CHAPTER XXIII.

Judge Ashley suffered much from as thma, and he seemed to breathe with difficulty. She gently rose, altered the arrangement of the cushions at his back. and sunk down again into her former at-

He looked down at her and fondly said "My Daisy, flower of my old age, what would become of me but for your watchful care? You have indeed been a pearl of price to me, Margaret, and after I am gone, you will find that my gem will have a rich setting. I have given you a noble dower, my darling, and at a proper time, I wish you to share it with some younger lover, who can make you as happy as you have made the old man since you enter ed his home as an angel ministrant of peace.'

She pressed his hand with much emotion, as she replied:

"I shall never wed again-never! have enough. With independence and our dear children, I shall in time be perfectly contented with my lot. Do not fancy that I shall be in a hurry to exchange the quiet of my present life for the turmoil of the world in which another lover might be found. I have been happy here; I shall owe to you all that I may possess, and when we meet upon the farther shore, I hope to give you a good account of the use to which I shall put the fortune with which you say you have endowed me."

The judge tenderly pressed her hand, and after a pause, said "Act as you may, Daisy, I know it will be for the best. I can implicitly rely on your judgment and good feeling to guide you in the future. I believe that you have been happy with me, love, and I am grateful that it has been so. The wealth I can give you is poor in comparison with the joy and peace you have poured into my heart and life. I am waning away, Daisy, and day by day I feel that the great conqueror lays a heavier hand upon me. When a few more have passed away, I shall belong to the land of shadows. But all my heart. I have tried to use and not the will of Judge Ashley gave herself and dent reply, and Judge Asyley heartily ished the hope that he would, in time, hardness of heart I once indulged has been subdued by your sweet influence." Mrs. Ashley seemed much moved. She pressed his withered hand between her

own soft palms, and said: "It will be a consolation to me through must talk no more now, for it excites and must talk no more now, for it excites and to the prettiest girl in the county, see if I with so gallant and handsome a husband." benefit your lungs."

"Then sing to me, Daisy; your sweet voice soothes me more than anything

She took her guitar from a stand near her, and after a brief prelude, struck into a low, plaintive song, murmuring the re citative in soft, melodious tones, which seemed to act as a sedative upon the invalid. He closed his eyes and soon slumbered.

Gradually the white fingers ceased to surrendered herself to reverse till her husband should again awake. Suddenly he started forward, unclosed his eyes, and asked:

scarcely seen Frank since he returned wedding-day over at once, without any home. His young friends have so con-bustle or worry about it.' stantly gathered around him, that he has seldom been able to come to me. He is a noble boy, Daisy, and I thank you for thought of this abrupt proposal. She bringing him beneath the shelter of my shrank back, trembling, with all the glow roof, and eventually into my cold and of life fading from her lips and cheeks. estranged heart. When I meet my daugh- "What do you say to granpa's proposal, ter in the better land, I shall owe it to Bessie?" he mechanically asked; and he into the dining room, for the judge was

that could be required by the fondest marriage cannot yet take place. We are and spread it on the library table." now willingly enter, may assume to them as sacred, and at some future day fulfil said. the possession of fortune is made contin- faction."

tainly make out a strong case on your ought to marry." side. We will see what the young people say to an immediate marriage. If they do not object, it shall be settled as you wish but if they do, I cannot consent to wish but if they do, I cannot consent to wish but if they do, I cannot consent to wish but if they do, I cannot consent to wish but if they do, I cannot consent to wish but if they do, I cannot consent to wish but if they do, I cannot consent to wish but if they do, I cannot consent to wish but if they do, I cannot consent to both the family of the family o wish but if they do, I cannot consent to should you doubt that? I am a right voted wife, has its limits, and mine has at dreary thing a conventional one was to me and I shrink from forcing the last on any human being. If these children love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the last on any love don't see how that is concerned it it; the to you that I have thought more than once his own."

consternation. "Why should you do such Frank, that I may make a will, and make and our pecuniary condition is no better than a thing as that? for never in your life obedience to its provisions on the part of when we came hither. have you done a wiser or juster thing than your self and Bessie imperative upon you, if you would hereafter enjoy my wealth?"

