CHAPTER XVI.

A TERRIBLE ACCUSATION. Mrs. Coolidge looked up with a frown as Isabel entered the room.

about your dress for Lady Peasewell's drawing-room next week. "Don't scold, mamma; I have had an adventure, and I will tell you all about it as soon as I can get my breath," said Isabel, sinking upon a sofa, breathless, from insulted princess before her inquisitor. her haste to reach her mother's apart-

Mrs. Coolidge, as she caught sight of the casket which her daughtor carried. "You remember, mamma, what I said burned dangerously.

about Miss Douglas being the possessor of such elegant jewels," she said, not heeding the question. "Yes, you said you did not believe she

came by them honestly. Why?" "I am sure of it now. Look here!" She suddenly threw back the lid of the casket, and placed it in her mother's lap. "Merciful heavens, child! Where did cused. you get these? Ah!" she continued, as

other evening." She looked up at her daughter, and the had not expected from her. two read each other's faces in silence for

found all these in her possession?" she articles and appropriating them to your tions with some person which would deat length asked in a low tone. "I do, mamma," Isabel said, impres-

"But how did you happen to discover them? Surely, my daughter, you have not been guilty of prying into her things and the lovely face like a snow flake during her absence," said Mrs. Coolidge,

gravely. Isabel colored violently. "I have, mamma. I should think it was time some one investigated matters,

possessing such treasures. I believed her evening? guilty of theft, and I was determined that the girls should not remain under her influence if anything could be proved and I think when you have examined the a trembling of the scarlet lips, but the contents of the box, and hear what I have lovely eyes were bright and tearless. to tell you, that you will conclude that she is no fit instructress for your daugh-

thoughtfully, with her eyes still fixed upon the jewels. " How so ?"

"We cannot prove that she stole a single article in her possession. "Why, she has quantities of beautiful things, marked with the iniatials E. II." And Isabel explained about the case of

about the note. "If she is light-fingered, you don't want her here; she'll be adding to her stock by appropriating our treasures," concluded the heartless girl.

"No; if she is that kind of a person, she ought not to be allowed to remain." "Well, do you believe that any girl in her circumstances could be the honest possessor of that fortune?" Isabel asked, pointing toward the gleaming jewels. "No, I'm afraid not. Yet I dislike, of all things, that you should have got them

in the way you did.' Mrs. Coolidge took up the diamond necklace, and it sparkled in her bands like huge drops of dew in the sun. "Very well; I will replace them at once, mamma, if you think best, and I will say no more about it," replied her

daughter cunningly. She had noticed the avaricious gleam in her mother's eyes as they contemplated their beauty, and she knew she would give as much to possess them as she would

herself. "That would never do, my daughter. I should not rest easy while there is a suspicion against Miss Douglas' honesty in my heart. There is only one thing to be done now.'

"What is that?" "We must demand an explanation of her immediately upon her return."

"Of course she has a trumped-up story of some kind; she is too artful not to be prepared for us. "She will have to prove her property,

my dear. At all events, I shall advise her to dispose of them in some way. It is not proper for a governess to have such

"Perhaps she would sell them to us, mamma," said Isabel, a greedy look in her eyes. "That tiara would be vastly

"They are the most exquisite jewels I have ever seen in my life, and the setting is peculiar. But what is there underneath? Have you looked, Isabel?" Mrs, Coolidge asked, finding the velvet bed was moveable.

"No; I was startled at finding such an array that I did not stop to make further investigations, but brought them directly

Mrs. Coolidge lifted the velvet bed. "What have we here?" she exclaimed. as she saw the enameled locket studded

the spring, and it flew open, revealing the noble face of Lord Dunforth. "Who can it be, mamma?" asked Isabel, with wonder.

"I do not know; no one who belongs to Miss Douglas, I think, from his looks. How strangely he is dressed-like some court gentleman.' "And what is this?" said Isabel, taking

up a card that lay beneath. Then she cried out: "Why, mamma, it is a dancing list, and look! here are the names of counts and lords! Do you believe now that Miss Douglas ever came by these things honestly?" she demanded in tones of triumph.

"No, Isabel, I do not," said her mother, with firm-set lips; "and I shall inquire on her return.

