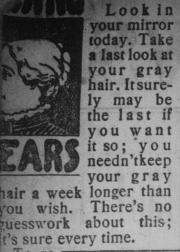
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CONSERVATORY CONCERT. Opera House, Dec. 27th. . / Programme.

BEAUTY'S EYES

A LOVER'S FASCINATION.

ers," she added, piteously. Max For-

rester laughed lightly. "Don't be so ,

much of a child, Florabel," he re-

torted, more sharply than he really

meant. "Not meet the guests! Why,

they are invited here for the sole pur-

pose of welcoming us home. This is

our wedding reception." Max knew

how she would cling to him like a

frightened school girl when they en-

tered the spacious drawing room. It

would be a little embarrassing; and at

that moment he really wished that

this sweet little bride had more dig-

later Max raps on his mother's bou-

doir door." Come in," she answers;

and her voice sounds like no other

voice he ever heard, it is so chilling,

strained and unnatural. The door is

flung open, and on the threshold

stands Max and his bride. "Mother,"

cries Max, springing forward and

clasping his arms about her in the

old, impulsive, boyish fashion, "have

you no welcome for your son, no

welcome for Florabel, my bride and

your daughter?" And unclasping his

arms from about her he led Florabel

His mother raised her eyes, and saw

a lovely, dimpled young face framed

in a mass of crinkled, tawny, curling

hair; a pair of brown, startled, hazel

eyes, and a red, quivering mouth.

With a sudden impulse, Florabel

stepped forward, shyly lifting her

"I hope you will love me," she

murmured, softly, ; "if not for my

own sake, for Max's. I have never

known a mother's love since I was a

or yours so much." And the next in-

stant two soft white arms were

around Mrs. Forrester's neck and two

sweet rose-bud lips sought hers in a

eyes to that cold, hard face.

forward.

timid kiss.

nity and self possession. A moment

Delightful, Dashing, Daring.

Continued from last issue.

that she will improve rapidly under go back and wait until to-morrow. I your charge, mother." never feel comfortable among strang-

"My dear son," returned Mrs. Forrester, in some irritation. "Heaven grant that I may have patience with this girl you have married and brought home to us-you who might have wed the best in the land." That was the first intimation Max had of the true state of his mother's feelings.

"Florabel is a lady," he said, quickly, his handsome face flushing. His mother held up her white, jeweled hands.

"Do not discuss the question!" she cried. "I cannot endure it." Max Forrester looked up quickly and anxiously into his mother's face.

"You do not like my little Florabel?" he asked, bending forward eagerly, and watching every expression of that cold, proud face.

"My dear Max," she replied, slowly, "I may as well be candid with you. This marriage has broken my heart. I do not like your wife at all. I am sorry to pain you. After the entire devotion of my life to you, I hoped that you would bring me a daughterin-law somewhat to my taste, and one whom I could love. You have not done so. You might have consulted me.'

She never forgot the little cry of pain that came from his lips, nor the heggard expression that seemed in one moment to crush out the beauty of his face. "I acknowledge I should have consulted you, mother, '' he answered; "but, even though you had disapproved-forgive me for saving so-I should have married Florabel all the very little child, and I have yearned same. In love and marriage a man is supposed to please himself. It is the cne great action on which the comfort or misery of his life depends." "You might have done so well,"

