Tulloch P

NOW FIRST PUBLISHED

A Winning Hazard,

BY MRS. ALEXANDER.

Author of "Her Dearest Foe," "The Wooing O't," "A Crooked Path," &c., &c.

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SYNCPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS.

CHAPTER I.—Kate and Alicia Carey are daughters of a Dublin solicitor, who, through misfertune, leaves Ireland for Wales with a view to economy. While in Wales they meet Mr. Brett, a wealthy railway contractor, who fell in love with Kate. He induces her father to go to London to seek employ ment, saying he will introduce him to his agents, Messrs. Winks and Bouchier. This he fails to do. Kate Carey writes to Mr. Winks, unkn wn to her father, and encloses two letters in which Mr. Brett promises assistance, asking for employment for halfather. She anxiously awaits a reply but does had receive one. She, however received a letter receive one. She, however received a letter from her cousin. Dick Travers, advising that he is

from her cousin. Dick Travers, advising that he is in London and about to call upon them

CHAPTER II.— Mr. Carey and his daugh'er, rambling over the hill, come across a shooting party, among whom is Dick Travers, Dick who has had some reverses, is now secretary to Lord Balmuir.

Carey at length hears from Bouchier and Wincks, making an appointment at their office in London.

Carey, accompanied by Kate, sees Mr. Wincks, and accepts a position as clerk. Wincks speaks to Kate with a view of employing her also.

CHAPTER III.—Carey, settled in his situation, proves himself use ul. Kate is surprised by a visit from Dick, and an hour passes pleasantly. Dick, on leaving, promises frequent visits. Carey, returning home in the evening, is much excited over a new railway scheme of his own. Kate receives a new railway scheme of his own. commun'cation from Wincks, asking for her presence at her house next evening.

CHAPTER IV.—Kate keeps her appoin ment, and received by Mr. and Miss Wincks—by the latter meet Miss Wincks' approval. She leaves with a law deed to copy out. On Sunday Dick comes to dinner, and a few family matters are explained. Kate again sees Mr. Wincks, who shows himself pleased with her progress and gives her further work, which this time will be paid for. Miss Wincks is more cordial than before, and promises to give Kate lessons in knitting.

CHAPTER v.—Mr. Carey gets promotion and an increase of salary Mr. Wincks becomes il and Kate offers her services to read to him, which are accepted. Miss Wincks consents, but with bad grace. Wincks recovers and his sister becomes more jealous, Wincks offers Kate a present, and she selects a book. Dck Travers arrives and calls on the Careys. He speaks of James Tulloch a rich friend of his, bling in London. Kate and Travers take a walk.

CHAPTER VI.-Travers gets a note from James Tulk ch, who has been in Scotland, announcing his return to London. They meet, for the first time in four years. Tulloch it quires about the Careys and learn of their reverses in fortune. He promises to call on them and does so on the following Sunday in company with Travers. They are made welcome. Tulloch, who has tot seen Kate since she was a little girl, conceives a great admiration for her, and tells Travers of it. Mr. Carey was not at home when they called, but he writes a note inviting them both to dinner on the following Wednesday. CHAPTER VII - Travers and Tulloch go to dinner ing about to go to Ireland on a special mission for Mr. Wincks. Mr. Carey has a scheme for establish-Tulloch hints that he would advance some capital to enable him to enter the firm. Tulloch becomes On the way home Tullock learns that Carey has no means, and tells Travers he is not seeking a penni-

less bride. Mr. Carey departs on his mission to Ireland. CHAPTER VIII Travers invites Alicia and Kate to the theatre. Alicia being away for the evening Kate goes alone. On the way home a shaft of the carriage breaks, and Kate's shoulder is burt and in his excitement Travers betrays his affection for his cousin. Kate goes to see Wincks and has a confidential chat with him. On her return she finds Jamie Tulloch in the drawing room and Alicia

making tea for him. CHAPTER IX-CONTINUED.

"So you've missed Travers! 'exclaimed that gentleman, starting up to greet her. "He's gone to look for you. Ho wdid you miss him?"

