# HE MYSTERY OF THE HOLLY TREE.

CHAPTER VII. - (CONTINUED.)

'Tell me, Philippa," he said-"I do not k : to seem cu ious-but does the squire "spact uy Brocklyn ?"

dames him most unjustly for it; Or be all acquaintance even between Or wad himself is broken off."

he said, looking at her ear-

Who throaim innocent," she replied. Give none added quickly. "I would If the hip it. Guy Brooklyn would And thee such a thing. But, Philippa,

All the s guilty ?" Thed her beautiful face to the skies. when knows !" she replied, with simaestness. "We shall know in the He, if not in this."

n we reached the pretty, quiet church-In one corner, where the grass was reenest, underneath a large cypress tree, we saw the grave of Anice Vane, marked by a plain white cross. Arthur Brandon took off his hat and stood for some minutes in silence. His face was pale with emotion, and his eyes were full of tears.

"Poor Anice, poor Anice!" he repeated softly. "All her beauty, wit, and pretty, loving, graceful ways, to meet with such an

We remained there for some time, and when we went away, Philippa's cousin brought with him a few blades of the thick

"I shall keep these," he said, "in memory of Anice." Then, looking at the stone,

"Because," replied Miss Carleon, "we did not know whether she was really married or not; nor, if really married, we did not know to whom."

"I am sure it was not Guy," he repeated Philippa's face flushed, and a clear light shone in her dark eyes.

"So am I quite sure," she said, gently. "Do you not think the squire will redent?" he asked. "I do not see the justice of punishing an innocent man."

for my father to change his mind."

"But if he found out Guy's innocence, Philippa?"

"May heaven grant it! But time passes; the man who has kept his secret so long will keep it now while he lives.'

Then, Mr. Brandon, perhaps to cheer us, spoke of other matters, and we reached

I watched him intently. He did not seem to care about going out; he was quite content to spend the whole of his time with us. He would read to us, wander with us through the woods, drive us out-do anything, in short, to please us. He was al ways good-humoured; nothing ever ruffled him; I never saw him in the least degree out of temper. He was always cheerful, gay, animated; he had always something amusing to say or propose.

When he had been some time with us, he found me one morning in the conservatory alone. I was arranging some bouquets that Miss Carleon wanted to send away. He be-

gan to assist me. "That was a terrible story of poor Anice ane's," he said, suddenly. "It has made ooklyn, Miss Ayrton?"

I told him that I had not.

"It is very had on him; and I am very ry for him-he was fond of Philippa, and Miss Ayrton ?"

would next January, she will lose this sin."
Indid estate. "What a cruck hing for She

"She does not seem to mind it in . bility, of truth, of self-sacrifice. east," I said. "The estate does not trouble, "If you asked me for my life, father,"

that strange man."

Brandon came close to me. seems much attached to you.

ed goodness," I returned.

fidence. I want you to help me." "In what, Mr. Brandon?" has dismissed Lord Escourt and Captain stained into another world."

marry me?" you do not love her, Mr. Brandon!"

but I dare not say so." Looking at him, I saw that his lips were Ayrton? white, and that his words seemed to come

with a hissing sound. "It would not be of the least use," I said | troth." never prove false to this one true love of her | kneeling girl.

fitted to adorn society, to lose all this !"

cheek. I shrank from him with instinctive tion. Think of your wasted life-your lost possible to hurry with any speed; but at dislike. "I cannot interfere, Mr. Brandon," I

said. "It is not my business; you must happiness your consent would give." plead for yourself.' "That I will, and force her to listen.

shall have all the less to thank you for, Miss Ayrton," he added, with a laugh.

### CHAPTER VIII.

"Each drop uncounted in a shower of rain, Hath its own mission, and is duly sent To its own leaf or blade,"

One morning in autumn I had just written those words underneath a drawing, when | despair seemed to clothe her with a mantle. Arthur Brandon came to look at what I was | She rose from her knees and stood erect bedoing. He read the lines after me.

"Do you believe that?" he asked. "Yes," I replied, "most devoutly; sometimes the most trifling actions may lead to

the greatest results. He looked thoughtful for some minutes. "I wonder if it is so -I wonder if this that before you asked." mall incident of my having come home for Lumonths' leave of absence will have any wishes all-powerful with you. profon my life, Miss Ayrton?"

