CHAPTER I.

the county of Suffolk, were an ancient and honourable family, never had got well into the famous story very distinguished or very rich, but about Baron Samuel and the dun cow He sold his beautiful home and con-Neaera Witt was announced. yet for many generations back always richer and more distinguished than men had been for the most part able party, except Gerald and his father, had whole of America and Europe. Eighand upright, tenacious of their claims, seen her, and they all looked with inand mindful of their duties; the wom- announced her name. She had put off announced ner name. She had put off ly spent, his health shattered and he ert. Hart, whose story you have just acted respect from their inferiors, and time, and came in clothed in a gown of was but a sad wreck of his former self. have nothing more to live for. educated their brothers' wives in the deep red, with a long train that gave "It was by the merest accident that yow has been fulfilled and death will Neston ways; and the whole race, low on her neck, and her pale, clear while confessing individual frailties. complexion just tinged with the sus- wife. She was alighting from a carwould have been puzzled to point out picion of a blush as she instinctively riage, and he saw her enter the home fits of couching, and it would not have how, as a family, it had failed to live glanced round for her lover. The entry of Dr. Neville, whom he recognized, altaken an expert to have told that he now, as a family, it had falled to five was, no doubt, a small triumph. The up to the position in which Providence girls were lost in generous admiration; though he had greatly changed, as his was in the last stages of consumption. and the Constitution had placed it. the men were startled; and Mr. Blod- false friend, Ralph Bertie. the other side in one or two cases. hTe well, finishing the evening at the House school of Common something to roung Side small vial containing a few drops of the other side in one or two cases. The the other side in one or two cases. The mouth Vane, the Lord President's prilast owner of the Grange, a gay old vate secretary (unpaid). "I hope, my ready to take advantage of the first the table, he said: "This stiletto is the bachelor had scorned the limits of his boy, you may live as long as I have, opportunity that would present itself and Alice an rents and his banking-account, and and see as many pretty women; but and enable him to make sure of both few drops of the venom used upon it." added victories on the turf to the fa- Witt. Her face! her hair! and Vane, his intended victims. He watched them mily laurels at a heavy cost to the my boy, her waist!" But here the di- at night, for had they seen him too astic gain, and ten years of the meth- ministration of justice. gone far to efface the ravages of his Neaera, took her by the hand and proud-arrived, and he was about to step up wrought. merry reign. The younger sons of the ly presented her to his guests. She Nestons served the State or adorned til she came to George Neston. As she a boy ran up and rang the bell. The the professions, and Roger had spent saw his solid jaw and clean-shaved keen doctor took the boy inside and left the a long and useful life in the Office of face, a sudden light that looked like a long and useful life in the Office of recollection leaped to her eyes, and her commerce. He had been a valuable cheek flushed a little. The change was official, and his merits had not gone so distinct that George was confirmed seen. unappreciated. Fame he had neither in the fancy he had from the first sought nor attained, and his name had before he had seen that golden hair doctor and the boy had departed; then, come but little before the public, its and those dark eyes, that combination issuing from his place of concealment, Gracious Sovereign completed another year of her beneficient life, and was

pleased to mark the occasion by con-

ferring honour on Mr. Roger Neston.

with tacit unanimity. jects which the cares of office had not prospective kinsman. "What do you think of her?" askpreviously left him leisure to study. smiling on the Nestons. Lord Tottle- tiful, isn't she?" bury, before accepting his new dignity. "I can't help thinking I've seen her had impressed upon his son Gerald the necessity of seeking the wherewith to somewhere before. gild the coronet by a judicious marriage. Gerald was by no means loth. He had never made much progress at the Bar, and feit that his want of success ing practice of his cousin George, a times in my life. state of things very unfitting, as George represented a younger branch than brought up there. Gerald. A rich marriage, combined with his father's improved position. "I don't know," said Isabel, "and fitted to his tastes and less trying to ago. his patience; and, by an unusual bit of luck, he was saved from any scruples member her," suggested George. her five thou and a year at her absolute disposal. The last fact easily Nevertheless, his interest remained outweighed the two first in Lord Tot- strong enough to make him join the last fact easily strong enough to make him join the last fact easily to make him join the last fact easily strong enough to make him join the last fact easily trive somehow to avoid tlebury's mind, while Gerald rested his group which Gerald and Mr. Blodwell ognition. You cannot imagine how