"The evening was so fine I came back another and a longer way," returned Kate, sinking into a chair with a sense of not

being able to bear much more. "Very toolish of you!" cried Alicia, "when you know you have been suffering all day with that shoulder. Have a cup of tea! It is nearly three hours since we had

"What's wrong with your shoulder?" asked Tulloch. Whereupon Alicia gave' full account of the accident, while Kate drank her tea in silence.

"Well!' exclaimed Tulloch, "I flatter myself I would have taken better care of you than that, I thought Travers too keen and quick a chap not to have saved you to do tomorrow, Jamie. Suppose you come from so nasty a bruise!"

"How could he?" said Kate, rather indignantly. "We both pitched forward before we knew where we were, and then, as the seat was unusually high, or that iron thing low, I came against it! The bruise is not so bad. The pain is much better. I hope Dick will not wait about too long."

"On of course, Dick Travers is always is right " returned Tulloch, with a laugh. es, very otten, at least" said Kate,

"At any rate, in your eyes," added

Tulloch. "We expect papa on Saturday," she remarked, to change the subject. It will be delightful to have him at home again, and then, Jamie, we must have that expedition to the Crystal Palace."

"Yes we must," sgreed Tulloch. He paused, contemplating Kate earnestly with a slight knitting of the brows. "I say," he continued, "you are looking white, and bad enough."

"What an uncivil speech!" she exclaimed, rising to put down her cup, and then moving to the window, where the curtain shaded her from the gaslight. As she did so the front door bell rang, and in a minute or two Travers came in.

"I have been unsuccessful," he began, looking round with some anxiety, then perceiving Kate, he came quickly to her. "How did I miss you," he exclaimed, taking her hand, and placing himself well between her and Tulloch. "You are suffering so much, Alicia tells me?" and he looked eagerly into her eyes, as it he could away together.

draw out the secrets of her heart. Ka'e, though keeping herself very still and tranquil, telt the quick blood mount to her cheek with a rush, while Tulloch re. her like before." her cheek with a rush, while Tulloch remarked, "She locks as white as a ghost. though," a speech that heighened Kate's

feeling of uneasiness. "I don't think I do, now!" she exclaimed, laughing, to mask her embarassment, "I feel quite ashamed of making a fuss, and bearing pain so badly, I am really better, so please say no more about

"Eh!" cried Tulloch, "But I cannot help saying that a knowing chap like you, Travers would have taken better care of a young lady."

"Oh, you do, do you?" returned Travers,

with quite ineffable contempt.
"I am quite satisfied with the care Cousin Dick bas always taken of me," said Kate. "How did you get back last night, Dick ?"

"I walked, and somehow I enjoyed the walk, though I was vexed with myself for not insisting on bringing a doctor to see

'It was quite unnecessary," murmured Kate. "I shall have forgotten all about it in a day or two."

"I shall not," returned Travers in a low tone, which only reached Kate's ear, for Tulloch, whose voice was loud and rasping, had begun to discuss plans for their day at the Crys'al Palace with A'icia.

"It was a delightful evening, certainly," said Kate, steadily, and cheerfully, nerving herself and avoiding her cousin's eyes "until we were nearly spilt, and I intend only to remember the pleasant part. Have you been to see 'Caste,' Jamie?" she asked, to break up the virtual tete-a-tete with Travers.

' No. I don't care much for the theatre.' said Tulloch, "It all seems such foolery, and to see people wiping their eyes and blowing their noses at the sorrows of a hero and heroine, whom they know will be as jolly as sand boys over oysters and stout in half an hour at least, is just an amazement to me."

"Ah! Jamie. You have no imagination!" and Kate came across the room as she spoke, and sat down in a corner of the

"No, thank God!' ejaculated Tulloch. "Instead of thanking God, Jamie, you ought to pray to Him for that grand gift," she returned in a languid manner, as it it was a trouble to speak.

"Oh, I leave such grand gifts to superior fellows like Travers here.' "Have you a great deal of imagination, Dick ?" asked Alicia smiling.

