CHAPTER XI.

A TREACHEROUS SCHEME. Blanche Longley hastened to her sitting room, with a look of satisfaction, after

manded, when her attendant made her our subject appearance. "You know very well that Amber?" I don't like so much light in my room.

It spoils the complexion."
"If you please, Miss," said Loson, "it's dark, and it's beginning to sprinkle—"
"That will do," interrupted Blanche.
"Draw the curtains then, and ring for candles. Then bring me my novel, and

when the door opened, and her brother entered the room in an unceremonious

"Don't be so violent, Jasper," said Blanche, languidly, suffering the book to fall to the floor, while she put her smelling bottle to her nose. "I am ready to anybody." talk with you." Jasper seated himself beside her, and

"The baronet's singular death has been very unexpected to me, Blanche. It is the worst possible thing that could have happened for us. You see that my posi-tion as Amber's music teacher at a salary of five hundred pounds a year is endangered now, and I expect to be summoned to the library any moment to be told that Amber will require no more les-

"Amber plays nearly as well as you do." then whispered:
"Sir Ralph has inherited everything—

Amber not a penny-" I am glad of that, interrupted Blanche I can't bear the homely thing! I know Sir John intended to dower Amber handsomely, but it is too late to carry out such an intention now. She is a mere dependent upon Sir Ralph's bounty.'

"You have just been down to see the "Splendidly, I flatter myself," replied Blanche, pushing back her golden curls from her fair forehead. "I told him that

I was going to leave the Hall, and reside could give me five times the amount and not miss it. But perhaps he thought it would embarrass me to accept more. best of my ability." And he offered to get you into something. He asked me what you are fitted for." Jasper laughed as he thrust his white, jeweled hand into the mass of his black

"I think," he answered, "that I am best fitted to act as a gentleman about town. You and I, my dear Blanche, with all our talents, would ill succeed at earning at living. Imagine yourself as a governess! What could you teach? The art of dressing, perhaps-nothing else. And as for me, the army, the navy, the Church, and the law, are alike distasteful to me. As for trade - I'd die first. The only

"Very true," returned Blanche, with a scheming expression on her lovely face.
"And if I marry Sir Ralph, that object will be accomplished, so far as I am concerned. And I think I shall secure him with a law managed to inspire him with a thorough distrust of Amber. I am quite certain that she will never be Lady Court.

"Very true," returned Blanche, with a scheming expression on her lovely face.
"Amber was still lying upon the couch her manner absolutely startled her more quiet companion.

She spoke with feverish energy, and her manner absolutely startled her more quiet companion.

Blanche made a pretended effort to dissuade Amber from going so soon; but as she intended, her words only confirmed the girl's wounded heart.

"You forget," she said, "the difference was like a balm to the girl's wounded heart.

"You forget," she said, "the difference manner absolutely startled her more quiet companion.

Blanche made a pretended effort to dissuade Amber from going so soon; but as she intended, her words only confirmed the girl's resolution.

They soon reached the station, and whom in grayer was for death.

"It is right" dealered Amber.

"You forget," she said, "the difference was like a balm to the girl's wounded heart.

"You forget," she said, "the difference manner absolutely startled her more quiet companion.

Blanche made a pretended effort to dissuade Amber from going so soon; but as she intended, her words only confirmed the girl's resolution.

"Her maid was bathing Amber's head" dealered Amber from going so soon; but as she intended, her words only confirmed the girl's wounded heart.

"You forget," she said, "the difference manner absolutely startled her more quiet companion.

Blanche made a pretended effort to dissuade Amber from going so soon; but as she intended, her words only confirmed the girl's wounded heart.

"You forget," she said, "the difference merely uttered a brief response.

They soon reached the train's arrival and this deference was like a balm to the girl's wounded heart.

"You forget," she sa thing that remains to me is to marry rich. certain that she will never be Lady Courtunambitious and loving as an angel." "Then you'll just suit him." sneered the baronet.

