has a rich brother who is about to make aplendid marriage."
"Has she? Why I didn't know that you "I haven't many; Vincent Therwell has become rich of late years. He used to be poor enough, goodness knows. Until I www Maria yesterday I had no idea that he was anything more than a poor secretary, as he used to be. He has been a trader, and is now going to marry a baronet's daughter. Maria is as devoted to him as

she is to money, and that is saying a great At this moment Lady Chellis stirred uneasily, and Mrs. Barrat saturated anew the drugged handkerchief and laid it upon her

There, your niece will not awaken now antil we are perfectly ready to welcome her," said the ex-governess. "I think, if you won't miss my society, Mr. Wilmer, I will doze a little myself."

Her employer assuring her that he liked solitude, she leaned her head against the side of the vehicle, and was on asleep.

The morning was well advanced when the light vehicle proceeded slowly along a sandy lane leading directly to the sea. It was a quiet, desolate spot in which the travellers

There was but one dwelling within view.

This was a small house, standing in a sand patch among the rocks, and with only a narrow strip of beach between it and the sea. Nothing could be imagined more lonely than the situation of this

It was to this house that the travellers They found the door locked. "This is strange," he said, in a tone of annoyance. "Hold the reins, Jane, while I go in search

of your cousin. He returned, angry and alarmed, to his confederate. "She has gone," he said; "perhaps to betray us. Nothing remains but for us to

beat a retreat as quickly as possible. What shall we do? Where shall we take "My cousin may have gone for a walk,"

suggested Mrs. Barrat, uneasily. "She would never think of betraying us. Besides, she doesn't know who Adah is. Ah, what is that speck yonder on that

And she pointed eagerly seaward. Mr. Wilmer looked in the direction in dicated, and soon pronounced the object in question to be a small boat; and a farther scrutiny revealed the fact that it was occupied by a woman, and was being rapidly propelled shoreward.

As the boat came nearer, and the wo man's figure was shown more plainly, the ex-governess exclaimed : Yes, it's my cousin, Mrs. Garson. We

are safe now, Mr. Wilmer—perfectly safe."
In a few minutes the keel of the craft grated upon the sands, the rower sprang out, and Mrs. Barrat saluted her with many professions of affection. Mrs. Garson was a woman past middle

age. She was tall and masculine in aparance; her face was stern and strongly marked; her eyes were deeply set; her bony forehead was shaded by locks of iron grey, and she walked with long strides. She had a brawny arm, and strong,

large, freckled hands.
All this Mr. Wilmer observed while the woman received Mrs. Barrat's embraces. An instant later, Mrs. Garson released herself, took from her boat a long string of freshly-caught fish, and approached Mr.

"This is the gentleman I spoke of, cou-sin," said Mrs. Barrat, following her rela-tive. "Mr. Wilmer, Mrs. Garson. Mr. Wilmer's niece is asleep in the carriage. Mrs. Garson pushed back her bonnet, and surveyed the gentleman narrowly as she

gave him her hand. There was something about her, despite the difference in their personal appearance, that reminded one of Therwell, espe-

cially in his most sinister points. Mr. Wilmer felt at once that he could trust her to assist him in his nefarious projects, provided their relations were established on a satisfactory basis. That they should be so established, and immediately,

he determined. "You can drive in," she said, briefly, in a voice in consonance with her face. "There is the key of the stable at the back of the

garden.' She gave him the key and passed into the garden, proceeding to the house. With another key she unlocked the front door, and admitted herself and her cousin to the in-

terior of the dwelling. "I suppose you are hungry, Jane?" said the mistress of the little domain. "I will get dinner for you while you see to your rooms. They are all ready for you. The northeast room, that looks out on the sea. is for your young lady. Make yourself at

Mrs. Barrat proceeded to obey the injunction. She removed her bonnet and shawl, and then wandered into the parlor, which she mentally pronounced habitable. As she returned to the hall, Mr. Wilmer made his appearance, bearing his niece in

"Bring her upstairs," said Mrs. Barrat. "We may as well put her in her own room She led the way to the chamber that had

been designated as Adah's, and Mr. Wilmer followed, panting beneath his burden, which he was only too glad to deposit upon a couch. It was a sunny little room, and there was an evident attempt to achieve an air of elegance throughout the small apart-The effect was slighely marred by the fact that the windows were nailed down and their lower halves covered with stout wire netting. "How pleasant it is here !" said Mr.

