

[Continued from 1st page.]

her husband and for herself she feared, or woman's tone and tongue never yet revealed a secret.

Nellie Travers stood in her room stunned and bewildered, yet trying hard to recall and put together all the scattered stories and rumors that had reached her about the strange conduct of Clancy after he was taken to the hospital—especially about his heart broken when told that it was Lent.

They were still earnestly talking together down in the dining room, but she could not listen. Kate knew her so well that she had not closed the door leading into the hall, though both she and the landlady of Company B had lowered their voices.

"I do not want you to tell me anything, Kate, that you yourself do not wish to tell me. You understand, of course, how I happened to be there."

"Oh, certainly, I was thinking of that. You couldn't help hearing; but you must have thought it queer—her being so agitated, I mean."

"I wasn't thinking of her at all." "What did you think then?" half defiantly, yet trembling and growing white.

"I thought it strange that you should be talking with her in such a way."

"I was drinking so much—and came to myself."

"Why should she—and you—show such conversation at his connection with the name of Mr. Hayne?"

"Nellie, that matter is one you know I never hear to talk of. I don't want to say anything, but I don't want to tell you what Mr. Hayne's crime had been, and I answered that I don't know."

ing herself, she began to try them, and speedily became interested. Her back being to the door, she did not notice that another visitor was soon ushered in—a man.

"I had no idea any one was here. It quite startled me," she said, as she withdrew from his hand she had mechanically extended to him with her right hand.

"It was my hope not to interrupt you," he answered, in the low, gentle voice she had marked before.

"I wish you would play, Mr. Hayne." "I will play for you gladly, Miss Travers, but wait music is not my forte. Let me see what else there is here, and he began turning over the sheets on the stand."

"Are your eyes well enough to read music—especially in such a dim light?" she asked, with evident sympathy.

"My eyes are doing very well—better than my fingers, in fact, and, as I rarely play by notes after I once learn a piece, the eyes make no difference."

"Did Mrs. Ray speak of that—his face brightening. "The glad they found anything to enjoy in my music."

"They found a great deal, Mr. Hayne, and there are a number who are envious of their good fortune—", for one," she answered, blithely.

"I'm glad, I owe you a great deal more pleasure, Miss Travers."

"I speak of it only that I may say to you again what I began just before Mrs. Waldron came. You gave me no opportunity to thank you the other night, and I may not have another."

"I have done everything for the best of you, and I have done it with a good heart."

three times before Mr. Hayne obeyed the summons to dinner that evening. The sun was going down behind the great range to the southwest, and the trumpets were pealing "march on the rocky air, but Hayne's curtains were drawn, and he was sitting before his fire, deep in thought, hearing nothing.

"Yes, I was very fond of my cigar six or seven years ago."

"I gave up everything that was not an absolute necessity," said Hayne, calmly, tugging away at the strings of his little tobacco pouch.

"You are kind, and I appreciate it, doctor; but do you think that the colonel is a man who has not learned a lesson of justice at the hands of any one here?"

"I don't, indeed. He is full of sympathy for you, and I know he means you shall have your fair play; but a commander has as many and as intangible ways of making a man suffer as has a woman. How do you stand with Hayne?"

"I have never suspected a soldier—single messenger or servant?"

"Not one. Whom could it?"

"Does he say he knew me? or does he talk of that affair?" asked the lieutenant with sudden interest.

"I cannot say. My wife declares he has been queer all winter—hard drinking—and of course that is possible."

"I declare, I believe it was Clancy!" said the doctor. "If he wants to see you and talk, let him."

"I have done everything for the best of you, and I have done it with a good heart."

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