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(Continued from last week).

ed he, slowly. "Good-night, again." And so he departed, neither declining was insecure enough as it was. Miss Veltner.

a little-just a tiny little, do you coolly and genially about trivial not think so, father? I feel like a matters. rebuked child-and my precious havitation totally disregarded."

committal," responded Mr. Veltner.

fully ! I felt like a princess as

rah : whereupon her father laughed. The next day, Deborah put his name on her list for her "At Home." wish, but there's no reason why I 'He will be sure to meet the Kirkland girls," thought she, "And Maude and Alice they will stir him her gravely, waiting. up. I shall ask Walter to be his social champion-Cecil, too; that will fix him up most beautifully. If in her bodice came sweetly to him puckering her forehead as she spoke. he falls in with my plans he can and her eyes searched his face intent- 'It is his especial charm; one that ne lans in with my plans he can soon have some admirable friends. Soon have some admirable friends. The can some some faults. But ther ? Of course I understand that the liking despite some faults. But young men. Edna would not do at all-she would be hard on his purse, and from all accounts of the mother's death and the young sister left principally in his care, sthat purse cannot be over weighty. Edna would

have him bankrupt within two mon-It's a pity, too, for Edna is really a beauty. But if I tell her he's poor, that will be sufficient; she will not even care to smile at him. We will try Maude and Alice, and Beatrice even Elinor, he will enjoy up at him with wistful eyes. them all, and Alice is clever with gillet young men." It was not long before Miss Velt-

ner sat the ball rolling; and James Armitage proved a success. With that calm, easy manner, at once so well bred and deferential, he seemed to win his way with scarcely any idend at the rate of five per cent. exertion on his part. Miss Veltner annum has been declared on the was amazed and delighted. Invitations soon came to him, some beyond his possible acceptance; others or for the six months ending June agreeably within his reach and purse, in and will be payable at the for so he had frankly told her durmpany's Office on and after July ing one of their confidential chats that Deborah had brought about purposely. To Maude Chandon he had taken an immediate liking and she to him. They became firm friends. Alice, too, was kind to him and he showed his appreciation in various

> intrusive. Miss Veltner looked on in pleased attention. He was really proving a delightful charge. And what tender deference he unconsciously assumed toward all women ! It appealed to them as nothing else could. Deborah felt the charm, also. She was truly glad of the pleasant companionship her efforts had brought to him. He seemed much brighter since that first dinner party at the Veltner home, though he called seldom. Quite frequently she met him at some of the social functions that winter; sometimes they passed with merely a word of gay greeting; at other times he would linger for a brief chat again, he would be engrossed with Miss Chandon or Miss Weston. Yet there were times when Armitage seemed not very sorrowful if Maude into his former lonely state and be without a partner for the dance, or concert or reception. Upon one of these occasions, Miss Veltner chided

> him for his laxness in permitting Walter to invite Maude. "You should have asked Miss Chandon yourself," said Deborah. "Just what pleasure you are missing.' "But you make no allowance for other pleasures," responded Armitage, slowly, his eyes twinkling humorously as he gazed down upon her. "Am I never to converse with my benefactress? Cannot that pleasure

even surpass Miss Chandon's companionship ?" She looked frankly at him, too frankly to suit him, and laughed

amusedly. "That is very good of you - very good indeed. You are vastly improved in the art of compliment giving-yes, really! Is it Maude or Alice who has thus inspired you?" "Both, perhaps." Then he smiled into her eyes as he naively added,

gartner."

