CHAPTER III.

1 went into the dining-room, where, even at that moment of confusion I saw that my presence created an additional awkwardness. I did not heed the others, but turned to Louisa, who paled before my glance. "What were you saying?" I asked.

"What do you mean ? "What did you say about Agatha a

moment ago? Will you repeat it?" Louisa's face grew sullen behind its fear. How black these gold-haired women look sometimes!

"I said that Agatha had stolen Colonel Louisa tried it on." Farrer's ring.'

"That is not true !" I exclaimed.

Mrs. Gretton broke in : " Oh, Laurence, I'm as sorry for you as I am for myself though of course you can throw up Agatha, and nothing can undo the fact that she is my poor dead brother's child. But there's no use denying it; she has confessed to the

"I don't believe it. You have misunderstood her.

"I wish that were possible. But you see the motive was there, and really we can't altogether blame her-at least"-

"What do you mean by the motive?" "Will-her brother. You have seen him?" "Yes ; he dined here once-a pale, weak looking youg fellow."

"It is Agatha who is weak over him-the only subject on which she ever shows any softness. She would never have left him, although his gambling and getting into debt were breaking her heart and wearing out her health, if he hadn't decided to go to America. Then I persuaded her to come here. But in less than six months he was back again; but he himself put so many hindrances in the way that it was evident he didn't want her. And he really seemed to be doing better. It was a surprise as well as a shock to her when she got his letter this morning saying that he wanted money. And, poor girl, I can't blame her too much if the ring tempted her."

"I see no excuse for dishonesty," said the Colonel, with a pompous indignation which even at that moment struck me as ludicrous. I remembered how he had obtained the

"Agatha told me nothing of all this," said, feeling some pain that she had withheld any confidence from me.

"She wouldn't like to expose family troubles; and, besides, Will seemed to be quite steady now," said Mrs. Gretton. "She didn't want to risk losing you,

said Louisa. I turned to Mrs. Gretton. "Will you ask Agatha, for my sake, to come downstairs for a few moments, and give us some

explanation of this matter?" "She won't come," Mrs. Gretton declared; but when I pressed the matter she consented to tell my sweetheart of my request. While she was gone another thought struck me, and I asked from Louisa, and obtained, Will March's address.

When Agatha appeared I think even the Colonel must have pitied her. I know the a wail of commiseration in his strident older. voice. How pale she was I cannot tell you; her troubled brow, her lips trembled, and her eyes were strained and colourless with weeping. She shivered as with cold, although the evening was warm and mild, and her shoulders and arms were covered with a half-transparent white shawl drawn closely round her, under whose meshes one could barely see the outline of her hands.

I went up to her and put my arm round her waist. "Agatha," I said, "do you know the accusation that is brought against you?"

"No," she answered with wondering eyes; and Louisa ejaculated, "What nonsense!"

"Before I tell you," I went on, "I want you to know that I do not believe it, that my trust in you is as complete as ever.' She broke into tears. "O Frank, Frank,

I don't deserve your trust; I don't think I should have done it. But I belonged to Will before I ever saw you-my little brother that I have cared for all my life! I promised my mother to look after him. had to help him."

"Then he needed help to-day?"

"Yes." "Why did you not come to me, dear? Surely I have the right to know your troubles."

"It wasn't my trouble; it was Will's. And, beside, men-good men-are hard, even the kindest of them. You would only have said bitter things of my poor boy, and refused to aid him after all. I had to take my own way, right or wrong."

My sweetheart's words were very bitter to me. I had trusted her, and she had not trusted me. I had been tender with herall the more gentle because so long she had stood and fought alone, because I knew that love of any kind had never smoothed her path. I had tried, consciously tried, to make her feel that my life was bound with her: I had risked boring her with my disappointments, my ambitions, and my hopes, rather than let her fancy I had a thought apart from her. I had brought only little troubles to her as yet, because, thank God, I had no great ones brother, she had taken "her own way, right a clean breast of this matter."