"I am sure I don't know," he returned. "Yes, you have," said Kate, positively. You are like me. You believed that Marie Wilton was Polly, and Esther really Esther last night. I know you did. We are so much the richer than Jamie, Dick. My poor Jamie, I will cultivate your imagination. Will you let me?" and she smiled radiantly on him.

"You may do what you like with me?" exclaimed Tulloch, gazing at her admiringly. "I shall be wax in your hands." "So much the better for you. What a make something magnificent of it, only I am afraid I shall find a great nugget of

Aberdeen granite hidden away in the middle, eh! Jamie?" "You're a far-seeing young lady!" cried Tulloch, much flattered; "but it won't be granite to such a bonnie lassie as you.

When is my training to begin?" "Oh! when you like! to morrow," said Kate, carelessly.

"To-morrow I'm dining at Mistress -and I'm to meet some leading city people, MacKilligen tells me. It will be a good introduction, and useful in my busi-

"Ah! there's a little root of imagination," said Kate. "Fancy paints all these metropolitan magnates rushing to fill his coffers. Ah! Jamie, I'll make a poet of you get !"

"I hope not! Though for real poetry there's nothing better than a Scotsman-Bobbie Burns. "Yes, we all know that. I have nothing

up in the afternoon, and begin training?" "Don't you tempt a fellow away from his business," cried Tulloch, his eyes beaming, and moving to place himself beside his young kinswoman. "It's hard to say no. but I'll say it. The evening proveit. Now girls, I'll just go and brush after—"

"Oh, no! Papa will arrive that day, and we must have time all to ourselves. Come any other evening you like,. Now I shall leave you three to settle all about our fete at Norwood. I am too tired to keep my eyes open any longer. I must say good night," and as she spoke Travers rose, and went to the door, which he held open. Kate shook hands with Tulloch, exclaiming in querulous tone: "Oh, dear, I wish you would remember I wear rings."

"Good night, Kate," said Travers, coming into the hall. "What is the matter? You are not a bit like yourself. You are in the best posts just riding rough shod not suffering, Kate?"

"Oh, no; not a bit. He put out his hand murmuring: "I shall not forget you wear rings." She flashed a glance into his eyes that suggested something of pain and seriousnesssomething of a glance that dwelt with him-and put her hand into his for an instant. The next, she ran swiftly up-

Returning to the sitting-room, Travers the conclusion that they must wait for Mr. Carey to fix the day. Then Travers and Tulloch took leave of Alicia, and walked

For some way Jamie Tulloch was sitent, and thoughtful. At last he burst out-

"Whose like?" asked Travers, drily.
"Why, Kate Carey's to be sure. You needn't be put out about it, man." "Why should I?"

"Well, no. It's no affair of yours. Though you have been such chums; but I dress each of you!" must say she is about the most charming girl I ever met ; there's something so frank and straight about her ; doesn't mind show-

"Oh, so you think Kate 'likes' you?"

She wants me up there to teach me, don't Irish one. you see. I'll tell you she has taught me a goodish bit more than she knows.

enough to accept her proffered affection? "Why Travers, I believe you are a bit jealous That's all folly, man. You couldn't go in for a wife without money, and you shouldn't stand in a girl's light; besides, you see she considers you a friend, and nothing more; to say nothing of your being four or five years older than I am. eh? What do you say; you are not such | the theatre one evening. I was engaged, an ass as to think of marrying, nor such a so Kete went, and returning the cab conceited idiot as to fancy Kate Carey broke down. Kate's shoulder was hurt, would ever accept you. Maybe you are and is still stiff and painful," said Alicia. right; daresay you are; at any rate it is not wise to lose one's heart to a girl taken better care of my little girl." that hasn't a penny. But I have always been a fool about a pretty face, and though me, papa! He could not help the shaft Kate has no money, she isn't accustomed | breaking. to luxuries, and seems very economical. After all, money is not everything. Of course, the father and si ter are a drawtack, but if I ever think seriously of the matter. I'll have it clearly understood that I am not going to marry the whole family." "I fancy that Kate knows you well thing, and we should only give him the

enough by this time not to expect any irrational degree of devotion on your part" said Travers, wi'h much gravity. "That's just it. She is a 'vara' sensible young lady," returned Jamie, who was apt to grow more Scotch as he was sirred to

wrath or gentler emotion. "Probably, but the most sensible gir's profess to know them say-don't make too

