

A MOTHER'S PORTRAIT.

O that those lips had language! Lips had
With me but roughly once I heard them
That lips are things—alike one sweet
And smile, and how they smile, and how
The smile that comes from the heart
The smile that comes from the heart
The smile that comes from the heart

THE DOCTOR'S WARD

OR,
PLOTING FOR A FORTUNE.

By George F. Warner.

CHAPTER XXVI

A PRELIMINARY SKETCH.

Felix Vasilla put in an appearance
at an early hour in the morning that
followed the events last recorded.
He came for the purpose of making
the attack that had been expected, but
hegan his operations in so expected a
manner, that Dr. Dohrer was seriously
discouraged.
He was accompanied by the corner
of the county, by his two deputy sher-
iffs, and by a physician of the town,
who had long been a rival and an
enemy of Dr. Dohrer's.
This party was armed with a war-
rant, which had been issued in conse-
quence of an affidavit made by Felix
Vasilla. The warrant, giving the
substance of the affidavit, set forth
that inasmuch as grave suspicion ex-
isted that Alice Tarleton Field, for-
merly, of that county, had come to her
death by violent and unlawful means,
namely, by poisoning, the coroner was
therefore directed and required to ex-
amine the body of the said Alice Tar-
leton Field, and to hold an inquest there-
on, for the purpose of determining the
cause of her death.
Dr. Dohrer was nonplused, and asked
the meaning of this strange and un-
accountable proceeding.
"I mean," replied Felix, "that I am
here for the purpose of revealing all
the villainy connected with Mrs. Field
and her family. I have strong reasons
for believing that she was poisoned,
and I may say further that you, who
was her attending physician, are sus-
pected of having administered the
poison. If the examination that he
made has shown traces of poison, you
will be held responsible for her death."
"This is ridiculous, and most abomi-
nable," said the doctor. "She has been
dead and buried more than five years,
and your proposed examination will
only be a useless violation of her
tomb."
The physician who had come with
Felix stated that the presence of various
poisons could be detected after the
lapse of five years or a longer period.
Perceiving that it was the intention
of this proceeding to add a new com-
plication to the affair, and to place
him in such a position that he would
be unable to render efficient assis-
tance to Helen in her embarrassments,
Dr. Dohrer invited the party to com-
e in and rest, until he could procure the
attendance of his legal adviser. As
this request could not be reasonably
denied, they entered the house, and
seated themselves in the parlor.
Captain Durfee and George North
shortly came in and were introduced
to Felix Vasilla. Helen Tarleton had
received a message from her guardian,
which she obeyed, requesting her to
remain in her own apartment. Mr.
Lanning was not present, and was sup-
posed to be in his room.
The young lawyer was greatly sur-
prised at meeting George North at
this time, and he preserved his com-
posure admirably, acknowledging the
presence of his rival by a distant
glance.
Nothing was done, and but little was
said, until the arrival of Judge Mer-
rick, a lawyer of the old school, who
had been the legal adviser of Doctor
Dohrer during many years.
The warrant, if it may be so called,
was shown to him, and Dr. Dohrer
asked him what should be done.
"There is nothing for you to do," he
replied, "but to submit to the authority
of the law. This order has been pro-
perly applied for and properly issued,
and it must be obeyed. If the inquiry
is directed at you, I advise you to re-
sist all the evidence that is done, and
not get out of the apartment until you
are asked to go."
Dr. Dohrer stated that he would under-
stand, and declared his intention of
submitting proceedings against the
coroner and all concerned, to punish
them for a useless and malicious con-
duct.