or wrong." For I forgot at that moment that I had pro- self to tell a straight story; but, put briefly, mised to trust her against the accusing of it was the familiar tale of gambling, debt, all the world, and I was angry with myself the cherished chum developing into the for feeling that if she would only raise her pressing creditor, and embezzlement comeyes to mine I could not but "believe her- mitted to meet his claims. self against herself." Surely now, I thought, i "It's not much-only fifteen pounds; but Mr. Tightfist. she would flash a glance of anger or reproof it's enough to play the mischief with me if

little lower. "I suppose you have the right to call it me out of the bog." that," she said pitifully. "I didn't think! "Did she give you money?" of it in that light at the moment. The need "Not exactly. She hadn't enough; and was so great, so pressing, that I only felt those beasts at the college she teaches at night, and coming home we took a car, that the power to help was in my hands. I wouldn't advance her salary, though it is due though he wanted to walk both ways. Well, my salary, I should be able to put all right the mean hounds." without your knowing. I didn't know that . It was wonderful what scorn Will felt change?" So I paid the fares.

I was doing really wrong. I can't quite feel

"Why, Agatha," cried her aunt, "I don't know what you mean! That comes of he asked, looking more uncomfortable than going to nasty Socialist meentings, where I | ever. believe everybody is an infidel. Can't feel that you did wrong, indeed ! Where is your conscience, if it doesn't tell you that you were wrong-wickedly, sinfully, wrong-in It was all true, then. Agatha was a thief. taking Colonel Farrer 'sring?

Agatha looked up now, but in utmost bewilderment. "Colonel Farrers ring! What have I to do with that? I have never seen it since this afternoon, when

"How dare you talk so, you wicked girl! In face the of your own words, too. Didn't you tell Louisa yourself, when you came in that you had taken the ring?" " Never !"

Mrs Gretton and Louisa both broke into exclamations of horror at her dishonesty, deceit, and boldness. Agatha paid no heed to them. She turned to the Colonel, and stretched out her right hand-her left was still half hidden by the shawl, but I could see that it was pressed against her throat, as if to keep down an hysteric sob that would hardly be repressed. "Colonel Farrer," she said solemnly, "I swear to you that I have never touched your ring, that I have not seen it since this afternoon when it was on my cousin's hand."

"I don't believe a word you say, Miss March," said the Colonel rudely; and again the two woman began their howling of reproach. I could stand it no longer.

"Look here Miss Gretton," I cried; "the last time the ring was seem it was on your finger. It doesn't seem so very unlikely that you knew what became of it afterwards, that you know where it is lying now."

"Oh! Frank, don't talk like that," cried Agatha; while Mrs Gretton turned on me like an infuriated mother-hen, and asked me how I dared address such language to her

Louisa remained composed. It is natural that you should want to screen Agatha at any one's expense," she said; "and perhaps you could manage it better if it weren't for her own admisssion, made in your hearing, that to oblige her brother she has done something which, if she confessed it, you would consider wrong."

at Agatha in a mute appeal for the explana- between you and her. Promise me not to The drill, moreover, is conducted on the tion I felt it would be useless to demand. | throw her over." She only shook her head. I turned to Colonel Farrer, and addressed myself to "There are some things one doesn't like to him: "As Miss March's future husband"- think of in one's wife. But still, as you say, "Good gracious!" I heard Mrs. Gretton it was for your sake. She wouldn't have Krupp guns, and the infantry Mannlicher exclaim, as if she doubted that I still could done it for her own." think of making Agatha my wife-" As Miss March's future husband, I take the Will emphatically. whole responsibility of this matter. I am going out now to investigate it. I hope to The pawnbroker s was near-a mean place, make it all clear; but I promise you that if where business was done mostly in half-worn | 000 men could be found for duty. All the I cannot give you back your ring, I will pay gowns and coats, thin blankets, silver rest had "disappeared," the technical exyou the value of it, if I have to sell the coat watches, and tawdry dangling earrings. off my back and beg in the streets for the could not but think that the sacred ruby of

"Finetalk," said the Colonel; "but I won't

loose tendrils of her brown hair hung about horsewhip before another hour has passed," though he kept assuring me that he was an I retorted. "Keep any watch you like honest tradesman who had never had so while I am gone; but if you send her out of much as a suspicion about him. "And the this house, you will remember what you young gent looked like one that might have have done till your dying day."

