

Love That Knew No Bounds.

CHAPTER XXIII.

"Oh, dear!" she cried, coming laughing in one evening near Christ-Fanny in the hall just now? The silof such absurdities. Mistletoe, in deed!' Ah! Gilbert, we've forgotten such things, have we not?"

Her seniority might have prompted the speech; but it was an awkward one. Mr. Hurst took it in dead silence. Sydney, on whose lips, since her father died, nothing tenderer had lain than Mary Dacie's kiss, felt her cheeks suddenly aflame; the more would often now fly to Sydney's face, out of somewhat indignant sympathy. For poor Miss Jean's determination to level her brother to her own standard grew more and more aggressive. He must live and move according to her solicitous rule; be pleased with her great self-denying skill in providing him gentlemanly fare and habiliments out of her narrow income

tionate, figeting feminine despot the culture of something superior to intellect, and realized, each time she saw him harassed yet uncomplaining. wounded yet not outwardly wincing, that the depest force of his strong control than that of either mere moral or physical mastership. All of which knowledge carried her on to very

CHAPTER XXIV.

It was the last day of the year. and letters, the former all paid, the latter all answered yet she conceivfore filing or destroying. And this

Sydney's share in the work was half lay between the ecclesiastical simple, consisting of tearing innum- edifices over which the Rev. Everard erable epistles into diminutive bits, Preece presided, but communication

of fads supplying-though his tastes were simple as a hermit's!-and had, by wants or wishes, drained the slen-

come; watched covertly, caught it, brief though it was. Another moment his face habitually wore. Her own eyes sunk, filling with tears.

"Take the morning while it is fine, and have your walk now, Miss Grey, counselled Miss Hurst; and having asked, somewhat wistfully, "Can I do of the pent-up irritability engendered

What peculiar set of nerves had

Nor could she define precisely why Miss Jean's maladroit tenderness provoked her oftener and oftener to the verge of expostulation. Driven up corner, she might have averred always in sight-that river once Mr. Hurst had called, in half-jesting earnest, his very good friend, for "he could trust it with his ion on the future beyond an unanswerable "Shall I be here when next year ends, as now?"

tion of this question met the girl, as, with well-poised figure she stepped ightly across the frost-bound path. A pair of elderly eyes observed her with interest from a well-built brougham, till the vehicle took a turn, and, coming to the porch at Wynstone deposited its occupant on an untime

It was Mrs. Preece, wife of Capel Moor's non-resident rector, whose modern Gothic dwelling peeped at his seldom-visited parish from ite side of the water. One mile and a

out of which Miss Hurst made queer between the villages could only be A SURE CURE FOR WOMEN'S DISORDERS

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least! Some call it drudgery for me Capel Moor had to shift spiritually to have to manage like this; Mrs. very much for themselves, tending Greaves often says it is-you know their sick or comforting their dying who I mean, Gilbert. Miss Grey is according to their own rustic lights, tearing up one of her letters now. But taking their Sabbath services at one shoal. I always answer 'No.' I care for no- hour or another, or not at all, as the With which triumphant speech this affairs that many averred would Though," glad to turn the subject, pitome of skill and devotion gather- never have been allowed if Capel "that exceedingly lady-like girl who ed up her account books, swept and Birch had not been a good living, held lives with you must be a great asgarnished for another year's cam- by a rich man. Had poverty entered sistance in passing time. She looks into the situation, "then," said these quite intellectual." patronage on her brother's thick prejudiced folks, "the rector would

> Ushered straight into the study, Preece?" Gilbert Hurst was unable to elude "Not the least, and it's of no conthis guest, whose heavy conversation- sequence," returned the rector's wife, al touch experience had taught him to not easy to divert from any point on dread; so, with his annoyed sister, he which she felt curiosity; "I recollect

wait on those who are! But never afterward to my husband, 'Afflic-Everard: Mr. Hurst knows it is well ordained. He carries himself as an

Having delivered which speech, at once patriotic, polite, and pious, Mrs. reece relinquished the unresponsive palm, seated her fur-incased figure by Miss Hurst (she provokingly onscious of her oldest shabbiest mespun), apologized for the uneasonable visit with the simple explanation that the hour suited her better than a later one, and then en tered on their parochial quandary.

"It seems Capel Moor is considered benighted! Why, I can not really see. We keep a school mistress here. We give the choir a treat. We offer say, to look after our sheep on Capel

Here was news! Five small farm-

"Then the gentleman is married?" "A widower, just home from abroad. He's been a missionary and,

according to testimonials, is an excellent man. Of course, we chose a good one. But we have had a great leal to think of in getting him. The

Miss Hurst bridled at this.

"A help, Mrs. Preece, we are quite able to do without. There is no need

horses, decided. It was a condition of Hurst. That was what I meant.

soon have felt the pastoral crook ceptable person," admitted Miss about his shoulders!" And, lately Hurst, awkwardly. "Gilbert, was a vindictive local paper had stirred there not a book we promised Mrs. up such a hubbub on the matter that Preece the last time she was here? the outcome was an alteration, which The day Miss Grey was gone out, you

Miss Grey was out in September when "The same as ever?" questioned I came, and I was sorry for it. My Mrs. Preece, in rasping tones of con-, husband noticed her in church and nothing for you, Mr. Hurst?" and dolence, ignoring Mr. Hurst's bow, called her beautiful. And a cousin of been answered, "Nothing whatever, I and diving after his hand, which she mine who came over to service was thank you," she hurried out into the persisted in holding in her own be- loud in his admiration. I met the better? No likelihood of restoration to say I think the gentlemen are of that precious power? None? Oh, right. Ah. Mr. Hurst. how I wish you could confirm their opinion!"

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