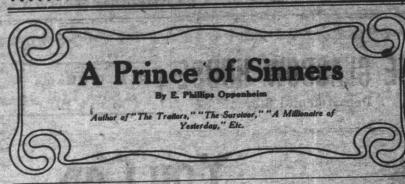
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CHAPTER XX.

neglected, was a cedar-wood box of

the suggestion of strange things to come. The mask of their late gainty had fallen away. Lady Caroom, grave and sad-eyed, was listening with an anxiety wholly unconcealed. Under the shaded lamplight their faces, dominated by that cold masterly figure at Oh, but you are wise, you in the West, the head of the table, were almost your statesmen and your philanthrop long before they thought me convales.

cusations made against me today by theless they were in the main true." The announcement was no shock.

Every one of the three curiously en
Lord Arranmore ceased speaking, deliberately entered upon a life of low

ough had believed the girl. the time of which she spoke. At ers. young man of good family, but scant peat the exact words which the old Caroom leaned back in her chair expectations, supposed to be studying man used to me, and I do not find i with an indrawn sobbing breath. The Caroom, you had some knowledge of

her eyes and tone suddenly softening, "dancing with you that evening. We arranged to meet at Ranelagh the next day, and, then the next day came, you had vanished, gone as completely as though the earth had swallowed you up. For weeks every one was asking what has become of him. And then-

"is the hardest part of my narrative, with the individual." the hardest because the most difficult to make you understand. You will young, impressionable, and had views. So to continue!"

The manner of his speech was in its way chillingly impressive. He was still sitting in exactly the same position, one hand upon the arm of his high-backed chair, the other upon the table before him. He made use of no gestures, his face remained as white and emotionless as a carved image ask me questions." his tone, tough clear and low, was ababout him a subtleness of repression hand sent the blood coursing once the blood coursing once the blood coursing once led till at last civilization lay behind. He drew paper and pen towards apparent to all of them.

"On my way home that night my hansom knocked down an old man. He was not seriously hurt, and I drove him home. On the way he stared at me curiously. Every now and then h

your world before, he said. 'I dare them to live with me, I sent them third phase of living, and it was true you very much upon the fact itself, say you have never spoken to any one out of mine except to toss us alms. I taked with them, read back to me. Oh, the blessed relief of which I presume led to your decision Come and see where I live.'

myself in a lodging-house, now pulled myself in a lodging-house, now pulled down and replaced by one of Lord lives a certain measure of beautiful ficent, alive by day and night with Kingston of Ross, and the possessor of the kingston income, which amounts everlasting music of Nature. The Rowton's tenement houses. I saw a huddled together promiscuously, and the face of every one of them was like the face of a rat. The old man dragged me from room to room, laughing all the time. He showed me children herded together without distinction of sex or clothing, here and there he had put the poison to sleep, but it morning and evening kept me from If you refuse to take it the amount sex or clothing, here and there he pointed to a face where some apprehension of the light was fighting a lasting heritage, a gift from father rest is obvious. I lost two cousins in due time find its way to the Crown. hension of the light was fighting a lasting heritage, a gift from father losing battle with the ghouls of disease, of vice, of foul air, of filth. I leave the light was fighting a lasting heritage, a gift from father rest is obvious. I lost two cousins in South Africa, an uncle in the hunting-heir blood. ease, of vice, of foul air, of filth. 1 heir blood.

"In those days I married a lady denized me. I was discovered But be to the borders of insanity by declinlooked over that one house, but the voted to charitable works. Our purfore I returned I killed Brooks, the ing to spend your own money, and old man man was not satisfied. He dragged me on the to the roof and pointed eastward. There, as far as I fear, little sympathy between us It was a strange silence which foll of your more reasonable frame the eyes could reach, was a blackened The only bond was out work—and lowed. Brooks sat back in his chair, mind, and while personally i agree wilderness of smoke-begrimed dwellings. He looked at me and grinned I can see him now. He had only one years, when I paused to consider." comprehen tooth, a blackened yellow stump, and He raised his glass to his lips and things. And behind all there smould every time he opened his mouth to drained it. The wine was powerful, ered the slow burning anger of the laugh he was nearly choked with coughing. He leaned out over the palisading and reached with both his

