KATE VALLIANT.

With -:- the -:- Circus

(Continued.)

'Not for the world!' she cried in unfeigned dismay, 'blame me, say what you like to me, but don't ruin the best prospect I've ever had. Godfrey, if it's any satisfaction to you that I should humble myself by confessing that I am going to marry for money and place, that I don't care for the man I'm going to marry, and that I do love you whom I'm leaving, you shall have that satisfaction,

'Not for the world would I deal him such a blow, the good honest fellow Godfrey looked more splendid as he said she never wavered in her intention of home a wife.'

giving him up. 'Don't praise him to me, I can't bear it, she said angrily. 'I would rather hear you abuse him for having come in your way. Why has be the place and the riches, boor and country bumpkin that he is? Why are you not in his place? Godfrey, if you were-if you were--'

'Good night, Miss Carroll,' he interrupted sternly.

'You forgive me?' 'Make Philip a good wife and I'll for give the sorry part you've played towards

'I won't be weak enough to ask you to forget me!

'No, God help me, I can't do that.' Then he turned away, and the best dancer in the room was lost to that ballto the chagrin of those who had been lookdone with him.

As soon as she lost sight of his graceful gallant looking figure, and knew that he had gone, Blanche went in search of her sister.

'Are you ready to go, Lou?' 'Quite; are you?'

'Yes.' 'Then he knows?'

'He knows.'

'Blanche, tell me, how did he take it?

'Like the man he is; please stop asking questions. I'm tired and want to go

'Poor Godfrey! and equally poor Philip! Mrs. Beaufort uttered to herself.

CHAPTER VI.

A STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY

Philip Wyndham's sound, healthy unsuspicious mind soon threw off the with Blanche. 'It was only natural, that a pure, proud woman, such as he felt sure Blanche was, should be reserved and distant, even with the man she was to marry, in these early days of their engagement. More especially since that man was nearly a stranger to her. He would soon win her trust and confidence and then love, and the delicate exhibition of love would surely soon follow.'

He told himself these things over and over again on his journey down, and by morning under Ralph Curtis's auspices. the time Kate and he drove up to the It was hateful to the young man to lodge gates, his spirits were buoyant and thwart his sister even the pettiest pleahis heart was light.

Mrs. Curtis, the lodge keeper, and for a collected, censorious, fluent woman's moment there was no recognition in tongue! Philip Wyndham's eyes as they rested on the stranger. But in another moment

mean to stick to the Hasselton stables.'

say, but Ralph shook his head. Philip-that is, Mr. Wyndham-to go sion for his motherless sister there, to girl who rode the pony bare-backed, to blameless." quite the young lady.'

'Yes, I'm Miss Kate still, Ralph,' the girl said, holding out her hand to their Kate. old stable-boy, who had left them eight years ago for the fascinations of a circus. In the course of those years, Ralph Curtis had developed from a plucky rough you. rider into a daring, graceful, and accomplished circus-rider. And now, as the company to which he belonged were in my expression of opinion. starring through the country towns about Hasselton, he had come home for s few it.' days, to show old friends what a success the runaway stable-boy had achieved.

'I can make the old mother comfortable for the rest of her life, without her needing to work and more, sir,' the young fellow said, with an affectionate glance at his proud and happy mother; 'and I hope Miss Kate and you won't take it amiss, if I say that, when the troup comes to Straceyleigh, I hope you'll come and see some of my feats. I'm the best man in the company, either through the hoops, on the bare-backed horses, or steeple-chase

come up to the house to-morrow, and tell Louisa.' us a few of your experiences; and, by the way, you can try a new mare I've just Louisa had hit the right nail on the head. bought for a lady, over the hurdles for To keep Kate Valliant out of Godfrey me; your hands are as good as ever, I Wyndham's way had been Blanche's one suppose.

Little did Philip think as he gave this solved upon renouncing Godfrey. Rather invitation that his old servant's accept- than endure that special form of heart made for his own life, and change the see Godfrey and Kate come together,

'I'll come surely sir,' Ralph said, with moment of giving up Hasselton! manship.

Philip shouted back as be drove off.

be married at last; a grand London lady, son on her side. I s'pose! I wish he'd a' taken one we know'd about. They Londoners have

So Mrs. Curtus conjectured, and her son answered her according to his wider experience:

married first! I'm sorry there's another anything more to say.' coming to be mistress here while Miss Kate's at home.'

going to be left to be a poor old maid and rescue Kate. without no man to take care of her.'