shown no more than a graceful disin- placent happiness of a secure lover, at the shaking wretch, who threw up be good. clination to become Mrs. Neston. At and Neaera gravely apologised for not his hands and warded off the blow, retwenty-five perpetual devotion to the having waited to make her choice till ceiving a scratch on the back of the eral happiness, for let the cynics say memory of such a mere episode as her she had seen Mr. Blodwell. first marriage had been was neither to "But at least you had heard of me?" be desired nor expected, and Neaera he urged. was very frankly in love with Gerald "I am terribly ignorant," she said. Neston, a handsome, open-faced, strap- "I don't believe I ever did." ping fellow, who won her heart mainy because he was so unlike the late Mr. Witt. Everybody envied Gerald, and everybody congratulated Neaera on having escaped the various chasms that Blodwell, "with the Old Bailey!" are supposed to yawn in the path of rich young widows. The engagement was announced once, and contradicted pleasantly. as premature, and then announced again; and, in a word, everything pursued its pleasant and accustomed course tinued Blodwell. "She never heard of in these matters. Finally, Lord Tot- me-nor of you either, I dare say. It tlebury in due form entertained Mrs. reminds me of what they used to say Witt at dinner, by way of initiation, about old Dawkins. Old Daw never into the Neston mysteries. It was for this dinner that Mr. some little borough or other-place And pains of rheumatism can be cured George Neston, barrister-at-law, was with a prisoner once in two years, you by removing the cause, lactic acid in the putting on his white tie one May know-I forget the name. Let's seeevening in his chambers off Piccadilly. yes, Peckton. George was the son of Lord Tottlebury's younger brother. His father had died ton, loudly and abruptly. on service in India, leaving a wife, who survived him but a few years, and one small boy, who had developed in- checked-and her fan dropped with a

one small boy, who had developed in clatter on the polished boards. to a rising lawyer of two or three-and- Gerald dived for it, so did Mr. Blodthirty, and was at this moment enployed in thinking what a lucky dog Gerald was, if all people said about Mrs. Witt were true. George envied his cousin his bride. His roving days were over. He had found what he wanted for himself, found what he wanted for himself, Lord Tottlebury, and took her leave. and Mrs. Witt's beauty, if she were George went and opened the door was nothing to him. So he thought with mingled joy and re- for her. She looked at him curiously. Still, however much you ton?" she asked. may be in love with somebody else, a pretty girl with five thousand a year is lack, and there's an end of it! So concluded George Neston as he got into his hansom and drove to Portman

The party was but small, for the Nestons were not one of those families that ramify into bewildering growths of cousins. Lord Tottlebury of course was there, a tall, spare, rather stern-looking man, and his daughter Maud, a bright and pretty girl of twenty and Gerald in a flutter ill concealed by the very extravag-Then there ance of nonchalance. were a couple of aunts and a male cousin and his wife, and George himself. Three of the guests were friends, not "Good-night, sir," said George. relatives. Mrs. Bourne had been the hope your head is better." memory by constant attention to her en away to his duties. friend. Mrs. Bourne brought her daughter Isabel, and Isabel had come full of curiosity to see Mrs. Witt, and also hoping to see George Neston, for did she not know what pleasure it would give him to meet her? Lastly, there cycle show lately was a canopy which towered on the rug the huge form of protected the rider from sun or rain.

Mr. Blodwell, Q.C., an old friend of Lord This canopy is like the ordinary peram-Tottlebury's and George's first tutor bulator shade, and is steadied by means rasping speeches, in court and good runs on the ground.

stories out of it, famous, too, as one of was wanting, and before Mr. Blodwell

degree. He had advanced a step, his

hand held half out, exclaiming-But there he stopped dead, and his face, and she gave him only the same shamefully wronged?" writers looked him up in "Men of the modestly gracious bow that she had Time," or "Whitaker," or some other bestowed on the rest of the party. The standard work of reference, and remeet with more universal public approval, a proposition which the ders for the march in to dinner.

public must be taken to have endorsed The dinner was a success. Lord Tottlebury unbent; he was very cordial cate stiletto, and, raising her arm, Mr. Neston went on his way, undis- was in heaven or at least sitting direct. was in heaven, or at least sitting direct- armpit. She did not move for several turbed by his moments of notoriety. ly opposite and in full view of it. Mr. minutes, during which time he stood but quietly pleased with his red rib- Blodwell enjoyed himself immensely: silently watching her. Then with a bon, and when he entered into posses- his classic stories had never yet won cry of pain, she sprang to her feet and so pleasant a reward as Neaera's low faced him. Her face was flushed and rich laugh and dancing eyes. George ought to have enjoyed himself, for he forehead stood out like huge cords. arity. At last he reached the pin- was next to Isabel Bourne, and Isabel while the cords and muscles of her neck nacle of his particular ambition, and heartily recognising that she was not seemed straining to burst through her nacle of his particular ambition, and to-night, as, to her justice, she often was, the prettiest girl in the room. With a mocking smile upon ment, for fifteen years took a large took the more pains to be kind and face he told that the little instrument share in the government of a people amusing. But George was ransacking with which he had pricked her was share in the government of a people the lumber-rooms of memory, or, to covered with a deadly poison. the til the moment when it saw the an- put it less figuratively, wondering, and

