## The Red Room at Tolliver.

CHAPTER I.

, CHAPTER I.

I was about to leave my law office for the night to leave my law office for the night when Ammi arrived with a note from the mistress. The note asked in the color of the writer—Jane Tourier, as she was always called. The summan perpletered me and open of a wound time had not yet healed. Three years before the period which I write, I not and loved Carrie Tolliver, the conflict district of the woman new summoning me to her. This worth took pure white we were visiting Washington, Business had willed me to the depital. Charice was there with friends, by low was retarned, and we both wrote Mm. Tolliver to lay our 1400 before her. We were converte to the distill, our relatives quickeent over our conversion; and we only watted a favorable verience. My lotter was not answered and Charica was percupiterly called home. Once after this I wrote Charice. She sont no a pittlut reply in which she satural rings, and she entreated us to forget her.

forgot lier.
From that day I heard of Clarico only occasionally, as leading a fonely life with her mother in the gloomy house at Tolliver, just outside the limits of the town in which I practised law.

limits of the town in which I practised law.

"Is your mistress ill?" I inquired of the negro Ammi, who stood watting an answer to the miserve, he had just placed in my hand.

"The doctor's been up to see Miss Julia," Ammi ropiled. He and his wife had been Mme. Tolliver's servants before she married, and they continued to gire her the name she went by whom a girl.

Ammis reply was indirect, like the man himself. It irritated me.

"If Mino. Tolliver is ill why do you make a mystery of the" I said sharply.

"Why don't you speak out?"

Ammis servicine is white wooly head in an abstracted manner, then asked;

acked, on gwino wuth me, Marse Camon?"
Camon?"
I looked at him steruly. His eyes foll before mine, and he made an awkward, deprecating sort of bow.
"(30 on," I commanded. "I'll follow."

shuffled before me out of the

"Go on." I commanded. "I'll lot."

If the shuffled before me out of the force. A fow moments after we were driving nolselessly over the sandy road that led from the scupert to Tolliver House.

Mino. Tolliver, by the terms of her husbaad's will land been left nols owner of a large estate, to the actual slon of her seen George, a boy If when his father died, and her daughter Clarleo, then a child not more then 2 years old. George's youth was a wild one, and as died, some said of delirlurs tromens, away from home. After his Bosth, his mother who her becavement. Ammi had a quarrel with a boon companion of George Tolliver, one Saul Kent. Sometime after the man was found dead on the readshde, stabbed through the heart. Ammi was which or her servate. The trial took place and the marrative, and while Clarke on the marrative, and while Clarke on all I were away from home a teleol. But I have heard that appearances were much against Atami, and that twas only Mine. Tolliver's testimony that saved his life.

My thoughts wore not occupied with the origins to next that a preat rong atterning the high stone will that arrounded the hearthly-wooked walks about Tolliver House.

Ammi got down from the buggy, drow a key from his pocket and the

to nearity-wooded walks about Yol-rey House.

Anmil got down, from the buggy,
ow a key from his pocket and unown a key from his pocket and unpline troos, and, with feeble haste,
locked the gates. I would like the
towed his proceedings with some
toulshment, and when he was again
ated beside me, I turned to him and
ked brusquely;
"by you nean to tell me tight you
ck everyone in when you leave the
use?"

from me.
"No one gwino ter want to go out, Marse 'Cannon."
"Suppess some one wanted to got in?" I questioned.
"No one gwino ter, when I'se away, Marse 'Cannon," he answered.
"No one gwino ter, when I'se away, Marse 'Cannon," he answered.
Did the main nean to be importinent, or was he acting under orders from his mistress? Wuile I was masing thus the horse suddenity turned into a narrow driveway and drow up before a side entrance to the mausion. "I bega pardon, Marse Cannon'in said. "Miss sluit done give up visit, and the big door's clut up."

The house constited of a main build, and the big door's clut up."

The house constited of a main build, and the big door's clut up."

The house constited of a main build, and the big door's clut up."

The house constited of a main build, and the big door's clut up.

The house consisted of a main build, and the big door's clut up.

The house condited of a main build, and the big door's clut up.

The house of the property of the big of the house of a stream of the big of the house of a stream of the house, bown this same corridor I followed humit to the western wing till he

of the house of the observed wing of the house. Down this same corridor I followed Ammi to the western wing till in ached a half-open door, before which he istended a nome r, and then throw open for me to enter.

"Marso 'Cannon!" he are ac-and, with a bow, backed ode-apt the room, leaving the door open after him.

of the speaker.

