## POOR DOCUMENT

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The Eleventh Hour

BY SIR WILLIAM MAGNAY, BART her of "The Red Chancellor" "The Fall of a Star" "The Heiress of the Season" &c.

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bachelor box?" he suggested insinuatingly to the widow.

She laughed weakly. "It does seem a shanne to stay even in such an interesting old room as this in a fine atternoon," she said as they rose. "I always love bachelors' rooms; there is a something about them, a charm of its sort quite unattainable by a woman. Don't you think "On, the suggested insinuatingly where you had got to. But I see you have been making your tour under the best auspices. We thought Mr. Fonconberg was too seriously inclined to escort such frivolous people as we are."

"Oh, we have been having a most serious enoughless she resented his silence and indifference. Women of her kind make a point of dragging a bored man into the whirl of their inanities; boredom in the midst of chatter is to them as unpardonable as it is in comprehensible. He turned and made the thest reply he could, hardly knowing what the said.

"And may one ask," Guise proceeded relentlessly, "what White Senior does bestides supporting the dignity of a Portugues viscountcy?"

"Well, if you must know—" "Well, if you must know—" to began ill-humoredly.

"And may one ask," Guise proceeded relentlessly, "what White Senior does bestides supporting the dignity of a Portugues viscountcy?"

"Well, if you must know—" "Well, if you must know—" Trangit all, man!" Guise broke in, "it is hardly unreasonable to want to know we not, Mr. Fauconberg? That is—if it was serious."

"Indeed, it was," he answered gravely.

"Miss Pithel has found out, Daresby struck in, "that it is difficult to know exactly how to take our friend. He will joke so seriously."

"Indeed, it was," he answered gravely.

"Mr. Fauconberg That is—if it was forced to reply with the best show of frankness he could muster. "Oh, he is the principal partner in Lorimore, White and Jackson, the great estate-agents."

"Alt. The auctioneers?"

"Alt. The auctioneers," "Auctioneers, if you like."

e said.

"Are you not coming?" the girl asked, he gave no sign of following them.

"Fauconberg is nothing if not discreet," well, we shall have to decide that tomorrow," the widow said, a little flusteried, as it seemed and anxious to get away. The fact of the luck in odd numbers, it is seemed and anxious to get away. The fact of the luck in odd numbers, it is seemed and anxious to get away. The fact of the luck in odd numbers, it is seemed and anxious to get away. The fact of the luck in odd numbers, it is seemed and anxious to get away. The fact of the luck in odd numbers, it is seemed and anxious to get away. The fact of the luck in odd numbers, it is seemed and anxious to get away. The fact of the luck in odd numbers, it is seemed and anxious to get away. The fact of the luck in odd numbers, it is seemed and anxious to get away. as he gave no sign of following them.

"Hauconberg is nothing if not discreet,"
Guise replied with a laugh. "He has an idea that there may be an exception to the theory of the luck in odd numbers,

the theory of the luck in odd numbers, and he has a horror of singularity, that is, being an odd man."

(Chattering and laughing they passed out, leaving him in the room.

"That is how they settled their difference, is it?" Fauconberg muttered when they were out of hearing. "Daresby is to have the first chance for the widow, sill) woman?" He laughed. Anything to keet his thoughts from the other subject. He sat down and took out a cigar. "Now, what ought I to do? Aid and abet this will be a fiasco. So you must not refuse. We will promise not to be more frivolous that the property is the satisfaction. The widow is a cigar. "Now, what ought I to do? Aid and abet this will be a fiasco. So you must not refuse. We will promise not to be more frivolous that the property is the satisfaction. The wind have the first chance for the widow, sill will be a fiasco. So you must not refuse. We will promise not to be more frivolous that the satisfaction is and took out a cigar. "Now, what ought I to do? Aid and abet this will be a fiasco. So you must not refuse. We will promise not to be more frivolous that the satisfaction is and valuations for the king in respect to a proposed railway through part of the royal property. The king thought so highly of him that he made him a viscount."

