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SOLITARY ISLAND

A NOVEL

BY REV. JOHN TALBOT SMITH

ARDS JOHN A. O'SULLIVAN

MBER 20, 1906

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ACH,

and said nothing, preferring to lave so delicate and dangerous a WHELAN tter to time and the good provi-te of God. Florian walked out C. L Solicitor. with him as far as the opposite shore, a smile of joy lighting up oddly the sad lines of his face. He Xavier St. EAL. ed, however, singularly destitate of the power of self-reflection. THOMAS E. WALSH, B.A., B.C.L.

His thoughts were ever fixed what he had seen and heard of his father, without much attention to their effect on himself. He was smiling, not for joy, but in obedience to some sudden impulse which he did not think of analyzing. "Why do you look so pleased?"

CHAPTER XL.-Continued.

said the poet to him. "Do I look pleased?" he asked. with a puzzled expression which silenced the poet. They parted at the entrance to the woods.

"Until I see you again," said the poet, clasping his hand.

..

CHAPTER XLI.

That was a miserable day for Ruth Pendleton which witnessed the vulgar outbursts of Barbara Merrion and showed to her the real character of the woman in whom she had confided. There was nothing to prevent her from telling the story to the whole world; and in her heart there was the dread of its reaching Paul's ears, as it must if he remained long in the town or if Barbara encountered him. She was compelled to believe that Paul thought no more of her than of any other woman, in spite of Barbara's His manner had always been cordial, respectful, and He had never sought her out, and he so near; had never presumed to any of a lover's boldness distant as a polite acquaintance and his visit to her convent as common things, which they were not to her. Was the bit of bristol-board a fancy, then ? She looked at it many times a day. How it would amuse him when Barbara related its history! Her cheeks burned at the thought of the humiliation. The squire assured her that he had arranged it with Barbara nicely, and that night Barbara came herself with Florian to protest against the

could not trust Barbara until she heard that Paul had also departed from Clayburg. It was a delicate and thoughtful act on the poet's part, and well deserved its intended effect. Ruth rejoiced over it from one point of view. It was hardly probable that he had met Barbara. If so, and she had told him, there was no dread of meeting him again in this world. Her dream was faded into the chill reality of day. Resignation was Ruth's stronghold, and she bore this sorrow as sweetly as she had borne many others in her placid life. The winter wore Then walking out one day she met at the post office—Paul, hearty and

conduct of that day and to declare

ness to come. It was: 'Miss Pendleton, are you not glad Mr. Rossiter, this is an unexpected away." pleasure," with bows and tremblings

until Paul said:

said politely, glancing around, while wardly she grew hot and cold ed Peter. from shame.

"I merely wished to give you a int," he said, "of what you are to all the time the double meaning of

land has another solitary."

has come back penitent. wn up the world and its honors ad proposes to live and die, as did father, in the obscurity of that

"I am dazed," she replied; "I can-not understand such things." "They are as true as they seem,

Miss Pendleton. This evening shall explain them. Florian is It was on the poet's lips to disthe island, has been there for ten It was on the poets ripe and days, and Mrs. Merrion has married a Russian count and gone to Eucourse, but he thought better of it rope. You are still more surprised.

Let me say good-bye to you,

30

this evening." He raised his hat and allowed he to pass on her way. At the hotel he found the squire and Peter deep in a game, with faces excessively red from hot punch, and no idea of the state of time and their own machs. The squire shook hands

do me the honor of being at home

with Florian's rival gruffly. "I suppose you have dined," said the poet. "I am a little late."

"It's hardly ten o'clock," said Peter. "Come, squire, double the stakes." But the mention of time had struck the squire like a blow He looked at his watch, and tossed the cards pettishly at Peter, who tossed them back again, and finally threw them over his person in shower.

"I'm late again." said the squire. "This card business is too much for me. And now what will Ruth say." "Papa." mimicked Peter, who was now in a mood for royal fun, "why do you return when the praties are

Paul laid his hand on Peter's arm in time to check his imprudence. 'We shall all dine together," said he 'Squire Pendleton, will you accept an invitation to dinner?'

