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Ourfitting

The Face Behind the Mask.

A ROMANCE.

have ever known and the most eventful one of my life."
"And the end is not yet. Leoline waits to decide between us."

Sir Norman shrugged his should-"True! But I have little doubt what that decision will be. I pre. sume you will have to deliver your prisoners before you can visit her, and I will avail myself of the opportunity to snatch a few mo-ments to fulfill a melancholy duty of

my own."
"As you please; I have no objection; but in that case you will need someone to guide you to the place of rendezvous; so I will order my private attendant, yonder, to keep you in sight, and guide you to me when

your business is ended."

The count had given the order to start, the moment they had left the ruin, and the conversation had been carried on while riding at a break-neck gallop. Sir Norman thanked him for his offer, and they rode in silence until they reached the city, and their paths diverged; Sir Norman's leading to the apothecary's shop where he had left Ormiston, and the count's leading-he best knew where. George—the attendant referred to—joined the knight, and leaving his Horse in his care, Sir Norman entered the shop, and en-countered the spectral proprietor at

the door. "What of my friend?" 'was his "Has he yet shown signs of returning consciosness?"

"Alas, no! replied the apothecary, with a groan, that came wailing up like a whistle; 'he was so excessively dead, that there was no use keeping him; and as the room was wanted for other purposes, I—pray, my dear sir, don't look so violent—I put him in the pest-cart and had him "In the plague-pit!" shouted Sir

Norman, making a spring at him; but the man darted off like a ghostly flash into the inner room, and closed and bolted the door in a

twinkling. Sir Norman kicked at it spitefully, but it resisted his every effort; and, overcoming a strong temptation to smash every bottle in the shop, he sprang once more into the saddle, and rode off to the plague-pit. It was the second time within the last twelve hours he had stood there; and, on the previous occasion, he who now lay in it, had stood by his side. He looked down, sickened and horror-struck. Perhaps, before another morning, he, too, might be there; and feeling his blood run cold at the thought, he was turning away like to see the face behind this when someone came rapidly up, and sank down, with a moaning, gasping cry on its very edge. That shape—tall and slender, and grace-ful—he knew very well; and leaning over her, he laid his hand on her shoulder, and exclaimed:

CHAPTER XXI.

"La Masque!"

The cowering form rose up, but eing who it was, sank down again, with its face in the dust, and with another prolonged, moaning cry.
"Madame Masque!" he said, wondering, "what is this?"

He bent to raise her; but, with e to keep him back. "No, no no! Touch me not! Hate

me-kill me! I have murdered your Sir Norman recoiled as if from a

deadly serpent. . "Murdered him! Madame, in heav en's name, what have you said?"
"Oh, I have not stabbed him, or poisoned him, or shot him; but I m his murderer, nevertheless!" she

wailed, writhing in a sort of gnawwailed, writhing in a sort of ghaving inward torture.

"Madame, I do not understand you at all. Surely you are raving when you talk like this."

Still moaning on the edge of the plague-pit, she half rose up, with both hands clasped tightly over her heart, as is she would have held back from all human ken the anguish that was destroying her.

that was destroying her.

'No—no, I am not mad—pray
heaven I were! Oh, that they had
strangled me in the first hour of my birth, as they would a viper, rather than I should have lived through all

this life of misery and guilt, to end it by this last, worst crime of all." Sir Norman stood and looked at her with a dazed expression. He knew well enough whose murderer she called herself; but why she did so, or how she could possibly bring about his death was a mystery also about his death was a mystery altogether too deep for him to solve.

"Madame, compose yourself, I be-seech you, and tell me what you mean. It is to my friend, Ormis-ton, you allude—is it not?" Yes-yes; surely you need not

'I know that he is dead and buried in this horrible place; but why should accuse yourself of murdering him, I confess I do not

"Then you shall," she cried pas-onately. "And you will wonder at no longer. You are the last one to whom the revelation can ever be why buy for each while you can buy goods at the per week and upwards.

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Made on earth; and now that my hours are numbered, it matters little whether it is told or not. Was it not you who first found him dead?"

"It was —yes. And how he came to his end, I have been puzzling myself in vain to discover ever since."

She rose up, drew herself to her full majestic height, and looked at him with a terrible glanca.

"Snall I tell meth 'You have no hand in it," he answered, with a cold chill at the tone and look, "for he loved you." "I have had a hand in it—I alone have been the cause of it. But for me he would be living still."
"Madame!" exclaimed Sir Norman

in horror. You need not look as if you thought me mad; for I tell you it is

heaven's truth! You say right—he loved me; but for that love he would be living now!"
"He told you that, did he?" "He did. He told me you were to remove your mask, and if, on seeing

you, he still loved you, you were to be his wife."
"Then woe to bim for ever having extorted such a promise from me. Oh, I warned him again and again, and again. I told him it would be, I begged him to desist, but he was blind; he was mad; he would rush on to his own doom! Lifulfilled my promise, and behold the result!"

She pointed with a frantic gesture to the plague-pit and wrung her beautiful hands with the same moan-

ing of anguish.
"Do I hear aright?" said Sir Norman, looking at her, and really doubting if his ears had not deceived him. Do you mean to say that in keeping your word and showing him your face you have caused his death?