"Ah! that's just what I am nct-I mean there's nothing I'd like better than to make the Bonnie Bird my wife-but there's the business! It's hard when all expenses come out of one purse, and for a while I'll need all the capital I can get hold of to push the house. Eh, man! I see my way to a big thing, and I am loath to loose it. So you see I'm just torn two ways. It's grand to have a wise like fellow like yourself to talk | plished their task, and daylight was tading over things, with as good a friend to you as to me-and then a steady settled chap | the door. of your sort isn't given to fancy himself in love or anything of that kind!"

"Much obliged for your high opinion. If, however, you are so sure of Kate's 'tendresse' for you, don't you think that you may 'break her heart entirely,' as her compatriots say, if you decide not to e'evate her to the exalted position of Mrs. Jamie Tulloch ?"

"There's an odd sneering way with you, Travers, at times that I can't say I like,"

"What a splendid definition of men's right! Here! bi! hansom! Sorry to leave you so abruptly. I know you like a 'busthere's one coming up-good night," and the rext moment Tulloch was s'anding alone and thinking. "He might have given me a lift in'o town-it wouldn't have cost him a penny! I hate selfishness and mean-

CHAPTER X-THE WANDERER'S RETURN.

The sisters metaphorically killed the fatted calf (or rather, translated him into a large lump of wax, Dick! I ought to boiled chicken, with white sauce and sausages), to welcome their parent home. Warm indeed was the welcome which he received, while his joyous youthful aspect completed the satisfaction of the meeting.

"You look lovely, dear," cried Kate, as she helped him to remove his dust coat, "and don't seem a bit tired after you long journey." "Tired! Not a bit, faith! How should

I be when I knew I was coming home to my darlings; only I thought the engine MacKilligen's-it's a big dinner, I believe went slow-far too slow. Alsie, my precious, you're a trifle pa'e. You've not been dragging your heart out trying to drive music in to the heads of these stupid Londoners? Ah! my jewels! If I go on and prosper as I am doing divil the note you shall teach to mortal man, woman, or child. Well, Kate, how is old Wincks? I think he sees now that he got hold of the right man when he sent me to look into matters at Ballykilldoolan. Of a'l the thieves that scamp of an agent was the

"Oh! I think Mr. Wincks is very pleased

with you indeed, papa; and he does his best to educate me. But he is neither well nor just a little stiff " "Eh?' putting his band to his ear.

Kate repeated her words. "Pleased is he? Faith! I hope he'll he dust off me, and wash my hands; so call for dinner, I'm as hungry as a hunter." Dinner was a highly cheerful feast, and and highly appreciated by the returned wanderer. He had much to tell: one

moment he recounted a droll story, with radiant smiles and the keenest sense of fun, the next he described the sadness of visiting the scenes of his past prosperity and happiness with geruine pathos. Faith! I wouldn't go back to live in the old place not for a pension-at least not

under five thousand a year. The country is turned upside down; nothing but Paptists over the real gentry. It's enough to turn your heart inside out."

"However, the Paptists had a very bad time of it for many a year," said Alicia, but Carev did not hear her.

"I had no end of kind attention paid me," he went on. "I might have dined out every day in Dublin, and I must say I was greatly tempted to give a nice little dinner to all my old friends at Morrisons. I forget what it's called now, but the thoughts joined Alicia and Tulloch in some conver-sation respecting their plans, and came to said to myself, 'No!' I'll bring back my bit of savings to them, and faith, they shall have a new gown apiece! There they are," pulling out a little leatner bag, tied with a diminutive thong, carefully twisted around it, and pouring the contents upon the cloth, with a magnificent air of generosity that

> "I did my best, but I'm afraid I only contrived, with all my endeavors, to scrape six pounds seventeen and fourpence halfpenny together. Alsie, you take it, and go away tomorrow, and buy an elegant

"Oh, thank you, you dear!" cried Kate, while Alicia pressed his hand. "We will not spend a vast sum like that. We must ing a chap she likes him, which heartens see what we all want most, and distribute him up, and shows she's discriminating."

see what we all want most, and distribute added Kate, with a smile and glance, thrilyou safe back."