"You may meet your fate, as the novelists say." I spoke jestingly; but his face grew pale, and his lips dry.

" How you startle me, Miss Ayrton! I wish my fate were to lead my beautiful love with her that I shall do something extravagant some day."

I held up my hands in warning.

"I refuse to hear another word on that point, Mr. Brandon.' "You are very patient; but there are li-

mits to your endurance, I see." "And there ought to be limits to your confidence in straugers," I replied.

Many times afterward I thought of that conversation. In the meantime, autumn passed and winter came. The squire's anxiety grew quite

uncontrollable. He would come to me and "Only a few weeks now, Gladys, and my daughter loses one of the noblest fortunes

in England. What can I do with her? will break my heart. He watched her with an anxious face,

pitiable to see. He was always talking to me or Arthur Brandon about her.

"Three hundred a year! It will be starvation for one brought up with every luxury, as she has been." Philippa never mentioned the fortune she

was to lose, but, as time passed on, she grew thin and pale; a shadow came into those dark lustrous eyes. Very often, on entering her room I found her weeping bitterly, the squire's face was drawn with great lines

"Six weeks," he said, despairingly-"only six weeks more, and she is no nearer being married than she was six years ago."

One cold snowy morning I saw Mr. Brandon and the squire leave the house together; they were deeply engrossed in conversation, and a presentiment of coming sorrow for Philippa Carleon filled me. It was a true "He will never relent. I should sooner one. Some two hours afterward, when we expect to see the stars fall from heaven than | were sitting in the drawing-room, the squire and his nephew came in.

"I am glad to find you here, Philippa," said the squire. "I want to talk to you. Nay, do not leave us, Miss Ayrton. You are a true friend of my daughter's-help us to bring her to reason."

The squire tried to speak firmly; but his voice trembled, his hands shook, and his lips quivered with emotion.

"Philippa," he resumed, "you are my only child; I have loved you with a very great love. All my hope, all my pride, has been centered on you. To have you mistress of King's Norton has been my dearest wish. Child, I was disappointed in my early love-I have been sorely woundedlet me turn for comfort to you."

She went up to him and knelt down by his side; she caught both his hands in hers and kissed them.

"You know my love-my devotion-my

"I wish to test them," he interrupted. "You are aware that my whole heart is fixed upon leaving you here to succeed me. You cannot succeed me unless you are married by a certain time. This year, to my great difference to the home here at King's great regret, you have sent away two most rton. Have you ever seen this Sir Guy noble and loyal gentlemen-I bring you a third. Arthur Brandon has begged me to intercede for him. He is a noble, honest by her numerous guests. The squire, gentleman, Philippa; he will make you very happy, and my last years will be spent in Arthur Brandon. At ten o'clock he came liked him. You do not think there is peace. You say you love me and are obedprobability of the squire's relenting, do | ient to me. Prove it Philippa-prove that you love me, by making me happy-prove happened," he whispered. "Do not let our That I do not, Mr. Brandon. There is that you are willing to obey me by fulfilling my command-for I command you, by your eves, unless she is married by the love and your allegiance, to marry your cou. He was to have been here to open the ball

> She raised her face to his, and its beauty for a minute dazzled me-the beauty of no-

er." she is singularly noble and disinterested. | she returned, slowly, "I would give it to was found. you in a moment. " commanded me to I tried to must confess it would trouble me very give up the love that made my heaven on uch. I cannot bear the idea of its going earth, and to please you I did so. I have detain him," I said: but he only looked given you my solemn promise never to marry Then there was silence between us; Mr. | without your consent, and rather than break that promise, I will go unwedded to my "Miss Ayrton," he said, "my cousin grave; but I can do no more. Even to obey you, I cannot break my solemn troth-plight "That is another proof of her disinterest- -I cannot marry a man I do not love -I cannot break the most solemn pro. holly-tree and back before the grand ban-"Perhaps so. You seem to have her con- mise ever given. Do not mistake me," she quet, at which I knew I must be present. cried, for the squire's face grew pale with rage; "I shall not marry Guy Brooklyn; room, so I hastened up to my room, and se-"Unless she marries by the seventh of but I believe in his innocence, and I shall next January, she loses King's Norton. She carry my troth-plight to him unbroken, un-

