

teach me, I might breathe again outside the four stone walls; for, by my steppapa's commands, I was not permitted to roam outside the sisters' domains until my studies should reach an end. Then they brought me back, and my polite step-paps called me an 'educated idiot ;' and my good old Hagar cried over me and I made friends with the birds and the trees. Ever since, always avoiding my worthy ancestor-in-law, I have been wondering what it would be like to be happy among true friends, in a bright spot somewhere, far away from this place, where I never have been happy for a day at a time, even as a chlid."

"Never, little girl?" The eyes were very reproachful, and the man's hand was held out entreatingly. "Never, darling?"

She loked up in his face shyly, yet trustfully, and then putting her hand in soothed by their songs. his, mid: "Never, until I knew you, Lucian; and always since, I think, ex-

She hesitated, and the color fled out of her face.

"Except when I think that the day draws near when you will leave me. And when the great world has swallowed one, fatal for each. you up, you will forget the 'little girl' you found in the woods, perhaps.'

A smile fitted across the face of the listener, and he turned away for a moment to conceal the lurking devil gleam ing out of his eyes. Then, flinging away his half-finished cigar, he took both her hands in his, and, looking down into her | develop much of stately grace; a comclear eyes, said :

"Then don't let me go away from you, beauty. Don't stay here to make dismal meditations among the gloomy trees. Don't pass all the weary winter with Curmudgeon, who will marry you to an old bag of gold. Come with me; come to the city and be happy. You shall see all the glories and beauties of the gay, bright world. You shall put dull care far behind you. You shall be my little Queen s. to love and care for

Well, I'll find that out, too. from her mockery of a home, from her parent, unnatural, unloving, and unloved, to an uuknown, untried world, which

CHAPTER II.-THE OLD TREE'S was all embodied in one word-Lucian. REVELATIONS.

Meanwhile, strange feelings filled the heart, and troublesome thoughts the head, of Madeline Payne.

She looked about her sorrowfully. The leafy wood seemed one of her oldest. truest friends. Since her mother's death she had lived, save for the faithful regard of old Hagar, an unloved life. In the only home she knew, she felt herself an object of dislike, and met only cold neglect or rude repulsion. So she had made a friend of the shady wood, and welcomed back the birds in early spring-

time with joyful anticipation of summer rest under green branches, lulled and

Wandering here, the acquaintance between herself and Lucian Davlin had begun. Here six long, bright weeks of the springtime had passed, each day find-

ing them lingering longer among the leafy shadows, and drawing closer about them both the cords of a destiny sad for Standing with hands clasped loosely

before her, eyes down dropped, and foot tapping the mossy turf, Madeline presented a picture of youth and loveliness such as is rarely seen even in a beautyabounding land. A form of medium height which would, in later years, plexion of lily-like fairness; and eyes as deep and brown, as tender and childlike,

as if their owner were gazing, ever and always, as infants gaze who see only great, grand wonders, and never a woe or fear.

steady movement.

With a wee, small mouth, matching the eyes in expression, the face was one to strike a casual observer as lovely-as childishly sweet, perhaps. Yet there was something more than childishness in the broad brow and firm chin. The little

at the young girl before her. Suddenly she leaned forward and taking the fair head between two trembling hands. gazed long at her. As if satisfied at last with her scrutiny, she drew a deep, sigh-The past held for her many dark ing breath, and leaned back in her chair. shadows; the future held all that she "It's true," groaned Hagar; "it's too true! She has found it out, and my lit-

craved of joy and love-Lucian. tle girl has gone away, has gone away :--In her outraged heart there was no my Baby Madeline is become a woman. room for grief. She had heard her dead There was never a coward in all the race. mother scorned, and by him who, more and a Payne never forgave! It has come than all others, should have cherished at last," she wailed, "and now, what her memory and honored her name. She had heard herself bartered away, as a will she do?" Madeline lost not a look nor tone and parcel of goods, and her very life weighed

when the old woman ceased her rocking in the balance as a most objectionable thing Her happiness was scoffed at; her and moaning, she suggested, with a half wishes ignored as if without existence, smile: "Hadn't I better marry old Adam. and, contrary to all nature; even her

auntie, worry them both into untimely Slowly she turned away, and very graves, and be a rich young widow?" thoughtful was her face is she went Hagar gazed at her in silence. And Madeline, taking her hand in her own, but fixed in its purpose as fate itself said: "Shall I tell you how I discovered and fearless still as if life had no dark all this, auntie, dear?" places, no storm clouds, no despair.

