#### John Arthur's Ward: OR THE DETECTIVE'S DAUGHTER.

Continued from 1st page.

#### CHAPTER XXXIII.

CROSS PURPOSES. An irate pair were seated at breakfast the morning after Celine's flitting. And while they ate little, they talked much and earnestly, sometimes angrily. They had arrived at the conclusion, which, although erroneous, had been foreseen by the astute Celine, namely: That the robbery had been committed at the instigation of Mr. Percy, and that Celine had been bought over and used by him as a

It was evident that something must be done, and that quickly. While these papers were in the hands of Percy, as undoubtedly they were at that moment, it were best to keep that gentle-

man as much as possible under their own Yesterday, it had seemed desirable that Miss Arthur and her flance should be kept out of the house of Oakley. To-day, they agreed that the quicker the pair took up their abode beneath its hospitable roof, the sooner they, Mr. Davlin and his accomplice, would breathe freely. If they could get the two in the same house with themselves, they might yet outwit Mr. Percy-with the aid of their friend and ally, the sham doctor, if in no other way. Meantime, they would not make the robbery known: or rather, they would inform the servants and all others whom it seemed desirable to enlighten, that the girl, Celine, had possessed herself of certain jewels and of Mrs. Arthur's purse,

and fled with her spoils. Accordingly, Hagar was summoned and told of the base ingratitude of the Frenchmaid. Whereupon she was much astonished, and ventilated her opinions of French folk in general, and that one in of damage done by Miss Celine Leroque. Then the kitchen cabinet held a session forthwith, and settled the fate of their departed contemporary, being ably assisted by Hagar

plotters. But he was somewhat surprised | tainly come on the next day's train. upon being desired, by Mr. Davlin, to the manor forthwith. Said invitations examination, he was fully satisfied that there was no fear of contagion from Mrs. Arthur, and but little from her husband; none, in fact, unless they desired to be

The worthy pair set out for the village, Percy on the very threshold of the inn. Having exchanged greetings and cigars, and having discussed the weather and various other interesting topics, the gentlemen sent up their compliments to Miss

They were soon admitted into the presence of that lady, where more skir ! ishing was done, during which Dr. Le Guise unburdened himself, as per programme, and then Mr. Davlin fired his first shot. "By-the-by, Miss Arthur, you may con-gratulate yourself that you did not retain that impostor of a French maid longer in your service."

Lucian had purposely placed himself near the spinster, and where he could observe the face of Percy without seeming to do so. But that gentleman was glaucing lazily out at the window, and was as mental, "Confound his sang froid," as

"She has rebbed my sister of jewels and money to the tune of a couple of thousand, and has cut and run. "Goodness gracious, Mr. Davlin!" shrieked the spinster. But Percy only turned his head lazily, and elevated his eyebrows in mute com-

"Yes," laughing lightly, "I supppose the hussy fancied that she had made a heavier haul still. My sister had about her person some papers, or rather dupli cate papers that are deposited in a safer place. The jade took these also, thinking, no doubt, that they were of value or, perhaps, without examining them to see that they were worse than worthless to her." "Oh, Mr. Davlin, what an artful creature! I was sure she was not quite to be trusted. But who would have supposed

"Oh, she is no doubt a professional belongs to some city 'swell meb,' beg-ging your pardon. But I shall run up to the city to-night, I think, and try and see if the detectives can't unearth her." Still no Agn from Percy; not so much

that she would dare -' gushed Miss Ar-

as the quive of an eyelid.

So Mr. Daylin came straight to the issue, thinkin't that surely Mr. Percy would betray something here; perhaps would refuse to come to Oakley. In such case. Lucian felt that he should be tempted to spring upon and throttle him from sheer desperation.

