

CHAPTER IX. nstead of answering the boy, Ruthven turned to the girl and asked:

> "Is this true?" "Yes, Mr. Ruthven," she replied downcast with head.

He did not make any comment a the intelligence so abruptly communicated to him for

few minutes, and then he said: "This is very sudden, Hamilton." "Sudden, do you call it, uncle? You forget it is six weeks since you left us here, with one another for company How could I have any choice but to fall in love with her, unless, indeed

better?" "I did not say I was displeased, Hamflton."

I had taken up with old Garrett, and

that would scarcely have pleased you

"Oh, sir! I hope you are not," interposed Margaret.

"But I must take (fine to consider your request, and thus is not the moment for discussing it. I have just come off a long and fatiguing journey,

and you ought to be at your lessons." The disappointed man of the world could not resist the temptation of giving his boy-rival that unworthy little cut. But Hamilton received it with his usual equantmity.

"My studies, you mean, uncle. All right, we won't say anything more about it till the evening, then, when you will be rested, and I shall be at leisure. Good-bye till dinner-time. when?" Ta, ta, Pearl."

entered.

Ruthven prepared to quit the room. Margaret approached him timidly.

"You are not angry, Mr. Ruthven?" "Of course not, my dear. What have I to be angry about? Only this propossi of Hamilton's is far too serious a matter to be settled in a moment. do not wish to disappoint either of you, but I really do not see my way to accede to his wish at present."

Margaret began to cry. "Would it be so great a trouble to you to give up the idea of marrying my nephew?" he inquired, seeing the

tears upon her cheek. "Oh, yes, Mr. Ruthven! We love each other so very, very much. And Hamilton says he will never marry any one but me. And I would die rather than marry any one but him."

Ruthven recognized the childishness of the expression, but set a higher value by the reasoning than it deserved.

He sighed deeply, and turned away. I will do what appears to me to be the best and wisest thing for both you and Hamilton, and if your attachment is sincore, Lwill put no obstacle in the way of your future union. I can say no more than that."

It was a great deal for him to say so much. If the girl had fully read the sacrifice his great heart made in saying it, she would have knelt down and worshiped him as something more than man. But she had no idea of the pain she had inflicted.

Meanwhile, Ruthven found his way catingly up to his own room, and summoned Mrs. Garrett to a conference.

"How much have you known of this confounded piece of folly between Hamilton and Margaret O'Reilly?" he demanded of her.

such a name. Of course I saw the young creatures were taking to each other from the beginning. I'm not blind. But I never imagined you'd take on about it. It seems the naturalest thing in the world to me."

"It may be natural enough; but it is highly inexpedient. Hamilton's age renders it abourd, in the first place; but were he nine-and-twenty instead of nineteen, he has no money to marry | doing."

"They don't think of being married yet awhile, sir, surely, the young all."

"They want to be 'engaged,' which the same thing. And then, though Margaret is everything we could wish now, we mustn't forget what she was,"

"Lor', sir! You wouldn't go to cast that at the poor child, would you?" Ruthven winced. He felt his words to have been very unfair. How could he honorably say such a thing, when

he had wished to marry the girl him-"Well, putting that aside, Garrett, the whole business is foolish and im-

practicable; and I'm sorry you didn't look better after your charge during my absence."

"I don't think you ought to blame me for it. Mr. James. If you put fire to rood, you must expect it to catch alight, and any one who saw you deliberately leave them two together for of whole weeks, would have thought I did that you wanted them to ake a match, and did it on purpose. that will do.".

But, left alone, the man suffered bitterly, and none the less that, by want of forethought, he had brought it on himself. The housekeeper was right. and he was wrong. If he wished to win Margaret he should have remained upon the spot, and not let his smoothtongued, fair-haired, audacious nephew walk over the course in so aggravating a manner. If he gave a decided denial to his suit, Margaret would learn to look upon him as her enemy and the opposer of her happiness; but if he sanctioned their engagement, and it ended in marriage, Ruthven was certain she would be a very miserable woman. Fo he had cause to distrust Hamilton Shore, to consider him weak of purpose, and he knew he was not

How much his own grievous disappointment had to do with his decision it is impossible to say, for the best of men are frail where their feelings for a woman are concerned; but he resolved that, at all events, the engagement should be but nominal until both parties concerned had arrived at a true estimate of their own powers of fidelity. So that when Hamilton, confident of success, found himself alone with his uncle that evening, he was rather taken aback at being told that his marriage with Margaret O'Reilly was for the present an impossibility, and that Ruthven would not even consent to the engagement being consid-

the man to make a good, honorable

husband.

ered a settled event. "You are far too young to think of such a thing, even were you the possessor of a thousand a year; but under existing circumstances, I can not understand how any one with a particle of sense could wish to draw a young gir into an engagement which has no pros-

pect of being ended." "Oh! come, uncle, I think that is put ting it a little too strong. Why shouldn't it end as other engagements

"How are you to support a wife, and

"Well, I suppose my prefession wil And he ran away as hastily as he had bring in money some day, and then thought-" "What?"