Norman. Will you try to persuade her to The squire's only reply was an imprecation so loud and deep that she shuddered; Captain Norman; they came this time as lence. Turning to me, he cried, "Can you "Indeed I do, I have always loved her, say nothing that will help to bring this ly kind to me, and, to speak truthfully, it stubborn girl to a sense of duty, Gladys

you her happiness; she cannot give you her greens-to go out into the cold snow and

He had drawn so near to me in his eager- only consent to be my wife. Think of your hear the sound of music from the ball-room. ness that his hot breath seemed to burn my father's gray hairs; of his life-long devofortune; think of the ruin-the desolation -your refusal will cause, and think of the

She was, indeed, sorely tried, for the siderably widened. squire bent his white head before her. "Philippa, I pray you consent," he entreated. "Look at me; think how old and

sorrowful I am. You can brighten my lat-I shall ever make to you." Her face grew white, and the dignity of

fore him.

"I cannot, father," she said; "I must keep my promise. "Then you refuse me?" interrogated Arthur Brandon.

The squire stood up, but his limbs trem-

bled so that he was compelled to lean on a no bag.

"Let us understand clearly," he said. "In defiance of me and my wishes you refuse to marry at all?"

"I must refuse," she replied. "Then there is no more to be said. I clasped it sped in. meet the usual fate of a father who has loved his child too well. Arthur, you need room. say no more-all reason and persuasion are wasted here."

ever done before. He would hardly speak "To my dear friend and sister, Philippa to his daughter, and, when he did so it was Carleon. They were written in a delicate in the coldest of terms. Discomfort, unhap- girlish hand. piness, and misery prevailed at King's Nor- What had I found? I was frightened, as by name, proposed that the party ride over in the same grand old fashion. Philippa, waiting for me. remonstrated with him.

festivity?"

"I shall not live until another Christmas," he said. "It will break my heart Philippa, to have to write to a stranger, and give him what would be yours. When Christmas-tide comes round, I shall be in my gravebrought there by you; and you will be living somewhere in poverty."

"We must hope for better things, papa," she rejoined, quietly; but I know she was thinking that in her death-hour she would have the comfort of knowing that her troth was unsullied.

So Christmas Eve came, and the grand old hall once more resounded with Christmas mirth and welcome. I went into Philiphe said: "Philippa, why is there only one hope, no ray of light. December came, and dress of rose-colored satin, profusely trimand as yet there seemed for her no dawn of pa's dressing-room. She wore a superb this. med with jewels. A coronet of pearls on swered. her dark hair gave her the air of a queen. She smiled as I entered.

"I may say adieu to all my magnificence to-night, Gladys," she said. "I shall cease to be heiress of King's Norton in two weeks from this."

"Philippa," I asked slyily, "shall I go to the holly-tree for you to-night?" "Yes-it will be for the last time, Gladys. I shall write and tell him so, and, Gladys, I shall not meet him again."

"But you will keep your promise to him? "Unbroken, until I die," she replied and, to my excited fancy, the crown of such great constancy was already on her brow. Suddenly, as we stood in that warm. beautiful fragrant room, a great storm of

snow beat upon the windows. A strong gust of wind seemed almost to shake the old house to its foundations. "What a night!" said Philippa. 'Gladys, how can you go to the tree?" "I would go if the snow and the wind

were twice as bad." She drew aside the blind, and said, with a shudder : "I hope Arthur has not attempted to

walk home over the cliffs. He could not possibly find his way on such a night." "Then he is gone?" I asked. "He is gone to Aberdare. The squire

begged of him to ride or come home through the woods; but he was obstinate, and said that on such a fine starry night nothing would please him so much as to walk home by the cliffs. He was to have been here at five, and now it is seven.'

The safety of Arthur Brandon did not cause me much uneasiness. He seemed to be a gentleman well able to take care of himself. We went down stairs together, and in a short time Philippa was engrossed found, was in a state of great alarm about to me, and said he was about to send out men to search for him. "Something has guests perceive that we are uneasy, but there is something wrong with Arthur. with Philippa. Come with me, Gladys."

I went with him into the servants' hall, and he sent four of the men with torches and dogs. They were to alarm the coast guard, and search until some trace of Arthur

I tried to console the squire. "So many things may have happened to graver.

"Gladys, child," he cried, "there is no blessing for me or mine."

