

## IN THE TOILS; But Happiness Comes at Last.

CHAPTER XXV.  
TAKEN BY SURPRISE.  
Olive's heart stood still, but her fan moved to and fro in regular movements. The answer came calm and serene as Hastley Derrick's most incisive tone.

"Yes, the first time, unfortunately for me," he said.  
"You must make up for lost opportunities. I hope we shall see a great deal of you in future, old fellow. Of course, you will make this your headquarters?"

"Certainly," put in Lord Livermore. Derrick bowed.  
"Thank you," he replied simply; and the invitation was accepted.  
"Now, let me see," said Charlie, in his cheery way; "of course, you dance? I can get you a partner."

"On no account!" exclaimed Derrick hastily. "Your time is too valuable to-night to be wasted on my behalf. Come, you must not stay any longer. I feel quite guilty already. I'll look on for a little while. It is a performance I am good at, you know."  
Charlie laughed and moved away; Hastley Derrick sat down beside the earl, and began to amuse him with little incidents of his life in India and the voyage home.

Few men could talk so well as Hastley Derrick, and yet few men talked less. He thoroughly knew how to use the "eloquence of silence," as some one had said of him; but there were times when he would display his keen insight and appreciation of human nature.

Olive listened as a prisoner might do to the clear, incisive speeches of a judge; listened and admired, while she shuddered and feared. This man, whose every sentence displayed his cynical knowledge of man's weakness, held the secret of her life! With a word he could shatter her happiness and that of the man she loved.

Would he speak that word? Once or twice she glanced at him, and gradually the clear-cut face, with its delicately formed mouth—delicate, yet firm and unyielding—the dark keen eyes began to fascinate her. She felt as if she must speak to him, must confront him again and glean from his face or his words what he meant to do. Vain and futile desire! No man in the world had a more perfect mastery over his features and voice than Hastley Derrick.

She turned to him suddenly.  
"You do not think of returning to India?"  
He looked at her, his whole expression one of polite attention.  
"No; I think not. I tried to lay the flattering unction to my soul that it was only to be a flying trip to England, but every day since my landing the determination not to return has grown more fixed. To-night"—his voice grew lower—"I feel that it would be impossible to go back."

Olive leaned back and her eyes drooped.  
"It must be a very pleasant change," she murmured, scarcely knowing what she said.  
"No one can guess how pleasant and delightful, Lady Heatherdene." It was the first time he had addressed her by her title, and she fancied that there was an infection, half mocking, half threatening, in the tone in which he pronounced it.

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Heatherdene, the future Earl of Livermore!  
Yes, it was no trick of imagination—he had not lost his senses in the tropics; the beautiful woman, glistening in white satin and the Livermore diamonds, was no other than the Olive Estcourt, or Olive Rawdon, the heroine of the dramatic scene which had been played for his special benefit on his last night in England!

"Are they all mad or bewildered?" he asked himself. "Is it possible that the earl—the proudest peer in the kingdom—is content, delighted, in fact, to acknowledge a dressmaker's obscure little niece as his daughter-in-law and the future Countess of Livermore? Is it possible that he can condone and forget the card sharper, the former husband? But it is probable that Charlie and his father are not aware of the sort of man my lady's first husband was? No; impossible! Then," he paused and drew a long breath, "she has kept that a secret; she has not told them! Let me think. In his letter to me Heatherdene spoke of her as Adrienne Haldine—Haldine, that was the name. There were two of them, sisters—I saw the other, Katrine Haldine, at the Pompadour three nights ago. Sisters! a fool could have detected that falsehood! This famous Adrienne Haldine—yes, I can understand her game. I can see her now as she stood in that miserable little room, her face set, her dark brows drawn in a line over her flashing eyes. I have seen her night after night as I lay awake in that cursed India, and turned to and fro trying to forget. Yes, I can quite believe that she would become famous; what a superb piece of acting that was

to-night! Not a flutter, not a movement to betray to any one else that she knew me; but for her eyes I could have sworn that she did not know I recognized her."  
He thrust his hands into his pockets and paced quietly up and down, very much like a tiger planning his next raid on the sheepcote.  
"Do they know all, or half that I know? Impossible! Yet—ah, Lady Florence would recognize her and tell them, but she has been away long before her marriage and is not back yet. By Heaven!" his eyes flashed, "they do not know it! She has kept the secret, and the secret I share with her. There is a bond between us, my beautiful Lady Heatherdene, a bond which it shall be my aim to make tighter and stronger. Who says there is no such thing as fate? What but fate should have made me—compelled me against the warnings of prudence and everything else—to return to England? I dreamed of her the night I started—dreamed that she was at my feet; and here she is, and in my power."