'I wish she'd been married before Mr.

purchase, and in the contemplation of on him. the brown mare's perfect points the circusrider forgot his fears for Miss Kate's she, Godfrey?' Fred asked.

and Kate Valliant, and as she deported words than his sister fathomed. herself entirely to their satisfaction

extraordinary circle of acquaintances ! fancy they get it in the suburbs.' To spend the whole morning in the somarry the man, I hope she will do it lessly. ing forward to having a reversionary while there is still time for me to avert 'If she is as lovely as he says?' Fred the consequences of the scandal that went on.

would ensue, from myself.' Philip read these astounding sentiments in a fog. At the first reading her and put in the position of ruler over him- express that appreciation. self and his house and all that was his. ing-the child who had been left to his beauty to mamma--' circus-rider who had been their stable out a bit of jealousy in her nature. said nothing of the contents of the letter laughed in the soreness of his heart. judged that those contents were not of a and falsity.

done in the case of a rupture. with some little constraint, he asked ly. Kate to give up her intention of having a little hurdle-practice on the lawn that sures. But he was driven on to do it The gates were opened by a trim built, now by his dread of the sharpest lash dapper looking young fellow, in place of that can fall on a man-the lash of a cool

Later on it seemed to him that Blanche had written in the strain she had in he had pulled up his horses, and was hopes of its goading him into breaking off the hastily formed engagement. 'She 'Why, Ralph! I'm glad to see you neither loves me, nor respects me nor back! I hope you've done roving, and my sister, and she shall have her chance of freedom,' he thought. And so he 'That's what I'm a-telling him' Master wrote manfully, dispassionately, and Philip,' old Mrs. Curtis hobbled out to clearly, begging her to look we'll into her own heart, and if she could find no love T've been in the Circus too long, Master for himself, no sympathy and compasback to the stables, now; well surely, this take back her promise and her freedom, isn't Miss Kate! grown from the little and to believe that he would hold her

> Meanwhile Blanche had told her sister of the line she had taken with regard to

'You'ye done a risky thing, take my word for it, Blanche; why can't you let the girl alone? she won't interfere with

'I'll take very good care of that, and I don't see that there was anything 'risky'

'Some men would break with you for

'He won't do that,' Blanche laughed, sorry still to see him at Hasselton. but he may send his sister away, and spare me the sight of the air of authority she's sure to assume when I go as a guest to my future home.'

heartily, Blanche? I believe your afraid but in reality to see Blanche, because rebound.

Blanche reddened.

'I am so given to jealousy, am I not? superior charms of Kate Valliant!

For all her sarcrstic disclaimer, though desire since she had seen Kate, and rewhole current of his sister Kate's career! Miss Carroll would have thought for a

row; she's for the future Mrs. Wyndham, stung him more than her former one had him she was as cool and indifferent as it to hear it), when Blanche cut in:

queer ways; you can never tell what fash- it were told that you offered to jilt me and indomitable perseverance with which away, Philip will stay with you.' Mrs. for your sister's honor-which I imagined Hasselton. was dear to you and bound up with your 'Your grand London lady is very much own. Pray, forget my remark about the locked up. Mixed up with the love she Frederica on the contrary, anticipated like your country lady in these days circus rider, and if it is to be a match, had nurtured, with encouragement, for one of those exhibitions of authority over But I wish Miss Kate was the one to be and you approve of it, I will never have Philip, there had been a desperate desire him which were so stingingly painful to

'She'll be married before long, bless you and, with all his heart, he wished that latent cynicism and discontent of her na-Ralph. Young Mr. Glanville's here pretty | Charlie Glanville would not fear his fate | ture, and polished up her powers of utter | duty to go with them, and I shall not for I confess it all. But don't tell Philip often; don't 'ee fear! Our Miss Kate isn't too much, but would come to the point, ing unpleasant truths to the utmost.

Godfrey Wyndham saw nothing of his fectly unqualified. The poor lady lived

Philip wrote a glowing account of her way part of the town; who ever heard of cautions were many and bitter. received a letter from her, in which she went on superciliously. 'My idea is that sprang from such an utterly mean and 'Your half-sister appears to have an clerks in the city who like fresh air, and was so entirely made up of ignoble re-

ciety of a circus-rider is surely hardly be what my mother would call a pleasant against Philip for being about to marry. fitting for a young lady; if she is going to change for her,' Godfrey answered care- in 'the way he was, that she com-

'Who's he?' 'Phil-of course."