But again he was mistaken, for no sooner was his invitation extended than Mr. Percy accepted it with evident gratifloation, saying, in his easy drawl: "Shall be delighted to change my quarters. Anything must be an improvement upon this. And as your-ah, Dr. Le Guisesays there is positively no danger, Miss Arthur will of course be rejoiced to re-

Before leaving, Mr. Davlin arranged that the carriage should come for Miss Arthur the next day, and that a porter should immediately transfer their lug-

turn to her proper place." And of course Miss Arthur assented.

back to tell Cora of his mission; "but he turned, Jarvis je ked his thumb toward carries it with a high hand. I didn't him, saying, confidentially:think there was so much real devil in him. He is playing a fine game, but I don't think he can dream that we sus- the game with much enthusiasm. pect him. If we can deceive him in this. and get him into the house, we will be few moments, thought very earnestly. able to accomplish his downfall, I The words of the detective had confirmed

the matter from his own stand-point. "Luck is running into my hand," he Davlin, for some unknown purpose. assured himself. "They are evidently a What that purpose was, he must know at little bit afraid of me; there's nothing any cost. more awe-inspiring than a cool front, and I certainly carry that. Once at Oak- tured, he observed that the group of cardley, it will be strange if I don't fatthom their little mystery. If they are doing ment, Jarvis lounged lazily along and mischief there, I won't be behind in threw himself down upon the seat heads claiming the lion's share of the spoils." According to arrangement. Miss Arthur and her lover were transferred to

Oakley on the following day, and there the game of cross purposes went on. Cora received Miss Arthur with much cordiality, averring that she had missed the society of "dear Ellen," more than she could tell, and declaring that now she should begin to get well in earnest.

Messrs. Davlin and Percy affected much friendliness, and watched each other furtively, day and night. Dr. Le Guise reported an unfavorable change in his insane patient and forbade

them, one and all, to enter his room. Cora and Davlin protested against the doctor's cruel order, but in vain. Mr. his first real venture: "Could you do Percy made no objections, but kept his some work for me to-morrow?" eyes open. One evening, the second of his stay at the manor, he saw, while coming up the stairs with slippered feet. the form of Mr. Davlin as it disappeared around the angle leading to the west wing. Then Mr. Percy stole on until he stood at the door of the wing. Satisfying himself that Daviin was actually within the forbidden room, he waited for nothing further, but glided quietly back to his own door, looking as imperturbable

as ever and saying to himself :-"There is a mystery; and we, rather 1. am not to see Mr. Arthur at present. Well, I don't want to see him; but I

held the clue to your little game, my fair keep long.' Lucian Davlin went to the city, but he avarice combined, had the desired effect. did not set a detective on the track of Jarvis unbent, and became more com-Coline Leroque. He chose his man, one who had served him before, and set him about something quite different. Then he returned, feeling quite satisfied and

#### confident of success. CHAPTER XXXIV.

A SLIGHT COMPLICATION. And what of Celine, or Madeline, as we may call her once more?

She had said, when writing to Olive, that her stay in the city must be very The detective looked grave, and then brief. But even her strong will could not keep off the light attack of fever that was the result of fatigue and exposure to night breezes. And the morning following her arrival at the villa, found her unable to rise from her bed.

Dr. Vaughan was summoned in haste. and his verdict anxiously waited for. "It was a slight fever attack," he said,

"but the wearied out body must not be hurried. It must rest. And he forbade Madeline to leave her room for a week at least unless she ing. Well, the man went out last night her summer's illness.

Madeline did not rebel, but replied, phil osophically :-"I can't afford to take any risks now; I

will be good. But you must watch my interests. During the first day of her "imprisonment," as she aughingly called it. Clarence and Olive were put in possession of ail the facts that had not already been communicated by letter.

namely, that it would be wise for Clarence to make ano her journey to Beliair "They won't be able to accomplish much during the week that I remain inactive," said Madeline. "But it will be sa est to know just what they are about Boides. I have reasons for thinking that Heary is growing dissatisfied, and it is to your interest to keep him where he is for the present. Had a suitable opportunity offered, I should have made him aware of my identity. But as it did not present itself, I left it with Hagar to inform him that he was serving me by re-

maining." Dr. Vaughan prepared to visit Bellair on the second day after the arrival of Madeline. But almost at the moment of starting there came a summons from one of his patients, who was taken suddenly worse. Thinking to take a later train he hastened to the sick man; but the hour for the last train arrived and passed, and still he stood at the bedsice, battling with death. So it transpired that nearly three days had elapsed since the flitting of Celine Leroque, when Dr. Vaughau entered the train that should deposit him at ausk in the vilage of Bel-