"What could a young girl eighteen years old-a poor girl without a penny, too, and who had never been out of her own country before, know of lords and

counts. The idea was absurd.

There was a mystery about the whole thing, a tantalising mystery, which both women were anxious to solve.

Evidently Miss Douglas had seen better days, they reasoned, or she could never have received the excellent education she

possessed; but then any enterprising person in moderate circumstances could acquire that under the training of the first class schools which are found in most of the larger cities of the United States.

While these thoughts were passing through the mind of Mrs. Coolidge, she heard the hall door open and close, and Brownie's voice in cheerful conversation He had joined her by accident (?) while

she was walking, and had made himself so entertaining and agreeable that the Mrs. Coolidge, taking up the jeweled has been dismissed for unworthy conduct. "Oblige me by dropping the subject, clouds upon her face had all been driven

She tripped gayly up stairs, wholly unconscious of the thunderbolt awaiting her. Isabel confronted her as she reached the top stairs.

"Mamma would like to see you in her dressing room immediately, Miss Doug-

las," she said, haughtily. She colored at the tone and manner, but, wholly unconscious of any coming evil, she obeyed the summons as soon as

she had removed her hat and jacket. She found Mrs. Coolidge sitting cold faned by their rude handling. and dignified in her arm-chair. "Be seated, Miss Douglas," she said,

solemnly. "I wish to speak to you on a ruin if you persist in it," said the woman, subject of much importance.' Brownie sat down, her clear eyes wide she needed to make some explanation:

with wonder at her reception. There was a moment's awkward silence, usual for a poor person like you to have

the lady of the house hardly knowing how such apparel and jewelry in her possess-Ahem! she began, shifting her glance We do not wish you to wear black, and

ful eyes, which never for a moment left girls like you are not in the habit of rethe matron's face.

When had she ever done otherwise? "I wish to ask you, Miss Douglas," Mrs. counts and lords upon it. We do not by remaining where she had been so inneath her look, "if you have anything in quently I know you have never had any girls, Viola and Alma.

the beautiful face. The battle was begun wear a six.' and she was prepared to fight it out. For an instant all three-for Isabel had asked. "I have wanted you to arrange returned to the room, and now stood be- in a clasp of pain, and hanging against hind her mother's chair, where she could the folds of her sable dress. watch her rival-could distinctly hear the ticking of Mrs. Coolidge's watch, which of the young man in the locket. Now, can account for this in two ways only." lay upon the dressing table at her side. Then Brownie arose, and stood like an

ment, bent her stern gaze upen the pale "Madam, I ask-nay, I demand - to face and downcast eyes of the haughty know why you put such a question to girl before her, and thought she could see "What have you there?" demanded me!" she said, in low, firm tones. had very cleverly argued the matter, and Her face had grown white as the narrow

linen collar which she were, and her eyes paused a moment, well satisfied with her-"You forget yourself, Miss Douglas," Mrs. Coolidge said, pompously. "It was who asked you a question.'

"And I consider such a question an insult, madam!" "Very well: 1 expected you would; al people who are gullty of wrong feel insulted, or appear to when they are ac-

"Guilty of wrong! accused' I do not Isabel did not reply, "here are the very understand you, madam. Of what do you accuse me?" demanded the young girl,

ornaments which Miss Douglas wore the with a proud dignity which her employer She began to feel a little shaky, but she was in for it now, and must go on. "I accuse you of having stolen costly

> own use," she said, solemnly. "Explain yourself, if you please, Mrs. Those brown eyes were almost black

now, but her answer was intensely quiet, Brownie's lovely lips, which had grown of the color of ashes, and were quivering "Allow me to ask you one question before I explain. heart stood still with horror.