The apartment was furnished with more merrors and man a gluding, and with florid describions printed on the waste furnished. The glusses were control, the gilt tarashed, the flowers fided. And these carriesting splendors, on a breast, tow hed, and proposed up by meny pilione, in Mine. Tolliver, I had been told that thrice and inherited theaty from her rother, there was no trace of broaty in the face of the woman before me. Sae was baggard, her eye a wore aunken in his process, and his hand she held out to me in greeting was that of a steriotion covered with a partning flow.

It should have sent for you earlier to the day, but Annin was needed here, and the for fives glad to come at any bour, and she went on to state want her looks between the state want her looks between the fast was a vertexed health, that at any moment sho might die.

I cannot put off making my will any longer, she said.

I tend not get off making my will any longer, she said, the tart any moment sho might die.

I cannot put off making my will any longer, she said, that he my state was in the first should have been attended to before, so I took the chair she point of death, oven them. She was he no fit state to talk, but I could not artise her a table on which there were writing materials and a pair of shaded langs.

"Whenever you are ready, Mme. Tollers,"

od lamps,
"Whenever you are ready, Mme. Tollyor," I same, dipping my pon in the

"tor," I sate, dipping my pen in the ink, "will state my wishes and you will put them in legal phraseology," she said, and began to dictate.

First she mentioned a considerable sum of money which she willed without reserve to her daughter Clarice. "I shall speak to you about Clarice later on," she remurked, "and all else that i posses, in stocks and bonds and lands," she continued to dictate, and now her volce was strong—'all my property, real and personal, after she payment of the legacy to Clarice, I will, for a purpose known to him and my daughter, to my fatisful frlead and servant Loammi Fordyoe—"The poor dropped from my thand at these words.

"Anuml." she said, quietly. "Pefore

pon dropped from my dated at enterwords.

"Animi," she said, quietly, "Before its enancipation to belonged to my father; and, following the custom of house servants, he took his master's name."

and that what she had done was actroclous.

"You know of my love for your caughter, and you sent for me to draw up a will that virtually distincted for. And for whon?" I horrupted myself to exclaim. "Mue. Tolliver, is this man, Anmil, cognizant of the distinction of the contraction of the contract

lib, poor follow. He has consensed take it."
Consented to take it!" I repeated to myself. The woman was mad did not her looks show he to be demiged? I stood up, and sait soothing:

"You are ill, Mno. Tolliver, Shall we put this off to another time?"
She stared at me and emitted a cound that was as much a sob as a lanch.

put this on to another time."

She stared at me and emitted a sound that was as much a sob as a laugh.

"You think me mad" she asked "No. I'm not mad, loud on to understand, Man Dureamon, it is not necessary with my will suffer the proceed as a proud woman, and she deserved to be so considered. Seeing that I hesitated, she sate crect in her bed.
"I sent for you to make my will, not to question me. I will not be questioned. Proceed as I dietate!" she commanded and pointed to the table. I'm an instance my opposition was overpowered, and I took up my pen only to lay it down immediately. "Mme. Tolliver," I seld, "you shall not make of me an instrument to the hurt of Charleo and to the benefit of a man I do not trust.
"It is sufficient that I trust him," she replied.
I told her that I would not argue the matter with net, adding: "Pornit me to ring for Ammi." "Pornit me to ring for Ammi." "Pornit me to ring for Ammi." he said, shashing her head, "All he knows he passed, and I heard her still o a groun.

The wind hew wally among the trees show the house and shower.

said, shaking her head. All he knows is that he is to live in this bouse. The corner of the park from some one wanted to get the common one wanted to get the constanced, and I heard her still on strain some to be important. The wind blow widly among the troce about the house, and showers of dead leaves were swirled against the windows. The work of wanted in the case of the contrained to the maniston. The wanted her provided the contrained to the maniston. The proposed a window at the form of the ready and frow up before a do entrance to the maniston. The proposed a window at the far and the papers on the maniston. The proposed a window at the far and the players on the maniston. The proposed a window at the far and the players on the table were blown in conjusted and the papers on the table were blown in conjusted and the papers on the table were blown in conjusted and the papers on the table were blown in conjusted and the papers on the table were blown in conjusted and the papers on the table were blown in conjustion about the first will were blown in conjustion about the first work will be a lightly discovered to the first will be a lightly discovered to the first will be a stall reason in the word of the word of must while it alighted was open and its entirence it up by a yellow low proceeding from a lamp field by early. The house of the first will be a stall reason in the word of the conjustic that the mount the first word will be a stall reason the proposed and the papers on the table were blown in conjustion about the first word will be a stall reason the papers on the table wore blown in conjustion about the first word will were blown in the conjustion and the attention to the castern wing the door and the papers of the conjustic case of the co

that is the signal and the corything lad been carefully arranged before hand with Annah. Puzzled and anxious I gave two pulls at the cord of the bell.