"Thank you," said the squire ungraciously. "There's no help for it now. I shall be happy." "And mind," said the joyial Pe-

ter, as they proceeded to the diningroom, "that you're going to entertain the dignitary of the court-the man who may have yet the privilege of hanging you." Very doubtfully the squire receiv-

ed the poet and Peter at his home greeting the latter, but his apology own room. God had been very was so utterly wanting in eccentrior familiarity; had always been as city, so suited to the occasion, and of her resignation to His will He his manner afterwards was so mo- had honored and blessed her becould be, and talked of New York dest because of Paul's warnings, that yond belief. The squire saw her deboth father and daughter were put part with a hearty delight, and at their ease. Ruth was again de-thereafter accepted triumph and dely there was no reason why she could fear , that Barbara had posed her. Talk drifted into the You needn't hesitate," said Peter; usual channels, and presently Peter cider in the back room and a quiet game of cards. The door was left tent to all present, but the reasons were deprived of their force by the that the secret would be a secret continual noise which the veterans made. In the midst of it, and in spite of it, Paul related the circumstances which had led to Flo-Ruth a description of his experience

with the penitent that morning. Florian will come back to us. Thank God! I hope Linda and the prince know this day of joy."

father led. He is too useful. Yet it fits him wonderfully; and to see him you would think the prince was Paul, b'y," said Peter, "for the old on the helpless snow, whose white to go.

loud from a consciousness of happihe has received. I shall make bold

to visit him to-morrow." "Double the stakes," came Peter's

The squire cast a satisfied glance

"I shall have the honor of ac-

be his salvation yet."
"Indeed she will, Miss Pendleton.

I believe his heart turns that way still. No great heart like his could ever find content in such a creature as Mrs. Merrion. And my other reason was to remove any misunder-standing between you and me."



Was in Untold Misery.

I should have written before now about that precious Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic, but I thought I would first see what effect it would have. I have used only one bottle this time and am happy to state that I have improved wonderfully. I was notable to leave my bed and could not sleep nor eat, and was in untold misery. Now I can sleep the whole night and am feeling better, and getting stronger every day.

Had it not been for my faith in Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonio my life would be too much to bear for the last while, but having used it before I know its value too well to doubt the God-sent relief itbrings. Would that the world knew more about it, for it is just wonderful.

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"Misunderstanding!" said Ruth, greatly surprised.

"I have loved you a long time, Miss Pendleton-fully eight years. I have tried to keep it a secret, to bury it forever from your knowledge, and yet I could not. I could not leave you without having spoken. God knows if I might not have made a mistake in so doing! It would be an eternal regret to me, and so I wish to know from your own lips, Ruth, if I must part from you forever. It rests with you to give me the greatest happiness or

of his confidence in Barbara's story.

"I shall be compelled to give you," said Ruth calmly, after a time, "what you call the greatest happiness of your life." And she laid her hand in his for an instant while their eyes met and exchanged the thoughts too true and sweet for expression. His face was radiant, and he made no demur when she begged that evening. Ruth blushed on to be excused and withdrew to her at their ease. Ruth was again determined thereafter accepted triumph and and my saintly father help me; but ceived. This visit concerned only feat with indifference; but his heart indeed, Ruth, I am a most miserable fell when Paul, in the presence of the journalist, made a formal ex- mand upon him for his daughter.

"the two were made for each other coaxed the squire to a glass of and no man can part them. Didn't you and I try it in New York, like the foolish boys we are? Didn't I He bowed his head and wept in silence. open for various reasons quite pa- keep on trying for years afterwards? If love can more than match two such giants as we, where's the use of fighting it? Come, now, surrender. New York is at the pinnacle

of glory to-night. Beaten in cards rian's flight to the island, and gave least you can do is to come down and love under your own roof, the gracefully, and then select your "It is a wreck you have seen, not Florian," she said, with tears in her eyes; "but out of it the old I never saw ye look so much like "I had thought Ruth's idea of

yes.

The squire felt the need of consolation and made no objection to Peter's proposal. The poet modestto see an old face to-day?" and voice through the door, "and fire ly withdrew, not at all disheartened him as his son-in-law, while the old by the squire's reluctance to receive and heart-beats innumerable, and many inquiries about nothing at all, until Paul said:

The squire cast a satisfied glance him as his son-in-law, while the old man proceeded to drown sorrow and time in Peter's fashion, without any until Paul said:

"I shall have the honor of ac-regard for the morrow. The stakes regard for the morrow. The stakes were doubled innumerable times before the winter's dawn stealing coldary of the world lay under its shadow. For him the kind."

grave upon the hill was ever in his one should hesitate and seek advice before rushing into positions of that like only before rushing into positions of that kind."

