UNDER A CLOUD.

A THRILLING TALE OF HUMAN LIFE.

CHAPTER VI.

GUEST THINKS THE WORST.

Edie.

"Hush! No, I must talk. If I think in silence I shall go mad."

"O Myra, Myra, are you never to be really married after all?"

The bride made a hurried motion with her and thrust back her hair.

"It makes me think of two years ago, dear," whispered Edie, "and all the horrors of that day."

"Yes; is it fate?" said Myra hoarsely, as she sat gazing at vacancy.

caressing and trying to soothe the sufferer as she clung to her side. "It couldn't have been that this time, or else Percy would worth shillings to some poor soul." not be such friends."

Myra bent forward with her eyes dilated as if she were gazing at something across the room.

"Your poor hands are so cold and damp, and your forehead burning hot. O Myra, Myra! I did not think that two such like entrance to the quiet, secluded inn. terrible days could come in one poor girl's

"Edie," said Myra, in a husky whisper, "you saw Malcolm last night?"

"Yes, dear, of course."

"You did not see anything strange in his manner?"

"No; only that he was half mad with joy, and when he kissed me and said good-night -you remember?"

"Yes, yes." "He said he was the happiest man alive." "Yes; I remember the exact words."

"And he hoped that soon-"

Edie stopped with a faint flush in her cheeks.

Myra nodded quickly, but without ceasing to gaze straight away into vacancy. "But there was nothing strange-he was quite well—he said nothing else to you?"

"No, dear ; nothing that I can recall." "Are you sure he dropped no hint?

Nothing that could make you think he did not wish to marry me?" "No, no, no, dear. He was longing to

call you his very own. He said so-to me. But don't look like that, darling; you frighten me. What are you thinking?" Myra was silent, and her aspect was so

strange that Edie shook her excitedly. "Myra darling-don't !"she cried.

"I was thinking was it possible that,

after all, he could repent," said Myra in low, measured tones. "Whether, knowing all, he shrank from me at the moment when a few words would have made it irrevocable."

"But why-why, darling?" cried Edie in

"You cannot grasp it as he would. Imarried, and under such circumstances. Love is blind, Edie, and he, poor fellow, may have been blinded in his love-his old love for me. But what if the veil dropped away from his eyes at last, and he could not, he dare not face it-the sacrifice for him! Edie, it was that, and I forgive him, for I loved him with all my heart

Startled by her cousin's looks and words, Edie now caught her hands and stood over her, speaking impetuously, almost angrily. "For shame!" she cried. "Malcolm

Stratton would never have acted like that. O Myra; how could you think it of him? So manly and open and frank in everything. Oh, no, no, no, ; it could not be that. Myra turned to her quickly and clung

to the hands which grasped hers, as if sinking in her despair, and clutching at one more chance for life. "Say-say that again," she whispered

huskily.

is no need. Malcolm could not treat you like this of his own free will. He must be choose," muttered Miss Jerrold. "Had you -he is ill, and that is all."

if to herself. "If I could only believe it miral leaned forward, listening attentively. was that; but no, no," she wailed now, breaking down utterly, and snatching away agitated now, Guest once more knocked yachting and the sea, and, of course, papa her hands to cover her convulsed face; loudly, with the repetition of the knocker, "the truth has been too strong at last, and telling plainly of the trembling hand of

he has gone." "Myra!" cried Edie. "Hush! You shall not give way like this. How can you be so weak? It is madness. If he had treated you so shamefully, and turned Knock again Mr Guest." away, you could not-you should nct, take it to heart. Where is your of the weird-looking old staircase, and in, again looking at her sharply, and as if he could. woman's pride? To give way, believing then died out above with a peculiar whis- the words had stung. such an infamy, is dreadful. But I tell per, while Guest's heart sank within his you it isn't-it can't be true. There, there, breast as a dozen fancies now took posbe calm, my darling. Be patient till they session of him, and horror prevailed. come back. He has studied 'co hard lately -that's it. I've noticed how pale and Miss Jerroid. "Mr. Guest, will worried he looked at times, and with this excitement-you heard what Percy saidhe has broken down. There, that's the Square, and we have passed him on the truth. He's ill, and will soon be better, and way." all will come right, Myra! my darling coz. Don't turn like that. Oh-help! help!"