It had been prearranged by Madeline and Hagar that, in case of any event which should delay the return of the former on the day appointed, the latter was to visit the post-office and look for particular. Through Hagar, the other | tidings through that medium. Madeline servants, now few in number, were in- | had been due at Oakley the day before, formed of the defalcation, and the extent | and so, of course, to-day Hagar would be

in attendance at the office. Dr. Vaughan had written, at the moment of quitting his office to visit his patient, a hasty supplement to Madeline's letter, stating that he was delayed one The Professor was made no wiser than train, but not to give him up if he did see, they are now at work upon a fine were the rest of the tools who served the not appear that evening. He would cerpiece of rascality She has actually mar-

equip himself for a walk, the object of entered the railway carriage, having brother. In reality, the old man, their vic-which was to allay the alarm of Miss Ar. spent the entire night at the bedside of tim, holds only a life interest in the smoking car, thinking to refresh himself | with the thing in hand, they won't make with a weed. Four men were engressed much And the person who will inherit, in a game of cards not far from him. As after the old gentleman passes away, is they became more deeply interested, and aware of their real character and is ready their voices more distinct above the roar to spring upon them at the proper moof the cars, something in the times of ment' one of the men caught his ear, reminding him of some voice he had sometime "Now, then, there is another of heard or known. The speaker sat with one that occurred some years ago, with his back to the young man, and nothing which this man and woman are conof his countenance visible save the tips of nected, and they are allowed to go free two huge ears. These, too, had a familiar for a little time in order to complete the

> Clarence arose and sauntered to the end of the car, in order to get a view of

never once glanced up. Our here having and work together. Of course, I should taken a good look at the not very pre-possessing face, returned to his seat. He had recognized the man. It was Jarvis, ployed by him to shadow Lucian Davlin. It was not a remarkable thing that Jarvis should leave the city on the same train with himself, but the circumstance, nevertheless, set Clarence thinking. Could it be possible that the man had found something to arouse his suspicions, expressionless as putty. Lucian uttered a and he was fellowing up the eluc on his

> Clarence felt an unaccountable desire to know where the detective was going. If he was going to Bellair, then he must be bought over. If he was going to Hellair, he, Clarence, must know it before the village was reached. It was hardly probable that the man's destination was identical with his own, but he had now

determined to run no risks. Throwing back his overcoat, and setting his hat a trifle on one side. Claren. scuntered up to the group of card players, assuming an appearance of interest in the game. As he paused beside them. Jarvis swept away the last trick of a closely-contested game, and then said, consulting his watch the while:-

"There s for you! I've got just threequarters of an hour to clean you out. se Three-quarters of an hour! The exact time it would take to run to Bellair.

Clarence shifted his position so as to put himself behind the two men seated opposite Jarvis. As he did so, the expert glanced up, encountering the eye of Ur. Vaughan. "How are you?" said the young man, nonchalantly. Jarvis shot him a keen glance of intel-

ligence, and replied, in the same off-hand tone: "High, you bet!" Jarvis was attired like a well-to-do farmer; and Clarence guessed, at a giance, that his three companions were strangers, two of them being commer. isl in one!" tourists, without a doubt, and the third. a ruddy-looking old gent, who might have been anything harmless. Taking his cue from the "make up" of the deir tive, Clarence, after giving him an ex-

pressive glance, said, easily, "Sold your while shuffling the cards: "Every born!" Want to buy?"

Jarvis looked him straight in the eye. "Yes, rather." Jarvis dealt round with great precision,

and then said: "All right Cap. I'll talk with you when I get through this Clarence noddad, and presently saun-

"Young fellow; swell farmer; big stock raiser" And then he plunged into Clarence resumed his sent and, for his suspicion. He now felt assured that Meantime, Edward Percy was viewing Jarvis was bound for Bellair, and if so he was, no doubt, in the employ of Lucian

> By the time his plans were fairly maplayers was breaking up. In another mothrew himself down upon the seat beside

In little more than half an hour they would be due in Bellair, and what Clarence desired to say must be said quickly. Taking out his cigar-case, he offered the man a weed, which was accepted with alacrity, and while it was being lighted, Clarence said: "Are you especially busy

"N-o; only so-so." "Learned anything more in regard "Davlin?" interrogatively.

