LILIAN, THE HEIRESS.

she says to herself: "The first!" with a little surprise and much pardonable bride, and seuts herself with something of an air before the militant urn. When we are old it is so sweet to us to be just you have are old it is so sweet to us to be just You forget that, mother."

An elderly butler, who has evidently have a conjusted when you get at wife. "And what a coquette she was! If Lilian Chesney resembles her, I don't have provided you say that?" says Guy almost roughly. "If my taking a wife here we was a state of the work of t pride, and seats herself with something of an air before the militant urn. When we are old it is so sweet to us to be just vice versa. Oh, foolish youth!

Perhaps Lady Chetwoode's self-admiration would have grown beyond bounds, but that just at this instant voices in the hall distract her thoughts. The sounds make her face brighten and bring a smile to her lips. "The boys" are coming. She draws the tea-cups a little nearer to her and makes a gentle fuse over the apoons. A light laugh echoes through the hall; it is answered, and then the door once more opens, and her two sons enter, Cyril, being the youngest, naturally coming first.

On seeing his mother he is pleased to

world."

"I should recommend a convent under the circumstances," says Cyril. "It would be thevery thing for her. I don't see why she should come down here to suffer and put us all in the dumps, and fill our woods with her sighs and moans."

"I she young" asked Lady Chetwoode, anxiously.

"No—I don't know, I'm sure. I should the world know, I'm should

"I would if I were you," says Guy,

"But, my dear, what an extraordinary spite of themselves.
"But, my dear, what an extraordinary spite of themselves.
"At this both on, spite of themselves.
"Are you really afraid, mother?" asks

know."

"And just as we had got rid of one ward so successfully we must needs get another," says Lady Chetwoode, with a plaintive sigh. "Dear Mabel! she was certainly very sweet, and I was excessively fond of her, but I do hope this new comer will not be so troublesome.

"I hope she will be as pleasant to talk to and as good to look at," says Cyril. "I would not be of the least consequence, if it was not situated actually in

leclared her intention of marrying Tom tion," says Lady Chetwoode

Now, finding the room empty, and knowing it to be four minutes after ten, she says to herself: "The first!" with a little surprise and much pardonable pride, and sets herself with samplifies.

rally coming first.

On seeing his mother he is pleased to make a gesture indicative of the most exaggerated surprise.

"Now, who could have anticipated it?"

"Immoral! My dear Cyril—" inter— " unter_ady Chetwoode, severely."

This solitary fact shows now grossly he make a gesture indicative of the most exagerated surprise.

"Now, who could have anticipated it?" he says. "Her gracious majesty already assembled, while her faithful subjects—Well," with a sudden change of tone, "for my part I call it down right shabby of people to scramble down-stairs before other people merely for the sake of putting them to the blush."

"Lazy boy! no wonder you are ashamed of yourself when you look at the clock," says lady Chetwoode, smiling fondly as she returns his greeting.

"'Ashamed!" Pray do not misunderstand me. I have arrived at my twenty-sixth year without ever having mastered the meaning of that word. I flatter myself I am a degree beyond that."

"Last night's headache quite gone, mother?" asks Sir Guy, bending over her chair to kies her: an act he performs tenderly, and as though the doing of it is sweet to him.

"Quite, my dear," replies she; and there is perhaps the faintest, the very faintest, accession of warmth in her tone an almost imperceptible increase of kindliness in her smile as she speaks to her eldest son.

"Positively I never thought of the goes over to his own seat and takes up the letters lying before him.

"Positively I never thought of the post," says Lady Chetwoode. "And here I have been for quite five minutes with nothing to do. I might as well have been digesting my correspondence, if there is any for me."

"One letter for you; five, as usual, for Cyril; one for me," says Guy. "All last will take a tenant for the 'Cottage.' 'A lady'"—reading from the eletter—"'who has usefred much, and who wishes for Cyril; one for me," says Guy. "All last as affering the same maning nowadays, and sounds nicer. But he looks a 'grave and reverend' if ever there was one. Indeed, his whole appearance is enough to make any great and says: 'There goes a good young man.'

