MIRIAM.

CHAPTER II.

Before Mrs. King had left her own mad act five years ago," he began, but not light enough to show her where to choose her way; the Newton read were he?

Those sunday afternoons spent in un abruptly.

recognized you instantly. It is necessary sent was asked and given." that we should meet alone for once; "Of course I must leave you your this annoyance would cease, where she joyment of life. He eyed her discon- of sullying that honorable name of you arrange time of meeting?"

disdain on her face. Then came a knock with a bitter laugh. "You were a child there where human beings congregate greedy!" he declared, with a grieved at the door.

waiting below for an answer."

as great a surprise to me as mine was to and you made one of me !" you. I see no necessity for the interview of which you speak. It would be an an- cheeks faded at the cru l words, leaving noyance to me in every way. I decline her face white as marble. to grant it."

scornful lip, a proud and steady eye.

and twisted her abundant wavy locks from such a life; the rest had mercifully had to flounder in the guiter to give her to see nurse, I expect." about her head with firm unwavering been kept from me." touch.

was brought to her.

To this Miriam deigned no reply

muttered. "I am not bound to do his blame me? There is nothing for which I spirit when he had been a witness to the bidding, I thank Heaven!"

near, she saw fit to alter her first deci- against that-I saved you and your BIOD.

said. "Better see him, and have done mysteriously, circumstanced to be able breath she drew, and understood the dewith it !"

surprised accents, looking up from her am of course anxious to continue to do a feeling of pity and involuntary tenderbook, as Miriam presented herself before what is right in the matter." her. "My dear, what a day! Better "Thank you," she said, with ironical by her side. A few paces from the Recby half stay at home over the fire with calm; "you are too liberal. Do not, tory gate they encountered Mr. Archer

but the wind is high enough to keep off you think that I would have touched her to his care. the rain. Good-bye. I shall be back be- your money," she cried, with sudden fire fore dusk."

you. Are you well wrapped up?"

her with admiring eyes.

your best in your furs."

as she nodded farewell.

urb of the town of Newton, and the town show of authority would influence me? encroached yearly on the suburb. The I came entirely of my free will- as, presroad along which Miriam briskly walked ently, I shall leave. I acknowledge no was adorued with villa-residences, let and | right of yours, and I fear no threat. un'et, while many more were in the "Nevertheless," he remarked, "I must ary of the parish. It was a dreary edi- make your fortune, or-" fice enough, the villa-residences for the "Do not trouble to make any further the chapel, and it was at the entrance to help."

hat, then turned into the muddy lane. "Will you be good enough to come this making it permanent." way?" he said. "We shall not be interrupted here."

her head well erect, an air of protest in go" He spoke with intentional cruelty, princess. He switched re-tlessly at the scape. "One of us must go." branches with his umbrella as he walked, a look of embarassment on his bronzed with quick decision. face, a huskiness in his voice when he began to speak.

great surprise !"

here, had I known."

plate that I might at one time or another said. visit my sister.

"And could I guess that Lady Hicks ther," he replied; then, after a moment's was your sister?" she asked botly, resent hesitation—"It is dark and wet, and you nounced, while a fat cherub of a year—you share my life, and my fortunes as my to pull up one car length by promp que ing something in his tone. "A moment's have no umbrella; I will walk by your thought will remind you that you never side, if you will allow me."

Thought will remind you that you never side, if you will allow me."

Thought will remind you that you never side, if you will allow me."

The analysis of yourself or your best of allowing it," her up in her arms, cuddling the listle directly the first the country in the countr longings. Your after-conduct proved she answered shortly; and, bowing her head ogainst her own neck as she carried the fire and turned to her again, the ner- tion, if not my life. He is now a divisit

descend to treat me as a rational being quickly down the aloppy road, who might have possessed some interest It was well perhaps that she had somein yours."