When the pleasant little dinner was over, oodish bit more than she knows."

there was a great outpouring of news.
Though Carey had been kept well posted up in the occurrences of the last fortnight, there were still many trifling details to be

> "James was only here once, I think, but Dick was very good," returned Kate.
> "Yes, Cousin Dick asked us to go to "Eb? I thought Travers would have

"Yes, but he did take very good care of "No, no more he could. There isn't a

better fellow in the world than Dick Travers. Why didn't you ask him to dine her to-day? "I thought of asking him," returned Alicia, "but he was engaged, or some-

trouble of writing to say no." "I dare say she was right, and now, my darlings, l'il just take forty winks. Three among grass and trees; the gardens are bundred and twenty-four miles in eleven lovely. hours is pretty hard going for an old fellow that is nearer seventy than sixty. Then give me a cup of tea, and I'll put a

few papers and memoranda in order to be are 'kittle cattle,' at least so people who ready to start early in the morning for the Mr. Carey was accordingly settled in the least uneasy chair, a cushion placed -I am not that sure of myself. You see judiciously under his head, a footstool under his feet, and the blind drown down to shade the westering sunlight. Then the girls went softly away to unpack the dear dad's duds, to put them in their places, and to ascertain what damage had been sustained at the hands of strange laundresses, an occupation which was sufficient-

> when the "gurl" knocked ponderously at "Please, Miss, Mr. Travers is down me fair, with that deep-dyed hypocrisy stairs."

ly absorbing. They had nearly accom-

"How nice and kind of him" exclaimed Aiicia. "Papa will be so pleased. I am so sorry we did not ask bim to dinner." who only said, "Run down then, Alicia! vou a bit." I shall just finish putting away these shirts,

and follow you directly. Alicia tound her father, his abundant grey locks a little dishevelled, standing in | you can. You must behave differently if exclaimed Tn'loch. "No girl has a right to conversation with Travers, his blue eves you wish to efface the terrible impression break her heart about a man who has still beaming welcome on his favourite you have made." never asked her downright to marry him.' | guest. Travers greeted Alicia, while his glance still rested on the door with an expected look.

·Where's Kate?" asked her father. "Putting away your shirts."

be making herself smart for an old friend

'I don't flatter myself that Kate would bestow such a mark of distinction on me," said Travers, laughing. And he repeated

her sisters phra: e. "See that! I must be growing deafer or I wouldn't mistake what one of my girls said. Go call her. Tell her not to trouble about my belongings and get us some tea. Alicie, I want a cup to clear my brains; what with the journey and the sleep they teel all in a maze." He resumed his chair and began to give Travers a resume of his Irish experiences. When Kate came into the room she had certainly not changed her how to appraise them; and Kate has seen dress, but she had put some subtle touches | so little of the world. But what a bright to her hair and pinned a rose and a spray of fern among the folds of her corsage, creating an indefinable yet preceptible

change in her aspect. Alicia thought. "Come along, Katey darling. Here's cou in Dick come out all the way into these | eyes-not holy eyes, by any means. At all wilds; run off from an elegant mob of duchesses and countesses, faith, to see his country cousins, and you staying away to put the old father's duds straight. "You see Dick's visit is to you, papa,

returned Kate, shaking hands with Travers, "so I did not hurry myselt." 'And you are quite right now, are you? asked Travers. "Have you told your father what an indifferent guardian I

"Alicia did! But I am all right now-

"It strikes me," said Travers, "that you are not locking as blooming as usual.' His eyes dwelt on her, with a gloomy questioning expression which called up the rich quick color to her cheek, and she turned away, exclaiming, "Dont look so stern and disapproving, Cousin Dick! I will try and recover my natural milk-maid of Kate's destiny was impossible. Yet he aspect, by the time you come again!"