"That you would help us, uncle." "Exactly so. That I should supply a suitable income for your housekeeping. Why don't you say so at once? But you may dismiss that idea from your mind. I have no intentions of helping you in any way."

"I think it's precious hard," grumbled the young man.

"You can think what you choose. adopted and reared you for your mother's sake, and I mean to put you out in the world, but further than that I do not see that I owe you any particular duty. And I certainly will not help you to make a fool of yourself (and perhaps mar all Margaret's chance of happiness in this life) one day sooner than "Why should I mar her happiness?"

"Because you are not steady nor reliable, nor always truth-telling. If you outgrow these propensities, which "I promise you one thing, Margaret. I sincerely hope you will, you may be ready to take the duties of marriage upon yourself. But at present it is utterly out of the question."

"But you cannot prevent our being engaged to each other, uncle,"

"Nor do I wish to prevent it, so long as it is distinctly understood that it fetters neither party. If you continue constant to Margaret until you become of age, I will talk to you on the subject again. But, meanwhile, I shall send you abroad."

"Oh, I say!" said young Shore, depre-

"Excuse me, I say," retorted Ruthven, dryly, "you have never attended a strictly to your studies in London as you should have done. Now we will see what a less exciting place, and the ambition of working for Margaret, will "Lor' bless you, sir! don't call it by | do for you. I have an English friend established at Rouen, who is as capable of directing your work as your present tutor. I shall send you to him as soon as the preliminary arrangeoblige me by spending the entire day with Mr. Longdale, as we first agreed upon, and not run backward and forward between his house and mine, as Garrett tells me you are in the habit of

> "In fact, uncle, it amounts to this, that I am not to marry Margaret at

"I did not say so. Are you afraid of your own strength of purpose?"

"No. I shall be all right, of course but Margaret may see somebody she likes better. Girls are such strange creatures-you never know when you've got them-and she'll be going about with you, I suppose, whilst I shall be

cooped up at Rouen.' "Oh, it's Margaret's constancy you doubt? Well, as I'm older than you. my boy, let me give you one place of advice: Never try to detain a woman against her will. If she loves you she'll stick to you. If she doesn't love you,

best let her go." Still the boy hummed and hawed and grumbled; but Ruthven was firm, and he saw that his word had no effect upon him, and what seemed harder was, that although Margaret received her gueadian's decision with a burst of tears she would not admit that it was unfair.

"No. Hamilton; you mustn't say so. Remember what I was—and from what Mr. Ruthven rescued me. Surely, he has the right to determine my fate, and no one can say he is unjust. And, Constitution.

perhaps," she added timidly, "he thinks MURDER FOR MONEY

I am not a fit wife for you. "It's no such thing, Pearl! It's all his cross-grained nature. If ever wanted a thing in this life he opposed it. And as for your fitness, I believe you're as cuch of a lady as any girl in London."

"Oh, Hamilton." "I do. Look at your hands and feet, and your beautiful face. My belief is that you're a duke's daughter in disguise, or that some wicked nurse stole yo away from your home and substituted her own brat instead of you."

The girl blushed and smiled at her young lover's far-fetched fancy, but was very pleased at it all the same, and mingled her lamentations freely with his over their coming separation, although he could never induce her to join in his abuse of her guardian.

Ruthven's plans on behalf of his nephew throve, however, without an obstacle, and, some few weeks after his return from Paris, he had first the pleasure of witnessing a tearful and passionate farewell between Hamilton and Margaret, and secondly, the satisfaction of conveying the lad to Dover and shipping him off to Calais.

As the boat steamed off from the pier and Ruthven acknowledged the last wave of his nephew's hand, he felt a glow steal over him in the conviction that it was the finest day's work he had done for a long time.

