THE HURON SIGNAL, FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 1887.

tiled roofs seemed to glow in the virus sunlight, and in the middle of the

village rose the church, a venerable and

What scenes there would have been ! what bat:les to assert his own right to

said, glancing at his companion. Moore assented, and then said-

"Ay, ay, don't fear I shall forget.

beds.

HELEN LAFONE : THE FOES OF A HOUSEHOLD.

A TALE OF ENGLISH LIFE.

CHAPTER I.

Two men were walking slowly along the quiet country road. It was a per-fect July evening, and they had dined— two good reasons for not being in a hurry. They were as different in age as in personal appearance; perhaps the only point of likenees lay in the fact that both held cigars between their lips. One was a man who, though in actual

that both held cigars between their lips. One was a man who, though in actual years perhaps not much past middle life, looked already old. His hair was per-fectly grey, and his figure slightly bent. Probably ne one had ever called him handsome; but his face was more pleas-ing than many a merely handsome one, for if the features were rather sharp and the expression shrewd. there was anch the expression shrewd, there was such an air of kindly geniality in his whole ap-pearance that one could not but feel at-tracted by him. He looked the kind of man to whom one would apply-instinctively, and not in vain—in times of doubt and difficulty. He strolled on, his eyes fixed neither upon the ground nor his companion's face, but straight in front of him ; and the stick which he always carried unless it rained, was held upright against his back in a manner which did not fail to produce smiles of amusement when the doctor was amongst strangers.

His companion was a man far younger both in years and appearance. If Dr. Hazlitt looked older than he really was, Percival Moore enjoyed the distinction, rare enough in these days, of looking rather young. It was a distinction for which Dr. Hazlitt, had already told him several times in the short two months of their acquaintance he could never be sufficiently thankful ; it was also a distinction of which Moore himself was unconscious. He was really not aware that though just thirty he looked no more than six or seven and twenty, neither had he ever given any consideration to the fact that this look of youth came probably from his habit of looking in general from a healthy and unprejudical point of view, taking things very much as he found them, and yielding neither to undue elation nor depression according as

his luck went up or down.

His face was an exceedingly pleasant one, though not distinguished by any striking beauty of feature. He was very striking beauty of feature. He was very much tanned, and this particular com-plexion seemed to harmonize with the thoughtful expression of his face. His eyes were dark grey, and, like his face. thoughtful and pleasant; his hair was dark brown, and closely cut, after the fashich of today. In figure he was unusually ta'l, well made, and spare; there was the unconscious grace of per-fect health and strength is every one of his movements. He was the only child of a retired He was the only child of a retired

He was the only child of a retired manufacturer, and had been broughl up and educated with a view to taking his father's place in the commercial world.

majestic bile, round which clustered many historical recollections, and to-"Poor little Helen ! Yes, she has reason, certainly; though, mind you, I am not saying she does not make the most of a matter which, if not precisely bad, is at least awkward and unfortunate -especially when one takes into consid eration her character and her father's. he concluded, after a little pause which

had followed the word "unfortunate." "If you were the true friend you call-yourself," said his companion, "you would unravel the mystery for me. As a guest at the Thwaite I cannot very well talk about it to Miss Lafone. An extalk about it to Miss Lafone. An ex-planation would necessitate my taking one side or the other, and I can't do that. All the same, any one must see a hundred times a day that something is wrong, though I have so far been una-ble to decide on which side the fault chiefly lies. I cannot say Mrs Lafone about runch tet on component some of the same of the same same set. shows much tact or any great sense of justice in her dealings with her daughter ; but then neither does Miss Lafone appear to make the slightest endeavor appear to make the signlest endeavor to smooth things down, or to meet her mother half way. I cannot help being interested and feeling curious how it will end, for I don't see what Miss Lafone hopes to gain by it. At the same time, she is so evidently unhappy that I feel very sorry for her.