'Oh, he spoke sensibly enough on the suspected his sister—his mother's darl- whole, but Kate was rapturous about her

guardianship-of a love affair with a Kate always was a brick of a girl, with

faltered away, and his heart recoiled for 'brickish' or magnanimous in not being interesting places and points. And she s; they may understand you'). the first time from Blanche Carroll. He jealous of a cousin-in-law, eh, Fred?' he did enjoy them, for Charlie Glanville was

morbid, painful sense of mortification of hope expanding her heart. But she him, and been happy! Blanche will discernment told her 'Phil was disap- other piece of sensational nonsense.' answered herself with a cruel, neither do the one nor the other !-- and I pointed.' But perhaps a minute after candid insight into the probabili- shan't dare to look dear old Phil in the some attitude or trick of gait of Blanche's you come too, Blanche?' ties of the case immediately. face. I'd better never see her again.') would show her in so gracious and beau-Philip looked angry and disgusted, not

miserble and dejected, as he would have thus, he was determining to take the these eyes would light up with happiagency of Lord Marlpit's estates, which ness, and the light of that happiness ('She shall not have it in her power to would place him close to Hasselton; 'at would at once be reflected in the sympasay anything of that kind about my his gates, the good true fellow, at his thetic windows to fair Kate's soul. And little Kate in future') he resolved, and so, very gates !' Godfrey thought remorseful_ complacently allowing Philip's future to

CHAPTER VII. 'POOR PHILIP.'

Hasselton was full of life and excitement. If any of the pleasure-loving people who were making its old walls resound with merriment from morning till night had secret carking reflections of their sufferings were unknown and unsympathised with.

sparkling Mrs. Beaufort regarded Mrs. Laurence Wyndham as a kill-joy kind of woman, whom it was "not at all worth the while of any society person to cultivate.' And she regarded Frederica with something as near to aversion as she to feel for any one.

But though Mrs. Beaufort was antipathetic to the ladies of the Laurence Wyndhams' family, she had a feeling of strong admiration (through which a soft gleam of pityshone) for Godfrey, the Laurence Wyndhams' son. In her estimation he was as superior to Philip the squire of Hasselton, as her sister Blanche was to Fredher worldly mind, she was sorry for him

He had come against his own conviction of what was wise and manly and honourable. He had come avowedly to see the pretty comfortable house which 'What makes you dislike the girl so he was to occupy as Lord Marlpits agent before she came to it as her home. For asm of going. when she came she would be Philip's wife! lost to him(Godfrey) for ever! un- ing lessons with him for some reason or less-well, unless good, kind, generous other It will be too hard on him if we

Philip died and left her free. Godfrey, in spite of passion for her, their performance to-day. Make Phil go, ance of it would mar every plan he had and vanity pinch, which it would be to could not bring himself to wish for this Blanche, he will go if you wish it.' last fatal distanglement of his difficult love-knot. Philip in his perfect ignor- Mrs. Laurence Wyndham intervened ance and unsuspicion of those past pas- fretfully. 'I couldn't think of going to sparkling eyes. He had not auticipated It was more than a surprise to her sages between his betrothed and his consin such a low sort of thing in the evening meeting with such a free and kindly when, in answer to her sneers about his was too confidingly and affectionately myself, and I'm quite sure Fred wouldn't welcome from the old master whose ser- sister, Philip shook his chain in the anxious to see Blanche and Godfrey on dream of it, but I have no objection to vice he had quitted so unceremoniously manner which has been described. She friendly and familiar terms, for Godfrey go in the afternoon if Philip has promislong ago, and he longed to show them all felt no alarm about his carrying his proat Hasselton how capable he now was of position that she should take back her hope of his cousin-rival's death. More- it.' witching the world with his noble horse- freedom, and her promise, into execution, over, though Blanche's allusion to her but she was incensed beyond description future home and approaching marriage Kate was beginning (with a little laugh You'll see the mare pass through from that he should have so disregarded her stung him to the quick, there was noth- at the praiseworthy endeavour her aunt the station presently; look her over, and sovereignty as to have made it at all! ing calculated to pain him in her man- was making to use the phraseology of the let me have your verdict on her to-mor- So she wrote him back a letter which ner to the man she was to marry. To society papers, as if she were accustomed 59 BRUNSWICK ST

done; and yet he could not dispute the was possible for her to be contemporan-'My blessed heart ! so the master's to fact that she had right and prudent rea- eously with the constant putting forward to know; the others will please themof her claims to be his first, if not his selves, but I should feel altogether out of 'It would astonish so much of the only, consideration. Still, all things con- it.' world as knows us not a little, I think, if sidered, in spite of the indefatigable zeal Then naturally, my dcar, if you stay (that is what your offer comes to) because Godfrey pursued every form of pleasure Carroll hazarded this observation with

