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tralia and gone to Canada?"

"His doing so is as inexplicable

anmore's story of his death?"

"He was obviously mistaken."

of the drawing room with a newspaper

in her hand. She greeted him with

"Do come and tell me about things

"There is a great deal of distress,

She looked at him with wide one

He watched her for a moment in

finement, the costly elegance which

lette was in some way also respon-

sible. Her white satin dress was cut

was beginning to appreciate as evi-

gold studded with opals and diamonds

"You think so?"

Brooks hesitated.

"It is cortain "

"Never. Why should I?"

"None!

"Entirely."

CHAPTER XIII. Charity the "Crime"

There followed a busy time for Brooks, the result of which was a very marked improvement in his prospects. For the younger Morrison and his partner, loth to lose altogether the valuable Enton connection, offered Brooks a partnership in their firm. Mr. "Do you know that lately I have met Ascough, who was Lord Arranmore's a traveller-a man who visited Lord London solicitor, and had been Brooks Arranmore in Canada, and who declarguardian, after careful consideration ed to his certain knowledge there was advised his acceptance, and there be no other human dwelling house within ing nothing in the way, the arrange lifty miles of Lord Arranmore's caments were pushed through almost bin." at once. Mr. Ascough, on the morning of his return to London, took the opportunity warmly to congratulate

"Lord Arranmore has been marvellously kind to me.' 'Brooks agreed. "To tell you the truth, Mr. Ascough, ty I have felt once or twice lately, I feel almost inclined to add incom- owing to the report of the traveller prehensibly kind."

moustache thoughtfully.

Lord Arranmore is eccentric," he a philanthropist by any means, nor in

friendship or connection between him chimerical. Accept Lord Arranmore's there are people starving. How they and my father was in any way a less kindness as the offshoot of some sentimust hate us." slight thing than I have been led to mental feeling which he might well must nate us.
"It is the wonderful part of it," he butler announced.

"All that Lord Arranmore has told own advantage." me," he said, "is that my father occupied a cabin not far from his on the banks of Lake One that they said. "Yours, after occupied a cabin not far from his on the banks of Lake One that they said. "Yours, after occupied a cabin not far from his on the banks of Lake One that they said."

"You "It is my blood, I suppose," he and then?" banks of Lake Ono, that they saw lit- all, is the common sense view of the tle of each other, and that he only affair. If you like I will walk up to of a pauper hospital." found out his illness by accident. the station. I am going that way." That my father then disclosed his So Brooks, convinced of their folly, she asked, softly. name, gave him his papers and your finally discarded certain uncomfortaddress. There was merely the casu- able thoughts which once or twice al intercourse between two English- lately had troubled him. He dined at men coming together in a strange Enton that night, and improved his

"That is what I have always under- her daughter, who were still staying stood." Mr. Ascough agreed. "Have there. Although this was not a matyou any reason to think otherwise?" ter which he had mentioned to Mr. "No definite reason—except Lord Ascough, there was something which Arranmore's unusual kindness to me," he found more inexplicable even than

Brooks remarked. "Lord Arranmore Lord Arranmore's transference of the is one of the most self-centred men I care of his estates to him, and that Why, therefore, he should go out of which both he and Lady Caroon gave his way to do me a kindness I can to the friendship between Sybil and

"If this is really an enigma to you," twice in Medchester, and more often Mr. Ascough answered, "I cannot help still the Enton barouche had been kept more than usual closeness, to give he could have offended her. you to solve it. Lord Arranmore has waiting at his office whilst Lady Carhim something of a Mephistopheles asbeen the reverse of communicative oom and Sybil descended upon him to me. I am afraid you must fall back with invitations from Lord Arranmore. upon his lordship's eccentricity."

tained him. "You have plenty of time for your zle.

train," he said. "Will you forgive me On the evening of this particular if I go over a little old ground with you visit he found Sybil alone in a recess -for the last time?"

The lawyer resumed his seat. "I am in no hurry," he said, "if obvious pleasure. you think it worth while."

"My father came to you when he was living at Stepney—a stranger to reading the local paper. Is it true

that there are actually people starv-"A complete stranger." Mr. Ascough ing in Medchester?" agreed. "I had never seen him before in my life. I did a little trifling he admitted, gravely. "I am afraid

business for him in connection with that it is true." his property." "He told you nothing of his family

eyes. or relatives?" "He told me that he had not a re-"I thought that there were societies lation in the world." who dealt with all that sort of thing.