Jasper.
"Just so!" said Blanche, composedly. "I shall marry him. I have already en-"I shall marry him. I have already entangled him in my net, to use an appropriate expression, and I know I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch. "You will excuse to rise from her couch." I shall to rise from her couch a shall to rise from her couch a shall to rise from her couch a shall to rise from her co father's death. As his grief wears away me again this evening, unless I ring." he will naturally think of marrying. He is not going back to his university, but He will soon tire of that sort of life, and girl, clasping her hand, as she said: long for a home. Sooner or later, Jasper, do? At present you haven't fifty pounds

money, I can draw on you. My embar. her troubles. rassments, however, will not last long. shall soon be a man of wealth."

siderable curiosity. "You are right.

"Who is the heiress? Do I know her?" what was going to happen!" "Yes. She is Amber Courtney." "Amber? Impossible! She is no

of cours , you had given your absurd plan ing in my own room, the thought sudden. She might want me to remain, or try to Amber, than any other woman's beauty. favorable. He had effected a thorough of cours 3, you had given your absurd plan of marrying her since it has turned out ly occurred to me to come and mingle my her, dear Blanche, but I had not strength seen the lustre of your eyes—the most himself, and induced her to believe, You surely are not in earnest?" "Indeed I am. My suspicions as to her parentage have been verified. I have had news from a friend in London, in

answer to a letter which I sent him, which tends to confirm my resolution to marry Amber. What the secret of Amber's birth is, you and the world shall know after my marriage to her." "But how are you going to bring about this marriage? Amber idolizes Sir Ralph,

and will of course refuse you." I can manage the affair easily enough, replied Jasper, quietly. "I have a plan arranged that will work to a charm.— Your assistance is necessary."

"I will willingly give it," interrupted from the Hall as soon as possible. I told he would thank you for counseling me if you, Blanche? Sir Ralph that she was sullen and had a he were alive. I used always to go to bad temper, and made other statements him. Oh, I miss him so!" that will not bear strict investigation. If "I know you do," said Blanche, strok-Amber stays here, he will soon discover ing her hair. "But, Amber, dear, did repay him for his parents' kindness and your offer of marriage," said Amber, the first to wake. When she noticed and respectfully invites the inspection of customers to his large and well selected. that I have spoken falsely, and then I may as well bid adieu to all hopes of becoming Amber started, and inquired what her Blanche asset his wife. And then again, so long as she companion meant. is at the Hall, there is danger that he may "Put your head down on my shoulder

wishes.' for sending her away, said Jasper. When upon myself, but my regard for you is my what puzzled how to make the request, her grief wears away, and she recovers great motive. Did you know, Amber, "that you would see Jasper before you tion. her old merry ways, she will interest that it is wrong and immodest for you to go. He was talking to me of you just be-Rulph. In time she might even be a for- remain here longer?" midable rival to you.'

"Nonsense," said Blanche, uneasily. "She must leave the Hall, though. She stands in my way, and must be set aside. I shrink at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly; "but my poor Amber at nothing Jasper to attain a softly and sweetly attained at the softly attained a

I shrink at nothing, Jasper, to attain a ber, if you had heard what he said to me." you were a true woman, and that you fess it."