said his mother, desparingly, "and The heart of the old merchant now- Ah, well! I am bitterly disapprince wept out to Florabel on the pointed in you! Max," she said at length, crossing over to him, and laying her hands on his shoulders and looking eagerly into his face-"Max, ers and round, white arms gleamed are you quite sure there is no flaw in like ivory. She was the fairest picthis marriage?" "Flaw!" he cried. "Certainly not. ture of youth and beauty under the I took care of that. Why do you ask sun. such a question?' darling," cried the young husband, "If there had been," she replied, desparingly, "I hate this marriage so enthusiastically. "I am proud of you," he declared, as he took her much that I should have asked you to band and led her down the broad set it aside." The look of startled dismay, anger stairway toward the lighted drawing. and pained wonder that flashed from room. his eyes and darkened his face was and intently for her appearance, a terrible to see. strange smile curving her lips, and a "Mother," he cried, "if you mean strange light in her restless black that as a jest, I must say that I coneyes. The interior of the mansion sider it a very cruel and ill-timed was one blaze of light and warmth. cne. It is vile-horrible. I will not believe you meant it. If there were The large chandeliers of the drawingroom poured down a flood of light on a flaw, you may believe me that I would very soon have the ceremony the elegant room and its occupants. performed a second time. Oh, mother ! I wish you had never uttered such horrible words." "I repeat them," declared Mrs. Forrester. "I hate the very idea of this marriage. I would give half my fortune to see it annulled. From the mo-Max's young wife. mient I heard of it, I hoped that some formalities had been omitted by confused," thought that clever young which-" lady. "Then she is quite sure to "Mother," he cut in, sharply, "I think you are mad. I cannot and be awkward, and the first impression she makes upon her husband's friends will not believe you are in earnest in speaking as you have. If I thought will be a bad one." so, I should take my wife away from solve. She had whispered no vow of here at once, and, so help me Heaven, I should never look upon your vengeance to herelf. She had not, even to her own self, whispered the face again." "I-I could never be parted from word "revenge." None the less skillyou, Max," cried Mrs. Forrester, in fully had she laid her plans. Nothing kills love like ridicule. consternation. "You. are my only And Inez said to herself that, under som." "Then be kind to my wife," he anthe guise of friendship, she would be merciless to the fair young bride who swered, gently. "I will try to forget what you have said to-night. mother, as I would try to forget a hideous dream. Remember, I love her with all my heart. Life would not be worth living to me without her." "We will say no more about it, **Every Mother** Max," she answered, adding, hastily: "Has your wife a maid with

maid's presence to forget for a few brief moments the dark chill and loneliness that oppressed her; but she did hope the maid would not see that she had been crying.

For some minutes Gregory busied herself about the room, taking furtive glances into the mirror which reflected the young bride's tear-swollen face.

"My marriage to Mr. Forrester must have been a great surprise to his mother," murmured Florabel, under her breath, quite oblivious to the girl's presence, and never dreaming she had been overheard.

"It was, indeed, ma'am," retorted the obsequious maid; "leastwise as she had set her heart on the young gestleman marrying Miss Clavering; and Miss Clavering had set her heart on the same thing, too. Why, you ought to have heard the way she took on in her own room, thinking no one heard her, when the news came that

he was married, and was bringing his bride home. I am right glad she was disappointed in getting him, and it serves her right, too, for laying herself out to win him by coming here on a visit to his mother.'

When Max entered Florabel's apartment to accompany her down to the drawing-room, where the impatient guests were awaiting her, he found her sitting alone by the window, her curly, golden head buried in her two little white hands.

With some light, gay word, he crossed over to where she sat.

But at the sight of the pale, agitated face she raised to his, he started back in surprise and dismay.

"What is the matter, darling?" he cried, catching her up in his arms in a close embrace, and kissing the rosy, dimpled mouth over and over again. "Can it be that there are tear drops on those long lashes? Oh, my darling, what could bring them there?" "It was really nothing, Max," she exclaimed, impatiently. "I assure you I have no cause in the world to weep-none in the world. Do not distress yourself about my moods. You know they are as variable as the April sunshine. The truth is, I felt just a little bit lonely.

"Are you pleased with me, Max?" she asked, wistfully, putting away his clinging arms, and stepping a her costume.

Inez Clavering had made this re-

To be Continued.



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PART I.

rto in G Minor. Mendelssohn. Malto allegro confuoco. Andante.

Presto. Malto allegrve vivace.

Moskowski. Serenade. Miss May Jamieson. , Solo, Waltz. Chopin. Miss Eva Fulton. oncerto, violin and piano.

J. B. Accolay. 7iolin Solo. Les Sylphes. G. Bachman. Miss Susie Webb. I sit within a cellar cool.

German Ballard. Dr. Randall. Weber-Liszt.) Solo, Polocca. Miss Ella Fraser. Solo-Sylvia. Martinn Marsick. Moto Perpetno. N. Paganini. Miss Susie Webb.

PART II.

olt of the Toys-A Children's tmas Operetta.

Caat. 5.0 : Soloists. 11 Miss Jamieson Master Frank Lewis. Sandie Griffin. Charlie Stuart. Lloyd Linton (; Miss Jessie Jarvis. Louis XV. Miss Alice Linton. -Captain and Drum. -Faith, Hope and Charity. es Leta Craig, May Jamieson Myrtle McCallum.