nouncement that on his retirement he growing exasperated as he wondered had been raised to the peer the girl before. Once or twice his eyes met title of Baron Tottlebury. Then the bers and it seemed to him that he had came into her face, and, reeling, she friendly pats on the back he was turn- hensive glance at him. When she saw ing to public life. Henceforth he sat that he was looking, her expression silent in the House of Lords, and changed into one of friendly interest. wrote letters to the Times on sub-prospective kinsman.

But fortune was not yet tired of ed Isabel Bourne, in a low voice. "Beau-"She is indeed," George answered

"She is a person one would remem-

"I don't think so. I haven't been in contrasted unfavorably with the grow- Manchester more than two or three

"Well, Maud says Mrs. Witt wasn't "Where was she brought up?" opened to him prospects of a career of don't think Maud knew either. I ask-

important, of private leisure, better ped down from heaven a few years while he made an examination.

about marrying for money by the fact | Failing this explanation, he confessthat he was already desperately in ed himself puzzled, and determined to me by that name? demanded the amazlove with a very rich woman. She was dismiss the matter from his thoughts ed doctor. of no high birth it is true, and she was very successful in this will find that I am a devil. Driven skilled and healthy, eight or ten fold.

""Devil" is well said doctor, for you will find that I am a devil. Driven of the present. Aided by Isabel will find that I am a devil. Driven of the present of the present of the present. Aided by Isabel will find that I am a devil. Driven of the present was the widow of a marchant, to the effrto: a pretty girl's company is the to devilish deeds by your own devilish- plication of power for men, and espec-

action on the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men with Neaera as soon as the men much pleasure it gives me. though, as which is the special mark of the bicy-like block of Care place for twen then place on the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like block of Care place for twen then place on the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like block of Care place for twen the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like block of Care place for twen the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like block of Care place for twen the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like block of Care place for twen the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like block of Care place for twen the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like block of Care place for twen the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the sole ground that Neaera as soon as the men like the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicy-like place for twen the special mark of the bicyand, by Jove, he believed in the world; secret of the fact that it was with just for the pleasure of this meeting. clist; and we shall be curious to note, and, of course, if she had money too, him a case of love at first sight, and I will now discharge the debt I owe when time has been given for it openly regretted that his years pre- you.' Accordingly, the engagement was vented him fighting Gerald for his an accomplished fact. Mrs. Witt had prize. Gerald listened with the com- used upon the woman, he made a stoke precise effects are. They will not all

"Neaera's not one of the criminal classes, you see, sir." Gerald put in. "He taunts me," exclaimed Mr. Blodwell, "with the Old Bailey!" death's shadows. 'You are traveling The constant habit of the bicycle dis-George had come up in time to hear the same route she took. for that sipates the mind just as a con-the last the last the same route she took. the last two remarks. Neaera smiled

"Here's a young lady who knows nothing about the law, George," conhad a brief, but he was Recorder of

"Peckton!" exclaimed George Nes-Neaera made a sudden motion with one hand—a sudden motion suddenly well, and their heads came in contact with such violence as to drive all re-Not that miniscences of Recorded Dawkins out of Mr. Blodwell's brain. They were still indulging in recriminations, when Neaera swiftly left them, crossed to

"Will you come and see me, Mr. Nes-He bowed gravely, answering noth The party broke up, and as George was seeing Mr. Blodwell's bulk fitted

into a four-wheeler, the old gentleman "Why did you do that, George?" "What?" "Jump, when I said Peckton."

"Oh, I used to go sessions there, you "Do you always jump when people mention the places you used to go ses-

"Generally," replied George.
"I see," said Mr. Blodwell, lighting his cigar. "A bad habit, George; it excites remark. Tell him the House. chosen intimate of Lord Tottlebury's Mr. Blodwell snorted indignantly as dead wife, and he honoured his wife's he pulled up the window, and was driv-

(To Be Continued.)

One of the novelties exhibited at a and kindly guide in the law, famous for of a small wheel at the back, which

CHAPTER III.