"I wonder," Guise observed reflectively, "whether the railway company had an equally high opinion of the noble viscount."

thoughts went on; "still, one can't help being sorry for these men; it is such a come-down. That affair today with Rentagle; they behaved badly enough both to him and to me; to think of a man from the Guards being brought so low as to have to play that part. Poor devils! It doesn't so much matter for me. The zest has gone out of my life, for good or ill.

But with these "" the carriage is brought round. It is shockingly late, and we have our reputation to consider."

"What was your senious conversation about?" Daresby asked carelessly, when shout live men's obvious to neutralize the other men's obvious the distribution of the carriage is brought round. It is shockingly late, and we have our reputation to consider."

"What was your senious conversation about?" Daresby asked carelessly, when shout?" I merely old Miss Scott-Purves that I had lost Gains."

OHAPTER XXV.

"I see the draws now on the curious crime, the fine capt." "You told her that?"

"Certainly. Why not? It's true

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CHAPTER XXIV. (Continued.)

It was nothing but what Fauconberg expected, yet at the mention he felt a deadly sickness.

Time was alipping by, and Lord Reneally sickness.

Time was alipping by, and Lord Reneally

White?" Guise took an opportunity of asking Crampton in the off-hand manner he assumed towards the young game-

"Ch, he's a very good fellow is Willoughby; a great friend of mine—" "I dare say," Guise interrupted with amusing insolence, "but who is he when

"Oh, Willoughby is quite a swell," Crampton answered confidently. "His father is Viscount White."

"That is how they settled their difference, is it?" Fauconberg muttered when they were out of hearing. "Paresby is to have the first chance for the widow, sill) woman!" He laughed, daything to keephis, thoughts from the other subject. He sat down and took out a cigar. "Now, what ought I to do? Aid and abet this windle, be a confederate in the confidence trick, or show these fellows up? I don know. I wish to heaven these alternatives would not be forced upon me. Why should I yound on men who have never done may harm, and are simply fighting desperately, in the struggle for existence?" He was about to strike a match, but remembering their visitors, he went on; "still, one can't help being sorry for these men; it is such a complete when the confidence in the confidence was a discovered product to strike a match, but remembering their visitors, he went on; "still, one can't help being sorry for these men; it is such a complete when the carriage is brought round. It is shock ingly late, and we have our reputation to being sorry for these men; it is such a complete when the carriage is brought round it is shock ingly late, and we have our reputation to being sorry for these men; it is such a complete when the carriage is brought round it is shock ingly late, and we have our reputation to a complete when the cut him short in her breathless and the when the carriage is brought round it is shock ingly late, and we have our reputation to complete when the carriage is brought round it is shock ingly late, and we have our reputation to complete the cut when the cut him short in her breathless and the when the cut him short in her breathless and the when the cut him short in her breathless and the when the cut him short in her breathless and the when the cut him short in her breathless and the when the cut him have a cut him have a cut him short in her breathless and the white a match but the was prevented by the entrance of the noble viscount."

"You hear that, Fauconberg being complete \$23.50.

Same with plant a pown the

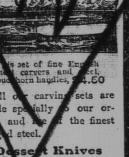
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Fine table ware can be conveniently ordered by mail. We prepay cost of delivery east of Winnipeg. "Your money back if not 6

by Mail





A set twelve dessert knives and forks, pearl handles and finest English ever plate blades in poll hed hardwood case, complete \$23.50.

this flattery had hit the first bird and missed the second altogether, the shot that

As we have got to put up with him. And, after al., he didn't shoot so badly."