I have taken advantage of Leon's illness to placing Bessie in contact with a man out that no other effection there about our circumstance of the part of the repugnance to the thought of placing Bessie in contact with a man out to the very best or placing Bessie in contact with a man out to the part of the repugnance to the thought of placing Bessie in contact with a man out to the very best or placing Bessie in contact with a man out to the part of the repugnance to the thought of the place of the you that no other affection these children have known is so strong as that which have known is so strong as that which ently said:

| If you would hereafter enjoy my wealth for the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
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| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to produce a change for the better. |
| Stances, in the hope that you can do something to prod have known is so strong as that which binds them together. I have watched "I had no idea, sir, that you would them—I understood the signs, and I de-clare to you that Frank and Bessie are myself to choose each other. We are

the time of their own union, without at arrangements."

Wentworth and Bessie, with their arms linked together, came from the shelter of some shrubbery, and slowly approached the open window. They were both evitable open window and the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found that he could no longer afford to keep her there over the found dently in high spirits, and the young girl His pained tone struck upon the sensi- Leon will not listen to such a thing, and we everything, and we have the He said was chatting to her companion with great tive heart of Bessie, and in a moment she seems anxious to keep her entirely to himself. best right to the first place in her affec- "Dear grandpa, your kindness to me vivacity; Frank's ringing laugh, full of was kneeling beside him. holding his hand I have no voice in the matter, for I have lost blithe enjoyment, was borne to the ears in hers, and with quick penitence she all influence over my husband, and the lanof the two who were discussing their said:

future with such vivid interest. his wife were observing them, and went on this thing, I will not thwart you. I give him in small quantities to prevent him

"There—do you not see for yourself how much they love each other?" said how much they love each other?" said once, and try and make him a good wife."

Mrs. Ashley. "Their actions show deJudge Ashley passed his hand caressincluded for the dear child, and inform once, and try and make him a good wife."

States as soon as he is strong enough to make the voyage, and I think there will be make the voyage, and I think there will be a little danger in his doing so, for he is so

The prospect of a tour to Europe may than I have that Bessie and I will be a little danger in his doing so, for he is so votion on his side, and on her, acquies- ingly over her bowed head, and said: greatly changed that no one could possibly reconcile her to her hurried nuptials. model couple. I am quite satisfied with cence at least. Oh! my dear husband, "That is right, and you are my own r cognize the handsome L. A. in the b'oated Send Frank to me; I wish to talk to my lot, as I told her this afternoon, and speak to them now, while they are in the good child again. Come, Frank-name and gr-y-haired man who calls himself your him; I must confide to him the secret her objections arise from shyness more mood to listen favorably, and let us have the day on which you will take this neith w.

delay." The judge stiffed a sigh.

came forward and entered the library. Mrs. Ashley smiled on them as they you to me for my wife."

came to make." Frank and Bessie looked at each other as if in doubt as to her meaning, and he to prefer, that I know of. Bessie flushed, and then grew pale, as

meaning. The judge with unusual animation, retorted. us on the subject of our consent."

she caught something of Mrs. Ashley's

Frank laughed and lightly replied: perform in at the party which is to come So that objection is settled, I hope." off at Mr. Welby's next week." " Acting the truth in pretended sport,

eh? Don't you think that others will making, as Daisy and I did just now?" childhood we have been intended for each may. "Oh, Minny, I shall have no time other. I am more than contented with to get ready.'