"I do. I had warned him of the be fore. I told him there were sights too horrible to look on and live, but nothing would convince him! why was the curse of life ever be-stowed upon such a hideous thing as

Sir Norman gazed at her in a state of hopeless bewilderment. thought, from the' moment he saw her first, there was something wrong with her brain, to make her act in such a mysterious, ecentric sort of way; but he nad never positively thought her so far gone as this. In his own mind, ae set her down now as being mad as a March hare, and accordingly answered in that sooth-

ing tone people use to imbeciles:
"My dear Madame Masque, pray de not excite yourself, or say such dreadful things. I am sure you would not wilfully cause the death of anyone, much less that of one who loved you as he did."

La Masque broke into a wild laugh almost worse to hear than her former despairing moans.

"The man thinks me mad. He will

not believe, unless he sees and knows for himself. Perhaps you, too, Sir Norman Kingsley," she cried, changlike to see the face behind this -would like to see what has slain your friend, and share his fate?"

"Certainly," said Sir Norman. should like to see it, and I think may safely promise not to die from the effects. But, surely, madame you deceive yourself; no face, how ever ugly, even supposing you to possess such a one—could possibly produce such dismay as to cause death. "You shall see."

"You shall see."
She was looking down into the plague-pit, standing so close to its cracking edge, that Sir Norman's blood ran cold in the momentary expectation to see her slip and fall headlong in. Her voice was less fierce and wild, but her hands were still clasped tigntly over her heart as if to ease the unutterable pain there. uddenly she looked up and said, in

an altered tone:
"You have lost Leoline."
"And found her again. She is in the ower of one Count L'Estrange.
"And If in his power, pray,

have you found her?"
"Because we are both to meet in her presence within this very hour, and she is to decide between us." 'Has Count L'Estrange promise

you this?"
"He has."
"And you have no doubt what he decision will be?"
"Not the slightest."

"How came you to know she was earried off by this count!"
"He confessed it himself."
"Voluntarily?"
"No: I taxed him with it, and he

owned to the deed; but he volu romised to take me to her and abid

by her decision."
"Extraordinary!" said La Masqu as if to herself. "Whimsical as he is.

I scarcely expected he would give her
up so easily as this." "Then you know him, said Sir Norman, pointedly

"There are few things I do not not penetrate. So you have discovered it too?"

"No, madame, my eyes were not sharp enough, nor had I sufficient cleverness, even, for that. It was Hubert, the Earl of Rochester's page who told me who he was." "Ah, the page. You have been speaking to him. What do you think of his resemblance to Leoline?"

"I think it is the most astonishing resemblance I ever saw. But he is not the only one who bears Leon 'And the other is?"

"The other is she whom you sent me to see in the old ruins. Madame, I wish you would tell me the secret of this wonderful likeness; for I am certain you know, and I am equally

certain you know, and I am equally certain it is not accidental."
"You are right. Leoline knows already; for, with the presentiment that my end was near, I visited her when you left, and gave her the whole history in writing. The explanation is simple enough. Leoline, Miranda and Hubert are sisters and brother." ble for easting.

To be Continued

importance of the symptoms. There are many other complaints peculiar to women. All women to cure themselves. When we recommend Dr. Coderre's Red Pills to them, we are right and we know the efficacy of this remedy and we can prove what we say, although we do not want to say too much. We would rather leave it to someone who has been cured by our remedy. We give you the

our remedy. We give you the lowing ladies to whom you can

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now. I am so thankful to have been able
to procure Dr. Coderre's Red Pills and I
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chester, N. H., writes:
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THE UNTOLD.

Why Mrs. Cavil Failed to Be Inform ed by Bet Hesband. didn't tell you, did I, Mildred, said Mr. Cavil to bis wife, "that I saw

your sister Jane down town this day "No. you didn't, Charles Augustus Cavil," replied Mrs. Cavil. "Why didn't

you?" "Well, you see"-"Yes, I see. You meet the only sister I have in the world, and instead of coming straight home and telling me about it the same day, as any respectable husband would have done, you keep the matter secret a whole and then ask carelessly if you have

mentioned the fact that you saw ber." "But, my dear"-"Don't but me. Charles Augustus Cavil. I have no doubt that she sent me message by you, and you not only failed to deliver it, but by this time

you have forgotten what it was about. Tell me if this isn't the case." "My dear, it was this way"-"Don't tell me it was that way, Charles Augustus Cavil. I know ex-actly how it was. You simply didn't care a straw whether I knew that you had seen Sister Jane or not or you would not have walted a whole week

to tell me you had seen her."
"But I didn't say I saw her." Mr. Cavil said at length. "Then I'd like to know what you did

say, Charles Augustus Cavil," "I asked you if I told you that I saw her." explained Mr. Cavil.

"Well, why didn't you tell me?" "The reason I didn't tell you was because I didn't see her; that's all." Mrs. Cavil gasped and was speech

A Trick of Indian Thieves. In some of the thieves' schools in India a regular course of training is gone through in the art of "pouching." or concealing articles of value in the throat. The Englishman, a newspaper published in Calcutta, thus des

"At first a small piece of lead, at tached to a thread, is swallowed and guided by the action of the tongue to the orifice of the sac in the throat. As soon as this has been thoroughly learned the lead is coated with lime. This eats into the sac and enlarges it. The size of the article to be pouched is gradually increased until it is said that many of the Indian thieves can pouch 8 or 10 rupees at once."-Torono Mail and Empire.

As is well known, some metals are ensuitable for casting, while others, like iron, can readily be cast in any desired shape. The property of casting well is said to depend upon whether the metal contracts or expands on solidifying from the liquid form. Iron, like water, expands in solidifying, and hence the solid metal may be seen floating in the liquid iron about it. The expansion causes it to fill the die into which it is poured, and so it can be cast easily. Gold and silver contract

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