

The Mystery of Rutledge Hall "The Cloud With a Silver Lining"

CHAPTER XXIV.

before out to him, and forget in that happy Sidney dared proceed, and, while home the unhappiness of the past." she knelt by the couch soothing Chrissie shook her head wearily. to dread terribly the result of an in- declared, faintly-"never! My brother terview with Frank, thinking sorrow- my dear, dear brother!" fully to herself that Chrissie could "Hush, dear, hush!" Sidney said never live through its intense excite- tenderly. "Chrissie, if you are brave, if you will be strong, you shall see

"Tell me, tell me!" Chrissie mur- him." mured, with pale lips; and her eager, "See Frank? I am brave, I am pleading eyes repeated the entreaty strong!" the poor girl cried, holding out her trembling hands. "Where is yef more urgently.

Sidney told her very simply, almost he? Is he here?" as if she had been speaking to a little. "He is coming," Sidney answered, child, suppressing much which she forcing a smile, although her heart knew could only pain her, telling her was heavy and sore. "He will be here of Frank's love for her still and his to-night, and you shall see him, hope that they should meet, of the Chrissie." steps she-Sidney-had taken to prove his innocence, of the hope she cher- en, heshed that some day it would be provil, of his intention of going abroad will be disguised. Ah, poor girl," and making a home there and begin. Sidney added, in a tone of pity and ning a new life; and Chrissie listened compassion, as Chrissie's feeble clasp ing eyes fixed on her friend's face, and back swooning on her pillows, "how her little feeble hands held fast in will she bear to see him, how will she Sidney's warm clasp; and, when the bear to let him go-forever?" soft, soothing tones died away, the unhappy sister spoke for the first time.

"Sidney, how do you know all this?" As the day wore on, Sidney's pershe asked, faintly, but eagerly. "Has plexity and distres increased momenthe written to you? Have you had let- arily, and she felt more and more an-

"He has written to me once or jously annoyed with her for being ab-

"Then-then you have seen-" "Where?" Chrissle tried to say, but Greville's invalidism was a recogniz-

the world died away on her lips. | ed fact, and Sidney felt that Stephen "He came here one night," Sidney might easily say that she could spare answered, gently. "Nay, dear, you her hostess for a few hours. Once need not tremble: he was disguised, she thought of feigning illness herself, and ran no risk, or very little, and--- but she was afraid her husband would check the tears-they will do you her. Another great difficulty was the good. I saw him, and he was so well utter impossibility of Christine's meetdisguised that I-even I, Chrissie- ing with her brother taking place think of that!-did not recognize him, anywhere but in the house. Even or rather should not have recognized had the time of year been summer, him had I not known that I should the poor girl had hardly strength to meet him; and there was no risk, drag herself to the summer-house dear, because it was night and no one where Sidney's first interview with saw him-no one but me. And now Frank had taken place; but now, with so in all safety, I think-and make a out of the question. Sidney had writhome for himself in one of those grand ten this to Frank, and asked him it it room to answer them leaving the huscountries where hard work and per- were possible for him to wear such a band and wife together. severance always succeed; and per- disguise as would enable him to enter Figuren that the stain should not be her suspense. removed from him hers, none will Chrissie's swoon had been of short spected and happy. And - perhaps - a state of hysterical agitation, that who knows, Chrissie, what the future Sidney had induced her to take a dose may have for us?-his sister will go of chloral, and she was now sleeping

calmly on the sofa in the boudoir; and, leaving Bessie with her, Sidney wen to her own room to try to think quietly over her difficulty and summon courage to meet it without arous-

As she entered her dressing-room the first thing which met her eye was the costume she was to wear in the evening, which had just arrived from Paris, and which Bessie had spread out upon the sofs. Stephen himself had chosen the role for her, and had been interested in designing the dress. "She is so cold and white and pure," he said to himself, "that 'lee' will suit ier to perfection."

And the costume was a triumph of art and beauty, with its rich, shining draparies and crystals and icicles; the great costumier to whom it had been intrusted had done his work well.

"Everything seems to go against me!" Sidney murmured, leaning her head wearily against the windowpane, as she looked out at the falling snow. "Stephen will be so angry; but what can I do? I cannot disappoint them both! It is very hard-oh, so hard, and I am so tired! Will Lloyd Hilner suspect, I wonder? Well, it is the last risk we shall run, and theirs has been such a hard fate. How will Chrissie bear it?"