Thoruses-May Archibald. Helen Smith. Eva Murray. Gladys Ryan. Alice Linton. Jessie Jarvis.

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Chase's Ointment. spot, but his wife was prejudiced against her. She groaned out in spirit:

"A pretty face-that much I grant. But, oh! how unsuited to my handsome Max! I shail not like her. Would to Heaven he had married Inez Clavering instead!"

Meanwhile Inez Clavering was being presented to Max and his bride. Max Forrester bowed low before the queenly girl, and Florabel, looking into her face, read startled admiration there, and a fierce pang of jealous pain shot through her undiscivlined little heart. Max was thinking as he gazed on the wondrous beauty of that fatally lovely face, that this was the most beautiful young girl whom he had ever beheld.

She held out her white, jeweled hand to Max with the charming smile peculiar to her, and kissed Florabel's red mouth sweetly. And Florabel, looking into that dark, sparkling, wondrous face, wondered vaguely why Max had ever chosen her when he might have wedded this peerless, dark-eyed beauty.

How beautifully she was dressed, too! How was Florabel to know that the mad idea had taken possession of Inez to outshine the little bride's fair loveliness-to outrival her-that she might pale into insignificance when contrasted with her own dark, dazzling splendor. Then Max Forrester woud see what he had lost, and regret, perhaps, that he had not chosen her.

When Florabel found herself alone in her room a few moments later, she could not repress the flood of tears that welled up to her eyes.

"I wish Max and I had never come here!" she sobbed. "We were so happy before! A horrible chill has come over me ever since I entered the house!"

Poor child! How little she dreamed that it was the shadow of the pitiful doom that was to fall upon her all too soon! Ere the grand reception was over a thrilling event happened.

CHAPTER IV.

"What is love that all the world Talks so much about it?

What is love that neither you Nor I can do without?"

"You are surprised to hear of my marriage, mother," said handsome Max, breaking the uncomfortable silence that had fallen since Florabel had left the room.

"I was something more than surprised," she replied. "I. was shocked. I have not recovered from it yet." "I ought to have written and told you all about it. I owr. frankly, mother. that I ought to have consulted you. But love must be my excuse. You will try to love little Florabel for my sake?'

She turned away without answering him.

"She is very young, mother," he went on, hurriedly, "and very timid. You will put her at her ease. She

her?" "No," he answered. "I thought you would be kind enough, mother, to recommend one. Florabel has not had much experience in that way."

"She will need the assistance of some one to help her with her toilet to-night. I will send my own maid Gregory."

Gregory tapped twice upon the door at Florabel's boudoir ere a voice answered "Come in!" and it sounded like a very tearful, sobbing voice,

"I am sent by Mrs. Forrester to assist you, ma'am," said Gregory, pushing open the door and entering, courtesying as she spoke. "What can I do for you first?"

"I do not know," said Florabel, in bewilderment, adding, with childish candor: "I never had a maid, so you will know best, perhaps. Do for me what every other maid does for her

mistress. "A new kind of mistress," thought Prices Low Enough to Suit Every Pocket Book.



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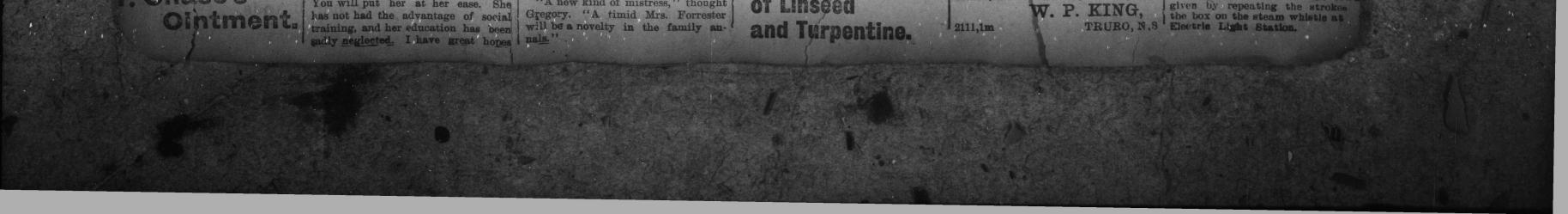
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