ledge came upon you as a shock; but my fort, but unpleasantly conscious of the ir- | joyment to Tommie. Today his plea-"My presence was, of course, no such feelings in the matter were not consult- ritation caused by the regular treed of a sure was a good deal marred by the unsurprise to you as yours was to me. I ed, if you remember My mother's con- footstep a couple of yards behind her. called fer presence of baby, who had, as

there are some words that must be said woman's privilege," he sneered. "You should turn off into the road leading to tentedly as she sat sucking her fingers between us; then I need trouble you no must make wild statements and use op- the Rectory, while he would still con- and placedly staring at the blaze of the more. Will you please select place and probricus epithets unreproved; but do tinue his straight course to Eastwick fire from the shelter of Mim's arm. That Miriam perused this twice, a look of on my side—something!" he repeated, by a public-house—at what corner is baby ought to have known, and "Her's "If you please, ma'am," said the house- you could not tell right from wrong, nor lights from the windows and door it evident she would not consent to be maid, putting in her head, "the boy is know the meaning of what you did; not streamed upon the road, illuminating for ousted from that pleasant resting place. "H. shall not wait lorg," said Miriam, the score, to have jilted them, to have iam reached this patch of light half a mouth, and made room for him beside and, tearing the note into four pieces, she been jilted by them; not so much of a dozen men, noisy and hilarious, came her in the big arm chair. dang them carelessly into the fire burn- child that you did not know the meaning out. For a moment she was in the midst | The three of them made a pretty picing newly in her grate. Then she turned of the word 'adventuress'—and that your of this boisterous and swaggering group; ture sitting the re-Miriam in her back hoarse when he spoke. to a devenport standing in the window of mother was-nor the meaning of the then, seeing with dismay that they also dress, her dark silky hair a little ruffled, her pleasant room, and wrote her re- word 'convict'-and that your father was; not so childish nor so innocent but that "You are mistaken; your presence was you had learnt the art of making dupes,

All the little color natural to the girl's

Having despatched this concise epistle, in trembling, solemn tones, "of that last had given an unconsciously softened tone Miriam proceeded with her interrupted disgrace of of my father, 1 knew to his voice. "I shall walk beside you for toilette, brushing her long hair at the nothing until that fearful day-I knew | the rest of the way." glass which gave back to her vision a no more than you! I knew that we had no money-my mother and I-that we iam trudged through mud and rain at her "He thinks I knew that he was here; were in debt, that we moved constantly husband's side, as though she had played he thinks—great Heaven—I sought him! from place to place, that—that I was to Joan to his Darby for many a year. The He shall find out his mistake," she said, be married as the only chance of escape | path was narrow in many places, and he

In the course of that day another letter "till I learned it all too late—thanks to carefully over her head was a signal of sung me that about the p'g yet—that your disappointed lover. And so you see | defeat to her; she did not try again to "I insist on speaking to you," it ran. the wrong is not all on your side. I was "I will wait for you by the chapel on the tricked—tricked into allying my honor-Newton road from three to four o'clock able name with one that in every conceiv- The excitement of the interview she had this afternoon. If you fail to appear, I able manner had been dragged through gone through, now that it was over, beshall call on Mr. Archer, and explain to the dirt. I was to have been tricked into gan to tell on her. How could she be given in a manner which thrilled Tomhim the difficulty in which I am placed." | paying your mother's debts and spending | dignified in her present wet and cold and my life with the daughter of a forger for | draggled condition? How could she at "Let him insist, let him explain!" she my companion. I declined. Who could tempt to assert the independence of her can blame myself. You spoke just now terror with which a handful of half-tipsy However, as the appointed time drew of your poverty—at least, I guarded you men had auspired her? mother too from the life you were lead-"He shall not think I am afraid," she ing. That you are fortunately, however him; but he noticed the short quick now to dispense with all assistance from "Going out?" cried Mrs. Archer, in me is gratifying no doubt to you; but I

however, imagine that the allowance to sallying f rth at his wife's command to "The day isn't so bad, Georgie-dull, which you allude ever benefited me. Do seek for Miriam, and Mr. Keene resigned -"one farthing of it? My mother took "Come forward and let me look at what you gave; I could not help that; but I-1 worked for my bread. Idrudged The girl showed herself in her long for years in second-class schools until I sealskin coat and hat, her friend regarding had fitted myself for something better, for when you freed me from yourself you "Mind no one runs away with you," freed me from another bondage. I was a she said, laughing "You always look slave to my poor mother no more; I have been mistress of myself since then, and "Little fear of that !" Miriam declared, shall ever be. When you wrote to me just now that you 'insisted' on an inter-The parish of Eastwick was but a sub- view, did you think that such a paltry

