A LIFE FOR A LIFE.

BY MISS MULOCK

CHAPTER XXXV.

HIS STORY.

MY DEAR THEODORA. - I did not write, because I could not. In some states of mind nothing seems possible to a man but silence. Forgive me, my love, my comfort and joy.

I have suffered much, but it is over now, at least the suspense of it; and I can tell you all, with the calmness that I myself now feel. You are right; we love one another: we need not be afraid of any tribulation.

Before entering on my affairs, let me answer your letter-all but the last word, "Come!" My other self my better conscience, will herself answer that.

The substance of what you tell me. I already know. Francis Charteris came to me on Sunday week, and asked for Lydia. They were married two days after-I gave the bride away. Since then I have drunk tea with them at his lodging, which, poor as it is, has already the cheerful comfort of a home with a woman in it, and that woman a wife.

I left them-Mr. Charteris sitting by the fire, with his boy on his knee; he seems passionately fond of the little scapegrace, who is, as you said, his very picture. But more than once I caught his eyes following Lydia with a wistful, grateful tenderness.

"The most sensible, practical girl imaginable," he said, during her momentary absence from the room; "and she knows all my ways, and is so patient with them. 'A poor wench,' as Shakspeare hath it. 'A poor wench, sir, but mine own!

For her, she busied herself about house matters, humble, silent, except when her husband spoke to her, and then her whole face brightened. Poor Lydia! None familiar with her story are likely to see much of her again: Mr. Charteris seems to wish, and for very natural reasons, that they should begin the world entirely afresh; but we may fairly believe one thing concerning her as concerning another poor sinner :-"Her sins, which were many, are forgiven, for she leved much.

After I returned from them, I found your letter. It made me cease to feel what I have often felt of late, as if hope

I told you once never to be ashamed of showing me that you loved me. Do a man's salvation

Let me now say what is to be said about myself, beginning at the begin-

some time, I hoped and believed, and about me. still believe that it would have been so,

ance gave me the "cold shoulder." Also, that I had sympathy even for a murder- he could not say—but it was something it implied. The very form of it—"The silenced them a moment, and then the made declaration that you were never in what troubled me more, for it was a er. hindrance felt daily, my influence and I listened—you will imagine how—to man, and the marriage was forbidden. Dr. Urquhart's attendance in the board—"Give a dog a bad name and hang him, never committed any act which rendered authority in the jail did not seem quite all this. what they used to be. I met no affront, For an instant I was overwhelmed; I been founded. certainly, and all was tolerably smooth felt as if God had forsaken me, as if His After hearing this story, which one of sailing till I had to find fault, and then, mercy were a delusion, His punishment the turnkeys, whose children were down pending. as you know, a feather will show which never-ending, His justice never satisfied. with fever, told me while watching by

More scurrilous newspaper paragraphs, the last and least obnoxious of which I isn't a wicked man; Lucy loves him." sent you, lest you might hear of it in And I remember you. some other way, followed those proceedings of mine concerning reformatories. are all wicked, but we may all be for- or afraid of it, I cannot understand. heal thyself," and "Set a thief to catch a and I walked away without another tougue, a man ought to be as bold as a requested me to "wait a bit—they hadn't that—they hadn't that they had thief" will give you an idea of their ten- word. or - went so far as to be actionable libels. or - went so far as to be actionable libels. But since then I have thought it best love, you know.

Several persons here, our chaplain to avoid the governor's garden; and it This Waterloo shore has always been that is any disgrace, but a glory, unless former life which would not bear instrange."

One day, arguing the point, the chaplain pressed me for my reasons, which I little Lucy. gave him, and will give you, for I have since had only too much occasion to re- three days after, for out of work-hours ing—God help me! if one keeps silence, than they would expend carelessly upon ing a conscientious objection to reformmember them literally.

dislike and dread of the law; that a man Ducy's father. was good for little if he could not de- I must have told you of him, for he is Let me stop. I will not pain you, Now they took their tone from the rest, These reports have come to such a fend himself by any better weapons than a remarkable man; young still, and wellmy love, more than I can help. Beand even the governor and the chaplain height, that they must either be proved trifling symptoms. Hagyard's Pectoral the verdict of an ignorant jury, and a looking, with manners like his features, sides, as I told you, the worst of my preserved toward me a rigid silence, or denied. And therefore I wished, bespecious, sometimes lying, barrister's hard as iron, though delicate and polish- suffering is ended. tongue.

smiled. It never occurred to me to take Likewise, another thing-mercy. lous purpose. I knew not how when our difference. once the ball is set rolling against a man brought in judgment upon him. It is boy to be whipped." the way of the world.

