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TWO HEARTS UNITED

CHAPTER XXV.

The earl smiled, a grim smile. "And this man you suspect of murder?" he said, contemptuously.

"Yes, my lord, the evidence is so strong. If your lordship will please

the desk, actually almost touched the

-let him go to Lord Saintsbury-one of the other magistrates! I-I beg I implore your lordship not to make

The earl lowered the pen and, his face flushed and working, stared at the trembling man.

"What ails you, Whetstone?" he demanded, sternly, and yet with a strange quaver in his voice. "Why should I not? What reason-what is this young man to me that I should not issue a warrant for his apprehen-

Talbot, who had drawn near, looking from one to the other, wiped his lips covertly and lowered his lids, and as Whetstone, apparently crushed and daunted by the earl's sternness, cowered and sank into a chair. Talbot murmured:

"My advice, too, sir! Let the mat ter go into someone else's hands." The earl glared at him angrily. then with a firm hand made out the

"There it is, Grey," he said. "Do your duty, as I have done mine! Grey took the warrant and went out. Talbot followed him into the

Talbot's face was now ashen and his same train. Veronica's calmness and too, a strange look-it might have blow amazed even Saintsbury, been called one of apprehension and dread-in his dark eyes.

"Yes-ves!" said Talbot. "It-it came so suddenly. I was so pared. Er-did you"-his hand went He turned aside as he asked the

uestion as if he could scarcely face "One or two things, sir. A knife-

"He hadn't time," said Talbot, ab-

ipe and a little money."

words seemed to leave the white lip as if they were spoken with difficult 'No-no papers? I-I mean would help to identify the man?

"No. Mr. Talbot, there were no pa pers, nothing of that kind." He wait

shaking hands and tried to think With difficulty he got a decanter o brandy from the cellaret, poured him self out a glassful, and drank it. The pocket-book had not been foundwhat was there in that fact to dismay him? It should rather give him courage; for doubtless the thing had fallen from the man's pocket and was

they'll hang him, they must!"

"You are Ralph Farringdon?" said the commonplace-looking man had entered the room in which the

tect him, one arm across his breast, the other extended towards the detective. Mr. Saintsbury rose, white with consternation. Ralph was the first to

with the murder of James Oatway, at

"You-you are not afraid, Ralph?" she cried, hoarsely.

He smiled down at her as he slow-

The arrest had been made quietly and as quietly Ralph was conveyed not be said that Veronica, George sympathetically, for Mr. Saintsbury, and Ada travelled by the

> "Why should I be afraid or cas down?" she said. "I know that he is will let me," she said, very quietly,

> hoped, for a few minutes. But little was said as they clung to each other and Veronica did not even cry.

> will elt me," she said, very quietly. haps before many hours. Ah, dear-

down to breakfast for the first time

"He is in Halsery gaol, my lord," said Grey, after he had given an account of the arrest. "Mr. Slocombe from London, who took him, says that he was astonishingly calm, and, course, declared his innocence."

"Of course," said Talbot, who still ooked white and haggard.

The earl glanced at him sharply. "I'm inclined to think he's right. Is that all, Grey?" for the inspector

seemed to hesitate. "Er-I thought I ought to say, my ord, that Miss Veronica is at the Doebuck Hotel at Halsery-she and the father and the little girl Farringdon rescued from the fire."

Talbot started, but the earl did not move a muscle, though his eyes grew

"The examination is at two o'clock,

"I will be there, on the bench," said he earl, grimly. "Surely you will not go, sir," put in

"Look out some dark clothes," said Talbot, in the coldly insolent voic with which he always addressed the

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"I am going to the Court t

Yes, sir," said Gibbon. He turned to go, then hesitated, and came back. was thinking of asking you to let me leave your service, Mr. Denby," he

Talbot looked over his shoulder a

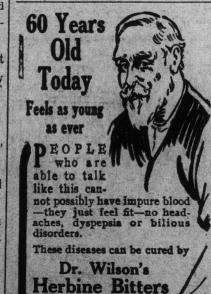
"Oh. you were?" he said, with sneer. "Then abandon the thought. I do not intend to let you go. Strange

was thinking you'd be so kind as to give me the remainder. It would be

you-you jail-bird! Ah!" as Gibbon winced and an unhealthy red stole into his pallid face. "You'd forgotter

"Don't-don't threaten me. Mr. Denby," he said, almost pleadingly.

At another time Talbot might have



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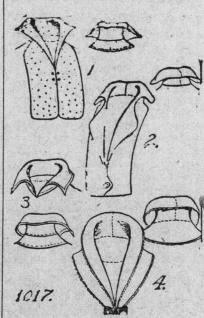
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