"Better yet," laughed back she. present. Ull stock is the equal You certainly do credit to your in- itage's rebuke. It rankled deeply in ish grace and a rare, sweet smile she hated Armitage. And that men- was wounded more deeply than she "You are unjust," said he with

"Indeed, yes !" "And you like Alice?" "Immensely !" "And-Beatrice ?"

you are actually pleased or no."

never presumed to usurp in atten- his taking one or the other.

a time, and he could be with her. Veltner, the former arched her brows Yet he dared not tell her of the in gentle surprise. pleasure it gave him; that was the hardest part for him; he could say "I thank you very much," respond- no word-there was too much to lose suppose I await his lazy pleasure for by a possible offence; his ground all my trips? Absurd! nor accepting the overtures made by he said nothing of his feelings, but silentlo patted the spangled fan she "Dear me!" exclaimed she, rather had given him to hold after that last

"Well, after all," went on Miss Veltner, after that pause when he did "Armitage knows how to avoid not answer the remark about Miss Chandon, "I am father glad you have a free evening. Several questions "But he holds a door open beautihave been on my mind, of late, which passed through," responded Debo- you alone can answer. You come to our house so seldom that I have cort, I frankly admit; he makes one had no opportunity to say what should not to-night, is there ?"

know."

restraint would have vanished; he and I have known him for a considrealized that, and purposely ignored erable time." her challenge.

hand lightly on his arm and looking ed, mischievously.

touch of her fingers were almost his at her just then. "Tell me," repeated she.

mitage, slowly letting his gaze travel from the fan, over to the doorway, where several of the dancers had paused for a brief rest.

Mess Veltner tapped her foot impatiently; she was accustomed being obeyed; not even her father had thus put her so lightly aside Cecil and Walter and Hugh always obeyed-obeyed her every wish and whim; she was vexed that the man beside her seemed so indifferent to her demands; vexed that he did not even glance at her. It could not possibly be rudeness with him-it was simply a cool denial. "You refuse my request?"

Miss Veltner's lips were set in tight line as she asked the question; the blue eyes were angry and undaunted as she still leaned toward him, though her hand no longer rested on his sleeve. "I obey my employer."

Armitage's gaze came back from the dancers, to hold hers, steadily. He had conquered that momentary weakness of his and was equipped for unbearable to her.

displeasure, "and you - his paid offend Miss Chandon-or you."

hers, looking down upon her gravely, ways." yet with determination and an expression in the brown eyes she had never before seen. What she saw again." mirrored there she did not even attempt to fathom, so strange and

keen was the look. "Even a paid clerk respects his employer's trouble. He, not I, should tell it," answered Armitage, quietly. Then of a sudden his face lighted up with a smile and the tone it. of his voice was entirely changed, for her partner was coming to claim her. 'Ah! you see Mr. Raynor is here for his dance; he does not lose much time. Now I may surely go; you will not miss me when you will be so much more happily occupied. You were right about Miss Chandon. It would have been wise had I invited

her myself; my evening will be quite spoiled as you feared it would be." Then he was gone, leaving no

"You are becoming an adept, sir ! But she never recovered from Arm- and I hate him!" tal tempest of hers was felt by him. cared to admit. proved so delightful to him. He felt gayeties; I am glad that Armitage pale cold smile that gave him small you would, but you are usually so between them, and it brought him "He will realize it tomorrow night "No! Never that!" responded he, "That is nice. I felt quite sure keenly the barrier that had arisen realizes it." very reserved about your pleasures intense grief, though no one knew if he never did before," added Debor- earnestly. "You know better-you do

will be less pleasant, I lear. You stock enterprise to the him, he would not be amiss in the Veltner and powerful as her own; she knew her he leaned and she did not fail will be dull; Maude is so lively." will be dull; Maude is so lively. at the Art Exhibit, at the Montauk Club's mus- family; I feel the need of some for he wished to say more than he did him. Will be dull; made is ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a continuous club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished about her recent treatment of him, the made no reply, but darted a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished about her recent treatment of him, the made no reply, but darted a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished about her recent treatment of him, the made no reply, but darted a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished about her recent treatment of him, the made no reply, but darted a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a ception; at the Montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a ception; at the montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the need of some for the wished a ception; at the montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the impending crisis; poor Deb— dear about her recent treatment of him, and the wished a ception is a ception; at the montauk Club's must lamily; I teel the impending crisis; poor Deb— dear about her recent treatment of him, and the wished a ception is a ception in the wished a ception in the wished a ception is a ception in the wished a ce quick, keen glance at her. No, she lease, and with a strange job by the lit will be a sad blow for her, but that he would not. He had not had not the slightest idea how much —somebody Miss Veltner did not ev- Deb! It will be a sad blow for her, but that he would not. He had not

