YOLANDE.

By WILLIAM BLACK. AUTHOR OF "SHANDON BELLS," "MACLEOD DARE," "WHITE WINGS," "SUNRISE," ETC.

(Continued.)

A CONSPIRACY. "I think I am doing what is right," the Master of Lynn said to his sister, of whom, in his perplexity, he was

. CHAPTER XII.

driven to take counsel. They had once more resumed their idle, uneventful, dream-like voyage up the broad river; and the dahabeeyah was large, and had many quiet corners for confidential conversations. Moreover, the monotony of the scene around them left them ample leisure. Their attention was seldom called away by any striking feature or incident, and she has courage. If trouble should being noticed. The two of them passed never at all by any atmospheric phe- come to her or hers, she will not be through the saloon, along the corridor nomena. They had grown accustomed | the one to flinch.' to the level plains of yellow sand, the distant low hills quivering in the heat, the wide, yellow-green waters ruffled by who was very much excited and joyous lit heavens and the great broad dusky the northerly breeze, and the palms, and almost eager to go away and ask stream. and the mud villages, and the groups of swarthy Arabs or Nubians lazily driv- but a pleasant and happy life for her. ing down the sheep and camel and Of course sickness may come to any buffalo to the banks of the stream.

"Yes, I think you are doing what is right-though not what is usual, perhaps," said his sister, regarding him. "What do you mean?"

"Oh, well," she said, with a smile, "no doubt it is quite correct to ask the papa's permission first; it is quite generally, I should think, some understanding exists "

"But I am afraid to startle her," he said, quickly. "Besides, there might I shouldn't talk about her. She and I rather a sad way; any one can under- lordship will kick up dust and thunder be some one else, and I would rather have been pretty close companions. It stand that; but every one has to con- about Winterbourne's politics; but the get to know that from her father." "There is no one else," said pretty

Mrs. Graham, sipping her tumbler of cold tea. "What is more, you are acting with greater prudence than I could have given you credit for. But I suppose you don't know; you don't understand."

asked, bluntly.

"Yolande and I have had some talk together," she said, and she regarded him with an air of superior sagacity "I happen to know what she thinks; her. He was thinking of all those byand you are acting very prudently in gone years. going to her father first. She has been educated in France."

"What do you mean? Why don't you speak ou'?" he said, irritated by these women's ways of mystery. "Is there any need? She has been

what her duty is. She will marry any one her father approves of. It is for him to arrange it. But there is something further in her case. Yolande is haunted by the fear that she is a burden and drag on her father-that she i taking him away from public life. And I think she is right. Why should he be here just now, for example? It is all very well for Jim and me to take a holiday; but for a member of the House of Commons to be continually leaving England to travel about as he and Yolande do-I don't understand it. It is absurd. Very well; if she once imagines that her father would like to see her married, so that he might attend to his own affairs, the way is clear. And it would be a very good thing. I like the girl. She sticks up for her own; whoever she marries won't have to blow his own trumpet. It would be a very good thing in many ways. I was saying to Jim only the other day that you might buy back Corrievreak.'

"Do you think I want to marry her for her money?" said he. "Well, no. But she has money-or will have it. I dare say, now, if Shena

"Leave Miss Stewart alone," said he somewhat hotly.

She laughed.

"Poor girl! It wasn't her fault that she was born in a Scotch manse instead of being the daughter of a member of the House of Commons. But I think Shena Van, with all her pretty eyes, had had a bit of a temper, you know, Archie-"

"Leave her alone, will you?" he said, roughly. "You have done her enough mischief."

"I?" said Mrs. Graham, with a stare. "Well, never mind. That is done with. Why don't you have a turn at Miss Winterbourne? You and she appear to be great friends; and women can always say spiteful things about their nearest friends. Haven't you some nice things to say about her too?" "Wait till she is your wife, Archie,

and then I will find out all manner of things against her. You have no idea how sharp a sister-in-law's eyes are." mediate effect of removing his wrath.

He grew quite friendly and confidential again, and finally announced his resolve to speak to Mr. Winterbourne that very "If the thing is impossible, it will be

better to learn it from him. If I were to ask Yolande herself, and if she said no, look how awkward that would be hair." for the rest of this trip! I'd have to go. No; I'll have everything fair and aboveboard, and then no one can complain, whatever happens."