> Louisa, in search of Will March. He lived | it; I'm quite innocent'not far off, in one of the gloomy streets of Agatha was suffering all the time. Happily, was not Colonel Farrer's ruby that I saw, During the last war with Peru he showed however, my brother-in-law elect was at | but Agatha's diamond engagement ring. home. It was May, and warm for the time of year; but he was cowering over a fire in one corner of the shabby stuffy room, and sucking desperately at a short briar pipe. He looked a miserable object, whom only his youth-he was younger than Agatha, only a little over twenty-made a fit object for pity rather than contempt. He was taken aback at my appearance. I think he guessed at once that I ment to tackle him on the subs ject of the help he had received fro m hi sister, and tried to stiffen himself into an invertebrate obstincy.

"I believe you are in want of money," began without any preamble of greeting. "What's that to you?" he retorted with a rudeness that surpassed my own.

"No; but you asked your sister, and that's the same."

haven't asked you for any."

"Oh, is it?" "You know what I mean—that your sister is engaged to me; and I'm not going to have her robbed, and tortured, and driven to despair through your conduct."

"You'd better wait till Aggie herself complains before you take up that tone." "It is time to take it up when she is threatened with disgrace for helping you."

"Disgrace!" "Yes; she is accused of theft, and won't compromising you.'

anything against her."

"And your way," I said, "was theft!" panion; he was too anxious to excuse him- desirable quality.

at me. But she only drooped her head a I can't account for it to-morrow. At least him.

for the Secretary and Treasurer of that Col-

"That was when she left me in the morning. When she came back in the afternoon she told me of the refusal, and we were at our wits' end, till she thought of something

"What did she think of? What did she "It doesn't matter about that, does it?"

"That is just what does matter."

"It was a ring." "A ring!" I sat down and groaned aloud. She had put her own head in the noose to

save this miserable young seapegrace. But how could she have been so mad as to think she could escape detection?

"Where is it now?" I asked at last.

"Pawned." "Have you the ticket?"

" Yes." "And the money ?"

"Yes." "I'll give you a cheque for the sum; but we must go to the pawnbroker's to-night and redeem it. "It's too late."

"If it were midnight, I must get it out to-night. I'd rout up the Seven Sleepers toget it. Come along and show me the place.

"But look here; you'll act square?" "I have promised you a cheque sufficient to cover that-deficit. I'll give it you just due to several faults of army orgaization as now if you like, if you'll give me the money you got for the ring and take me to the fluential politicians in the technical managepawnbroker."

notes, three sovereigns, and a handful of fifteen pounds in all. Fortunately, I had a cheque-book in my pocket, and gave him a cheque for the amount.

"It's all right, I suppose?" he said, fingerng the paper dubiously.

"Of course it's all right," I replied with should think myself disgraced if I incurred out incurring arrest for desertion. a liability I couldn't meet.'

He coloured at the taunt, but did not resent it. "There's another thing," he went | Minister is known among the foreigners in on with more hesitancy. "You won't Chili as the most "nomadic official" in the throw Aggie over for this. She's really Chilian Cabinet. It is by no means infreawfully fond of you; it would break her heart if anything came between you and her, and you know she's one of those quiet girls | indeed, Ministers resign four or five weeks that things go fearfully deep with. She cried-you've no idea how she cried over fickleness of the head administrator, comthat ring; but she thought she ought to help | bined with the division of responsibility me. She has always helped me, you know. But upon my word, I-yes, I would now-Her words were unanswerable. I looked I'd sooner go to jail than make any mischief of the demoralization of the regular service.

"I don't know," I answered slowly.

I said nothing, and we went out together of 58,602 privates and 2,119 officers. Last

My sternness and young March's pallid | fireman shall be exempt from military oblitrust to it. That young woman will be in- face made the pawnbroker comprehend that gations. Hence it is that Chili has the parrot did, for he cried out 'A-ga-fa!' with side a police cell before she is half an hour there was something wrong. I believe he thought I was a detective, and made but firemen of all countries in the world. "If she is, you shall know the lash of a small demur about showing me the ring, a thing of that sort naturally enough. But soldier has two inherent qualities which I hurried to the address given me by remember, sir, that I know nothing about render him superior to all other South

"All right," I interrupted. "There's no the battlefield. He has wonderful endur-Theobald's Road, a locality not frequented suspicion of you; you're in no danger if

by hansoms and unknown to the cabman I | you'll make haste and produce that ring." had called. Thus some time was wasted He did so. Was the pang that went his strength throughout forced marches of before I found the place, and I knew that through me one of relief or shame? For it which the European soldier hardly dreams.