She thrust her cousin back so that her head rested on the lounge, for a deathly look had come over the beautiful face, the eyes were half closed, sending a'chill of horror through the startled girl, who now tore frantically at the bell.

No: Percy must come back to tell her the face, man, when I heard a rustling noise in the house, where, seated at a table, with simple truth, for I am right: Malcolm there, You heard it too. Deny it if you coffee, cigars and a pack of cards, was the Stratton could not treat her as she thinks." | can." And Percy Guest was on the way to put it to the test.

spoken in the carriage, each of its occupants | slit move. being full of his or her own thoughts.

silence. For, as she sat there stern and shall come out and face you, and tell the had voluntarily undertaken in answer to illness, I am sure."

the appeal in her niece's eyes, which plainly asked that she would stand between father and lover in any encounter which "Myra! My own darling!" sobbed might take place, she noted that she was still holding the bouquet of exotics she had borne to the church.

A look of annoyance and disgust crossed her face.

"Here, Mr. Guest," she said sharply; "let down the window and throw these

stupid flowers away." Guest started, and hesitated about taking hands, then pressed them to her temples the bouquet, but it was pressed into his hand, and he was about to lower the win-

dow when the lady interposed. "No; it would be waste," she cried. "Wait till we see some poor flower girl, and give it to her."

The window on her right was let down sharply; then the flowers were snatched from her hand and thrown out into open that door." "But I'll never believe that Malcolm the road by Sir Mark, who dragged Stratton could do wrong," whispered Edie, the window up again with an angry

> "As you please, Mark," said the lady quietly; "but the flowers might have been

> Silence reigned once more as the wheels spun round. Oxford Street was reached and crossed, the coachman turning down into and across Grosvenor Square, and then in and out, avoiding the main streets, till the last, when the then busy thoroughfare was reached near its eastern end, and the carriage was drawn up at the narrow, court-

Heads were turned directly, among those whose attention was taken being a barrister in wig and gown, just on his way to the court, where Mr. Justice Blank was giving his attention to a divorce case. Miss Jerrold saw the legal gentleman's smile, and guessed its meaning.

"How stupid!" she muttered. Then, as the footman came to the door: "Edward," she whispered hurriedly, "take that stupid satin bow from your breast. Tell Johnson, too."

The favor disappeared as the door was thrown open, and Sir Mark sprang out to go straight on toward the inn; then, recollecting himself, he turned to help his sister

But he was too late. Percy Guest had performed that duty, and the lady took his arm and followed the admiral on into the calm silence of the old inn, past the porter's lodge, unnoticed by its occupant; then on across the square, under its shady plane trees, toward the fine old red brick mansion in the corner, with its iron lamp support and curious old link extinguishers on either side.

The place was utterly deserted, and so still that the creaking of the admiral's new boots sounded loud and strange, while as they mounted the worn steps and entered chilly and damp, while the great stone staircase had a look that seemed forbidding

"You have brought us here," said Sir Mark, stopping short at the foot of the stairs. "Go first."

He gave place to Guest, who led Miss Jerrold on and up the two flights to the broad landing, upon which the doors of Brettison's and Stratton's chambers open-

"One moment while I get my breath," panted Miss Jerrold; "I'm not so young as used to be, Mr. Guest.'

The admiral frowned, and stood scowling at the legend on the door, but it seemed cold and blank now, for there was no ray of sunshine to make the letters stand out clear.

All looked murky and grim, and the utter silence of the place was impressive as that of a tomb.

