CHAPTER III.

Long before Nicholas Wray awoke on the following morning, I was up and

drenching downpour from the skies.

On Tuesday I had to be back again to squire Madge to a literary breakfast, and later on to a concert. Her constant demands on my time throughout the season were often extremely irksome, and I got into a way of counting the days until my uncle and his womankind removed to Scotland after Goodwood. Never before had I felt more thoroughly in the need of solitude and quiet; never before had I felt so restless and dissatisfied with my position and prospects. It was the loneliness and isolation of Lythinge, as described by Collars, that led me to the spot; and on my arrival at the nearest railway station of Cranling, I was rather relieved than disappointed to find that no conveyance was obtainable, and that I and my bacgage must tramp it two miles and a half to the village of Lythinge, on the brow of the hill.

Hennily a comfortable interest of the details of the decided here and there and there are the principal election for me on account of wheat and barley, of sloping, well-wooded hills and green uplands, while seaward the outlook was finer still, a vast panorama of marshland, intersected by canals, and there and there by tiny villages.

the brow of the hill.

Happily, a comfortable inn, relic of the old coaching days, situated at the junction of four crossroads in the open countion of four crossroads in the open counting ply me with food. For the resources of Lythinge, as I speedily found on arriving there, were limited in the extreme. The village was supposed to contain about four hundred inhabitants but though this figure included dwellers in scattered cottages about the neighboring hills, I have always been inclined to think the roll-call must have been swelled by the addition of some of the small black pigs with which the sparsely populated district appeared to swarm.

In Lythinge there resided a local "vet.," a blacksmith who cut human hair or shed

In Lythinge there resided a local "vet.." blacksmith who cut human hair or shod

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CHAP'ER IV.

Long before Nicholas Wray awoke on the following morning, I was up and away on my journey.

My long as I live I shall remember every detail of that journey. The rain came down in torrents, making amends for an exceptionally dry early summer. Sheets of water, descending slantwise, seemed to skim without penetrating the surface of the parched, stubby grass and blistered earth. It was the worst of all weathers in which to leave town, but I was more or less indifferent to rain, as my friend, the sea, often looks its best under a drenching downpour from the skies.

On Tuesday I had to be back again to squire Madge to a literary breakfast, and later on to a concert. Her constant demands on my time throughout the season were often extremely irksome, and I got into a way of counting the days until my uncle and his womankind removed to Scotland after Goodwood. Never before In one respect my friend Collars had mis-

borhood to get up an appetite for the in-evitable ham and eggs supper. a blacksmith who cut human hair or shod horses indiscriminately, but was reported to have too heavy a hand for the more delicate operation of shaving; a butcher, in whose shop was naught but a string of uncanny-looking sausages and a live for terrier; and an emporium of all sorts, in which blue glass vases, pink calico, and tinned salmon represented the resources of civilization.

An old Saxon church, with short, square tower and gray, lichen-covered walls, wished, as I bent in the rough sea-breeze, as I had often wished before, that I could throw off the restraints of my artificial life in London altogether.

Inght seemed to shine benind her eyes, so brightly did they dance and sparkle; and brightly did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they dance and sparkle; and they sill they dance and sparkle; and they sill they dance and sparkle; and brightly did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they did they dance and sparkle; and they sill they dance and sparkle; and they sill they dance and spa The air was laden with the scent of hay

mess of the place sank deep into my heart, preparing me for the novelty and romance which was coming into my life, and was even now close upon me.

"I forgive you this time, but when we are married I shall not be so lenient," she had said; and her words had startled me, and had remained in my mind with unpleasant significance.

To the last day of my life I shall remember the picture which presented itself before my charmed and astonished eyes. A vivid orange light from the western sky suffused the room, striking through to suffused the room with what looked like tears swimming the room with the r vivid orange light from the western sky suffused the room, striking through to the opaque masses of blackish-gray cloud on the land side. In the midst of the sharp, yellow glow, transfigured and glorified as though robed in the inner flame about the wick of a candle, was the figure of a very young girl. So slender was she, so swift and light in her constant swaying movements, that she appeared at first more like a fairy emanation of the sunset than a living and breathing creature.

This I thought before I had seen her face. But when she suddenly turned and confronted me in her light-footed dance, and the sunset shone in her tangled fair hair, glanced along her little white teeth, nestled in the dimples about her mouth, and swam in the liquid clearness of her forget-me-not blue eyes, then, indeed, I realized that this exquisite embodiment of grace and gladness was a woman in the first flush of her youth; a woman so lovely, so pure, and sweet to look at, that I held my breath as I gazed upon her, and thanked Heaven that I had lived to behold her.

We haven't had anything to eat since nine o'clock this morning. But, if they like father's recitations and begin toasting him, I don't know when he'll get here."