this, a million crawling vermin who that disease should stalk through were born into te world in your like their streets, and all the evil passions the doors were fast closed. Lord ness, as you were born, my fine gentle-born of their misery and fifth should believe me, you are wise." Arranmore sat a little forward in his man. Day by day they wake in their be allowed to blaze forth that the holes, fill their lungs with foud air, whole world might see, so the laws of the arm, the other stretched flat upon their stomachs with rotten food, break the world might intervene, the great the table before him . By his side, some hideous task. Every day they things could be changed. I looked drop a little lower down. Drink alone down at myself, then wasted to the "I am going," he said, thoughtfully, keeps them alive, stirs their blood bone, a stranger to the taste of wine "I am going," he said, thoughtfully, onw and then so that can feel their or tobacco, to all the joys of life, a "to tell you a story, of whom the hero is—myself. A poor sort of entertainis—myself. A poor sort of entertainment perhaps, but then there is a little tragedy and a little comedy in l what I have to tell. And you three them and you. They are miserable dwelling with a red fire beeople in the world to gin-palaces. You may thank your God fore my eyes, muttering, cursing that to deceive you. My early enthusithe cold directness of his speech, by horde of rotten humanity from sweep verse, and which we call God, that ing westwards, breaking up your fine there should be vomited forth into houses, emptying your wine into the the world day by day, hour by hour, street, tearing the silk and laces from this black stream of human wretched. your beautiful soft-limbed women. ness, an everlasting mockery to those Bah! But you have read. It would who would seek for the joy of life.

he head of the table, were almost lists, that you build these gin-palaces cent I was conscious, lying awake and lembrandtesque.

"You have heard a string of incobuild more and spend the money gaily. managed it. Of my wife and child I You build the one dam which can keer never once thought. Every trace of a young lady whose very existence, I back your retribution. You keep them stupefied, you cheapen the vile liquor in my heart. I took the money suband hold it to their noses. So they scribed for me with a hypocrite's drink, and you live. But a day of light smile, and I slunk away from England.

stretched out his hand and helped pleasures. Pardon me!" "I must go a little further back than himself to wine with unfaitering fing "I have tried," he continued, "to re which was in danger of burning. Lady

expectations, supposed to be studying at the Bar, but in reality idling my so difficult as you might imagine, be time about town. In those days, Lady impression upon me. But I cannot with steady fingers he probed away amongst the wounded places of his life, was in itself gruesome. colice-court missionary at Southwark cards was as bad as mine was good. ing's entertainment was over. Police-Court. The history of those I won all he had and more. I beyears is the history of a slowly-grow lieve that he committeed suicide. A "This," Lord Arranmore continued, ing madness. I commenced by trying man there was kind to me, asked me to improve whole districts-I ended to his house-I persuaded his wife to

only. I will remind you that I was silky stream, flowed away from him it. I seemed to myself in some way how to pass one's time." instaunched, unregarded. His eyes to be showing my defiance for the He rose wearily from his seat, a were fixed upon Lord Arranmore. He hidden powers of life which I had walking to the window looked out u eaned forward.

"A police-court missionary!" he

moment in silence. am your father. Afterwards you may get to a place where I should see no seems to be a change of climate," h

Brooks sat as one stupefied, an lay for a moment upon his. She smilled kindly at him. Lord Arranmore's voice once more broke the short sillence.

Still I pushed onward. I had stores him and began to write. Even his handwriting seemed a part of the man handwriting s more through his veins. Sybil's fingers

"I have never seen any one out of and old, all were the same. I took to stay I kicked him. This was my and Brooks, and while I congratulat more dogged, more eager. I would solitudes of those great forests were to a little over two thousand a year man or boy, and at last I would assure were purged out of me, and I because you not through any grace or favor of few disjointed remarks. Her myself of success. I would find them once more an ordinary human being, mine, but by your own unalienable a situation, see them perhaps once general in was content, I think, to die there, right as the eldest son of the Marquis week, then less often, and the end was for I had plenty to eat and drink, and of Arranmore. I cannot give it to always the same. They fell back. I the animals and birds who came to me you. I cannot withhold it from you.

