attitude of the enemy

what he had become.

Harry sat down by the table, Sloyd standing by him and spreading out before him a plan of Blinkhampton and the elevation of a row of buildings.

"You ask us," Harry went on resentfully, almost accusingly, "to throw up that our offer is withdrawn."

"Doubtless. And to settle what are absurdities? Look here. I don't ask you to accept that proposal without refer a few minutes of surprise and a few more of consideration, Iver telegraphed back that he would come up to town, and wished an appointment to be made for him with Mr. Tristram. It was something to force Napoleon to come to the Peninsula.

In fact, the only thing that could up.

"Doubtless. And to settle what are absurdities?"

"No," she smilled. That was a part to town, and wished an appointment to be made for him with Mr. Tristram. It was something to force Napoleon to come to the Peninsula.

In fact, the only thing that could up.

The House of Quality

Is the name of the new Jewelry Store situated at No. 39 Government Street, in the premises formerly occupied by the B. C. Permanent Loan and Investment Co.

This house will make a specialty of Watches. Diamonds, Jewerry, Clocks, Silverware, Spectacles, Field Glasses etc., Watch and Jewelry repairing, and will welcome a call from you whether you are an in-

tending buyer or not. Mail orders have our prompt attention.

The J. M. Whitney Co. Diamond Merchants, Silversmiths, Jewellers, and Opticians

39 Gov't St. Victoria, B. C.

"I'm quite alive to all that; but we have obtained a legitimate advantage and—" Sloyd was evidently a little puzzled, and he glanced at the clock. "We recognize that; we offer you two thousand pounds. We take over your option and give you two thousand." This was the figure that I ver and he had decided would tempt the young firm; their fear of the great Mr. Iver would make them content with that. Sloyd-was half inclined to be content; their fear of the great Mr. Iver would make a thousand; the balance would be good interest on the capitalist's ten thousand pounds; and six of the great Mr. Iver had lon't go out of my way to get myself disliked. Do you see why I mentioned that little fact about Bob Broadley just now?" I confess I don't, unless you wished to annoy me. Or—pardon—perhaps you were once convinced the want of preventions it fair that I should know?" "Neither the one nor the other. I didn't do it from the personal point of view at all. You see, Bob had a strong position—and didn't know it."

Sloyd-was half inclined to be content; the firm would make a thousand; the balance would be good interest on the capitalist's ten thousand pounds; and shalf inclined to be content; the firm would make a thousand the balance would be good interest on the capitalist's ten thousand pounds; and shalf inclined to be content; the firm would make a thousand; the balance would be good interest on the capitalist's ten thousand pounds; and shalf inclined to be content; and the tertate?! Advantage what I don't go out of my way to get myself disliked. Do you see myself disliked. Do you se

him—"
"Well, I put it plainly; that's all, I'm
new to this, and I dare say Sloyd here
would put it better. But my money's
in it, so I like to have my say."

Both the dislike and the reluctant re
"Both the dislike and the reluctant re"The implied apology relieved what Duplav had begun to feel an intelerable arrogance, but it was a concession of form only, and did not touch the substance. The substance was and re"Both the dislike and the reluctant re"The implied apology relieved what Duplav had begun to feel an intelerable occupied with the pursuits and interests of his new life; secondly, he saw going to do; if she had failed to unform only, and did not touch the subform only, and did not touch the substance. The substance was and rewould not seem a disagreeable remindwould put it better. But my money's
form only, and did not touch the subform only piace you would reel as 1 of
the said a moment later. His tone was one of gravity, of tremulous imwas one of gravity, of tremulous imwas one of gravity, of tremulous imsets of his new life; secondly, he saw
no way to approach her in which he
would not seem a disagreeable remindwhen the was disniclined to
fulfil it. In the first place, he was much
occupied with the pursuits and interests of his new life; secondly, he saw
no way to approach her in which he
was questioned to
fulfil it. In the first place, he was much
occupied with the pursuits and interests of his new life; secondly, he saw
no way to approach her in which he
was one of gravity, of tremulous imwas one of gravity, of tremulous imwas

walking down toward Pall Mall?" 'Good-day, Sloyd. I'll drop in to-mor-

With an idea that some concession might still be forthcoming, not from any expectation of enjoying his walk,

said as they started. "So odd a coincidence!"

"Not at all," smiled Harry. "You guess why I went into it? No? Well, of course, I know nothing about such things really. But Sloyd happened to

ever have moved. But I put him up to ling to induce her eminent cousin t

see. Besides, Janie Iver liked nim, and she didn't care about you—or me either, for that matter. So just before I—well, disappeared—I told Bob that he'd win if he went ahead. And I gather he has consigned all the documents to the

none whatever on him.

will help me. You've done all you could letter; nothing else was necessary but a hansom cab.

fully, almost accusingly, "to throw up this thing just when we're ready to go ahead. Everything's in train; we could begin work to-morrow."

