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CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, MARCH 19, 1896.

CHAPTER III .- THE MYSTERY. what has been recognized in such

MR. AND IMRS. PEACOCKE.

matters, ought not to be elucidated Mr. Peacocke himself said that in this till, let us say, the last chapter but two so latter a great deal of fuss was made about nothing. Perhaps it was so. He got a that your interest should be maintained almost to the end, -so near the end that ducking. but being a strong swimmer, probably suffered no real danger. The boy, rolling down three or four feet of bank, there should be left only space for those little arrangements which are necessary for had then fallen down six or eight feet into the weil-being, or perhaps for the evil-bethe water. He might no doubt, have been ing, of our personages. It is m7 purpose to disclose the mystery at once, and to ask much hurt. He might have struck against you to look for your interest, ---should you a rock and have been killed, -in which case Mr. Peacocke's prowess would have choose to go on with my chronicle,-simply in the conduct of my persons, during been of no avail. But nothing of this kind this disclosure, to others. You are to happened. Little Jack de Lawle was put know it all before the Doctor or the to bed in one of the rectory bedrooms, and was comforted with sherry-negus and Bishop,-before Mrs. Wortle or the Hon. sweet jelly. For two days he rejoiced thoroughly in his accident, being freed from school, and subjected only to car-esses. After that he rebelled, having be-come tired of his bed. But by that time Mrs. Stantiloup, or Lady de Lawle,-you are to know it all before the Peacockes became aware that it must necessarily be disclosed to any one. It may be that when I shall have once told the mystery there his mother had been most unnecessarily will no longer be any room or interest in the tale to you That there are many such summoned. Unless she was wanted to readers of novels I know. I doubt whether examine the forlorn condition of his the greater number be not such. I am far clothes, there was nothing that she could from saying that the kind of interest of do. But she came and, of course, shower-ed blessings on Mr. Peacocke's head,which I am speaking, -and of which I intend to deprive myself,-is not the most while Mrs. Wortle went through to the natural and the most efficacious. What

would the 'Black Dwarf' be if any one

known that Colonel Ferdinand Lefroy had been in St. Louis. Then there came to him an idea that even she might disbelieve the words which he had spoken,better to do its work. that even she might think his story to have been false. But to this she soon put an end. "Dearest," she said, "I never special stomach. The whole interior of the knew a word that was true to come from body serves that parpose. his mouth, or a word that was true to come from his mouth, or a word that was false from yours." Should they part? There is no one who reads this but will say that they should have parted. Every day passed to-gether as man and wife must be a false-bood and a size. hood and a sin. There would be absolute misery for both in parting; but there is to escape from misery at the expense of falsehood and sin. Though their hearts Roger Flanagan's no law from God or man entitling a man might have burst in the doing of it, they should have parted. Though she would have been friendless, alone, and utterly despicable in the eyes of the world, aban-doning the name which she cherished as not^sher own, and going back to that which she utterly abhorred, still she should have done it. And he, resolving, as no doubt he would have done under any circumstances, that he must quit the city of his adoption,-he should have left her with such material sustenance as her spirit GROCERIES & PROVISIONS would have enabled her to accept; should have gone his widowed way, and endured R. as best he might the idea that he had left the woman whom he loved behind, in the desert, all alone! That he had not done so the reader is aware. That he had lived a life of sin, —that he and she had continued in one great falsehood, —is manifest enough. Mrs. Stantiloup, when she hears it all, will have her triumph. Lady de Lawle's soft heart will rejoice because that NOTHING TOO GOOD invitation was not accepted. The Bishop will be unutterably shocked; but perhaps to the good man there will be some solace in the feeling that he had beer right in his **C**. surmises. How the Doctor bore it this story is intended to tell, -and how also Mr. and Mrs. Peacocke bore it, when the

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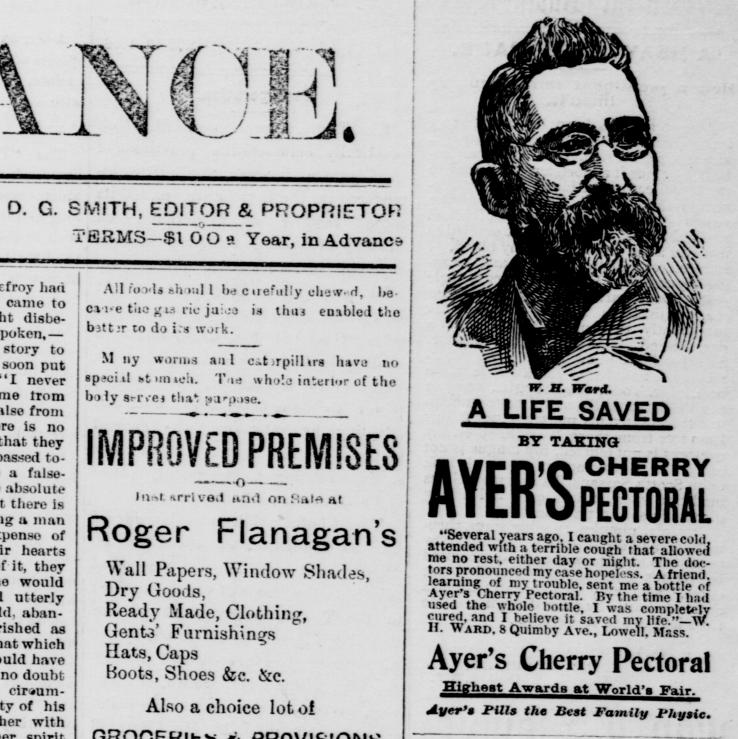
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