you, Blanche," said her brother, "should what did he say?" have such a will, and so few scruples. Blanche hesitated a moment. She was to grant him a few minutes interview. which I would give my soul. He is welfare." Women are supposed to be soft and tenwell as something of importance to say to soon to be married, I fear. Let me "I shall not fail to do so," returned reflection of her rare beauty in the opposite mirror, where a dim figure of white and it suddenly seemed to her that it was and acid at suddenly seemed to her that it was and acid at suddenly seemed to her that it was and acid at suddenly seemed to her that it was and acid at suddenly seemed to her that it was acid at the could be called a crime. I can't see any one, Blanche, said Amber, warmly and gratefully. "I shall not fail to do so," returned try to win you to forgetfulness of him." Amber, warmly and gratefully. "I shall not fail to do so," returned try to win you to forgetfulness of him." Amber, warmly and gratefully. "I shall not fail to do so," returned try to win you to forgetfulness of him." Amber, warmly and gratefully. "I shall not fail to do so," returned try to win you to forgetfulness of him." Amber, warmly and gratefully. "I shall not fail to do so," returned try to win you to forgetfulness of him." and gold stood out amid the shadows. very like a crime to blast Amber's hopes, "But you need not wonder at my being to steep Amber's soul in the deepest Blanche, caressingly. Jasper is in the "is to love for him always let you know of my movements," the woman I am, Jasper, when you con. But a recollection that her own kiosk on the lawn, and the moonlight has been the growth of years. It was since you are so kind as to take an sider my education. At school I learned the value of rank and wealth, seeing those most favored in that respect exalted action, decided her to continue in her and respected while the necessary of the lawn, and the moonlight makes it very light. Do see him; Sir John thought so much of Jasper, you all Ralph's letters home—and they were all Ralph's letters home. and respected, while the poorer ones were evil course, and she answered: always kept in obscurity. I made myself "Ralph said he supposed you'd be a favorite with madame, partly because I was beautiful, and consequently an honor to the establishment, partly because I to send me loving messages and notes. The used to sentiments occasionally as could not meeting any one. Even words of symbolic to the establishment, partly because I clared that he would not marry you, and the surface of the same to sentiments occasionally as could not meeting any one. Even words of symbolic to the establishment of fail to raise him in the esteem of his pathy bearing on her present grief would his father, and I have it yet. He used to send me loving messages and notes. The same to the same learned the art of flattery, and partly because I was wont to speak of my wealthy cousin, Sir John Courtney. Then, when I went into society into Paris, I learned the marry you, and the would not marry you, and the soul like a knife.

You will see him, I know, for my sake, that if his father could have known of the aversion he now feels for you, Sir whispered Blanche. But you haven't picturing for me the scenes he admired.

You will see him, I know, for my sake, that if his father could have known of the aversion he now feels for you, Sir whispered Blanche. But you haven't picturing for me the scenes he admired. But when the train have cut her soul like a knife.

You will see him, I know, for my sake, the door, it came about very naturally picturing for me the scenes he admired. But when he could not marry you, and have cut her soul like a knife.

You will see him, I know, for my sake, the door, it came about very naturally picturing for me the scenes he admired. But when he could not marry you, and have cut her soul like a knife.

You will see him, I know, for my sake, the door, it came about very naturally picturing for me the scenes he admired. But when he could not marry you, and have cut her soul like a knife.

You will see him, I know, for my sake, the door, it came about very naturally picturing for me the scenes he admired. But when the train have cut her soul like a knife.

You will see him, I know, for my sake, the door, it came about very naturally picturing for me the scenes he admired. But when the train have cut her soul like a knife. went into society into Paris, I learned the marry you. He also said that your pres- advise you to go to London; you will be But when he came to see me," she added, gage and that Amber herself placed her same lesson over again. I was quite a ence here would drive him elsewhere!" sure to get employment in that great with a burst of passionate bitterness, hand within his arm, and depended upon belle, dressed charmingly, and was re- "Oh, no, no!" cried Amber, rousing city. garded as a great beauty. Yet I had no suiters, although I had a brilliant train of satallites. Girls less beautiful than I,"

Then I will go to London said Amber. It is only a mile or so to the station by satallites. Girls less beautiful than I,"

"Yes, dear, it is true," said Blanche, the nearest way, so the walk will do me

"He is a brute!" ejaculated Jasper.

"He re I leave you for the present."

effort now, and win Sir Ralph, I shall soon ize that I am becoming an old maid."

room, with a look of satisfaction, after her interview with her host, and touched a bell to summon her maid, as she flung herself upon a silken couch.

"What do you mean, Loson?" she de "What do you mean, Loson?" she de me and my ambition. Now to return to me and my ambition. Now to return to the first thing is success. I have known what it is to be slighted for plainer, but wealthier a nameless girl."

Amber sighed bitterly.

"You will understand, of course, dear and when her attendant made her me and my ambition. Now to return to the first thing is success. I have known what it is to be slighted for plainer, but wealthier a nameless girl."

Amber sighed bitterly.

"You will understand, of course, dear and my ambition. Now to return to the first thing is success. I have known what it is to be slighted for plainer, but wealthier a nameless girl."

Amber sighed bitterly.

"You will understand, of course, dear and my ambition. Now to return to the first thing is success. I have known what it is to be slighted for plainer, but wealthier a nameless girl."

Amber sighed bitterly.

"You will understand, of course, dear have desired him to marry the first thing is success. I have known what it is to be slighted for plainer, but wealthier a nameless girl."