"Come, come, where are you going to get the money?" interrupted Duplay. He felt that he must assert himself.

"Never mind, we can get it; or we can wait till we do. We shut you out just as badly whether we leave the old buildings or put up new. However, we shall get it. I'm satisfied as to that."

"You've heard my offer?"

that our offer is withdrawn."

Sloyd was biting his nails—aye, those nails that he got trimmed in Regent street twice a week; critical transactions must bring grist to those skilled in maincure. Duplay glanced from his troubled face to Harry's solid, composed, even amused mask.

"And you might add," Harry went on, "that it would be a very good thing if Mr. Iver saw his way to run up and have a talk with me. I think I could make him see the thing from our point that our offer is withdrawn."

In fact, the only thing that could up set Iver's plans was blank definance. Reviewing his memories of Harry Tristram, he knew that definance was just what he had to fear. It was in the blood of the Tristrams, and prudence made no better a resistance than propriety.

CHAPTER XX.

The Tristram Way—A Specimen.

Harry Tristram had led Lady Evens
"You've heard my offer?" In fact, the only thing that could up- ing what?"

"You've heard my offer?"
"Yes," smiled Harry. "The reward for getting ahead of Mr. Iver is, it seems, two thousand pounds. It must be done pretty often if it's as cheap as that! I hope he's well?"
"Quite well, Mr. Tristram, thank you. But when you talk of getting ahead of him—"

The implied analogy relieved what in the first place, he was much in the first place in the first pl stance. The substance was and remained an uutimatum. The Major felt aggrieved; he had been very anxious to carry his first commission through triumphantly and with eclat. For the second time Harry Tristram was in his path.

Harry rose. "That's all we can do to-day," he said. "We shall wait to hear from Mr. Iver."

"I really don't feel justified in putting such a proposition before him."

"Oh, that's for you to consider,"

"Oh, that's for you to consider,"

would not seem a disagreeable reminder and of the state of things."

"I can't bear this state of things."

"Oh, I can, I'm all right. I hope you haven't been worrying?"

"Worrying! I've robbed you, robbed you of everything. Oh, I know you did it yourself! That makes it worse.

"I don't know," he said again. "Well, you seemed so in your race at Bleat." such a proposition before him."

"Oh, that's for you to consider, shrugged Harry. "I think I would though, if I were you. At the worst, it will justify you in refusing to do business with us. Do you happen to be her so well and she was too dealy to the such as the such just now—it was not to say that he would never meet her again; he liked her too well, and she was too deeply cried quickly. "Because it's unenduroffices were in Mount street. bound up with the associations of his able, unendurable!" life for that; but it was to decide to postpone the meeting, and to dream perhaps of some progress or turn of "Yes, to me, to me! Oh, end it for events which should present him with his opportunity, and invest their recase which Lady Evenswood had commended to his notice. Cecily's possible unhappiness did not come home to him. nention that Iver wanted to buy, so I nothing—and even he was not insup-After all, she had everything and he

"What?" Duplay had not expected that official missive which had made such an impression on her, was com-"Well, you tried to put me out, you piling her reminiscences of Heidelberg see. Besides, Janie Iver liked him, and and Addie Tristram. Everybody was "It doesn't do to look at one transaction only, Mr. Sloyd," he reminded the spruce but rather nervous young man. "It'll pay you to treat us reasonably. Mr. Iver's a good friend to have and a plad senaw."

Mr. Iver's a good friend to have and a grill which hitherto the firm had larked. The went ahead. And I gather he has won, hasen't he?"

A brief nod from Duplay answered him; he was still revolving the news a great point gained with Mr. Disney. "No hurry, give me time"—"don't push it"—ali these various phrases expressed Loid Southmeters."

Mr. Iver's a good friend to have and a grill which hitherto the firm had larked. The went ahead. And I gather he has won, hasen't he?"

A brief nod from Duplay answered him; he was still revolving the news a great point gained with Mr. Disney. "No hurry, give me time"—"don't push it"—ali these various phrases expressed Loid Southmeters." grit which hitherto the firm had lacked. me any better," said Harry with a end's earnest and reiterated advice to Harry seemed to guess something of laugh. "And I don't go out of my way the conspirators. A barony had, in his

the firm would make a thousand; the balance would be good interest on the capitalist's ten thousand pounds; and there would still be enough of a victory to sooth the feelings of everybody concerned.

