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GREEN PASTURES AND PICCADILLY.\*

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CHAPTER XII.

HAVEN AT LAST.

THE cut Balfour had received was merely a flesh-wound, and not at all serious; but of course when Lady Sylvia heard of the adventure in Westminster, she knew that he must have been nearly murdered, and she would go to him at once, and her heart smote her sorely that she should have been selfishly thinking of her own plans and wishes when this noble champion of the poor was adventuring his very life for the public good. She knew better than to believe the gibing account of the whole matter that Balfour sent her. He was always misrepresenting himself—playing the part of Mephistophles to his Faust—anxious to escape even from the loyal worship and admiration freely tendered him by one loving heart.

But when she insisted on at once going up to London, her father demurred. At that moment he had literally not a five-pound note he could lay his hands on; and

that private hotel in Arlington Street was an expensive place.

'Why not ask him to come down here for a few days?' Lord Willowby said. 'Wouldn't that be more sensible? Give him two or three days' rest and fresh air to recover him.'

'He wouldn't come away just now, papa,' said Lady Sylvia, seriously. 'He won't let any thing stand between him and his public duties.'

'His public duties!' her father said, impatiently. 'His public fiddle-sticks! What are his public duties?—to shoot out his tongue at the very people who sent him into Parliament?'

'He has no duties to *them*,' she said, warmly. 'They don't deserve to be represented at all. I hope at the next general election he will go to some other constituency. And if he does,' she added, with a flush coming to her cheeks, 'I know one who will canvass for him.'

'Go away, Sylvia,' said her father, with a smile, 'and write a line to the young man, and tell him to come down here. He will

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