As they stood there on the landing Guest hesitated for a moment or two, an undefinable feeling of dread having attacked him; there was a curious ringing in the ears, and his heart beat with a heavy throb.

He was brought back to his duty by the cold, stern voice of the admiral.

"Well, Mr. Guest," he said again with a cold formality of tone, "you have brought us here"—and he waved his band toward the door. Guest sprang forward, knocked sharply,

and stood back to wait, while Miss Jerrold drew a long, hissing breath, perfectly audible in the silence. There was no response, and the chirping

of the inn sparrows came painfully loud! "I'll say it a hundred times, but there | through an open window somewhere above. | time." "What a dismal place for a man to

not better knock again?" "If I could only think so," said Myra as | Guest repeated the summons, and the ad-Still there was no reply; and, growing pleasantly about anything, especially about

him who raised it and let it fall. He drew back, to stand listening intently ton.

till Miss Jerrold spoke.

"He must be out," said the lady quietly. The knocker once more raised the echoes

"We cannot stay here," see me to my carriage again? Mr. Stratton must be out. Gone to Bou re

"No !"thundered the admiral; "he is within there, hiding, like the cur he is, and afraid to face me !"

Guest turned upon him angrily. "Come away, sister," growled the old think out romances. Let's enjoy the man ; "I am right."

"No, sir; I swear you are wrong," cried Guest.

"I am not going to deny it, sir ; I did rather proud of his white, carefully tended Miss Jerrold was the first to break the hear a sound," he said. "If he is here he hands.

knocker and beat out a heavy raulade.

through his arm.

"Illness?" he said in a low growl. "Yes, the shivering fit of a coward or cur." his lips he smiled carelessly. "It is not true!" cried Guest excitedly as a thought flashed across his brain. "I said; and he was in the act of shuffling his

and -- Great Heavens! is it that?" conveyed his terrible thoughts to his com- dow. panions.

Miss Jerrold clung to her brother, and turned ghastly pale, while a look of horror contracted the old man's face. "You-you don't think--"

stammered. "I think the worst, or my poor the cards. friend would have been with us." " Man-for God's sake don't say that," gasped the admiral, as Guest stepped back to the full extent of the landing.

"There is some mystery here." "Stop! What are you going to do?" cried Sir Mark, catching at his arm. "Stand aside, sir; I am going to burst

CHAPTER VII.

TWO YEARS BEFORE.

Blue sky, the bluest of blue water, margined with green and gold; gloriously rugged, steeply sloping pasture alps, dotted with picturesquely carved chalets, weatherworn by sun and rain to a rich, warm brown; higher up, the sehn hutte-the summer farmsteads of the peasants, round and about which graze gentle, soft-faced cows, each bearing its sweet-toned, musical bell. Again, higher still, gray crag and lightning-blasted granite, bare, repellant, and strange; upward still, and in nook and cranny patches of a dingy white, like the sweepings up of a great hailstorm; another thousand feet up, and the aching eyes dazzled by peak, fold, cushion, and plain of white-the eternal ice; and, above all, the glorious sun beaming down, melting from the snows a million tiny rivers, which whisper and sing as they carve channels for their courses and meet and ccalesce to flow amicably down, or quarrel and rage and rush together, till, with a mighty, echoing roar, they plunge headlong down the rift in some mighty glacier, flow on for miles, and reappear at the foot turbid, milky, and laden with stone, to hurry headlong to their purification in the lovely lake below.

Two hundred feet above that lake, on a broad shelf, stood the Hotel des Cerfs, a magnified chalet, and in the wooden balcony, leaning upon the carved rail, and gazing at the wondrous view across lake and meadow, up and away to the snow-covered mountains till they blended with the fleecy clouds, stood Myra Jerrold and Edie Perrin -cousins by birth, sisters by habit-reveling in their first visit to the land of ice peak, valley, and lake.