How is it my pretty rosebud?" tented or not. I am too young and giddy such a change as you meditate." Wait till I have seen enough of the world Frank spoke with a tender joyfulness in very fast life, in most dissipated and reckto compare you with others, and then I his tones that contradicted the lightness less company; and to break down in the still long, but I hope I do not disturb will tell you what I think of you. I have of his words.

too high at any price." returned, a saucy smile broke over her replied. pouting lips, and the glance she threw at "Since there is no escape from the deeply dreaded was no more; that he be held inviolate." I do not shrink from my approaching fate. God has filled my cup to overflowing with good gifts, and I thank him with in good gifts, and I thank him with good gifts, and I thank

> feited the inheritance. and he replied to Bessie's last words: "I do not suppose that any price will be

Bessie curled up her red lip, and made She eluded the attempt of the young a grimace at him which caused him to man to take her hand, and glided from bed. which brought a smile even to the faded left. lips of the old man. Judge Ashley presently said :

cares that must soon come upon you. I slumbered on till twilight gathered round am so old and exhausted now that I must them. "Where are the children? I have the old grandfather's mind by having the children, to removing this last care from was on the eve of attainment.

Young Wentworth looked surprised,

you that I shall have a good account to give her of my treatment of her child.

Bessie?' he mechanically asked; and he into the dining room, for the judge was stretched forth his arm, fearing that she now so infirm that he was compelled to might faint, and fall without support She will pardon my harshness to herself when she learns how carnestly I have en.

Stretched forth me arm, fearing that he was compensed by might faint, and fall without support. But Bessie rallied quickly, and with more Jupiter was no longer able to sustain him that he was compensed by learn heavily on his attendant, and old liberality. My son must not return to going to see her father; and if I could, this country, but his desire to behold his I would always conceal from her that when she learns how earnestly I have en- spirit than either of the listeners expected, He roused up and said. "You have done for Frank everything "I am sorry to thwart grandpa, but our Bring in tea for your mistress and myself,

visions of your will become known to selves to grandpa, that even if he is re- liked. them. The union into which they will moved from us we will consider his wishes the appearance of being compulsory, if the contract we can form now for his satis-

capricious, and they are apt to take up and how sensibly, too," said the judge. ing as my hand-maiden." strange fancies about what is done for "If I believed that you would only adhere to the contract, Bessie, it would answer "You may be right," replied the judge, my purpose just as well; but how am I not vain enough to credit half the pretty be carried out. It is well that we arthoughtfully, "but they are yet so young to feel assured that neither you nor Frank things you say to me."

love. You would give Bessie a taste for to tell you the truth, I don't care about before looking turther."

daily duties, and in the placid attentions of her husband, the happiness you had taught her to seek alone in crowds. No, dashley's wishes and mine? I scarcely exdear; I pray you spare Bessie such an ordeal as that. Before she plunges into

In spite of this rebuke Bessie persist. band, though she greatly the of the tidings it contained. the vortex of fashion and gayety, in which ed:

The judge seemed buried in troubled both, and I had rather give Frank the plied:

Years to come. There is plenty for us both, and I had rather give Frank the whole estate than to give him my hand before I understand my own heart suf
"You may be right Daisy and you can agree both, and I had rather give Frank the both, and I had rather give Frank the with hevel recover.

The climate of this place does not agree by Bessie? She seems reluctant to been such that his constitution is prematurely been such that his constitution is prematurely broken down. I do not wish to compromise. In the months that can. If—if I find my uncle dead, what "You may be right Daisy, and you cer- ficiently to know whether he is the man I broken down. I do not wish to complain of compromise. In the months that can. If—if I find my uncle dead, what

"My love!" exclaimed Mrs. Ashley, in almost run. Has it never occurred to you, sion for dissipation which is destroying him, upon her?"

tempting to hurry matters," replied the "I hoped that no compulsion would be tall boy now, and a very handsome one, I judge: "that will be the best course, and necessary. I certainly do most ardently must say, though strangers do say that he here they come to decide the question for desire to see nothing which can ensure greatly resembles me. the the fulfilment of my wishes. You "Evelyn has been removed from her fash- I am jealous that even her own father mother to die in poverty."

the wedding over without unnecessary submissive little martyr for better, for Oh! dear sir, if you would only consent which has been so long kept, and pre- than from any repugnance to our union. "The sconer the better," was the ready | cognito could be faithfully preserved, and we | perform.

