




"I am glad you tike the thyle of th
setting, my love; it certainly is old fater shioned ; but the taste is very good, and
the stones are partieularly heautiful. Directly you become my sone's wife, I shal
give them up to you give them up ${ }^{20}$ you.
" You wonder I should like to part with
them at my time of life! The truth is, them at my time of hifo! The truth is.
for all their beeaty, they offord me vers for all their beanty, they afford me very
fittle ploanura; their sparkffig brilliancy recalis the suddest events of my life. It
wants half an hour to dinner. I shall just have time to tell the story.
"Theege dia
"These diamonds were. a jift from my
Aunt Jainet, my mother's sister. I was Aunt Janet, my mothers sigter. I wa
left an orphan at an early age, and went
to live with Aunt Jan ot She had a very pleasant house on Cliaphum Common, with
a farge garden ; and the posesed an exceliegt ingcome, arioing from various bour ces. Aunt Janet way a widow, and her
property had been tet her by her huiband
in leor oblo contro. She had ro children, and a he bought mo up as ner daughter not that 1 was by any means spoi:ed; in
sruth, I was by no means ns great a fa.
vourito as a litule cousin of mine Tosien


## 

 am ororty to say, I begain to diolike cousing, and my dielile was increased to poinare hatred by his being conatan
held up to me as a pattern-child. I.
 ly age, Itoonld pefreive that he wiss pari
cuiarly ahy, and always took eare to puat his best behaviour in $m y$ ant ane to put I can recoilfoct too, I was constantly pu deny everything; it whe useless for me spenk; he was always
ceived the punishment.
"When my aunt purchased these di great trenst to the shysop-a wery told-estab lished jeweller's in town. I was too your
at the time to know anything about th value of diamonds, but I perfectly ren
leet seeing the man in the shop show th very set to $m y$ nuns for her approval. cheque for the roney, and took the di
monds home wite ber " It happened on that day carriage. in excellent humour with me; and whid myeolf were pley drossing-room, he called me to her, a
pot the diamond necklace on rder, as she said, to see how it looked, another perasn, 1 was delighted at
glitter, and ran off to surver myself glass. My aunt promieed me, in reply
my expressions grew up a good girl, those w

## "I the diomonds.


soiled oy my aunt, and his chief amuso appeal to my mant was veseless, for she al cation was finished, he was placed in stock. broker's office to teorn the buaines
and to my dismay, it was arranged that ho should reside with ue,
"Howerer mnters did not turn out so
unpleasentily as I had anticipated. Josiah civenever wo were thrown together, wa
civil and courteous; and though I could

## falee

## - harmoniously together.

At last, Josiah came of age. I reeol presence of when he presentod me, in th some braculet. As he was my cousin, and
5 we had been so mach together, I never
ireamed yyegnificance in the that there could be my signcance in the gift, and I saw from
my annts manner that she would have
been hurt had I refoed it a grand party in honour of the birth-day and $I$ was still more surprised to find that
Josiah's attentions were though there were several very pretty gir! prosent, who, I knew, would havo bee
nothing loath to receive the addresses "This most embarrassed mexp ; independently of cont positive aislike for Josiah Wilson, $m$ feelings were already set in a particular Mr. Huntloy 1 was dreadfolly distressed lest tifled by my cousion's atteytion; and graing here and my aunt had been whispernew bracelet was Josinh's present. would have given anything to tear it fro bury it in my dress. After I had read to nut next morning.Ater I had read to my aunt, as was our
ustom, the lessons for the das, oin a serious tune. She felt she growing old, she said: : in the event of he
denth, I stould be left without a protect it was the ceareat wish of her heort to e Josiah's wife. 11 her kindness, that my aunt was of with determines de that my annt was of a ve.

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ot, and deelared she should loare II was fart too excited to aloep the nice: I could think of nothiug othe. Early in the morning, Lucy onme into y room, erying bitterly. She begged

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& \text { yannt } \\
& \text { "Tell me, Lucy, whom did you reell }
\end{aligned}
$$

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& \text { to neet: } \\
& \text { a }
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { "Why } \\
& \text { replied. } \\
& \text { o Wha }
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$$

Yes, min hour to choose, Lneo !" " I was determ.

## "Listen to

Lasely as I spe, Lucy." I. watched be ut half-past ., The night beorortian m the summer-Gouse.": She biamed ing between you and thet man mangd ! "She turyed deadly pale, and unt to "Oh, mise," sho sald, in a tor tone

 indeed Moth

Have you any proof to give of $M_{r}$ Uats promierer I I abed
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 send for Mr. Chapmar.
## This gentleman was a solicitor, and Always been a a greast friend and

 Chapman, and the coachman sent,
L.aste, to fetch Josiah immediarely Irom the eity.
"In about two hours, Mr. Chapman Min about two hours, Mr. Chapman
with us. My aunt related to him the
currences of that: night, calling upon currences of thas night, calling upon
to supply the partieculars in wtieth I to supply the particulars in wtien I
conerned.
"He desired that Luey should be for. I would have willingingly esc
from the room, but my aunt ordere to remain.
Mr. Chapman placed his ehair
so
te light from the window fell on face as she stood before him.
girl was innocent. Thero was a aicke
presenti:nent weighing in my mind, aresentinent weighing in my mind,
agsinut it ss I would, that Josioh was
volved in the volyed in the affair. consequence of something that has
trangejired, it was neesesary for tion know the natine of the ersson she had liuto the garden to see.

## averted my y yos, beneath her gaz " She on git

She said fle. was her lover !
Hie name?


## warm sultry pight, and, nce of wanting air, I went to the How wy heart beat ! Looking of opath, a figure hurrying dowis 1 " ; I strained my sight hard to my aunt of my cousinse conduct, inned abrut irned abraptly from the winduot, myse f at her feet. Aunt. I canm  ter astonishment and dismay, then knock outside the door : it wno he had conse to a elivered the keya.

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