acknowledged as the child of the

ou see, that could not be. What was

lone could not be undone. The coun-

ess had presented you to the world

Arrowdale you had to remain. I'

to have it, I have no doubt."

the mantelshelf again, and looked

Norah, with the papers in her hand,

and overwhelmed by the revelation.

Of its truth she did not doubt for a

ced of the truth of his story. Cather-

ine's-her mother's-last words were

testimony enough. She was not the

daughter of the Countess of Arrow-

dale, but of her companion, Cather-

And at that moment there was only

room for one feeling in her heart; an

of death! She raised the portrait to

her lips and kissed it, and her tears

Guildford Berton accepted the ac-

tion as her acknowledgment that he

low voice. "I thought you would be.

the difference, the change, in your

Norah scarcely heard him as she

wiped her eyes and stifled her sobs.

(To be Continued.)

ers to Ponder Over.

lton's Pills and not cured; their re-

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nust cause."

his immense wealth."

as the daughter of the Earl of Arrowdale, and the daughter of the Earl of

widow of Lieutenant Woodfern; but,



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CHAPTER XXXIV.

A Cruel Disclosure.

"It is mine!" she said. "I am very glad to be able to restore it to you," he said, suavely. "Will you tell me whose portrait it

"You know whose it is," she said; "it is Catherine's-Catherine Hayes'. I do not believe that you found it. It -it has been stolen." *

"Very likely," he assented, coolly; it again. Doubtless you will treasure it far more preciously and carefully than you have hitherto done, now that you know it is the portrait of your mother."

For a moment the words did not convey their proper significance to Norah, and she looked at him vaguely-she was thinking of Catherine; then she started, and her eyes open-

"What was that you said?" she

"I said that it is the portrait of your mother," he repeated, with sinister smile, and a gleam of triumpl in his eyes.

"My mother! This is Catherine Hayes, not my mother, not the Countess of Arrowdale!" she exclaimed. "It is not the Countess of Arrowdale," he said; "but it is Catherine

Hayes, your mother." Norah held the portrait tightly,

and looked at him. "Are you-are you mad?" she gasp

He smiled. ishment, and I sympathize with you;

into the chair, still looking at him as if she were waiting.

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"It is a terrible shock," he said, in tone of gentle sympathy. "For one ho has always regarded herself as

it from me, who love you and can sympathize with you, than from the lips of strangers, who would simply only. enjoy the romance of your disappointment-"

"I do not believe it," she faltered. "I am not surprised at that," he retruth of what he asserts. "I do not ask you, expect you to believe it without proofs. I have come prepared for your incredulity; though, if you ask yourself what purpose I could he facts-the lamentable facts!-are hese: Just before the countess lef the Court and went into exile, Cather ne Hayes committed the folly c marrying. She married a mangentleman-named Woodfern, James Woodfern," he added, taking a pape from his pocket and glancing at i "Catherine had asked and obtained a holiday, and had spent it in Plymouth. There she met this gentleman, Wood-"the Enchantress, then stationed a

were married—this Lieutenant Woodfern and Catherine Hayes-at St. hand you a copy of the church register. The original I have seen within

this is a correct copy." He placed the slip of paper in Nor-'e hand and waited.

She looked down at it, and mechan cally read the formal document.

"What-what has all this to do with ne, with my mother, the countess?" He raised his eyebrows, as if aston-

shed at her dullness of perception. plied. "Lieutenant Woodfern's leave was a short one, and the husband and wife separated. He went on board he Enchantress; she who was Catherine Hayes, but now Catherine

panied the countess. They went to London. Some months afterward child was born, a girl, the daughter of Lieutenant Woodfern and Catherine, his wife; in fact, yourself, dear Miss Norah!" and he 'inclined his head

Norah caught the arm of the chair and grew deathly white. In the space

"Do not cry," said Guildford Ber-

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"It is all so long ago. Shall She raised her lead and set he

teeth hard. "Yes, go on," she said.

"Your mother hat very little difficulty in winning tle countess' for giveness for the co-cealment she had been guilty of, and very soon the countess grew as ond of the little girl as her own moher was. Indeed, the solitary lady clang to the child with a loving tendeness which seemed to surpass that of the mother; and I can imagine how esy it was for the ountess to believe hat if the child before the earl and she had separated, no separation tould have taken place. It must have occurred to her first sight. Mr. Woodfern wooed with that if the earl could be made to bethe ardor of a sailor, and Catherine lieve that the child as his own-you Hayes, being presumably as much in see? Yes! So these two women conlove as himself, consented to marry spired in all affection; the little girl him after the short period of courting was to be regarded as the daughter which the exigencies of Her Majesty's of the Countess of Arrowdale, and naval service permitted him. They when they left London and took up their abode in the country, it was as the young Lady North that the child Stephen's, Plymouth. Permit me to of Catherine Woodfem was presented to the world. There was no limit to Catherine's devotion; she even relinquished her child! It was very feasthe last week, and I can testify that ible. No one knew of the marriage excepting the man Firlong, and he would not have known of the birth neet Catherine in Lindon before th two women had decided upon the exchange of mothers, and heard from her that the lieutenant had a daugh-

> Norah caught her breath. Her father! He new-he must have been written to! flashed through

"Yes, the lieutenan would have known, of course; but unfortunately, he contracted yellow fever at St Facts for Health Seekis the certificate," and he handed her

"I have nearly come to the end of my story, Miss Norah," he said, wip-

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by the countess to your mother, and What Shall I Give for Christmas?

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don't think it mattered very much to makes so complete and satisfying and Catherine; perhaps she consoled herself for playing the part of nurse in- yet so inexpensive a gift? Furthernore, this is particularly a Book stead of mother by reflecting that her child would figure as the daughter of child would figure as the daughter of come kind. Isn't this your opportua peer. That is very likely to have nity? We have all the latest An been her feeling. Any way, she died Chums. keeping the secret, and it was buried Boys' Own Annual.

with her. Only one man could have Girls' Own Annual. revealed the truth-the sailor Fur- Quiver, Sunday at Home. long; and he had disappeared, as sail- British Boys' Annual. ors do. Probably she thought he was British Girls' Annual. dead. But he is alive; it is from him that I have learned this interesting Empire Annual for Girls. Sunday, Chatterbox, Prize, Playbox. Tiny Tots, Bo-Peep, Little Folks. power to compel him to remain silent or tell the story in a court of law. Child's Companion, Our Little Dots. Leading Strings, Our Darling. That the proofs may be complete, I have got from him a plain statement Scout, Cottager & Artisan.

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