"I believe you are right, Margaret, and response. "Since we are to be executed, should all be happier and better off. Poor I will do as you wish," was the submissive let it be without delay. Don't look so Leon also yearns for a sight of the daughter reply, for Judge Ashley had so long seen | solemn, Bessie; it will only be like taking | he has not seen since her infancy, and I think only with his wife's eyes, had so implicitly a cold donche, and when its over, we shall it will be cruel to deny him permission to refollowed the bent of her will, that he both feel the better for it. I know that turn to Maryland before he dies. appeared to have lost all volition of his I shall be as happy as a king-ought to be; and I promise to treat you en prince. At a signal from her, the young people There darling, don't let me see tears in eign land, leaving me helpless and destitute your lovely eyes, because they are giving.

Dimples broke over the charming mouth "That was quite a pretty scene you of the young girl, and she dashed away were enacting just now, and I suppose it her tears as she placed her hand in that of was but the prelude to the petition you Wentworth, and said :

"You are a dear, good boy, Frank, and I think it was a hard decision. I hope that I can love you as—as I ought. But you must give me time; you know we cannot school the heart all at once. while my husband slept. "What petition, Minny? we have none Besides, it is so humdrum to marry somebody I have known all my life, with no romance, no difficulty about it." Frank raised his hand to his lips, and

laughingly replied: "Oh! ho! little sentimental, that is where the shoe pinches, is it? We can Leon is worse; I scarcely think he will live you and Minny had yours in the library "You are a pretty young fellow, to be get up some difficulties after we are mar- through the night; and I am here with the making love here under our very eyes, ried, you know. I have read some nice two children dependent upon me, without and then say you have nothing to say to stories about ladies married without their fifty dollars in the world, and all the expenses that I was about to depart for the night full consent learning to love their hus. of my husband's illness to pay. Pray send in search of some companionship." bands all the better after they were united someone to my assistance, for I have no "I thought that had been understood for not caring a pin for them beforehand. long ago, sir. As to the love making, We will follow in their footsteps, Bessie, Bessie and I were only rehearsing our and I will prove such a fascinating fellow parts in a charade we have promised to that you will never be able to resist me.

The listeners could only laugh at this nonsense, and Mrs. Ashley said : let me know the worst' "I may congratulate you then, my suspect that there is reality in the love. dears, on the event that is sson to come off. Since you are both agreed as to the I am perfectly willing, laughed Frank. expediency of a speedy union, I will name and laid her hand upon his shoulder to "Bessie and I have no secrets, and every- the day. Let it be to morrow evening." arouse him from the painful reverie into body around here knows that from our "So soon!" exclaimed Bessie, in diswhich he had fullen.

with the change that had passed over it; my bargain, and I hope she is with hers. "Nonsense, child; you have everything it looked drawn and unearthly, and she you can need, even if you are married at apprehensively said. "Oh, Frank, how recklessly you talk!" once. You are not going on a bridal exclaimed Bessie, with considerable agita tour, and I flatter myself that your ward tion. "I do not know whether I am con- robe is always sufficiently supplied for prepared for it by what we have heard to think seriously about such things. Bessie would still have demurred, but the supposed Leon Larne was leading a and attentive, He said

not yet made up my mind as to whether "Come, little wife, since you must be a of such a course." you will be a suitable bargain for me, or victim, submit to the sacrifice gracefully, With difficulty did Mrs. Ashley tone and gain some credit for making it." her voice to the requisite degree of sym-As she uttered the last words her colour Bessie became very pale, but she quietly pathy, for in her heart was the exulting have implicit faith in your honor, and I

him showed that in her nature there was destiny that has been awarded us, we may was removed before the decease of his a spice of coquetry, and in her heart she as well consent to fulfil it at once. I am father placed power in his vicious hands rebelled against being taken as a bale of afraid that you will have the worst part which she felt sure he would abuse. valuable merchandise, of which double of the bargain, Frank, for I am not natu- The judge mournfully replied: worth would be forfeited if it were rally of a submissive temper, and I may "I have long feared that such must be