"No," puffing contentedly; "we don't move in a case after it's paid off." "I see," smiling; and then, making Jarvis looked at him keenly, and Clarence hastened to say, with perfect, ap-

"The fact is I have been put back by a patient, and my own personal affairs have been neglected. So I have been unable to look you up at the office, in order to put a little matter into your hands. To-day I am called away unexpectedly.

Then, as if struck by a sudden thought 'How long will you be out of town?" Jarvis shook his head. "Don't know. "By Jove, what a pity! I'd rather have you than any other man, and I won't stand about money; but my work won't

The doctor's flattery and the detective's municative "Fact is," he said, squaring about, "I don't know my lay just yet"
"No?" inquiringly: "Going far out?"

"Well," as if about to stop the conversation, "I'm sorry you can't do the job. It's big pay and success sure. The truth lowering his voice confidentially there are two parties beside myself interested, and both have plenty of money It's a snug sum to the man who does

became confidential in his turn. "The fact is," -he was fond of using "facts" when it was possible to lug one in-"I am sent out to a small town as a

"Yes: a "ubstitute. You see, one of our

men was detailed to do some work for a thap who came to the Agency from this little town. It was a case of record hunt wished to bring upon herself a return of all O K; he was a little on the sport when off duty, but a tip-top chap when Much to his surprise and gratification, at work Well, he got into a gambling brawl, and this morning they brought him in, done up"

> "Done up?" "Yes; killed, you know"

"Oh!" "And so, you see, I am ordered down here to take the instructions of my gentleman, in the place of my pard, who won't receive any more orders here below." "Then you don't know precisely what Upon one thing they were all agreed,

is required of you?" "No; I was packed off at half an hour's notice, and don't even know the name of my employer. I have my instructions and his address here," tapping his breast pocket. "I believe the party lives out of town, at some manor or

Clarence was thinking fast. There was out one "Manor" in or near Bellair. He ooked at his time-card; there was but ne town between them and that village lolding the card in his hand he said:-"Well, I will try and tell you what I vant done; that is, if there is time-how coon do you leave the train?" Jarvis seented a fat job, and thinking mly of getting the particulars of that reied, rather incautiously, as he con-

"By goshen! it's only two stations off -Bellair" "Oh! Bellair, eh?"

uited the time-card in the hand of Clar-

Jarvis nodded ruefully, and then asked: Where do you land?" Charence smiled a little as he replied: Wait until you hear my business, then ou will know where I am going." "All right; fire away."

dstening attitude. "The truth is, Jarvis, want you back on the old case.' "What, the gambler's?" "Yes, Davlin; he is about at the end of his rope, and will, in a short time, he trying to quit the country. Did you ever we the woman who is his partner in in-

iquity? You heard considerable of her

And the expert settled himself into a

while looking up this business." "Heard of her? I should think so Never saw her, though.' "No matter; you may see her soon. You ried an old man, supposing him to be Clarence was somewhat fatigued as he wealthy, and Davlin is figuring as her his patient. He went forward to the property. So you see, even if they succeed

"Now, then, there is another crime-

evidence in this second case" Jarvis nodded sagely "So you see there will be double fees, the face that, he felt assured, was not un- and large ones First, from the heir, and next, from the parties interested in the The man was absorbed in his game and last case The two are friends, in fact, expect to act according to the rules of your office, and I know that you are paid by your manager, but—if you can put me in possession of all the movements of Lucian Davlin for the next week, in addition to the salary paid you by your head officials, I will promise you one thousand dollars. If, later, you can sup-ply the missing evidence, it shall be five

> he in this train?" "Then where the dev--?" "Wait," interrupted Clarence. "I'll

Jarvis looked hastily behind him. "Is

attend to the business on which you came to Bellair You may obey the instructions you shall receive to the letter But I must know what it is you are bid-Jarvis knitted his brows and finally

said, as if giving up a knotty problem, "Make things plainer; I am befogged" "Plainly, then," said Clarence, "you are going to Bellair; and," drawing out his pocket-book, "you are not retained as yet for this work?"