"I could stand here, I think, forever, and the gloomy hall of the old place it struck never tire of drinking in the beauties of such a scene, Edie. It makes me so happy : and yet there are moments when the tears come into my eyes, and I feel sir."

"Yes, I know, dear," replied Edie. then." "That's when you want your lunch or dinner. One feels faint."

"How can you be so absurd?" cried Myra half reproachfully. "Then it's indigestion, from eating old

goat." "Edie!" "It is, dear," said the merry, fair-haired girl, gwinging her straw hat by one string over the balcony. "I'm sure they save up the goats when they're too old to give milk, to cook up for the visitors, and then they call it chamois. I wish Aunt Jerrold had been here to have some of that dish last night. I say, she wants to know when we

are coming back to Bourne Square." "I don't know," said Myra thoughtfully. "I am in no hurry. It is very beautiful

"Hum, yes. You like it-as well as St. Malo, the boating, and that quaint Breton woman where we lodged?"

"Of course. The flowers and the pine woods-it is one glorious garden. Papa liked the yatching, though." "Yes; but after three months out here I shall be glad to see smoky old London

again." "Yes," said Myra meaningly, "I suppose

Edie glanced at her sidewise in a quick, sharp way, but was silent for a few minutes.

When her cousin spoke. "Let's go and coax papa out for a good ramble till dinner-I mean till supper

"No good; he would not come. Piquet, coffee, and cigars. Do you like this Mr.

Barron, Myra?" "Oh, yes, well enough. He is very clever and well informed. He can talk

likes that." "Talks too much, I think. I'd rather sit and listen to quiet, thoughful Mr. Strat-

"I suppose so," said Myra rather dryly; and then hastened to add, "and Mr.

"Yes, and to Mr. Guest," said her cous

Myra met her glance, and hurriedly changed the conversation. "Look what a change there is on the lake,

said dear," she said. "How glowing the water "Yes, and yet some people prefer playing

cards to studying nature." "Papa is no longer young. He has enjoyed scenery all over the world and likes

rest now, and a game of cards." "I was not talking about uncle, dear." "About Mr. Barron, then? Dear me, what a sagacious nod. Edie dear, don't

matter of fact and real. Ready for a walk?" Edie held up her hat by one string, and put it on ready to descend with her cousin "A doctor-they must fetch a doctor. "What? Why, I saw the change in your to a lower balcony, on another frontage of admiral, and, facing him, a rather heavily Guest was silent for a moment, and he built man, with some pretensions to being stood with his eyes fixed upon the letter handsome. He was plainly and well-dress-For some little distance not a word was box, as if expecting to see the cover of the ed, of the easy manners of one accustomed to all kinds of society, and apparently

cigar, streaks of gray showed in bis health.

As he spoke he once more seized the closely cut beard and crisp, dark hair. ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD But still there was no reply, and, taking wrinkling about the corners and behis sister's hand, the admiral drew it beneath his eyes, the work more of an ard-

uous life than age. As he rose to replace the cigar between

"Luck's with you to-day, admiral," he remember now, he had a heavy sum of cards when he caught sight of his companmoney on the table when I was here, ion's daughter and niece.

In an instant the cards were thrown His manner was contagious, and his face down, and the cigar jerked out of the win-

"What's the matter?" said the admiral. in Japan. "Ah, girls !"

"We've come to ask you to go for a walk with us, papa, but if-Myra's eyes rested for a monent on the

admiral's companion, and then dropped to

"Our game ?" said the younger man quickly. "Oh that's nothing; we can play any time, Miss Jerrold, and the weather is health resort. lovely now. Why not accompany the ladies, sir ?"

"No, thanks ; I get more walking than I care for. Don't go far, girls; the mountains are full of goblins and dragons, which devour pretty maidens. Be back soon, and I'll go and sit down with you by the lake. Now, Barron, your deal."

The gentleman addressed looked at the ladies, and shrugged his shoulders slightly as much as to say, "You see I have no alternative."