"Why don't you order some dinner for yourself?"

"Oh, I daren't. I haven't any money, and father mayn't have any by the time he comes here. Mrs. Nokes knows us, and don't give credit. That's why I got in a bit of practice at my dancing, so as to be ready to work for our supper if anybody comes in."

"Do you work at dancing for your living?" I asked, feeling suddenly a great pity creep into my heart for the fragile,

born in her; for, although at that time with well-dressed girls.

Europe. the ancient woodwork drew her attention as a child's, and she turned to me now

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BLACK, GREEN OR MIXED

to me. She bounded to the door, pushed with a look of appeal in her blue eyes that it open, and caught me before I had tice was irresietable. it open, and caught me before I had the to escape. I had expected that she would be either shy or angry, but she was neither. She only stared at me for some seconds with starry, distended eyes, and then began to laugh—the rippling laugh of a healthy child.

"I didn't know any one was there," she said. "Can you play the piano?"

I nodded acquiescence.

"Just play me this tune I've been trying to hum in my head to dance to. I heard it on an organ in Folkstone yesterday. Listen!"

And she proceeded to hum quite cor-rectly a popular waltz melody which was driving residents of suburban side streets

Seen thus close, there was no flaw in her bewildering prettiness. Her features were small and neat, her nose being short and straight, and her laughing lips curled and red as a rosebud carved in coral. A light seemed to shine behind her eyes, so brightly did they dance and sparkle; and her silky, light yellow hair, the finest in texture I have ever seen, curled and waved and fluttered in the sea-breeze, as the thought occurred to me, from sheer exuberance of spirit.

Presently, as I mastered the tune, she sprang to her feet and began to dance again, inventing her own steps with mar-

An old Saxon church, with short, square tower and gray, lichen-covered walls, crowned the summit of a grassy hill, at the foot of which, in the days of the Roman invasion, the eea washed the walls of a massive castle, which, with its dependencies, covered close on ten acres of ground. Now, the sheep were grazing where the salt waters used to flow, and here and there broken fragments of Titanic walls, peering up through the rank herbage of the half-reclaimed marshland, told where the fortress had once overlooked the sea, sheltered under the brow of the overhanging cliff.

From the quiet churchyard above, where pine-trees, rattling in the tempestuous wind which followed the rain, fringed the outer edge of the steep descent, I stood for over an hour gazing over the widespreading marches to the angry line of sea beyond. And the charm and strangeness of the place sank deep into my heart, preparing me for the novelty and romance.

I could take a cottage in some quiet spot on the seacoast, and paint all day and in all weathers, free from the meaningles, it is a cottage in some quiet spot on the seacoast, and paint all day and in all weathers, free from the meaningles. I followed her directions, and her hands. I followed her directions, and then she cried "Faster," and clapped on the seacoast, and paint all day and in all weathers, free from the meaningles, the tedious round of silly dissipation, the exasperating same had there broken fragments of Titanic walls, peering up through the rank herbage of the half-reclaimed marshland, the height of discontent in such a spoiled child of fortune as I was then esteemed, the half-reclaimed marshland, the height of discontent in such a spoiled child of fortune as I was then esteemed, the half-reclaimed marshland, the height of discontent in such a spoiled child of fortune as I was then esteemed.

But, although I would not own it, it was poing to be married that I was going to be away three days without having asked her pain from the reparation of the restriction of the restricti

"All red like fire. I do like a red sunset all over the sky like that. It makes me

"I'm so tired," she murmured, "and so hungry. I do wish father would come."

theld my breath as I gazed upon her, and thanked Heaven that I had lived to behold her.

Later on I realized that she was poorly, even shabbily, dressed in a gown of gray cotton, very short and scanty, fashioned by her own hands. She looked little more than a child of possibly fourteen or fifteen years of age, and, although her height was already above the average, the lovely lines of her figure were rather those of a child than a woman. She had kicked off her shoes, and I remember noticing that she had danced her gray worsted stockings into holes, although her slender little feet seemed to skim rather than tread upon the floor.

I have always intensely loved dancing, and have seen all the great step-dancers and ballet-dancers of my time, but I have never seen, and I never shall see anything importancous, so joyous and dainty, as this girl's movements. Eyes and lips, and pretty birdlike little head, danced with her nimble feet. Iithe arms, and tiny hands. She was long-limbed and slender, of dancing build, and dancing was surely born in her; for, although at that time she could have had little or no instruction.

Her under lip quivered as she spoke. In

she could have had little or no instruc- Her under lip quivered as she spoke. In tion in her art, her twirls and pirouettes, spite of her evident lack of education and her "charm of woven paces and of weaving hands," would have made the fortune of a premiere denseuse in any capital of fected and free from self-consciousness with a stranger as though she had been I hardly know how long I knelt on the all her life accustomed to the best society.