Then she turned away from the window and glanced rather wistfully at Twelve Ounces the beautiful dress. She would have "I shall never see him again," she liked to wear it, she thought; she that she would only vex him. He would think her not going to the nall urging the necessity for legislation and she would have to hear in silence the grove displacement and another would have to hear in silence the grove displacement and another would be penal offence. Such an alteration

when Stephen and his friend entered, tent in connection with sugar. "Here? But, if-he should be tak-"Nay, dear, there is no danger; he that evening.

breathlessly, with great hollow, burn of her hands relaxed, and she sunk tively over at her husband, as he lay him and yet show a profit. ing luxuriously, but looking somewhat weary and fatigued after the day's inal pounds are actually only fourwork as he sipped his tea. How would teen or even twelve ounces, and the she dare to tell him? she wondered; shortage in jars of jam is often three and the thought haunted her persist- or four ounces to the pound. To manently as she joined in the pleasant conversation, and poured out the fragrant gregate. A milk firm was proved to vellow tea into the quaint dragon cups, have made an additional profit of £1. xious. That Stephen would be ser- Presently the evening letters were 402 a year by giving short measure. brought in two for Sidney, several twice," Sidney answered, gently, "but sent from the ball at Lambswold she for Lloyd Milner, and one for Stepknew, and she felt that the only ex- hen. As Sidney took hers from the exactly half a hundredweight of butcuse which would hold good at all little silver waiter that the servant ter, he cannot weigh fifty-six separ-"Yes, I have seen him, dear." was Chrissie's illness; but then Miss had presented to her, she felt the ate pounds from it—unless, of course, color rush into her face. Both were he works more water into the mass addressed in unknown handwritings and both had the London post-mark; and her fingers trembled so much that them on her lap and crossed her hands Yes, cry, dear Chrissie; do not try to insist upon remaining at home with upon them, as she sat by the little gypsy table.

The two young men were reading their own letters, and did not notice her agitation. Stephen's was a long. closely-written enistle from an old college friend now settled in New Zealand, and Mr. Milner's correspondence, relating to business mathe has decided to go away—he can do falling snow and a bitter wind, it was concluded its perusal, he gathered up the letters and went away to his own

Sidney's opportunity had come. haps by and by, when his innocence is the house; but she had had no reply, Stephen had finished his letter, and proved, he will some home to us. Christ, and she was quite ignorant of his insie: or. if-if it should be the will of tentions, which added considerably to ful eyes, pulling at his beard, as he often did when in deep thought, and he did not see the furtive anxious knew of it there; and he will be re-duration; but she had revived in such glance his wife was casting at him. More than once her lips parted, and she had almost said what she wished they were still unspoken. As the clear single stroke sounded, Stephen started, glanced at the clock, and

said, gayly: "We had better go and dress, Sidney; it will take rather longer than usual, you know; and I promised the mother we should be in good time for

"Yes," Sidney answered, faintly, "I will go directly; but-but-do not want. I want to speak to Toms before I go upstairs."

(To be continued).

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would have liked to show Stephen Tradesmen's Short-Weight Tricks. The Incorporated Society of Inwould think her not going to the ball spectors of Weights and Measures is the grave displeasure and reproach has long been wanted, for only in the which hurt her so keenly. It was very sale of coal, bread, and tea is it an offence to give short weight.

An old trick is wrapping some come All the short winter day she was modities in heavy paper, and making restless and ill at ease, and the sound the customer pay for that at the of the wheels of her husband's price of the contents. Tea, before brougham made her heart beat to suf- its sale by net weight became comfocation; but she ran down-stairs and pulsory, was a favourite medium for was in the library, with tea ready, others, is still practiced to some ex-

chatting gayly, and pleasantly excited In a prosecution in Lancashire it at the thought of the somewhat un- was shown that the manager of a at the thought of the somewhat un-shop was debited with so much sugar, usual entertainment in store for them the paper for wrapping being included in the weight, and he was re-Once or twice Sidney glanced fur- quired to sell at less than the cost to

Swindling Housewives. Goods sold in packages are also commonly under weight. Many nom-Another trade practice causes many customers to get less than their



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ground that they could be readily manipulated against the purchaser;

but certain types have become com-

mon, notwithstanding that some wo-

men avoid shops where they are in-

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instrument. In this way it is easy to

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