## 'LENA RIVERS.

'Lena had sat down. She could stand no longer, and burying her face in her hands, she waited until Mrs. Graham had finished. Then, lifting up her head, she replied in a voice far more husky than the one in which she before had spoken -"You accuse me wrongfully, Mrs. Graham, for as I hope for heaven, I never entertained a feeling for your husband which I would not have done for my own

"You seem so unwilling to be connvic ed, allow me to assist you," said Mrs. Graham, at the same time unclasping the case and holding to view the picture, on which, with wondering eyes, 'Lena gazed

"It is l—it is; but oh, heaven, how came he by it?" she gasped, and the next moment she fell fainting at Durward's

have suffered, can conceive of her anguish, as prostrate upon the floor she lay, her long silken curls falling about her white face, which looked ghastly and haggard by the moonlight that fell softly about her, as if to soothe her woo.

"What is it," she cried aloud—"this dark mystery, which I cannot explain."

The next moment she thought of Mr. Graham. He could explain it—he must explain it. She would go to him the next day, asking him what it meant. She felt sure that he could make it plain, for suspicious as matters looked, she exculpated him from any wrong intention toward her. Still she could not sleep, and when the gray morning light crept in, it found her too much exhausted to rise.

For several days she kept her room,

she wished to see him. Days, however, went by, and nothing was seen or heard from him, until at last John Jr., who visit ed her daily, casually informed her that by immediately returning her, for much as I love her, I shall never use her again."

"But the daguerreotype?" interrupted Mrs. Graham, anxious to reach that point. "What have you to say about the daguerreotype? Perhaps you will presume to deny that, too."

Durward had arisen, and now in the doorway watched 'Lena, whose dark brown eyes flashed fire as she answered, "It is false, I never yet have had my additional and the first time he came to America he found her the same, he would lose no time in seeing her, and, if possible, secure her to himself. Such was the tenor of his thoughts, as on one bright morning in June he took his way to Lexington, whither he was going on business for his father. Before leaving the city, he rode down to the depot, as was his usual cestom, reaching there just as the cars bound for Frankfort were rolling away. Upon the platform of the rear car stood an acquaintance of his, who called out, "Halloo, Livingstone, have you heard the nome more than half the time of the treat of the first time he came to America he found her the same, he would lose no time in seeing her, and, if possible, secure her to himself. Such was the tenor of his thoughts, as on one bright morning in June he took his way to Lexington, whither he was going on business for his father. Before leaving the city, he rode down to the depot, as was his usual cestom, reaching there just as the cars beautiful to America he found her the same, would lose no time in seeing her, and, if possible, secure her to himself. Such was the tenor of his thoughts, as on one bright morning in June he took his way to Lexington. The found has a way to South Carolina. A distant relative of his had died, bequeathing him a large property, which made it necessary for him to go there immediately; so without waiting for the return of his wife, he had start the first time he came that the

brown eyes flashed fire as she answered,
"It is false, madam. You know fit is false. I never yet have had my picture taken."
"But he has it in his possession; how do you account for that?"

Lena. "When will he return?"
"Nobody knows. He's away from home more than half the time, just as I should be if Mrs. Graham were my wife, answered John Jr., at the same time play answered the young man, who having really heard of Mr. Wilbur's marriage, supposed it must of course.

how on yose flashed fire as she answered, in the first period of t

Well, then, to begin, are you and 'Lena engaged?'
'No sir.'
'Have you been engaged?'

'Do you ever expect to be engaged?'

'Do you know why she wished to have Vesta sent home?'

ham, for as I hope for heaven, I never entertained a feeling for your husband which I would not have done for my own father, and indeed, he has seemed to me more like a parent than a friend—"

"Because you fancied he might some day be one, I dare say," interrupted Mrs. Graham.

Lena paid no attention to this sarcastic remark, but continued: "I know I accepted Vesta, but I never dreamed it was been and if on the return to America he found her the same, he wished to see him. Days, however, went by, and nothing was seen or heard from him, until at last John Jr., who visit ed her daily, casually informed her that

change. One after another the family rechange. One after another the family re-tired, and there was no one left in the parlor except Mabel and Mrs. Livingstone who as her husband chanced to be absent had invited her young visitor to share her room. When they were alone, Mabel, with many blushes and a few tears, told of all that had occurred, except, indeed. of John's manner of proposing, which she thought best not to confide to a third per-

More than making over the many strains of the property of the

ingstone did not wish to call forth remark.

'Everything should be done quietly and in order,' she said, 'and then, when autumn came, she would give a splend party in honor of the bride.'



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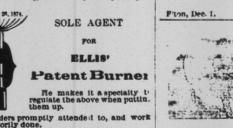
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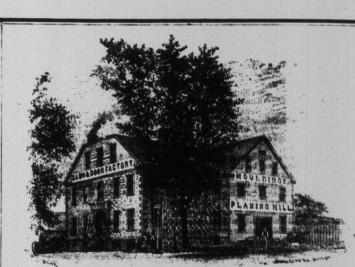
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