Sloyd whispered in his ear; Duplay though it hurt me perhaps."

'I told him he had a strong position. Then he took it. Hullo, here we are in rather contemptuous little laugh. "Oh, I've got my living to earn now." Du-Major?"

Whole days to make the chance for though it hurt me perhaps."

'I told him he had a strong position. Then he took it. Hullo, here we are in without an instant's hesitation; Cecily, her blood unavoidable diluted with a strain of Gainsborough, took two largest properties. "I'm expecting the gentleman who is associated with us. If you'll excuse me I'll step out and see if he's arrived."

Wagot my living to earn now," Duplay was short in manner again.

"You don't." Duplay was short in manner again.

"You don't see any parallel between which would have happened had she been manner again. associated with us. If you'll excuse me I'll step out and see if he's arrived."

Duplay saw through the suggestion, but had no objection to permitting a consultation. He lit his cigar and wated while Sloyd was away. The Major was in greater contentment with himself than he had been since he recognized his defeat. Next to succeeding, it is perhaps the pleasantest thing not succeeded. If he proved his capanot ward protest to the effect that they had none whatever on him.

"You don't see any parallel between Bob's position and our friend's up there in Mount street?" Harry laughed again as he he held out his hand. "Well, you tell the story to Iver and see if he does," he suggested.

"Oh, that's what you mean?" growled Duplay.

"Yes," assented Harry, almost gleeting it ward protest to the effect that they had none whatever on him.

"Yes," assented Harry, almost gleeting it ward protest to the effect that they had none whatever on him.

"Perhaps I'd better just say what we will help me. You've done all you could you know."

of enterprise, plenty of shrewdness, but they haven't got the grit to take big chances. They'll catch at a certainty."

Sloyd's manner had gone far to bear out this opinion.

Sloyd returned, but, instead of comsing in directly, he held the door and in directly, he young man seemed almost exultant.

"Well, good-by. Write to Sloyd - unless Iver decides to come up. And don't forget that little story about Bob Broadley! Because you'll find it useful, if you think of frightening Sloyd. The head of the wasting in the stimates, It was almost exultant.

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"Well, good-by. Write to Sloyd - unless Iver decides to come up. And don't forget that little story about Bob Broadley! Because you'll find it useful. The stimates is a solve the twenty thousand of the stimates, It was almost exultant.

"Well, good-by. Write to Sloyd - unless Iver decides to come up. And don't forget that little story about Bob Broadley! Because you'll find it useful. The stimates is a couple of quiet was in the stimates, it was almost exultant.

"Well, good-by. Write to Sloyd - unless Iver decides to come up. And don't forget that little story about Bob Broadley! Because you'll find it useful. The stimates is a lamost exultant.

"Well, good-by. Write to Sloyd - unless Iver decides to come up. And don't forget that little story about Bob Broadley! Because you'll find it useful. The stimates is a lamost exultant. and we're your men," said Harry.

"Multiply it by two? Fifty thousand?
Oh, nonsense!"

"Twenty out of pocket—thirty profit.
I call it very reasonable."

Major Duplay rose with a decisive air.

"All if you think of frightening Sloyd. He had even forgotten the pecuniarities of his own family. He heard with most genuine vexation that a lady must see him on urgent buisness; but he had not experience enough to embolden him to send word that he was out.

world's full of surprises. I've learnt that anyhow, and I dare say you've known it a long wniie."

"You're in this business?" cried the Major, too astonished for any preamble. Harry nodded. "Let's get through it," he said. "Because it's very simple. Sloyd and I have made up our minds exactly what we quest it have."

Sloyd subsided apploacite but any source of surprises. I've learnt that anyhow, and I dare say you've rupt, sir. We've—" It was Sloyd who spoke, with an eager gesture as though he would detain the visitor. Harry turned on him with his ugllest haughtiest scowl.

"I thought you'd left this to me, Sloyd and I have made up our minds Sloyd subsided apploacite but any surprises. I've learnt that anyhow, and I dare say you've rupt, sir. We've—" It was Sloyd who spoke, with an eager gesture as though he would detain the visitor. Harry turned on him with his ugllest haughtiest scowl.

"I thought you'd left this to me, Sloyd subsided apploacite but any surprise of surprises. I've learnt that anyhow, and I dare say you've walked quickly down the street.

"What was his price?" asked the Mapor, puzzld, He was not aware that Harry got anything out of his surrend-reigh anything ou

"Oh, never mind now. Nothing of any "There's nothing to do," said Harry

with a smile and a shrug. She was a little disappointed to find him looking so well, so cheerful, so busy. But the new impression was "I'm not inclined to be a pensioner on not strong enough to upset the preconceptions with which she had come.