"It is this," said Jasper, quietly. You not knowing what person might not force must drive her fourth from Courtney himself upon him as your father, or what "If you please, Miss," said Loson, "It's freshening up for a rain, and the sun's all gone behind the clouds, and it's a'most womanly way, that her birth may not have been honorable; pack her off to London been hon Hall; make her think she is not wanted kind of woman might not claim to be here; impress upon her, in your subtle, your mother." and then my work will be very easy."

ticularly desire it. I will propose to her there. You will have prepared her to accept me by making her as miserable as possible. Perhaps, on the impulse of the possible. Perhaps, on the impulse of the possible are the first of the possible and he promptly hastened to her.

ticularly desire it. I will propose to her to "Pardon my hastiness, dear Blanche," and he promptly hastened to her. "It's no to the promptly hastened to her."

ticularly desire it. I will propose to her to "Pardon my hastiness, dear Blanche," and he promptly hastened to her. "It's no to the promptly hastened to her."

The next instant she was in Jasper's presence, sinking upon a seat near him, and he promptly hastened to her. "It's no to the promptly hastened to her."

moment, she may accept me.'

snares, be cheated and robbed, and in her greatest distress appear as her good angel

John is dead; that he had left the unillonger feel at home here, but see and ed Amber, quickly. "I do not want "I should quite agree with Sir Ralph in that she will drop into my arms as her uch a decision." responded Blanche. "I do not want an end to your false hopes, and also on that I am an intruder. I am him to know yet that I am going. He rightful home. To tell you the truth, account of his loneliness, he should very going to London to-night. Blanche," he added, "I love the girl. I soon bring home a wife to the Hall!" Jasper was thoughtful a moment, and not only see what she is, but what she "A wife!" wailed Amber. "Is he going at her firmness. It is a great venture the sake of appearances, to do and say

you so well, that I admire her rare Sir John." truthfulness and her honesty of soul. I am almost wild! said Amber, arising there.

As to her plainness of feature and muddy from her resting-place. I can not stay Am

somewhere in obscurity with you. He feelings run away me to such an extent. wanted to sink into the earth and hide was really distressed, and urged upon me an annuity of five hundred—the stingy should say I loved him, if he asked me the ward and designing. I am greatly interested in Sir Ralph-I my grief and misery. He called me forhe was deprived of his wealth. However, then."

> to the kiosk, and await her arrival there." don't know how I love him! You don't of resolve in her soft blue eyes, and after I do. I love him yet, and it is because I receiving a few further directions from love him that I must go away from the If you don't I shall feel offended."

to Amber's apartments.

CHAPTER XII. "IS HE GOING TO BE MARRIED?"

ney. Ralph is terribly afraid of a de- with Cologne water, and uttering tender girls earn their own living at my age, friendless signing woman. He wants a wife as pure exclaimations over her young mistress, without having half my education, and as marble, as holy as a Madonna, and as under the impression that Amber's violent grief was on account of the death of to earn my daily bread may bring me

advancing into the room. make him my slave. He doesn't seem inclined to marry yet awhile, but of course Bessie," she added, addressing her maid, "You are really going, the that is natural enough, so soon after his "You may go now. You need not attend Blanche.

The maid bowed and withdrew. Blanche stole forward through the night air would cool it. will look after his estate and tenents. semi-darkness and knelt beside the poor "Dear Amber, what is the matter? Are I shall be his wife. But what shall you you still grieving over Sir John's death?" With a wild sob, Amber laid her head

"I never needed papa as I do now!" she sobbed. "Oh, if he could only have Amber. "Your designs are, I suppose, to marry died at home! If I could only have an heiress?" asked Blanche, with conheard his last words! If I could only heard his last words! If I could only have kissed him once more! Oh, if I had only known when he went away

"My poor darling!" said Blanche, in a tone of assumed tenderness, that thor heiress-she hasn't a penny of her own!" oughly imposed on the artless and unsuscried Blanche. "Why, Jasper, I thought, pecting girl beside her. "As I sat weepthing, as you have, dear, but, oh, I feel to bid her farewell." for you! I have the deepest sympathy for you! I have so realized to-day that quests.

