CHAPTER XXXIII.

"I say, Mr. St. George, the fact is I shouldn't have come in to-night but for fancying that perhaps I owed you an apology. At any rate, I dare say

"For what?" he asked, turning to me; and I declare that his dark face had such a blank look that I almost thought he must have forgotten me.

"Why, for that affair in the park, you know, the other day!" I blurted

The dark flush that swept over his face, accompanied, as it seemed to he had forgotten for the instant, he remembered now; and I was sorry that I had spoken. But his reply was

"Well, I'm glad of it," I returned

awkwardly enough. "Nevertheless am sorry that I forgot myself in the way I did."

"Which you would not have done had I not set you the example, I suppose you think?" he returned, glancing at me for an instant with a strange expression. "Well, there is some truth in that perhaps. But you owe me no apology. In your place should have done more than you did.

"Then I won't bother you any longer," I said, standing up and be able about it since it happened. Then there is no more to be said about it?"

"Was what true?" I asked, staring

"What?" he echoed, and added word which I shal! not do any good by putting down. /"Are you so fond of the mention of it? I thought you hated him more than you do me. Bah -what are you looking surprised at? I know you hate me well enough. Is it true. I say that she is engaged to that man? Confound his namemust you have it?-Fraser Froude!"

Yes, it's true." I said Whether he uttered any reply not, I do not know-if so, my own ex with the knife his hand had closed flicting a deep gash across the palm and the blood streamed down. St

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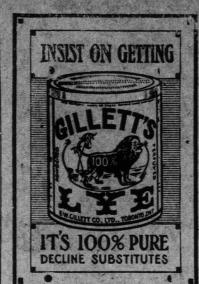
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weakness comes over you, and you lose control of the limbs. The nex step is paralysis.

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stupidly, and then turned so ghastly pale that I thought he was going to faint. I whipped cut my handkerchief, and, wrapped it tightly round

"How on earth did you manage that?" I asked.

"I don't know," he returned, blankv. looking in the same dazed way from the knife to his bandaged hand and turning still whiter, if possible Some wine was (on the table. I poured out a glassful and gave it to

"Makes vou feel queer, doesn't it?"

"Yes"-and he shuddered-"the sight of blood always did."

"So it seems. I thought at firs ou were going to faint. Look hereyou had better come and have strapped up; that handkerchief will be soaked through in a minute. It's a deep cut. You had better come round to Redpots with me. I'm going there; and we're sure to find eithe Yorke or Dizarte at home." "

He assented; and I got his overoat, helped him on with it, and we went out together. All the way to Reducts be did not speak a word, and let into the hall his face, by the light of the lamp, was absolutely livid. "Is Doctor Yorke in?" I asked o

the servant who admitted us. "Yes." was the reply.

"And in his own room?"

I did not wait any longer, but hur his chair was drawn up to the fire and a cigar not yet smouldered out on the

"Dizarte's called him off for some thing, I expect," I said. "He's al ways doing that. Sit down, and I'l go and hunt him up. Sha'n't be

I bustled out, leaving St. Georg bending forward, as he always di when he got near the fire, to get th full benefit of the heat. Crossing th hall and turning into the dining-room forgetting to knock in my haste, found both Yorke and Dizarte there nd so, without meaning it, caugh the fag-end of a sentence from the ol

"Well, of course you must do you think fit. Yorke, and take you own way-I can't prevent you; but trouble it is to me-I don't indeed." What the conversation was about could guess well enough; but I ca not say what Roger would have an swered, for in turning his head to re ply he saw me. His exclamation o my name made Dizarte look round and I went up to them and shool hands with both.

"What wind blows you here, Mr Ved?" Dr. Dizarte asked, a not ver lively intonation in his usually full

"The catastrophe of a cut finger," returned. "I say, Roger, I've brough you a patient in want of sixpenny worth of strapping up."

"Who is it?" asked Yorke. "St. George—the man from Jamaic; you know. He has managed to cu his hand right across, and it is bleed ing at a fine rate. I've left him h believe. The sight of the blood seem

ed to make him turn faint." Making some short reply, Yorke quitted the room. I think I should have followed him but that Dizarte made me a sign to stay.

"I was talking to him again, Ned," he said, with a sigh, "about this frea! es of his to leave Whittlesford, but

"You really think he has made up is mind to go this time?" I interrogated, knowing only too well that he

"Entirely-nothing else will suit him: and he seems impatient with me for urging him to stay too," said the le and soft-hearted. "And vet I'm sure I don't know why the place can't ast time he seemed to have given up

"Perhaps he will again," I said, in cheerful tone: but Dizarte shook

"It is a pity," I said.

"Sometimes I think he must be come trouble." went on the old doc tor, innocently; "but I'm sure I don't as never been rackety or run into lebt. Couldn't you speak to him. Ned? You and he have always been such friends, you know."

"What can I do, sir?" I said. have talked to him. I'd give half Chavasse to keep him here; but it's no use. Perhaps he'll get tired of being away before long, though. Who

'aces. I shouldn't wonder if we saw im back before mid-summer, after

The door opened just then, and Ro-

"Are you coming now, Ned? I've strapped up your friend's hand."

ed, not exactly relishing his mention

"All right-if you like," he answerd, indifferently. "Sha'n't be above

"No, no, my boy-of course not. to by all means!" old Dizarte said; nd, as/I followed Yorke out, I saw e old man settle himself back in is arm-chair again for what was eviently a thorough mope.

St. George, looking awfully pale till, stood in the hall, his cut hand rust into the breast of his coat; nd, waiting only until Roger put on is, we all three turned out together. Whether it was that St. George was wet blanket or not I do not know, ut hardly a dozen words had been id when we reached Haddon's, and e bade us a short good-night and

Instead of coming on, Yorke paus-

"Want me to come any further, "Of course; we haven't said a half

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Yorke, impatiently. "Have you told

"She did?" He half laughed to him-

self. "How did he take it?" "Pretty bad. I think." "Ah! Well, what did you want to

say? In mercy's name say it what-Now, as I have said before, I thin1 I had really nothing special to say nothing at all. Not seeming to notive my silence, or perfectly indiffermind that never should a woman make such a fool of me as Natalie Orme

ack towards Chavasse with me, will and had just arrived at the sharp pace from that direction, turned the corner-so suddenly that Yorke and (To\_be continued.)

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