

CHAPTER II. In an English Palace. "They parted. It was very sad, and very-disappointing. But-what would you have? Life is too short to permit of two persons spending it in quarreling." He shuddered palpably. "But-but your daughter?" said

"Ah, yes, pardon me, I had forgot ten! Yes, I have a daughter, born after the separation; consequently have not seen her"-he said it as if it were quite a matter of course. "But her mother and her nurse and, I believe, most attached and devoted ser-

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vant being dead, her care devolves upon me" There was a pause. Everybody tried

Lord Ferndale.

to find something to say, and failed, though Lord Ferndale did murmu inaudibly. "Poor girl." "I may say," said the earl, quite

pleasantly, "that I have not seen her yet, and that I am sharing your curiosity. She arrived this afternoon."

The men exchanged glances, all but Guildford Berton, who kept his dark siveness broke down before this graceeyes fixed on the floor. "I cannot even tell you what she is

like, but I trust you will find her stood waiting like a princess for homcharming," and he spoke the words as age. Then he left the table, and takif he had added, "and I am quite sure ing her hand with a bow, turned to his you won't." dumfounded guests.

There was a painful silence, broken by the entrance of Mr. Petherick. The earl looked at the clock. "We will not wait." he said, suavely Mr. Petherick coughed.

"I expect Lady Norah is too tired." he stammered.

The earl smiled upon him, and mo tioned Lord Ferndale to lead the way.

They entered the dining-room, and FOR a moment or two Norah fel the earl walked straight to the bottom giddy and almost faint. Surely n of the table, waved his guests to their girl had ever before been placed in se seats, and the rector said grace. extraordinary and trying a situation He had scarcely resumed his seat, Opposite her sat the father she had when the two footmen ranged themnever seen before; the guests were all selves on either side of the door, and strangers to her. The magnificent Norah entered. room, with its air of mingled gran-

She wore the soft, white dress with deur and refinement would have been the black sash and shoulder ribbon in alone sufficient to overawe a young which Mr. Petherick had first seen girl accustomed hitherto to the small her; her face was pale, but that and and simple rooms of a country cotthe faintest quiver of the beautiful lips tage.

men rose also, and Guildford Berton genially. "I must find a nice horse went and opened the door for her. He

Norah possessed a spirit no ordeal which her exquisite father had easily cowed. Somehow or other she compelled her to undergo. divined that the stately, patrician old

The men started and rose, looking man facing her at the bottom of the at her in breathless silence. The earl table, expected her to display some was the first to gain his feet, and he, confusion and shyness, and she retoo, stared for a moment, as silent as solved that he should be-well, disapwas his turn now. the rest. pointed.

He had expected to see a shy, timid, So, though the room seemed to spin underbred girl, half dairy maid, half round, and she saw the faces of the -he scarcely knew what. At any guests and the footmen through a kind rate, something that would try all his of haze, she made no sign of the emo self-possession and immovable seren- tions that swept across her young ity. heart.

Instead---! The gentlemen, with true delicacy. For a moment a faint color rose to carefully avoided looking at her for

r you; en, Arrowdale? raised his eyes for a second and fixed The old earl bowed and smiled. them on her as she passed, then drop-"You are very good, squire," he ped them to the ground again, stil answered, in his courtly fashion. without a word "One can always rely on your judg-

A footman stepped noiselessly be ment in horse-flesh.' fore her, and threw open the door of The rector gave a little cough: i the drawing-room, and Norah went

and stood by the window and looked "I'm afraid you'll miss the Devo out at the far-stretching lawns and shire ferns, Lady Norah." he said. lower gardens, and for the first tim have few, or now that she was alone-her eyes we must hope that our roses will make dim with tears. t up to you. I think you will say

(To be Continued.) that there are some fine ones here a

he Court-and a few at the rectory. "There are roses in Devonshire nurmured Mr. Petherick: "are ther

It Was the Gun, Not John That Was at Fault. ot, Lady Norah?"



Norah smiled at him as at one whom she knew better than the rest. an also liked. One person only had not spoken to er-Guildford Berton, and she chanc d to glance at him. The dark, pene rating eyes happened to be fixed ou per, and their gaze met. In that mo nent a strange feeling took posse sion of Norah, a feeling difficult to describe. It was not exactly repulsion but a singular sensation, as if she felt that he was trying to read all that was

assing in her mind, and she must a She ought, by all ordinary rules, t ave been attracted by the young

nan's handsome face, but there was mething in it which jarred upo her, though she could not have told Coffees is no Coffees is not surprising if you consider the story of our fifty years as a busines For a space in which one could

have counted twenty they looked into fty years of constant study bring to the coffee ... rinkers of North America te best to be found in te plantations of the each other's eyes; then Guildford Ber on withdrew his gaze and returned t his plate, without uttering a word. The dinner proceeded. To Nora. e courses seemed endless. She ha one to one or two small dinners a Chase & Sanborn's Coffee he clergyman's at Norton, but th cence of this, her first meal in

her's house, as far surpas n as a corporation feast su

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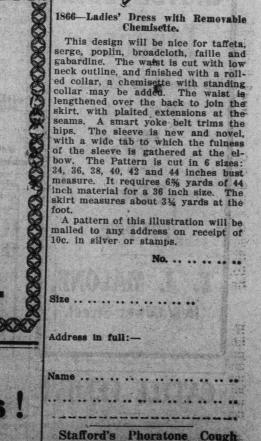
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