"How is Jamie Tulloch?" asked Mr. | relatives. How was it that he felt irrevoc-Carey. "Is he settled in his new home

"I don't fancy he has selected one," returned Travers, drawing a chair to the table where Alicia was busy with the tea. "He has the fear of his future wife before his eyes, and the possibility of being obliged | fright, of the strange, sweet reliance with to pay torfeit, if she won't live in the house he has chosen."

"Ab, ha. Our friend Jamie is canny enough, said Carey, with a knowing nod of the head. "He'll not throw away his

"And quite right too," exclaimed Kate, with some warmth. 'If I ever have any money to keep I intend to be a perject | that they should be friends only—that she miser. There is nothing so dreadful as should even amuse herself with Tulloch poverty-everyone ought to avoid it," she added with a toss of her head, as the took a large cup of tea to her father.

"Faith, then I'm afraid you think your old dad about the blackest of sinners, for to hold money is just what I never could "I don't think anything of the kind.

You are the dearest dad in the worldthat's all I know." "Logic never was your strong point, eh Kate?" said Travers, smiling, as he sometimes did, rather cynically. "No, I daresay not. My heart is too

strong, and my head too weak, for logic, and I do not regret it!" "Really, it is quite amusing to hear you

"Alas! how light a cause may move Dissension between hearts that love," quoted Travers in a mock heroic tone. "Which stood the storm when waves were rough, Yet in a sunny hour fall off"—

lingly expressive of grateful memories.
"Never mind Jamie's thriftiness. He can "Ah, my heart, it's good for me! Sure "Never mind Jamie's thriftiness. He can member of the firm before a couple more it," returned Tulloch, in a tone of exulno one ever makes me hear so, well as my be kind as well as canny. I must write years are out. Of course he said that after in music somewhere. I'm glad she works

ing to see you."

"I fear not," said Travers. "I met Tulloch this afternoon. He was in a great state of glorification, as he is to dine with sanctum."

"Why, Dick, you are really ill-natured," cried Kate, opening her big eyes.

Travers burst into a frank hearty laugh.

"Yes," he said, "I confess I am. I had better cry peccavi, and throw myself on your cruel mercy, Kate; you have been developing on a fresh line lately. At your age, it is impossible to forsee your future mental condition.'

"Well, Dick, I am not a baby." "Yes, a charming, fascinating baby, "he

Kate flushed up, and a fiery gleam sparkled in her eyes, but she exclaimed, with a quiet nod, "If I am charming and fascinating, I don't mind being a baby." "Ah! you smooth-tongued flatterer,"

said her father, laughing; "don't bring your fine drawn compliments here." "I hope, Dick, you will not let Jamie

Tulloch escape our projected excursion to the Crystal Palace. I long for some hours At this remote period of history the

Palace on Sydenham Hill was looked upon by holiday makers as an earthly paradise. "I don't fancy he wants to escape. He was talking of it the other day; all we was a little troubled by a tendency to grow

"Well, my dear boy, I can say nothing till I have seen Wincks. I'll have a good lot of busicess to transact and matters to arrange before I can fix any time. I can tell you, Travers, I expect that my management of this affair will put me in an excellent position, and Kate thinks so too, don't you, my jewel?'

But Kate had slipped from the room, and did not return till Alicia called her. with malice prepense, "though you speak

a settlement in your virgin soul." "Don't say such disagreeable things, Dick," she exclaimed, more earnestly than This in a slightly reproachful tone to Kate, ste thought. "You know I don't blame

> "No, I know nothing of the kind; you won't come down to see me until you are compelled, and you run away as soon as

"I am a goose to mind you," she said; 'you are only talking nonsense. I you are laughing at me."

"I am nearer weeping than you think," said Travers; and, though he laughed too, "Putting on her skirt? Sure she needn't | there was a curious touch of earnestness in his voice as he pressed her band tightly. "Good-night sweetest cos—is it not to be war to the knife between us?"