"I'm sure! hope not," says Guy, his fifteded, wholly disgusted. "I should be inclined to shoot any one who told me I was a 'good young man.'

"I don't believe you know what

if there is any for me."

"One letter for you; five, as usual, for Cyril; one for me," says Guy. "All Cyrils." Examining them critically at arm's length. "Written evidently by arm's length. "Written evidently by "Labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage. "A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage. "A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage. "A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage. "A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage. "A labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a labould recommend a convent under the cottage." A labould recommend a convent under the cottage. "A labould recommend a labould recommend recommend recommend recommend recommend recommend recom

"Married?"

"I would if I were you," says Guy, laughing.
"I have just heard from Lilian Cheseney," suddenly says Lady Chetwoode, speaking as though a bombshell had fallen in their midst. "And she is really coming here nextweek!"
"I she is anything under forty, she will want to marry Guy disease." Certification.

afallen in their midst. "And she is really coming here next week!"

"No!" says Guy, without meaning contradiction, which at the moment is far from him.

"Yes," replies his mother, somewhat faintly.

"Another!" murmurs Cyril, weaklyhe being the only one of the three who finds any amusement in the situation.

"Well, at all events she can't write to me, as we shall be under the same roof; and and I shall dismiss the very first servant who brings me a billet-doux. How pleased you do look, Guy! And no wonder—a whole live ward, and all to yourself. Lucky you!"

"It is hard on you, mother," says Guy, but it can't be helped. When I promised I made sure her father would have lived for years to come."

"You did what was quite right," says Lady Chetwoode, who, if Guy were to commit a felony, would instantly say it was the only proper course to be pursued. "And it might have been much worse. Her mother's daughter cannot fail to be a lady in the best sense of the word."

"It is no ly too true," says Cyril, resignedly, "I feel sure if the widow is flouted by you she will revenge herself by marrying me. Guy, as you are strong, be merciful."

"After all, the poor creature may be curril, who all this time has been carefully."

"After all, the poor creature may be curril, who all this time has been carefully."

"After all, the poor creature may be quite old, and we are frightening our-

"I'm sure I hope she won't, then," says
Cyril, who all this time has been carefully
laying in an uncommonly good breakfast.
"If there is one thing I hate, it is a young wood, in all sincerity."

speech! Surely a girl may be a young lady:
"Yes, but unfortunately a young lady isn't always a girl. My experience of the former class is, that, no matter what their age, they are as old as the hills, and know considerably more than they ought to know."
"Are you really afraid, mother?" asks Cyril, fondly. "What a goose you are about your 'boys!' Are we always to be ichildren in your eyes? Not that I younder at your horror of widows. Even the immortal Weller shared your sentiments, and warned his 'Samivel' against them. Never mind, mother consoler

confess I missed Mab awfully. I never our own woods, and not two miles fro felt so down in my life as when she

"Yes. Yet what can I do? It is a pretty little place, and it seems a pity to

An elderly butler, who has evidently seen service (in every sense of the word), and who is actually steeped in respectability up to his port-wine nose, hovers around the breakfast, adjusting this dish affectionately, and straightening that, until all is carefully awry, when he leaves the room with a sigh of satisfaction.

Perhaps Lady Chetwoode's self-admiration would have group hevond bounds.

Perhaps Lady Chetwoode's self-admiration would have group hevond bounds.

Lalian Chesney resembles her, I don't necessitates your quitting Chetwoode with a hall never burden myself with the word in the plaintive style. I am getting too lot to kee care of pretty girls."

"Perhaps Miss Chesney is ugly."

"You don't follow out the mate argument, dearboy," says Cyril, smootly chestoode, with a strong shudder. "Let "She means that when your syls there be anything but that. I can't bear ugly women. No, her mother was lovely leave, as of course the same roof course the same roo argument, dearboy," says Cyril, smoothly "She means that when your sylva ward in a nothing mother; Guy's foolish letter ha

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