Wilmer, looking around him. "Who could have expected to find such a pretty "This is Maria's brother's room, when he

visits here." answered Mrs. Barrat, who had been examining the books and trinkets. "Vincent Therwell likes nothing that is ugly. I suppose that room adjoining is intended for me?" She hastened to examine it. It had not

the pleasant prospect of the outer room, its one window looking into the back garden, but it was very comfortable, and the ex-governess professed herself satisfied with Returning to the outer room, she remov

ed the bonnet of the still unconscious Lady Chellis, drew off her cumbersome clock, and placed a pillow under her head.

"She will soon recover," she said, listening to the young bride's breathing. "She ought to be alone when she comes to her

The confederates retired from the apartment, locking both doors behind them.

"Will Miss Wilmer have her breakfast now ?" asked Mrs. Garson.

"Not yet. She is asleep. I will take it up to her when she requires it," answered Mrs. Barrat. "She is insane you say?" asked the hostess, with a keen, furtive glance at the

face of of her guests—a glance wonderfully like that of her brother. "Yes, she is unfortunately insane," said Mr. Wilmer. "I have hopes that the sea air will cure her. Mrs. Barrat will attend upon her, and I shall also remain to watch ever her. You have but to name your own price, Mrs. Garson, for your rooms and ser-

apon your thorough discretion, and that our affairs will be kept secret."

"I would do almost anything for money," said his hostess, grimly.

"Then we shall agree perfectly," was the

"Suppose we say thirty pounds a week for your board during your stay," remarked Mrs. Garson; ten pounds each you know, and ten pounds a week additional for the care of your horses. Then a little present of fifty pounds when you go away would not be amiss. Upon these terms I would agree to keep even my own brother away from hers. I live all slone, you know, and am my own servent. I think," she added, slowly and significantly, as Mr. Wilmer hesitated, "that, upon the terms I have mentioned, I should not trouble myself to investigate the insanity of the young lady upstairs, in short, it would make no difference to me whether the were insane of not."

"Very well, then." exclaimed Mr. Wilmer, well pleased at this declaration. "It is agreed, then. There is the first instalment of your pay," and he passed a purse into her lap. "If I succeed in my plans—that is," he added, correcting himself, "if my neice should recover, you may receive even a better present than you have stipu-

ated for."

Mrs. Garson's eyes gleamed suddenly, and

her face. She a gratified look overspread her face. She looded over the contents of the purse, then put it in her pocket, and declared that she would be faithful to the interests of her

"By this time Miss Wilmer must be awake," said the ex-governess. "I will take up her dinner, Maria." Mrs. Garson arose and produced from a tin oven in front of the fire the dinner she

had prepared for the prisoner. She hastened upstairs with the tray, unlocked the door, and entered Lady Chellis' prisoner was still lying upon the

couch, but her position was changed. She was evidently upon the point of awakening, and Mrs. Barrat set down the tray upon a table and retreated into the background. Adah stirred uneasily, stretched out one hand, yawned and then opened her eyes. For a moment she looked vacantly at the walls without observing that they were not those of her own room, then the conviction burst upon her that she had not seen them before. She started wildly, sprang up, looked around her, and then her countenance fell upon the face of her former gaoler.

In an instant the remembrance of the scene upon which she had closed her eyes came across her, and a realisation of her present position passed over her mind. With a wild and bitter cry, she sank back

upon the couch. "You know that you are not at home now, Miss Adah," said the ex-governess, her tone thrilling with the triumph of a petty and ignoble soul. "The other day you were mistress of my destiny and that of your uncle. To-day we are mistress of yours. You are no longer the free and happy possessor of an immense fortune. You are a prisoner, and in our hands."

"I am not at Monrepos?" she said, with another glance around the room.
"Not within eighty or a hundred miles

Lady Chellis passed her hand over her forehead, as if to recall her thinking faculties. "I remember seeing Mr. Wilmer before

I fell asleep," she said. "He drugged me, I suppose, and carried me out of the The ex-governess bowed assent. "And he has brought me a hundred miles

from home? Where am I now?" "That I am not at liberty to tell you, said Mrs. Barrat, with a disagreeable smile. "You can make any discoveries which you may be enabled to do, or you can question your uncle. He is the arbiter of your fate.