"I will rest till they arrive," said Mao, Telliver, and closed her eyes as it to sleep, thus preventing further conversation between Clarice and mysalf.

self.

Presently, I heard a horse trot
down the alley of place, and shortly
after the hoofs of soveral horse sounded. There was a little commotion as
of dismounting horsemen, then the
tread of heavy footsteps in the corridor, and the entrance of two men,
whom I recognized to be neighboring
farmers.

whom I recognized to be neighboring farmers.

Amno. Tolliver looked auxious as sin greeted the men, who lacked awk-wardly as if afraid of their presence the standard of their presence of the standard of their presence of the standard of their standard of the standard of

reassured her, and she turned with a forced cincerfulness to the business in hand. The signing and witnessing of the will was quickly dispatched, but Mme. Tolliver was not at case till the men had left the house, after having refused the refreshment she proferred but did not press them to take. "I cannot offer you a room for the night," she said to me; and held my had while she added, "Good night, and tunnk you for what you have done, while she spoke, Ammi returned to the room, and with his usual non-committal air announced that the buggy was in readiness for my return to them. I had him begone, deckning that I was not yot ready to leave. His countenance betrayed no emetion as he bowed and left the room. Clarice came up to me and said, "You mean well, but your staying on can do no good. I beg you to know." Such a dismissal left me nothing to Such a dismissal left me nothing to

CHAPTER II.

CHAPTER II.

It was about a fortnight after the ovents just related that I returned to Tolliver House to help bury the motior of Clarice.

She was laid in the private cemercy situated in the corner of the park. Few southern plantations of the old time are without their family burial places. Besides the minister who most us at the grave-Mmn. Tolliver did not become a Cutholic with her daughter—and the grave-digger, who was Anmi, no one was precent at the future as we Clarice and myself, and the control of the county. Hilled the grave-ligger with was the clarice and I stood watting to bid each other fare-well; while a the county, filled the grave of his nistress.

to come uposid, adding that he was wanted in the red reads above in a larged man to the control of the mone to the man to the disciplination of the mone followed by the disciplination of the mone followed by the disciplination of the mone that the matter in the red rod reone that the larged in the free rod, was stranger that her look. Thenk was stranger that her look. Thenk was stranger that her look. Thenk was the money of the first was able to the stranger of the control of the would be the would be the would be the better to the control of the disciplination of the disciplination of the control of the disciplination of the disc

Sho beet her heads cognier, as most berrible to without her mental angular "C; she, I excludined, come with me! Is not return to the corrors of that hence Whitever they may be I do not seek to a we. I only ask you to out no help you to forget the past.

Sho shrank hack quickly, but then making a strong effort to compose herself, her said;

"You must pardon me. I have had much to corrome to day, You say you love me, and I believe you to. Show that you also by leaving me, be not seek to come into my life again—"Here she broke off, and drawing her voil about her face, she walked swiftly toward she house.

CHAPTER III

CHAPTER III.

During the mentiss that followed, I occasionally much Annil in the town, withtien in came to purchase provisions for Toliver Heuse. I silveys asked tom for Toliver Heuse. I silveys asked time for news of Chrice, and if the time for news of Chrice, and if the time was near at hand i r him to time was near at hand i r him to the time. To the first ne would reply that Mass (Clarke was "right pourt," and to the second time in odd in not know.

But when November came he answered my question about the letter by saying, "Is mightly encury. Marso Cammon; the time's most done come," Cammon; the time's most done come, "Anni a semiglit after, he came in late to call me to Tolliver House, and a semiglit after, he came in late to call me to Tolliver House, had considered and the crick of the semiglity of the said. In an addition of the semiglity of the said, within the happened, Ammi?" I esked, pitying his distress.

"When we have the form of the time as in a said, and a give you the letter Mass Julia hene tell you bout, I ain't asy'n to this Julia dean't want him to east," within these Julia dean' want him to east, wealther for we out the stifen year.

sayin nothin; ole Ammi might say somethin Miss Juli docur want him tor say."

Whon we arrived at Tolliver, Clarice was waiting for us on the stairs at the entrance.

"You will go with Ammi to the red room, she said, "and then he will gire you my methor's lotter."

Ammi led the way down the corridor to the castern wing. The entrance to the wing was obstructed by a pair of doors heavily padded with folt. Ammi opened the doors noise-lessly, and as they fell back there came forth a sound of weeping and lamenting.

I looked at Anuni, His face was ashy.

lamenting.