"Well," placing a one hundred dollar bill in his hand, "I retain you for my case, here and now, and you may accept the other fee if you like"

"Look at the address of your new cl Jarvis took from his pocket a number of cards, shuffled them off deftly and, selecting the right one at last, read slowly the name of his unseen employer Then he glanced quickly up at Clarence, re-read his card, and leaning back upon the cushion, shook with silent laughter

"Well, if you ain't the rummest one yet! And I'm your man! Why, bless my soul, you are a lawyer and detective all Clarence smiled, but he knew this was the highest compliment that Jarvis was

capable of. "Then I may depend upon you?" he asked They were nearing the village of Belcerning his movements, gave him some hasty instructions, and ended by asking:

"When do you go back to the city to re "By the next train. Davlin is expecting me, and I shall take his orders and then go back.'

"Very well; I'll see you in town to morrow. Now, as it won't do to risk the chance of being seen together, I will go into the other car." And Clarence saun-

CHAPTER XXXV.

"THOU SHALT NOT SERVE TWO MASTERS" SET AT NAUGHT.

Meanwhile, as they steamed into the village, which was the destination of both, Mr. Jarvis soliloquized, as he caressed his wallet pocket:-"I know who will butter my bread. Davlin is as slippery as an eel, and will end in trouble Dr Vaughan is a man of

his word, and I don't need his bond I'm sure of one thousand, if not of five And I never was over fond of this gentleman It may be remarked that Davlin was

a man pretty well known by the police and detectives A gambler riding the top wave of success might have found more favor in the eyes of Jarvis But he knew, because of his previous investigations, that Davlin was not "flush" at that time Clarence kept carefully out of sight when the train reached the village Springing lightly to the ground, on the opposite side of the platform, he walked swiftly away, unnoticed in the darkness Once more he crossed the field and knocked at the door of Hagar's cottage, and this time it was Hagar who admit-

Eagerly he listened, while the old woman told him how very fast Cora was recovering now; how they had got Miss Arthur and Percy back into the house; and how careful both Cora and Lucian were to treat them politely Madeline had not confided to Hagar the story of Olive, and the old woman knew no more of Edward Percy than that he was, as she

termed it, "a handsome hypocrite" Clarence questioned Hagar closely Had they made any attempt to find the one who took the papers? "No," Hagar replied; "they had said that Celine Leroque had stolen money and jewels, but they had not said one

word about any papers''
Last of all, she told him how, fearing that Henry was becoming too restive, and fearing, also, the effect of too much of the Professor's medicine upon the somewhat enfeebled system of the prisoner, she had made known to Henry the fact that she was working in the cause of his young lady On learning this, and having it proved to his satisfaction, for he was at first inclined to be skeptical, he had been much delighted, and had since carried out the orders of Madeline

as transmitted through Hagar Their conversation lasted a full hour, and then, having learned all that be learned from that source, and having delivered all of the messages sent by Madeline, he bade the old woman a kind good-night, and retraced his steps across the field and back to the village When the train halted at Bellair, Jarvis seated himself in the smoking-car,

feeling quite satisfied. When the train moved on, he lighted a very black eigar, and began to contemplate the situation. "Well, how do we stand now?" As the voice of Clarence Vaughan fell upon his ear, Jarvis bounded from his

seat like an india rubber ball and stared wildly at the young man who had dropped down into the seat beside him as if from the ceiling. "Well, you are 'a rum one," said he. "Might I ask where you came

"From the ladies' car" "Oh!" with the air of having made a discovery. "So you ride out of the city in a smoking-car for the purpose of riding back in the ladies' carriage? Clarence looked again, settled himself comfortably in his seat and took out his cigar case "Not exactly," proceeding to light a weed. "I am on pretty much the same business that you are, to-night." Then, taking a big puff, "I have been to Bellair, like yourself."

"The deuce you have!" "Yes; how did your business prosper?" Jarvis eyed him sharply "Perhaps you know already." "Perhaps I do You have not got to look for stolen diamonds, have you?" Jarvis laughed derisively.

"Or stolen money?" pursued Clarence Jarvis shrugged his shoulders. "Or stolen-papers?" Jarvis began to look foxy. "Or a runaway young woman?" Jarvis thought furiously for a moment: then turning square upon his interlocutor, said, significantly "So there are stolen

papers?' Clarence smiled, but said nothing. "And," pursued Jarvis, "when one loses one's papers, say deeds, or a-marriage certificate, one naturally thinks of hunting the records for proofs that such papers existed"
"And that is your work?"

