

THE CONQUERING WILL.

BY SILAS K. HOOKING.

Author of "God's Outcast," "In Spite of Fate," "To Pay the Price," "For Such is Life," "The Heart of Man," "For Life and Liberty," "A Son of Reuben," etc.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.—Mrs. Pendavis is a clever young artist, who finds it easier to get her pictures painted than to buy them.

CHAPTER III. The Sisters.

While Basil was hesitating whether to advance or retreat, Dorothy Cleveland settled the matter for him.

She had been wondering all the morning, and indeed, for several days past, what the artist was like.

To sit hour after hour, to be looked at, to be scrutinized from every point of view, to be placed and walked round as though she were on view, was to say the least of it, an unpleasant ordeal to be contemplated.

She hoped that the artist would be "nice." Not that she was partial to nice men as a rule; in fact, as a general thing she disliked them and kept out of their way.

One thing had reassured her. The artist was a friend of Mr. Philip Duncan, of Lynbrook House, and Mr. Duncan was a gentleman in every sense of the word, and it was scarcely likely that he would persuade her father to employ an artist who would be in any way objectionable.

She had wondered whether he would be an elderly man (for she had never been able to bring herself to ask any questions), she rather liked to see a young man.

Her first feeling on catching sight of Basil was one of disappointment. To begin with he wasn't elderly.

"Miss Dorothy, if you please, well, no, I think I won't oblige you."

"Would you smile broadly as though you were pleased?"

"Like this," and she set her teeth together, opened her lips wide, and raised her eyebrows.

"That is very interesting," he said, laughing, "not to say instructive."

"I believe you will never be able to paint me."

"Because I shall never be able to sit still."

"You can do most things you make up your mind to."

"Oh, indeed! That shows that you are not a bit good at reading character."

"That's an excellent position, in excellent health," he said. "I think we have made a very good start."

"Don't mention it, please. The very name of breakfast only increases my hunger."

"I am really sorry for you. But there goes the gong at last, and she rose and led the way into the dining-room."

"That's the position, in excellent health," he said. "I think we have made a very good start."

in repose two minutes on the stretch. Yet she has a strong face, notwithstanding her gay and lighthearted manner. If she makes up her mind to a thing I fancy she will go through with it come what may.

"Dorothy was back again in a very few minutes. He had a strong face, notwithstanding her gay and lighthearted manner."

"Not in the least," he replied. "The day is still young."

"And you are getting hungry, I expect. That is one of the rewards of early rising."

"Penalties, you mean."

"No, I mean rewards. The penalty is hunger. Think of coming down late half awake, with a dull headache and no appetite; there's no pleasure in eating under such conditions."

"I admit it."

"But when you've been half an hour in the garden, breathing the fresh air, and have had all the cobwebs blown away by the sweet morning breeze, why then you begin to feel that that breakfast is not a nuisance, but a very sensible institution."

"I am beginning to think that I shall find it today a very delightful institution," Basil answered.

"I have had it, and I can tell you I have had it in the garden, breathing the fresh air, and have had all the cobwebs blown away by the sweet morning breeze, why then you begin to feel that that breakfast is not a nuisance, but a very sensible institution."

"I shudder to think of it," he said, grimly.

"I think cook has taken your early rising into account—but this is the yellow drawing-room, pushing open the door and entering."

"We need not look at the other rooms," he said, glancing quickly round him.

"The light is excellent. Oh, yes, this will do splendidly," and he went and stood with his back against the large bay window.

"Don't think you will not look at the other rooms?"

"Not this side of breakfast, at any rate."

"Then I think I'll give orders for the scaffold to be erected here. I understand you always elevate your victims."

"He dropped into a chair and laughed. "I think a chair will serve in your case," he said, "or perhaps a sofa."

"Oh, indeed, you'll let me down gently. That's the kind of you, Mr. Pendavis," and she seated herself in the nearest chair where the light fell full upon her face.

"I watched her with great interest. Her every movement was graceful, perhaps because it was natural and unforced. She did not seem to be in the least self-conscious."

"Are you studying me?" she questioned after a pause.

"I am, Miss Cleveland. Would you mind looking serious for a moment or two?"

"Miss Dorothy, if you please, well, no, I think I won't oblige you."

THE BANYAN TREE.

BY LOWELLOTUS REESE.



A female monk of a high degree. Dwelt in the top of a banyan tree— High over the heads.

She sat bolt upright behind the silver pots, with a pale, placid, passionless face, and yet her gold, male blue eyes seemed to be everywhere.

"Mr. Pendavis, I have no doubt, will be glad of a day's rest before beginning."

reaction. "And is there a straight road to it?" "No, sir. All roads are crooked round these parts."

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him the first sitting that afternoon. He imagined that the old superstition about Friday being an unlucky day had been laughed out of existence. Yet here he found it trotted out as a serious argument and sensible people like Mr. Cleveland and Dorothy had raised no word of protest.

that Dorothy occupied the seat opposite to him. "By Jove! She looks lovelier than ever," was Basil's reflection.

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