

Happiness Last:

Decima, who had been taught by in love with her, I tell you." Lady Pauline to accode to any request, unless it were unreasonable or wrong, Marshon followed her. She knew all ing to her." her songs by heart, and she sung "The Messaga" Supg it not with the pro-

a man wears when his heart is in the got her already, I shall have her in my look. All unconsciously, she glanced up at him as the song finished, and caught the look in his eyes. It was as is a cold, an icy cold, hand had been

laid upon her heart, and she rose and stood a little apart from him. "Will you not sing again?" he said. sought hers.

Decima unconsciously moved away from him and nearer to Bobby. "No-I will not sing again," she said, almost coldly. "It-It must be getting late. Bobby!"

Bobby came up to her, there was a little more talk, and then she managed to convey to him that she really wanted to go.

Mr. Mershon himself saw them into the fly. "I hope this won't be your last visit

to The Firs, Miss Deane," he said, and his thin fingers closed round hers. Decima made no response, and the fly drove off. Mr. Mershon returned to the drawing-room and leaning his arm on the carved mantel-shelf, looked at the silent woman who was bending over her embroidery again.

"Well?" he said at last, sharply. She glanced up at him nervously. "Well, Theodore?" she said, timid-

"What do you think of her?" he deall the world?"

"She-she is very beautiful, very sweet." she assented, under her breath.

Mr. Mershon laughed. "I'm glad you think so," he said; "for I mean to make her my wife." Mrs. Sherborne raised her head and opened her lips, but no sound came.

"Well, what have you to say? Why the devil don't you speak?" he said. with the sudden fury of a weak nature; and he looked as evil as a malicious monkey, as he glowered down at her with his small eyes glowing exlitedly. "You hear? And you've got to



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Decima did not very much care for Mrs. Sherborne, though she pitied her --why, she could scarcely have told--and several times refused the drive; but one afternoon Mrs. Sherborne begged so hard, that Decima accompani But she was sorry that she had don

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