"Yes, child go on," And she bent Oh, they were lovely, innocent eyes upon the girl a look of attention. and oh! it was a sweet, sweet mouth But the eyes never wavered, and the Madeline drew close to her side, and briefly related what had transpired while mouth had no trace of weakness in it she sat in her favorite tree, not stating, dainty curves. You have reckoned with by the by, how it occurred that she was out your host, John Arthur. It is n in the grove at that very opportune time. common .place school girl with whom you

have to deal. Madeline Payne possesses Hagar's indignation was unbounded. nature all untried, yet strong for good o but she continued to gaze at Madeline in a strange, half fearful, half wondering, evil. Intense in love or hate, fearless t do and dare, she will meet the fate you wholly expectant way, that the girl could not interpret. bring upon her-but woe to those wh And now, Aunt Hagar," pursued have compassed her downfall! If your

Madeline, seriously, "I want to underhand has shaped the destiny of her life stand this matter more fully, and I will she will no less over-rule your future not say a word of my plans until you and, from afar-penaps unrecognized. have told me what I came to hear. I unseen-mete out to you measure for shall not come to you again for this information; it is surely my right, and

The grand old tree is sighing out farewell. The sunlight is casing fan time now is precious." Madeline half rose, seeing that her tastic shadows where her foot, but a moment since, rested. The leaves glister nurse still rocked dismally and looked irresolute. "I can bide my time, and and whisper strange things. The golde: fight my battles alone, if need be," she buttercups laugh up n the sun's face, a continued, coldly. "I won't trouble you if there were no drama of loving an

plainly as words could do, that she shared TOOTH BRUSHES, HAIR BRUSHES, COMBS in this belief. The girl went on, in the TOOTH FOWDERS AND PASTES same rapid, firm tone :

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"He killed the mother for gold, and now he would sell her child. He will fail; and this is but the beginning. As he drove my mother into her grave, I will hunt him into his! He shall suffer all that she suffered, and more! I know where you obtained your independence now, Aunt Hagar; and he hates you doubly because my mother's love provided for you a home, and for her child a haven in time of need. It was well, Keep the old cottage open for me. Aunt Hagar. Keep an eye on John Arthur. for my sake. Never fear for me, whatever happens. Expect to hear from me at any time, to see me at any moment. Don't answer any questions about me. A thousand thanks for all your love and kindness, auntie; good-by.' Before the old woman could recover

from her astonishment, or utter a word. Madeline had kissed her, swiftly taken up the precious package, and was gone! Hagar hastened to the door, but the girl was speeding swiftly down the path, and was quickly lost to view "Oh! Oh! Oh! 'n oaned Hagar, seat-

ing herself in the door way; "her father's passion and her mother's pride! Sorrow and trouble before ber, and s.e all alone, dark, dark, dark the world against her! Sorrow and trouble-it's in the ldood ! And she'll never give is up! She'll fight

her wrongs to the bitter end. Oh, my precious girl!" and she buried her head in her apron and wept. To be Continued.

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Sweetheart, will you come?"

He was folding her close now, and she nestled in his arms with perfect trustfuluess, with untold ha piness shining in her bright eyes. She was in no haste to answer his eager question, and he smiled again; and once more the lurking devil laughed out of his eyes. But he held her tenderly to him, in silence for a time, and then lifted the blushing face to his own.

"Look up, Aileen my own! Is it to be as I wish? Will you leave this place with me to-morrow night?"

The girl drew back with a start of surprise. "You-you surely are not going to-morrow, Lucian," and the gentle voice trembled.