Jarvis nodded "Take you out of the city?" "Only a few miles" Clarence reflected for a time, and then said: "You can do your work, but report all discoveries to me."

Jarvis assented, and they continued to talk of the matter in hand until the city was reached. Then, having made an appointment for the coming day, and agreed to let the work of shadowing the gambler or, rather, his business, remain a "private spec" to Jarvis, they separ-Thoroughly wearied, Clarence sought

his bachelor apartments and the repose he so much needed Early the next day he was up, and after paying a visit to his patient, he turned his steps, or the steps of his horse, in the direction of the villa.

He found Madeline sitting up, feeling much better, and looking altogether lovely. Drawing their chairs near together in front of the crackling grate fire, the three discussed the result of the journey to Bellair, Having first related the news imparted by Hagar, Dr Vaughan turned to Madeline and asked:-

"What is your theory, sister mine, in regard to this change at Oakley? Why have they turned about and taken up Miss Arthur and her flance with such sudden affection. Have you guessed?" The girl smiled up at him as she replied: "Certainly; have you not?" "You incorrigible little lawyer! Yes, but give us yours first"

"Why," said Madeline with a light laugh, "I suppose they have been suspecting the wrong party. They think that I was an emissary of Mr Percy's" "Undoubtedly that is the truth," assented Clarence

"And," added Madeline, "believing the documents in his possession, it is easy to understand that they prefer having the gentleman under the same roof "True; now, the question that interests us is, how long will it be before they

find out their mistake?" "I think," said the girl, reflectively, "that their game will be covert, not open, attack, from the fact that they have kept the loss of the papers so carefully from the servants. If this is true, they will move cautiously, and aim to convince the man that they do not sus-

Clarence nodded "You see the necessity for action, do you not?" Madeline said, after a silence "I must make my next move within a

"I don't fancy that we need fear any new developments that will be dangerous to our cause just yet" Then he told them of his meeting with his detective, and its results, adding: "You see Jarvis can withhold his reports to suit our convenience and you can

grow strong feeling secure." Meantime Jarvis set about his task of record hunting. He was energetic and resolute as a sleuth hound on the scent; so he soon made one or two discoveries One day, very cleverly gotten up as a dapper lawyer, he dropped in at the office of Messrs Lord & Myers, bankers Mr Lord was an old man with a shrewd. twinkling eye; and as the sham lawyer had selected his time wisely, he found the

old banker alone They were closeted in close converse for nearly half an hour, at the end of which time, the dapper lawyer took his departure, looking rather downcast; and Mr Lord, with his little eyes brighter than ever, sat down and penned a letter to his friend and brother banker, Mr Allyne, of Baltimore

CHAPTER XXXVI

MR. LORD'S LETTER. The friendship that had sprung up between Claire Keith and Mrs Ralston, grew and strengthened as the days went

Claire's enthusiasm had overflowed in more than one letter to Olive. The oft-repeated wish that her new friend and her much-loved sister might meet, had at last Dunlap, McKim & Downs. drawn from that somewhat preoccupied sister a very cordial invitation to bring Mrs Ralston to New York When this inivtation came, Claire, feeling that it was now time to unfold to her friend the sad pages of Olive's history, sought her for that purpose But as tshe deemed that the time had not ye come for telling anyone of the hoped-for lifting of the cloud, especially as to do so she must tell, too, of Madeline, she refrained from mentioning the names of the actors in that miserable drama

Mrs Ralston was deeply interested in the story of Olive's sorrow; and having heard it, she felt a stronger desire than before to see this beautiful, sad-hearted sister, who was so beloved by Claire Bending down she kissed the fair face, flushed with the excitement Claire always felt when recounting her sister's

wrongs, and those of Philip Girard, and said, tenderly "Thank your sister in my name, my darling And tell her that I will certainly avail myself of her kind invitation, at Claire's eyes danced eagerly "Oh, wish we could go now—at least, soon" Fate chose to grant Claire's desire in a most unexpected manner, for while they were still sitting, talking, in the semi-twilight, the library door opened

and a servant announced Mr Allyne, to see Mrs Ralston At once Mrs Keith and her daughter arose to leave the room But Mrs Ralston said, earnestly-"Pray, do not go; there can be no need for a private interview. And as at that moment Mr. Allyne himself appeared on the threshold, the

