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### Victory After Many Defeats.

A LOVER SPEAKS.

said, her eyes still downcast. "I-I ger, Darrel pressed it and fled like am sending out the cards, and I wise.

as the door opened and Lady Gwen spoke of her as "Cynthia" to North-

Lady Gwen looked hot and out of the perpetration of some crime. In- terested to find it there. deed. Darrel looked somewhat guilty

"Oh!" grunted the terrible old ladv. leaning on her stick with both hands cant sign to Cynthia. "So you're here. Cynthia, what are you doing with that veil? Mr. Frayne, are you qualifying for a dressmaker or a lady's maid?" "Miss Drayle was good enough to show me-" began Darrel fearsome-

for her time," snarled Lady Gwen, "And so could you, sir. Why aren't you with your regiment?"

"Got leave," said Darrel, humbly. "They give too much leave nowadays," remarked Lady Gwen sternly; "they were much more sensible in my time. Cynthia, take those things up to your own room-I am afraid my thoughtless niece has wasted too much

of your time, Mr. Frayne." Darrel took the hint-he had capable of calling a couple of foot- ly. She was pleased to see Lord men and having him thrown out. Cyn- Northam; she was grateful to him

ing Lady Westlake's eye, had thrown him a glance as she departed.

"I-I think I can manage it," she Lady Westlake gave him one fin

two had been so engrossed with each Drayle" to poor Darrel, "is going t

"Rather sudden, isn't it?" remark ed Northam, staring at the carved temper; she glared from one to the head of his stick, as if he had never seen it before, and was intensely in-

> the fact that the child's grown up When she takes to dining at public

"You mean the Savoy, the othe

"Same thing," said Lady Gwen, with seems to have had a very pleasan you. By the way, we are having a dance on the night of the court. have just sent Lady Alicia and you a card."

Lady Gwen said: "Tell Miss Drayle tca is ready, and

Cynthia entered almost immediate

thia, quite abashed, had fled, but, dodg- for her outing the other night. As

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he poured out the tea, which one potman handed, while the other folowed with the bread and butter and he cake, she talked of that never-tope-forgotten night. And while she

ather suddenly. He raised his eyes as he spoke, and he saw the blush which suddenly suffused Cynthia's

"Oh, yes," she said. "He called." Northam was silent for a moment

"I'm coming to your dance," he said, in his abrupt yet slow fashion "Oh, I'm glad," she said brightly. "Are you?" he remarked, looking at er straight. "Well, I must be going

On the night of the twelfth, so grea come to inspect and obtain hints from

g their turn to gain the great saon, famous for its political and social

entrance of the antercom which led o the principal magnificent apart-

strained, for the occasion; for the She had a beautiful girl, a connection of the great family, in her hand, and she meant to dispose of her to the

And that the bidding would be high, the Griffin knew, for Cynthia had achieved a great success at court that

day. She had attracted the attention had even murmured to the other gra cious majesty, and both had smiled more than graciously, as the young girl had bent before them.

Lady Westlake was almost staggered by Cynthia's success; for, of course, notwithstanding the tuition thia's exquisite beauty and still more striking freshness and girlishnes

could not be ignored. The old Griffin was full of triumpl that night, her keen eyes shone and glittered under their heavy lids, there was a natural flush beneath her rouge and powder.

She saw herself the aunt, the guardan of the future Duchess of Torbridge. She had never been so amiable, and her amiability was startling to her old friends.

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ery now and then her eyes wandered vistfully toward the crowd at the en-

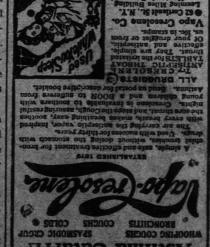
undred, times that evening, and a new hat she had bought at the genmed with her own hands.

waltz, there flashed into her mind the nemory of a day when she had fallen rcm a tree and Lurt herself, and Darrel had put his arm round herhe had not kissed her, because he knew that she had hated kisses-and had comforted and petted her.

Why did he not come? It was nice ooking stunning to-night, Cynthy!"

Lady Alicia came up to her, Northim following close behind. Lady Alicia, who had been presented two rears ago, was not in court costume

set off her blond beauty to perfection. "My dear Cynthia!" she exclaimed. She and Cynthia had met several mes since the dinner at the Savoy. and Lady Alicia professed a great friendship for Lady Westlake's ward. 'I've had quite a fight to get to you, you famous young person. Here's Northam. I'm going to ask for a lance for him; he's too gauche and



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