Florian suffered any emotion it was

The time the double meaning of had happened to Florian for the said nothing and watched her confusion with secret delight. "The issue had has another solitary."

She cast a startled look at him.

The cruel fellow knew her five and discover any stand that the count of the future. Like his father, he said nothing and watched them until they were out of sight. What was he thinking of! The poet had happened to Florian for the cepted the position quietly and withought it might be days when the prevent hought it might be days when the rights now exercised by another over the country."

CANCER ITS CAUSE AND CURE

"I congratulate you," said Florian gravely, "on your present happi-

ness. You are every way deserving

"And I congratulate you on yours," said Ruth. "Our island ems destined to have a tenant always."

She would have wept, had she been alone, at, his sadly altered appearance, stooped, pale, hollow-eyed and the firm lips quivering. But better that way and dearer to God than in the pride of his physical strength and political glory!

"Yes, this is a place for happiness," he said, looking around the homely room. "It healed my fa-ther's heart—"

"And it will heal yours," added for him as he left the thought on his lips unexpressed. He smiled as if she had reproved him.

"I hope so. You have not known all my wickedness, Ruth. I deserted Frances-'

"I know it all, Florian. Do not distress yourself with recounting it Your reparation will be all the sweeter to her, poor girl."

humbly. "I have put a shame upon when Florian had received a public her which only marriage can take reception from his townsmen, ter the wrong I have done."

said Ruth with emphasis. "Go to one April day walked to the resi- give you. I can say nothing more her, tell her your sorrow and your resolutions. Her love will find a been overcome with resentment and way through difficulties. Linda would rejoice to see this hour," stooped and shambling in his walk, she added. "O Florian. what a time as plainly clothed as a workman, it has all been! What a treasure
we missed finding! I cannot forof the town as calmly as if it was give myself for not knowing in a custom with him so to do. Peotime!

granted me the favor. Had I tried to discover him, and not feared it, I would have found him. Had I had not existed between them to that I am his murderer. I would as a disinterested spectator on the Island after his death. But no; I went back to evil, and thus was I turned from it. May God man!"

His cheeks flushed while he was speaking, and Ruth's tears fell slowly. It was his first outburst of night his crime was fixed upon him. He bowed his head upon the table

"Thank God, as I do, for these tears," she said. "Yours is a strong lack of gratitude I had for your nature, Florian, and once turned from the right it would require just valuable friend, and your fidelity not sorry for your sins, since I see your repentance. Your father cannot regret his sad ending, nor your duct ?" share in it, when he sees your tears falling into the hand of God. 0. Florian! be of good heart: all your sins are forgiven you."

presented on rising.

"I know they are forgiven. I am not a day for tears."

stole around the islands, retreating from the sun. The air and earth sparkled. A soft wind blew from the south in gusts and filled the "You may wonder at my return in this rough season, but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I companying you," said Paul, "if you have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections in this rough season, but I came on a have no objections. I am going to the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections in the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections in the island myself. My two reasons but I came on a have no objections in the island myself. The island myself is a state of the isl on what might have been. He did not look for any surprise on the part of those who came to see him nor did Ruth manifest any. It was as if he had been there ten years. Paul gave them an opportunity to the look for any surprise on the part of those who came to see him nor did Ruth manifest any. It was wrong. Florian was wondering if his repentance would bring him the peace of heart which attached to the former hermit of Soplain his reasons for living on the little book that tells of the wonderly little book that tells of



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CHAPTER XLII.

'The oldest inhabitant of Clayburg, to a life so full of error." "How can I make it?" he said, mindful of that day, years back, away; yet I could not ask her af- particularly moved by the physical and moral grandeur of the man at "Do not think about it at all," the time, had he seen the figure which ple stared at the stranger and wongive me the greatest happiness or the greatest sorrow of my life."