As we passed through the hall, I looked at the clock-it was just eleven. There was plenty of time for me to run to the The squire had returned to the drawinglecting a dark, thick cloak, wrapped myself up in it.

I have forgotten to say that amongst the guests were Lord Estcourt and "To marry you!" I repeated. "Why, then he sat for some minutes in gloomy si- friends of the squire, not as suitors for his daughter. Lord Estcourt had been unusualwas somewhat of a sacrifice to leave himto leave that brilliant room with its light, "What can I say, sir? She has given the bright Yule-log, the Christmas everwind. Once outside the hall, I found the shrinking from him. "Miss Carleon will Then Arthur Brandon came up to the night a terrible one. The snow fell thick and fast, and the wind blew so that I feared "Cousin," he said, "trust me; I will do it would uproot the great trees; the warm "Think of the property," he said. "What my best to make you happy. I will give light from the windows streamed ruddy and a grievous thing for her, so beautiful, so my life to your service. I will do any. bright on the ground. Whenever there thing to please and content you, if you will came a lull in that terrible tempest, I could

The wind was so strong that it was imlength I reached the holly-tree. The wind

letter." I put my hand into the opening, where I hall porter. ter days; you can give me peace. I shall had found the bag before, but it was not It is supposed that while he was being exclose my eyes with a smile, if I leave you there. For a moment I was bewildered. amined in the Judge d'Instruction's office wounding my arms.

faith-false to her, after all.

was somet in the study) a double knock sound- ing morning at the Hammersmith police sta-With somehe door, and, just as the unhappy damp, as the had braced himself to confront at of his character. At the police court the time. In the detective from Scotland yard, the whole story came out. As Jonas Lynx had it was impened and Justinian Jaypen's jolly said the police had long had their eye on

Philippa was very unhappy. My though it had been something living. heart ached for her. Between father and placed it in a drawer, and then hastily arlover her lot is too hard. Christmas came ranged my dress, for the supper-bell had at last; and a most unhappy Christmas it rung. I was just in time to join the prowas. The squire would keep it up, though, cession. To my surprise, Lord Escourt was

I dared not look at Philippa during that "You are not happy, father; neither am long banquet; it seemed to me that it would I. Why should we keep up all this sham of never end. When the merry crowd of guests had gone back to the ball-room, I went up ridge, over ground calcined and broken with

to her. "Philippa," I said, "will you come at once to my room?"

Her face grew white as death. "Have you no letter for me, Glady's," she asked. "I have found something that concerns you, I am sure ; but no letter." I was trembling with excitement, and she

looked at me in wonder. "Come, then, Gladys," she said; and we went together.

When she stood inside my room, I placed the packet in her hand. She gave a terrible cry when she saw the writing. "Gladys," she said, "where did you find

"At the very bottom of the cleft," I an-

"This is Anice Vane's handwriting. It was like a voice from the dead." She brought the packet to the lamp, and carefully enough we unfastened it. There fell from it a golden curl, and a little pearl ring.

or I shall think that I am mad."