You see I can moralize—a sign that I sickened me. For I knew the boy, There seemed a great weight on my there is something in coming to the crist the doctrine of total forgiveness should 5 cent sample.

relief of telling all out to you.

"But." reasoned the chaplain, "when man is innocent, why should he not declare it? Why sit tamely under calumny? It is unwise, nay, unsafe. You are almost a stranger here, and we in the provinces like to find out everything about everybody. If I might suggest," and he apologized for what he called the friendly impertinence, "why not be a little less modest, a little more free with your personal history, which must have been a remarkable one, and let some friend, in a quiet, delicate way, see that the truth is as widely disseminated as the slander ! If you will trust me-

"I could not choose a better pleader, said I, gratefully: "but it is impossible. "How so? A man like you can have nothing to dread-nothing to conceal.' I said again, all I could find words to

"It is impossible." He urged no more; but I soon felt duty. painfully certain that some involuntary distrust lurked in the good man's mind. was never removed.

About this time another incident occurred. You know I have a little friend here, the governor's motherless daughter. bonnie wee child whom I met in the garden sometimes, where we water her heasts, and the wonders of foreign parts. I even have given a present or two to this, my child sweetheart. Are you iealous? She has your eyes!

Well one day when I called Lucy, she came to me slowly, with a shy, sad countenance, and I found out after some pains that her nurse had desired her not to play with Dr. Urquhart again, because he was "naughty."

Dr. Urquhart smilingly inquired what he had done?

The child hesitated.

"Nurse does not exactly know, but she says it is something very wicked-as wicked as anything done by the bad people in here. But it isn't true-tell Lucy it isn't true."

It was hard to put aside the little loving face, but I saw the nurse coming. Not an ill-meaning body, but one whom I knew for as arrant a gossip as any about this place. Her comments on myself troubled me little; I concluded it were knocking at every door except was but the result of that newspaper tattle, against which I was gradually growing hardened; nevertheless, I thought it best just to say that I had not be; such love is a woman's glory, and heard with much surprise what she had

been telling Miss Lucy. "Children and fools speak truth," said the woman saucily.

"Then you ought to be more careful I mentioned to you once that I had that children always hear the truth." here a good many enemies, but that I And I insisted upon her repeating all the long ago forgiven. It was Mr. Francis all the time I stood in that room before farther, you should resign your post. should soon live them down; which, for ridiculous tales she had been circulating Charteris.

under ordinary circumstances. I have out of her, they were not what I exever held that truth is stronger than pected, but these: Somebody in he jail inaccuracy of speech which he always questions concerning its internal manfalsehood—that an honest man has but had told somebody else how Dr. Urqu- had—that he, when idling away his time, agement, are laid before the visiting shamming. Your are the town's talk." to sit still, let the storm blow over, and hart had been in former days such an in the debtors' ward of this jail, repeatjustices. Thus, after the governor's And another suggested that "Brown had settled, Doctor," said he, cheerfully. bide his time. It does not shake this abandoned character, that still his evil ed, probably with extempore additions, hint on every board-day I prepared my-better mind his P's and Q's, there were "Just answer a question or two, which, bide his time. It does not shake this doctrine that things have fallen out differently with me.

For some time I had seen the cloud gathering; caught evil reports flying against me gathering; caught evil reports flying against me gathering; caught evil reports flying abandoned character, that still his evil ed, probably with extempore additions, what your sister Penelope once mentions, such things as actions for libel."

I replied if the gentlemen referred to stensibly for a very trivial matter—

was once about to be married, when the lady's father discovered a crime I had ordered and been counteracted in.