> "Really cousin Dick was almost in a bad temper to-night," said Alicia, when he had closed the front door. "Yes, he is a little odd," returned Kate,

thoughtfully. Travers went away townwards, in a curious state of disatisfaction with Kate, with Carey, with himself. Was it possible that Kate could be taken up with the animal good looks, the commonplace compliments, the surface self-assertion of Tulloch? But women never understand men, or know spirited creature she was, though variable, now melting in mist, and now breaking in gleams. Like the glimpses a saint has of heaven in his dreams." "Yes Kate had a good deal of heavenly about her; and what events he had made a fool of himself. Had he suddenly reached second childhood, or gone back to the first that he hadn't forgotten habit and training, at to let himself speak slightlingly of Tulloch. He had no patience with such asinine weakness. Rather than 1isk a repetition of it, he had better accept the proposal made to him a few days ago of Colonising and hunting in Africa, a far rarer project then than now. But no. How could be forsake that weak, kindhearted, amusing, blundering Carey, who was incapable of taking care of himself, much less his' two daughters. He must be there to look after the whole party; quixotic as the aspect of his self devotion seem d he could not leave Carey to his own devices. He was so hopelessly improvident, so addicted to unexpected follies, that to leave him, the uncontrolled arbiter was rather powerless to help his Hibernian

ably linked to their shabby-genteel fortunes? He was really contemptibly weak. These reflections brought him to the spot on the Bayswater Read, where their cab came to grief a few nights, before, and his pulses quickened at the memory of Ka'e's which ste had yielded to the clasp of his arms, and leant unresistingly against him. His lips had touched her hair, perhaps. But he was a double distilled ass to let these thoughts crowd upon him. He must be strong enough to resist the temptation of trying to win h r when he had no home, no position to offer. It was much better than waste her sweet fancy on a poor tellow who could be of no substantial service to her.

The following Monday evening saw Carey return triumphantly to his temporary mensely. She is so bright and amusing. domicile. Moreover he carried with him | But the eldest is my practising mistressmaterials for a feast—a small mat basket the sort of thing an accompanist is, since I containing a slice of salmon, some big have taken to singing she accompanies me." beautiful strawberries, and a long round bottle of spark'ing Moselle,

further engagement of a year from the present time at double your present salary.' What do you say to that? Faith I'll be a show the white feather.

tation. "You must be pretty blind not to own girls! I must say I'm a good deal and tell him you have returned, papa! I a year they might not have any more Irich daresay he will come out tommorrow even-business, but that's only the English way daresay he will come out tommorrow even- business, but that's only the English way of hedging his book. Old Wincks is not the sort of man to lose hold of a clever employe, I can tell you. I hope we have seen our worst days, my darlins ! Now you some magnate, being invited suddenly, but | go and buy your gowns tomorrow: mind he is highly pleased at teing admitted any-how into the holy of holies in Mammon's of tar." So Carey's triumphant return of tar." So Carey's triumphant return was inauguarted, and things soon settled down

to their ordinary routine. Several days past and still Jamie Tulloch made no sign, nor did Travers appear at Notting-hill, but he looked in at the office and exchanged a few friendly wordly words with Carey, who had been promoted to a small den overlooking a melancholy yard, which he generally had to himself, though not strictly "private"

He had written to Alicia, too, and sent he sisters tickets for a private view of some pictures exhibited at one of the big picture dealers.

During the last few months a more intimate acquaintance had developed itself between Miss Golding and her deputy assistant music teacher. She had taken a whim for the quiet ladylike young woman whose help in her practising she found very useful-a sudden fancy for patronising her and her sister-such as rich pampered girls often indulge in. She was a good natured healthy muniane creature, not troubled with sensitiveness or imagination, firmly convinced of the power bestowed by wealth and beauty, both of which she thought she possessed-she had a fair share of good wait for is Mr. Carey's appointment of the stout. She fancied herself the most generous and warm-tearted of human beings and was quite unaware of the strong strain of selfishness running through all her thoughs

and deeds. Calling on Miss Carey one afternoon, she was introduced to Kite, to whom she took an immense fancy, which Kate had not very ardently reciprocated Her refusal, in a very sweet and courteous manner of sundry invitations, conveyed rather in the style of Royal commands, only whetted Miss "I see you don't forgive me for taking Golding's appetite for Kate's society, and such indifferent care of you," said Travers, her usual strong determination to get whatever she wanted urged her on. So one fine atternoon a week after Mr. Carey's return, which, with other vite qualities are making she suddenly presented herself at Oakeley Villas, double Victoria, champing horses, coachman, footman-all complete.

