

LORD WHARTON'S NIECE -AND -THE HEIR TO REGNA COURT.

He smiled condescendingly, and away. We shall begin rebuilding stroked his slight nastache. He was the end of next week. I want it all, or up at the Court again the next day, nearly all, covered in before the and behaved himself so well that, it, ter is upon us," being just lunch time, Claire asked him to remain for the meal. He ac- and they went among the ruins. Claire cepted, and kept so careful a guard stood looking up at the men at their apon himself that Mrs. Lexton, to work of demolition, and lost sight of shom he had been especially polite. Gerald for a moment or two, then she saw him standing near the old wall. was quite impressed in his favor.

"The son is a great improvement on He had his back to it and to her, and the father, Claire,' she remarked. "Mr. was giving some instructions to Lee, Mordaunt is-is-almost a gentleman." who had mounted to the roof. Claire It was a pity Mr. Mordaunt Sapley was thinking, half unconsciously, how

She ran upstairs as she spoke, and situation, that his very attitude, and hat on and went around to the wing. were elequent of his self-deliance, and She had got into the habit of going she felt a slight thrill of admiration, around there, or watching from the the tribute of which every woman pays end of the terrace and often Gerald to the strong man who is lord of himand that she was more frequently looking at him than at the work. Some- glow was dispelled, for she saw, or times he took off his coat and lent a fancied that she saw, the wall near hand at the more dangerous portions which he stood tremble and shake. Her of the demolition, and once or twice heart leaped, and then seemed to cease Ulaire had discovered that she was beating for a moment. If the wall were Diding her breath as she watched him to fall while he was standing there, Manding on the edge of one of the it would come down upon him and kill broken walls, with the stones falling him. She tried to call to him, but to from quite under his feet. He was her horror her tongue seemed to resitting on a heap of debris, smoking fuse to answer to her with The terrible his pipe, when she came up that after dumbness lasted but a moment, but noon, and he rose with a capital affect when she did call. her voice was tion of indifference, but respectful drowned by the noise of the picks and politeness. He had learned to set a the falling stones, and did not reach

"How fast you are getting on!" said Claire.

old, indicating the young builder, who still stood looking up at Lee, touched his cap and looked pleased as smile, and all unconscious of the doom



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She stopped and bit her lip. "You thought-it wasn't coming down just yet!" he said. "Oh, but it is never safe to trust a wall in that condi-

"It doesn't matter what I thought she said, with a faint smile. "I will ot go so near again." She turned from him as she spoke,

and went slowly back to the house; but she passed quickly to her own room, and, locking the door, "let herself go." The restraint she had put. upon herself broke down, and with her hands covering her face, she swayed to and fro like a stately pine buffeted by the wind. She could still see him standing by the threatening wall, and she could still hear his stern voice, feel the hard grip of his hand. pleasure and delight that bewildered and frightened her by its strangeness ger, and she felt no resentment.

it almost meekly; the Claire Sartoris nistress of Court Regna! . "It was

foolish; I thought-

After a while the reaction passed, and she sank into a chair in a kind of stupor, in which she kept asking whether she would have sprung toward the wall, as she had done, to completely Gerald was master of the save, say, one of the workmen?

> Gerald also suffered from a reaction, and when she had disappeared, he stood looking at the building as if he had lost all interest in it, as if, indeed, he rather hated it, and, after a time, he walked off. He was scarcely conscious that he had spoken, grasped her so roughly; he could only remember her terrible danger, and every now and then, as he strode along to the cottage he took off his hat and wiped

belonging to Captain Hawker was dancing on the water near the shore. and, singing up to the captain, who the cottage, for permission, he pulled her in by her chain and went on board She saw the wall again quiver like laire.

A saft would do him good, blow all

"Yes, thanks to Mr. Lee," safd Ger-fancy about it this time. And Gerald.

He was setting the sail when he that threatened him! She felt as if "A capital fellow!' said Gerald. "It she could not move, as if she were heard a step on the beach behind him, she could not move, as if she were heard a step on the beach behind him, sand, looking around, saw Claire. He rooted to the spot for a second that appeared an age to her, then she sprang forward and had almost grasp as hope. heard a step on the heach behind him,

ed his arm, when Gerald, as if he had T want to apalogize for my "he t their worst I always drop on my quietly stepped hash As he had been watching the wall all the time." at their worst I always drop on my quietly stepped back. As he did so, the began, but Claire, with a swift rise of feet, Miss Sartoris."

He smiled, and not for the first time, smile, and nodded approvingly, then

Claire noticed that he not only smiled, beard a blood of the said. "You

He smiled, and not for the first time, Claire noticed that he not only smiled with his lips but with his eyes, and that they were very handsome and expressive at such times.

"I think we are rather astonishins the natives," he said, looking at the broken wing. "It takes their breath of the manual drew her back. As is the way with Gerald's kind of man, his emotion to the smile, and nodded approvingly, then were quite right. It does not matter.

Are you going for a sail?"

"Yes, he said, accepting her refusal abounded, and fallen close at har feet, bounded, and fallen close at har feet, and been struck.

"It is a lovely avening," she said. It is seemed to him that she looked at the beat wistfully. Was it possible that—On the sour of the moment, almost without thinking, he said:

"Would you care to come, Miss Sar-tonical and white and white and his emotion."

Gerald's kind of man, his emotion made him stern, and it was in a tops that sounded like passionate anger that he demanded.

"Would you care to come, Miss Sartoria?"

Claire looked beyond him have you going far?" she asked, autily, though her conscience whiscould you be so imprudent?' My God! Pered that she was wrong. the wall might have fallen upon "As far as you like—I mean, I only intended running over to the island

Claire's face was deadly white, and and back." (To be continued.)

the terror stil lingered in her eyes

Claire tried to smile, but the smile

rould not come. She felt his hand be-

gin to tremble on her arm, and per-

haps he was conscious that it was so

trembling, for he withdrew it. But

e still waited with tightly-compress



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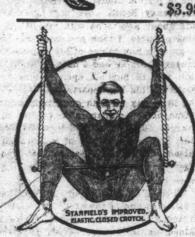
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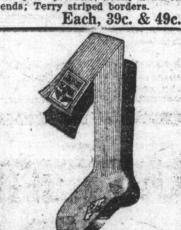
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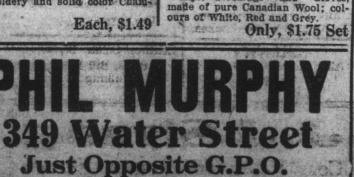


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H. S. HALSALL. P.O. Bez 57, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS.

when the color had come back, she did not show any recentment of his man-new and speecht. And she did not say, "I came to save you!" Her eyes fell, and she stood quite stient. Gerald draw a long breath-his hand was still on her arm, and none too gently—and he wiped the "I beg your pardon, Miss Sarioris," he said. "I am afraid I was rought and unmannerty; but you gave me a nasty fright. Let me beg of you never to come so near again—never to passified mark." He due his heal into the lawn. "I must ask you to promise me, please," he added, with a touch of his former sternness. G. W. SNOW, 376 Water St.,

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