Iamenting.

In clocked at Anuni, His face was ashy, his lips trombled.

It that the red room? I asked, and pointed to the open door of a room through which santed a light emitted from a lamp within.

"Is that the red room?" I asked, and pointed to the open door of a room through which slanted a light emitted and pointed to the open door of a room through which slanted a light emitted from a lamp within.

Ammi essayed to speak, but his voice broke down in a hoarse cry. Ho was silent and made a gesture for mo to follow him.

I obeyed, expecting to find a solution of the mystery that perplexed ne; and what I saw when I reached the open door was a mystery greater to than the one I wished to solve. There, in a room, the windows of which wore bearded up, on a mattress beside which Beck, whet and rocked howelf to and fro in distress, array-doad body of order and the mount of the control of

CHAPTER IV.

CHAPTER IV.

"My week induigence, cards, drink, bad company, ruined my sen, wrote Mma. Tolliver, All too late she strove my the exercise of her will to reform deepe by keeping tim at home. Sucreded, but an every one of three occasions he are the manner of the exercisions had been appeared to the card of the exercisions and the exercision of the exercisions had been appeared to the composition of the exercisions of the exercision of the exer

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Head Office: Toronto. proceeding was opposed by Kent, who made an attempt to thrust Ammo out of the house. George, in deficit of the servant, sprang on Kent, and gave him a thorough boating A distorted account of the quarrel got abroad and it was said Ammi had struck Kent.

auread and it was said amm had struck Kent.

A physical wreck, George was tak on sick after his return home, and during his convalescence his nother prevailed on him to consent to take a trip to Europe with her. Clarico was then a little girl at bearing school. Foring Kent's influence over her son, Mne. Tolliver gave most 'mperative orders to dony admittance to cli callors. It was shortly after this that it become reported that George was dead.

periative orders to deny admittance to cil calora. It was shortly after the that the become reported that George was dead.

This report was the means of bringing about a meeting between Kent and George. Kent believe! the report, and sent Mmc. Toilter a statement of what purpoited to be lier son's indebtedness to him, His statement was not noticed and Kent came to Toiliver.

The ment met accidentally in the heal, whither George Rad wandered, weary of the confinement of his room. The dining room opened on the hall, the table laid for dinner, and into the room George led Kent. A querrel ensued, George statched from the tanks a killed, having a long, keen, narrow blade. A second after one of the cases of George Toiliver's ruln lay on the floor, plerced through the beart. An ill man olfredy, in less than an hour after Kent's death, the doors of the house larred to all comers, deerge Toiliver lay on his bed prustrated by aleaces and the horror of the deed in list Commander of the afternoon and all the ortening the lead man lay in the dibing room—a room never used egain—in consultation with Ammi. Toiliver decided for him to carry the body to a crossroad some miles from Colliver and Becky removed the further traces of the crime committed in the house.

The body of Kent was found, and near it a kulfe recognized in town as belonging to Annai. The Indiang of this knife, the loss of which Annai could not account for, in conjunction with the story of his quarrel with Kent, led to his arrest for the murder.

Kont, led to his arrest for the murder.

Almen Tolliver did not fear that Ammi would botray her son, but to save a faithful servant's life and berpride in her same, she appeared in court on the day of the trial and gave testimony that Ammi had not been outside the grounds of Tolliver House on the night on which it was supposed Kent was murdered, or for days previous.

During the mother's absence, a word insalverently dropped by the almost distracted Becky revealed to the son the true state of affairs. His reason the true state of affairs. His reason published, and when Mus. Tolliver returned with Ammi she found her son a maniac.

the true state of affairs. His reason, that belove had bottered, gave way completely, and when Muo. Tolliver roturned with Ammi she found her son a maniac.

Ho never recovered his reason entirely, but in his maddest moments he was gentle and doelie in the hands of Ammi, and with Clarice when years afterward she came back to Tolliver House. His mother he never recognized, and her love he returned with a madman's aversion.

On the receipt of Clarice's lotter, and of mine asking her blessing on our love. Mine. Tolliver was thrown into consternation. Her daughter's marriage would almost make necessary a revelation of the secret confined within the wails of the red roc.,; and, at whatever one to horself of Chierof and the horror of her brother's situation, which she of the secret confined within the wails of the red roc.,; and, at whatever one to her head of the control of the contro

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It was not easy to gain Clarice's consent to be my wife. A day came, however, when she was persuaded that when the shadows lie ochind the sun is before.

We live in a pleasanter house than Tolliver, and with us dwell an aged couple. Amant and Becky-respected and welcome partakers of the happiness God has been pleased to grant us.—Are Maria.