"I've come to tell you I can't bear it,"

"I've come to tell you I can't bear it,"

"I've come to tell you I can't bear it,"

"I've come to tell you I can't bear it,"

"I've come to tell you I can't bear it,"

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"I've come to tell you I can't bear it,"

"I've come to tell you I can't bear it,"

"I've come to tell you I can't bear it,"

She was imploring, she was suppliant newed acquaintance with an atmos- The reversal of parts, strange in itself, that in which their first days together had been spent. Thus thinking of her only as she affected him he remarked.

"Well, I've got nothing to do. Let's tram. And it made him quite his old seemed strange to Harry Trishave dinner and go somewhere togethously as she affected him he remarked."

"Well, I've got nothing to do. Let's they came to a conflict there in the little room—the forgotten cab waiting her should think of hat the room—the forgotten wing her, she answered him in a fury.

"Well, I've got nothing to do. Let's they came to a conflict there in the little room—the forgotten cab waiting her should think of hat the room the forgotten will be remarked."

"Well, I've got nothing to do. Let's they came to a conflict there in the little room—the forgotten cab waiting her should think of hat the room to a conflict there in the little room—the forgotten cab waiting her should think of hat the room to a conflict there in the little room—the forgotten waiting her should think of hat the room to a conflict there in the little room—the forgotten waiting her should the room to a conflict there in the little room—the forgotten cab waiting her should think of hat the room to a conflict there in the little room to a conflict there is a conflict there is a conflict there in the little room to a conflict there in the little room t only as she affected him, he remained at heart insensible to the aspect of the

ered that defusion.

"You must take it back. Let me give back to you," she prayed.

He was silent a full minute before he asswered slowly and coldly:

"From anybody else I should treat.

"From anybody else I should treat.

"Gradually Cecily's lightened into a sparkle as her lips bent tion—where was Cecily?

"If we're to be friends," Harry beshe answered readily, without so much as a show of hesitation or a hint of "From anybody else I should treat. back to you," she prayed. answered slowly and coldly:

"From anybody else I should treat surprise, "Yes."

mention that feer manted to buy, so mental to be a pensioner, you proposed your port point as a nawor of hesitation or a hint of sea and so manple as a show of hesitation or a hint of the search of hesitation or a hint of the search of the length of the proposed to sea the sum that as an insulit with you first that as an insulit with you first that as an insulit with you feel to see and the distribution of a hint of the level, so that as an insulit with you first that as an insulit with you first

The skin rids the system of more urea than the kidneys?

Nearly one fifth of the waste products of the body is eliminated by the skin. Suppose there is some unsuspected, unseen skin trouble—the pores are closed—the skin is unable to rid the system of its share of the waste.

Then the blood carries this waste product to the kidneysimmediately they are overworked-they strain to throw off the extra load. What the kidneys can't possibly eliminate, the blood takes up again and deposits on the nerves.

Then come the dull aches in back, hips and head—the nerves unstrung and irritated—the urine charged with impurities and highly colored-and you fear you have "Kidney Trouble."

Nonsense. Your kidneys are overworked-not diseased. What you need is "FRUIT-A-TIVES" to act on the skin.



open the clogged pores-start up healthy skin action-and let the skin perform its natural function. This instantly relieves the kidneys of overwork—the back-aches stop and the complexion is beautified. There is no excessive waste matter in the blood to bring dull headaches—the urine is cleared—the bowels are opened and regulated-and the kidneys strengthened.

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" act directly on the three great eliminating organs-Skin, Kidneys and Bowels-make them well and keep them well. That is why "FRUIT-A-TIVES" cure so many cases of apparent kidney disease that are really skin troubles.

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" are fruit juices-in which the natural medicinal action of fruit is many times increased by the secret process of making them. Valuable tonics and antiseptics are added and the whole made into tablets—the finest formula known to medicine.

Buy them—try them—and cure yourself at home. 50c. a box-6 boxes for \$2.50. At all druggists or sent on receipt of price.

FRUIT-A-TIVES Limited, OTTAWA.

cause I couldn't respect myself unless as he would have at command. Then He looked at her angrily, almost dan-

herself to be understood as she looked at him; and for a while she looked steadily. But his gaze too was long, and it became very searching, so that presently, in spite of her efforts, she felt herself flushing red, and her eyes felt. The room had become uncomfortials. The room had become uncomfortials and the room had become uncomfortials. The room had become uncomfortials are the room had become uncomfortials. The room had become uncomfortials are the room had become uncomfortials. The room had become uncomfortial room had become

fell. The room had become uncomfortably quiet too. At last he spoke.