"I must, little one-have just received a letter calling me back to the city. Your sweet face has already kept me here too long. But I shall take it back with me, shall I not, love; and never lose it more?"

The girl was silent. She loved him only too well, and yet this peremptory wooing and sudden departure struck upon her naturally sensitive nerves as something harsh and unpleasant. She would not leave behind much love, would be missed by few friends, and yet-to leave her home once was to leave it forever, and it was home, after all. She looked at the man before her, and a something, her good angel, perhaps, seemed, almost against herself. to move her to rebel.

"Why must I go like a runaway, Lucian? I can't bear to bid you go, and yet, if you must, why not leave me for a little time? My father will never consent, I well know, but let me tell him, and then go openly, after he has had time to become familiar with the idea." "After he has had time to lock you up Recollect, you are not of age, Aileen. After he has had time to force you into a marriage with your broken-backed old lover. After he has had time to poison your mind against me-"

"Lucian! as if he could do that, he, indeed !' The girl laughed scornfully. It is not difficult to guess how this affair would have terminated. The man was handsome and persuasive; the girl trustful, loving, and, save for him, so she thought, almost friendless.

But an unexpected event interrupted the eloquence flowing from the lips of Lucian Davlin, and set the mind of the girl free to think one moment, unbiassed by the mesmeric power of his mind, eye and touch.

They were standing in a little grove, near which ran the footpath leading into the village of Bellair. Suddenly, as if he had dropped from one of the wide spreading trees, a very fat boy, with a shining face and a general air of "know. ingness," appeared before them.

"but as you told me if a tellergram come for you, to fetch it here, so I did.

And staring at Madeline the while, he feature of his ugly face seemed at war John Arthur, who professed to adore th produced a yellow envelope from some with every other; while the glance of you, who never showed an atom of fear Best Family Flour, Meals, Hay, Oats, feed of all kinds. produced a yellow envelope from some with every other; while the glance of interior region, and presented it to his greenish gray eye was such as would were a bit afraid, when you were out in LETTER HEADS. child for the sake of the father, an Pork, Beef, Herring, Codfish, Molasses, Sugars. Oils, Tobacco, Etc Etc NOTE HEADS. through the baby Madeline, gradual Lucian Davlin, who tore open the cover, cause a right-minded person involuntari-BILL HEADS, wou his way in the mother's esteem. Mr CHEAPEST STORE IN TOWN, the woods, for instance, and meet a longand took in the purport of the message | ly to cross himself and utter, with perlegged animal with a smooth tongue, and Payne was deeply grateful, and i CARDS, at one glance. His face wore a variety of fect propriety, the Pharisee's prayer. Don't forget the PIANO-each dollar purchase, one ticket. mother's heart was touched by the dev eyes that ought to make you nervous, expressions. Annoyance, satisfaction, "The mischief fly away with you, RAILWAY RECEIPTS, Ready-Made Clothing, Dry Goods, Caps, Robes, Horse-Rugs. tion of Arthur to her little child. So surprise, all found place as he read. He 'twouldn't be to your discredit. I think. man," said Mr, Arthur, seating himself SHIPPING RECEIPTS, came about that, after a time, she gay Boots and Shoes, Overshoes, Rubbers, Moccasins, Etc., Etc., Of course, I don't mean to say that you stood in a thoughtful attitude for a brief upon the fallen tree, and striking at the ENVELOPES, him her hand, and all of her hear do'nt meet him quite by accident; oh, time, and then, as if he had settled the At the greatest bargains ever were known. ground fiercely with his cane; "what is was not buried with Lionel, A li TAGS, ETC no! And I don't say that he ain't a very matter in his own mind, said : my dead wife to you? Madeline makes DONT FORGET the piano; each dollar's worth you buy you receive "All right, Mike. Go back now, and my life a burden by these same queries. later she learned that her uncle w nice, respectable sort of ohap, whatever I A full stock of paper, envelopes, tags and tell Bowers to prepare to leave to-night. It's none of your business why the dedead, and she became mistress of a hat. may think, You are just like your poor one ticket. printers stationary on hand. Come or I'll come down and send the required parted Mrs. Arthur left her property to mother, and if this fellow with a name some fortune, MERRY X'MAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL. send o answer immediately. Here, take this," me during my life, and tied it up so as to Soon came the knowledge that that might as well be Devil, and done husband's heart was not all gold, Tossing him a piece of money, Lucian make me only nominal master-mine to with it-" THE LEADING JOB - PRINTING OFFICE. turned to Madeline, over whose face a use. but not to sell, not one acre, not a the suspicion, as well, that her unclo's "There now, auntie-" Madeline's W T HARRIS. took of sorrowful wonder was creening. D. G. SMITH; CHATHAM, NOONAN BLOCK. the second provide and the second second