"Just as I admire your prudent and very reasonable meditations on the matter," replied the doctor, with a touch of "Some men of sarcasın in his voice. your age would have espoused her cause at once, without stopping to inquire whether it was a worthy one or not. But you watch events for weeks, and pause to weigh the circumstances of the case. You won't offer your sympathy to the daughter because it might excite hostile feelings against the father, whose guest you are. You coolly deliberate whether after all she is not more sinning than sinned against, and finally you declare your wish to hear all the facts, that you may pronounce judgment with perfect impartiality. I cannot sufficiently praise and admire your prudence and und common sense.

Moore burst out laughing as the doctor inished. "Well," he said presently, "I can't

see what else you would have done in my place. After all, you must own there is

"So I do." observed

the track of light left upon the water by the setting sun was unbroken by any breath of wind. Turning the gaze in-land, the sys rested upon a waste of hills some bare and rocky as their own point of view, others thickly wooded, and suggesting the rich pastures and rustling corn fields nestling in the valleys. Down in a hollow, some two or three miles distant, lay a little val respected his silence. Probably this or three miles distant, lay a little village. The smoke from the chimneys

away; I have not seen her, but I have heard that she is very beautiful. Is it val respected his silence. Probably this was the first time he had spoken of these hings, and now when at last he opened Perfectly. She is marvellously

his lips he spoke out of the fullness of his heart. Persival now began to understand the peculiar tenderness with which his friend regarded the girl whose After this they were both silent, till the doctor raised his head and nodded ward which the eye turned involun-tarily, it was so much the centre feature of the landscape. Moore, as he Boked at all this, heav-ed a half unconscious sigh, and thought, not for the first time, that it had been well for him that his father died when he did. He (Percival) would have

in the direction of a young girl who was coming towards them, as he said. "Ah, here is Helen in person."

CHAPTER II. NEW IMPRESSIONS.

and the distingthand the set of t As the doctor spoke, the girl, who had been walking slowly along with her eyes bent on the ground, raised them, and seeing the two men she made a chalked out for him. Yet what diffi-culty he would have had if, indeed, he had ever succeeded in persuading his father that the life which was all and seeing the two men she made a little gesture of recognition with her hand. Then, quickening her pace, she joined them in a moment, and put her hand into the outstretched one of the interest and excitement to him was Helen's cause without stopping to "flat, stale, and unprofitable" to his son. quire if it were a worthy one.

quire if it were a worthy one. Dr Hazlitt interrupted his medita-tions by saying, with one of his queer elder man. "Good evening, doctor !" she

b) tions by saying, with one of his queer inder man.
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c) tions by saying, with one of his queer is der man.
c) took wat d his own life ! what bitterness of spirit when the victory had been gained ! The thought of strife and battle brought back Helen Lafone into his mind, and he turned to Dr Hazlit to claim the fulfilment of his promise. The doctor was looking in the direction of the setting sun, and, shading his eyes with the other hand, pointed to where in the midst of a patch of trees, a large and ir-regularly built house stood upon a slope, style, would see no one, speak to no one; he quarrelled with his mother in law, on urrounded by green lawns and flower the ground that had she not left her daughter so soon her life would have been spared, and behaved altogether in "Brantwood looks well from here," he rather maniacal fashion. At the end of "But you were going to tell me about Miss Lafone."

now see the necessity of your knowing all about her, and you shall know." his new bride. "He had never been able to bear the He puffed at his cigar for a minute, as sight of the child after his wife's death,

and I verily believe that in his wander-ing abroad he had forgotten her; for I shall never forgot his face when he saw though mentally arranging his story, in reliable form, and then began-"Lafone and I are the same age, and have known each other ever since we were !ads. We never had much in com her again. I was present at the time. One thing I am curtain of —he had either from forgetfulness, or some other feel-ing never mentioned her to his wife; mon, though there was always perfect

thought it worth his while to oust me from my humble position. "Twenty-one years ago he married. Ho brought his bride from a distance. She did not belong to this part of the country. She was a sweet creature, and when I say a sweet creature I don't mean a woman who went about with a face like a professional martyr and a perpetual smile on her lips, as though to say "See with what angelic patience I perpetual smile on her lips, as though to say "See with what angelic patience I bear my lot in life." I have seen women like that, and I have heard people call their affection is exclusively for their brightest eyes ind most spirited face I sunshine; she filled the whole village with sunshine. Don't suppose she was merely a lively woman with nothing but

to keep Helen there, who was two years

older and had ten times the intelligence

of the other girl. Then all their friends

sympathy between Helen and her step-

mother-that you must have seen at

once. There is no need to go further

"Of course," replied Percival, reflec-

sible enough as regards Mrs. Lafone, but

the daughter of a woman whom you say

"True," said Percival, and was then

he adored."