"I acknowledge no one but myself as the arbiter of my fate," she said and her voice rang forth clearly and rich'y, like the tones of a silver bell, through the little room.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THIS IS A CRIME OF WHICH I HAVE NEVER DREAMED. Let it not seem strange to you That here one strange thing more you see

After a long time, and actuated by the instinct of self-preservation rather than that of hunger, Lady Chellis reached the little table, and poured out a cup of strong tea. Her first sip of the beverage was grateful to her fevered palate, and, as she irank eagerly, the fever mists cleared away from her brain, her vision became perfect, and she was herself again.

Her first movement was to look from the

windows. Her astonishment may well be imagined at beholding the wide expanse of sea spread before her gaze, reaching almost up to the dwelling, its soft, cooling murmur, as it lapped the shining beach, sounding like sweet and gentle music. She gazed seaward, noticing the two or three distant fisher's sails, and then glanced at the barren,

"How solitary and desolate it looks : there is no hope of help for me from with-out," she sighed. "Hugh could never find me here, even if he were to look for me. But he will not look. I sent him away, and even now he may be on his way to the Continent. And dear Aunt Dorothy and Captain Heddell might search for ages for me without finding my hiding place. I have myself no idea where I am."

She walked across the floor once or twice "Yes," she mused, "if Mr. Wilmer has brought me here to die, it is Sir Hugh, and not he, who would benefit by my death. He cannot have any hope of being allowed to makage my property. He cannot have shut me up here on the plea of insanity without an object. I am positive that this is a private house, and not a lunatic asy-lum. I can find but one reason for his conduct, and that seems but half plausible.

Can he have shut me up here for revenge? She asked herself the question in a hollow whisper. And while the sound yet lingered on her lips, Mr. Wilmer's step was heard in the passage, and the key grated in the lock of her door

Mr. Wilmer entered the presence of his imprisoned niece with an exultant expres-sion on his sinister face and a baleful and "Good-morning, Adah." he said, with

mocking bow, pausing near the door. "I hope you find yourself well this morning?"
She did not deign a response.
"Yesterday," remarked Mr. Wilmer, still mockingly, "it was your pleasure to treat me scornfully and to see me kicked ignominiously from mominiously from your presence. The ing it is I who am strong and you who are

"Tell me, Mr. Wilmer," said the maiden, haughtily, not heeding his self-congratu-lations, "what means this outrage? Why have you stolen me from my home?"

"You ask what I have come to explain But, first allow me to ask if you have looked from the windows and observed what esolate place this is? I question if in all the kingdom a more barren and solitary shore can be discovered. No one, except occasional fishermen, evercome to this spot, and if you were to see and speak to them, you could scarcely make yourself understood, for they speak a barbarous dialect."

Adah shuddered alightly, and again her relative smiled.

relative smiled.

"With regard to this household, he continued, "it consists of but one person beside our party, and that person is the cousin and friend of Mrs. Barrat. Se ap-

"Have I not But some of the praise is due to you, my dear nices, for had you not dismissed Sir Hugh from your home I could never have affected your abduction." A heen pang of regret pierced the soul of the young bride as and thought of the young husband whose love she had rejected with a remorseful bitterness.

Banishing her thoughts of him, she said,

coldly:

"It is not necessary to explain to me how
I happened to be brought here. I comprehend the whole story perfectly. But what
has been your object in abdusting me? Do
you seek revenge for your changed for-

"No, no, Adah," and he strove to speak carelessly, "I am not so romantic as that. I own I should like to see you suffer for my humiliation, but I have not brought you here to wreak a useless reverge upon you. Instead, I intend that you shall curich me

from your overflowing stores."

**Enrich you? How?"

*In the simplest way possible. You are rich, and I am poor. You are married and have come into control of your immense fortune. Your draft for any amount would be honored at sight. But, rich as you are, there is one thing you lack-your liberty. Money without freedom to use it is worth nothing. So long as you are imprisoned your wealth is but a bitter mockery. So I propose to make an exchange with you. You shall give me part of your money, and

will restore your freedom."