> 'My poor dear Kate! you'll be nowhere ton. To see both man and house appro- the rejoinder Blanche made. with her,' the disillusioned lover sighed, priated by another girl, roused all the

family for some days after Blanche had in hourly dread of something occurring Philip; Miss Kate oughtn't to have to made her revelation. By that time he to break off the engagement, and leaving this and stood further from her, than he take a back seat, and that's what she'll had "got himself into form, and pulled both Blanche and herself stranded on have to take when the master brings himself together,' as he expressed it, and the old dreary shore of pecuniary diffi- as squire of the place, and brother of a his mother's voluble comments, and culties. And what these pecuniary diffi-Ralph was saying this thoughtfully, Fred's quiet sneers, on the subject of the culties had been to the poor lady, no one when a groom came up leading the new engagement made no outward impression but herself knew. She had not known indeed how severe the unceasing strain 'She's the girl you knew at Oban, isn't had been, till the tension was slackened by the prospect of Blanche's immediate 'She told me she was the other night; I marriage to a wealthy man. Now her encourage Ralph Curtis by being pre-The next day the brown mare had a shouldn't have known it else,' Godfrey nerves were on the rack perpetually for sent, his staying home wouldn't prevent good deal of schooling, both from Ralph replied, with a deeper meaning in his fear Blanche herself might mar the pros- my going. I'm at home at Straceyleigh, 'They live in a hideously out-of-the daughter's indifference to her fears and a little girl; you should have seen how

> her mother keeps a boarding house for ignominious source, the sum of them grets that her daughter was not to graso 'If your idea is correct, Hasselton will the glories of Hasselton, and of vindictive came up to them at the moment. mands no sympathy.

As for Philip himself, the lord of all! with a touch of gratified vanity. the promoter of all the fun and revelry, 'What did he say about her?, Godfrey called him facetiously, he realized day afternoon,' she said; 'have you undermeaning was not clear to him. Then he asked, longing to hear that she was ap- by day, hour by hour, the bitterness of taken to try Nell Gwynn through the read them again, and realised that the preciated, and yet hating the fact of the mistake he had made. But he kept hoops?—or are you going to make yourwoman he loved and was going to marry another than himself having the right to a brave front, and made no outward sign | self into a human wreath with Ralph of his severe inward suffering. Lastly, how was it with Kate?

With Kate it was always as it seemed. curring excursions on horseback and in to his fiancee ('the others don't underboy! And as he realized this his faith 'I don't see anything particularly carriages to 'sweet spots,' and locally stand how purely idle and groundless it Yet all the while he was thinking tiful a light in her lover's eyes, that take care of it, she turned to the innocently intense enjoyment of her own

Perhaps Charlie Glanville was not the ideal lover for such a girl as Kate Valliant. He was only a fair, sunburnt young fellow, of middle height, rather broadly built, with a good deal of fun in his well opened blue eyes, and wide, laughing mouth, That he could not their own to endure, they endured with deliver himself of the humorous thoughts such Spartan heroism outwardly that within him verbally, was just as often the result of his being stultified by Kate Valliant's superior prowess in badinage The Carrolls, mother and daughter and repartee, as it was of his being a were there of course. Without them trifle clumsy in the management of his there would have been no motive for the mother's tongue. Not that he was proneeting in slyvan scenes of the Beauforts vincial, or ungrammatical; on the conand the Laurence Wyndhams. For trary, he was, if anything, too precise to be a good anecdotist or 'raconteur.' But he was a thorough gentleman in look, word, deed, and thought. And as he was N. C. SUTHERLAND,

Kate saw him, and loved him. There had been no words of plighting of troth or of open love spoken between could bring her carelessly amiable self them yet, but Kate openly expected 'Charlie' to take his place by her side in every riding and driving excursion, and he openly deported himself as if that place were his proper one, and all the other figures on the social canvas of this period of their lives openly acknowledged the young people's treatment of their own case to be a correct one. Nevertheless, they were not engaged. That is to say erica. So in her woman's heart, in spite of Charlie had never asked Kate to be his wife. Kate had never referred him to in that he had lost Blanche, and more to her brother. No engagement ring had been given and worn. Importunate friends had not even presumedto ask them when the wedding day was to be. Yet for all these things they knew, and every one about them knew, that they loved one another dearly and well.