And yet the long, pleasant, idling day had passed before he had screwed up his courage to make the plunge. They had come to an anchor for the night; the sun was sinking far away in the west; along the low-lying eastern hills there was a flush of the pale ethereal pink. The women-folk had disappeared to dress for dinner; Colonel Graham was at the stern of the daha beeyah, fishing; Mr. Winterbourne and he were alone on the upper deck clearly it was an opportunity not to be missed. Nor indeed was there any difficulty, once the subject was mentioned. Yolande's father seemed inclined to meet the younger man halfway though there was more of resignation than of gladness in the way he spoke.

"Of course everything depends on herself," he said at length. "She must be guided by her own wishes-"

"Oh yes, certainly, certainly," said would not let any consideration interfere with her perfect freedom of choice. Miss Yolande's salmon fishing if he

That is not to be thought of-"

and when he spoke it was to interrupt to be kind to her. -a rudeness of which he was never consciously guilty.

not have her imagine such a thing, re- swinging lamp, were squatted in member ; you must never mention it-"Oh, certainly not."

Yolande at once. "I can see nothing

ly, and he glanced at his companion in she should belong to some one else; but -but it is right; it is in the natural I know that she is being treated with kindness and affection, and with a little consideration for her youth. Perhaps she will make mistakes as a young wife; "What's the conundrum now?" he but she is willing to do her best, and -and she is grateful-for a little con-

It was scarcely an appeal. He was describing Yolande as he had known

But at this moment they were startled by the report of a gun; and that was followed by another and another. "What the mischief is that?" called

out Colonel Graham, as he hurried for ward to the bow; for indeed the air was educated in France, and she knows full of ominous rumors just at that time; and even a general massacre of the Europeans in Egypt had been talked of as a possibility. It appeared, however, that this crowd

of people who now emerged from a belt of palms, and came down to the river's edge to some boats there, was only a wedding party; and Ahmed, who had been ashore with the chef, explained that these were the friends of the bride, escorting her thus far, while the husband to be (the wedding ceremony was to take place in the evening) had sent camels to meet her, which were waiting for her on the other side of the Nile. And of course Mrs. Graham and Yolande were instantly called for, and came up in time to see the little veiled woman, with much conscious dignity. take her place in one of the boats. while her friends proceeded to put into the other boats the bales of carpets and the eight or ten donkeys which formed her marriage portion. Then, away on the other side, they saw two camels make their appearance, the first of them with a big tent on its back surmounted by three tall hearse-like plumes; and Ahmed, with much queer English, managed to explain that these plumes were the projecting tops of the

ou speak." three palms of which the tent was composed; and that the tent was sent by the bridegroom to receive his br de,

while the other camel was to carry her household plenishing. "It is obvious he hasn't sent a came to fetch his mother-in-law." said Colone Graham; but the solemn-faced Ahmed

did not understand what was meant and took refuge in a surreptitious

Then they saw the boats being slowly rowed across the great stream; and the donkeys and bales were landed; and the bride disappeared into the tent; and presently the procession was on its way again, until the gathering dusk and the inequalities of the desert hid

bride and friends and all from view. "It is a wide river," said Mr. Win- said he. "You don't understand. terbourne, absently, looking at the Where are your brains, Polly ?-they're flowing waters, "to lie between the old home and the new-between the old life and the new. But it is the way of However, this prospect had the im- the world. She may be quite as happy frightened. Don't you see, there are a as a wife as she was as a girl."

great deal happier," Mrs. Graham said, for example, that travelling by ourcheerfully. "I am. I mean I should selves like this shows you what people be, if Jim weren't so impatient with are. You see what they are and know Baby. Come away, Yolande dear; I them. It isn't the chance acquaintancehave found a piece of blue ribbon, and ship of ball-rooms and drawing-rooms. am going to make a snood for your And she doesn't look on us as acquain-

At dinner it was very clear to Mrs.