And then he returned to the little house in Kensington and Margaret O'Reilly.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

RIVALS IN PALM RAISING

Miss Gould and Mr. Rockefeller Are En-

gaged in a Friendly Contest. Miss Helen M. Gould and Mr. William Rockefeller, at their residences on the Hudson, are rivals in raising palms, says the New York Herald. Miss Gould's palm range is probably the finest in America, and she is in the lead in the palm race for honors. Miss Gould's palm rockery contains many rare specimens from the southern zone, among which are noted the sago palm, draceanas, crotons, marantas, screw pines, onychiums, pteris, and many other fronded varieties. In her main conservatory Kalmia latifolia, the calico bush, the amarylis and harrisi lily form the rare varieties of flowering plants. Here also are forced the lady slipper, crehids, the othacite oranges, the arabcaria excelsa and the nephralipsis davalleoides furcans. The othorite are charming small orange trees, and are either in flower or fruit constantly. The oranges are small, but finely fruited. Carnations are Miss Gould's favorite flowers. She has large beds of the Helen Kellar, the finest fancy variety of carnations. She also has the Lizzie McGowan, Buttercup and Portia. The American Beauty rose is also highly cultivated in the Gould conservatories. Atthough Miss Gould may excel Mr. Rockefeller in the vast variety of plants and ferns, she cannot furnish at a moment's notice fresh lettuces, radishes, cucumbers, water-cresses, tomatoes and peaches, and, in fact, all kinds of garden produce. Mr. Rockefeller has recently had some fern pans filled with creeping lycopodium, and in the center of each pan a small paim of a rare variety is now growing quite rapidly. When these have reached their growth there is prospect that they will outclass the magnificent palms of Miss Gould.

Indian Privilege in Maine.

There is trouble among the Penobscot Indians at Indian island, Oldtown, twelve miles from Bangor, the home of the largest and most important Indian tribe in Maine, over an order of the Maine Central railroad, just issued, that they must pay full fare when traveling on that road.

For sixty years the Indians have been allowed to pay the same fare as children, the custom having its origin here. When the Bangor & Vesle, the first railroad in Maine, was built, the road carried many Indians up river and Gen. Samuel Veste of this city, then the wealthiest man in Maine, who was president of the road, allowed the Indians to ride at children's rates and for the sixty years since the custom has

The Indians declare that if the Bangor & Aroostook railroad follows the example of the Maine Central they will bring suits for heavy damages against the company. They claim that the ments are made. Meanwhile, you will road, formerly the Bangor & Piscataquis, was allowed to cross Ocson and Black islands without paying damages, provided Indians were allowed to ride for half fare forever.-Boston Herald.

Hatching Eggs on a Fire Engine.

A good story is told concerning the members of a fire brigade in a certain town not far from Hastings. On one occasion it appears a fire broke out in the town and a rush was naturally made for the fire engine, which was always kept on the premises of one of the inhabitants. When the men attempted to take the engine out, however, they were met with the exclamation from the custodian:

"Hi! ye can't take that out. I've got a hen sitting there and you'll break

Tradition avers that the men, seeing the force of this argument, instantly withdrew and the fire was put out by means of pails of water drawn from a neighboring well.—Pearson's Weekly.

Her Crumb of Comfort. "What are you writing, James?" she

asked, as she critically examined her bicycle tire. "A novel of home life, dear," replied her husband.

"Never mind," she said, soothingly, "I know it's novel to you now, but all that will wear off in time."-Atlanta

FIENDISH WORK OF MRS. DYER THE BABY STRANGLER.

the Scene of Mer Monifold Crimes-Police Continue to Unearth Chustly Evidence Against Her -A Portrait.

(London Letter.)

N one of the very prettiest reaches of the Thames—a place much sought by Americans on account of its beauty-the police are dragging the water for the bodies of the rest of the baby victims of

the woman-flend Dyer, the murderous baby-farmer of Reading.

I sent a reporter down there yesterday, and he has returned with a budget of news, easily obtained, and yet not published in the London or the local newspapers. The police, to be sure, display the utmost reticence upon the subject of their knowledge regarding the murders, whose rumored number has startled England. The only statement they made that seems to me worth reporting for America is that the case will prove to be the most serious of its kind of the century. They hinted vaguely at the near approach of sensational disclosures, and one of them said that he had not the least doubt that the murderers had been at their work for at least ten years, and in that period have made way with at least three hundred infants!

and her history: feet 8 inches in height, about 50 years of | deceased child.

age, and of very good address. She

a customer unless and until the cash was paid down. Her advertisements were all of the conventional type, all too numerous even now, in the midst of this excitement, in the lower class London dailies and weeklies. Her mode

of advertising was as follows: "ADOPTION-Lady having no child wishes to adopt infant; premium £10;

loving home." But she was not of that band of baby destroyers who go to the pains to pretend that they need a child in order to secure an estate, and who say: "Baby wanted; must be from birth; would wait."

