

so happy, you and I, dear! If girls could only know when they are well off! But they never do. It's only when they have resigned their liberty and given all their heart for about a quarter of some selfish man's, that they discover what a fraud matrimony is!"

yond the quiet, "mouse-like smile," and a little sigh, which was too low to reach her companion's ear.

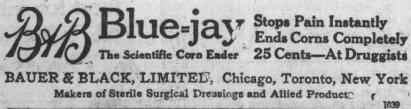
another of the frequenters of the Villa Rimini, had wondered that this beautiful English girl should be so irresponsive to the admiration and attentions lavished upon her. Men of rank and position, for whom the matrons of society angled unceasingly, paid court to her, needing but a smile or word of encouragement to lay their titles at her feet; but the smile or the word were never extended to them. As the Princess of Carthage, clad in the my stic veil, moved, like an unapproachable spirit, amongst the suitors at her father's court, so Doris Marlowe lived, surrounded by a barrier of reserve which, vague and intangible as it was, served to keep the most ardent at arm's length

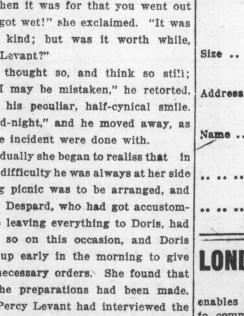
The past alone was to her reality; the present seemed like a dream; and often she sat beside Lady Despard. surrounded by a crowd of people laughing and talking, the voices died upon her ears, and she heard only the murmur of the brook in Barton meadows, mingling with the voice of the man who had won her heart and tossed it aside, shattered and broken forever.

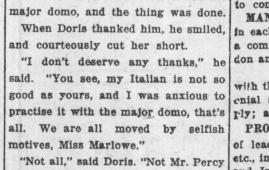
Often she wondered whether he had married the Lady Grace-whose name, when first she had heard it on his lips, had sounded like a knell in her ears.

a crowd cannot destroy solitude; and Doris, in the midst of the brilliant throng which made the Villa Rimini its centre, lived in a mental and spiritual solitude, on the threshold of which only two persons ever trod. One was Lady Despard, whom she loved, the other as she did all the others, but it was impossible. He made it impossible by never giving her a chance of repulsing him. Since the evening he had come to Chester Gardens for the first time he had never, paid her a single compliment, and from his lips alone she never received a single "pretty" speech.

Although he slept at the inn, he had a luxrious suite of apartments in the









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