Both sisters were at home-not a common occurence-when Miss Golding, gorgeously attired, broke in upon them.

"Well, this is nice, I scarcely hoped to find both of you. Saturday atternoon, I suppose, I have had a horrid disappointment. I was going down to such a smart "Saturday to Monday" party, at the Lor-rimers—you know the Lorrimers—the big shipowner people; they have a sweet near E well, and if one of their horrid children hasn't developed measles! I had a telegram last night, every one put off. So I have come for consolation. Go now and dress yourself in your best. I'll take you a nice drive round the park, there certainly won't be many tashionable people today. and we'll eat some ices at Ganter's or go into the country round by Finchley, Eh?" "Toank you very much," said Alicia

"Oh! the country would be delightful. You are very kind, Mis Golding," cried Kate, starting up and beginning to put away her work. Saturday afternoon was generally given to stitchery of the renova:-

ing order.) "That's right, I like peop'e that can enjoy themselves. Now don't be long dears; my horses get out of temper when they are

Alicia and Kate went "off" with much rapidity, and Miss Golding walked to the window and surveyed the unmown grass, the tangled shrubs, and untrimmed trees beneath.

"It might be made pretty enough," she thought, "but law! what's the good of capabilities when people have no money to develop them? What's this, on, a ministure." opening a taded morocco case which stood on the chiffonier with a tew bits of china and other ornaments. "What a pretty woman! The youngest girl is like her! Why she might be a duchess! Dear, dear, how strange it is that these elegant sort of people never seem able to keep their money! It is an awful price to pay for elegance! Anyhow, nature is kind to some people as well as fortune! This is the papa, I suppose. He's good looking too! He might be a cavalry man, instead

of a miserable solicitor's clerk." Here her researches and conjectures were interrupted. The door opened and Tulloch walked in. He was as usual well dressed, but his brow was slightly clouded. and eyes troubled. A look of startled astonishment came into the face of each. "Why, Mr. Tulloch," cried Miss Gold-

no idea I should meet you here!' "Nor I, that I should have that pleasure! I was not aware that my cousins hid the honor of knowing you. "Your cousins? Do you mean to say

ing, who was the first to recover, "I had

these Carey girls are related to you?" "Yes," he returned, not too eagerly, 'they are cousins on my great grandmother's side."

"Great grandmother's side," repeated Miss Golding. "Trust Irish and Scotch people for tracing out distant connectionscounting cousins don't you call it? That is a sort of compound family interest I don't see any good in, for my part." "I am surprised Kate has not mentioned

her acquaintance with you," resumed Tulloch, with a tinge of disappsobation in his tone, as if Kate had concealed something which was greatly to her credit. 'Oh! she is not my friend," returned Miss Golding, "though I like her im-

Dismayed silence fell upon James Tul-

parcel under one arm which, when divested | loch. He was aware that both his cousins of its twine and brown paper, disclosed a worked together to increase the store of family bread, and in the natural and un-"Well, my darins it's a poor heart that adulterated condition of his heart and never rejoices," he said as he unburdened | mind he admired and approved their inhimselt. "I thought we must have a bit of a dustry. But in the face of the gorgeous, treat, for I dec'are that quier fellow, potent, elegant Miss Golding, with her and Kate sparing!" cried Alicia. "You wincks, has turned up trumps. Dry as he laughing blue eyes and her contempt for used to agree on all points." is (and no ch'p ever was dryer) he let me poverty and tailure, it was—well, not know he was pleased and no mistake with exactly a connection to be proud of. He the way I had done my work and then he says: "as you have proved yourself so useful to the firm I am happy to offer you standing beside Miss G's, in which they