

The Broken Circle!

CHAPTER XL. Leah's face softened and brighten-

"Did you really love me so much? you. How strange we should be part- will but lower your pride. I am sure ed as we were! I could not have that, if you knew Sir Arthur, you would stayed. I could never have been what like him. He has the bravest, truest my father desired. Oh, Hettie, do as heart, the noblest soul—" Sir Arthur wishes—come home with "He hated my father," interrupted us! You must have suffered terribly. Hettie, "and he took you from me."

I will make it all up to you." She "I went of my own free will," said ressed the golden head that lay upon Leah. "I should have run away, Hetsaid "so graceful, so sweet! I long to but his teaching and his belief, that see you dressed in handsome silks and Sir Arthur hated. O, Hettie! now that aces. You will be a queen of beauty. we have found each other, do not let

to be near you, Leah, where I can see is nothing but pride between us. Hetyou in the morning and at night, tie, if you love me, you will let that think, my dear," said the general to where I can listen to your voice and pride die." that I have found you, Leah."

"There is no need for it, Hettie, if

women, the lovely faces so near together, the slender arms entwined, the dark head bending over the fair one Hettie looked up at Leah.

terfere with your prospects, Leah. You rank; I am right. I would much sooner have shar-

are more to me than any money, Hettie: before us so terrible a choice!"

rich, I should have done just the same,

breast; she kissed the flower-like tie it I had not accepted his offer; I know few women in London so fair 'us part! I will bury the past; you do the same. We are slone in the world; let us live for each other. There was no restlement, no passion in her fair, sweet face.

understand? It seems to me that if I go to Sir Arthur, I am disloyal to my

"That is only a fancy-a morbid fancy. Your path seems to me clear

"But, Leah"—and the blue eyes anx

how I can. You and I are quite different now. You are a lady of fashion and

ed my father's poverty than my uncle's ters! Can anything undo that? If you wealth. I had my choice, and it does come to regard the matter in its true "Our uncle is rich enough, Hettie unworthiness, it is on my side, not on darling, to adopt half a dozen nieces," yours. My pretty Hettie, for months her sister replied, tranquilly. "There after I had left you, I dreamed of those can be no question of interference with golden hair. How strange it was our me. I should be only too happy. You uncle coming so suddenly and putting



"Nor have I mine," declared Leah low the time has come when we be happy together, if you are

She prevailed at length, but it was after a long struggle. Hettie promised to make her home with Sir Arthur and her sister; and Leah knew that she would keep her word.

It was arranged that they should go rst to London, where a fitting trouseau and mourning could be provided; and the two sisters left Southwood with their hearts full of love for each

CHAPTER XLI.

There was a long animated discusion between the general and Hettle. She was so firmly resolved not to renquish her name, and Sir Arthur was so fully determined that the name of Ray should never be heard in his house. It was Leah who decided the that, if she lived in her uncle's house if she accepted a fortune at his hands,

The more the general saw of Het-

"I should be puzzled, Hettie, to say why; but your eyes have a strangely

Leah's dark eyes were fixed anxiouson her. Hettie's thoughts went back o great that it had stunged her. Now he would have time to realize it all.

The lovely face grew a shade paler as she answered: "My life has been like all other

lives, I suppose, uncle," she replied,

errupted Leah. And the general, looking at the fair face, wondered whether, if Hettie had come to him first, he would have loved her best, at present he thought that he thought that he should never in this world care for any one as he did for

his beautiful Leah. They had been two days in London and had been so incessantly occupied that there had been but few oppo

The general was strictly just Leah was his helress; for her there were rare jewels, Indian spoils, all that was ost costly and magnificent. For Hettie there was position, and there was luxury, but her fortune would by no means be so extensive. Sir Arthur had on made up his mind as to what he would be able to give Hettie for her dower; and the interest on it was to be her own, to spend as she liked. All these arrangements were made in letail during their stay in London. I was evident to all who knew them at the general did not intend t o sisters to be on equal footing. Leah as to be mistress and helress; Hel-s, the newcomer, was to be subor-nate to her. It was evident to all hat he loved Leah best.

(To be continued.)

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