receded from obedience to his wishes for- "Then it is settled, and to-morrow after-

noon the parson can come over and marry at an end, and the son for whom I once Frank; for family honor is too deeply Frank was yet ignorant of this provision, you as quietly as Daisy and I were united." hoped so much has probably died the Bessie kissed him and whispered. exacted, you little flirt. But I know one to think over all this. It seems so strange I feel that his wretched fate will rend confide to you." all my future life to believe that I have thing, Miss Ashley —I shall consider my and I am in such a flutter that I must from me the remnant of life that might been all this to you. In your turn, you have been the tenderest and most indul
thing, Miss Ashley—I shall consider my and I am in such a flutter that I must self ill-used if you bestow your smiles on have time to compose my spirits before I anyone save myself. Grandpa says that can realize that I have actually promised gent of husbands to me, and I have shared the happiness I bestowed. Dearest you have been mine."

> laugh again in his gay, joyous manner, the apartment, which he also immediately Well satisfied with the last hour's work Mrs. Ashley sat stroking the wrinkled "You are a pair of silly children, and it hand of her husband, and talking to him is high time that you were thinking of the in a low tone till he fell asleep again, and

soon succumb to the inevitable doom of The labor of so many years was nearly all Adam's race, and it is the strongest accomplished she believed, and in a few wish of my heart to see you and Bessie hours more Bessie would be safe. As the wander over the cords, and Mrs. Ashley united before I die. You are both quite wife of the heir, she was sure of her daughas old as many that do marry, and if your union is to be a happy one, it cannot com- and her scheming mind felt the gratifying my two grandchildren, with no friend to which impoverished them, and Frank my two grandchildren, with no friend to union is to be a happy one, it cannot com. and her scheming mind felt the gratifying mence too soon. What do you say, my assurance that the great object of her life

CHAPTER XXIV.

TIDINGS FROM ACROSS THE SEA.

parent, and his future welfare and happi- both too young and inexperienced to as. The lamp was lighted and the tea ness are provided for in the union we sume the serious duties of life. I have brought in. Mrs. Ashley came out of her have planned. My dear husband, it has always been told that we were to be mar- reverie in time to pour out the steaming occured to me that it will be best to have ried some day, but there is no need of liquid and put into the judges cup the our young people united before the pro- being in a hurry. We can pledge our- exact quantity of cream and sugar he He smiled on her as he quaffed it, and

"Hebe never served more delicious gent upon it. Young poeple are often "Bless the child! how glibly she talks, my doubts whether she was half as charm-

She laughed merrily and replied. to think of marriage. Bessie seems to me little more than a child, and I do not like "Aye," broke in the persuasive voice pearance at the door of the lad whose His reply was interrupted by the ap Bessie shall take place to-morrow, for "I think Leon will save himself the the thought of putting the yoke of matri- of Mrs. Ashley, "that is the vital point at business it was to visit the neighboring

Mrs. Ashley listened patiently, but she that you are suited to each other, and happiness must crown your union."

that I am uneasy. Pray examine the happiness must crown your union."

the young creatures my reckiess son that I am uneasy. Pray examine the happiness must crown your union."

the young creatures my reckiess son that I am uneasy. I do not think he happiness must crown your union."

Trains v "You have made a grave mistake, my But we are first cousins, Minny; and if you find a foreign letter read it to me will die, and Bessie will have an oppor- be married to-morrow afternoon, as has

oughly learned, you would bring her back to the monotony of a country home, and to the monotony of a country home, and "Pooh! cousins marry every day, and look after Augusta and the children, look after Augusta and the children, letter from Mrs. Leon Ashley.

Trank seems almost into my crowd, and cannot rest till I have sent some one to look after Augusta and the children, cor and do the best you can to relieve band, though she greatly the feared effect

she may otherwise be over whelmed, give her a strong, sustaining arm on which she may lean. That will be her only salvation."