"You knew him slightly, then?" and behind, the the workhouse." Brooks continued, "all the time he was in London? And when he left for swered. "but you must remember that societies are no use unless people will that voyage he came to you."

subscribe to them, and that there are "He made over his small income a great many people who would soonthen to my mother in trust for me. er starve than enter the workhouse." Did it strike you as strange that he "But surely," she exclaimed, "there should do this instead of making a is no difficulty about getting moneyif people only understand."

"Not particularly," Mr. Ascough declared. "As you know, it is not an silence-suddenly appreciating the reunusual course."

"It did not suggest to you any de seemed in itself to be a part of the

termination on his part never to re- girl, and yet for which surely her toiturn to England?" "Certainly not."

"He left England on friendly terms and fashioned in a style which he with my mother?"

"Certainly. She and he were people dence of skill and costliness. A string for whom I and every one who knew of pearls around her throat gleamed anything of their lives had the high- softly in the firelight. A chain of fine est esteem and admiration."

for my father leaving England for wore few rings indeed, but they were I was going to be inveigled into a congood?"

"You know of no reason why he And there were thousands like her. mean, especially as at your age you thought of a definite career and a cer-

she reminded him.

and many have given most generous- balance is on the wrong side." ly, but for all that we cannot cope with such distress as there is today smiled back at her. in Medchester. I am secretary for one of the distribution societies, and yet," he said. "Let us hear the worst." lutely back; her smile, which was al-I have seen things which are enough to sadden a man for life, only during the last few days."

timidity in her face.

He laughed bitterly. should have abandoned his trip to Aus-"You have never doubted Lord Ar. "One more question," Brooks said.

her hands.

things must rest."

"My question," he said, "will have given you some idea of the uncertaincheque."

Lacroix, and Lord Arranmore's unache isn't an ordinary man. He is not you have felt that you wanted to give them that there are more tomorrow, less it had ribbon and frilly things remarked. "Has always been eccenaryway a person likely to do kindly ly of me for coming over here to help the lower classes look this thing in She laughed.

Mr. Ascough shrugged his shoulders. countryman by whose death-bed he do. I suppose it is a sort of fatalism "Lord Arranmore," he said, "has had stood in that far-away, lonely —the same sort of thing, only much told you, no doubt, all that there is country. You may even yourself be less ignoble, as the indifference which mistaken in Lord Arranmore's charkeeps our rich people contented and starving." Brooks sat at his desk, frowning acter, and you can remember, too, that deaf to this terribly human cry." Brooks sat at his desk, frowning acter, and you can remark to you slightly and tapping the blotting paper after all what means so much to you with a pen holder.

"You are young," she said, looking at him, "to be so much interested in

missionary and my mother the matron such a delightful idea of yours, and their own little circle, and a solitary "They are both dead, are they not?"

"Many years ago," he answered.

acquaintance with Lady Caroon and

people." Syhil answered "and it is not an amusing subject." there was a touch of scorn in the and I have only to get into a car."

pect. His evening clothes hung with ed, "since the evening of your dinnermore than ordinary precision about party." After his talk with Mr. Ascough he his long slim body, his black tie and Mr. Ascough rose, but Brooks deput the matter behind him, but it black pearl stud supplied the touch remained at times an inexplicable puz-of sombreness so aptly in keeping with the mirthless, bitter smile which still

parted his lips. "You must not take Mr. Brooks too seriously-on the subject of the poor people," he said, the mockery of his smile well matched in his tone. "Mr. Brooks is an enthusiast-one, I am Mr. Brooks," she begged. "I have been afraid, of those misguided people who have barred the way to progress for centuries. If only they could be converted!"

