

The Impecunious Adventuress.

"Oh, Mr. Crudge, I'm sure that if

Mr. Crudge, dazzled by such a vision

ed in the most decorous mourning,

pansy eyes, the trembling lips, and

sweetly as it came in halting accents

professional etiquette might possibly

room opened, an eminent solicitor

In the middle of the antercom he

"You didn't tell me that this lady

me. I am Mrs. Ashley, and, of course,

you know that Sir Arthur Eversley-

ness which she expected; "but excus

me saying so, if you wish my assist-

"Oh, yes," she said, "your clerk has

lax your rule of professional etiquette

are, well, a little peculiar, and if you

have a few minutes to spare, I should

Their eyes met again, and profes-

sional etiquette for the time being be-

"Four-thirty, sir," replied

Johnson, in the case of-"

Crudge, turning over the leaves of the

diary. "Mr. Rivers, with Mr. Frank

"All right," said Kenneth, "that will

do; that gives us half an hour. Now,

madam, I can give you that time if

you want to have a talk with me."

He pushed open the door of his

room, and stood aside to let her pass.

ham." she said, as she went into the

room, followed by the almost worship-

Kenneth followed her and shut the

"You will find that chair comfor

table, I think," he said, with a motion

of his hand toward a big arm-chair

standing in the corner of the room in which he had smoked many a

meditative pipe during the days he

was making the reputation which his;

action with regard to his father's un-

signed will had now become almos

ful glances of Mr. Crudge.

"Thank you, thank you, Mr. Mark-

be so thankful."

next appointment?"

been to employ a solicitor."

ed, and then turned to Mr. Crudge.

CHAPTER XII.

that he-"

AN EXCITED INVALID. She Jumped out of the chair and Mr. Markham, do not interview clients

ran downstairs to her aunt, calling except through the medium of their for the nurse as she went. Meanwhile solicitors." the shots banged away in the bedyou only knew what a difficulty I am

"He's shooting himself, or thinks placed in you would help me. This is he's shooting something else," she not a matter in which I can employ cried. "Aunt! Nurse! Come up at once! a solicitor just as one would in an Come! Goodness knows what he'll do ordinary case. Mr. Markham is the next!"

Miss Holroyd came out of the draw- and, although I know it is asking a ing-room below, crying in a voice great deal, I thought that perhaps he which had a very good imitation of might help me, and I can assure you

"Oh, my dear Lilias, what is the matter? What has happened? Those of womanly beauty as he had never shots! Are there burglars in the seen before, a picture of beauty fram-

At the same moment the nurse, who had already felt that his scruples were had only lain down, dressed, for a melting away into nothingness under couple of hours, called from the up- the influence of those dark-shaded, per landing:

"Yes, ma'am; what is it? Who has the pleading voice that sounded so

Without waiting for any reply, she between them, had already come to ran downstairs, and met Lilias and the decision that under such conditions

She knew her business, and she took be dispensed with. But just at that mocharge at once. She threw open the ment the door of Kenneth Markham's door of the sitting room, and hurried in front of them toward the bedroom. came out, and Markham followed him.

"Ah, would you, you she devil! Yes, I know you'd like to, but you shan't! stopped. Lilias looked into his eyes, No, not as long as I've got a pair of and he looked back into hers. He bowhands to throttle the life out of you! No! You've done me harm enough already. Get out! Get out! Or, by all I was expected, Mr. Crudge," he said, in ever believed in, I'll shoot you! I'll tones of mild reproof. "If she has an send a bull ' through that miserable, appointment, I'm afraid that I have s heming brain of yours! Curse you! kept her waiting." It would anyhow rid the world of one | "I have no appointment, Mr. Markful heast or I'll shoot you!"

They heard these exclamations "I have come-well, to throw myself screamed and shouted in Sir Arthur's upon your mercy. To ask you to help voice to the accompaniment of the snapping of a self-cocking revolver. "What on earth can have happen-

Sir Arthur must have gone mad?"

"It certainly seems very like it, I ance, the regular course would have am afraid." said the nurse: "and yet. I can hardly understand it unless by some means or other he has got something to drink, which is hardly pos- tured to ask you-at least, I came sible. Still, I think we had better go here to ask you-if you could not re-

"Of course," said Lilias, putting her for once. You see, the circumstances hand on the knob of the door.

> CHAPTER XIII. A DEBT OF HONOR.

"Madam, I am exceedingly sorry. You can understand that, although I came nonexistent. pecially under the painful circum- his clerk. "Mr. Crudge, when is my stances of the case, lawyers, and especially lawyers of the reputation of

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kind of you to receive me in this irregular way. I know that your rules of egal etiquette are so very strict."