The judge seemed buried in troubled to restrict the strong of the properties of the she may otherwise be over whelmed, give "I can't see why you and grandpa in- DEAR UNCLE :- I write to you without the VIENNA, May 5, 18-.

my husband, and I have hitherto borne with Frank must be absent from her, she will would you wish to be done with his

each other, they will come together yet; if they do not, I am afraid that I have made an injunitous will and I will confess made an injunitous will and I will confess made an iniquitous will, and I will confess grandpa will live many years yet to enjoy him from Paris to this place. I hoped the change would restore him to his senses, but "Thank you, lad, but my course is he finds here plenty who have the same pas-

We are living in lodgings in this city which her husband's heart was set upon it, give me till to-morrow. clare to you that Frank and Bessie are myself to choose each other. We are whom is Evelyn's nurse, who will not consent ward no reason that would be satis- grandfather, feebly grasping his hand. evoted to each other."

"Then we can safely leave them to fix if you will give us time to make our own England and placed at school here, and he is his plan.

whom is Evelyn's nurse, who will not consent to leave her. My son has been brought from factory to him for her opposition to his plan.

"You are a comfort and a pride to me his plan." making great progress in his studies; he is a

"My dear, dear grandpa, I am quick of He now lies before me in a heavy slumber They paused at some distance from the temper and free of speech, but I will no looking as ghastly as if dead. The stimulants open window at which Judge Ashley and longer oppose you. If your heart is set that are destroying him I am compelled to that you would be reasonable as soon as as possible, atoned. through an expressive pantomine, which sed fervently to the lips of the young man.

This thing, I will not thwart you. I am but a silly child, but if Frank is willing to take me as I am. I will not refuse to obey you. We might have waited till we are older and wiser, but if you command you understood the necessity that rules to take me as I am. I will not refuse to obey you. We might have waited till we are older and wiser, but if you command you understood the necessity that rules to take me as I am. I will not refuse to one, but I feared it would be the last, for his suff rings were f arful to witness.

The first had a trrible at take of mania-a-potu and Bessie will be happy one, but I feared it would be the last, for his suff rings were f arful to witness.

The first had a trrible at take of mania-a-potu and Bessie will be happy one, but I feared it would be the last, for his suff rings were f arful to witness.

The first had a trrible at take of mania-a-potu and Bessie will be happy one, but I feared it would be the last, for his suff rings were f arful to witness.

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The first had a trrible at take of mania-a-potu and Bessie will be happy one, but I feared it would be the last, for his suff rings were f arful to witness.

The first had a trrible at take of mania-a-potu and Bessie will be happy one, but I feared it would be the last, for his such and take of mania-a-potu and Bessie will be happy one, but I feared it would be the last, for his such and the first had a trrible at take of mania-a-potu and Bessie will be happy one, but I feared it would be the last, for his such and the first had a trrible at take of mania-a-potu and bessie will be happy one, but I feared it would be the last, for his s "There—do you not see for yourself me to do so, I will give him my hand at He insists that he will return to the United may go to the dear child, and inform but it was intended for the best."

that he shall r turn to his native land, his in- pare him for the duty he will have to You shall see, sir, what a happy pair anteed.

"Had you not better wait till morning? You are not strong enough to bear so much excitement."

all due before it reaches us.

Your affectionate but deeply tried

one on whom I can call, and I am utterly un-

Mrs. Ashley hesitated before reading

When he lifted his face she was struck

eyes, and, turning toward her said:

died when she was an infant."

ranged that the marriage of Frank and her."

After a pause, Mrs. Ashley replied:

In a resigned voice she said:

the last lines, but the Judge insisted.

I am sure that he cannot live very long, mind, so the lad had better come as soon quietly left the room. and I dread the thought of his dying in a for- as possible. The wine I drank has given me factitious strength, which will of means, for the money we draw from you is sustain me through the interview, and Evelyn is a good and dutiful girl, and her when it is over, perhaps I shall be able

father seems to think more of her since his to repose peacefully. last illness than he has since the birth of his "Then I will send Frank at once," son, and your refusal to make Maitland an She arose, arranged his pillows more equal with his cousins. You know best, but comfortably, and left the room. This is a rambling letter, but you must ex-In a few moments young Wentworth cuse it, as it has been written at intervals entered, apparently much surprised at vacant chair by the bed, he said :

"Your message came at the nick of plaint There was a postscript added three days time, sir, for I was on the eve of taking later, in a scarcely legible hand, which wing for Mr. Welby's. Bessie refused to leave her room when tea was ready, and I felt myself so completely deserted The listener smiled faintly.