Lady Caroom sighed. "Oh, dear, how enigmatic!" she exclaimed. "Do be a little more expli-

"Dear lady," he continued, turning "But I don't understand," she said. to her. "it is not worth while. Yet I sometimes wonder whether people realize how much harm this hysterical philanthropy—this purely senti-"So there are, Lady Sybil,' 'he anmental faddism, does; how it retards the natural advance of civilization throws dust in people's eyes, salves the easy conscience of the rich man, who bargains for immortality with a few strokes of the pen, and finds mischievous occupation for a good many weak minds and parasitical females. for a woman's magazine in London, It is a good deal worse than that. It and they have half promised me a

is a crime." Sybil rose up, a little unusual had stained her cheeks. "I still do not understand you in

the least, Lord Arranmore," she said. "It seems to me that you are making paradoxical and ridiculous statements. which only bewilder us. Why is charity a crime? That is what I should like to hear you explain."

Lord Arranmore howed slightly. "I had no idea." he said, leaning "You can imagine no reason, then, reached almost to her knees. She his elbow upon the mantel piece, "that you went in for anything of the sort." such rings as he had never seen be- troversy. But, my dear Sybil, I will enough," she answered. "Yet you can answered. "How long before that I fore he had come as a guest to Enton. do my best to explain to you what I scarcely be surprised that I find the do not know."

A momentary flash of thought carried are not likely to discover the truth tain amount of independence attraction him back to the days of the French for yourself. In the first place, chari-Revolution. There was a print hang- ty of any sort is the most insidious He ing in his room of a girl as fair and destroyer of moral character which as proud as this one, surrounded by a fierce rabble mad with lunger and the pent-up rage of generations, tear-

ing the jewels from her fingers, tear- tem can never be thoroughly cleans- ties, which he had realized and u ing ever, he thought, the trimming ed. You let him loose upon society; and the evil which you have some in and the evil which you have sown in self well, she walked with the free "You do not answer me, Mr. Brooks, him spreads. He is like a man with graceful movements of a well-bred and an infectious disease. He is a source healthy girl. In her face was an air He recovered himself with a start, of evil to the community. You have of quiet thought, the self-possession HAULTAIN, CROSS & JONAH "I beg your pardon, Lady Sybil. relieved a physical want, and you of the woman of culture and experi-Your question set me thinking. We have destroyed a moral quality. I do ence. Her claim to good looks was, have tried to make people understand, not need to point out to you that the after all, slight enough, yet on study-

smiled back at her.

"Lord Arranmore has not finished naturally mavy, was brushed too reso-

Their host smiled. my breath? From the teens to the gested a life of repression, and with "You have seen people—really hun-thirties sentiment smiles. It is only his knowledge of the Bullsom menage gry?" she asked, with something like later on in life that reason has any he was able to surmise some glimshow at all. Yet you should ask yourselves, you eager self-denying young "You are right," he declared. "That we see every moment of the people, who go about with a healthy think that I can understand what your time we spend down amongst them," moral glow inside because you have feeling must be. I am sure I wish you PEVERETT & HUTCHINSON he answered. "I have seen worse fed the poor, or given an hour or so luck." things. I have seen the sapping away of your time to the distribution of The touch of sympathy helped her of character—men become thieves and women worse—to escape from starvation. That, I think, is the greatest tragedy of all. It makes one shudder when one thinks that on the shoulders of many people some portion of the the inside is filthy. Don't you see, natured and very hospitable, and I other first class compan of many people some portion of the the inside is filthy. Don't you see, natured and very nospitable, and i scanning the see of these my dear young people, that to give a am afraid his limitations will not personally now I see of these my dear young people, that to give a small limitations will not personally now I see of the see

contents of a gold chain purse into ing towards preventing another stary-course, merely his echo." ing man from taking his place tomor-"It is we who are wicked, Mr. row. You stimulate the disease, you Brooks said. "I am sure of that. For Brooks," she said, "who spend no end help it to spread. Don't you see where a man who is naturally of an obstingo to some of the women you know, starving man? You let them remain to free himself from all prejudices." or six pounds there, but I shall talk over one another in frantic efforts to is very down on the independent woto mamma. We will send you a brush away today's effect of an eterman. He would make housekeepers nal cause. Let your starving man and cooks of all of us."

He took the money without hesita. die, let the bones break through his "I am very glad," he said, earnest- wife and their children, and their fel- tious than that. I am sure Selina it me. I hope you won't think too bad- more the next day, let the millions of over it."

