

CHAPTER XXVII.

"No, no, thank you. It was good of you to stay with me." The voice and ne were strangely gentle for the once stern and cynical earl. "You know that I quite appreciate your position, your disappointment. But my son, my son, Talbot! My own

"Yes, yes, sir; very natural," assented Talbot soothingly. "But you

"No no There is something I want to do. Come for me in half an hour. You need not be afraid to leave me.

There was the old tone of command

When he had gone the earl rose self by the furniture, went to the safe. He noticed the disordered conthe deeds and frowned thoughtfully, and presently he found

He laid it on the table and searchthere. Had Bolton taken it? No; he

conclusion. The keys had been in the

"Be it so!" he muttered. "He has digged a pit and fallen into it. He, a Denby, a common criminal! He has

Certainly Mr. Talbot Denby's un-

CHAPTER XXVIII. Viscount Denby! The son and help

of the earl!

It seemed incredible, and Ralph's friends, as they sat in conference in



the old-fashioned room of the Innonly quite recently raised to the dignity of an "hotel"—held an excited

Veronica sat at the table, her beautiful face flushed, her eyes sparkling with a pardonable pride.

looked like a gentleman in disguise, and spoke- The earl's son! Does he know it?"

Mr. Selby shook his head. He had

can rely on your statement, there is stomach, liver and bowels-made me the miniature, and the earl has acknowledged him; but I need scarcechooses to fight-" he shrugged his shoulders. "And, mind you, he has by no means a bad case; at any rate he could keep the law courts employed for a considerable period-"

him!" said Veronica.

Mr. Selby smiled grimly

"There is a famous case in which the mother 'recognized'—an imposter, Miss Gresham." he said. "But isn't there a more important question for us? Mr. Farringdon-"

-"Lord Denby," murmured Mr.

"I beg his pardon. Lord Denby, if you prefer it, is remanded on a charge

Veronica looked up quickly, and with a catch of her breath. "But you yourself said he ought to

Mr. Selby smiled again.

"So I should have said if the evi-

"Yes, yes; oh, yes, speak plainly,

"Well, then, it is absolutely neces-

"Some one may have killed him obbing him," suggested Mr. Saints-

Mr. Selby listened intently, nodding

"Good!" he said: "and you would She looked up with a proud smile. "Yes! I-I am proud of it!"

"I should like to have that girl, that Fanny Mason, in the

"The evidence is against us," remarked Mr. Saintsbury.

"I know; but if she were about that

the place that night, and she had seen

Mr. Selby's sharp eyes watched her

rised if he refuses to wait for the

ermission," said Mr. Selby. arly, and Welford followed with hi rdship's hat and fur coat.

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woman-that's why I write this let-

"Surely you are not going out, sir?

"You will let me go with you, sir-

It would make a favorable impression if he were seen accompanying The earl declined with a gesture.

"Thank you; but I prefer to be

alone," he said, and his eyes rested on Talbot's piercingly and with al-

dence had been twice as strong, Miss bitterness towards the man-the Den-Gresham. If I am to speak plainly-" by-who had stooped to rifle a safe punishment, as Talbot would discov-

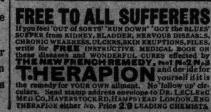
As the great barouche was passing

"No-thing!" she said, but her lips nica! I am grateful to you for that. You-you love him?"

> "With all my heart and soul!" she responded, her eyes glowing. "Oh. my lord, you do not know how good.

"At the risk of his life. I was there -I saw it." Her voice was low, but PICTURES-

"And you nursed him?"



Seemed to Have Lost All Ambition,

She was silent; then shook her "No, my lord, not until-until-"

"You don't think-there cannot be any doubt of his innocence in the son. Veronica! How could my sor be guilty of-of murder?"

"He is not guilty!" she said, very gently, "but-but we must find the

lord," she said. He winced, though she implied no

"Bolton shall see to it," he said. They had reached the prison by this

time, and he looked up at the build-

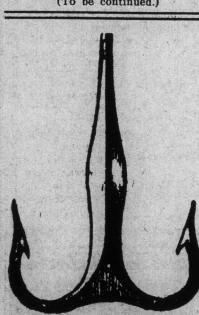
He ordered the coachman to take dog cart. He could not rest at the

Court and had driven in on the chance of hearing something further of "the case." He came forward with out-"Veronica! I am so glad to have

met you! What a terrible business She just touched his hand and stood

"Terrible to all of us, but more wish you every happiness. Of course,
Mr. Farringdon's Balah Donby as She was pale now, and her levely and destroy a will; but he kept si- Mr. Farringdon's-Ralph Denby, as gored, and is joined to the waist un- Frost, Mary, card we must now call him"-his lips der a belt. The round neck will be Ford, James, Ford's Lane

(To be continued.)



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