"There, he chied, frantically, 'you have seen one. There are thousands myself thinking, and I knew then that Lord Arranmore spoke again. Still Hennibul, how are you?"

a new terror was stealing into my life. he sat back in high-backed chair, and

children striving to dam a mighty

run away with me. These are amongst

mockery ringing clearly trough them.

There they stretched—the same blackgether here at the moment when the ned wilderness of roofs shelting the telling of these things has be ng, fifthy, curs-res; there flared h sense some right to hear them, for Sybil is your daughter, and from her ated. Ten years of my life, and what there need be no secrets. So, Catherhad I done? What could any one do? ine,I ask you again, new that you the truth seemed suddenly written know everything, are you brave enecross the sky in letters of fire. I, a ough to be my wife?" poor human creature, had been fight. She raised her eyes, and he

the inviolable, the unconquerable laws sign. She rose and held out her hand of nature. The hideous mistake of all for Sybil. "Arranmore." she said, "I am individual effort was suddenly reveal-

ed to me. We were like a handful of afraid." "So let it be, then," he said. join her lot with mine after the thing

Utopia does not exist. So make your choice deliberately. Do you care to

"Lord Aranmore," he said. "forgive uman affection seemed withered up He bent forward and with a steady I are far apart, and so far as I am "What did you see me for?" he ask

"I am obliged to you." he said. "fo "Up to the time of your disappear ance—yes. I remember, Arranmore," she continued, her manner losing for a moment some of its restraint, and a moment some of its restraint, and to leave me at that time you will be able to me at the same time." never returned to my rooms, that for the father of the young lady who paid ten years I never set foot west of me a visit today. After a somewhat Temple Bar. I first joined a small chequered career he was settling society in Whitechapel, then I worker down in a merchant's office in Monfor myself, and finally I became a treal when I met him. His luck at wine remained untested.

> PART IL CHAPTER I.

Lord Arranmores Amuseme "The domestic virtures." Lord Ar Brooks wineglass fell with a crash upon the tablectoth. The wine, a long steeped myself in sin. I revelled in denied to me, the question remain

cursed. I played a match with evil on St. James' Square. A soft rain by day and by night until was glut- hung about the lamp-posts, the pave ted. And then I stole away from the ments were thick with umbrellas. He Lord Arranmore regarded him for city, leaving behind a hideous reputa- returned to his chair with a shrug of on and not a single friend. Then a the shoulders. new mood came to me. I wanted to "The only elucidation from outside

uman beings at all, and escape in mused. "I should prefer to think o that way from the memories which something more original. In the mean were still like a clot upon my brain. time I will write to that misguide

Still I pushed onward. I had stores him and began to write. Even his

appointment," he continued. "Young then and when he fawned at my feet sire to leave the new firm of Morriso with them, showed them the simplest seeing the face of neither man nor You will probably have heard from means within their reach by means woman. It was the unpeopled world Mr. Ascough by this time on a matter of which they might take into their of Nature—uncorrupted, fresh, magni- of business. You are, by birth, Lord spend months sometimes with one like a wonderful balm. So the fevers Please remember that this comes to

"I trust to year from Mr. Aso

sion of these new strange of any service to you.

horror of that story so pitilessly told fool can kick abo owing it into the basket.

Mr. Hennibul, duly ushered in by a both in words and an well. He took a chair and a ciga and looked about him approving

"Your card plate is chock-full." h

ning you have said, Hennibul," Ar ing with a few other fanatics against the horror there. But he made no the same fact out of my own con ousness. One must do so It's tiresome, but it's quite true."

"Done all I want for a bit, but eep that in reserve."

Bad leg, but I do a bit at it." mer go on the County Council "Too much money already."

"Write a book." "No one would read it." "Start a magazine." "To hard work." Mr Hennibul sighed.

"You're rather a difficult case." itted. "You'd better come rou to the clubs and play bridge." "I never played whist-and I'm bad "Bit of everything then."

"That's what it'll end, I suppose. "Pleasant times we had down at inton." Mr. Hennibul remarked. "How's the nice young lawyerrooks his name was, I think?" "All right, I believe."