"How came you by those beautiful jewels, those very costly ornaments, which more than Brownie could bear. when we have a governess in the house you wore to the opera last Wednesday

"They were given to me, madam." "By a very dear friend," There was a quiver in the sweet voice,

"How long have they been in your pos- turned to ice, and her brain to fire. session?" continued Mrs. Coolidge. A little over three months, madam. ' Mamma, mamma, does not that prove that she, a Douglas, with royal blood in very unwise thing," remarked her mother enough?" burst out Isabel, triumphantly. her veins, should fear them? months, and she worked in the factory and there was an awkward silence of seve-

three weeks Who would give a poor ral minutes before she could trust herself girl such jewels as those ?" Brownie's only reply to this outburst was a look of ineffable scorn, and the her accusers, and she found they could elder lady went on in a severe tone; "I fear, Miss Douglas, that your story guiltily beneath it. is against you. When you sought em-

the contents of the writing desk; also ployment from my husband you were in tones and manner, Brownie said to Mrs. such circumstances that you were obliged | Coolidge: to toil for your daily bread. A proud humiliation of her head was me regarding those jewels, madam? all the reply to this query. She dare not Not unless I can persuade you to contrust her voice just then.

"And you say these jewels were given uneasily. to you about that time? Another bow.

"Yes, madam." "And all by this same dear friend?"

A peculiar look accompanied this ques- act of which doubtless you will be proud

"They were," she said. "Was this friend a gentleman, Miss Douglas ?" For one moment there came into the the grip of a miser.

blank horror. veins sprang to arms. The rich color surged up from her en rightful owner is.

raged heart over her neck and face; up | She sneered; white with anger, that the up, as the full force of this horrible girl should dare brave her so. thought nearly drove her mad, until it You can put on as many grand airs as jewels, and you need know nothing kin. lost itself among the bands of shining you choose, miss, but you'll find that we about them, if your conscience is troubhair, and tingled to her finger tips. Then know how to take them for what they are ling you." it all receded, colorless as marble, and worth, said Isabel, scoffingly. in her proud indigna ion, like some aven-

"Mrs. Coolidge," she said, in the same yield it up to me, Brownie said sternly, quiet, lady-like tones, but they made the fully aroused. lady shiver notwithstanding, "your language and insinuation is the grossest in. her instantly, cried Isabel, angrily. sult to me, and again I demand an ex-

"Isabel, bring me that box," said Mrs. Coolidge, pointing to the casket, which stood on the table behind Brownie. She obeyed, and Brownie uttered a cry

of astonishment as she saw it. " How came you by that? Where did you get it?" she said, with quivering lips. like a princess, and she says she shall con-Her dear precious casket, still sacred sider her engagement with you at an end, from the last fond tonches of Miss Mehe. as if that were a matter she only can de-

It was almost more than her tender Brownie noticed her by neither word trip-hammer. heart could bear. But all this emotion nor look. of those hard-hearted women.

was but an evidence of guilt in the eves Addressing Mrs. Coolidge again very Is not that guilt, mamma, if you ever Once more, madam, will you give up my saw it, whispered Isabel in her mother's property?

She nodded her head sternly, and then moment the woman was staggered, and asked, in great surprise. With breathless curiosity she touched turned to face her victim again. I will explain, Miss Douglas. The jewels point, for if the girl should call in official which you wore to the opera are in this aid, it might make things very awkward box with others of much greater value, and unpleasant.

Were these others given to you. They were. At the same time? At the same time, Mrs. Coolidge.

By whom?

I decline to answer that question, madam, came defiantly fram the young girl. She had been insulted, abused; she would bear nothing more from them.

and having found something which they consideration? could not clearly understand, they were But they should not crush her!

believe her word, and she had no friend liar tone. to protect her. But she would defy them

before them like some victim of the 10. would you give them up? quisition, and answer their insulting ques-

very curious to know the history of those stolen property?" dancing card with its high sounding rage at this shaft.

Am I to understand that you refuse to las, your insolence is insufferable," she rests upon you? she asked growing white ing finger to the door.

me before you in this manner, as I also perty," returned the young girl, calmly things lawfully." question your right to enter my room in confronting her, and taking no notice of my absence, pry into my affairs, and ab- her command.