"I supposed that you and Bessie would be glad to be left tete a-tete, and I had no idea that the little gipsy would run away from you the very day she "There is something more; read all; has promised to marry you," Frank had nothing to say in reply. She obeyed him, and he covered his and his grandfather paused so long after

face with his clasped hands, and sat so uttering these words that he began to long motionless that she became alarmed, fidget, and wonder what on earth he could have to say to him at that hour At Length Judge Ashley said : "I see that you are becoming impatient, but if you could divine the

"This distracting news has proved too compelled to make to you, you would much for you. But surely you have been feel little surprise at my hesitation." The young man was instantly quiet before. For years you have known that "Pardon me, sir; I never can keep

painful nature of the revelation I am

heyday of existence is the natural result you. "Not much, lad; but it is useless to defer what might be said. Frank, I

belief that by this time the man she so believe that a secret confided to you will Wentworth's eyes widened, but he promptly said: "Assuredly, sir; my word is as

anticipated. I have unconsciously cher. reposed in me." With some bitterness the judge rerepent of his evil courses, and make an plied

effort to redeem himself. But now all is "You will be sure to keep this one, death of the drunken profligate. It is concerned in it to permit you to reveal "Let me go to my room now, grandpa, a bitter grief and humiliation to me, and to any other being what I am about to Frank's interest was now vividly ex-

cited, and he bent his head to listen to His pale, sunken features and failing the tremulous tones of his grandfather's voice deeply alarmed Mrs. Ashley, and voice, as he immediately commenced she rang, and ordered wine to be brought in. The stimulant revived his strength, the promised revelation. but he complained of feeling weary, and To his intense astonishment he learn-

no time was lost in removing him to his ed that the uncle he believed lying in the graveyard was still living in Europe When the servants had retired and left under a feigned name, and the outlines them together again, Judge Ashley im of his disgraceful story were rapidly mediately renewed the conversation his faintness had interrupted. She was sit- sketched for him. The necessity that ting beside the bed, holding his hand in he should visit Europe immediately. her own, when he suddenly unclosed his that he might carry assistance to the wife and children of Leonard Ashley "Daisy, I have already determined on was made known to him; whether he what is necessary to be done in this sad were living or dead, they would require crisis of poor Leon's affairs. If he dies, protection from the selfish prodigality that helpless fine lady he preferred to which impoverished them, and Frank

turn to, and no means of living. I could ance to them. send money in the usual way, but it When Judge Ashley paused, exhaust would be longer in reaching Augusta than ed by speaking so long, the young man if an agent from me sought her out with earnestly said

out delay. Even if she were to receive it "This is a strange and sad history promptly, I do not think she has judg- sir? but you may rely on me to serve vives, he has by this time partly regained you to the utmost of my ability. I have his health, and he will, of course, return long desired to visit Europe, and alto his old courses; in the indulgence of though I could have wished to go on a When the supper bell rang, a strong the absorbing passion that has consumed less painful errand, I shall still find his resources, he will throw away such much enjoyment in the tour, especially sums as I may send him, and his wife and with Bessie for my companion. Poor children will obtain little benefit from my liberality My son must not return to girl! she does not know that she is daughter can be gratified in another way. I would always conceal from her that He paused, earnestly regarding her this unfortunate man stands in that rebowed face, and Mrs. Ashley faintly lation to her."