here." The ductor did not speak for a moment

then he said-"See what a bad girl you are. Upon

She said nothing, but looksd over the bay, where the tide was now high ; and the little rowing boats were rocking lightly from side to side. As ahe looked a smile came into her eyes and curled the corner of her mouth. She said half

beautiful as superior in mere physical aloud-beauty to Helen as Helen is to her in "Th "Thirty-one." "Thirty one what ?"

"Thirt-one times you have told me you would abandon me, and you never do it. That is, counting from the time I

do it. That is, counting from the time I can remember. 1 don't know how often you said it when I was a baby." "But my poor, dear child, don't you see how difficult you make things for yourself? Why must you answer them at all ? You are not going to marry this man, and they cannot make you do it. So why not let them talk on ? Of course Mrs. Lafone says disagreeable things, so does a anake bite whenever it can; but you know all the disagreeable things. you know all the disagreeable things in the world don't alter the truth that you were right and they wrong; that their ideal is a miserably low one, and yours so high above them that they cannot see it, and eventually deny its existence, Try for my sake, Helen, to govern your

"Going about my daily work—and you?" "I have been doing as usual, too— what one of our favorité authors calls "the same old lie." The dostor smiled, and laying his hand on her shoulder said— "My dear child, are you not afraid to go about so lightly clad?" "I I could do anything it would be for you," she replied, in the low subdu-ed tone in which she had spoken all along. "But you cannot tell how hard it is to be silent when she says these things, and I get so tired of being al-ways on the defensive, always fighting." She had quite forgotten Moore's pre-sence. All she was conscious of was her "If I could do anything it would be

sence. All she was conscious of was her one friend threatened to abandon her. Her voice shook and she was perilously "My temper was so hot when I came out. I could not bear any unnecessary clothing," she answered, smiling again,

near tears. three months he had been persuaded to come out of his seclusion and to travel. At the end of a year he wrote to have the house made ready for himself and the nouse made ready for himself and the took no further notice of him, and then took no further notice of him, and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and the took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and then took no further notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and the not had a date the not the notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and the not her notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and the not her not the notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and the not her notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and the not her not the notice of him, the nouse made ready for himself and the not her not the not the

but turned all her attention to her friend, and a low-voiced conversation took place between them, consisting ap-"It is the weather; it has been very

parently of questions asked by him and answered frankly by her. Moore, seeing that just then at any hot, and you are tired and upset. Bear up through this evening, and I promise you things will look brighter in the

answered frankly by new. Moore, seeing that just then at any rate his presence was superfluous, with-draw a few steps, and began deliberate-ly to consider the face and figure of the siel who had just jcined them. For any to consider the face and end the top the succeeded, for she re-turned the pressure, and said more travelymon, though there was always perfect friendliness in our doings with one another. One thing, perhaps, which helped to keep up the friendship was the fact that I have the monopoly of killing and curing here, no one having ever though it worth his while to oust me from my humble position. "Twenty-one years ago he married. "Twenty-one years ago he married.

NEWS Latest

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and adding to the already colossal for-tune which his father had built up for himself. With this end in view he had been placed at an ordinary middle-class school, withdrawn from his studies when he was just beginning to under-stand the value of them, and put into "the business." Here he had passed through every branch, beginning as the st half-timer, and accomplishing his rise and progress until he

knew all the ins and outs of the business by heart. At this point, when he had just attained his majority and was about to be received into the commercial world as

his father's junior partner and representative, the elder Moore had died, leaving his son sole master of himself and his enormous wealth. Perhaps it was well for Mr Moore.