Lady Chellis drew up her proud, slendor agure, and looked at him with eyes which almost blazed in their haughty scorn. "So you have taken up the profession of brigand," she said, with a disdainful voice and curling lip. "The measure of your degradation is at last full. I cannot im-

agine any lower depths for you to plunge

"Say and think what you like, Adah," he said, deggedly, "the fact remains the same; here you are, and here you will stay until you have paid me the ransom I de-

"And what may be the extent of your demands ?"

"Half the fortune left you by your father, and your written promise never molest me in any way, nor attempt to bring me to account for this abduction, or any act of mine which may have displeased you; on those terms I will agree to set you free, and never to trouble you again."
"Poor, pitiful coward!" she said, in a tene that fairly enraged him. "Can it be possible that the blood that ran through the veins of my noble father moves also through yours? Thank Heaven you were not children of the same mother! Thank Heaven, you and I are not of close kindered?

"Abuse me if you will," said Mr. Wilmer, forcing himself to be calm. "I do not object to it; only in such measure as you give me scorn I shall expect money.'

"Exact whatever you choose," was the adainful response. "You may even exact diedainful response. "You may even exact every penny I own. But I once more repeat, Mr. Wilmer, that you will never receive from me one penny more then I have already promised you. I will not give you one single farthing in ransom for my liberty. I am used to imprisonment."

"And I am used to playing the gaoler," returned Mr. Wilmer, significantly. "If you for one moment imagine that you can be rescued from this place, allow me to tell you that your hopes are futile. I have taken my precautions so well that neither Sir Hugh Chellis nor Captain Heddell can trace you. I would even defy a detective. And if you hope to escape by your own exertions, look at that wire covering to your windows, and remember that you have three jailers to keep watch and ward over

"Still, I repeat, I will not pay one penny of your demands," said Lady Chellis, clearly and distinctly. "I can stay here so long as you can find money to pay your assistants, and so long as you have patience to enact the part of turnkey. This is my decision.

"Beware, Adah!" hissed her relative, enraged almost to madness by her cool assertion. "I may be driven to remove you entirely from my path if you prove obstinate to my demands, and likely to embarrass

"I believe you quite capable of the worst of crimes," responded Lady Chellis, very quietly, and with no sign of emotion, save in the vivid bit of scarlet that burned on either cheek. "But, even if I were dead, you would not be richer than you are now. Of course, you are aware that Sir Hugh Chellis will inherit everything I own. I had no marriage settlements.'

"Perhaps it would be as well to defer this discussion for a few weeks or months," said Mr. Wilmer. "When you shall have grown tired of these four walls, and have been goaded almost to madness by the eternal sing-song of the waves on the beach, and long for fresh air, and treedom, and your home, you may conclude to part with even more than half your wealth to accounplish your desires. Solitude and meagre diet have brought down haughty spirits before, and they may prove efficient aids now. You will have no choice library here, no piano, nor other musical instruments, no canvas and paint-brushes, and other resources which robbed your last long imprisources which robbed your last long imprisonment of half its sting. You will not have your treacherous maid to keep you company, and you will be deprived of even the faint consolation of using a nædle. With nothing whatever to occupy your hands or brain, with nothing to fill up one minute of the long hours between rising and activing with nothing to comfort and and retiring, with nothing to comfort and console you, it will not be long before you will beg me to ask what I will, and it shall

be granted." "I have given you my answer," she said. "It will be the same ten days, ten weeks, or ten years hence. I defy you, Mr. Wilner, and all the petty persecution your

little soul can invent. "I will leave you, then," he replied, frowning, yet by no means discouraged at the decided repulse he received. "I shall not often intrude upon you to arouse your combativeness against me. When you shall have made up your mind to grant my exactions, you have only to send for me." He retreated a few steps toward the door, and then paused, as if awaiting a re-

instead of replying, she quietly turned on her heel, and swept with a haughty grace to the window, from which she leoked out, apparently absorbed in the sea view. Mr. Wilmer regarded her a moment, and then muttered

"A week will tame your proud spirit, my lady, and I am quite willing to wait." With a look of self-assurance and selfonfidence, he withdrew, and locked the door behind him.