"They are," he replied quietly and omewhat coldly, "but I have broken them before, and shall probably do so many times again; and that is, hy the way, somewhat to the point," he continued, speaking more slowly. "A lawyer, as perhaps you know, is supposed to take any case that is brought to him, no matter whether he personally believes in its merits or not. Now I have always made a practice-"

"Yes, yes," she interrupted, turn ing toward him with an appealing motion of her hand. "Indeed I know, and that is why I have come to you. I know that you never undertake a case unless you believe that your client is really and honestly in the right. Every one knows that; and if I can only convince you that I'm in the right

"Pardon me," he interrupted, with an abruptness which was almost rude and which, for some reason, seemed to fascinate her. "Would it not be better if we had the facts first? You see can only judge by them.

"Will you?" she whispered in her soul, while she said to him very sweet-

fore you can decide, and I have come one lawyer that I can ask to help me, lieve that I am in the right. After that, myself-will have to employ a solicitor in the regular way, to do thewhat is it called, technical part of the

"Quite so," he replied, "that will, of course, be necessary; but in the meantime, if you would like to give me any information for my guidance, I shall "That, of course, is all that I can

ask you to do," she replied, with a gentle humility which had a somewhat disturbing effect upon him, "Sir in fact, I might say, we were almost boy-and-girl playmates, and it ended as such friendships sometimes do. He went into the army in the lancers: and then-well, then he wanted me to out of the question, under the circumstances. I was only a little over seventeen, and in those days-it was nearly seven years ago-there was hardly a my father would not hear of it, at least until he had become a captain. first to South Africa I think, and then

"Yes," said Kenneth. "But I needn't trouble you with those details, Mrs. Ashley: I know them already. That is to say, I know that Mr. Arthur Eversley became Sir Arthur through that yachting accident in the Mediterranean; that he came into the title and the estates at the same time he was invalided home from Somaliland, suffering from the after effects of malaria and sunstroke, complicated, as understand, by what medical men nowadays call alcoholism. You must pardon me putting the matter so plainly, but it would be better, perhaps, if we got to the facts as soon as possi-

"Oh, yes, you are perfectly right, Mr. Markham," she replied, with another motion of her hands and a smile which he tried not to see. "Then I shall only have to tell you that after he had gone and we had lost sight of him for nearly five years, I married my late husband. To be quite frank, I'm afraid I was not really in love with him; but, you see, I was only a young, inexperienced girl; my father and my



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aunt had got into rather poor circumto be a very wealthy man; and he cer- 28, 30, 32, and 34 inches waist meas-

experience is at your service.

Kenneth, turning quickly toward her. Was your husband the Edward Her- The width of skirt at lower edge is bert Ashley, who was interested in

"Yes," she said, "I think that was EACH pattern in silver or stamps. very terrible matter for us all," she continued, with just a little, pitiful every penny he had in it in the failure. and my father and my aunt did the same. My father died of apoplexy, and my husband seemed to go out of his may have read about it at the time?

"Yes. Mrs. Ashley." said Kenneth rising from his chair; "I know all the details-I know them only too well. not; he was himself deceived by a accepted full responsibility. As far as Then his regiment was ordered abroad, my father's fortune goes, everything shall be paid, although such enormous I'm afraid we shall only be able to but, of course, under the circum-

"Please don't think about me." she interrupted. "It is true that we have could not have been through Mr. companies, and the man who could 1% yard. Striped or checked gingnothing but the very soul of honor. Besides, aunt and I have plenty to to any address on receipt of 15 cents live upon, and there must be many worse off than we are. Then, if I could only persuade you to undertake my case, and know that you would win it for me, I shall have a great deal more money than. I shall know what to do with. That, by the way, is what I ought to have said to begin with."

"Pardon me," he said, sitting down again, "but I am afraid I hardly take

"My meaning is this," she said, clasping her hands and letting them fall in her lap: "When Sir Arthur came back, and met my aunt and my self quite by accident in Regent Street, ve renewed our old acquaintance. He came to dine with us. I told him exactly what had happened, and thenthen he asked me to marry him, and, of course, I refused."

"But why 'of course?" " asked Ken

"There were two very good reasons, she said, leaning forward a little and looking at him with a steady gleam tributions with their real in her eyes which he never forgot, and names, not necesarily for a little tightening of the lips, which meant something like conviction for publication but as a guaranhim. "In the first place, Sir Arthur was tee of good faith. In future not only an invalid; he was, as you no correspondence will be considered unless this rule is adhered to. It is also retwenty-five yet, and I have had one quested that all letters "For adventure in matrimony. Of course, you understand what I mean."

Fashion Plates.



Coat Pattern 3129 and Skirt Pattern 3008 are here combined. The stances, and Mr. Ashley was supposed Skirt is cut in 7 Sizes: 22, 24, 26, tainly at that time appeared to have ure. The Coat in 6 Sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, and 44 inches bust measure. It will require 7% yards of 44 inch material for a medium size. Broad-"Pardon me for a moment," said cloth, serge, satin, linen, faille and taffeta could be used for this style. about 1% yard.

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