Judge Ashley impressively replied: "What, then, do you propose to do? "I wish you to understand that un-Would you consent to part from Bessie, merely to gratify a parent who has hither. less my son reveals himself to her in his to shown the greatest indifference toward true character, Bessie must remain in her? One who merely makes this new. ignorance of the tie that exists between born desire to see his child an excuse for them. I shall leave Leon to decide on

returning to the United States? Resides, this course himself." Bessie is not aware that such a being as "That will be best, sir; and I only your son is still in existence. She has been taught to believe that her father hope that my uncle will preserve his own secret from the knowledge of his "Margaret, I am sorry that you view daughter. Dear Bessie is too bright On and after MONDAY, June 1st, 1885, Worms. Acts as a gentle physic, and should be my plan with dissatisfaction, for it must and young to have her life clouded by

duties, when she should be flitting about as a butterfly in the sunshine, enjoying the brief, bright season of youth."

which was paid in lately by the steward delay. It is the strongest wish of my heart to see you and Frank united, Bessie, as it is that of your grandfather. I know you an order on my banker in Baltine young creatures my reckless son you an order on my banker in Baltine young creatures my reckless son you an order on my banker in Baltine young creatures my reckless son you an order on my banker in Baltine young creatures my reckless son you an order on my banker in Baltine young creatures my reckless son you an order on my banker in Baltine young creatures my reckless son you an order on my banker in Baltine young creatures my reckless son you an order on my banker in Baltine young creatures my reckless son you and Friday, a Pullman Car will be a dat Moncton. tunity of seeing her father; we will already been arranged, and take the them from the pressure of debt. If my son is yet living, do not trust the money "It seems necessary for Frank to be in his possession, for he would throw it your agent, but will it not be best to into the same vortex which has swallow-

force their inclinations. I have known what a happy union is, and also what a dreary thing a conventional one was to me to addre you and all that. I love you just a dore you and all that. I love you just a dore you and all that. I love you just a dore you and all that. I love you just a dore you are suitable arrange. own to you that I wish my son, if still can make some more suitable arrangein life, to see what a charming young ment for them."

months, Daisy, that she may visit him as if all his vital strength was exhausted who has the strongest earthly claim and he arose and said: "I think I understand what you wish Mrs. Ashley crushed down her ex- done, sir, and I pledge you my honor to

she did Leon Ashley, for she saw that any further directions you may wish to ly thrust you from my heart. Forgive

"Perhaps I am selfish in my affec- my long neglect, lad, and the hardness tion for the dear child, and I own that of nature that suffered your poor

tions. But if it is your will that she has obliterated the memory of all that shall go on this journey with Frank, I I owe so much to you that I should be will say nothing more to oppose you." | an ungrateful wretch to think of wrongs "Thank you, my good wife: I knew which have been repented of, and, as far you understood the necessity that rules "You are a noble fellow, Frank. and

so. I will release you now, that you done wrong in making my will as I have,

The old man sighed, and faintly said "I hope so, lad; and now leave me for I feel utterly worn out." "I cannot rest till this is off my Frank bade him good night, and

(To be continued)

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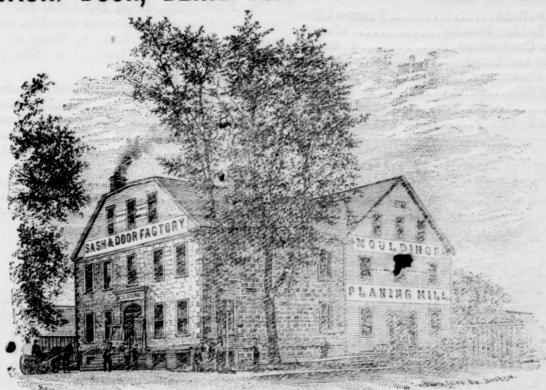
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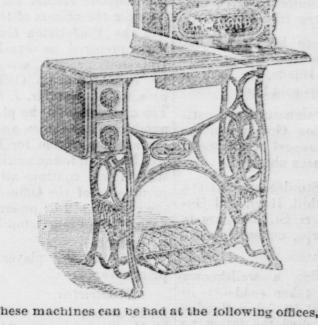
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