"Dinner is served, my lord," the

"Come." he said. "let us all be char-

CHAPTER XIV. An Awkward Question

"You think they really liked it

simple and yet suggestive. Good-night, Yet if you have friends—and tastes— Mr. Brooks." They stood in the doorway of the ating I used to find it just at first-Lady Caroom and Lord Arranmore Secular Hall, where Brooks had just before the chill came. You, too, will

came in together. A certain ususual delivered his lecture. It seemed to feel that. You will be content at first seriousness in Sybil's face was mani- him that her farewell was a little to watch, to listen, to wonder! Every abrupt.

"Mr. Brooks has been answering "I was going to ask," he said some of my questions about the poor "whether I might not see you home."

She hesitated. "Really" she said "I wish you would Lord Arranmore laughed lightly, and not trouble. It is quite a long way, of London, the voices of the street, slight curve of his fine lips and his She made no further objection, yet great wheel of humanity as it goes ever knew—and the least impulsive. was the apparent encouragement slight curve of his line lips and his brooks fancied that her acquiescence raised eyebrows. He stood away from the shaded lamplight before a great was to some extent, involuntary. He open fire of cedar logs, and the red walked by her side in silence for a himself. They had lunched with him glow falling fitfully upon his face moment or two, wondering whether seemed to Brooks, watching him with there was indeed any way in which

"You were out when I called." "I have so many things to do-just now. We can get a car here." "It is too full," he said, "Let us

walk on for a little way. I want to The car was certainly full, so after a moment's hesitation she acquiesced.

"You will bring your girls again, I hope?" he asked. "They will come I have no doubt, she answered. "So will I if I am in

Medchester." "You are going away?"

"I hope so," she answered. "I an not quite sure.' "Not for good?" "Possibly."

"Won't you tell me about it?" he "Well-I don't know!" She hesitated for a moment "I will tell you if you like," she

said, doubtfully. "But I do not wish anything said about it at present, as my arrangements are not complete.' "I will be most discreet," he prom-"I have been doing a little work

definite post on the staff. I am to hear in a few days as to the conditions. If they are satisfactory—that is to say, if I can keep myself on what they offer-I shall go and live in London."

He was surprised, and also in sense disappointed. It was astonishing to find how unpleasant the thought of her leaving Medchester was to

"I had no idea of this," he said. thoughtfully. "I did not know that "My literary ambitions are slight

He stole a sidelong glance at her. balance is on the wrong side." ing her he came to the conclusion that Sybil glanced at Brooks, and he she could if she chose appear to much ing her he came to the conclusion the greater advantage. Her hair, soft and

ways charming, she suffered to appear Their host smiled. ways charming, she suffered to appear "After all," he said, "why do I waste only at the rarest intervals. She sug- Office mering of the truth.

hings must rest."

meal to one starving man may be to mit him to appreciate exactly how I
Her lips quivered. She emptied the do him indeed good, but it does nothfeel about it. And my aunt is, of

of money and close our ears to all instead you should turn—to the social ate turn of mind I think your uncle EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT of money and close our ears to all instead you should turn to the state of mind I think you the EXCLUSIVELY.

this. Do take this, will you; can it laws, the outcome of which is that is wonderful. He makes great efforts Office: Northern Bank Building, Re go to some of the women you know, starving man. There are only five unharmed, untouched, while you fall "Unfortunately," she remarked, "he office Hours—9 to 12, 2 to 5 and 7 to 8

"Surely" he protested with a quiet skin and carry him up him and his smile, "your cousins are more ambi-wife and their children, and their fel-tious than that. I am sure Selina (Over Dominion Bank) The older man stroked his grey countable kindness to me. You see, ly, "that you have given me this, that lows—to your House of Commons. Tell would never wear a cooking-apron, un-

tric, and will remain so, I suppose, to the end of the chapter. You are the one who profits, however, and I am one who profits are the love of them. Now, you spend a pleasant evening one who profits, however, and I am one who profits are the love of them. Now, you spend a pleasant evening the latest the face. I tell you that either by a contract the face of t the situation clearer to me?"

"Eccentricity," Brooks remarked,
"I cannot, Mr. Brooks," the older for telling me what you have done.