(TO BE CONTIUNED.)

## The Czar's Little Joke.

An amusing story, which illustrates in pointed way the far-reaching effects which may attend even a small pleasantry on the part of the Czar, has reached us from a trustworthy source in St Petersburgh. On the occasion of the reassembling of the Holy Synod in the Russian capital it was resolved to forward to his Majesty, in accordance with traditional usage, the archipastoral benediction. The clerk who was employed to prepare the document formally communicating this pious resolution made a curious mistake by a slip of the pen. He wrote "architectural" instead of "archipastoral," and the resolution was forwarded without the error being detected. When the Czar received it he laughed heartily, and wrote on the margin, "I have no need of such a blessing." He then dismissed the matter from his mind. The document, however, with the Imperial annotation, found its way back to the Holy Synod, and produced among the members of that body the greatest surprise and consternation. Without stopping to investigate the matter, the exalted ecclesiastics who were responsible for the resolution jumped give a satisfactory explanation, for fear of to the conclusion that they had in some way or other incurred the Czar's displeasure, "That's nonsense. They can't make out and that his Majesty's comment was an intimation to them that they were expected "I don't know about that. She is under to immediately resign. They accordingly to bring; but I had striven, even in guard at this moment, and threatened with went in a body to the Imperial Palace, and those early days of our betrothal, to begin the police office. I don't myself understand humbly tendered their joint and several that union of mind and soul I looked for in her conduct; but I expect that you do. resignations. It was now the turn of the our marriage. I had meant nothing but Now, look here, March; I wouldn't lend Czar to be overwhelmed with amazement, love, and to her I had seemed cold and hard, you a shilling to save you from penal servi- and it was only after a goood deal of emunready to help. Pain made me cruel when tude, as far as you yourself are concerned; barrassment and reciprocal explanations that I thought of this, and recalled her state. but for Agatha's sake, I'll pay this debt of the matter was set right. The interview ment that, for fear of my refusal to aid her yours, or whatever it is, if only you'll make terminated with a mild hint on the part of she grasped Baker's arms just as the knife his Majesty that even in the record for Confession did not come easily to my com- religious bodies verbal accuracy was a highly

A Great Financier.

some day. He has such a grasp of finance.

What gives you that impression?

#### OHILIAN SOLDIERS,

The Faults of Army Organization-Remarkable Endurance of the Men.

The news that a whole regiment and three battalions of infantry stationed near Pisagua, Chili, have shot their officers and gone over to the insurgents is generally regarded as especially ominous for the Chilian Government, which has fewer troops to lose than usually has been supposed. Even on paper the entire standing army of Chili contains but 5,719 men and 397 officers. These troops are included in eight battalions of infantry, one battalion of sappers and miners, three regiments of cavalry, two regiments of field artillery. This force was distributed at the breaking out of the revolution as follows: In the northern provinces, Tacna, Iquique, and Antosagasto, two battalions, one regiment of cavalry, and one regiment of artil ery; near the middle of the country, that is, between Valparaiso and Santiago, three battalions, two regiments of cavalry, two brigades of artillery, and one brigade of coast artillery; to the south three battalions, a battalion of sappers and miners, and one regiment of cavalry. The effective strength of the Chilian army, however, falls far below these figures. In 1890 it was estimated at only 2,305 men since, during the period between Jan. 1 and Nov. 1, 1,158 privates had deserted. This rather desperate state of affairs is

well as to the persistent interference of inment of the soldiers. In the first place, He brought it out-two dirty five-pound | Chili is the only country in the world that | thority of the British Parliament six years unites a regular volunteer service with an silver-a miscellaneous collection that made obligatory militia service. All members of the regular army receive liberal pay, after the system prevalent in the United States. Once enlisted, however, the soldier is not years is Sir Henry Parker, Premier of the held so strictly to the duties of the service as with us. By the personal influence of the leading spirit in the Conference at Sidfriends, by petty bribery, and in a hundred some anger. "I'm not a rich man; but I other ways he may secure his release with-

