House of Windows

Continued from page 10

things about which we think? I can't believe it. You and I could speak without fear of laughter, and we shall guess the other things which lie too deep for words. It seems to me that all my life I have been looking at things wrongly. I have been taking always the

wrongly. I have been taking always the

going to tell him so, and show him that,

while never lacking in gratitude to him, I must not be a slave even to gratitude.

This will be Greek to you-but I shall find words to make you understand when I see you." Christine laid down the letter with a quick little catch of the breath. The

broad man who had protected her from

observation had gone and she was al-ready one full block past the Stores'

corner. But it didn't matter. It wouldn't

mattered. When she tied on her scissors and took her place at the counter more than one of the girls looked cur-

iously at the brightness on her face. CHAPTER XXII.

IF Adam Torrance had neglected the Stores in the past, if he had put them aside carelessly, as a thing of small import, which he steadily declined

to perceive within his mental horizon, it is certain that in these days the Stores took a full and fine revenge. From being an incident of mere finan-

cial importance, they became a haunt-ing nightmare; from being below the

Ing nightmare; from being below the horizon altogether, they suddenly loomed large and threatening shutting out the view; from being nothing, they became all. It is not an exaggeration to say that he thought of them all day and dreamed of them all night. He could not bear to go near them, he could not bear to stay away he hated to look

could not bear to go near them, he could not bear to stay away, he hated to look at a shop girl's face, but it was agony not to scan each one eagerly. It speaks well for him that his work lacked nothing in efficiency and that he never spoke of the tortures he endured. Naturally he was always fancying like-nesses, and that was almost insupport-able. Once he saw a girl's face coarse-

able. Once he saw a girl's face, coarse-lipped, black-browed, which looked at him it seemed with the very eyes of an aunt of his, an aunt whose very name

had been stricken from the family an-nals. What if—such things are not im-possible. He lived in hell until it was proved beyond all dispute that this black-browed girl was really the daugh-ter of her black browed operator. The

ter of her black-browed parents. Then there was little Miss Ellis, an adopted child, in whose white face and timid eyes he thought he could trace a likeness

matter even if she were late.

When I see my uncle I am

Nothing

easy way.



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eyes he thought he could trace a likeness to his dead wife. He was greatly drawn to this girl, and when he found out be-yond doubt that she was the daughter of a sister of good Mrs. Ellis, who had adopted her, his despair deepened. Meanwhile, the sifting went on rap-idly. Johnson and his trained assistants worked almost night and day. Mark had been telegraphed for and might be had been telegraphed for and might be expected now any day-but not a single clue led anywhere. Christine often saw Mr. Torrance in Christine often saw Mr. Torrance in those days, and wondered at his white and drawn face and at the keen and yet furtive look in his eyes, eyes that seemed always searching and yet fear-ing what they might find. And he often saw her, too, and every time was pierced anew by her strange and haunt-ing reamblance another trick of im-

ing resemblance-another trick of imagination he supposed, yet a most per-sistent one. And often he thought what a disappointment would have been his had he not seen her in her own home before the search was started and known her for whom she was. So strange are the things which really

happen that, of all the girls in Angers' Stores, the Misses Brown were the only ones who escaped the vigilance of Mr. Johnson and his half frantic employer. And this simply because the And this simply because the mind is remarkably tenacious of a suggestion received in good faith. This is why it did not occur to Mr. Johnson, trained to suspicion as he was, that Mr. Torrance did not know what he was talking about when he told him that the Misses Brown were outside the scope of the enquiries. It never occurred to him to waste time on anyone so well vouched for. And, stranger still, it did not occur to Mr. Torrance himself that he really knew nothing about the Browns. He had called there, he had seen them, he had gathered from their onversetion that they were sisters their conversation that they were sisters, and the idea of sifting this statement