Continued from 1st page.

She leaned out of the window. Her face was sallow this morning, and her lived! Like a man," she thought. eyes sunken. Miss Vane was a victim | The tears were in her eyes. to some obscure ailment which some of her friends called hysteria, and said of Alice? Wife and mother?" others a secret sorrow. Whatever it | She tossed slatternly and nerveless of might be, the girl seldom slept at night; the bed, saying the words over dully from midnight till morning the house again and again. Would she ever be shook under her heavy tread as she a loving wife as other women? She prowled about, now lying on the parlor thought a baby's fingers might take floor, now creeping with her cold feet nto Ally's bed, then out to the porch, tramping up and down in the darkness and rain like a caged animal. By noon she was usually curled up asleep under your feet somewhere, a heavy, dead lump of matter. People who saw Charlotte Vane in the ball room liken. ed her to all kinds of glowing tropical birds and flowers; but orderly house keepers found her unendurable, a very messengerof Satan sent to buffet them.

Charlotte flung the window open and thrust out her head and shoulders into the wet foggy air. The first morning rays had touched the upper waves umber of the sea below. Beyond, ris, in him. "I am his equal! I will make ing out of the fog, was a peak of the him mine—to-night." South mountain, a glimpse of clear

and steadied her body. She stood a and drank. long time without moving. Perhaps for her, too, there were hills of Beulah waiting above this dark unintelligible world. For her too-

voice at her elbow. "The sunrise."

Ally peeped out. "Oh, it is nice. breakfast, Charlotte, dear."

Down in the bright little breakfast little parlor, as usual, was cheerful and room Mrs. McIntyre was waiting, seated by the fire in her worn velvet easychair, the cat curled up at her feet, and ed a bit of gossip, as every woman her soft white fingers busy with that does, however well bred. Joe meneverlasting cloud of white netting. tally parted her on the head patron. Miss Vane, who never sat on a chair, izingly. What a thorough little house curled herself up on the rug at her feet, keeper was! so tender and watchful and put her head on her lap.

"Some of the gentlemen might call before breakfast is over, my dear."

"So they might." The word fired but a few months ago. her blood as the sound of the trumpet does the trained racer's. She stretchbaby complexion don't light up as well as I do. Don't blush, child, whenever one speaks of you. By the time you I have, you'll talk of your own points as though you were a horse," with a bitter laugh, that had a stifled sob that the pony was to be broken for

underneath.

Sometimes Miss Vane, when in a good humor, was as gay and brilliant with them as though they had been gentlemen. She told queer, cynical stories of her seasons at New Orleans, Havana, or Paris, out of which, however, all vicious meaning was purged in bread and butter girl, as she called Ally. But to-day she was silent, ate ravenously, cast furtive gloomy glances over at Alice's lovable little face, soft brown hair, neither chignoned nor fluffed, and fresh morning dress. These people were altogether genuine and fresh; it was that which puzzled and irritated her. They had known great trouble. Would nothing break their cheery, bright calm? When Charlotte had visited Virginia before, the McIntyre estate was as large as a German

principality; now they were wretchedly Alice, after various mental pokes to rouse Miss Vane, gave it up. "Have you decided, mamma, about my blue

Charlotte pricked up her ears at the old lace you had put by for Ally-I heard the soldiers tore it into rags before your eyes."

Mrs. McIntyre nodded and stroked pussy gently. Yet she did grow pale. "Den't bring ghosts, even of old lace, to the breakfast table !" cried Ally, quickly.

"But the idea of merino at a ball, Alice!" solemnly. "You don't understand, child. And yet you sit here and do nothing !"

"What could we do, Charlotte ? The lace was torn into shreds-perfect shreds, I assure you!"

"Who talks of lace?" vehemently. "You and your mother are in want, actual want. You have culture, both of you, fine taste and shrewd wit. savoic vivre to those of her own. Why do you not use them to help yourselves and the world?

color, but she did not speak. two pieces and they're out of date. I white motherly old cat has laid her vel can embroider very nicely"---

should be seamstresses, Alice," quietly. up stairs to dress for tea, Poor Char-"Seamstresses—yes. Anything that lotte! that would be a terrible menage for would give a place in the world. I wish, God knows, that I had no fortune, that I might do something to instify my right to live," cried Miss early youth had been scarred with passion Vane, who was now fully mounted on was not the husband she would choose to

Joe's horse's hoofs were heard out-

side, and Miss Vane abandoned her though they never lacked a dainty dish | cause and vanished. A man-any man -to her was a foe to be overcome, and Alice had made the biscuits to-day for she was never victorious in her mornbreakfast herself. Miss Vane, their ing wrappers. She went to her room guest coming down the stairs, saw her and spent the day there, in planning in the kitchen, her soft arms powdered how to use her fast wasting life. She with flour, her cheeks burned pink. was in deadly earnest in the matter. It was a pretty home picture, Miss She thought, as she did every day, of Vane thought, who had a man's taste in | lecturing, of going into a hospital or a female beauty. "Now I would be vul- nunnery. The happiest time of her gar in a kitchen. I am always vulgar life had been during the war, when she out of full toilet," glancing down at had been a Confederate spy at Washher own large slovenly figure; "But ingtor, carried maps in her boot heels Alice is like a child in that. She is her or chignon, and when she appeared as

own sweet innocent self always, stand- | Maryland at a masquerade ball in Riching apart Dress or work don't touch mond, with gold chains fettering her beautiful bared arms. "Ah! then I was a patriot! Then I