pleasanter he thought it to be able en know. To that latter affair neithto sit there beside her and talk to er Miss Chandon nor Miss Truax were her-alone. There were so few of invited, though Deborah knew posithose moments for him, though plen- tively that the tickets had been givty for others-those others whom he en Armitage with the expectancy of

tions to her. But that night there Later in the week, when Miss Chanwas no one to claim her, at least for don was questioned about it by Miss

"My dear girl, I haven't seen Mr. Armitage for days and days. Do you

The two girls were in Maud's boudoir, Maude slowly preparing for a trip down town in which Deborah was to participate. "But he was to have invited you

disappointed. "He might enthuse dance with Mr. Tillton, and talked Walter told me so," exclaimed De-

'Well, he did not," laughed Maude. "And he did invite that dreadful Miss Milton-not in our set at all," "So Walter informed me. Walter was really more vexed about the matter than I. No doubt the poor thing enjoyed it. I certainly hope so, for Mr. Armitage is an ideal esfeel his sincerity and reverence—you know, Deb, a woman likes that sort of homage."

"I know of none." He looked at Miss Chandon looked at her friend

with a serious face. "Tell me"-she leaned over toward "I have remarked that very thing" him till the fragrance of the flowers admitted Miss Veltner, a little frown it relates to business, but what kind? ed you abominably in this musicale You, his confidential clerk, should matter-and me. That quiet manner of his is deceptive-he is deep as "I do know." Armitage closed the ocean. And do you know, Maude the fan quietly as he spoke; he did that ocean is placid always-never a not meet her look, if he had his self storm have I seen appear, and father

Miss Chandon laughed aloud. "Then tell me," pleaded she, with | "Look out, Deb, or you'll get swalpretty supplication, laying a gloved lowed up in its depths," she caution-

But Miss Veltner was not to be He felt, not saw, that glance; the confused by any such insinuation. "Have no fears! My voyages are undoing; he dared not even glance usually tempetuous ones; it would require barrels of oil to still the troubled waters-now." replied Deborah, "That is not possible," replied Ar- with quick impatience and pointed emphasis.

"And he would not think it worth the trouble to even purchase the oil -is that it?" questioned Miss Chandon, merrily. \*Correct! You are well posted on

his failings, I perceive." Then the subject dropped. But that night Mr. Veltner was made acquainted with Armitage's conduct in the Montauk Club matter. Deborah clusion regarding Miss Milton and mistress' invitation, impromptu, but

the tickets."

Mr. Veltner looked at her in mild ted. surprise, then laughed good natured-

him-kind to his little sister, I've dufies, with Miss Chandon as his as-"You forget, do you not, that I am heard; he was simply repaying an sistant. his daughter," she said with proud obligation; I am sure he would ret Deborah looked charming, that

She saw him wince, as though her crisply. "I know better, though I hair and a color to match in her words hurt, but he still did not yield did not tell Maude so. He wished to cheeks. Somehow she understood the to her pleading or command. In- teach me a lesson-that none of my art of simple dressing that yet was stead, he laid the closed fan gently interferences are needed. He has giv- strikingly effective; what she wore back on her lap, and with that easy en me several previous lessons. I un- was always a part of her, never a or Alice were absent from the festive politeness so familiar to her and just derstand them well. Now I am done mere exhibition of finery. She kept scene; times when he would relapse then so hateful in her sight, he rose with favors to him. He has never the games going merrily, the laughfrom his chair and bent low over been appreciative-he is quiet al-

"Deborah!" "He shall never come to this house Party." "He is coming to-morrow, Deb."

"For what?" "Business! I need him." but still gazing into the fire so that walked toward the office, where Mr. her father could see only the tiny Veltner awaited him.

clerks, of course," said she, " but his eyebrows straight to Deborah. make no count on your daughter for He haif bowed, as if uncertain tomorrow evening. He shall be whether to do so or not, and then taught his place."