This was rather more than Fauconberg could stand. "If you call missing nearly everything he fired at good shooting, no doubt he shot well." "My dear Jack, how uncharitable you are," Guise put in with a sneering laugh.
"And we thought you were rather taking o our new friends. "Uncharitable? No," Fauconberg rejoin-ed awarmly. "But you fellows know as well as I do the man can't shoot grouse I would not tell him so; I only wondered why you took the trouble to credit him

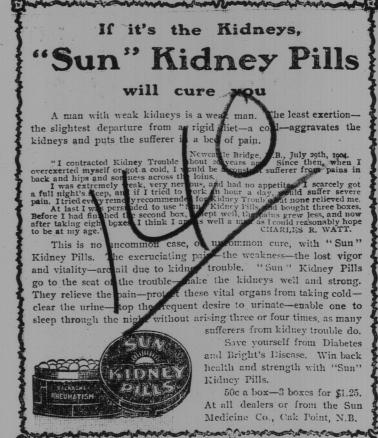
"Simply to keep the fellow keen on the work, Daresby answered plausibly. "Now he is so pleased with himself that he will he is so pleased with number that he will go on blazing away the whole afternoon, and between them they can't help making some sort of a bag to eke ours out." Fauconberg, knowing the man, found his explanation hardly convincing, but he said

explanation hardly convincing, but he said no more on the subject.

Mrs. Scott-Purves was living at Letworth Court, a good country house which he had taken furnished of an impoverishcounty personage with a waning rent-fil and a waxing family. The luncheon assed off pleasantly; Captain Daresby eemed to have an eye for everything, to be highly satisfied with the evidence of wealth in the house-keeping, and to make himself quite at home. Manifestly he considered himself on excellent terms with the widow, and she on her part, although somewhat hesitating at a second dip into the matrimonial lucky-bag, was not likely to draw back altogether.

But the hosters had a second object in view, and after luncheon she and her step-daughter advoitly practised a manoeuvre to that end. When the men, after a

object of ail told, but noth thrilling."



cigar, strolled into the drawing-room they found Ethel Scott-Purves there alone. She in heavy tragic roles, but as old age ad-Deadlock and Hortense in Bleak House rigar, strolled into the drawing room they found Ethel Scott-Purves dare alone. Sie suggested that her step-mother was in the garden, and that they should join her there when the men could light a second cigar. After they had gone a little distance the girl suddenly affected to remember a trivial order which she was to have given the botler. She turned to Feaconberg.

"Oh, Mr. Fauconberg, world you mind going back to the drawing-room and ring ing for Sparkes? I want him to come out that I may give him a message." In want him to come out that I may give him a message. She made a great deal of money at one that I may give him a message. The went back and found Mrs. Scott-Purve in the drawing-room. When the butler had been sent out to get the message, she said—

"I should like 'you' to see the library here, Mr. Fauconberg. It is the best room in the house, and bats a 'fine collection of books; but oh, so dry. Nearly fifteen thousand volumes, I believe, and not a readable one among them. Fancy living with fifteen thousand books and having to go to bed if Mudie's box doesn't arrive!"

"He admired the room and glanced round the shelves. "No, I'm afraid you would handly keep awake on coanty histories, languages and kindred things at the Prague conservature.

Having adopted the stage she later went to Chemnitz and drom there took to the road with a traveling company a \$14 to go was the received assistance from the actors that the age of eighten she became leading actress at the Stadt Theatre in endantly the roads with a traveling company a \$14 to go was the received assistance from the actors that the safe of eighten she became leading actress at the Stadt Theatre in the shelves. "No, I'm afraid you would heat shelves. "No, I'm afraid you would heat shelves." "No, I'm afraid yo

a salary of \$2,500 a year, though that was very little compared with the income she around" on the stage, endeavoring to make

And the control of th

hand seemed to be holding his companion's as he leant forward, looking up into her face. The whole attitude was one of importantly, and knowing what he did of the man's designs, the sight gave Fauconberg a shock of repugnance and morti
The was an extremely self-important young man, his importance seeming to be defined as a man need want to be the man's designs, the sight gave Fauconberg a shock of repugnance and morti
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