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is flirting?" asked Alice, softly. "You are utterly mistaken, Sir Hugh; she is quite in earnest, and I hope, for her sake, that Major Stuart is equally so. Why, Shirley could not flirt! She does not know the meaning of the word."

her sex." said Sir Hugh moodily, not be long in ignorance, I should think."

beautiful."

Alice Fairholme bit her li

"Yes, she is beautiful, I think," she said, with apparent frankness-"although some people think her too pale. My poor aunt, her mother, was said, flushing and trembling a little. very beautiful, I believe, but I never

"How was that. It is not timee years since her death, I understand.' Scotland?" he asked with some in-

"No-never," Alice said gravely, | chary of your music, Shirley."

spoken of it to me: but I was always

, be able to show that interest much smile upon her lips. "Such a face as hers! Do you longer, or to any purpose for Alice's How beautiful she was how rarequick eyes had immediately discern-"Pretty is not the word," he an- ed that there was something unusual-

ly tender in Major Stuart's manner toward her cousin.

"Shirley, can't you give us some music?" she asked, languidly. "Try

"Cannot sing to-day-why? Have

"Oh. no: but-

"But what? Don't be lazy, child!

"Never! Why? Pardon my curi- stitute?" said Guy Stuart, smiling. as he was, had then and there re osity, Miss Fairholme; but really it "Shall I play you something, Miss solved to make her his wife. But he

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Alice, sweetly. "Sir Hugh looks tired and out of sorts, or I would press him into the service; but when you have played, perhaps Shirley will fa-

fidence, and relapsed into silence, guidly in her deep arm-chair, Sir Alice felt rather annoyed and irrita- Hugh pulled nervously at his long ted. What right had this man to fair mustache and watched Shirley show so much interest in what re- furtively as she sat with her hands garded Shirley? Well, if appearan- clasped idly on her lap, her face ces were to be credited, he would not turned toward the piano, and a little

life he had seen no woman whose

beauty had so impressed and charm ed him as hers did. Could it be the gether at the thought. It was impossible. He should not have her. She should be his. That very evening he would ask her to be his wife.

It had been his purpose to do so from the first day he had seen her As she stood in her simple serge dress in the doorway, with a knot of "Oh, do sing us something!" Ruby red berries at her breast, she had greatly to be praised. He, Hugh the offer and meanwhile it was ver pleasant to treat her with graceful courtesy, not untouched by tender ness, which he knew could not bu be grateful to the lovely girl, while he flirted a little with Miss Fairholme perhaps with an unavowed-even to himself-intention of making Shirley

> But while he had been hesitating another had come forward and had stolen her from him; and although i was no theft-since she had never

been his except in his thoughts-Hugh Glynn felt passionately resent- Varicose Veins ful against the friend who had fore-

Presently the music ceased; and Alice after thanking the musician, again turned to Shirley; and the

softly; and Hugh Glynn's eager eyes caught her tender little glance and

"Yes." she said shyly; and as gave her the music stool, his hand ouched hers gently for a moment. "What shall I sing?" asked Shirley,

this morning," said Ruby Capel gay-

which Oswald sent you," said Alice. into two hearts there with very differ-

She has not found her king as yet; The golden days, the golden days glide by: They bring no grief, no. grief she should forget,
Nor any cause to sigh.
No heart for her devotion made,

No heart the passionate summers bring; Unharmed she walks and unafraid; She has not found her king.

Men bring their titles and their gold—
She turns in scorn away;
That man must be of diffrent mold She swears she will obey.

Titled by gift of God is he,
And rich in a rarer thing than

wealth Fact unknown man must be Whom she will own her king.

But, when he comes, as come Strong to support and grand, with supplication that shall fill Her soul like a command, be'll place her hand in his

And take what'er the world ma roud and content, contented for his

ully soft and sweet, and so highl ultivated, died dreamily away, and

then Shirley moved over to the fire. Major Stuart, scmewhat gravely, same moment the dressing-

bit of a prig," Ruby said laughingly. But it is a very pretty song, Shir-

emarked Sir Hugh carelessly, "since before he came she had

'No grief she should forget, Nor any cause to sigh."

"Treason to your sex, Sir Hugh!" said Alice gayly. "Come along, girls;

The girls trooped off, laughing and chatting as they went, their quick light steps sounding clearly over the oaken floor. Mr. Rivers scon followed, and the two friends were left

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away. At the door Guy's voice ar-

"Wait one minute, old fellow-I have something to tell you."

Sir Hugh paused; for a moment he out his hand on the oaken frame of the door as if he needed support, then he turned quickly and made a few

"What is it?" he asked quietly. "I wanted to tell you- What is the matter, Hugh? Are you ill?" said Guy, hastily.

"Ill? No, of course not. Stuart? I have a letter to write before dinner.

I den't know about you, Hugh, but "Caught!" exclaimed Sir Hugh.

with a forced laugh. "Who is Guy? Miss Capel?" "No. of course not," said of Guy ooking surprised. "Why do v

"Shirley Ross!" Sir Hugh exclaimed, in an accent of intense surprise which struck Guy Stuart almost pain-

"Yes." he said simply. "You seem very much surprised. Hugh." "I am very much surprised." re-

turend Sir Hugh, gravely; and there

Hugh?" Major Stuart asked then. " know that I am unworthy, but-" "My dear Guy, it is not that. I fancied-but I was wrong, of course-

that Miss Ross, with her great beauty, would look out for a rich man.

"But she has consented to take a poor one, you see," finished Guy, smiling. "You may safely congratulate me, Hugh."

"I will wish you all happiness, old ellow," Sir Hugh said, cordially; but being encumbered with his heavy coat, perhaps he did not see Major Stuart's outstretched hand. "I always think that congratulations should be kept till one sees how the marriage turns out. I will keep mine till then."

. (To be continued.)

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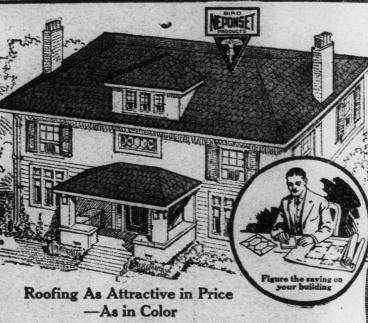
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