> "You forget Mrs. George." She is not a proper guide and counselor and then said:

for a young lady.' advice at times, if you will be so good as to interest yourself in me. Besides, papa shall keep. Ralph need never know that praised you to me a great deal, and ad. I have it with me. You don't think it that nature had shrined one of her around her, the air height chilly, and, his sister. "I want to get Amber away vised me to make you my friend. I know would be wrong for me to retain it, do noblest hearts, loftiest minds, and resuming his own seat, also gave himself

marry her out of deference to his father's again, and I will tell you," cried Blanche, "I can supply you with another reason is rather a difficult task I have taken "I wish, Amber," said Blanche, some-

she added, bitterly, "have made grand soothingly. "He also said -but perhaps good. I wouldn't order the carriage for matches-but then they were not penni. I had better say no more. It is cruel to the world, lest Ralph or Mrs George less. And so, if I do not make a bold torture you with Ralph's words."

"Oh, do tell me all!' cried Amber imfrom me. If you do I shall imagine it to down-stairs to a side door opening upon "And a poor dependent, at that," said be a great deal worse. Dear Blanche, do one of Sir John's favorite porches, and

Very true; you know my ideas, brother. "I will then, Amber. I can not refuse sation.

our subject. What is your plan about your parentage, and that Sir Ralph feels great hesitation in allying himself to you,

"I see," said Amber, huskily. "This hesitation Sir Ralph expressed this very night in the rain and drizzle - to me in strong terms. I spoke in your favor, Amber, and urged your claims."
"Then you did wrong, Blanche!" cried

again! You have cut me to the heart!" "You must go to her room, Blanche," "Don't be so grieved, Amber," said manner.

"Reading, as usual?" he said, coming to her side. You've done nothing but read novels for the past week, unless to superintend your dress-making. Throw away your book. We have serious realijities to contend with."

"You must go to her room, Blanche, said Jasper, with some animation, "and Blanche, somewhat surprised at her companion's manifestation of feeling. "I said Jasper, with some animation, "and that moved her.

She was convinced that she was doing right in abandoning the home to which she had no claim save that granted by charity, yet the execution of this conviction was a task that required all the heroit to London, and you must now permit to London. her I have something of importance to say to her."

"But she may not wish to see you, or qualities, darling, and surely I may praise

my friend, may I not?" "She will see me if you tell her I par- Amber was reassured by this explana-

His eyes gleamed with anticipated tri- No, dear, I was as careful of your deli

"If she refuses me, I will let her go to the should have been deterred by a confither to rob us of your presence. Is threaten to rob us of your presence. Is the station of to be married?"

complexion, I care little for them. If she never should grow handsomer, I have beauty enough for us both, and he smiled. Ralph regards me as he does. I am only a dependent on his bounty—I have no little of the metropolis, and had little of the metropolis, and had little not live upon the bounty of one who new baronet?" asked Jasper. I saw you She is such a contrast to the ordinary wo- a dependent on his bounty-I have no coming from the library. How did you man, that I have not only fallen in love claim here. I have done nothing to dewith her, but I believe I would gladly serve the treatment I receive as a daughmarry her if I knew she would never ter of the house. I can not see Ralph had always stopped at Sir John's town will not live with him and his wife—no, again. Oh, if you had heard what he said house, but its doors must be closed to never, never!" How imprudent! How foolish! I am to me this afternoon. It was almost as her now; and she said, with some sure, Jasper, that I would never let my bad as what you have repeated to me. I eagerness?

> question-but I would not marry him if "I should think you would hate him, do as you like. I will assist you to the "Oh, no, no. He never looked hand- had no doubt whatever on the subject, we had better be moving. The distance somer than when he spoke so cruelly to and added "Thanks, Blanche. Now go to Amber, me. I never loved him better than at and carry out your part well. I will go that terrible moment. Oh, Blanche, you Blanche nodded, and arose with a look know how noble and generous he is, and

her brother, left the room and proceeded Hall. Don't you think I had best go?" I would go if I were you, said Blanche, must judge for yourself, Amber. Then know my impulse is right. I want to do as papa would have wished me to do if he could have foreseen this hour. I take Tapping lightly at Amber's door, your word as my guide, dear Blanche, my

Her maid was bathing Amber's head "It is right," declared Amber. Other ed daughter, but now I am alone and get your kindness."

inght air would cool it.