"Then you will not come, papa?" said Myra as she rested her hands on his shoulders. "No, my dear; too tired. Don't spoil

my luck by stopping; run along." "Uncle talks to us as if we were two little tots of things, Myry, "said Edie as they crossed the hotel garden. "Well, why should we not always be to

him like the girls he loves and pets?" James Barron thought the same as Edie as he dealt the cards, and he added to himself; "She resents it ; I could see her brow wrinkle. That settles it; I'll chance the throw."

"Ha! Now we can be at peace again," cried the admiral as he settled himself to his hand, which he played out, and ended by winning the game.

James Barron took up the pack again | rial stone of the first consumptive hospital nervously, threw it down, thrust his hand into his pocket, and then passed a couple new farm of Carsemeadow, at Bridge of of louis across the table.

"Cut," said the admiral. His vis-a vis shook his head, took out a case, and carefully selected a cigar, which

he proceeded to cut and light. "Oh, nonsense, man! The luck will change ; my turn to-day, your's to-morrow." "Feoh! It isn't that, Sir Mark," said Barron, throwing himself back in his chair. "I can afford to lose a few louis. I'm a bit hipped—out of sorts."

"Hotel living." "No, sir; brain. There, I'll speak plainy, even at the risk of your laughing at me for we have been friends now at several places during the last three months-since

I met you at St. Malo." "Pleasant acquaintances, sir," said the admiral, metaphorically drawing himself beneath the shell of his English reserve. "Mutual tastes-yatching. Acquaintances

"I beg your pardon; acquaintances,

There was a pause, during which the admiral also lit a fresh cigar, and his brows twitched a little.

[TO BE CONTINUED]



Dude Sportsman-" Anything to shoot

Countryman-"Hain't ben nuthin' till you arrived. Ill git me gun."

It Was the Pie. The landlady of the boarding-house was out in the backyard when the tramp en-

tered and it disturbed him so that he came near losing his usual aplomb. "Beg parding, ma'am," he began, "I came

to see if you didn't lose a pie you left out here yesterday to git cool.' "Yes, I did, and I'm looking for the per-

son who took it. Was it you?" and she came at him threateningly. He dodged and got over to the other

who it was." "Well, you tell me and I'll have him ar-

rested and punished." "You don't have to, ma'am," he sighed, "he's dead," and he got out the best way

The Secret of It.

Little Boy-"I wonder what's the reason landlords won't rent a house for less than a

whole year." Little Girl-"I guess there isn't many houses that rolks would stay in that long if the law didn't make 'em.'

A Wise Little Head.

Little Girl-"Won't you please have an ambulance sent to that empty barn?" Policeman-" Certainly, miss, who's esty's offers for the purchase of the estate

Little Girl-"Nobody yet. But the boys

is going to play circus. Pretty Good Evidence.

are telling the truth?" Witness-" Be jabers, you wudn't be so hot about it if Oi wasn't."

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly-Interesting Hap-

penings of Recent Date. The Isle of Guernsey exacts a tax from

Tea is cut every 40 days the year round

Europeans pay \$3,320,000,000 taxes per annum. The salary of the infant king of Spain is-

\$750,000. St. Paul's Cathedral, London, is insured

for\$475,000.

St. Helena, it is announced, is to become a

The Khedive of Egypt has a gorgeous bicycle almost entirely plated with silver. The rate of growth of the Christians in India is more than double that of the population.

The consumption of wine in Nimes, France, averages a bottle a day for every man, woman and child in the city. Princess Alix of Hesse, the fiance of the

Czarowitz, has completed her course of tuition in the doctrines of the Greek church A walking stick, formerly the property of Pontius Pilate, is advertised for sale in

a hairdresser's window in La Borboute,

Paris, for 6,000 francs. An iron box containing a metal plate has been unearthed among the ruined temples of upper Egypt which scientists

Sir Frederick Leighton is a linguist, reading and speaking French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian, while he had some considerable knowledge of Turkish.

