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off and before you go, I have to thank you for one of the best days I've ever enjoyed in my long life." Sallie's laughter rang out softly She saw herself with unlimited wealth laid at her feet.

laid at her feet.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

When a woman reaches twenty eight, she stops there until she's forty.

SALLIE sat in the hotel garden, under a tree, reading a batch of letters which had been forwarded on to her from home. With them there was a curt half-page from he. father which conveyed no news save there was a curt half-page from he. father which conveyed no news save the all-important fact to him that the new cook was a success, so far as knowing her business was concerned. "A grotesquely ugly woman, though that is of little consequence if she can cook properly. As you are away, she insisted on seeing me this morning, to ask if she gave satisfaction. She is forty, if a day, and enormously stout. I thought Adeliza wrote to us she was a good-looking woman of twenty-eight, probably come to us with a false character, but tell your aunt the woman can cook, and nothing else matters. I am asking a few of my friends here for the week-end. Your affectionate father, Brismain."

Sallie tossed the slip of paper scornfully on one side. "He's satisfied, at all events—'a few of my friends for the week-end.' I know what that means; chemin-de-fer and baccarat. We shall be poorer than ever after this, I expect!"

Several envelopes were then opened and the contents torn up swiftly into

Several envelopes were then opened and the contents torn up swiftly into small shreds—bills with the addenda that an immediate remittance would be esteemed. "I daresay it would—but you're not likely to get it," Sallie muttered

muttered.

Then she came to one in a large scrawly hand, and with the exclamation "Theo!" set herself to master its contents.

contents.

"Father met Lord Brismain yesterday, and heard you had gone to Aix with Lady Adeliza. How I envy you Here it is too deadly dull, as we have been giving up everything on account of Laurie's illness, but I expect you will like to hear that he is rapidly on the mend. We have had a fearfully will like to hear that he is rapidly on the mend. We have had a fearfully rotten time altogether since his accident, but now things are not so poisonously depressing. Dr. Fraser has promised he shall come down to morrow. I wish you had been at home to come over and buck him up by teling him some of your London stories. Have you heard from your brother yet?" (Ah! that's the real reason Theo's writing to me!) "I heard that he had left London and gone abroad. Theo's writing to me!) "I heard that he had left London and gone abroau. Is that true and, if so, where is he, and what is he doing? Do write me and tell me all your news. If there is anything you want in this part of the world, let me know and I shall be delighted to do it."

"Not much in that," thought Sallie. "I wonder how she heard that Tubby had gone away. Perhaps he wrote to her and told her not to mention it. Rather a nice little flapper, Theo!"

A shadow fell across the open page, and Sallie looked up to find Mr. Saxon

and Sallie looked up to find Mr. Saxon quite close to her. They exchanged greetings and he said, "You're busy with your letters. I must not disturb your"

"Oh, do stay! They're all rubbish; not a bit interesting, I know, by the outsides. Aunt Liza is at the Baths, so I'm all by my lone. Talk to me and amuse me."

and amuse me."

He took the chair beside her and noted with keen appreciation that her beauty did not suffer by inspection under the searching light of the Alpine sun. It pleased him, too, that her manner was softer, more yielding, expressing the desire to please, and also to know him better. She began to question him of the life in New York, saying, "I feel anxious about my brother. He is very careless. I've always heard New York is so expensive, and I can't imagine how he's going to live there without money if he could not do so here, where my father provided him with a home, at all events."

"What was your brother's vocation?" Saxon asked.

"He had none. He was supposed

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