Blanche went to one of the windows, rendering up my heart. Will you advancing rapidly through the gloom, and the next moment the train had lifted the curtain, and looked out.

"It is a lovely night, Amber, she said "There is both moonlight and starlight. n the world."

"Oh, I have designs, too. If I need on the sol, Amour ago that we should have a pleasant time for woman not to have been more or less than and nestled there as if a refuge from all away. You will have a pleasant time for woman not to have been touched by assisted the maiden to enter. The car-

your journey." All times are alike to me now, moaned "Shall you go down to see Sir Ralph once more?" asked Blanche, anxiously.

"No. You will tell him in the morning that I am gone, will you not? I can plain, even homely, I am. Your choice toward London would be ridiculed by all your friends." "I will tell him, as you desire."

asked Amber. "I can not see her either. ence. "Dearer to me is your plainness wit and humor, and the result was

you have no adviser, no woman friend to she knows very little of the world, Amber. Courtney, a few changes of clothing, etc.,

Miss Longley replied in the negative. "And you will tell Ralph in the morning that I hope some day to be able to

Blanche assented, adding: "Oh, yes; a great plenty. Poor papa love in you. Bnt, Jasper, I can not be awakened soon after. used to give me much more than I could your wife - I shall never marry."

"What was it?" exclaimed the girl, would go, he was sure. I told him I was "I often wonder how a woman like starting up. "Oh, tell me, Blanche!— coming in to see you, and he begged me to ask you, if you thought of going away, he flings from him the priceless gem for comfort to me to always know of your

should see me go.

here the two girls held a further conver-

This life will soon be ended. I have it in your appeal," responded Blanche. "And I must go now, at length said Amber. for him. But to me he must always at three."

"You will understand, of course, dear porch as she stepped out upon the lawn.

CHAPTER XIII.

AN ARTLESS GIRL'S GRATITUDE. Almost mechanically Amber took her seat, and said, in a tone that was full done him great injustice."
way toward the kiosk, with eyes that were of sadness: blinded by fast-falling tears, and with a heart torn by conflicting emotions.

tion was a task that required all the hero- to London, and you must now permit ism of her nature. with her emotions anew, and manrged on going.

to acquire an outward appearance of The next instant she was in Jasper's But I must not trouble you to look

in his softest tones, taking her hand, a declared Jasper, earnestly. "I can at

for a young girl like you, Amber, to go so many disagreeable things. No, no, Love her, Jasper? That is impossible!

Not so, Blanche, replied her brother.

Perhaps it is because I know myself and

"Yes, as soon as such an event would be proper. He will have to wait a little while first, in deference to the memory of index that no could not first."

Ior a young girl like you, Amber, to go to a great city like London, but from my knowledge of your character, I should suspects that I am going. Once I am judge that you could not fail to do well away he will breathe freer."

Amber was interested and encouraged her adieu?' suggested Jasper.

idea where to go on her arrival. She regards me as wicked and designing. "I thank you, Mr. Longly, for the said encouragement you give me. Do you

brother; and don't call me Mr. Longley. Use Blanches privilege of saying Jasper. and the couple walked away toward the He spoke lightly and pleasantly, and with a certain fascination of manner them. with pretended reluctance. But you that Amber had never observed in him before, and which she did not now resist. He had the tact, too, to speak in the same respectful, deferential manner as from her thoughts. "She, at least, and HOUSE AND FURNITURE he had done when he believed she would Blanche listened in vain for a response, only friend. I will go to-night—this very inherit a portion of Sir John's wealth,

"Not while I live!" declared Jasper with sudden energy. "Oh, Amber! I he baronet.

Do I intrude?" asked Blanche gently, be dearn my daily bread may bring me peace. You have been a true friend to you!" and he sank upon his knees before shielded from every sorrow by Lady the astonished girl. "I came to Court- Courtney and Sir John - when an "You are really going, then?" asked society; yet when I saw you—learned and joygiving in her present and future from the housekeeper, Mrs. George, as though my heart was on fire, and the and saw your thousand good qualities, I and a fiery cyclopean eye was seen

> accept it, Amber? thought an bour ago that we should astonished by this address, but she the conductor, as the couple advanced.