hating, sin and atonement, daily enacted white hands were shapely and strong. on their green, m perly bosom. An and the dainty feet pressed down the daisies softly yet firmly, with quiet but darkness beyond. Many a man has been mistaken in baby mouth and sweetly-smiling eyes. And

measure

liberty was menaced.

whoso should mistake Madeline Payne, in the time to come, for "just a child and CRIME.

nothing more," would reckon unwisely, Nurse Hagar was displeased. She plice and mayhap learn this truth too late. her knitting-needles fiercely, and seemed Madeline sat down upon a fallen tree, to rejoice in their sharp clicking. She where she had so often talked with her rocked furiously backwards and forwards. lover. She looked up into the wide and sharply admonished the cat to "take spreading branches overhead. There was himself away," or she "would certainly the crooked bough where she had, often rock on his tail.' She "wanted to de and often, in past days, sought refuge something to someb dy, she did!" She when troubled by her father's harshness, looked across the fiel ; in the direction of or haunted by dreams of the mother she Oakley, and dropping her knitting and had hardly known. It looked cool and bringing her chair to a tranquil state. inviting, as if she could think to better purpose shrouded by the whispering

leaves. She stepped upon the fallen trunk, and, springing upward, caught a have feelings. They run away after a ne.. bending limb, and was soon seated cosily face, and if it's a young one and a handaloft, smiling at thought of what Lucian would say could he see her there. Long some one, they turn everybody out of their thoughts; everybody else. No she pondered, silent, motionless. Finally, that I think that city fellow's a hand. stirring herself and shaking lightly an some chap; by no means," she grumb overhanging friendly branch, she exled; "but Maidie does; that's certain sure. And she won't let me say a word

the present. I'll tell step-papa that I love Lucian, and will never marry his friend, Amos Adams, the old fright! I'll try and be very calm, and as dutiful as maybe. Then, if he turns me out, very well. If he shuts me up-" Her eyes flashed and she laughed; but there was little of mirth in the laugh er-"Why, then, I would lead him a life, I think! Yes, I'll

bid Lucian good-by, for a little while, and I'll try and not miss him tco much. for-Oh! She had been very busy with her own

half-spoken thoughts, else she must have sooner discovered their approach, for now they were almost underneath her, and they were no less personages than her step-father, John Arthur, and her would-

be suitor. Amos Adams. Madeline was about to make known her presence, but her ear caught the fragment of a sentence in which her name held prominent place. Acting upon every feature. impulse, she remained a silent, unsus-

pected listener. And so began in her heart and life that drama of pain and passion, sin and mystery that should close round, and harden and blight the darkening future

ot Madeline Payne. A more marked contrast than the two men presented could scarcely be imagin-

John Arthur might have been, evidently had been, a handsome man, years ago. But it did not seem possile that, even in his palmiest days, Amos Adams could have been called anything save a fright. He was much below the medium height.