To work the such that still his evil on every board-day I prepared my what your sister Penelope once mentions, such things as actions for libel."

I replied if the gentlemen referred to some relaxation of discipline which I had ordered and been counteracted in.

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I replied if the gentlemen referred to some relaxation of discipline which I had ordered and been counteracted in.

The probably with extempore additions, what your sister Penelope once mentions, such things as actions for libel."

I replied if the gentlemen referred to the scurrillons allegations against me which I had ordered and been counteracted in.

The probably with extempore additions, what your sister Penelope once mentions, such things as actions for libel."

I replied if the gentlemen referred to honor to dimension the had of the probable with the scurrillons all gains as a matter of form, I will put in writing, as a matter of form, I will put in writing, as a matter of form, I will put in writing, as a matter of form, I will put in writing, as a matter of form, I will put in writing, about; noticed that, in society or in puble; without of course compromising bear that no in- public; without of course compromising lic meetings, now and then an acquaint- apropos to a late hanging at Kirkdale; honesty, duelling, seduction, or what, into question before, and I knew what tention of prosecuting for libel. This your dignity. To begin. You hereby

It was a new experience, for, at the might in some fatal way have betrayed doing it, honest man! I went and took worst of times, in camp or hospital, my myself on the spot, had I not heard the a long walk down the Waterloo shore, to poor fellows always loved me-I found little girl saying, with a sob, almost- calm myself, and consider my position. poor pet!

"For shame, nurse! Dr. Urquhart any more. I was ruined.

But since then I have thought it best love, you know.

I said I had always had an instinctive pleasant circumstance occurred with knife. "Who would have thought the til lately among my co-mates in office, I "Nay," said the governor. "I did

his lightest words are made to gather pointed out to me in passing that an wheels and their-trailing thread of to evil passions, fits of pride, hatred, once my friends, or at least friendly asweight and meaning, his very looks are nouncement on the centre slate of "a smoke, dropping one after the other and revenge, that are probably unfamil- sociates—the chaplain and the gover-

ruffian. I pleaded for him strongly.

The govenor listened—polite, but in-

flexible.

floggings: you know, too, my opinion on for some little time. the system of punishuent, viewed as a and that the wrath of God against sin as long as possible. must be as everlasting as his pity for sinners-into the doctrine of eternal the fire that is never quenched.

The govenor heard all that I had say; then, politely always, regretted many years. In the midst of it came reconsidered the hint I gave to you some that it was impossible either to grant my request, or release me from my tented - unwontedly contented they

"There is, however, one course which and though he continued the same to me ing his very peculiar opinions, and his in all our business relations, a cloud known sympathy with criminals. Do "No, poor child! she will learn all soon should have been exceedingly glad came over our private intercourse, which you not think it might be more agreeable to you to resign?"

The words were nothing; but as he fixed on me that keen eye, which, he boasts, can without need of judge or gave me your love, I owed it to us jury detect a man's guilt or innocence, I felt convinced that with him too my flowers, and have long chats about birds, good name was gone. It was no longer right to wound your dear heart by keepa battle with mere side-winds of slander ing back from it any sorrows of mine. -the storm had begun.

I might have sunk like a coward, if under it. As it was, I looked the governor in the face.

"Have you any special motive for this suggestion?" "I have stated it."

"Then allow me to state that, whatservices are useful here. I have not the wish or intention of resigning. He bowed and we parted.

It will then be over," and I hope, by the honest lad vet.

When I left him in his cell, I rather

all that report alleged against me-false as I have told you, it was impossible to I used to sit playing chess together of or true—as well as the originator of write any other, even a single line, these statements. Him I at last by the merest chance discovered.