senior's, peace of mind that he died when he did, before knowing the deep and growing distaste of his son for the business of which he was so proud. At heart Percival was not a business, that is commercial, man. He had done his father's will in choosing his career in life, partly because he had a curiosity to know how a large busidess like that was carried on, and partly because he was prepared to give up a part of his life to please his father; but he had never intended to make business the pursuit of his whole life. He had always meant to give it up upon his father's death, and as soon as possible after that event he wound up his affairs, retired from his former haunts, and began life anew, and more in accordance with his own tastes. He travel!ed, studied and observed, and the result was that after eight years of unsettled existence he had bought an estate in the neighborhood of Osmotherly, and resolved henceforth to live on his own land, and study from the some of the problems which were

pushing themselves to the fore in this world of speculation. On first coming to Osmotherly he had his life. met Mr Lafone, one of the magnates of the place, who had taken a fancy to After leaving the doctor's house him, and at whose house he had been, and still was staying, until his own place

which stood a little way out of the village, almost hidden under its cover-ing of purple clematis and Virginia and still was staying, until his own place had been put into proper repair. The very day he went to Mr Lafone's house Percival met Dr Hazlitt there, open fields, from which they had looked down upon the bay into which the tide was gradually creeping, the calm waters tinged with the rays of the setting sun. years and positions the two men had at once struck a sympathetic vein, and few They went through several fields, and days passed without a meeting between along a narrow path through sparsely growing plantation of firs, athwart the This evening Moore had been dining with the doctor, and they had upright slender stems of which fell the strolled out after dinner to taste the freshness of the evening, and, perhaps, ing low beams of the setting sun. though neither mentioned it, to see the pomp of the sunset over the golden sands of the bay. They had hardly spoken since leaving and lay in broken patches of light upon the soft green grass. Once clear of trees they found themselves at the foot

of a bare and lofty ridge where the limethe doctor's pretty, creeper-covered house, and it was Moore who, in the stone showed white through the thin covering of soil and grass. From the tone of a man continuing an interrupted top of the ridge the view was magnificonversation, broke the silence by say. cent. Looking southward they saw the ing. "Then you really do think Miss La. ed shere and the hills rising from it

fone has some reason for the warlike at- and sweeping up to the one on which titude she maintains towards her they stood. water, which hid the open sea from

The doctor did not withdraw his eyes The doctor did not withdraw his eyes them. The tide was coming in ; one om space as he replied with a half after another the stretches of level yellow aand disappeared from yiew, and I 21 AND SPO SOMDIES AND DAL DE

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tively . "as you say, Helen is my special favourite, so what could I do better than tell all the secrets of her life to the first stranger who happen to come in my way ? "I am not a stranger now, and I am which

very much interested in Miss Lafone, and have been ever since I knew her. You must acknowledge that I have at least displayed a laudable bias towards the right side of the question by coming for particulars to one of her sworn friends and allies. It has not taken me all this time to find out that, whatever scruples I may have about encouraging her in a

somewhat dangerous course of action, they are entirely unknown to you. Dr Hazlitt smiled as he said, "Yes Halen's enemies are my enemies too. It may not be prudent, but I do encourage

her. She has a great deal to put u with, and shows such good fight. would not advise her to yield. Besides, why should she yield? She is not in

the wrong." "You let your affection run away with your judgment," rejoined Moore quietly, "Possibly. I cannot deny that I love Helen as if she were my own child. I have known her ever since she was a baby, and have always felt constrained to keep an eye upon her, partly for her mother's sake. She was the most charming woman I have ever known, and Helen is her image."

"You knew her then? Of course I know the present Mrs Lafone is only Helen's stepmother, and I have some-times felt curious about her own mother, but I never heard har mention her.

"Because she never knew her. Give me time to light another cigar and you shall know the whole story.