> "What was it Mrs. McIntyre had away the stain and sore from her breast, but nothing else could. No-

Then her thoughts went off at a tangent to James Vogdes. She had known him but a week or two, but she loved him. She was sure she never had loved any man so much before. If she could only be sure that he cared for her! She sat up on the bed, her ssliow skin heating into mellow passionate tints, her eyes half shut and brilliant as an animal's watching his prey. If she could rid him of that weak feeling for Alice! It was no love. That sily commonplace girl had of rising mist in the valley below, and but a surface touch: she could never brought out rose and saffron lights in raise the brain power, the fever pas them, half deadened by the somber sions which Charlotte, felt were latent

The next moment she bethought her light, green woods and running of her dress for the evening, and the floor was soon covered with gorgeous "The hills of Beulah!" cried Char-ball dresses, torn and soiled, unmated lotte. A choking lump rose in her shoes and stockings, artificial flowers, throat. She was as easily moved as a old letters which she had dragged child. The unexpressed power, the out of her trunks. At the bottom of utter repose in this grand mood of na- one she found a bottle of laudanum, ture calmed her, as the damp air cooled some of which she poured into a glass

"Just what my nerves needed," sh said, putting the goblet away. CHAPTER III.

Joe Page kept an anxious watch on "What is it?" said a pleasant clear the door all day for Miss Vane. Alice was a nice little thing, but a man of the world like himself found, of course, metal more attractive in a higher type But it's horribly chilly! Come to of woman. However, he lounged away the day contentedly enough. The sunny, and Ally was always vivacious and stout tempered, and secretly relish-"The fire is pleasant this chilly mate as two happy girls together. Just morning, isn't it, Charlotte?" remov- the very wife for Jeems Vodges. ing, with soft motherly little touches | There was a whisper going about the and pats, the obnoxious curl papers. neighborhood that Vogdes had been a suitor for Alice ever since the little

girl had left school, which was in fact "I'd give all I'm worth to know if he has changed his mind since he saw Miss ed her long lazy limbs and got up. Vane," thought Joe, looking stead-"Truth is, I ought never to 'show' except at night. Even Ally with her ferce glow of jealousy. "But how the deuce is a fellow to find out!"

"Secundus is training that pony capitally," he remarked. "The bay, have been through as many seasons as you know? Vogdes intends it as a birthday gift for Miss Vane." Now, there had been a vague rumor

Alice. 'I never knew a woman ride more beautifully than Charlotte," Mrs. Mc-

Intyre remarked quickly. "I always think of Di Vernon," said Ally with a little gush of enthusiasm. "By the way, Vogdes bade me give you his compliments, Aunt Letitia. respect to the innocence of the little He will ride over this afternoon. Tom wants to see Miss Vane.

wants to see Miss Vane.

"Tom is very fond of dear Charlotte," said Ally. "Everybody is that, COAT, PANTS or VEST it will pay you to call and get them. and stare at the whitewashed wall when in that puffed yellow slik-and her arms and hands were models for a sculptor. as Cousin Joe said-"When note in her secret soul, with a malicious toss of her head. "But that is no reason why she should take-my-my friends away from me," said Ally, trying to hold back the tears in her blue eyes. "Cousin Joe hasn't asked me to dance once this first mention of dress. "That store of the bouquets for Missy Vane, and now

summer, and even Secundus brings all there's Tom gone! Dear little fellow It was hard she couldn't leave me Tom. The little urchin was in the habit of running down to the cottage every day and Alice's devotion to him (when nobody saw her) was something wonderful to be hold, How she brushed and curled his vellow hair! how she slyly sewed o missing buttons, or darned tears in his

users, whispering, "Poor little mother less fellow!" Meanwhile, down stairs, Mr. Page en tertained Mrs. McIntyre with some o his most brilliant anecdotes of society and blase bits of philosophy. Alice's mother, he remembered, had been both belle and bel espirit in her youth, and i was worth while to show her how su perior young men of this day were i

The lady, her white fingers busy with her wool, turned Joe over and over, and Mrs. McIntyre's face deepened in read his whole secret leisurely; that he blor, but she did not speak.

"I'm sure, Charlotte," piped Ally believed meant to put his fate to the test with a nervous quiver, "I do not wish | with Miss Vane to-night. The poor boy mamma to want. I'd teach music if was as helpless in her gentle handling as anybody would learn; but I only know a miserable little mouse upon whom a

vety paws. "Your cousin cannot mean that we | She smiled complacently as she went any man under her rule as housekeeper. But she was thankful that Vogdes' attention had been directed from Alice. A widower with an unruly boy, a man whose take her pure white flower to his bosom.

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