

# **Happiness**

### Loyalty Recompensed.

CHAPTER XII.

"Leafmore," said Mr. Deane, abstractedly. Then with a sudden brightening up of his faculties, he went on eagerly: "You have some wonderful trees at your place, Lord Gaunt, Wonderful! I don't know that, out of Scotland. I have ever seen more magnificent firs. Now, did it ever occur to you that great things might be done with the extraction of terebene from the fir? At any rate, it has occurred to me. Terebene is the active ingredient-" Bobby touched him on the arm, and Mr. Deane turned to him with kind cheerful.

of bewildered impatience. "What is it, Robert? I am endeavoring to explain to Lord Gaunt that he has an enormous fortune—an enormous fortune-within his reach. Terebene is one of the most valuable products-"

Bobby glanced at Gaunt apologetically and appealingly, and Gaunt with admirable tact, said:

"Thank you, Mr. Deane. Perhaps you will come up to Leafmore and tell me more about it? I'm afraid I must be going now."

"Yes, yes. Good-night," said Mr. Deane; and shaking Gaunt's hand absently, he shuffled out of the room.

Gaunt moved toward the door; but his eyes rested on the lovely face so and watched him from its front door, dimly seen by the light of the one or from behind its windows, with the shaded lamp.

"At any rate, you will come up to Leafmore, Deane?" he said. Then he ation. For Lord Gaunt, in a ridinglooked at Decima again. "And you too, suit, with his whip in his hand, and Miss Deane?? I want to show you how comfortable you have made me." "Oh, we'll come right enough!"

said Bobby, heartily. "Eh, Decima?" She did not answer. They both went to the gate, and Gaunt got on his out his hand to Decima.

which Decima had not heard until Gaunt passed the door.

"Good-night!" she said, smiling up



### Wash Day and Backache

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it lie loose, rode on silently and with an abstracted look. The beautiful face haunted him, her words, "I am glad you have come," rang in his ears softly; and her eyes-were they gray, or

blue, or violet? He roused himself as Nero bore him into the court-yard, and with an impatient start and shake, he handed the horse over to the groom, and went

His valet was waiting for him, and he looked curiously at his master as Lord Gaunt entered the dressing-room. The man-Hobson by name-had been with him for years, and was deeply attached to him. They had undergone perils and privations together, and looked death in the face side by side: but Hobson had never stepped out of his place, and had remained that wonderful being, a devoted and respectful servant, who sticketh closer than a brother. There was an expression in his master's face which Hobson had not seen for years. It was almost

"I'm late, Hobson," he said; "a bad beginning. But I suppose you told them in the servants' hall that I was never to be relied upon?" "Yes, my lord," said Hobson, sim-

Lord Gaunt smiled, and, as he took

off his coat, said: "Thanks! I thought you would. But Hobson, we must reform-reform. Now be quick."

Be quick. Hobson glanced at him swiftly. He had not heard that tone for years.

CHAPTER XIII. The next morning Gaunt went down as he reached it he looked round, and the village, and the village stared at deepest interest and a lively curiosity, which promptly developed into admirhalf a dozen dogs bounding round him or trotting demurely at his heels, looked a very different person to what they had expected.

"Why, he's a young man!" exclaimed Mrs. Topper; "and a Gaunt every horse. Then he bent down and held inch of him! There's no mistaking "Good-night, and—thank you," he I'm going to drop him a courtesy, and never guess how glad I am to see you, give him 'good-day' if I'm to he shot His voice had a deep ring in it, for it!" And she made her bob as

He remembered her, and stopped at once and returned the saluation. He spoke to Mrs. Murphy, and touched Gaunt rode off at a bound, and let his hat in response to the respectful, the impatient Nero go his own pace- almost awed greetings of the men outalways a fast one; but presently he side the inn, and he looked round him brought him into a walk by a slight with an evident interest, which flattered those who were so closely watching him.

things you don't understand alone, run Presently Mr. Bright came trotting after him, and he turned to him with

of inspection," he said. He glanced at Lord Gaunt a new fly he has made." the tumble-down cottage. "It is not altogether a satisfactory one. Now, then, ing up at the old clock, and speaking fire away! I see you are charged to in a casual way. "Seeing that I have

Bright looked at him with a mixture of eagerness and apology. "I don't like to begin to worry you

right away, Lord Gaunt," he said. Gaunt smiled. "Oh. I'm in the humor this morn-

ing, and you'd better seize the opportunity. You want me to rebuild these, I suppose? "That's it, Lord Gaunt," said Bright,

rather nervously. "Well, they want it," said Gaunt, curtly. "If you'd just step inside one of

Gaunt nodded, and laid his hand on the rickety gate of one of the cottages As he did so, a girlish figure emerged from the door-way like a gleam of sunlight. It was Decima. She was looking over her shoulder and saying something, in her sweet, clear voice, to the woman inside; then she turned

her head and saw the two men, and

stopped. "Oh, what luck!" said Bright. "Here's Miss Deane. Now, she knows exactly what's wanted. She has been making friends of the people ever since she came, you know, and- Ah, Miss Deane, if you would be so kind as to come with us for a little while! But perhaps you are busy."