The doctor stood still as he lit hi cigar, and Moore, as he waited for him, looked round with an almost pajuful sense of the exquisite beauty of the country in which he had chosen to live

"Sha died 1"

"A fortnight after Helen was born she had been going on so well, and then all at once the turn came, and she was with her, and I pray I may never be pre-

"She did not want to die ?" said Moore. more to break the silence which had fol-lowed the doctor's last words than because he felt that any words were neces-

child was born, and she was so glad it was a girl. It seemed as though the the very force of her love for it must have kept her alive; and she died-died in the middle of a magnificent summer day, alone, but for servants and myself. Her

There was another pause, which this time Percival did not break. There was a haze over the

"She must have known her husband's

could allow an intelligence like and very tenacious of the child's rights. hers to perish before it had time to When her mistress spoke of Miss La. wrap or outdoor clothing except a large show itself in all its fullness, and just fone, meaning evidently her own daughwhen that happened which would have ter, nurse would correct her in the quietest, most respectful, and at the same time most unequivocal manner. I have heard her do it again and again. It was deplorable, deplorable. He paused, lost in thought, and it al-most appeared as if he would not con-

tinue his story. Moore recalled him to As the children grew older the position imself with affected cynicism. became more complicated. was old enough to do must of necessity little wisdom, and interest and curiosity be permitted to Helen. If Alice at as to the cause of her behavicur. He "Oh, the old story, I suppose-a mis-

understood wife pining away into an early grave for want of the excitement of being appreciated.' " said the doctor, raising his

"Ah," said the doctor, raising his hand, "don't say that. Those things may be truly said of other women, perhaps, I can't tell ; but nothing could be more erroneous as regards Mrs Lafone. Her husband adored her. He had the intelligence to understand her rare merit,

and he thought all the world of her. Still," he went on, falling back into his meditative tone, "I can't tell what made her marry him. I have heard she was into detail ; you know the people and must see for yourself how a hundred an only child, and her mother in narrow times a day causes of disagreement circumstances, but I cannot believe such a reason would have any weight with would arise. her. She could not have loved him. She tively. Then after a pause he went on. "All that you have said is comprehenmust have seen he was inferior to her,

and a woman cannot love a man who is her inferior ; it is impossible. Howeven it does not account to me for Lafone's indifference to his own child, ever, it did not last long. For one year she was in the house like a radiant creature from another world-there are cer-tainly not many like her in this-and then it came to an end-she died !'

Though the spirit of this final catasrophe had breathed through the whole

child from the very beginning. He knows that his first wife was to his second as gold is to copper. He feels that of the dector's story, Moore was hardly prepared for it when it did come. He experienced a kind of shock from the very abruptness of the announcement. sist this woman's attractions. He knows get marri 1 out of the way of herself and repeated almost helplessly-

a continual reminder, don't you under-stand. If you have any knowledge of "Helen, is that a right way to speak all at once the turn came, and she was dead in a few hours. It seemed impos-sible. Lafone was away; only I was other one—What does a man now a days with her, and I pray I may never he need in the second difference. What does a man now a days in Lafone's position know of the characsent at such a deathbed again."

ter of his daughter ?" ailent. The thoughts arising from all he had just heard, were as yet rather chaotic, but he felt that when he had

sary. "Want!" echoed Dr Hazlitt almost arranged them, and should be able to sharply, "it was despair. She had been doctor, he would be in possession of almost beside herself with joy when the most interesting occupation. the course suggested by the most interesting occupation. "Then your theory is," he said presently, "that the whole difficulty arise from an inability on each side to read the character of the other ?" "Partly only ; I think Helen reads the

mother had gone home, supposing she was no longer wanted ; her husband was others pretty well ; but they have not the most elementary comprehension of character. If you were to go to them away on business.

for information, they would tell you no one could get on with Helen, she is 'so queer and crochety.' '

character so very well, she was so anx-"And is she ?" character so very well, she was so anx-ious to see him, so anxions to give the "Look and see. She has crotchets, of child into his keeping, and to make some course. Who that is worth anything give him a proper answer before I went level

high spirits to recommend her. She was as any personal feeling, which in the first high-bred air and the wonderful grace of eet out we intended, I believe, to return also one of the cleverest women I ever place inspired her dislike. She tried to all her movements. All her features to my cottage, but Helen points out to knew. What an intelligence she had! ignore her, and could not. The servants were fine and clear. Her feet, hands, me that I have allowed an nordinately When I think of it I am tempted to re-bel against the seeming waste of nature admirable women, chosen by her mother, licate. She had on an evening dress of myself at home, so I am going to repair some soft black material, and wore no wrap or outdoor clothing except a large "'Good gracious !" ejaculated Moore.

of feminine jealousy, when hearing

even the murmur of their voices.