"Whose picture is this?" demanded will believe the tale of a governess, who he replied, with flashing eyes, locket and looking again upon that noble Now, go !" sried the grate woman, almost my son; you are interfering in what

She ignored entirely Brownie's indig- Brownie uttered no words, but walked nant protest, although she colored deeply, like a queen from the room; but once for she knew that if Miss Douglas owned within her own, she broke down utterly. were the thieves.

that box with its contents she and Isabel To lose those treasures, which had been dam, mother mine, just as soon as the

She could hardly refrain from crying out with pain to see those sacred relics of bear. a lost love and a shattered life thus pro-"Beware, Miss Douglas; this defiance

power of those cruel women. goes against you, and I fear will be your of her loss. majestically; then she added, feeling that She must have them again-she would have them, but how to get them was the "You see that it is something very un ion. We invite you to go to the opera. side the family to whom to turn in her gain admittance, so she was forced to from the clear, innocent eyes, which she ask you to wear some other color. You law, as she had threatened, no one would The next morning Mrs. Coolidge and had thought must have fallen before her appear more elegantly clad than any believe the story, as Mrs. Coolidge had Isabel started off on a shopping expeditional with downcast eyes and crimson cheeks.

Isabel started off on a shopping expeditional with downcast eyes and crimson cheeks. bave sent for you to ask what may seem that is the simplest dress you have. Now, a strange question; nevertheless, I feel it | what are we to think? Would not any

to be a duty to myself and family to ask it?

Brownie's fair face began to change co or again.

Mrs. Coolidge noticed it, and her assuments ago. Can you not see how very more hereford.

What are we to think? Would not any thing of what had transpired, and if they thing of what had rance was restored.

"I, of course, expect you will give me a staightforward reply," she added, im your daily bread nearly the whole of that to Adrian Dredmond; perhaps he would be a staightforward reply," she added, im your daily bread nearly the whole of that to Adrian Dredmond; perhaps he would be a staightforward reply, and attention and attention of the see how very more hopeless her case seemed to become. Once her thoughts turned involuntarily to Adrian Dredmond; perhaps he would be a staightforward reply, and attention of the see how very more hopeless her case seemed to become. Once her thoughts turned involuntarily to Adrian Dredmond; perhaps he would be a staightforward reply, and attention of the see how very more hopeless her case seemed to become. Once her thoughts turned involuntarily to Adrian Dredmond; perhaps he would be a staightforward reply, and attention of the see how very more hopeless her case seemed to become. Once her thoughts turned involuntarily to Adrian Dredmond; perhaps he would be a staightforward reply, and the see how very more hopeless her case seemed to become. Once her thoughts turned involuntarily heart—yet I cannot bid you hope, for I be a staightforward reply, and the see how very more hopeless her case seemed to become. Once her thoughts turned involuntarily heart—yet I cannot bid you hope, for I be a staightforward reply, and the see how very more hopeless her case seemed to become. an unwonted spark lighted those beauti- precious stones at one time, and young | Besides what?

She could not tell! And what was her future to be? where as she opened the door. ceiving so much at once, Why, Isabel She requested to give a straightforward thinks herself fortunate to get one piece should she go? what would she do? of diamond jewelry at a time, Besides all Leave her present situation she must! this, I find here a card with the names of She could not forfeit her self-respect

once, and feeling very uncomfortable be- have never been abroad before, conse- coming very much attached to the young received yesterday." your possession which does not honestly acquaintance with persons of such high She, of course, could not get another degree. Here is also a glove marked six situation as governess without a recom-She now fixed her stern gaze full upon and a half-I happen to know that you mendatian, for, without doubt, Mrs. Cool-

idge would refuse to give her one, and This was said with a frowning look at she would not accept it if she did. the little white hands, which were folded Take her recommendation. Never!

CHAPTER XVII.

"You refuse also to give me the name

Mrs, Caolidge, as she made this state

And those are, she continued, in a hard

them from some wealthy family with

The downcast eyes were raised now,

and the fire which flashed from them

I dare say, mamma, she was waiting-

maid in some rich family, and came by

them in that way, put in Isabel spitefully.

Do not interrupt me, Isabel. Miss

Douglas, please wait until I finish before

you make any remarks, Mrs, Coolidge

said coldly. As I was saying, I think you

either stole them, or you have had rela-

table family, though I cannot conceive

how any one could be such a fool as to

Cease, came in a hoarse whisper from

with insulted pride and anger, while her

To be accused of theft had been almost

But the other insinuation! She had

She grew sick at heart, dizzy and faint,

The next, conscious virtue asserted it-

She turned her blazing eyes full upon

Then, with that mighty calmness in her

Have you anything further to say to

fess and make restitution, she answered

I have no confession to make: I have

no restitution to make. Those articles of

Mrs. Coolidge that box and all its con-

tents are mine, and I demand that you

You cannot have them, Miss Douglas,

until you prove that they are yours, re-

stopping she whispered in her ear:

of her hands if she could help it,

beside herself with passion.

and despair, was more than she could

closed the box with a snap.

young girl with decision

gently, she said:

papa comes, at least.

when the woman's meaning at length

hardly been able to comprehend it at

A Douglas accused of stealing!

burst upon and nearly crushed her.

seemed almost to sear the heartless wo-

self, before clinching her point

whom you have served, or-

lavish so much upon a-

to speak.