The house in Reading at which Mrs.

Dyer was arrested is shown in an accompanying photograph, especially taken by a photographer whose suggestive address is "Body Road, Reading." The house consists of six rooms -three bedrooms, a parlor, a kitchen and a scullery. It forms one of a long row of similar dwellings, and is neatly and comfortably furnished. Inquiries among the neighbors elicited the fact that Mrs. Dyer appeared to them to be

a quiet and respectable woman. The story of the manner in which the present case was developed against her has been but scantily dealt with in the

cabled reports. On Monday, March 30, a parcel was found in the river, and when it was opened it was seen to contain the body of a female child. An address on the parcel led to the arrest of Mrs. Dyer, and the police are able to prove that she borrowed some string and took out with her a paper parcel on that day; also that the string around the parcel was identical with the string she borrowed.

On Wednesday, April 8, a man who was dragging the river brought up a parcel of linen rags. When the parcel reached the surface of the water a The reporter, while at Reading, brick dropped out, and also the head of gleaned from various sources the fol- a child, which floated upon the surface lowing facts concerning the nurse Dyer of the river. On examination of the parcel it was found that some tape had She is a stout, well-built woman, 5 been tied tightly round the neck of the

On Friday, the 10th, a third body was



MRS DYER. (From Police Picture.)

was dressed when arrested in the garb | recovered, near the footbridge at the

of neglecting babies under her care, and | and tied round with a string. There when living at Bristol, two or three years ago, inquiries were made by the police respecting a child that had been in her care and that could not be located. Mrs. Dyer then threw herself into a canal in that city, but was rescued | sible to say how long the body had been from suicide and confined as insane in the Gloucester asylum. She was afterwardshanded over to the workhouse au- | cel was brought up from the center of thorities at Barton Regis, where, at the | the footbridge. In this were found Workhouse, she met with Mrs. Smith | the bodies of two infants, accompanied (the "Grannie" of this date), whom she by such other paraphernalia as warpersuaded to come and live with her. ranted a strong suspicion that the murrooms in Bristol, later on moving to was also the destroyer of the lives of Cardiff, where they were joined by Mrs. | these Dyer's daughter and son-in-law, Mr.

and Mrs. Palmer. They then rented a large house and furnished it on the installment system. Mrs. Dyer obtained several children, and when the rent became due they left and came to live at Elm Villas, Caversham, a suburb of Reading. The Palmers left-presently separated from the Dyer woman and went to London, and just before last Christmas the woman and "Grannie" took the house in Kensington Road.

Palmer is Mrs. Dyer's son-in-law, and it is believed that it will be made to appear that he assisted her in her nefarious work and received the premiums paid for the care of the children, in several instances. He is under the middle age, 5 feet 10 inches in height, of slender build, and when arrested was stylishly dressed in a frock coat and faultlessly fashioned trousers, as well as a silk hat and a shepherd's plaid neckthe He has auburn hair and a light moustache. He is feeling his position very acutely, and has grown very hag-

If it be proven that the "commission business" in which he has been engaged was the receiving of the moneys paid by mothers who, for various reasons desired to part with their little ones, it will be found that he never took less than \$50 at a time—or £10 English money-for in all her career that was the figure at which Mrs. Dyer rated her services. For many years she has been advertising in the London and provincial papers as willing to adopt infants on those terms. She never took a child or evinced any interest in

Clappers. It proved to be that of a She was convicted several years ago | child, and was wrapped up in a cloth was a large brick in the parcel. The body was that of a child of about 9 months of age. It was supposed that the little baby was suffocated by having something placed in its mouth. It is imposin the water.

On the same afternoon another par-The old lady consented, and they took | derer of the children previously found With regard to these accessories, the

tape used to strangle the babies, the brick invariably found in each parcel and those other implements which serve the police as bases for the case they will bring against Mrs. Dyer, it is



MRS. DYER'S HOUSE. (Where the Babies Were Killed.) important to say that apparently all her victims were treated in the same way. I am assured that the rumors that several bodies of babies found drowned in the Thames in or around London will be traced to Mrs. Dyer are incorrect. In every case she appears to have weighted the parcels with bricks, so that they sank immediately. and the bodies found near London are not known to have been treated in this

way in any single instance.

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