"At last, shaking off the spell that her dignity, her golden hair massed he finally saw her whom he once called soon claim me."

greeted each graceful and graciously un- to the door and gain admittance when

"He secreted himself until after the arose and demanded to know who he

When this happened, all the leader- recognition had faded from Mrs. Witt's recognize the husband you have so

incident was over, leaving George sore- as she stood speechless, gazing into his marked that few appointments would by puzzled, and Lord Tottlebury a lit- face. Then, with a cry of despair, she tle startled. Gerald had seen nothing, sank to the floor and covered her face having been employed in issuing or- with her hands to shut out the sight of him she had deserted. As she remained crouched there he drew a deli-

venom of an Indian cobra, and that no earthly power could save her from had been raised to the peerage by the in vain, where the deuce he'd seen the its deadly effects. A look of horror chorus of approval broke forth once hers, and it seemed to him that he had fell to the floor. He, fearing that some again, and the new lord had many caught her casting an inquiring appre- of the household might return, stole out into the night.

> "He had selected the armpit as the than on a more exposed portion of the body. From the papers next day he learned that no suspicion of a crime

able to meet the doctor in his house. swim, can keep on his bicycle all day, Mrs. J. A. French. North Glanford. Ont. ber, isn't she? Was it in Manches- He had seen the housekeeper and her husband leave and take an omnibus for and if his frame is not shaken by a Cured of Rheumatism by Kootenay a distant part of the city. Walking fall, or his temper tried by the prick- Cure. boldly up the steps he rang the bell, ing of those infernal tires, he will retelling the doctor when he came to the turn in the evening with his wherves Rheumatism cured by Ryckman's pains near the heart and wished him in perfect order and his limbs as little Kootenay Cure. to prescribe for him. Dr. Neville ask- tired as if he had been strolling for ed him in and closed the door after he the same time up and down a terrace had entered. Taking him into one of public distinction, and, what was more ed Gerald, and he said she probably drop- the rooms, he told him to be seated or a lawn. This means that he can

ishing reply of the stranger. "'Who the devil are you that calls motion at will are multiplied at least a foot across the shell.

hand in so doing. Seeing this, his ene- what they like, friendship is a sweetmy stepped back and returned the sti- ener of life, and pleasant conversation letto to his pocket, much to the doc- one of the few really enjoyable occu-

while he told the doctor that he had that we must not quarrel with, or New York without change via the popintroduced himself to Alice in much the avoid, or even sharply criticise, those ular West shore route. It is a buffet same way just before she passed into among whom it is our lot to live. scratch is as deadly as the venom of stant immersion in society does, except Sunday, at 4.55 p. m., reaching

blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures rheumatism by neutralizing this acid. "I had rheumatism so that I could scarcely lift my left foot. I began using Hood's Sarsaparilla, and after I had taken two or three bottles the chenmatism great enjoyment and no dange disappeared and has not troubled me since." E. R. WOLCOTT, 66 Bridge St., Springfield, Mass. Get only

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cobra can make it, and I suppose you know what that means, doctor?" "With a cry of rage the doctor sprang at his throat, but Robert jumped aside and tripped him, and, springing upon

his back, held him to the floor until the poison had rendered him helpless. ne Nestons, of Tottlebury Grange the tallest men and quite the fattest seemed to bind him, he took a solemn Then he stood and watched his death man at the Bar. Only Neaera Witt oath that both his false friend and agonies until they had ceased, when he faithless wife should feel his vengeance. left the house and returned to his room. "The next day found him too ill to move, and in two days more he had verted everything that he possibly been taken to the hospital, where the Mrs. Witt's widowhood was only two could into money. Then he began his fever kept him a captive until two years old, and she was at this time al-wanderings, traveling over nearly the weeks ago, when he was discharged. He was now without money or friends, and terest to the door when the butler a trace of them. His money was near- you know. For, gentlemen, I am Rob-

> This was the story the prisoner drew from his pocket a stiletto and a vants leave the house on the night of venom into which it had been dipped. The handle was of pearl and covered

> > strong room with which the house was "I don't know what to think of this sweet morsel of scandal for those he had seen me again.

