THE AYLMER EXPRESS : THURSDAY, AUGUST 9 1900

Olivia dropped on her knees by his bedside. She clasped both her hands about one of his, as if imploring him to vindicate his own good name before he left her. "But you did the best you could, fa-

LOVE FINDS A

By JEANNETTE H. WALWORTH.

ward Reuben and asked feebly:

'Night before last sir."

graphed for?"

'No, sir."

be here?

tal was!

bout 1 a. m."

"And it is now"-

"Just half past 11, sir."

you. Come at once."

"Has he answered?"

"Perhaps he didn't get it."

'Now, there you go to fretting, sir.

'So he did, Reuben, so he did. If

"I asked the telegraph man that

It ain't a bit like you. The doctor says you was to keep calm."

he got the message, when ought he to

same question. According to his cal-culation, Mr. Thomas is due here

The sick man closed his eyes weari-

Iv. How insignificant all things here

below now seemed! It was as if he were getting his life, with all of its

loves, all of its ambitions, its toils, its achievements, its mistakes, in a true

perspective at last. And how mean.

w absolutely worthless, the sum to-

All the capacity for loving he had

been endowed with he had exercised

for one child. He had loved Olivia to

the exclusion of that broader, more

elevating love for his fellow man as

his neighbor. To make Olivia happy,

to secure her against any mischance in

the future, had seemed the one thing worth doing. That she might have,

others must give; that she might re-

joice, others must suffer. When he was working his way with strenuous

stubbornness to this goal, he had not questioned his own methods nor the

danger of working harm, and not good,

With the presumption born of a phe-

nomenally good physical record he had

looked forward to seeing Olivia enjoy-ing the fruits of his wise stewardship,

while he aided and encouraged Thom

as Broxton in his ascent of the ladder

which it was well for every man to

He was not the first man who has

of unfinished schemes, and presently

hurriedly, "I think I should like to se

my daughter, Reuben, before Mr.

And it was then that Reuben, going

by the visit of that poor old irrespon-

sible creature and temporarily lost his

powers of speech. All agitation must positively be avoided, my dear, and

when you go into his presence you must remember how much depends

upon your personal observance of this

Then for the first time in her life

she must act a falsehood. She must

go into her father's presence with a

heavy load on her young heart. long-

to the idol of his life.

climb in his youth.

Broxton gets here."

ralysis.

caution

ied in her outstretched arms.

ther. Of course you did. Oh, I know you did! I know you did by Thomas as his father would have done by me if I had been left a helpless little orphan like Tom."

[Copyright, 1899, by Jeannette H. Walworth.] A groan was his only answer. "There, dear. Dr. Govan will scold me sharply for agitating you in this "I'd just as lief as not nobody should be spying on him in his last hours. He cruel way. Don't let us talk about it do mumble a lot of mortal strange at all, papa. We believe in each other. stuff with the fever in his poor head." But the fever was all out of Horace There, now. Go to sleep in your naughty Ollie's arms." She laid her soft cheek against his and crooned a soft lullaby. He stroked Matthews' head when he turned to-

"Reuben, when was Thomas teleher shining hair caressingly. "Olivia, my darling, you heard that

old woman's terrible charges. She "And what did you say in it?" "Guardian very ill. Wants to see hurled them at me over this precious head.' She lifted her head and looked at

him gravely. "She knows better now, father."

"Knows better now?" He repeated the words after her with labored slowness. He looked bewil-dered. Olivia smoothed the gray hair back from his furrowed forehead with a slow, mesmeric motion. "Poor old 'Mother' Spillman is dead,

father. She is at rest. I think Miss Malvina is scarcely sorry. She says life has been such a burden to her mother for a great many years that death meant release. She says her mother was very 'queer.' "

"And she is gone, actually gone? Do you know it to be a fact, child?" He labored to lift himself into a sitting posture. "I know it to be a fact, father. I

saw her myself, dead. She looked so

quiet, so serene. She is at rest." "You saw her. Then you have been to the Spillman cottage. What did you go there for?" His voice rang out in challenge.

She shrank away from him until the pile of pillows with which Reuben had propped him into a sitting posture hid her pallid face from him. Was he go-ing to force her to say why she had gone to the Spillman cottage? If he did, must she lie? Instead he spoke to her in the gentlest of voices. Rather did he seem to plead for mercy than upbraid her. "Don't cower behind my pillows, my

poor child. Come where I can look into your dear eyes. You have nothing to be ashamed of, Olivia. I know what took you there. You went in search of a vindication for your most unhappy father." Her head dr until it touched his pillows. Her head drooped "You thought to learn something more about the papers which she claimed to be holding for Thomas."

"Yes, father."

A gleam of gratification shot into the shrewd eyes of the dying man. It was almost as if his departing soul been surprised by death in the midst paused to score on more pitiful little triumph.

Thomas Broxton would be standing where that terrible old woman had "Poor old magpie! She overreached stood, defiant, accusing, merciless. He opened his eyes from what Reuben had herself. Now they never will be thought was a tranquil slumber to say found.