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On the other side Judge Mer-
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Mr. Field and his wife. Although
these charges have no connection with
the question of property, she desires
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Felix said that he had no objection
to that course, and called upon Sor-
ranzo to state what he knew about the
charges.
The Californian was excited. His
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and George North, and he seemed to
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He enumerated the charges that had
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good evidence in law, and I would give
more credit to it, in a moral point of
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"I can't agree with you, sir, and
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nothing further to offer, to use these
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"You are at liberty to do as you
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ed Judge Mer-
rick whether he wished
to ask the lady any questions.
"None at all," replied Mer-
rick, when he had glanced at Mr. Lanning,
who was still gazing intently into
recess, "have the kindness to pro-
ceed with your evidence."
"That which I now offer is circum-
stantial, and is the hand-writing of
what you have just heard," said Felix,
handing Judge Mer-
rick a paper, which Dr.
Dohrer instantly recognized as the
paper that had disappeared from his
study on the night of the fire.
"And so the letter that I supposed I
had lost turns out to have been stolen
by you?" exclaimed the doctor.
Judge Mer-
rick endeavored to pacify
his friend, telling him that the young
gentleman could probably account sat-
isfactorily for his possession of the
letter.
"I found it, and I have it, and that is
enough," replied Felix. "You can't
deny that it is in the hand-writing of
Robert Field, and that he declares that
he was a married man, with a living
wife, when he married Alice Tarleton.
That letter taken in connection with
the evidence of Madame Mora, is suf-
ficient to prove my claim; but, in order
that there may be no possible doubt, or
loophole of escape, I will now exhibit
before you the original of the marriage,
which I obtained in Texas."
The young lawyer laid upon the table
the time discolored certificate, to-
gether with the attested copy of the
state's register, and the affidavits of
the two "highly respectable" citizens
who had witnessed the marriage.
Judge Mer-
rick called upon Mr. Lan-
ning to translate the certificate and
read, and examined all the papers
very carefully, while the most intense
silence pervaded the room. When he
laid them down and removed his spec-
tacles, the expression of his counte-
nance was grave and sorrowful.
"I can see no chance to dispute these
documents," he said. "The internal
evidence of their authenticity is suf-
ficient to convince any court, and to
raise a presumption that can only be
overthrown by such proof as I should
suppose could not possibly be present-
ed."
Taken in connection with Mr.
Field's letter, and the statements of
Madame Mora, they make out more
than a prima facie case in favor of the
former marriage, and I shall be
obliged, for all I can now see, to advise
my clients to make no further resis-
tance to the claim."
"As your clients are to be bound by
your decision," said Felix Vasilla, "and
as it is now so abundantly proved that
Miss Helen Tarleton, or Field, is not
the child of a lawful marriage, it fol-
lows that she is not entitled to the prop-
erty that descended to her mother
from the estate of Joshua Tarleton,
and I am compelled to demand a re-
conveyance to my father, Andrew Va-
silla, who is next of kin to the deceased
Joshua Tarleton."
Mr. Lanning had come down from
the clouds when his services were re-
quired as a translator, and had taken
a seat at the table.
"It is possible that there may be
some mistake about this matter," said
Mer-
rick. "I would like to ask Madame
Mora, if she is sure of the facts."
Judge Mer-
rick looked up his consent,
and Madame Mora nodded, as if she
did not relish the idea of being cross-
examined.
"When you were in Louisiana, ma-
dame," said Lanning, "did you happen
to meet a man named Ephraim
Krewitt?"
"Who said I was ever in Louisiana?"
she asked, rather more spitefully than
seemed to be necessary.
"Beg your pardon—but I may have
been mistaken; but there was a strange
story about that same Krewitt. He was
a new-comer in Bastrop Parish, and
became intimately acquainted with
Madame Mora, and the young wife of an
old and wealthy planter."
"I would like to know what this has
to do with the question we are con-
sidering," suggested young Vasilla.
"Do please be quiet. When I have
begun a story, I can't bear to be in-
terrupted in it. They had not been
long acquainted, when the old planter
suddenly died. Soon after his death
his widow left the State with Krewitt,
and he was then discovered that he had
been poisoned, and that the poison had
been administered by his wife and
Krewitt. They were pursued, and he
was killed in the attempt to capture
him; but the strictest search was un-
able to bring her to light. A large
reward was offered for her, and there
were plenty of officers in the States who
would be glad to go hold of her."
Madame Mora had turned deathly
pale while Lanning was telling his
story, and seemed hardly able, when
he finished it, to sit in her chair.
"What does this mean, sir?" angrily
asked Felix Vasilla. "Do you pretend
to insinuate that Madame Mora was
that woman? Even if she were, it
could not set aside the fact that she
was the first wife of Robert Field."
"Perhaps not. If you have no ob-
jections, Mr. Vasilla, I would like to
ask you a few questions. Did you pre-
sent this certificate from the prison
house to the young wife of the old
planter? Your question has nothing to
do with the case in hand, and is simply
impertinent. I shall not condescend
to answer it."
"Very well. As you are so unpromis-
sive, I shall be obliged to tell the
truth myself, and so tell it in my
own way."
Felix Vasilla looked vexed, Sor-
ranzo looked frightened, and the other
side looked eager and excited, as Lan-
ning cleared his throat to speak.
[CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.]

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ROYAL
MAKING
POWDER
Absolutely Pure.

Sore Eyes

BY TAKING
Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

THE KEY TO HEALTH.

WOMEN
BOWEN'S

DR. E. C. WEST'S

FOR THE
LIVER
BLOOD
AND
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AND
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WINTER ARRANGEMENT. 1886-7.

WINTER GOODS

WINTER GOODS

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