I believe still, it was less from malice the beginning. When, with difficulty, I got the facts premediated, than from a mere propenabsolutely unpardonable by an honorable On this, all the reports against me had

Despite my promise to your father, I their bedside, begging my pardon for For I knew it was in vain to struggle me as if I had been some strange beast,

An innocent man might have fought on; how any one, with a clear con-"My child," I said, in a whisper, "we science, is ever conquered by slander, lion. I should have been; but-My

especially, urged me to take legal pro- has cost me more pain than you would a favorite haunt of mine. You once accompanied with a low nature—and ceedings in defence of my character, but imagine—the contriving always to pass said, you should like to live by the sea; "dressed in a low brief authorty," one the line between himself and the conat a distance, so as to get only a nod and I have never heard the ripple of the often meets with here; I was well used victs he was bent on reforming." and smile, which cannot harm her, from little Lucy.

tide without thinking of you—never seen the little children playing about to deal with them, and to their dealings with the likes of me—a poor profession— About this time—it might be two or and digging on the sands without think- al, whose annual income was little more I little noticed how time passed—an un- it is not because one does not feel the one of their splendid "feeds." But, un- ing everybody—including himself.

The old clergyman, alarmed, hoped ruler of criminals. Brutality, meaness, among the sand-hills by the shore. For you would understand how those ten sent to the explanatory self-defence I was not a duellist," at which I only or injustice would be impossible to him. years to come, if I live so long, I shall minutes that, according to my orders, I which he definitely refused. Mr. Thornical according to my orders, I which he definitely refused. see as clear and also as unreal as a paint- sat aloof from the board while other leythe trouble of denying any such ridicu- It was on this point that he and I had ing-that level sea-line, along which business was proceeding were not the moved the small white silent ships, and pleasantest possible. We met in the east ward, when he steamers, with their humming paddle- Men among men grow hard, are liable honest, honorable men, and who were into what some one of your favorite iar to you sweet women. It was well I nor. It seems ridiculous, but the words poets, my child, calls "the under world." had your letter in my pocket. Besides, Theodora, no one need ever dread lest

were God's will, to lie down and die, a few minutes' conversation with me, trouble to you or to any one any more. whatever shape of hard fortune was be-I went on speaking with unusual You will remember, I was not in my uswarmth; you know my horror of these ual health, and had had extra hard work,

Well, my dear one, this is enough temper and feelings perfectly under conmere punishment, with no ulterior aim about myself, that day. I went home trol, has a very strong influence where at reformation. I believe it is only and fell into harness as usual; there was ever he goes. It was he who opened blinded human interpretation of things nothing to be done but to wait till the and carried on with me what he politely spiritual, which transforms the immu-storm burst, and I wished for many termed a "little conversation" table law that evil is its own avenger, reasons to retain my situation at the jail

torment, the worm that dieth not, and of what might happen before night; and, duty done, struggling against a depression such as I have not known for these your dear letters-cheerful, loving conseemed to be. I could not answer them, to take hints; I preferred having all for to have written in a false strain was I may suggest to Dr. Urquhart, consider- impossible, and to tell you everything seemed equally so, I said to myself, enough. Let her be happy while she you had saved me from what I feel to

I was wrong. I was unjust to you and to myself. From the hour you both to give you my full confidence, as much as if you were my life. I had no

Forgive me, and forgive something else, which I now see was crueler still. there were only myself to be crushed Theodora, I wished many times that you were free; that I had never bound of them. you to my hard lot, but kept silence and left you to forget me-to love some one into his ruin. I determined to die fightelse better than me-pardon, pardon!

For I was once actually on the point board: of writing to you, saying this, when I ever my opinions may be, so long as my remembered something you had said ing conducted myself in any manner that long ago-that whether or no we were unfits me for being surgeon to this jail. ever married you were glad we had been Any slight differences between the govebetrothed-that so far we might always nor and myself are mere matters of opin-The boy was flogged. I said to him, be a help and comfort to one another. ion, which signify little so long as nei-Bear it; better confess"—as he had For, you added, when I was blaming ther trenches on the other's authority, done-"confess and be punished now. myself, and talking as men do of and both are amenable to the regulation "honor" and "pride"-to have left you of the establishment. If you have any grateful look of the poor young wretch, free when you were not free, would cause of complaint against me, state it, that with the pain, the punishment was have given you all the cares of love, reprove or dismiss me—but no one has a over; that my pity helped him to endure with neither its rights, nor duties, nor right, without just grounds, to request a hedge. it, so that it did not harden him, but, sweetnesses; and this might-you did me to resign. with a little help, he may become an not say it would-but it might have broken your heart.