The day had arrived on which 'Cartil's she'll catch poor Godfrey's heart in the Blanche had bidden him. He could not Troupe, consisting of a hundred of the resist the temptation of being near her, best trained horses, and the most darthough he had prayed and vowed never ing and graceful equestriennes and eques-I to look upon her again, and though it trians in the world,' were to arrive at have such reason to feel afraid of the gave him poignant pangs of pain. It was and give one daylight and one lamplight I a sharp stab to him every time her soft performance at Straceyleigh. In accor-'We'll come certainly, Ralph, and you thought you knew me better than that, low voice struck in with a suggestion as dance with their promise to Ralph Curtis to any of the arrangements and altera- Kate was striving to rouse her brother tions that were to be made at Hasselton and their guests to the point of enthusi-

'Poor Ralph! Phil cut short my jumpsnub him any more by not patronizing

'To the afternoon performance only,' Mrs. B. Atherton, Prop.

'Nor for himself either, I have reason

I had expressed some care and anxiety his was perhaps the heaviest heart in some tremulousness. Her daughter might, she feared, scout the idea of His sister too had her skelton quietly Philip's company beidg essential to her. and longing to be the mistress of Hassel- her. Neither of them were prepared for

'If the others and Kate go to this cir cus, I think it is unquestionably Philpip's allow him to neglect his duty on my ac-Nor was Mrs. Carroll's happiness per- count.'

'How kind it is of you to spare Phil, Kate said in good faith, and-

'How grateful Philip must feel to you for so publicly teaching him his duties rather horsey young lady,' Fred sneered, unscrupulously smiting Kate in the dedesire te annov Blanche.

'His duty as a brother of a rather horsey young lady,' Kate laughed, 'dear old Phil, tho' I should like him to go and pect, and the tears she shed over her and I've known Ralph ever since I was proud he was the other day, when I took water-jump---'

'---I've no doubt he fully appraised your value in the saddle,' Blanche said quietly, looking towards Philip, who

'That he did; he said 'Miss Kate, you'd beat all the best circus riders I've ever seen, over the hurdles,' 'Kate told them,

Blanche smiled curiously. 'Perhaps 'the captain, caterer, steward and pay your friend the circus rider and you have master of the ship,' as Admiral Beaufort prepared a surprise for Stracevleigh this Curtis, the Hasselton exstable boy, on eight bare backed steeds?'

('It' not king,-it's not good of you to She seemed to enjoy the fulness of life, chaff about my sister and one of our old the abundant occupation, the daily re- grooms in this way,') Philip murmured

'I hey may-only don't you misunderto Kate. But she, seeing him receive His sister as well as himself was suffer- and she did not look beneath the smiling don't trust that impulsive girl in that ing reasons :and read and brood over it justly enough ing through Blanche Carroll's fickleness surfaces of others for their hidden griefs horsey atmosphere, without your proand appointments. It is true that at tecting presence; she's quite capable of pleasing nature. 'Could Blanche have ('If it hadn't been for Blanche perhaps times a passing cloud on her brother putting on a habit and making an unexbroken off the engagement?' Kate asked poor little Fred would have stocked him Philip's brow, would fling a correspond- pected appearance in the arrena, on a the question of herself with a wild throb down in the end, and she'd have loved ing shadow on her own, as her quick 'managed mare,' or perpetrating some 'I shall go with her; to please me-will

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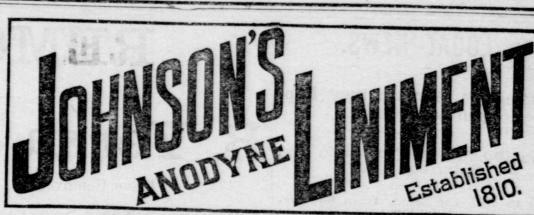
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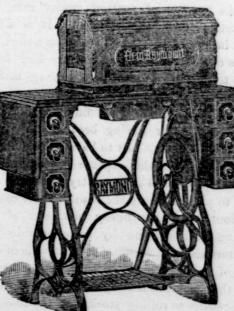
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