At the head of the Chilian military organization stands a Minister of War. This quent that a Chilian Ministry falls five or six months after its organization. Often, after having been named for office. This between him and two Inspector-Generals, is regarded as one of the most fruitful causes most antiquated lines. The cavalry, for instance, follows the Spanish regulations of 1807. The weapons of the troops on the other hand, are modern. The artillery has rifles. The arsenals and repair shops are "Not to save herself from starving," said under the supervision of German officers. The Chilian militia has a nominal strength year, however, only 1,055 officers and 27, pression in Chili for desertion. A source of weakness of the recruiting service in Chili is Ram Asoka had got into strange company. the law that whoever serves as a volunteer largest and most willing force of volunteer

Despite all the deficiencies of the organization, and the wide gaps in every division of the army, the Chilian army is far from being as completely inefficient as the armies of most of the neighboring States. The Chilian Americans, as well as to many Europeans on and a few bites of bread he is able to preserve this quality of endurance to a remarkable degree. Considerable bodies of Chilian infantry marched frequently thirty miles a day. Chilian cavalry, moreover, often covered, marching day and night, sixty miles at a stretch. The explanation of this exceptional physical energy of the cavalry is to be found in the fact that every Chilian is at home on horseback and that the horses have staying powers when on the gallop (the only gait the cavalry knows) which European horses never attain to. The common conclusion, however, that the Chilians are weak on their feet because strong on horseback is entirely false. Not only is the average Chilian horseman an exceptionally persevering pedestrian, but often the fastest foot courier in the world. The regular military couriers are frequently able to cover between fifty and sixty miles a day, and a Chilian private of only slightly extraordinary running ability has been known to make, often under a load of forty pounds, forty or fortyfive miles a day.

## HER LIFEFOR HER HUSBAND'S.

#### A Young Woman Prevents a Murder and is Murdered Herself.

Mrs. Neil Nelson, a young married women of 19, was murdered at midnight in New Orleans, by Philip Baker, her husband's clerk. Nelson and Baker were settling up the accounts of the store for the week when they got into a quarrel over money matters. The clerk knocked his employer down, and was about to stab him with a knife when Mrs Nelson, hearing the struggle, rushed from her room in her bare feet and night dress. Although she is slender and in delicate health, was descending.

While Baker was struggling with the woman, who clung desperately to him, Nelson staggered to his feet, and instead of assisting his wife, either in fright or dazed by the blow which had felled him, rushed from the store into the street calling for Mabel-Well, I've concluded to marry help. At that hour of the night it was some time before he could get aid. Fifteen Mildred-Why, I thought you hated minutes later, when he entered the house with an officer and several citizens, they it would have been if Agatha hadn't helped Oh I do, but he is bound to be very rich found Mrs. Nelson stone dead at the foot of the stairs with her throat cut and her head almost severed from the body. She had Why, he invited me to go to church last staggered only a few feet from the spot | Mr. Boaster-"I'd have you to know where she had grasped the murderer.

should have felt guilty if I had not used it. next week. She thought she could get it when the conductor came around he said : room in the same building, changed his Henry IV." handsome, and very popular.

#### THE NEW ORDER IN AUSTRALL

Great Project of the Union Conference in Session at Sidney.

An Australian who is travelling through this country and the United States was interviewed by a reporter the other day and spoke as follows:

"It is evident that several erroneous notions about Australia are now prevalent in this country. There is not the slightest danger of Australia severing her connection with the British empire or setting up an Independent Government, and this fact will be made known to all the world by the Federal Conference that is now holding its sessions in the city of Sidney with the approval of the British authorities. The object of that Conference is to bring about a federal union of the seven great colonies of the continent to frame a federal constitution, to establish a Federal parliament, and to found a Federal Government that shall take charge of the general interests of the united colonies. This is a very great undertaking, as can be seen by taking into consideration the magnitude of the country, the extraordinary growth of its population, the rapid development of its prodigeous resources, and the advancement of its power within recent times. But it does not mean that we desire to throw away the advantages that had been won by the lion and the unicorn. We shall, in a certain sense, form a new nation. Yet it will be but one of the many nations that constitute the world-girdling British empire.