"The secret is solved," mused Adah, after

his departure, shrugging her snowy, rounded shoulders, above the new corsage of her evening dress, so that the filmy lace veiling them arose and fell like the crest of a wave. "He has stolen me like a brigand for the sake of demanding a ransom. He will, no doubt, make my ear tivity unpleasant, even almost unendurable, but it is some satisfaction that I shall suffer alone. Dear Aunt Dorothy will wait a week, or month for my return, and then go home to Hawk's Nest, and make her will in Hugh's favor. Poor Nelly, ah, she will miss me, and grieve for me. Dear old Captain Heddell will search for me, and conclude that, after all, perhaps I was insane and have drowned myself. Sir Hugh has doubtless gone already to the Continent. It may be

months before he learns of my disappear-ance; and when he does he will sigh, and look and a little while over the mysterious fate of his mysterious bride, and believe himself fred to marry again."

"I believe he loves me better than any-

one else ever will, if I regain my freedom," she said, sadly. "Perhaps there was the hand of providence in our union, and I have fluore and the same state. have flung away the love that would have made me a queen among women for the gratification of a weak pride. I told him that I desired my husband to be a Bayard, but what could have been more delicate and generous than his conduct toward me. He has those same instincts that have always actuated the public and good. What have

has those same instincts that have always actuated the noble and good. What have I done? Oh, Hugh! Hugh!"

Resolutely satting aside all thoughts of her young husband, she began to consider the possibilities of escape, less from a belief that she could effect her freedom than from a desire to find tefuge from her self-reproaches. She tried the nails that secured the windows, and found them immevable without your collect her command. She without any tools at her command. She pulled at the wire netting, but she might as well have attempted to force her way through the stone wall beside it. "I can keep trying at least," she thought.

"Better to struggle vainly than to give up to complete inaction, as my gaoler intends. So long as I can keep my hands and thoughts busy on an attempt to escape, I can keep myself free from harrowing reflections."

At that moment her wandering gaze was attracted to a woman's figure on the beach
—a tall, gaunt figure, clad in a scant gown and large sunbor She comprehended at once that she was

looking at the owner of the house. "She has a hard face," she thought. "Mr. Wilmer knows well how to cho his confederates. I shall have to depend upon myself if I ever do escape."

Mrs. Garson soon retired into the dwelling, and for an hour or two the captive

gazed idly upon the sea, forgetful of her plans of self-occupation. At the end of that period the ex-governess made her appearance, bearing a small tray upon which were deposited a plate of bread and a jug of water, flanked by a glass goblet.
"Here is your dinner, Miss Adah," she said, setting it down upon a table near the

oor. "Mr. Wilmer says that you are to expect the same style of meals until you agree to his demands." With this remark she withdrew, to bear to her employer an encouraging report of the captive's drooping attitude and sad de

Lady Chellis was effectually aroused from her reverie by this intrusion. Her cheeks flushed under the insult that had been put upon her, and she walked backward and forward several times before she could command her indignation sufficiently to think

"Yes, I must do something," she said to herself, "or I shall not be able to beat their annovance calmly. I may as well try my chances of escape deliberately. I have heard of people effecting their escape from prisons by climbing chimneys. This chimney would be admirable for the purpose, but I would not dare to venture within it. How very wide it is. Well, I have examined the room carefully, and perceive that Mr. Wilmer has chosen my prison

She leaned her head apon the end of the marble mantel-piece, her shoulder resting against the chimney, which served as an admirable background for the face.

Absorbed in reflection, she leaned yet more heavily against the broad end of the

chimney.
Suddenly, as she changed her position assisting herself with one hand, she heard a quick, sharp sound behind her, and felt a

ressure against her shoulder. She started, sprang aside, and observed that a small door in the side of the chimney had flown open. A tiny cupboard was apparent, and she could see the spring in the door against which she had unconsciously pressed with such excellent effect. With considerable curiosity, as well as

surprise, at the singularity of the incident, Lady Chellis looked into the aperture. It was simply a square opening, with two shelves. The upper one was empty. The lower supported a small square box. Perhaps this box contains something of Mr. Wilmer's," thought the maiden.