Then we opened the letter. "Read with me, Gladys," said Philippa, And together we read: "MY DEAREST SISTER AND FRIEND, PHIL-IPPA, -Where shall I be when you find this I know the secret of your post-office, and not leave a letter at the house for you, lest the dear squire should find it; and he must not know yet. So I shall write this; and put it in your post-office-the holly-tree. The next time you leave a letter there for Sir Guy, you will find this from me. Where shall I be then? Ah! Philippa, I am so happy but so frightened! You must not tell the squire; he will know all but not yet. broke out here, resulting in the grest of a You will keep my secret !- your heart is as large number of young people of loth sexes. true as your eyes. I trust you, and you A demonstration under the pretest of a rewill not betray me. Arthur has forbidden ligious service was attempted at the grave me to tell anyone, but I must tell you. You of a certain Bogolinboff, a one popular will keep my secret. Oh, Philippa, I am poet and critic, in the Volkoff Cenetery, on so happy-so happy that I am beside my- the outskirts of the town. It appears to self with joy! Arthur loves me and wants have been on the occasion of the twentyme to be his wife. I have promised, and fifth anniversary of Bogolinbof's death. keep wondering whether any one on earth | Some 500 students endeavored toenter the was ever so happy. I have loved him ever | church and cemetery. Many of then carried since I first saw him. He is my hero, I flowers and wreaths. The gendames and would die for him I love him so dearly! police surrounded the place and febade the I used to grieve, thinking that he loved meeting. General Grosser, the Prifect, was you; but he says that it was all nonsense on the spot and stood before the gates for and pretense; he loves me-only me. Oh, an hour and a half, trying to permade the happy girl! What have I ever done, Phil- crowd to disperse, but in vain. At last the ippa, that I should be so blessed? You must | Cossacks made their appearance, aid a numkeep our secret, darling. Arthur says the ber of arrests were affected. Sone of the squire will be so angry if he knows. It prisoners were subsequently released. seems the squire wants him to marry some I have not yet heard of the ultimate fate one else who is rich. Arthur says that if of the captured young men who articipathe knew of our love he would be angry, and ed in the affair, though it is no loubt the would refuse to help him any more. That usual one in such cases-expulsion or deporis a sorrow to me for I love the squire. Ar. tation and police supervision; bt I have thur has asked me to go away with him, just been informed of the treatmnt of the and I am going. The squire will not be women. There were about one hundred angry when he knows how happy I am. young women present from the ligher fe-When Arthur goes I shall go with him male medical course. The day after the -that will be to-day, Philippa-and to- event the passports of all the female medimorrow I shall be his wife. I ought to feel | cal students in the academy were taken regret at leaving my home-grief for the from them, so that they could not un away, sorrow I shall cause you and the squire; and then the real arrests began. Eighteen but in all the wide world I see only my love. of the girls who were at the cemercy have No one will guess that I have arranged to already been sent off out of St. htersburg join Arthur, for he will start alone, and I by an administrative order, wihout the shall go by a roundabout road to St. Hilda's least notion whither they are to betaken or Bay, near Dover, and there, in St. Hilda's what is to become of them. Manywill pro-Church to morrow morning he will make me bably be compelled to live in out-o-the-way his wife. When we have been married six places, under the eyes of the polce, their months, we shall tell the squire, and he will lives embittered and careers ruined forgive us. I want to tell him now, but It has been suggested that the rst of the Arthur says he would prevent our marriage | 100 girls compromised should go it deputa--and that must not be. Dear Philippa, I tion to the Prefect, who is very aniable and kissed you this morning—it was for the last | popular to protest against the treatment of time until Arthur brings me back as his their sister students. As many of these not wife. I am writing my letter in my own yet arrested belong to well-knownor wellroom, and I can hear your voice in the to-do families, it was thought hat this

> "ANICE VANE," TO BE CONTINUED.)

# A Clever Escape from a Paris

Arthur, and so ruin me. Farewell, my sis-

oless you

An escape has been made from the Mazas goal under most extraordinary circumstanhad been busy with it; some of the branches | ces of unheard of daring and skill. A priswere broken, and the great cleft was con- oner named Altmayer, undergoing a term of imprisonment for embezzling a sum of near-"Now for the bag," I thought. "and my ly \$10,000 from a Paris banker, forged in dear Philippa's one gleam of sunshine—the his cell a letter of dismissal, and obtained his liberty by showing it to the warders and

here in my place. Say 'Yes,' Philippa, my How could I return without it? "The bag he contrived, while the Judge's back was dearest child-do not refuse the only prayer must have fallen to the very bottom of the turned, to stamp and mark a sheet of writcleft." I thought. I put my arm in, even ing paper. In his cell he imitated with to my shoulder, but I could not reach it. marvellous skill the magistrate's hand writ-Still I was determined. I climbed into the ing, which he had leisure to study during hollow of the tree, tearing my hands and his confinement of two months and a half. After a great struggle, my hand reached in the name of the procurator, to set free the bottom of the cleft at last, but there the prisoner. He enclosed this in an official was no bag. A little cry of dismay escaped envelope, stolen, no doubt, from the Judge's me. What would Philippa say? What a offices, and on leaving this before entering "Most decidedly. You must have known dreary Christmas would it be for her, after the van he handed it to his warder, with a all! Was Sir Guy, whom she loved so dear- request to take it to the prison director. upon hearing firearms discharged. "Nay," he said; "I thought your father's ly-to whom she had kept such unaltered Arrived at Mazas the prisoner, after remaining for five minutes with the other new I felt again. It was useless; there was inmates, was called up and sent away from cossarily make a willienaire out of a mute

that strange receptacle for stolen goods, back to thught I must run over to see how you but, with their customary want of acuteness, ter last night," he said, with a they had arrested the wrong man,

ay no more—all reason and persuasion are wasted here."