"Badly: she repeated. No, I shall or by less drastic means, the thing she died Mr. Bullsom paid my passes would right itself. You, who work sage home, and insisted upon my com-"is, of course, the only obvious explanation of his generosity so far as I am concerned. But it has occurred to me, Mr. Ascough, to wonder whether the Mr. Ascough, to wonder whether the following the man answered, without hesitation. "If makes one feel almost wicked to be sitting me what you have done. It makes one feel almost wicked to be sitting here, and wearing jewelry, and ble yourself any more with fancies which seem to me—pardon me—quite which seem to think that I am which seem to me—pardon me—quite which seem to me sometimes becomes a little difficult. "Have you friends in London?" he

> "None! I tried living there when I first came back for a few weeks but it was impossible." "You will be very lonely, surely

London is the loneliest of all grea

"That is what I too asked myself years ago when I was articled there," BROWN, THOMSON & BROWN he answered. "Yet it is not so easy "How could they help it? It was as it sounds. Everyone seems to hav I am sure all that you said was so person remains so often just outside. London is a paradise. Oh, how fascin type of humanity passes before you like the jumbled-up figures of a kaleidoscope. You are content even to sit doscope. You are content even to sit up in first mortgages or school de-before a window in a back street—and bentures to yield very attractive rates listen. What a sound that is-the roar the ceaseless hum, the creaking of the round and round. And then, perhaps, in a certain mood the undernote falls and they found themselves in the drive upon your ear, the bitter, long-drawn- leading to the Bullsom villa, Brooks out cry of the hopeless and helpless. When you have once heard it, life is

> do not find friends, you will know what misery is." They were both silent for a few ninutes. A car passed them unnoticed. Then she looked at him curiously. "For a lawyer," she remarked, "you are a very imaginative person."

> He laughed. "Ah, well, I was talking just then of how I felt in those days. I was a boy then, you know. I dare say could go back now to my old rooms and live there without a thrill." She shook her head.

"What one has once felt," she mur nured, "comes back always." "Sometimes only the echo," he answered. " and that is weariness." They walked for a little way in silence. Then she spoke to him in an think of Lord Arranmore."

altered tone. "I have heard a good deal about you during the last few weeks," she see his face distinctly. There was a gratulated, they tell me. I am sure I of trouble in his grey eyes. am very glad that you have been so

fortunate. "Thank you." he answered. "To tell you the truth, it all seems very mar- to me, although my claim upon him ago your uncle was almost my only clever, almost fantastic, in some client of importance."

friend though, was he not?" "They came together abroad," he with my father when he died in Can-

She stopped short.

"Where?" "In Canada, on the banks of Lake noticed that she was bale.

"So Lord Arranmore was in Cana da?" she said. "Do you know how long ago?" "About ten years, I suppose," he

She was silent for several minutes.

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was curious.

"I wonder" he saked "whether vo never the same again. Then, if you will tell me why you are interested in Lord Arranmore—and Canada?" "I was born in Montreal," she an swered, "and I once saw some one very much like Lord Arranmore there But I am convinced that it could only have been a resemblance."

"You mentioned it before-when we saw him in Mellor's." he remarked. "Yes, it struck me then," she admi ted. "But I am sure that Lord Arranmore could not have been the person whom I am thinking about. It is ridiculous of me to attach so much mportance to a mere likeness."

They stood upon the doorstep bu she checked him as he reached out for the bell. "You have seen quite a good dea of him." she said. "Tell me what you His hand fell to his side. He stood

under the gasbracket, and she coul said. "You are very much to be con- slight frown upon his forehead, a look "You could not have asked me more difficult question," he adn "Lord Arranmore has been very kin

vellous to me. Only a few months has been of the slightest. He is very his notions; he is very polished, an "Lord Arranmore was your father's his manners are delightful. He wou call himself. I believe, a philose and he is, although it sounds bruta answered, "and Lord Arranmore was for me to say so, very selfish. And behind it all I haven't the faintest idea what sort of a man he is. Sometim he gives one the impression of a stro man wilfully disguising his real char acteristics, for hidden reasons; at One, if you know where that is," he others, he is like one of those brilliant answered, looking at her in surprise. She resumed her usual pace, but he toyed and juggled with words and phrases, esteeming it a trimuph to remain an unread letter even to their intimates. So you see, after all," he wound up, "I cannot tell you what ! think of Lord Arranmore."

"You can ring the bell," she said "You must come in for a few min (To be Continued.)

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