So in my bitter-strait I trusted that ance of his, looked annoyed. For an inpure heart, whose instinct, I felt, was stant his hard manner dropped into the It now became necessary to look to truer than all my wisdom. I did not old friendliness, even as when, in the first my own affairs, and discover, if possible, write the letter, but at the same time, few weeks after his wife's death, he and

Your last letter came. Happily, it us. reached me the very morning when the My little lady, with her quick, warm crisis which I had been for weeks ex- me? It is for your own sake that I either by word or implication, I had feelings, must learn to forgive, as I have pecting occurred. I had it in my pocket wish, before the matter is opened up those men. But I had best relate from After a moment's consideration 1 re-

governor's compliments, and he requests first magistrate said:

magistrates. These, who are not always or necessarily gentlemen, stared at me as if I had been some strange beast, all the time I was giving my brief evilable the time I was giving my brief evilable the breach of regulations has a specific property of the strange beast, governor, who, I felt, had never taken "Now, what shall I write, Dr. Urquhis sharp eyes off me." dence about the breach of regulations I had been careful to keep within the letter of the law, and I made a motion to take leave, when one of the justices

These sort of men, low-born-not that old man had so much blood in him?" had been both friendly and popular. not give this as a fact-only a report hard as iron, though delicate and polish-suffering is ended.

Tou do not know,out out mess phrase of the level in must have sat till nightfall of being "sent to Coventry." If you did —unless, indeed, Dr. Urquhart will confobtain it of your druggist.

punishment, would be the first step to- not feed anything much, after the first a man's nerves to meet it. So when the pleasant and easy. There are non ward converting a mere headstrong lad, half hour; except a longing to see your governor, turning round in his always sequences of sin which must sent here for street row, into a hardened little face once again, and then, if it courteous tone, said the board requested ner to the day of his death. somewhere near you, quietly, giving no I could rise and stand steady to meet fore me.

The governor, like most men of nonintrusive but iron will, who have both

"These difficulties," continued he. after referring to the dismissed com-But it was a difficult time: rising to plaint of my straining the rules of the "sympathy with criminals." "these unpleasantnesses, Dr. Urquhart, will, I fear, be always occurring. Have you little time ago ?"

I answered that it was rarely my habit things spoken right out.

"Such candor is creditable, though not always possible or advisable. I be my duty, however painful-namely, owned to having led, could I escape the to repeat my private suggestion public- fury of public opinion. The impression

"You mean that I should tender my resignation?" "Excuse my saying-and the board

agrees with me-that such a step seems desirable, for many reasons. I waited, and then asked for those

"Dr. Urquhart must surely be

A man is not bound to rush madly have treated as simply ridiculous. ing, at any rate. I said addressing the

"Gentlemen, I am not aware of hav-

The governor, even through that handsome, impassive, masked counten-

room." instead of "Doctor, come up to but surely, doctor, you can't be aware you liable to prosecution under our my room and talk the matter over"— what a very bad name you have some- criminal law? was sufficient indication of what was im- how got in these parts, or you would He ran the words off carelessly, and have been more eager to draw your paused for my answer. When none I found present, besides the governor neck out of the halter in time. Why, came, he looked up, his own penetrating, and chaplain, an unusual number of bless my soul, man alive, do you know suspicious look.

> to the matter in hand," interrupted the form of the sentence. among criminals must of necessity bear full confession, and gone out of that an unblemished character. Neither in room an prisoner it would have been, the establishment nor out of it ought so far as regarded myself, a relief unut-

"Say it out, sir." "That there were circumstances in his spection, and that merely accident drew

"Hear, hear!" said a justice, who had this way. long thwarted me in my schemes, hav-

You do not know our old mess phrase fore any public inquiry became necessary

And they both looked anxiously at me -these two whom I have always found

am recovering myself; I think, with the knew also his offence; and that such a head—a weariness all over me. I did is of a great misfortune, which braces up make guilt no burden, and repentance sequences of sin which must haunt a sin-

It might have been one minute or ter that I stood motionless, feeling as if I could have given up life and all its blessings without a pang, to be able to face those men with a clear conscience, and say, "It is all a lie. I am innocent."