## CHAPTER XXVI. THREATENING CLOUDS.

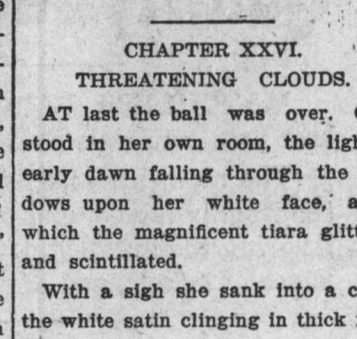
AT last the ball was over. Olive stood in her own room, the light of early dawn falling through the windows upon her white face, above which the magnificent tiara glittered and scintillated.  
With a sigh she sank into a chair, the white satin clinging in thick folds about her.  
"You need not sit up, Louise," she said, dismissing the maid.  
"No? My lady! Shall I not remain to undress you?"  
"No. You must be very tired, and the servants' hall takes place to-morrow; you will want all your roses, Louise; go to bed."

The maid gone, Olive rose, and with a long sigh threw open the diamond-paned casement, and, pushing back the hair from her forehead, stood looking wearily out at the gray dawn that was stealing up from the east.  
Dark and threatening clouds rose from the left and came sailing gloomily across the park, as if they meant to blot out the light and bring night over the earth again.  
"Clouds," murmured Olive, her sad eyes fixed on them with a half-benumbed terror. "Clouds are coming up over my life. I have felt their shadows cast before—they are very near. Ah, God," and she held out her arm to the gray heavens, "keep them back and let the light continue."  
Vain prayer! How is it that we are so prone to forget that it is ourselves

## Fashion Plates.

The Home Dressmaker should keep a Catalogue Scrap Book of our Pattern Cuts. These will be found very useful to refer to from time to time.

A SIMPLE BUT POPULAR UP-TO-DATE MODEL.

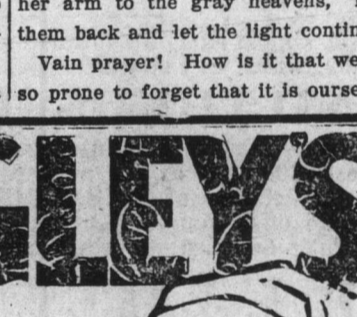


2365—This will be a splendid model for velvet in black or colors. It requires very little trimming. The lines are graceful, and the design is easy to develop. At the sides, deep pockets are inserted, forming not only a stylish but also a practical feature.

The Pattern is good for serge, velour, satin, corduroy, duvetyne and crepe. It is cut in 6 sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. Size 38 requires 6 3/4 yards of 44-inch material. The dress measures about 2 yards at its lower edge.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents in silver or stamps.

A PRETTY FROCK FOR SLENDER FIGURES.



2369—This is a season for straight lines and simple styles. The model here shown is lovely for velvet, serge or satin. It may also be made of velour, gabardine or voile. The dress is loose fitting, and closes at the left side of the front under the collar.

The Pattern is cut in 3 sizes: 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires 4 1/2 yards of 36-inch material. The skirt measures about 2 yards at the lower edge.

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Size .. ...  
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We can still offer a limited amount of our last year's stock of OUR CELEBRATED SILK CORDUROY VELVETEENS at \$1.70 yard. We have cheaper ones which are good, but this one will make you look like a Princess.  
We have a couple of pieces of WHITE CORDUROY VELVETEENS, which are fine for Summer or Spring Costume Skirts, as they wash well, and nothing wears better than Corduroy.  
We have at the moment a few pieces left of our last year's stock of AWNING STRIPED DRILLS, only 40c. yd. We don't know that we can get any this season, and if so, they will be high.  
**IT WILL PAY YOU TO STOP AND SHOP NOW WITH**

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MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DIPHTHERIA.

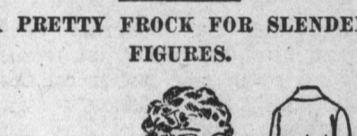
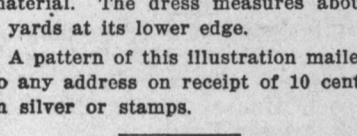
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