Madeline Payne has put her childhoo behind her, and turned her face to the

CHAPTER III .-- THE STORY OF A down."

follows:

soliloquized : "It's always the way with young folks they don't never remember that old un

'That will be best! I'll stay here for about him-oh, no; I'm a poor old woman, and my advice is not wanted !" Hagar resumed her knitting and her rocking with fresh vigor, But her face relaxed a measure of its grimness as. looking up, her eye rested on a dainty nosegay, tossed in at the window only that morning by this same neglectful

young girl. "She don't mean to forget me, to be

sure," she resumed. "She is always kind and gentle to her old nurse. She is lonesome, of course, and should have young company, like other girls, but-" here the needles slacked again-"drat that

city chap! I wish he had stayed away from Bellair. "Goodness, auntie, what a face! I am

almost afraid to come in.' Madeline laughed, despite her anxiety, as Aunt Hagar permitted her opinion of the "city feller" to manifest itself in

"Get that awfully defiant look out of your countenance, auntie," continued Madeline; "for I'm coming in to have a

long talk with you, and I must not be frightened in the beginning." The lovely face disappeared from the

open window, and in a moment reappeared in the doorway. To permit herself to be propitiated in a moment, however, was not in the nature

of Dame Hagar. "I s'pose you think it's very respectful

again, nurse," turnnig as if to go. Spruce Lumber, Laths and Anthracite Coal, "Stop, child !" oried Hagar "let an old woman think. I'll tell you all I can; 129 BROAD STREET, all I know. Don't turn away from your | COR. SOUTH STREET, NEW YORK. old nurse, dearie; her only thought is for your good. Yes; you must not be left

he prices are right.

MERCHANTS,

in the dark now-sit down, child; sit Madeline resumed her seat, and old Hagar, after another season of moaning ASK FOR

and rocking, proceeded to relate, with many wanderings from the point, and many interpolations and opinions of her own, the brief, sad : ory of Mrs. Arthur's married life and early death. Bereft of Hagar's ornamental extras, it was as

Madeline Harcourt, an orphan and the adopted daughter of a wealthy bachelor uncle, had incurred his displeasure by loving and marrying Lionel Payne, handsome, brave to a fault with no other wealth than his keen intellect his unsullied honor and his loving manly heart. Lionel Payne had entered upon the study of law, but circumstances threw in his way certain mysteries that had long been puzzling the heads of the foremost detectives, and the young law student discovered in himself not only a

marked taste for the study of mysteries, but a talent that was remarkable. So he gave up his law studies to become a detective He rose rapidly in his new profession, giving all the strength of his splendid ability to the study of intricate and difficult cases, and became known among detectives, and dreaded among

criminals, as "Payne, the Expert." He had lived two happy years with his young wife, and been six months the proud father of baby Madeline, when he fell a victim to his dangerous pursuit, shot dead by a bullet from the hand of a

fleeing assassin. John Arthur had been a fellow law student with Lionel Payne, and he had followed the career of the young expert with curious interest, being, as much as was possible to his selfish nature, a friend

and admirer of the rising young detective. And Lionel Payne, open and manly himself, and seeing no trace of the serpent in the seeming disinterestedness of Arthur, introduced him proudly into his happy home. Arthur was struck by the beauty of the young wife, and became a frequent and welcome visitor.

One day there came to the office where John Arthur earned his bread reluctantly, as a salaried clerk, the uncle of Madeline Payne. He had come to make a will, in which he left all his possessions to his beloved niece, Madeline, and her heirs forever after. This was several

months before the sudden death of Lionel Payne. to pop your saucy head in at an old Send your orders to Ten months after she became a widow. woman's window, and set her all of a Madeline's uncle died. Left alone with Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, and Chickens. tremble, and then tell her, because she her little child, and with no resources is not grinning for her own amusement. Raisins, Currants, Candied Peels. "I beg pardia', sir," proclaimed he. but her own efforts, Madeline's mothe that she looks awfully cross, and that His head was sunken between Essences, Spices, Apples, Grapes. struggled on, ever the object of the kin you are afraid she will bite you. You shoulders, and thrust forward, and each -FOR YOUR-Figs, Nuts, Confectionery, Cigars Etc. Etc. watchfulness and unobtrusive care are a nice one to talk of being afraid;

Sinks, Iron Pipe, Baths, Creamers the very best, also Japanned stamped and plain tinware in e.d-less variety, all of the best stock which I will sell low for cash A.C. McLean Chatham. Correspondence and Consignments Soliicited

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