Graham that her brother had so far he was unusually vivacious, and most | that she wouldn't be frightened and obviously attentive and respectful to startled.' Yolande. He was delighted with Egypt, and with this placid and idle life, and with the general resolve to abstain from sight-seeing. ("There are plenty of British Museums everywhere, when you want to be bored," he said, somewhat incorrectly.) But he was chiefly busy with anticipations of the Highlands, and of the circumstances under which this same little party would re-assemble there. He volunteered to go over from Lynn to Alltnam ba whenever Mr. Winterbourne wanted a rifle for one of the passes : nay, he said he knew the woods well. beater at any time. And when Mr. Winterbourne and Miss Yolande wellt to Inverstroy he meant to beg his brother-in-law for an invitation. O course they would be going up the hil! -that is, Mr. Winterbourne and Colonel Graham-and they would want al the younger man, with eagerness. "I the keepers and gillies they could get: and what in that case was to become o

were not there to help? And Yolande

After dinner they found that the Arab sailors were having a little concert "Yes, I should like to see Yolande among themselves, and they stood for settled in life," he said, absently. a while to listen. The grave-faced per-"There is no saying what might hap- formers, with their flowing robes and pen to me. Once or twice I have fan- heavily turbaned heads, looking piccied my heart was affected, but I would turesque enough in the light of the circle in the forward part of the dahabeevah, one of them possessed of a "Very slight surprises are enough to tambourine, another strumming on two give me pretty bad palpitation," he small tom-toms; and to the time thus continued; and although it may be beat each singer would contribute a nothing serious, still if Yolande were piece of shrill, high, melancholy recitamade quite happy and secure, my tive, while the others accompanied him mind would be more at rest. I don't with a heavy monotonous bass chorus. say much about her, though I might. The Master of Lynn touched his sister If you win her affection, you are not on the arm, and she drew back from likely to lose it; she is starch. And the little group without her absence between the cabins, and out into what "But why should you anticipate they called the Belvedere. Here there trouble ?" said the Master of Lynn, was nothing visible but the shining star-

"Well?" she said. "So far it is all right," he said, in a low voice, but with considerable exciteone; but it is less likely to fall on her | ment. "Oh, you can't imagine how The pulse of the world beats slowly than any one I know. Why, to look at sensible and reasonable he is about itand so friendly, too. He told me ex-"She ought always to live in the actly how he was situated. He would country," said Mr. Winterbourne.quick | like to see her married and comfortably settled; and he just as good as intian inquiring sort of way. "I hope she | mated that he hoped she would say yes, will never live in a town; the piece and although of course, he said he would quiet of the country are what I should have everything left to her own wishes. with a little less courtesy, I dare say wish for her always. She does not care There is another reason too-which I she would treat him with a little more according to rule and etiquette; but for society. Her own small circle is cannot tell you about; but I see plain- frankness; she is a humorous young enough for her—that is were she is best | ly that his mind would be much more | party at times. But that will all come seen; it is there you get to know her, at ease if this thing were to come off. right. I don't see why it shouldn't be and-and to love her. Well, perhaps I am sure of it. Of course he spoke in quite plain sailing, as you say. His will seem strange to me, at first, that sider what will be best in the enc. buying back of Corrievreak will bring to be best in the enc. And now, don't you see, Polly-now that I have got on so far, I am begincourse of things. I shall be content if | ning to feel a bit shaky. If it had been stopped at the be inning, well and good; but now I don't want to spoil my chance by making a mistake. And my nerves are not what they ought to be-hanged if they are; one gets no exercise in this dawdling kind of life, and you dont feel fit-"

"I know what you're driving at Archie," said his sister, with a little You want encouragement. Poor thing! Are you so very nervous? Is she so terrible !

"Oh, but you don't understand," said he. "You don't see what I have got. Of course a woman does not covet a prize like that, and you don't understand why I should feel nervous. But-but, you know, if she were suddenly startled, she might say no, plump and decisive. There would be an end. Whereas, if the idea were suggested to her by some one else-"

"That's me," said his sister, plainly. You wan't me to speak to her. But don't you think, my dear Master, that the idea has already occurred to her, and been suggested by yourself? should have thought your attentions were obvious enough."

"You ought to know, Polly," said he "Well, they were obvious enough to

"But she is strange," said he, doubtfully. "She seems to think it natural that people should be friendly with her; and with people she knows she has very little reserve. But I have watched her. I have watched her manner with Graham; she is quite as friendly with him as she is with me. Of the two, I would say she was more friendly with him; she talks to him as if she had known him all her life."

"My dear Master, that is her cunning," said his sister, coolly. "They're all like that. They pretend to prefer married men, but they are watching the unmarried ones all the same. Wait till

He was silent for a second or two; and, fortunately, the Arabic improvisation going on forward seemed interminable. He passed the fingers of one hand over the open palm of the other, and regarded them pensively.