A committee of French women has been formed for the purpose of founding a home for widows of workingmen, which is to be established in memory of M. Carnot. Sir Wm. Arrol recently laid the memo-

The estate of Thomas Coats, the thread manufacturer, has built in Paisley, Scotland, an edifice which is described as "the most magnificent non-conformist church in

for Scotland, which is being erected on the

Europe." The smallest republic in the world is Francisville, one of the Islands in the New Hebrides. The inhabitants consist of 40 Europeans and 50 black workmen employed by a French company.

The longest ocean cable is the one be-

tween France and the coast of Massachu-

setts. The largest cable ever made is now on the steamer Faraday, and will be laid between Ireland and Nova Scotia. Metal furniture is coming much into vogue in many parts of Australia, as it proves an effectual foil to the laborious efforts of that insidious and persistent

The Countess Alesio, of Turin, Italy. who celebrated her one hundredth birthday recently, accompanied her husband through all the hardships of the Moscow campaign, while she was a bride of eight-

destroyer of furniture wood-the white

was recently ill, and though having 423 physicians in attendance, yet she recovered. A Buddhist priest said that the cause of her illness was the introduction of railways. Rear Admiral Tchaikowski, commander of the Russian ironclad Simpoe, who was

recently appointed chief of staff of the

The mother-in-law of the Mikado of Japan

Russian fleet in the Black Sea, is one of the most esteemed officers in the Russian navy. John Seely, a hero of the Crimean war, and who had the Crimean and Turkish medals, died lately at Birmingham, England. He and his wife, who is over 70, had been living for years on his pension of eight

pence a day.

England and to sail under the Mexican flag, is to be established between Panama and San Francisco to connect with the Tehuantepec Railway. The Duchess d'Uzes, the great grand daughter of Mme. Clicquot of champagne fame, has between 12,000,000 and 14,000,-

000 bottles of champagne in her Paris cel-

It is announced from Panama that a new

steamship line, the vessels to be built in

lars in Rue du Temple and as much more in her vaults at Reims. At Schillgallen, in Germany, lately, an old gentleman of 73 named Jurklies, who had already buried three wives, proposed to a fourth. She told him he was too old, whereupon he went into the neighboring

forest and hanged himself. "Wood's Hotel," one of the few remaining buildings in London that are associated closely with Charles Dickens, is about to be demolished. In one suite of rooms in the "No'm it wasn't," he replied, "but I know | building Dickens passed through some of the many vicissitudes of his life.

> Jeddah, in a cemetery outside the city walls. The tomb is fifty cubits long and twelve wide. The Arabs entertain a belief that Eve was the tallest woman who ever lived. The house in which Martin Luther died at Eisleben, Germany, bore no mark to indicate this fact until a few weeks ago. The

famous house, however, has been repaired

and restored in a worthy fashion. It con-

The grave of Eve is visited by 400,000

pilgrims each year. It is to be seen at

tains many relics of the great reformer, Abergeldie Castle is the seat of Mr. H. M. Gordon, and the place, with its home farm, moors, woods, deer forest, and salmon fishings, has been leased by the Queen for more than 40 years, her Maj-

having always been declined. Russia proposes to connect the Baltic with the Black Sea, according to recent report. The rivers Dneiper and Dwina are to be joined by a canal ; surveying has been begun at both ends of the foute, and Cher-Lawyer (angrily)-" Are you sure you son is spoken of as the harbor for the canal on the Black Ses.

Heat holidays have now been established by law in the public schools of Switzerland. Recognizing the well known fect that the A despatch from Engineer Pyne, in brain cannot work properly when the heat As he turned a little more to the light | charge of the gun factory at Cabul, says | is excessive, the children are dismissed from uncompromising, thinking of the duty she truth and reason of his absence. It is in bending to remove the ash from his that the Ameer of Afghanistan is in tetter their tasks whenever the thermometer goes above a certain point.