Helen ?"

at dinner.

shone's indifference to his own child, he daughter of a woman whom you say e adored." "The very reason. He knows as well

This is what they were saying.

"What made your temper hot

"Oh a great many things. Mamma

I am orly telling you the truth." "Well, my child, what did they say?

the opportunity when we three were along

to express my views on marriage, and you can imagine what it was like. I be-

ieve they thought me mad. Mamma began

to talk about ingratitude and immodesty

and flippancy, and after she had g no on for some time I could hold myseif in no

longer; I said what I really thought

about girls of twenty marrying men of

"Ah, now, what did you say ?"

You were there three days ago. I know Every day for some weeks Percival it for a fact."

"Helen says three days is too long, and at any rate I am going to take her tome now. You can come or not as you the position being moved to any deeper feeling than like. What Alice regret that she should behave with so

"Oh, I am ready," turning to follow them as he spoke, for the doetor, still holding Helen's hand in his, had alseventeen were sufficiently instructed to had seen that she was original and worth ready begun to take the homeward way. leave the schoolroom, it would from talking to, but he had gone no further their point of view have been ridiculous He had even credited her with a spirit He had even credited her with a spirit

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Only two Bottles. Messrs Johnston once speak in terms of unusual enthu-Holloway & Co., wholesale druggists of Philadelphia, Pa, report that some time ago a gentleman handed them a dollar, siasm of the beauty of some women he would persist in distinguishing between had once met, she had said, with rather 'Miss Lafone' and 'Miss Alice;' it was an enigmatical smile, that he should see very painful. There was never any her sister Alice. Now, all his preconher sister Alice. Now, all his precon cure to two army officers in Arizona. Recently the same gentleman told them ceived ideas were overthrown, and he felt more roused and interested than he that both of the officers and the wife of ever remembered to have felt before. a well-known U. S. A. General had been As the conversation between the two seemed likely to last for some time, he cured of Catarrh by the two bottles of Ely's Cream Balm began to try to put some order into his thoughts, so that before long he lost

Keep in Good Humon

This injunction applies not only to the mental but the physical welfare. Salt mental but the physical wenare. One rheum, erysipelas, and all obstinate humors of the blood are perfectly cura-ble by Burdock Blood Bitters. 2

Want of Sleep

as I do that he failed in his duty to the child from the very beginning. He finally got into that stupid affair of last Is sending thousands annually to the insane asylum ; and the doctors say this trouble is alarmingly on the increase. he ought to have been true to her me-mory, and he had not the strength to re-would give her diamonds if I would only The usual remedies, while they may give temporary relief, are likely to do more harm than good. What is needed he has fallen, and he would like to for-get that he ever stood higher. Helen is whether I get married or not so long as is an Alterative and Blood-purifier. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is incomparably the best. It corrects those disturbances in the circulation which cause sleeplessness, gives increased vitality, and restores the nervous system to a healthful condition.

"That is not fair, doctor. You know Rev. T. G. A. Coté, agent of the Mass. Home Missionary Society, writes that his stomach was out of order, his sleep very often disturbed, and some im-"The usual thing, but it seems that iresome man was not satisfied with the purity of the blood manifest; but that answer I gave him, but wrote to papa about it. Papa replied that he would a perfect cure was obtained by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

speak to me on the subject, and he took Frederick V. Pratt, 424 Washington street, Boston, writes: "My daughter was prostrated with nervous debility. Ayer's Sarsaparilla restored her to "I was angry, of course, but I did my very best to keep cool ; however, I began health."

William F. Bowker, Erie, Pa., was cured of nervousness and sleeplessness by taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla for about two months, during which time his weight increased over twenty pounds.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla, PREPARED BY

Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass Sold by all Druggists. Price \$1; six bottles, \$5-

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