Then, for my salvation, came the thought-it seemed spoken into my ear; the voice half like Dallas's, half like yours-"If God hath forgiven me, why pe afraid of men ?" And I said, humbly enough-yet, I trust, without any cringing or abjectness of fear-that I wished, before taking any farther step, to hear each day's duty, with total uncertainty jail to their utmost limit, from my the whole of the statements current against myself, and how far they were credited by the gentlemen before me.

The accusation I was informed, stood thus; floating rumors having accumulated into a substantive form-terribly near the truth ! that I had, in my youth. either here or abroad. committed some crime which rendered me amenable to the laws of my county; and though, by some trick of law, I had escaped justice, the ban upon me was such, that only by the wandering life which I myself had against me was now so strong, in the jail and out of it, that the governor would not engage even by his own authority to preserve mine unless I furnished him with an immediate, explicit denial to this charge. Which, he was pleased to say, if it had not been so widely spread, so mysterious in its origin, and so oddly corroborated by accidental admissions on my part, he should

"And now," he added, apparently reassured by the composure with which I had listened, "I have only to ask you to deny it, point-blank, before the board and myself.

I asked, what must I deny?

"Why, if the accusations were not too ludicrous to express, just state that you are neither forger, burglar, nor bodysnatcher; that you never either killed a man (unprofessionally, of course, if we may be excused the joke) for professional purposes, or shot him irregularly in a duel, or waylaid him with pistols behind

"Am I supposed to have committed

all these crimes ?" "Such is the gullibility of the public: you really are," said the governor,

On the indignant impulse of the moment, I denied them each and all, upon my honor as a gentleman; until, feeling evenings, with little Lucy between the old chaplain cordially grip my hand, I was roused into a full consciousness of "Doctor, why will you misapprehend where and what I was, and what,

been asserting. Somebody said, "Give him air; no wonder he feels it, poor fellow!" And ouested him to explain himself more so, after a little, I gathered up my facul-

> "This painful business will soon be jail? never tried at any assizes? have

"Perhaps I did not express mysel "This discussion is growing foreign clearly? And he slightly changed the

The governor laid down his pen. "This looks, to say the least, rather

"Doctor," cried one of the board, 'you must be mad to hold your tongue and let your character go to the dogs in

Cure that Cough! You can do it speedily, safely and surely with Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam. Now is the season to guard against colds. If you would prevent Comsumption neglect not the mos Balsam will never fail you. It cures Croup, Asthma. Bronchitis, Who opinglough and all Putmonary complaints.

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him to let t and cruelly watch began day by day. ened in a went up to a shade. At left all the t in the rear thirteen day was away i turning. It payable, and ruinous way took it to th lated. He I said no, it He looked a and eagerly put a small o peered into wanted clean lating—come After bein regulated my degree that is I began to be appointment my watch str four, and let ally drifted day before, thand by the me that, all lingering alor the world wa to detect in museum, and with him. I again. He to was "swelled it in three d

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it. But the keep on slowl until all the caught up aga So at last, hours, it wou stand all right would show a and no man co or less than average is onl and I took th watch-maker. broken. I sa more serious had no idea v I did not choo stranger. He water in another. then stop awh again, and so about the inte went off it kic I padded m maker. He p glass; and the

to be someth trigger. He fix It did well n ten minutes to together like time forth th The oldest m make head or such a watch have it repa that the crys the main-sprin also remarked needed half-so He made then my time ing along quie thing inside w and begin to hands would round and re dividuality w they simply s web over the would reel hours in six o with a bang. while he too prepared to c watch had c originally, and out two or While I wait sently recogni old acquainta of other days,

fully, just as had done, and with the same He said: " -you want to on the safety-I brained him buried at My uncle alas!) used to a good horse and that a go until the re And he used smiths and sh

but nobody co

either. He e