"I'm so hungry," she whispered plain-

"You told me you dance for your liv-ing," I said. "Now I love dancing, and I have never seen anyone dance more pret-tily than you. I was watching you a long time from the stairs before you saw me, and you must let me pay for the pleasure."

(To be continued.)

BUTLER'S STORY.

Ellis Parker Butler some years



Ellis Parker Butler.

"I forgive you this time, but when we are married I shall not be so lenicht," she had said; and her words had started me had aid; and her words had started me had and her words and the start of mind. It drove under the same price in the sand, pricking my cheeks and eyes, and as I drew, nearer the long line of dull in the evening air."

She bolsterous wind gave me just the eense to find the eanse troubled state of mind. It drove under the same pricking my cheeks and eyes, and as I drew, nearer the long line of dull in the evening air."

She bolsterous wind gave me just the sense wind a chill? My word, it wouldn't ease and the ease of the line of the wind with the serious of the sense of the line of the wind with the serious of the line of the wind with the serious of the lines of of the line en staircase, to feast my eyes on the scene outside.

At the door I suddenly paused. It was about an inch ajar; for, in common with all doors at the Rose and Crown, the damp had warped the wood, and it shut with difficulty. A light sound of pattering which reached my ears through the aperture arrested my progress; the door was immediately at the head of the stairs. There was a wistfulness in her blue eyes as the port the picture which presented itself be.

Isotropically in the interior of the stairs of the door that the properties on the table. The astonished laird sprang up and demanded an explasion. It was found that an attempt sprang up and demanded an explasion. It was found that an attempt sprang up and demanded an explasion. It was found that an attempt sprang up and demanded an explasion.

Came to Her Mistress.

hungry. I do wish father would come."

"When do you expect him?"

"Oh, no time in particular. He's over at the Red Lion in West Sandhythe. I left have me, and I know Mrs. Nokes here wished we've tramped fifteen miles to-day, and we haven't had anything to eat since nine o'clock this morning. But, if they like father's recitations and begin toasting him, I don't know when he'll get here."

"When do you expect him?"

The day before she was to be married an old rustic servant came to her mistress and entrusted her savings to her keeping. "Why should I keep your money for you? I ther's recitations and begin toasting him, I don't know when he'll get here."

"Why don't you order some dinner for yourself?"

Came to Her Mistress.

McGreal, Medical Officer of the Louisburgh Dispensing District, committed suicide at his residence by taking a dose of morphine.

At a meeting of the Mayo County thought you were going to be married," said the mistress. "So I am, pointed rate collector for the Glenma'am; but you don't suppose I'm island district, and T. S. Moclair, going to keep all this money in the Castlebar, was appointed returning house with that strange man about officer for the forthcoming electhe place?"

FROM

NEWS BY MAIL FROM IRE-LAND'S SHORES.

Happenings in the Emerald Isle of Interest to Irish-

men.

On an acre of ground at his residence at Ballinastragh, Gorey, Sir T. H. G. Esmonde, M.P., has grown 725 lbs. of tobacco, on which there has been a return of \$175.

During the past couple of weeks there have been a dozen cases of typhoid fever in Aheirne district a few miles from Carrick-on-Suir and four deaths have been reported.

The report relating to the Galoway Harbor Improvement for deepening and improving the entrance to the docks, shows that it is estimated the cost will be about \$300,

Mr. Murray, a farmer, was riding a donkey near Ballyhall, Hindford, when the animal threw him, inflicting fatal injuries. He died later in the Galway County Infirmary.

The Congested Districts Board ago wrote a story which he thought has completed the purchase of Colonel Saunders Knox Gore's estate in the barony of Tyrawly. The annual rental was about \$35,000.

Four persons were seriously injured through a boiler in a kitchen in the Northern Counties Hotel, Portrush, suddenly exploding when water was being poured into it.

The local Government Board has refused the application of the Edendarry No. 2 (County Kildare) District Council to reduce temporarily the rents of laborers' cottages in the district.

The new twin-screw steamer Star of Victoria, built by Messrs. Workman, Clark & Co., Belfast, left Belfast harbor recently and proceeded to Carrick Roads, for speed trials.

The officials of the Congested Districts Board are engaged in divid ing up a large farm in Roscommon containing 160 acres amongst the small tenants in the vicinity.

An extensive cattle drive recently took place on a farm near Letterfrack, and the police subsequently arrested eight men, who were conveyed under heavy escort to Galway.

The Department of Agriculture reports that the total produce of

had been made to blow up the house of J. P. Hagerty, Main St. No one was injured.

A shocking tragedy is reported



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