"If the biggest stag in Glendyerg Gen'ls G. T. Beauregard of La., and Juba was within eighty yards of me just now, I'd back its life against my rifle. I don't know what to do, Polly." "There is only the one thing to do."

said his practical sister. " I am afraid of that plump and final

no. I can't face it. Why "-" And you want me to go and make her a proposal of marriage on your the floor, struck a Henry Clay attitude, account? I wonder what she would think of you !" said pretty Mrs. Graham, scornfully.

"I don't want anything of the kind." generally sharp enough. I want you to make her familiar with the idea. I don't want to have her startled and Have long plied their vocation on whole lot of things that a third person "I don't see why she shouldn't be a could talk about. You could tell her, tances at all; we are all old friends now-and rightly too. There are whole heaps of things like that, don't you see, met with no hinderance to his suit, for Polly, that you might say to her, so

"And what am I to have for my

share in this conspiracy ?" "Why, the prettiest sister-in-law you could wish for," he said. Oh, I know you. You can say sharp things ; but ! can see you are very fond of her; and I know you would be very proud of her if you were to take her to the Northern Meeting at Inverness. What's more I'd back you two, for good looks, against any two women at the ball; and they get up a finer show there than anywhere else I know. She would just suit you Polly-dark and fair together, of course ; and I know she thinks you and would be glad to serve as an extra dress awfully well; and she would take your advice.

This final touch proved effectual even the shrewd young married woman "Well, I will try to find out what

she thinks about it." she said. course it is on the distinct understanding that her father approves?"

so in the plainest terms.'

Mr. Winterbourne was scarcely heed- | regarded him with pleased and grateful of the whole matter. Very well, I will or for Throat and Lung affections.

ing him; his thoughts were far away; eyes. It was so clear that he wished speak to her. I will do my best for you, Archie, you may depend. For sooner or later you would be making a fool of yourself with some one; and this girl is really very nice and ladylike; and I don't think you are likely they have gone up above for coffee :

That same night Mrs. Graham announced the news to her husband, in the privacy of their cabin.

with Archie," she said. "He has spoken to Mr. Winterbourne about Yolande, and Mr. Winterbourne has given his consent." "The deuce he has !"

"Why shouldn't he?" she retort.d, with some sharpness.

"Oh, I dare say it's all right," rejoined the lazy soldier, as he began to arrange the occult mechanism of his Levinge. "Rather a brief acquaintance, ain't it ?"

"Why, certainly not. Archie was talking about that very thing. This constant companionship is worth years CUTLERY. of acquaintanceship, and I don't see why they should not thoroughly understand and appreciate each other by now. Archie does, anyway. And each has just what the other wants: she has money; and he will succeed to the title. I think it will be a very good

"Oh, I think so too," her husband said, good-naturedly. "She seems fond of him. And if he treated her him round. Good-night." Suddenly she uttered a shrill scream

"Oh, Jim-a cockroach!" "Very well; it isn't a kangaroo, it?" said he, sulkily. "Besides, my revolver isn't loaded.

"Such a beast !- such a monster !" "Why don't you get into your hammock, then, instead of sitting there?" "I'm going directly," she said; for indeed her dread of these huge insects

was such that they had had to rig up a hammock for her in her cabin. "But Jim, I want to ask you about something that has been puzzling me a good deal. Didn't you say that the Winterbournes were a comparatively old family, up in the north of England there? "I believe so-I've heard so," her

husband said, sleepily. "Then why should Mr. Winterbourne want me to buy jewelry for "Because she hasn't got any, or

hasn't got enough, I suppose. see it's any of my business." "But where is the family jewelry?"

"How can I tell? He may be a younger son-rather think he is. What does it matter to you? You'll like the spending of the money well enough.' "But how should the girl come have no jewelry at all? Where is he mother's? And her mother's mother's?"

"Oh, how can I tell! All I know is, she'll soon have plenty if Winterbourne allows you to go careering up and down Bond Street. "Well, it is strange, you know,"

said pretty Mrs. Graham, as she placid ly examined the fastenings of her hammock. "I don't understand it; but it is one of those things that one can't well ask about. I never knew a girl, at her age, in her position in life, who hadn't plenty of jewelry-family rings and things of that sort. What an odd thing it would be if an engagement ring were to be the first! and in that case I do hope Archie will buy a nice one when he is about it. But it is very | Flour, strange, you know, Jim." (To be continued.)

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Charlatans and Quacks

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