"The Conference now in session was projected by a body known as the Australian Council," which was formed under the auago, and which has been busy ever since its formation. The great promoter of federation, the man who has labored in its behalf, both in England and Australia, or over thirty colony of New South Wales, who is now ney. He is well along in life, but his energy is unabated, and the Australian Federation, which is sure to be soon constituted, will owe its existence to his persistent efforts. His motto for the Federation is: 'One people, one destiny.

"Less than half a century ago Australia was a convict colony to which British criminals were banished, but her population at this time is greater than that of the United States was in the Presidency of George Washington, and, in fact, may be set down at 5,000,000. It is hard to tell who her the booming city of Melbourne in the colony of Victoria, or the booming city of Sidney in New South Wales, will be the metropolis of eastern Australia.

"There are several reasons for Australia's desire to continue her attachment to the British empire. In the first place, she will thus enjoy British protection against all foes, and can always look to the British navy for safety. In the second place, we desire immigration from Great Britain, and the home Government does a great deal to encourage it. In the third place, we desire to retain those commercial advantages which belong to us as a part of the empire, and the privileges of trade which we enjoy with all the other British possessions in the world. Our business is with Great Britain and the British dominions, and we cannot afford to disregard the interests that must grow in importance hereafter. Finally, we belong to the British stock, and appreciate the power and glory of our mother land.

"You may look for the formation of an Australian federation by the Conference, but not for the severance of the relations we have so long held with the British Govern-

## ATTACKED BY A LION.

#### ance and few needs. With a little water A Tamer Receives Fatal Injuries While Training the Animal.

A terrible scene, by which a well-known lion tamer will lose his life, was witnessed at the Hippodrome in Paris recently. The spectacle of "Nero" is being prepared at the Hippodrome, and one of the features of the show, as proposed, was an attack by a number of lions upon wooden figures so arranged in the arena as to represent human beings. Seets, the lion tamer, had just concluded the day's drilling of training of six lions for this performance, and was driving them back into their cages, when one of them sullenly refused to re-enter his cage. Seets managed to cage the remaining five lions, and then turned his attention to the rebellious animal, which had angrily taken refuge in a neighboring passage. Seets armed himself with a lance and tried to dislodge the refractory lion, but in so doing he tripped and lost hold of his lance, the weapon rolling several yards away from him. Before the lion tamer could regain posses-

sion of the lance the lion sprang upon the unfortunate man, hurled him to the floor, and bit and rent him in a most horrible manner. Seets's cries for help soon brought another of the trainers to the scene. The latter caught up the lance and gallantly attacked the lion, inflicting a severe wound with the weapon in the animal's forhead. Cowed by the wound, the lion released poor Seets and slunk into its cage. Medical assistence was promply sent for and everything possible was done to save the lion tamer's life, but the latest reports are that he is in a dying condition.

## Must Change the Place.

Miss Twilling-I suppose you remember, Mr. Calloway, that last night, in spite of my fruitless struggles, you had the effronter, sir, to actually kiss me.

Calloway (meekly)-Yes, I remember the circumstance. Miss Twilling-Well, if you think you are

going to repeat that operation in the hall tonight, you are much mistaksn. I don't propose to leave this room all the evening.

## Matrimonial Items.

Mr. Jones-So you have been off on a bridal tour to Niagara Falls. What did you see that pleased you most while you were away, Mrs. Spoony? Mrs. Spoony (modestly)-My husband.

# A Family Failing.

Mr. Curly, that I come of genuine Bourbox Baker, in the meanwhile, had gone to his stock; my family runs back to the time of

And I hoped that in three days, when I got that way; but they wauldn't give it her- "How unfortunate! I find I have nothing clothes, and escaped. Mrs. Nelson had Mr. Curtly-"Well, I guess you'd be smaller than a dollar bill. Have you any been married only six months. She was willing to run back that far yourself if you couldn't get your bourbon are other way."