"I suppose you remember what I told you about Janie Iver," he said, "and that's how you came to think of this.

Harry's new hie, its leatures and the plans; there was a good deal about nothing in particular; and there was not much of any sort as they drove along in the cab at one o'clock in the morning.

"Oh, we weren't much of any sort as they drove along in the cab at one o'clock in the morning."

"I was—in Chel "So you say. I Olympus—really." that's how you came to think of this.

You must see that that was different.

But You must see that that was different. I gave as much as I got there. She was rich, I was—" He smiled sourly. "I was Tristram of Blent. You are Tristram of Blent, I am—" He shrugged his shoulders.

But Harry's purpose was not forgotien. He bade the cabman wait and followed Cecily into the house. He looked round it with lively interest and curiosity. "I suppose you hart you were doing?" "I was as cool as you were when you

ged his shoulders. He made no reference to the personal side of the case. She was not hurt, she was enormously relieved.

"So this is where you came from!" he exclaimed with a compassionate smile. "You're cool enough now, anyhow," he admitted, in admiration of her parry.

"The made up for this!" "The head behind here." "Out to though "The head behind here." "Out to though "The head behind here."

"You know I have."

"On my honor I don't know," he admitted after a moment's thought."

"Assured and recognized a position that mone could throw stones at him. Her words died away in face of the per-

"I can't bear this state of things," Everything seemed over; the great of- ward effect. There came on him the fer, with its great scene, had some to same admiration, the same sense that She remembered how the scene'in the had come to his rooms that afternoon Long Gallery had gone. So much better, so much better! But Harry dominated her—and he had stopped the scene. Without attempting to bid him any farewell she moved toward the door slowly and drearily.

was arrested by his voice—a new information that a reduce from the voice, very good-natured, rather chaffing.

"Are you doing anything particular to-night?" he asked.

She turned round; he was smiling at the control of the control She turned round; he was smiling at her. her in an open but friendly amusement. back home, I suppose.
"To Blent?" he asked quickly.

"No, to our house. Mina's there and thing to say. If not, let him hold his peace.

"Her face was puzzled; she left peace.

But he was proud and obstinate too. her sentence unfinished.

"So this is where you came from!" gave me Blent."

make up for this!"

She laughed as she took off her hat head trembled sorely. His eyes were and sank into a chair "Yes this te and sank into a chair. "Yes, this is- on her, and a confusion threatened to

milder. "You can't deny it," he insist-ed. "Look me in the face and deny it evident pleasure. They were together f you can. I know you too well."

For some minutes longer she sat still.

Gallery; the same contentment possess-Then she got up with a desolate air, ed her. The inner feeling had its outvery little. Anticlimax, foe to emotion! she commanded his loyalty. When she lowly and drearily.

She was arrested by his voice—a new mon-sense, and a rebuke from the de-

"Well?" she said. Where now was "No," she murmured. "I'm going the tremulous excitement? She was laughed lightly. But her mirth broke magnificently at her ease and com-manded him to speak, if he had any-stood over her.

outside, the forgotten Mina beginning
Their eyes met. Gradually Cecily's outside, the forgotten Mina beginning to stir in her bed as voices dimly reach-

cause I couldn't respect myself unless I came. I want you to take black Blent."

"What infernal nonsense!" he exclaimed. "You know it's impossible."

"No," she said, she was calm but her breath came quick. "There's one way in which it's possible."

I nan instant he understood her; there was no need of more words. She knew herself to be understood as she looked at her angrily, almost dangerously. For a passing moment she had a sensation of that physical fear from which no moral courage can wholly redeem the weak body. But she showed none of it; her pose was unchanged; only the hand on which her head rested shook a little. And she began to laugh. "You look as if you were going to hit me," she said.

"Oh, you do talk nonsense!" he groaned. "Oh, you do talk nonsense!" he groaned. But she was too much for him; he

"Oh, we weren't bred in Bayswater," "I was—in Chelsea."
"So you say. I think in heaven — no,

"I was as cool as you were when you overwhelm the composure of which she

boasted. "I gave you Blent because it was

"What I offered you is mire." "By God, no. Never yours to give till you've lost it."
With an effort she kept her pose. His words hummed through her head. she mustered coolness to ask him

He thrust away the taunt with a me ion of his hand: one of the Gainsborough's grimcracks fell smashed on to cure to seem at her ease. "Hang the thing! If you'd love me

you'd have been ashamed to do it." "I was ashamed without loving you,

"It'll be so awkward for me now " she

"I could hate you for coming to me with that offer," he said. Almost hating herself now, yet sorely wounded that he should think of hat-

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