

The Mystery Solved

CHAPTER VIII. A Solitary Life.

Maurice Durant looked at the pa face with a sudden interest. "Will you play for me?" he gently, fixing his dark eves upon hers. able to refuse, but she could not, for

the request, soft-toned as it was sounded like a command. Trembling in every limb, flushing for an instant, she sat down

to the instrument and played a "Gloria," her quivering fingers a most refusing to press the keys. Maurice Durant's face grew thoughtful as the music swelled out. and when she had finished, he in-

teous thanks. "Your objection to the instrument would soon lose its color did you but

play oftener." he said. "If I were sure-" she hesitated

at his mild praise. "You may be," he said, laying his white hand upon the oak of the organ will give you more of its music."

"I will play more," she said, in a let me entreat of you not to resist it." Maurice Durant bowed his head. low voice: then, hesitating and grow ing paler, she said: "Your hospitality is Arabian, Sir "Will you play?"

"Good heavens! what is the matter? escape from thine own memory.

Are you ill, Maurice?" using, in the no, a thousand times no, no. The past

SMART FROCK FOR DANCING No.

Fielding," he said. "But, as regards His eyes looked a negative for a the organ, let me remind you that you moment, and he shook his read; but have one who can interpret nearer suddenly he moved, and instead of home," and he turned, with a slight turning away, seated himself at the smile, to Maud, who was standing organ, playing some subtle piece of with her hands clasped, gazing music quite unknown to Sir Fielding, thoughtfully at the keys, her ears who was no poor musician in theory, drinking in eagerly the tones of and the like of which for sweetness Maurice Durant's voice. and sorrowful grandeur the listeners

She looked up, with earnest eyes, had never even imagined. in which the teardrops still glistened. First there floated through the vaulted gallery a low, solemn wail.

and, shaking her head, said: "I shall never touch it again. It which might have been the ghosts of would be desecration."

the departed Chichesters chanting in He shook his head. unison a song of the spirit world. "You make me regret my little Mournful to a degree, it brought the theme," he said. "If you will retract tears to Maud's eves and caused Sir your declaration and will permit me. Fielding's head to drop upon his I will send you the score for it." breast. Gradually it swelled out into She looked up, with a flush of pleasa burst of grand harmony that rang

echoing and re-echoing like the joy-"If you will send it to me, I will ful exclamation of a choral multitude: try to play it," she said, earnestly. then suddenly changed to a soft. de-"Good," he said, smiling. "It is a licious melody born of a dream, and contract. I will write it for you toso, gradually growing lower and night." more mournful, died away like the

"Ah," said Sir Fielding, catching at who had flown to his side, and who sighing of a summer breeze. the Imission, "then it is your own stood at a little distance gazing on For a second there was a dead silence, the steady, subdued light fall- composition?"

ing upon the magnificent head of the player, as it bent over the instru- Fielding, regretting his hasty speech, was intentional. ment, and upon the beautiful one of recalled attention to the pictures. But

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with its one solitary, dimly lighted window, behind which paced to and

The brave brow was more marked When one has acute rheumatic the thin lips sterner and more un bending, and the eyes flercer, yet sadder, than ever, as, never pausing sure as fate in its certainty of relief. in his monotonous striding up and down the chamber, with its faded. Old World furniture and worn tapestry, its rows of dust-covered, carved book shelves and rust-eaten armor, he

> the earth, even here, she follows me! Oh, Heaven

* * *

how dire is thy vengeance!

PARTY OR BEST WEAR

excitement of the moment, the simple bears bitter fruit-deadly wine, which name that had once been so familiar thou must drink to the dregs. And "A mere trifle" was the renly in vet how hard! oh Heaven how hard! How different might have been my loarse but regular tones. "I am unfit for polite society. Sir Fielding; I lot. Thou idiot, thou idiot! didst thou frighten it. A mere nothing," he never dream of some fair face like ontinued, holding up his hand, with that of the sweet, nale lilv that cara gesture almost of command, as Sir essed thy world-worn hands to-night? Fielding was about to speak. "A Oh, Heaven, if thou hadst, thy dream sudden pain at the heart, with which would have saved thee."

I am on intimate terms. I beg you Then came another pause, but the not to distress yourself further con- voice, this time slower, softer, yet cerning it; it is the veriest trifle, the with more of pain in its determination, breathed forth: merest puff of wind-"

And for the first time since they "Thou must go, Maurice, before the had seen him, he laughed, a low laugh ill is done; the sweet face is creeping of strange, subtle music, that thrilled into thy heart, and the sweet girl eyes through them somewhat as the wail- already bear within them the dawning of the organ had done. ing of love! Love! oh, bitter mock-"And now for the smaller corridor," ery that so pure a being should love he said, abruptly. "You have piqued thee, Maurice Durant. She must not, my curiosity, Sir Fielding, and I am she shall not," he continued, throwanxious to satisfy it." ing up his hands and gasping as if

And he turned aside, without even for breath. "Save her, Maurice; fly glancing in the direction either of the and save her, if thou wouldst not small picture before which he had merit the destruction which awaits chine, nun's veiling, challie, messasuccumbed or at the beautiful girl thee!"

his face with a reverent solicitude.

the stove.

It was midnight. The hall was ing effect. which hair is rinsed will have a drydark; its guest had departed for his A pinch of salt added when preparown house-the dreary rectory - ing any cheese dish will make it which looked more ghostly than ever, more digestible.



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over the lines in France. L ports the destruction of three machines and the driving d damaging three others.

German works were dama

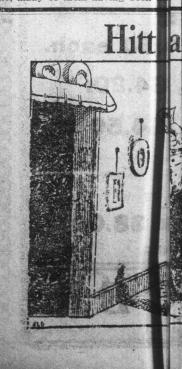
GERMANS NEARING DUTCH DER.

AMSTERDAM, Jan Telegrams and quotations Dutch newspapers from. a let ceived from Beckelenkamp, near the German border, say inhabitants in that part of th try feel some anxiety on according the military preparations of the mans along the frontier. T have just been constructed, th says, and German troops ha rived at various places, such sen, near Meuenhams, where men and much artillery are sta

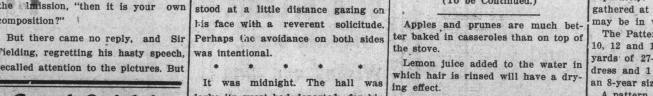
> THE DANGER ZONE AMSTERDAM, Jan.

The Nieuve Rotterdam She C says it learns from official that the zone that Britain de dangerous of which it has alrea formed the Dutch Government of ly, virtually coincides with the that Germany notified Holland the beginning of 1915 it would military measures in, namely the within a radius of one hundred miles, having Heligoland as its

LOST FROM THE LAURENT LONDON, Jan About 260 men were lost in sinking of the auxiliary cruiser entic, many of them having been



line or taffeta. The bolero is finished separately. The skirt is full and (To be Continued.)



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