Jasper's earnestness and emotion. ed, "I did not dream of such a thing. herself in a corner, while Jasper placed Please rise? You will marry some himself beside her. Another moment, wealthy lady, I hope. Remember how and they were whirling swiftly away

"And you will tell Mrs. George, too?" them," exclaimed Jasper, with vehem- ransacked his brain for anecdotes of Blanche promised to fulfil these re- beautiful eyes I ever saw—and the with much self-reproach, that she had changing hue of your cheek? Are not hitherto wronged him. Amber then brought out a hand travel- your hands," and he took one of them, The time thus wore on, and finally ing bag, and proceeded to pack it with "the master-work of nature? Oh, Jasper's voice was modulated to a soft, it Best Churns in use to-day. For sale only by necessary articles for the future. She Amber, be my wife? This is a hard, eyen tone, that was almost monotonous,

Whatever private reasons or designs her eyelids. "These things were all given me by my he might have in connection with "Won't you be my friend, then?" said father, and for his sake I shall retain Amber, one fact was evident—he was the burial of Sir John, and her violent UAO Amber, putting her arms around Blanche. them. Everything else I leave. I have sincerely and deeply in love with her. emotions still further exhausted her, so "You are older than I, know more of the packed away a locket which papa gave His long experience with the world had that she soon fell into a troubled doze. world, and I shall be glad to have your advice at times, if you will be so good as side and papa's on the other; that too, I

> John Courtney's adopted daughter. as soon as she could command her the shawl around her, her heart involunthoughts and voice, "and greatly aston- tarily warmed toward her companion, "Have you plenty of money, Amber?" ished that I should have inspired such as was evident by her manner, when he British

> > Longley, rising from his kneeling post "We shall get in very early, but you'll

fore I came in here. We were discussing cheek flushing with embarrassment. you to a good quiet house, where you "No, no!" cried Amber. "Ralph said Sir Ralph's harsh remarks about you, and "It is, perhaps, due to you to know the will be free from all annoyances, and

"You love Sir Ralph?" said Jasper,

all Ralph's letters home and they were The conversation became friendly, Still Amber hesitated. In her present frequent—and over those loving, en- and Jasper took care to throw in such chaotic state of mind she shrank from thusiastic letters my heart went out to sentiments occasionally as could not "and beheld my face and form, it was him for guidance.

> "He is a brute!" ejaculated Jasper. "Hush! he is not!" declared Amber. Amber. I must be careful of your "He is not to blame that he loves reputation, as censorious people might May 28

She bade Blanche farewell, but her beauty, nor that I am repulsive. You say something if I accompanied you to find crows feet around my eyes, and real ploringly. "Don't keep anything back friend insisted upon accompanying her must not speak against him. If I the hotel. I must therefore go elsecould believe him bad, or anything save where, but I will call upon you towhat he is-the noblest, purest, and morrow and see what success you will best of men-I might uproot my love have had. Adieu, then, till to-morrow

my power to make a sensation, wear costly robes and jewels, be a queen of fashion, or plod along Lumbly in the byways of life. I need not tell you which path I shall choose. By what means, short of absolute crime, I gain my posi tion, it matters little. The one grand this father could have desired him to marry this gis greecest. I have known what it is greatered to make a sensation, wear perhaps it will be better for you to know I shall be too soon for the train, but I can walk slowly to pass away time. Good-bye. I shall be too soon for the train, but I can walk slowly to pass away time. Good-bye. Good-bye! returned Blanche, kissing the pallid, grief-stricken face of Amber. Do go and see Jasper; there he is in the knock. See him at least because Sir John little. The one grand this father could have desired him to marry an anameless girl."