DECLARATION OF LOVE. While Brownie was weeping out her misery alone, Isabel and her mother were guilt in every feature. She thought she examining more at their leisure, the beau-

tiful ornaments. piece upon herself. To do the two women justice, they unfeeling voice, you have either stolen believed that the jewels had been stolen. "Mamma, this tiara of opals, pearls and diamonds will be just the thing for me

to wear at Lady Peasewell's; see how be- Oh, how he loved her! and how it had been sitting, and the great tears to her vanity for the last half hour. It is lovely; but I doubt whether your father will be willing you should wear

He won't be here. You know he said need not know anything about it. I am at a loss to know whether it is what has happened, and he will see that still be your friend.' best to tell him anything about this af- justice is done. fair, said Mrs. Coolidge-But what excuse will you give him for

bouncing Miss Douglas, said Isabel. Her insolence to me ought to be a suffi. mother and sister would outwit him, nigh crushed him. cent reason, I think, returned her mother. and influence his father against her. No one knows anything of the matter it, said Isabel, eagerly.

My only fear is, that she will take the law, as she threatened, and then your father would have to know all about it. Bewhich we gained possession of them, and then there will be no end of trouble. dare take the law, and if she does, who lightened my heart already; and as I Isabel stood upon threshold. will believe her, provided the jewels can not be found, and we are very much as- o away, it will be a comfort to know tonished and indignant at being accused that I have your esteem and friendship.

of taking them from her. For one moment her blood seemed The two women gazed at each other in by his sympathy and distress. Isabel ou would not dare do such a asked, looking up startled self. What were these two base spirits, thing-it would be lying and stealing, said

her mother in a whisper. was going away. "Oh, no, mamma, you are two conscien-"Why, she has been with us over two Yet the struggle for mastery was severe tious altogethe," returned the girl, shrugging her shoulders, and trying on Miss would remain where my truth and Mehetabel's beautiful engagement ring honesty are called in question!" she reat the same time. We both agree, she plied, with dignity, went on, that they have already been stolen, and we only take possession of not bear the glance: their eyes dropped contracted with pain. them for a little while, until we can find the true owner of them. I'm sure I would give them up at once if we could find the think of it, he knew. person whom they belong to. Of course, f we should acknowledge that we have the heavens to have her go. them in our possession we should have to give them up, and, whether Miss Douglas

proved her property or not, we should lose them. At any rate let us hold on to them. and wait a while to see what she will do." "I am afraid it will not do for you "The rich clothing, and other trifles jewelry are legally mine-how, I do not to wear them, Isabel; you may meet which you have, were they given to you intend either now or at any other time to the very person to whom they belong,

explain to you. The manner in which you or your daughter became possessed "So much the better, then, mamma; of them does you intinite credit; it is an we shall know that we did right in tak- to listen eagerly for her footsteps and tion, while Isabel's eyes gleamed in wick- all your life. Now, if you please, I will ing them from Miss Douglas, and can even the soft rustle of her clothing. relieve you of them; and from this mo- make our explanations and restore The slightest sound of her voice, her She could see wither these questions ment consider my engagement with you them. It strikes me that my sugges- very presence, thrilled him as nothing were tending, if innocent Brownie did not. at an end, as, after such repeated insults, tion is a very wise one, after all," con-I could no longer remain in your family. cluded the artful girl, who was deter-She reached forth her hand to take the

casket, but Mrs. Coolidge clutched it with mined to keep the jewels. "You may be right, but I don't feel Oh, no, Miss Douglas, you cannot have exactly easy about the matter; above all ity and astonishment, followed by one of this again; you have not yet proved to things, don't let Wilbur know anything ning to think of forsaking this idle way me that it is yours, and I cannot allow about it," returned Mrs. Coolidge, fear-Then all the royal blood in her Douglas such a valuable possession to go out of ing more and more that there might be my hands until I am assured who the trouble ahead for them.