ladies all advanced to welcome him, and, this ceremony being over resumed their "I have received a letter from Mr. Lord" said Mr. Allyne after some mo ments of general conversation "Read it

and then tell me your opinion of its con-The lady took the letter, looking somewhat anxious As she read the look of apprehension deepened When at last she dropped the letter her hands were trembling visibly and her face was pale and agitated For a moment she sat in silence. her eyes full of fear and her hands working nervously Then she seemed to recover herself by a powerful effort of will Taking up the letter, she placed it in the hand of Mrs Keith saying: "Read it, dear

friend' Mrs Keith took the letter and read:-"New York Dec. 7th

"Dear Sir-A man assuming to be a lawyer called on me this afternoon and requested information regarding our friend Mrs Ralston. If I am not much mistaken he is in reality a detective-I think I remember him in the Mallory case-and is, doubtless, looking up evidence in regard to the lady's second and most unfortunate marriage, either at the instigation of her vagabond husband or some of his supposed heirs "If you know the present address of Mrs R, it would be well to communicate

"Having no authority to act in the matter, I could do no more than baffle this man's inquiries so far as I was concerned, much as I desire to serve the lady

with her, as some of her old servants are

now in this city, at service, and this fel-

low might ferret out something through

when I know the way "One thing: the fellow evidently believes in the story of her death. "Yours, etc

"J M LORD"

The three, Mrs Ralston Claire and Mr Allyne listened in silence while Mr Keith read this letter When at last she raised her eyes Mrs Ralston said:-"I must go to New York immediately Mrs Keith, and do pray allow Claire to accompany me; I must accept of the hospitality of Mrs Girard and I cannot go

Mrs Keith looked grave for a moment Then she said: "Mr Allyne, is it necessary that Mrs. Ralston should go at "I think it advisable," replied Mr. Allyne. "Once in New York, Lord can receive Mrs. Ralston's instructions, and act for her. In cases like these I don't think it is best to trust to correspond-

"And, oh! don't let us delay a moment! Once there, I can keep my old May 18, 1896. servants, who are all true friends, from madvertently betraying me. And I can trust Mr. Lord to find out who is the instigator of this search," said Mrs. Ralston, eagerly. "Mr. Allyne, when can we start; how soon?' "Not earlier than to-morrow morning." "Claire, can you be ready on such short

notice?" asked the now anxious lady. "I? Ob, yes, indeed!" laughed the girl. "I could be ready in an hour. I do detest waiting-don't you, Mrs. Ralston?" "Very much, just now," said that lady, making an effort to smile; "forgive me, dear friends, but I am really unstrung. The thought of being hunted by that man is too horrible, after these RE - LINING STOVE - OVENS years of peace. "Then don't think of it, dear Mrs.

villa. And you can set things straight soon, when we have arrived. There can't be much to fear, can there, Mr. Allyne?' "Nothing very formidable," said the banker, rising to take his leave. "Pray, don't exaggerate the trouble. Mrs. Ralston. Prompt attention, such as Lord will give the matter, will make all safe.

Ralston," cooed Claire. "You will be

Besides, he is not hunting you; the man thinks you dead.' "True; I had forgotten," said the lady, looking somewhat reassured, "Claire, we will pack to-night, and then try and be content until it is time to go." "Meantime, I will telegraph to Lord and let him know that you will come, and when," said Mr. Allyne, taking up his hat to depart.

The morning of their departure dawned clear and bright. Claire was in extravagant spirits, while even Mrs. Ralston sedemed to catch the infectious cheeriness of the day, and her companion's When they were about to enter the car-

riage that was to take them to the depot, a letter was put into the hand of Miss Keith. She flung back her veil and leaning back among the cushions perused it in attentive silence. Having finished, she looked up with a little frown upon her brow, and exclaimed:-"How very provoking!"

Mrs Ralston looked alarmed "Is your "Oh, no; it's Madeline" "The young girl I have heard you speak of?"

"No; she got well, just to avoid me "Yes; or will be, when we arrive Why how stupid I am not to explain! Mad week She has been sick, but is better and will leave to-day" Claire had said but little concerning Madeline, fearing lest in her enthusiasm she should say too much. But she has revolved many plans for bringing about

(To be continued.)

a meeting between Mrs. Rabton and he

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