Before remoting ve. "By Jove! how seedy | The master of the second-hand shop where at the packet. It must have lain long the relief beautiful them to the region of the hollow of that holly-tree; it was green ride brought them to the region of the had cousin to the altar. I am so desperately in happy. The squire showed his anger and with mold. I saw something written on it, ing coal pits, and the taird day they pass hape disappointment more keenly than he had and holding it to the light, read the words, quite close to a small creek from whose bar the huge columns of dense and clack smc had were being vomited forth.

One of the range riders, Hugh Connelly and inspect the burning pits. This was agreed to, and the cowboys were soonspeeding on an errand from which Connelly himself was never to it turn.

Arriving on the creek bank they found that the heaviest smoke proceeded from the summit of a long, high ridge which ran parallel with the stream and only a short distance from it. Riding to the foot of this heat, the boys dismounted, and leaving their horses began to ascend on foot. Arriving at the top of the ridge, they found themselves face to face with the fires of the bowels of the earth. The ridge offered to their gaze one succession of pits, from which issued black smoke, shot with lurid streaks of flame. The hot air of the pits almost parched the flesh and took the breath as it came steadily toward them. The party had turned to leave, unable to stand the close heat, when Connelly exclaimed : "Boys, yonder is the biggest hole of them all; I am going to look down and see how far it is to hell," at the same time pointing to a large opening a short distance away, from which poured a perfect column of smoke and flame. His companions in vain tried to dissuade him from his foolhardy purpose. Te sprang away from them, and in a monent was standing on the brink of the frightful crater. He turned and waved his hat at his companions, shouting something which they failed to hear, and the next instant the earth on which he stood gave vay, and Connelly disappeared forever in he abyss of flame and smoke. His horrified companions beat a precipitate retreat, and gaining their horses, never broke the swit prairie lepe until many miles lay between them and have used it for myself, you see. I dare the scene of their fellow cowboy's frightful death. He was a Texan, and bitween 21 and 22 years of age.

#### Beauties of Russian Civilzation.

St. Petersburg Dispatch to The Landa Times. The other day-last Monday, I believethe usual winter student troules again

garden. When it is finished I shall go and | might have some effect; but in view of the put it in the holly-tree-the only place inexorable determination of Coun Tolstoi where it will be found by you unseen by to continue his policy of absolute ad unmiany one else. Oh, Philippa, where shall I tigated suppression, this would be useless. be when you find it and read it? You will It would only be another demonstration, be married perhaps, when I come back; and more arrests would follow. The polite but you must not tell my secret, not even and temperate behavior of the Prefect Geneto Sir Guy. I give you my little pearl ring | ral Grosser, is much spoken of and praised, -wear it for my sake; and here is a lock but the harsh, unbending character of the of my hair. It may be long before you visit | Minister is known to be immovable. In the holly-tree but when you do you will fact, it is stated that General Groser has know that Anice Vane is Anice Brandon, ever been called to account by Count lostoi the happiest wife in the whole wide world. for not having acted more severely in the Keep my secret, for its betrayal would ruin spot.

The female medical course in St. Peterster and my friend; Heaven keep you and burg has long been considered as a rursery of Nihilists, and attempts have been made to close it altogether. The college las indeed for some time past been existing on probation. A special sial from the Minister, naturally called by the young women a spy, has for some time been in attendance to see whether they applied themselves assiduously to their studies and left politics and political agitation alone. The entrance of fresh students had already been stopped, but as many influential ladies, headel, I believe, by the Empress, are greatly interested in the establishment, there was considerable hope of its continuance. This unfortunate incident, however, is a fresh blow, and may turn out to be a death blow.

## A Point Which Kitty has Learned.

A resident of Norwich has a cat that will follow him when he goes out with his gun like a setter dog. This cat is an observing creature, and when she discovered that The letter was an order, signed by the Judge every time the head of the house went out with a gun she was feasted with a sparrow, she took to following him. She keeps behind him, and when he shoots stops at hi heels. When the bird falls she runs ar retrieves like a dog. Most cats will

Silence may be golden, but it doesn't