"No," said Decima; "I am only go ng to meet my brother later on. What

with an affectation of dismay.

Mr. Bright has got me in his clutches already, Miss Deane; and as if he Distributing Ageni. Were not more than a match for me he has called in an auxiliary force were not more than a match for me

Gaunt looked into one room of the cottage. It was about ten feet square and was occupied by a woman and fr and was occupied by a woman and five children. It was badly lighted, close, and unhealthy. Decima looked at his appealingly,

"It is not fit, is it?" she said. "It's bad, yes," he assented. "It cer ainly is not fit for you to go into." "I? Why, they live here!" said Deima, rebukingly.

"They're used to it: you're not," he etorted, rather curtly, "Do you visi all the cottages? How if there should e some infectious disease-measle carlet fever-"

He looked at her almost sternly. "Miss Deane goes everywhere," said Mr. Bright, quickly and admiringly. T've told her that she's running great risks, but my warning has had no effect upon her. She is our village angel, Lord Gaunt."

Gaunt knit his brows. "It is not safe," he said. "I'll pull them all down and rebuild them-all of them. Will that satisfy you, Miss Deane?"

Decima was walking between the two men, and she glanced triumphantly at Mr. Bright, and then gratefully up at Lord Gaunt.

"I knew you would," she said in a low voice. "Oh, I am so glad! But then there are the schools. Ah, you must see them! They are almost as bad as the cottages. The children are staryed for want of air and ventilation in the summer, and must be frozen in the winter. If you will come-

"Let us go to the schools by all means." he said.

They entered the crowded, stuffy room, and Gaunt looked round amidst the dense silence of excitement.

"All right," he said. "I see the thing has to be done on a big scale. We'd better get an architect from London, Bright, You-and Miss Deane--can worry through the plans with him. Have what you like, Miss Deane."

Decima was too moved to thank him again. They passed out and came to the church: and Gaunt, glancing at Decima, caught the appealing expression in her lovely eyes. He smiled.

"You want a new roof? And I doubt whether that tower is quite safe." "It isn't," said Decima, eagerly. "We heard the men say that they are almost afraid to ring the bells Is-isthat to be done, too?"

"Why not?" he said, quietly. "In for penny in for-several thousand pounds.

"Oh, forgive me!" she said, ponitent v. "I-I am forgetting that it will cost so much money. What must you think of me?"

"Nothing but good," he returned. Don't think about the money, I haven't any better use for it that know of. You had better send for"he named a famous ecclesiastical architect-"Bright, and let him work his sweet will on the old place. It's pretty enough to deserve restoring. And now, thank Heaven, here's you brother!" he broke off, as Bobby vaultyour real gentry, Mrs. Murphy. Well, ed over the church-yard stile. "You'll Deane. Come and rescue me from the hands of these Goths and Vandals!" ands of these Goths and Vandals!"
There was a lightness in his tone

which almost startled Bobby. which almost startled Bobby.

"They've got at you already, have they, Lord Gaunt?" he said. "I meant to tip you a warning against them. Bright's bad enough, but my sister is far worse. If you let her have her way, she'll pull the place about your ears. You take my advice, and make a stand at once. Decie, my child, these are the

home, little girl, and play with your dolls: better still, get your toiling brother's lunch ready while he shows "It is lunch-time?" said Gaunt, lookbeen-well, particularly good this morning, wouldn't you like to reward me by coming up to the Hall and eating your lunch with me? Do; it's-

well, rather solitary up there." He looked at Bobby, but glanced first at Decima. "All right," said Bobby, promptly.

"Father-" began Decima; but Bob by waved the objection aside. "Father takes a biscuit and a glass of sherry in his den, you know," he

(To be continued.)





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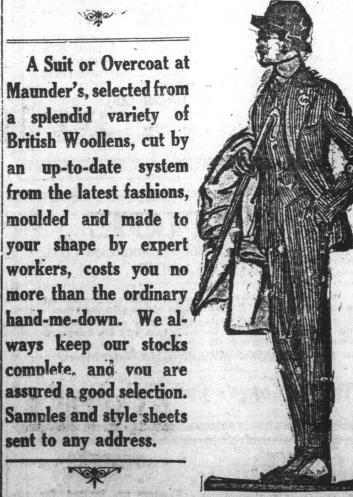
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