"Long ago," retorted she.

engrossed in business just now to servant regarding the collation. Armcare about any girl." ed to give one, which at that mom- almost dismally. He would not walk to the desk. It was too late for De-

ent was doubtful. Yet she danced around the corner if it were too borah to retreat; Mr. Armitage had have accomplished so much with poor with Hugh Raynor, and her lips and warm or too cold—and could get any- seen her. He came toward her, hand and raw material, judge, then, what eyes smiled continuously; she scorned body else to do it for him. And he extended, eagerness apparent in every the benefactress herself might have to let that half hour in the balcony is always so horribly calm about ev- hasty step he took to reach her. For done had she cared to be the kinder- spoil the evening's pleasure and was erything; that is why I have grown once he was actually quick. There the brightest of all the young people to hate him-and after all my trouble was such pleading in his manner such for him-and he is so nice-and Maud entreaty in his face, that Deborah's

structors. I congratulate you; I her heart; it was so just and true down her cheeks, which drops were moment and bowed, but proudly igassortment and price of thank you!" rising quickly to make her father should be the person to thank you!" rising quickly to make her father should be the person to ded yery for The father's face grew. Armitage felt the omission him a mock courtesy and then slip- tell her of any business troubles. The ded very far. The father's face grew Armitage felt the omission and re-City store. Call and ping back into her chair with child-more she realized that fact, the more serious. He perceived that Deborah sented it.

"You think Maude a sweet girl, do Several times in the course of the "He is best left alone, Deb." said height into her eyes, raised a momyou not?" questioned she, a second weeks that followed they met, but Mr. Veltner, the kindly tones snoth- ent to his, then suddenly dropped, Miss Veltner invariably treated him ing the girl as nothing else would for the brown eyes had a gleam in with chill politeness, while he, hum- have done. "I cannot now tell you them she was not familiar with-a ble in his dependent position, never of our office troubles-but they are disturbing questioning appeal. presumed to ask for a renewal of numerous this past week. And bus- "And you are ungrateful," responthe former merry friendship that had iness mixes poorly with your social ded Miss Veltner, smiling a little

that one must needs guess whether that. He accepted sadness as un- an, with compressed lips and a muc- know." concernedly as he had accepted hap- inous fire in the blue eyes. "I am Any other man would have told her "And that vague condition is nat- piness, in fact, more so, for his life not a child, to be denied knowledge why she was unjust; why such injus-He put the question in that reflection and he had learned not to you too, are not treating me rightly. It was not his way to explain details in the desired of the desired had been a series of griefs and dil- of what concerns my home. Yes, tice gave pain, but Armitage did not. tive way she had grown to under- parade either. It was an art, but he I can understand business matters as he merely grieved and accepted his fall thought to so publish his down-



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fear, and I dare not tell her all peer in the ability to keep silent. just now. Perhaps Armitage can She realized all that and tried hard pull his end through, and if so, Deb not to admire the unusual quality. need never know how close to wreck- He must be punished, not admired. age her father is-dear girl. But if "Deborah! Deborah!" called a girlthat wheat fails she must know, and ish voice from the parlor. soon," and Mr. Veltner's face looked Miss Veltner, you are wanted," worried indeed.

CHAPTER III. The next evening was ushered in explained the details, her pretty face with brilliant moonlight and bracing close to her father's as they sat in air. Soon after the dinner hour, the their favorite spot by the open fire- Veltner parlors were illuminated and place. She had pondered the matter a merry party of young people asover, and could come to but one con- sembled, in response to the young nevertheless delightful, for Deborah's "It was done just to show me that entertainments were invariably suche does not need my aid in choosing cessful, and therefore never lacked athis friends," declared she, angrily. tendants. It had been most hurried-Walter should never have given him ly arranged, but was heartily endorsed, and that was what Deborah wan-