"No, indeed, mother, and, as I began this business, I'll take charge of these

Isabel replaced the jewels in the casket, shut it, and, with a laugh, started for her own room. desperate with the thought. As she opened the door, which had Hear the minx, mamma; do dismiss stood ajar ever since Brownie went out,

she encountered Wilbur face to face. She would rather have faced an alligator at that moment. turned Mrs. Coolidge firmly, and she "What is it you don't wish Wilbur Then I shall be obliged to take legal to know, and what jewels are you talkmeasures to obtain them, returned the ing about?" he smilingly demanded, as his manner, and her clear eyes fell be-

he barred her passage, Ha, ha! hear her, mamma. She speaks He had come up just in time to hear their last words. "That is my secret," she replied, try-

tabels hand, profaned by their ruthless cide, cried Isabel, actually quivering with idg to turn the matter off playfully, though her heart was beating like a you since you came like a ray of light "Are they in that box ! let me see,"

Before she hardly knew what she was you; they shall not dare to breathe about, he had taken it from her and aught against you; place your hand in "Where did you get these?" he She spoke so imperatively that for a

women, but now I have found my fate, began to think she had better yield the "They are barrayed," Isabel replied, giving her mother a significant look. "Borrowed! who could lend such a valuable collection as this?" he asked, Isabel saw her mother's indecision, and beginning to feel, from their appearance Don't you do it, mamma; wait until that all was not right.

"Ah!" he added, with a start, after You prize them very highly, Mrs. Coo he had examined them more carefully, cheeks at his words of sympathy, new lidge asked, after a mement's thought. " here are those ornaments which Miss Douglas wore the other evening. Do he poured upon her. They are not suitable for you to wear in your position; you are poor-could the others belong to her, too?"

They had gone to her room like thieves, you be persuaded to part with them for a They saw that it would be useless to try to keep their secret from him, and She was greedy for the jewels, and was little by little he drew it all from their determined to make use of it to cruch her determined that they should not go out reluctant lips A more indignant mortal never trod the earth than Wilbur What do you mean by a consideration, jewels were her own. They would not madam? asked Miss Douglas, in a pecu. Coolidge when he got at the truth of the matter.

Why, if I should pay you something He demanded that the jewels be re handsome for them, and pledge myself turned at once to Miss Douglas, and a She would not submit longer to stand to say nothing more about the matter, suitable apology made for their insult- her spell-bound.

ing treatment of her. "Really, Mrs. Coolidge, you are very An angry scene ensued, which Mrs discriminating in your ideas of honesty. Mrs. Coolidge could scarcely restrain You assert that I have stolen these Coolidge finally put an end to by coming her anger at Brownie's defiance. She was things. Would you be willing to purchase forward, taking the casket from her son's hand, and locking it within her quiver of his strong hands. jewels, that attractive picture, and that The woman's face grew crimson with husband's safe, which stood in the room.

"Now, Wilbur, be to kind as so hold "You can leave the room, Miss Doug. your tongue," she said angrily, you clear yourself from the suspicion which cried, rising and pointing with her shak. have made a fool of yourself with this girl. I intend to keep these things "You understand me, madam; I shall until your father returns, and see if he Madam, I question your right to arraign take the law, unless you give me my pro- believes a moor governess came by these

"You women are regular tyrants, stract from under lock and key things "Take the law, then; you'll have a fight and I reckon whom father does return of it, if you do, let me tell you, for no one there will be a different state of things," of another pair of eyes into which she

does not concern you in the least," returned Mrs. Coolidge, coldly "I shall make it my business, mathe silent companions of her heart broken law will allow, if the poor abused darl-"I decline answering," said Brownie, aunt during all those lonely years, and ing will let me," he mutteted, as he

around which clustered so much of hope angrily left the room. He watched for Brownie to come The little chain, too, with its golden down all the evening, but she remained key, which her aunt had told her to wear in her own room, too utterly miserable as long as she lived, that, too, was in the to desire to meet any one.