contents may even relate to me!" Actuated by this reflection, she took it out and examined it. It was of mahogany, and was inlaid with

gold wreath on the top and another on the front. It was locked securely, and the key was not to be found. "I may as well see what is inside," said dah. "I don't remember ever seeing the

box before, but it may nevertheless contain something of value to me." She brought from the table the stout dinner knife that had been left beside her loaf of bread. With this implement she forced open the lock of the box, and was

soon rewarded by the opening of the lid. The interior was full of papers and letters, which she glanced carelessly at, ob serving only that they were addressed to a Mr. Vincent Therwell, with whose name even she was unacquainted. She did not read them, assured that they related neither to her uncle nor herself, and was about to restore the casket to its hiding-place when the thickness of the bottom caught her

'That looks like my little writing-desk, she thought, surveying it attentively. "My desk has a false bottom, and I opened it by pressing a tiny gold-headed nail. I wonder if there is a false bottom to

With a sudden, clicking sound, a tiny drawer shot out. It contained but a single paper.

Lady Chellis took it up, and read upon the back the indorsement : "A compact between Sir Allyn Dare, of Edencourt, and Vincent Therwell, his late

father's secretary." "What a curious thing," she murmured.
"What can Sir Allyn Dare have in common with the inmates of this lonely house by the sea? Some business affair, probably. I have no right to read the paper. I will

She laid it back within the secret drawer. and in doing so, it fell open, revealing its contents to her gaze.

She glanced at it, unavoidably, turned pale, and her eyes became rivited upon it,

with a startled, trightened expression. "I, Sir Allyn Dare, she read, in a hurried, affrighted whisper, unconscious that she was uttering the words she saw, "do hereby promise and agree to give in mar-riage to Vincent Therwell the hand of my daughter, Ilde Dare, when she shall have attained the age of eighteen, in considera-tion of this said Therwell's silence concerning the crime of murder with which he

charges me-"Oh, Heaven," exclaimed Lady Chellis. "Can this he possible? Sir Allyn Dare guilty of murder? He would sacrifice his daughter, too, to secure his own safety. This is horrible. She read on, fascinated by her terrible

discovery.

The words seemed to burn themselves into her brain. "This is a crime of which I have never dreamed," she said, half-aloud. "That poor young girl! I am sorry for her. Her lot is harder than mine. It must be dreadal to be obliged to marry a man she does

love in order to save her father from the scaffold. I see by the date that the ten years alluded to are past. This Therwell must be at Edencourt now, preparing for the marriage. Poor Ilde Dare!"

She repeated the words compassionately, her generous heart grieving over the sad

"This compact must be a wicked thing," she said, after a thoughtful pause. "This Therwell must be as bad as Sir Allyn. I wish I could save Ilde from him. Why can I not? It this paper were destroyed, I can see clearly that Therwell's power would be gone. It ought to be destroyed. Ilde Dare ought not to suffer for her father's aring."

She reflected for some moments in utter

eilence.

"Providence has thrown this paper into my hands," she thought, going to the window, "and if I ever regain my liberty, I will take it to Miss Dare. Perhaps she is already married to Therwell, and the possession of this compact would not avail her. If I believed I should be in time I should be tempted to yield to the rapacity of Mr. Wilmer. But I will not, for, in the event of yielding, I am not certain to regain my freedom until he shall have quitted the country. It only remains for me to wait patiently. If I ever do escape, I shall hasten at once to Edencourt."

CHAPTER XXXIL "SHE SHALL SUFFER FOR DARING TO LOVE

"This is the fruit of craft Let him that shoots up high, looks for the And finds it in his forehead.

That sows in craft does reap in jealousy."
—MIDDLETON. Mr. Jacob Jasper, the money-lender, who had so unconsciously assisted to bring about Sir Hugh Chellis' remarkable marriage, had hastened to follow his letter to Tressillian Hall. The young viscount was seated in his library, upon the day subse-quent to the expedition to Oakshaw when the lawyer was announced. He had scarce-

out of sight and to rise from his chair, when his visitor entered his presence. "Beg pardon for my intrusion, my lord," said Mr. Jasper, endeavoring to subdue his sharp tones, and bowing repeatedly as he came in. "I feared that my letter of the other day might have been too abrupt, and so resolved to come in person and confer with you. I have been, perhaps, too hasty in writing to you, your late father having been so recently deceased."