"Were they very valuable to-Thomas-father? That is, if you don't mind telling me, dear." "They were—they are," he amended slowly, "of no value to any one. Thom-

in search of her, had found her in her as would not be one dollar the wealth-ier for the finding of them." own room, sitting with her head bur-For the first time in her life Olivia

A silence fell between father and daughter. The sick man seemed to fall obeyed the summons to her father's into a sudden doze. Olivia brought a presence with reluctance. Dr. Govan ad reassured her on the subject of palight chair and seated herself as closely as possible to his side. "Your father was violently agitated

The clock struck half past 11. Reuben was to come on watch at midnight. She twined her small, cool fingers about the sinewy wrist that lay nearest to her and found its pulse. The moments passed on. She waited. For what?

The ticking of the clock on the mantelshelf and the beating of her own heart seemed equally loud. A low muttering from the sick man's sunken lips made her bend her ear quickly. Every syllable that fell from his lips now was a thing to be hoarded. In a state of semiconsciousness Horace

ed her. but her gaze never left his for me?" The wall escaped her un-guarded lips with piercing shriliness. "No thought for you? God forgive "You know I would, father! Oh, me, Olivia, there has been room in my brain for no one but you. For you, and you know there is nothing I would not do for your dear sake!" "A few weeks ago I could not have humbled myself before my own innoyou alone, I have lived, I have labored and"-his voice dropped to a tired cent child as I am doing now, my dear,

hisper-"yes, sinned." "Sinned? Father, take that one word back. I know you do not mean it. actually in sight the mortal vision Take it back in pity for me. Don't leave it to me as a horrible puzzle. It will torture me all the rest of my days. Death is not the very worst that can befall us, father. Leave me the reverence for you that has gilded all my young life, father. I know you have loved me too well. Perhaps in your tenderness for me you waxed careless of others' interests. That was all, papa. I am sure that was all." She was on her knees by the bed. Her slight frame was quivering under the storm of emotions no longer under her control. The dying man laid his hand on her bowed head. When he spoke, his voice was calm and sol-

em, but very weak. "True, child, death is not the worst

that can befall. I have confessed everything to my Maker. I had meant to confess to Thomas, but my strength ebbs fast. I doubt if I shall be here when he comes. The temptation to secure your future against the possibility of want was too mighty for me, Olivia. My idolatrous love for you turned my boasted strength into weakness. Opportunity was my undoing." "I will make restitution, father. He shall have everything."

"And blacken my name in the grave? Restitution lies in one direction only. At least my failing senses can point out no other course. You alone can right the great wrong I have done Rufus' son.

"I. father?"

"Don't speak. Listen to me. Would you help me undo what I have done for your sake?" She shivered as if an ague had seiz-

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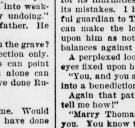
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ABSOLUTE





but when the shores of eternity seem

broadens, and we can slough all that

"Only you, poor little lonely girl."

is mortal of us with contemptuous pity for its infirmities, its temptations and its mistakes. I have been an unfaith-ful guardian to Thomas Broyton. You can make the losses I have brought upon him as nothing, weighed in the balances against his happiness.

A perplexed look came into the wide eyes fixed upon his face. "I, father?" "You, and you alone, can turn a curse

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"Marry Thomas Broxton. He loves you. You know that he does.

"But I do not love him, father?" "Marry-Thomas-Broxton. "Father, have you forgotten Clarence, forgotten that I betrothed myself to him with your full consent? I belong

love him." A grayish pallor was creeping over the sick man's pinched features. She did not know that it was death. She

had never before stood in the presence of the grim conqueror. Her father's voice was lifted to a clear high note in a supreme effort to impose his will

it!"

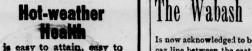
door by which it had entered. Another hand drew it softly shut from the other side. She turned toward the bed to

aloud and again. It brought to the chamber of death Reuben, Dr. Govan, who had just arrived; Clarence Westover, who had been waiting and watch-ing in the distant drawing room, and-Thomas Broxton.

be always too late." "It is my fate, Reuben, as you say, so we won't quarrel with it," Broxton

answered quietly and turned to ques-

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NAMES OF A DESCRIPTION OF A DESCRIPTIONO

A cold current of air swept across the bed. Olivia rose quickly to close the

"But, father, would you want me to

The unseeing eyes stared straight beyond her; the tired lips fluttered and drooped; a heavy sigh, stillness-Horace Matthews was done with beseech-

It was toward the latter that Reuben

turned his eyes anxiously. "Oh, Mr. Thomas, if you'd only got here a hour earlier! It's your fate to

CHAPTER XVII.

upon her: "Marry Thomas Broxton! I command Pain-Killer. enter her final protest against this monstrouts invasion of her rights. CRAMPS, DIARRHOEA, COUCHS,

live my life out a stupendous false-hood?"

ing, done with commanding. In a piercing cry she called his name

tion Dr. Govan.

ing to ask him questions that must not be asked, yearning to have him proise the demons of suspicion and distrust awakened by that old wo-

man's cruel words. Perhaps he would die and leave them uncontradicted. Could bereavement hold a sharper sting?