Viola and Alma inquired for her She grew nearly wild over the thought tea time, but were told that she was indisposed, and would not come down. Viola afterward stole up stairs with a word, Will you not speak and give question. She realized all the difficulties a cup of tea and a tempting plate of me hope?" which lay in her path. She was a stranger | cold chicken and toast, but Miss Dougin this foreign land, without a friend out- las' door was locked, and she could not hour of need. If she should take the take it back again to the dining-room.

> tion, and as the carriage drove from the Brownie soon came down, looking do not love you in return.

pressively.

The shining brown head wes lifted a trifle, her delicate nostrils dilated, while trifle, her delicate nostrils dilated, while trifle, her delicate nostrils dilated, while to the standard of the standard new forms and the sta dark circles underneath them. ness; you do not know your own heart

quivering. "My dear Miss Douglas," he said, "I have not, indeed, had time to flushing deeply, "I do not know what think, for I did not at once imagine that to say to you, but I am more indignant you cherished any such feelings toward Coolidge said, coming to the point at have counts and lords in America; you sulted and abused, although she was he-

lips quivered at his kindly words. It "Are you sure—are you sure you was so comforting to be treated civilly. | can never love me, Meta?' he pleaded, "Can I do anything for you, Miss while great drops came out upon his Douglas?' Wilbur asked, eagerly, his forehead. heart deeply touched by her sorrowful "Quite sure," she said, firmly, though

"Thank you; I do not suppose it | "Brownie, Brownie, when I love you is in pour power to do the one thing I so; when I have listened eagerly for the wish-give me back my jewels, for they sound of your footfall? when even the are mine, Mr. Coolidge, notwithstanding tone of your voice has been music to it seems improbable for a poor girl to me from the first; when every fibre of own such valuables," she replied, her my being has twined itself about you Oh, it is too cruel: I cannot have it so "I do not doubt it in the least," he -only give me one little ray of hope,

Isabel tried the effect of each separate vou are truth and purity itself, and, be- His voice sounded like the cry of the lieve me, you shall yet have your own." lost, and he caught his breath with a "Ah! can I?" she interrupted, her hard dry sob, that made the young girl's face lighting up with its wonted beauty heart ache with pity for him.

coming it is. And Isabel turned from thrilled him, that any words of his rolled swiftly over her flushed cheeks. the mirror, where she had been catering should have the power to make her "Mr. Coolidge, be assured if I could beautiful countenance brighten like truthfully speak the words you wish, I "Yes, you shall have them again," will only give us both pain to meet again he said. "I cannot restore them to let me say good-by to you here, for I go father returns I shall acquaint him with for your kindness to me, and let me

He lifted it to his lips, then broke "I feel deeply mortified," he went down entirely, and with one quick but you and I; why not keep still about on, dropping his eyes, "that any one movement, gathered her close in his who is akin to me should be guilty of arms, and pressed his lips to her white

doing what my sister did yesterday; brow.

The young girl was deeply touched

"Go away! What do you mean?" he

His mother had not told him that she

"Surely you do not think that I

"Where will you go?" and his brow

She could not stay; it were fo'ly to

But it was like taking the sun from

"I do not know," she said, with a

sigh, and her tone, so sadly sweet,

She had been with them less than

He had learned to watch and live

lived a new life since her coming. He

She had stirred into being new mo-

tives and purposes, and he was begin-

of living, and of trying to fit himself to

be useful in the world, and worthy of

And now she was being driven away

like a criminal, and insulted by his own

If she should go away thus, with this

dreadful cloud hanging over her, what

would become of her? Who would take

His pulses throbbed wildly; he grew

"You do not know? Will you let me

tell you where to go?" he breathed,

bending eagerly toward her, his face

with the wild love which moved him.

fore his passionate gaze.

flushing hotly, and his eyes glowing

She looked up a little surprized by

"Darling," he cried, seizing her little

hands, "you do not know where to go?

Come to me. My dear, my dear, you to

now know how I have learned to love

into this household. Come to me, Meta

-he my wife, and no stain shall touch

mine, and I will plant myself between

vou and all harm. My love, my love, I

have found you. I have seen many fair

the sweetest fate man ever found. Say

She sat before him white, and still,

She could see it in his eager look, she

by his wild words, except to feel a sort

dearest, will you be my wife ?"

their own jealous hearts.

knew he was a better man for it.

upon the every motion and expression.