"I came near missing it altogether," he said in turn. "I was but little disturbed at his discovery and she dreaded an exhibition of tears before Peter and the squire. Paul trembled in spite

"I came near missing it altogether," he said in turn. "I was but little disturbed at his discovery and death. What a fate is mine! Had I remained in Clayburg he would have made himself known to make the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference when the speculated as to who he might be, and were mystified when no one knew him. Florian was more than disguised. It was another person who walked the strenger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference where which Providence seems that the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no interference and wentle because the stranger and wondered at his likeness to "their boy," solved to attempt no one knew him. Florian was more than disguised. It was another person away uninstructed. He took the stranger and wondered at his likeness to " me. Had I even been faithful to God while in the world he would have Rougeuin received him with respect, tled eyes fixed on him fearfully. Was been faithful to Frances he would not have died. My ambition, avarice, disloyalty to the faith, and deprice, disloyalty to the faith, and deprice of the faith, and deprice of the faith, and deprice of the faith and deprice. Florian had not depend the faith and the polite priest had at the undressed beard and the lean nover intruded. He had not even form the less resemblance could he sertion of my promised wife have been almost balanced by the fact when never have known my dreadful share in his death had I responded to the able man commonly, being prudent in his death had I responded to the feelings which decency and grace prompted in me when I was last on the Island after his death. But the esteem of his neighbors held the interest of his people. Its he accepted their condolences. Just intellectual side was uppermost, which fact sufficiently accounted for the repulsion he and Florian exercised on each other.

"You are aware," said Florian, without any preface, "of all that has happened to me. I suppose Mr. feeling in mortal presence since the Rossiter told you. You will not be it create any excitement. surprised at my visit, then. I come to ask your pardon for much that I have thought and said and done against you, and much more for the services. My father thought you a such means to bring you back. I am proves that he did not esteem you too highly. Will you believe that I

"Certainly," said the priest, with some constraint; for he saw that Florian was in an odd mood, one that he could not then conceive to so." It was a haggard face that he be natural. Both Ruth and Paul presented on rising. against his resolution of living on agony utterly beyond her will to know this day of joy."

"It is quite impossible," said Paul,
"that he should take up the life his father led. He is too useful. Yet. from the politician than ever, and when he said no more Florian rose court before which the penitent pre-

"As an act of penance?" inquired the priest.

wered the penitent.

"It is a rather violent change," suggested the other. "Are you sure that it is an act agreeable to God? and do nothing to alter the condi-

viser ?" Florian asked.

"I did not think it unusual after Bowmanville, Ont.

my unusual career," he said in con-"It seemed a fitting close clusion.

"Perhaps it is," the priest said oubtfully, "and you can wait. A doubtfully, and few months hence it may be easier to arrive at a decision. In the meantime you can continue to follow those impulses which God may now."

These words Florian received as a command, although the priest was himself surprised at them. He had already arrived at a speculative decision in the case, but Florian's simple narrative had made a great impression on him, and obeying strong momentary impulse, he retled eyes fixed on him fearfully. Was this a ghost? the squire asked himself. He did not venture to address the figure, and Florian did not obsee to his famous boy. The eyes of New Yorkers were not so easily deceived. Passing through the streets to his long-deserted office, he met but a few acquaintances, all recognized him, offered him their sympathy for the illness of which they had heard nothing, and wondered at the odd manner in which then he was a political cipher and was not troubled with the presence of old adherents. A paragraph in the paper announced his return to the metropolis, and brought fear and trepidation into the De Ponsonby household, but in no other circle did

No one had any idea that Florian would visit the boarding-house soon after his arrival in the city, and Paul was counting on that supposition to get madame into a reasonable frame of mind. All weresurprised when the servant one day laid Florian's card in the mistress hand and heard his name.

"Send him up," said madame promptly, while Paul rose to go. "No." she continued, "you may remain. This matter is as public as was his engagement. I wish it to be

The poet sat down disturbed mind. Frances was in a state of ous manner. It was a formidable away, until blustering March began to hint at the warmth of spring.

Then walking out one day she met at the post office—Paul, hearty and loud from a consciousness of happi-loud from a consci sented himself. Yet Florian entered ed madame greatly, and drew quickly-smothered sob from Frances, but all signs of emotion were pre-"And from inclination, too." ans- sently buried in a dead calm, which grated upon Paul's nerves like sawsharpening. He was bound by circumstances and could say nothing "Is not inclination a good advisible only in the long interval which followed his entrance before "To a penitent it is a great ene- speaking. Like a true and determin-"Three games out of four!" shouted Peter. "Paul, by, New York against the world! I'm waxing the Clayburg heathen."

"Hard work," thought the squire, "to make love with Peter around."

"I wished to make certain of what intimates might soon discover any love with the part of the part of the future. Like his father, he said nothing and watched them up."

"To a penitent it is a great enemy. Inclinations for a long bad or erratic do not lead to good in an instant."

"I am ready for advice," he replied humbly. "Would you advise me?"

"The new love with Peter around."

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