"I believe that they are quuite well They were in Scotland last time Mr. Hennibul found conversation

"I saw that you were in Paris ther week." he remarked. "I went over to see Bernhardt's new

tion of my mother and me was a though the fault was with myself." ed suddenly. "You're bored to death

> trying to keep up a conversation.' "Upon my word, I don't know, He nibul." he answered. "For the same

> that you might amuse me."

"You're a good fellow, Hennibul," he said, "but I'm too old for that sort of

"Well," he said, "I've kept the bes piece of advice till last because want you to know of it Marry!" Lord Arranmore did not smile. He did not immediately reply.
"You are a bachelor!" he remarked

"I am a man of a different disposi easure in everything - everythin ses me. My work is fase my playtime is never long end really don't know where a wife wo me in. However, if ever I did get tion, for instance, I can promise ye that I'd take my own med

"Perhaps by that time," Lord Aranmore said, "the woman whom you anted to marry wouldn't have you."

"You are a philosopher," Arranea or a whisky-and-soda?"

"Neither, thanks. In an abortive at tempt to preserve my youth I neith

The Hon. Sydney Molyneux sh hands with both of them in somewhat is well-born." dreary fashion, and embarked upon a

ney?" he asked. "You are duller than ever. I am positively not going to sit here and mumble about the weather. How are the Carooms? Have you like a fool, I blundered on, and in the heard from them lately?" "They are up in Yorkshire," Moly neux announced, "staying with the yawne Pryce-Powells. I believe they're all "WI

of -I wanted to ask you a question." "About that fellow Brooks I met at is If he's only a country lawyer, he's and was silent for several minutes. your place down a Enton. Lawyer at got no earthly chance with Lady Car- "So far as regards Brooks," he he and Sybil seemed a bit thick some how. Don't suppose there could have that. Never saw them so thick." been anything in it, eh? He's no one "Was Lady Caroom—quite we in particular, I suppose. Lady Carcom wouldn't be likely to listen to anything, between 80 thick,"

"Was Lady Caroom—quite well?"

Arranmore asked, irrelevantly,

"Well, now you mention it." nything between Sybil and him?"

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I will have one of your excellent man," he said, "and some girls are atcigarettes and get round to the club, tracted by brains, you know, I don't Why, this is Enton over again, for know anything about his relations with Sybil Caroom, but he has ample ok private means, and I believe that he "Fellow's a gentleman, of course,

took his leave, and Arranmore yawned oom is a little ambitious, isn't she? I always seemed to be in the run "What is the matter with you, Syd- right lately. I spent last Sunday with them at Chelsom Castle. Awful long ng to sit way to go, but I'm fond of Sybil. thought she was a bit cool to me, bu end-I got a facer." "Very sorry for you," Arranmore

What made me think about Brooks right I'm beastly fit myself, but I was that she was awfully decent to though. She and Sybil were quite in-had a bit of a facer last week. I—er me before Enton," Molyneux continu-separable at Chelsom—more like sised. "I don't mind telling you that I'm ters than anything, 'pon my word." hard hit. I want to know who Brooks ter, isn't he? I thought that oom, and Sybil'd never go against her said, "I do not think that he would be

> neux said, "I don't think she was quite rival worth co in her usual form. She was much tell you anything more."
>
> quieter, and it struck me that she was (To be Continue)

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Lord Arranmore looked into the fire

mother. They're too great pals for an acceptable son-in-law to Lady Caroom, but I am not in the least sure He is by no means an insignifi cant person. If he were really anxious

MEME

As Protes ment H -Conse New Ca Calgary, A

Liberal men local House, test against He objected the Lieutens mier, while manipulated t enant-Gove without allo a word after resignation ment, and be eliminated fi The resigna much more Mr. Riley orous membe in the House. The Conse likely that all will be oppos however, that Sifton and M

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Gunn is retir in the depar eries. Mr. McLea over any per Lethbridge r As Mr. Fin Medicine Ha be a candida Medicine Ha cand date. He ago, before M ed as a prob in-law and c cabinet minis But the bat be the keenes others will th

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