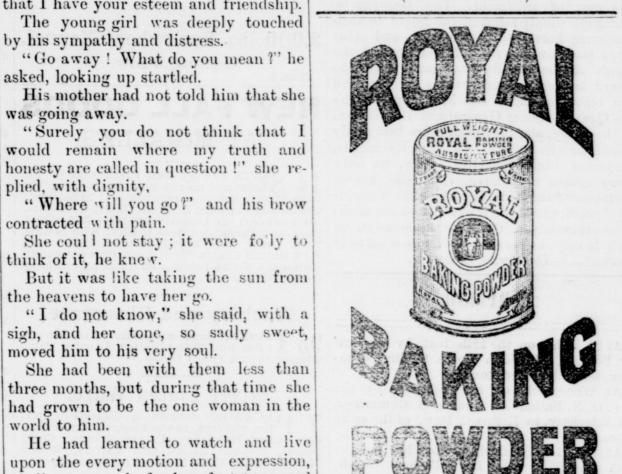
three months, but during that time she

moved him to his very soul.

world to him.

and the treatment which you afterward "My darling, my darling," he groaned sides he will be very angry at the way in received—there can be no excuse for it. "forgive me, but you can never know Do not speak of it again, Mr. Cool- the wretchedness of this moment to me.' idge; it is past and cannot be recalled. At that moment the library door Pshaw! returned Isabel, she'll never Your kindness and sympathy have sprung open, and Mrs. Coolidge and

(To be continued)



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before had begun to creep into her fled before this avalanche of love which IT WILL SURELY CURS CONSTIPATION, PILES, She had never dreamed that he loved her like this, although he had always and functions, thereby seemed to enjoy her society, and she had believed that his mother's and Isabel's fears had only been caused by THOUSANDS OF CASES f the worst forms of these terrible disave been quickly relieved, and in a short She had no chance to speak; he had PERFECTLY CURED. poured forth his words so wildly, and she did not even remove her hands from

his for a moment, her surprise holding KIDNEY-WORT She knew he was sincere, and that his whole soul had yielded itself up to her.

But she did not love him. No; she was sure of it. She did not even stop to debate the question within her own mind; she was not even moved Gold and Silver Watches Silk and Linen Pocket Handkerchiefs.

of tender serrow for him that she must destroy all his hopes, But even as she sat there, trying to think of the gentlest way to tell him this, there came to her the remembrance Elegant Gold suits of Jewellery, Fine Gold had once looked, and felt her soul thrill Necklets and Lockets, Rolled Flate Silver

gentle clasp, which had seemed for a moment to inclose her within the gates of Paradise. No, she did not love Wilbur Coolidge All new patterns, in and if she did, she could not be his wife. Tea Setts, Pickle Jars, Cake Baskets, and subject herself to the scorn and

Something of this he must have read in her face, for he said, tenderly "Brownie, you do not answer me. Will you not crown my life with the JAS. D. FOWLER. blessing of your love? They shall never harm you. We will go away where

She drew back from him, pained and

contempt which she would receive from

his family.

"Mr. Coolidge, if I speak at all, it must be to crush all hope of any such thing as you desire," she said, sadly, "Meta! Miss Douglas! no!" he cried Only Isabel and her mother knew any. door, Wilbur rang the library bell, and hoarsely, his handsome face clouding

Wilbur hastened forward to meet her yet," he said, his lips growing white and-

yours. No, Mr. Coolidge, I cannot be Brownie smiled wearily, though her your wife.

answered, impulsively. "I know that and I will wait years if need be."

She arose from the chair where she

would do so; but it cannot be, and as it

She held out her hand to him and Thank you, Brownie said, appreciat- he took it, his whole frame shaking ing his kindness, yet fearing that his with the great bitterness which well



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could feel it in the passionate clasp and

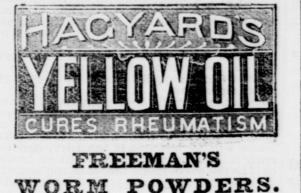
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