She got up heavily and, going into her dressing room, bathed her eyes to efface the marks of recent tears and smoothed her hair into trimmer shape. Then she walked resolutely into the sick man's presence. He held out both wasted hands and drew her down upon the bed by him, murmuring familiar terms of endearment. "You are better, father, much bet-

ter. Dr. Govan tells me so," she said, returning his caresses gently.

The sick man sighed wearily.

"For a little while, for a very little while, my darling. I kave told Govan to keep me here until Thomas gets home.'

"Thomas? Why, papa, have you sent for Thomas?" She was trembling violently. A

deathly pallor spread over her sweet young face like a gray veil. Had her father any confession to make Thomas Broxton? Why did he want him to come?

The sick man looked at her imploringly.

"I beg of you, my daughter, to summon all your fortitude. Your agitation Freacts on me. You are losing control of yourself. I am a very ill man. Govan does not try to deceive me. Several days ago I made Reuben send a telegram to Thomas Broxton. He may be here at any moment."

She spoke in a dull "Yes, father." monotone, but her eyes looked tenderest pity into his.

"I want to beg his pardon." "For what, father?" in the same sad

monotone

'For my bad management of his affairs.

Matthews was doing battle with his conscience for the last time.

"It was for her sake, for my tender little child's sake. Good Lord, forgive She could not battle with the world in poverty, only a helpless, weak girl. He is strong; he is young; he is ambitious. It will all work out right for him. He will carve out a name and fortune for himself. But-but-I am going to met them. I am going to see Lucetta, Rufus, all of them. What shall I say? What can I tell them? Unfaith-ful friend, false steward, sinful man-I hear them crying it in chorus. Thomas, forgive me! Lucetta, don't turn your dear face away from me! Rufus, friend

of my boyhood." He opened his eyes with a start. His first fully conscious gaze fell upon Olivin's face. Its drawn, frightenod look startled him. He grasped her wrist

with a force that pained ker. "I have been dozing. Did I talk in my sleep? Did I say anything silly, as

sleep talkers always do?" "You talked a little, father, just a little. There, dear. Don't stare at me so. You look as if you were angry with me. It is only 1, father, your loving lit-'tle daughter. There is no one else here, no one at all."

"I know, I know-only you, poor little lonely girl; only you, my precious one.'

She answered him with a pathetic

little boast. "Oh, I could have half the town if I wanted to! Everybody has been beg-ging to help nurse you. Everybody holds you in such high esteem, dearest.

But we don't want them." "But we don't want them," he echoed "No, we don't want them. dully. won't last very much longer, my child. I am just waiting to see Thomas, and then I will go."

"Father, father, have you no thought

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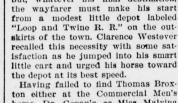
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home, Dr. Govan's or Miss Malvina Spillman's, he proposed heading him off at the station. He flung the reins to his man and jumped out of his cart just as Thomas, dusty of foot heavy of heart, mounted the platform steps with bag in hand. He advanced with cordially extended hand.

"I'm awfully glad I'm in time, Broxton. You came very near giving me the slip."

Thomas met the extended hand with perfunctory politeness. , He wished he could feel more cordial toward Olivia's lover, but deep wounds need time for

their healing. Westover was distinctly aware of this wordless antagonism. He rather suspected he should have felt quite as sour and behaved even more churlishly if matters were reversed, but at this particular juncture he could not afford to resent Tom's aloofness. He had pursued him with a definite object in view. "You see," he said easily, falling into

step and going with Tom toward the waiting room, "I want to talk to you about a matter of interest to both of us. I don't want to lose sight of you just yet. Can't I induce you to spend the night with me?" He stopped and reddened. It occurred to him that the last of the Broxtons would not care to accept the hospitality of strangers un-der his old rooftree. Tom covered his confusion courteouily.

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ot land ronounced it although he applied worse and the up. Aft It him to the veterinary enelitie hope, event Spavin and gave me little hope, fied a sharp blister. This made matters he horse became so lame that it could ther trying everything in my power I hop and told him about the case. Hegave hop and told him about the case. Hegave went to a neighbor and told him about the case. Hogawe me one of your books and 1 sudied it carefully and be-ing resolved to do the utmost in favor of my beast, went (the and applied it stuffely according to directions. Be-fore the first bottle was used 1 noticed an improvement, and when the seventh bottle was about half used, my horse was completely cured and without leaving a none good care and diffeome light work with him, wish-ing to see if it had effected a cure. I then started to work the horse hard and to my entire satisfaction he never showed any more lameness through the whole summer, the class that as a sure remedy, to any one that it may concern. Yours truly, SAMUEL TRITTEN.

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W. C. TALBOT. Assessment System-Mutual Principle OFFICE OF THE Mutual Reserve Fund Life Ass'n. FREEHOLD BUILDING Toronto, October 14th, 1896. I am authorized to announce that in future poyment of all death claims in the Dominion of Canada will be made by check in Ontario Bank, Toronto ; or the Molsone Bank, Montreal, thus making the Mutual Reserve practically a home company. W. J MCMURTRE, Manager for Omario.

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