## One in a Ihousand, BUT TRUE TO

# THE LAST

CHAPTER II.

HE NEVER CAME!

When we awoke on the following morning, Theo is gone! It does not occur to either of us that she has taken the irrevocable step, and passed the rubicon which is to land her in details of her flight we both conclude that it will take place during the free hour: and so unsuspecting am I of the truth that, as I look round the room, I say:

"Where's Theo?" "Gone down already," Loys answers, vawning.

"How early she is! I suppose she wants to get her work done early particularly that for to-morrow," say, satirically. "What time is it?" "Ever so late, I think; but Theo

has her watch on." "Oh, goodness, there's the bell! exclaims Loys, a few moments later. "We have overslept ourselves

that's with talking so late last night I wonder Theo was down so early: but I suppose she was too excited to sleep at all."

We literally scramble into our clothes, and run down, buttoning our dresses as we go, with rough heads and a great scarcity of ornaments. "Where is Theo?" says Miss Burleigh, as we take our seats.

Loys looks blankly round.

"I don't know," she stammers "Isn't she in the schoolroom?" A cold shiver runs through me, for

I guess that Theo will be like the lady in "Jock o' Hazeldene," not forthcoming. I make an inward vow to corroborate whatever Loys says; and if she does not keep strictly to the truth, I must follow her into the region of fiction.

"Go and see if she is in your room,"

I do not move, and Loys volunteers in a quavering voice, that Theo was already gone down when we awoke.

I do her bidding, but return, with a blank face to say that my search has been fruitless.

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omment, "Mary, have you seen anything of Miss Luttrell this morn-

"No, miss," answers the maid, who has just entered the room; "but cook she told me that the front door was wide open when she come down."

"Good gracious!" ejaculates our governess, using what she, in a calmer moment, would term an excessive

At this moment I feel that I would sitting opposite to me, sipping her weak tea and munching the thick bread and butter we grumbled at so sorely; but, instead, I hear only a buzz round the table, and Loys suddenly buries her face in her hands nd bursts into tears.

"Do you know where she is?" says liss Burleigh, hastily.

Loys shakes her head and weeps afresh; and the teacher goes out o the room, evidently thinking it of no use to question me. She is perfectly

thinks. us, and we go upstairs into Mrs.

Dickenson's room. "Where is Theo?" she says, as we

right, though I know more than she

Loys shakes her head, and weeps suit, trembling in my shoes, and wishing Theo had not been romantic, but had been content to say her lessons for a time, like all the other girls.

"When did she go away?" "I don't know," answers Loys. "She was gone when we awoke."

"Gone when we awoke," I echo. "Did she say where she was go-

Loys and I shake our heads. "Then you don't know where she

"No," we reply, in the same breath. "You may go," says Mrs. Dickenson, gravely; then, turning to Miss Burleigh: "My dear, will you send for a

We scurry away, and go back to our untasted breakfast. Neither of us

I wander out, disconsolately, into the hall, and meet Mrs. Dickenson

if you will be quick, and put on you

things, you shall go with me." I feel very treacherous; but, as she truly says, I am anxious, so I run off to do her bidding.

When I come back a few moments later, she has already entered the cab, and I follow her, and we are off drive to the station, where Mrs. Dickenson makes enquiries, and finds that Theo, or a young lady, tall, with gold-

a town some twenty miles away. "And at what time was that?" "Well, mum, it would be by the

"And when does the next train go? tells us. "There won't be another till eleven-ten, and then you must nts a box, all dealers the eleven-ten, and then the state of the state

"How tiresome!" says Mrs. Dickenson, impatiently. "We have two ours to wait."

Oh, how long those two short hours

The train is a slow one, and, when we alight, we find it will be two o'lock before we can proceed. Another ong, wearisome delay! We go to the waiting room, and Mrs. Dickenson buys some buns. I am grateful for buns, and wonder where Theo is, and what she is doing. Then I find myroom in the course of a year, and, finally, I fall asleep. I sleep on until Mrs. Dickenson touches me, and says it is time to go: then I stumble has-

tily to my feet, and we make our way

I shall never forget the journey while I live. We sit opposite to each other, and at the other end of the compartment are a young man and voman, evidently not long married. It is visible in every loving glance every tender arrangement he makes or her comfort. My companion notes it all, and an ominous frown settles n her face, which makes me pity theo, if we find her. Then there is n old gentleman, with a newspaper, t seems to me that they must have been married a long time to be so utterly indifferent as they are now, or not, perhaps, anything so harmless s indifferent, for they bicker and nap at one another, to the intense

At last we reach Eastwood, and, as standing awaiting her on the platorm. I look out, too, and, to my inense relief, there is no sign of Theo. "Did you notice a tall, fair-haired

musement of the turtle doves next to

young lady get out of the train from Frampton this morning?" says Mrs. Dickenson to a porter, who seems to have no object in life but loafing

about the platform. "Which train, mum?"

"No. mum: I wasn't here then. My nate could tell you, maybe; but he's cone home." Mrs. Dickenson sighs.

"You'd best inquire at the waitingoom," suggests the man. "Most all adies go in there."

"Thank you," she answers, slipping omething into his hand. "I will do

To the waiting-room we go, and ind a civil woman, who listens to our

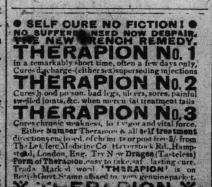
enquiries, but shakes her head. "You see, ma'am, this room isn't open until pine o'clock; but if you ust go over to the other side, I've no loubt you'll hear smething there."

We walk away in the direction pointed out, and I began to wish Theo had not been such a fool. I really believe I like saying lessons best. As I open the door, my heart gives one great throb, and seems to stop suddenly, for sitting at the window, on the opposite side of the room, is does she even start when Mrs. Dickenson lays her hand upon her shoul-

"What are you doing here, Theo?" she says, severely. Then she looks

"He has never come," she says, in a strange, mechanical voice, and resumes her weary, meaningless stare

Mrs. Dickeson shivers.



"Certainly, dear." She sees that the girl's mind is overwrought, and twelfth part of one day! But at last the stricken face touches her keenly "You have been very foolish to run away like this; but we will go home

> and say no more about it" "But he has not come," objects

> "Arthur-my Arthur: I cannot 2

stands patiently waiting for Mrs. self trying to calculate the number of Dickenson to take her whither she

"You shall come into the hotel, and

duced to take. And when late in the evening, we reach home, she is almost fainting from exhaustion and excitement. Our father has been telegraphed for, and comes to the door to meet

Mrs. Dickenson. "I am afraid she is

(To be Continued.)

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