"A hunted look came into her eyes ing and told me that the prisoner had Church St., Toronto, on receipt of 10c indeed died as was stated-summoned in silver or stamps. to appear before a higher court than any here on earth. He had examined

> As the chief and the Nevilles had been fast friends, he asked me not to divulge what the dead man had disclosed the night before, and as Barton and Duroch were also thus instructed the facts of The old chief, who died shortly before I left London, told me on his deathbed that he had always felt as hough he had done wrong in withholding the truth of this affair as long. and asked me to make it known after This I have now done. And to some who remember the principals it will no

Out Rooted Customs. The skilled cyclist who has develop-

ed the proper muscle, and has got rid of the sense of fatigue which haunts | Joseph F. Smith, Esq., Ancaster P.O., "Again he resumed his vigil. Nearly the beginner, just as it haunts and three months passed before he was daunts the man who is learning to choose friends or do business within Ryckman's Kootenay Cure. "'I prefer to stand while in your half a county, instead of within two "Perhaps that's how I come to re- presence. Ralph Bertie," was the aston- villages and that his powers of loco-Do you know me? Ah! I see that you it much more than men do, and con-

"Drawing the same stiletto he had the change to operate fully, what its

tor's surprise, for he expected another pations, but they will impair neighborliness, which rests in a degree we none that had ever been turned out of the "Robert stood with his arms folded of us like to formulate upon the sense and for the same reason- it renders New York next morning at 10.10 a. m. reflection less frequent and less en- On Sundays the sleeper runs from Ham-

in half an hour, and with no percepti- Trunk office in Toronto for information ble fatigue? Let those who doubt or space in sleeping car. Reservations that this effect will be produced in can be made in advance if desired. the country note the curious increase The catcher (roughly)-"What do the cycle is causing in the habit of you know about baseball, anyhow?" meeting at lunch, and indeed in the The umpire (looking at the howling substitution of lunch for dinner, You rooters)—"Nothing; I'm the umpire, can not bicycle back on a dark night you know." with you wife or sister in full dress; but you can lunch at 2 o'clock and cycle back in the cool of the evening with has been presented to the Queen of Cycling, in fact, will increase the scattering and movability of country society, to the increase of its pleasures and the loss of much of its steadfastness | The births exceed the deaths throughand quiet. The ancient "rootedness" out the world by over 1,500,000 a year the countrysides will be greatly -an average of three a minute. diminished, and we are old-fashioned enough to believe that in that qual- A neglected cough is dangerous. Stop ty was much not only of charm but

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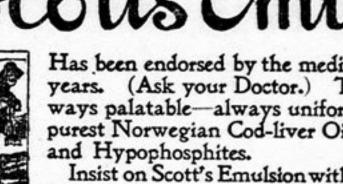
of utility.

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delicate blade being about five inches single dose, and the continuation of the mily laurels at a heavy cost to the my boy, her waist! But here the day time they might have family revenues. His sudden death tened off to vote against a protened long and no larger at the hilt than a use of the remedy soon cures the worst but silently acknowledged as a dynbut silently acknowledged as a astic gain, and ten years of the design and covered est excitement fatigued me. I was un-

disease altogether." who were not friendly to the doctor." yet recognizing its benefits, the Rev. As I was departing he cautioned me John Scott, D.D., Presbyterian minisnot to mention what I had heard until ter, of Hamilton, is only one of the many leading clergymen in Canada who The next day as I was looking over having used Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal rare appearances in the newspapers genof harmonious opposites that made her he entered the room where Mrs. Nea newspaper a short item caught my least feely testified over his least that a suspicious least that a suspic erally occurring on days when our beauty no less special in kind than in ville was seated. Upon his entrance she eye, to the effect that a suspicious own signature as to its unquestioned character whom the chief of the secret benefits. It may be only a cold in service had apprehended and had con- the head, or the case may be a more fined in his strong room the evening aggravated phase of catarrh, that has "'So you do not remember me?' he before had ruptured a blood vessel dur- baffled other remedies, but this simhand fell to his side, for all signs of said; 'look closer and see if you cannot ling a violent attack of coughing and ple and pleasant remedy will give re-

> his arm after he had died and found set type like a professional compositor. the scar left from the wound made by When he established the Catholic Rethe Englishman's scalpel, which corrob- cord in West Australia he was obliged orated the story of his snake experi- to set his own type, and to teach the art to other priests, besides editing the

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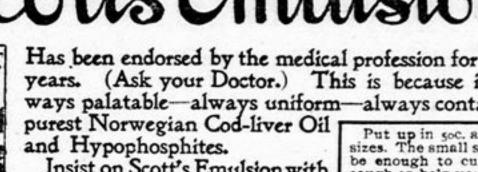
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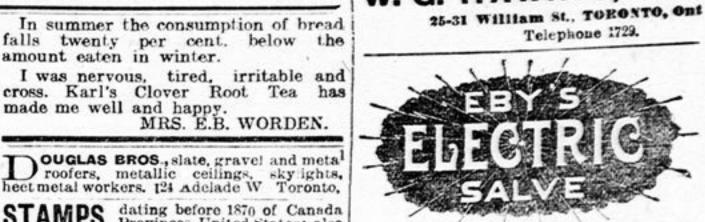
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