She gently pushed Amber from her, Jasper, you will see that I am in earn-and watched her from the side of the est in refusing you." to her destination, where she was soon seated in a neat front room, before a There was a gentle dignity in her glowing grate. manner that convinced her companion "How good Jasper was and is!" she that if he hoped ever to win her hand said, leaning wearily back in her easy it could only be by waiting until her chair. "How delicate in his attentions present great sorrow had worn off its -how thoughtful of my good namekeen edge. He therefore resumed his how sincere in his love for me! I have

"Your word is law to me, Amber. How changed from its late sunshine was But if I may not be your accepted lover at least let me be your friend. If you

To go somewhere, anywhere—anywhere to reliee v Sir Ralph of her distasteful presence—this was the one prevailing idea her hand, and promised to regard him postage stamp.

me to hurry my departure and attend As she neared the kiosk, she struggled you thither—if you are indeed resolved "Oh, I must go-and to-night," she faltered. "There is a through train.

"It's no trouble, Amber, but a pleas-Blanche has expressed a fear, he said, ure, the little that I can do for you,"

to take you to the station?" would have so many questions to ask-To London, echoed Jasper, astonished he would feel called upon, if only for

"But Blanche-you will surely bid

Jasper smiled quietly to himself at the turn affairs had taken, and then

"Since such are your views, Amber, think I could get anything to do there." I can only assent to them. As the Jasper replied by telling her that he train will soon be at Hepney, perhaps is not far, and the evening is pleasant. "You must allow me to assist you, Permit me to offer you my arm, Amber, Amber. Depend upon me as upon a and allow me to carry your bag." The proffered assistance was accepted,

> village, remaining silent until the Hall was shut out from their view behind "Blanche has promised to send me my things, if Sir Ralph is willing," Amber then observed, as if to find relief

> you, Jasper, will not think unjustly of therefore merely uttered a brief re-

procured tickets for London. What thoughts thronged upon the

mind of Amber as she stood there! to Measurement. She lived over in a few moments her "Not at all, dear Blanche," returned She calmed her wild emotion by a desney Hall a few months ago with a affectionate attendant administered to we have every facility for carrying on this branch of the business. ungratified—and when all was beautiful CASKETS & COFFINS She had hardly realized the change in Yes, dear, I am really going. It seems your unfailing devotion to Sir John, her lot, when a shrill whistle was heard, lead good qualities. I her lot, when a shrill whistle was heard, was seen loves, Gloves, Crape & Hat Bands.

> entered the station. The girl was distressed as well as "First-class, sir! Here you are," said riage was empty, and Amber placed her "Indeed-indeed, Jasper," she falter-traveling-bag in the rack, and seated

> He exerted himself to please and "If it were, I should not notice interest his guileless companion, He

"No, I do not. In her sphere as house-keeper, Mrs. George is unequalled; but Courtney a few changes of clothing etc."

Amber, be my where a few changes of clothing etc.

Amber, be my where the factors for the factors for

The poor girl had slept but little since

tenderest souls, in the person of Sir up to sleep—a sleep as peaceful as that of an innocent child. "I am deeply grateful to you for The hours passed, and Amber was

"We must be near our journey's end," "And may I ask the reason?" asked declared Jasper, consulting his watch.

"Yes," answered the girl, her sallow open. If you'll allow me, I will send Amber accepted the offer with thanks. DOESKINS, Etc. "I hope you'll keep me informed of

"Here I leave you for the present,

(To be continued)

Remarkable Restoration. candles. Then bring me my novel, and don't lose the book-mark out of its place, and don't forget my scent bottle."

Loson moved about quietly, fulfilling each and all of these injunctions, and me my movel about quietly, fulfilling each and all of these injunctions, and me my movel about the first betterness of life, and seven my arms will be a welcome each and all of these injunctions, and me my movel will be very easy."

"But why not propose to her here?"

"But why not propose to her here?"

"Because her mind is now full of Sir and then my work will be very easy."

"But why not propose to her here?"

"Then you did wrong, Blanche!" She doll do won the Hall, so long her happy home, lest she should be utterly overome by the sex the back upon the Hall, so long her happy home, lest she should be utterly overome by the work and elact to look and elact



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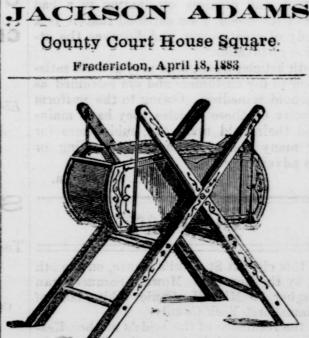
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