"Pray be seated, Mr. Jasper," interrupt-

ed Lord Tressillian, pointing to a chair, "I was about to write and request you to come to the Hall. I have been looking over your accounts this morning, in com pany with my late father's confidential steward, and have arrived at a clear comprehension of the state of affairs. Shall we

enter upon business at once ?" "If you choose, my lord," replied the lawyer, permitting his glances to rove around the spacious library, and to dwell with particular pleasure upon the number of elegantly-bound books and the luxurious appliances for writing. "I would like first, however, to assure you of my sympathy for your lordship's recent bereavement, and to testify from my own experience to the worth and goodness of the ate viscount, with whom, for years, I was upon the most friendly terms ?" Lord Tressitlian bowed gravely and in

"I wish also to say," continued the lawyer, coming to his errand at once, "that I should be happy to be of service to your lordship, as I have been to your father. I did not send in my accounts to press for payment, but simply to make known to your lordship the fact that your estates were not incumbered. We can settle a year hence, if you prefer it, and in the meantime, if you would honor me with any demands for money, I should be most "on account of the approaching

"Thanks, Mr. Jasper," returned Lord Tressillian, quietly; "but I do not indulge in betting or gambling." A shadow crossed the lawyer's face, but

he said, with forced pleasantry: "Well perhaps you are wise in refraining, my lord. It is a dangerous habit to bet largely. But possibly, you have in-herited your late father's passion for speculating. His lordship invested considerable in mines, railways and foreign

a mare no taste in that direction," replied Lord Pressillian. I am content with what I have, and do not seek to enlarge my income. I prefer to settle your account at once, or as soon as I shall be able to do

Mr. Jasper again bowed, but this time very formally. He had expected to establish himself on a friendly footing with the young viscount. "We will then proceed to business, my

lord, he said, concealing the annoyance he felt. "Shall we look over the accounts to-"When I shall have summoned my bailiff

He is well acquainted with all my father's Lord Tressillian touched the bell as spoke, and directed the servant who entered to summon the land steward.

That personage made his appearance a moment after, greeted Mr. Jasper, whom he had known before, and then took a seat at the open desk, in obedience to the behest of his employer.
The business was immediately commenced. The package of accounts was

examined minutely, yet expeditiously, and the sum total of indebtedness was in due time discovered.

To say that Lord Tressillian was startied at the amount, would be but to speak truly, but he concealed his surprise from the law-

yer, and said calmiv : "I was not aware that the sum was so large, Mr. Jasper, and shall require a little more time for its payment." "How much time, my lord ?" "Suppose I pay you a certain portion of

the amount, with interest, every year for three years—the third year the entire remainder of the debt to be paid? I can do that easily, but to do otherwise would subject me to considerable inconvenience." The lawyer hesitated. He knew that Le could press for the immediate sett ement of the debt, and he was strongly inclined to do so since the viscount was not likely to

throw any more profit in his way.
"I should like a little time for reflection, my lord," he said. "In fact, I wish to consult a friend whom I left at the village inn. If you will permit me to call again this afternoon, I will give you my deci-When the door had closed behind him he

resumed his seat, and drew from the desk

the papers he had thown aside at Mr. Jas-

per's entrance. This he submitted, with a smile to his bailiff. "Read them," he said. "Even if Mr. "Read them," he said. "Even it mir. Jasper presses for immediate payment, I have no cause for despondency. You see that my father's speculations in those Welsh mines are likely to turn out well, after all. The agent says that he will telegragh immediately if the new vein for which they are looking be discovered.

While Lord Tressillian and his steward were thus engaged Mr. Jasper took his way along the road toward the village, swinging his stick as he went, and thinking intently. His gaze dwelt appreciatively upon the kindred estates of Tressillian and Dare, and, as he came within view of Edencourt, he permitted his thoughts to wander to its owner and its immense value.

"An Eden indeed," he mused, pausing after he had passed the mansion, and leaning meditatively upon the park railing, while his keen eyes sought out the spotted deer that browsed contentedly in the



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