

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Mabel. "Besides, you don't know

disappearance of Diana was discussed he lay at night staring into the darkin the servants' hall, and, though it ness. Then suddenly March turned sympathy that the servants talked and stood with white face and quiverthe hearts of every man and maid of the Wrayborough household, the subject was carried to the outside world: and by a natural coincidence it

Miss Bangs, whose breeding, unfortunately, was not equal to her wealth. encouraged her servants to gossin; and she listened with open ears-and mouth-to the story of Diana's flight: and an hour or two later, when Desmond March paid her one of his frequent visits, she said:

through her maid, who had a cousin

"Have you seen your cousin, Lord Dalesford, lately, dear?"

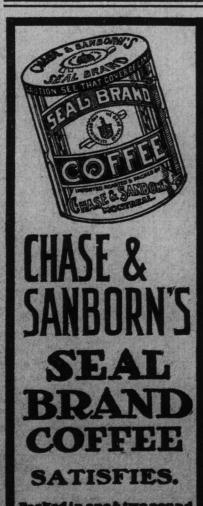
"Oh, yes," he replied with a smile by an accident. But he looks only the

"Perhaps he's fretting after his lady-love," suggested Miss Bangs,

Desmond March hated her when she giggled, but he pricked up his ears and asked her what she meant:

"Very," assented Miss Bangs, delighted at this display of interest by her flance, whom she usually found not easy to interest. "I wonder he doesn't set the police to work."

Desmond March smiled. It was not



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that the Wrayboroughs were not in the habit of placing their private affairs in the hands of the police. "Oh, he'll find her presently," he

worth while explaining to Miss Bangs

said. "Find her, and make it up and narry her-it would be just my luck." Of course the sudden and complete the Apollo; and kept him awake as on the light and sprang out of bed something that had filled him with

> The paroxysm passed quickly, and with a laugh he went to the spirit decanter and poured out some brandy. "It's-it's madness!" he muttered as he set down the glass. "Sheer madness. And yet-and yet- if it could only be done!"

> > CHAPTER XXIX.

One morning Vane took up the post-bag and unlocked it and began

to sort out the letters. "They look uncommonly like bills Mabel." he said as he handed her batch across. "Except this one. Bertie's handwriting. He's a good correspondent-he went to London only

for us," he added quickly, to hide the thing, and, of course, he's forgotten death, Miss Bangs would have no He's a nice boy, and I rather like cause to interest herself in his suc- him, but I wish he had some brains-

was husky and shook. He looked at his watch. "I must go up to town on business," he said. "Will you order the dog-cart for me? I must catch

There was only just time to drive and Miss Bangs retailed her maid's train as it was moving. Not once, but twenty times he looked at the let-"Quite a romance!" he said; and he ter which had moved him so greatly. went to the window and looked out and at every perusal his heart beat more quickly. From the terminus he what he is looking for?" he said took a cab to Lawyer Fielding's office, and found him alone and on the point of leaving.

He looked hard at Vane as he took

"You have heard news?" he said. Vane nodded and returned the lawer's gaze inquiringly.

"You, too, have heard, knowhe said swiftly. Mr. Fielding narrowed his eyes and

Whatever I may have heard or know, Lord Dalesford, I am pledged

Vane made a movement of repress

er?" asked Vane with eagerness. Mr. Fielding shook his head, then read the letter aloud. It was

er Street, by the river, at Chelsea o-morrow night at ten o'clock; and will explain everything. Destroy

this D" "It is strange," said Mr. Fielding

"It is typed; the envelope also is

"Yes; so I see. There is a reason or that. Miss Diana has a typewrit-

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o'clock this evening. Please God the young life and yours may be dispell-

another question, I beg, my lord!" he

him, but checked himself; and Vane It's a lonely spot you've chosen."

will be over," he said significantly. ter with the intention of bringing her

could not work; and at last he got up even if she did not disclose her preto Alpha Street, the street in which

"How late you are working, my dear!" he said. "Is it necessary, is it

answered the question before. "You want to see me? Is it about-Mr. Bourne? Have you seen him?" she asked in a low voice.

"No," he replied. "No; I have seen some one else-Lord Dalesford." Diana looked up quickly, then her

"Well? Oh, yes. Better than he She glanced up at the "of course."

With a little nod at her, he said, ra-"Why did you change your mind

He had considerately turned away



Develop your

"And why, if you had decided to see him, did you not meet him at my office instead of making an appointment at the end of Spencer Street,

but she had waded through the waters of a bitter experience; and she was on the alert, the defensive. She remained silent; and Mr. Fielding shrugged his shoulders.

"I see you do not mean to tell me. Ah, well, I am glad you have acted as you have. If you had seen Lord Dalesford, the joy, the hope, in his eyes, notwithstanding his suspense!

"To-night!" Diana's lips formed he words, and she glanced at the cheap clock on the mantel.

"Shall I go with you?" asked Mr. Fielding. "I think I ought to do so; to be near if-if you should want

"No," she said in a low voice. "I will go alone. I wonder whether I shall ever be able to thank you for all you have done for me?"

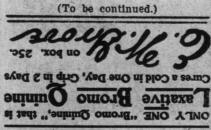
"If you really feel any gratitude for my poor and quite inefficient servicdark cloud that has hung over her es, my dear," he said promptly, "you in the morning. Oh, my child, don't The Frontier of the Heart, by Victor As he tore the paper across, Mr. the word. There, there! Sure you The British Army From Within, by

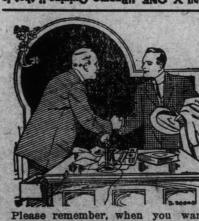
ten o'clock my troubles-and hers- one but Bourne. Had he sent the letand Vane together again? Had he? She must be at the place mentioned,

Vane walked to his club, and while the chop was being served, went into He heard the click of the type- the library and got a "Postal Direcwriter as Mrs. Burton opened the at- tory"; for in his excitement he had omitted to ask Mr. Fielding where The Daily Graphic War Cartons Week-

at the clock or listen to its striking Garland's Bookstores.

At last it was time he started! He sprang up with a flush on his face his eyes shining, his heart beating She shook her head as if she had fast. A footman helped him on with





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# dence in you. It is joy enough for me to know that she is alive—and well?" Mr. Fielding shook his head. "Not another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and another question I be a stand that, as you know, Go and a stand that the standard that



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