Cecil Harrington was there, with wistful eyes on his young hostess, "But, my dear, Mr. Armitage is not but forced to select a partner from bound to Alice, or Maude, or Edna, the other girls, whom Miss Veltner is he?" inquired he. "The young lady instructed him he must look after. battle. His very calmness became he took there has been very kind to Walter, too, was detailed to special

> night, in her cream cloth gown, a "Think not?" retorted Deborah sprig of red geranium in her yellow ter provoking surprises testifying to the guests' enjoyment of them all, for it was what she called a "Puzzle

> There came a ring at the door bell and Mis Veltner knew instinctively who the late caller was; but she offered him no greeting, though she saw She changed her position a trifle, him glance into the parlors as he

ear and waves of yellow hair above | She noticed, too, that Armitage's face looked tranquil as ever, although "Ah, well, you control your office a wondering hurt glance shot from passed on. She was really glad that "And Cecil? Have you taught him, he looked hurt; that was what she intended she should be. Later, when the games were drawing to a close, "Well, you may spare yourself any she had occasion to step to the hall worry about Armitage. He is too to whisper some instruction to the itage was leaving her father at the "I know that," exclaimed Deborah, office door, the elder man returning

hardened heart was almost touched. Mr. Veltner saw two tears steal She paused just for the slightest

stand so well.

Stand so well.

"Well, yes," responded she. "It Occasionally Miss Veltner heard of all, and me your own daughter, nothing from the form of the from the first the fir la successfully used monthly by over to model the control of the c of interpretation of the voice then changes are stronger, specially and special tone of her voice then changes are specially and special tone of her voice then changes are specially and specially and special tone of her voice then changes are specially and specially and special tone of her voice then changes are specially and specially

said Mr. Harrington, coming to the doorway and courteously waiting to

escort her back. Deborah turned to Armitage; her right hand kept purposely busy with the draperies of her gown. She met his glance defiantly and with no shadow of gentleness, while he seeing the useless of lingering, repeated to her that he was not ungrateful.

"Prove it then," said she, with the cold pride that stung him so. "I will," responded he in a low tone. Then he answered a laughing remark from Harrington. "Goodnight, you ask? Yes it must be so. I am not one of your gay party this

here, that is all. And I have made a previous engagement." "That is merely your way of putting it," responded Cecil, pleasantly. In my opinion, you are in haste to see your best girl-is that the pre-

time. Mr. Veltner summoned me

vious engagement?" "She might object to my telling." esponded he, genially, the quiet smile telling naught of what lay be-

"Then it is true?" "I will not affirm."

"Nor deny?" "Nor deny!" "You're a vast humbug," laughed Harrington. "Come, Miss Veltner, we will not detain this uncertain

young man." Armitage did not again speak to Deborah or again offer his hand. There was just a bow, polite and lingering given and a moment later the front door closed upon him. She was thankful to him for having shielded her from the gossip that would most surely have arisen had Mr. Harrington or Walter known that Armitage had received no invitation to the party. She had omitted him as a guest with the deliberate intent to punish him-and she had the satisfaction of knowing that the punishment had been felt by him--that it cut him deeply. But Miss Veltner had the unpleasant realization that she was only part victor ; he had shown a disposition that had

made hers seem small and mean. Through the rest of the evening she found herself wondering why her father did not join her guests, as he usually did when any frolic was in order, feeling a vague fear at her heart that all was not right in the little office at the end of the hall. There was certainly some trouble brewing. With a woman's instinct

And Dehorah's fears were not without foundation. The business crash came the following week. Mr. Veltner had told his daughter that in a few days they must face the inevitable; it had been impossible for him to longer keep the facts from her. Of course she was not unprepared for the worst, but it shocked her terribly to see the way in which her father took it-he aged ten years in that one day, the day when the crash was publicly announced. And she powerless to help him. Therein lay the grief for her. Her jewels, her belongings, her home-all were gladly and cheerfully relinquished to help save him from utter ruin; but her little was only a drop in the whirlpool.

They were ruined. The daily papers had big head lines about the banking house of Veltner and Company, and Deborah read them all with tear dimmed eyes-not for herself or her grief, but for her

(Concluded on Page 4.)