course of building. The road was not still ask you to answer one question picturesque in any way, nor a favorite of which"-with a cold smile-"I fear I Miriam's. The chapel, a thorn in the shall have to 'insist' on your answering. flesh of : it Robert Hicks and his protege, What are your means of support at presthe Rector, stood by itself at the bound- ent? At the second-class schools did you

present holding aloof; but fields on conjectures," she interrupted quickly. either hand were marked out for building "I have no objection in the world to tell purposes, and black boards therein on you. My money-a few hundreds a year tall poles called the attention of the rich | -came to me from a brother of my and speculative to the admirable sites to mother's, who refused to help us while be disposed of. A dreary lane, looking he lived, for the same reason which inmiserable and uninviting enough on this duced you to turn your back on us bleak November day, ran up one side of when we were in trouble and needed

this lane that Kingston Keene stood as "And you selected Eastwick as a place his wife came up. She silently bowed of residence-not permanent, I imaher head to him as he silently raised his gine?"

"Eastwick," he said, "is hardly big enough to hold you and me at the same Miriam walked by his side in silence, time. One of us, I think, will have to her face, looking like a beautiful captive his eyes fixed upon the darkening land-

"Then it will not be I," she answered,

"In that case you leave me no choice." "I have asked you to come," he said. The short dull day was nearly over, "It seemed right to me that a few things the daylight fading slowly from the sky. should be settled between us. I have to The wind had dropped unnoticed as they thank you for complying with my re- talked, a drizzling rain had come on. quest." She bowed her head; and, after Mechanically Mr. Keene, having opened a moment, he went on -"It was a sur- his umbrella, held it over his wife's preprise for me to see you last night-a very occupied head; so, walking side by side, they regained the entrance of the lane. "It was not a less one for me to see Here Mirism, looking about her for the you." she interrupted. "I should not first time, became conscious of the inhave been likely to seek to make a home creasing darkness, of the down-falling half hour, with a somewhat sad and open it all up again."

"I think I need trouble you no fur once, and caught at her dress.

the handwriting; and it was with more acknowledge that she broke the seal. It was dated the previous night, and began abruptly.

Those fundsy afternoons spent in un interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, subject at her throat, to search interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, subject at her throat, to search interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, subject at her throat, to search her pocket for the sweetles which always although you pretended that the know-abruptly.

Those fundsy afternoons spent in un interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, subject at her throat, to search interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with her watch and interrupted enjoyment of Mim's society, with leave to play with leave She hailed with delight the corner where | yet, he considered, no claim to the ennot forget that something has to be said Park. This welcome spot was marked was his place on a Sunday afternoon, as -granted; but not so much a child that which is not so distinguished? The quiver of his lips, when the intruder mad too much of a chied to have had lovers by a space its mud and its puddles. As Mir- Then Miriam kissed the sweet trembling bent their straggling steps in the direction of the lonely road she must pursue, she drew back, shrinking into the shadow for a moment; and in that moment Mr. Keene was again beside her.

"You are not frightened?" he questioned; and the instinctive desire to "As Heaven is my witness," she said, shield what was weak and defenceless

Aud so for that further half mile Mirthe best of the way; she never demurred, "And from me," he returned bitterly, that leftily repudiated umbrell a now held escape from its shelter; she was beaten, she told herself, unnerved, unstrung!

> Mr. Keene could only catch glimpses now and again of the pale face beside jected droop of her head. In spite of his anger and unrelenting sense of injury, ness stirred anew at his heart ashe walked

When next Miriam heard Mr. Keene's name mentioned, it was announced, amid some surprise, that he had left Eastwick Park, to the great disappointment of its inmates, and had betaken himself to London, where he had business which would detain him some little time. Two days after this news was conveyed to her she was at church, and it was somewhat of a shock to Miriam, in face of such welcome intelligence—having | now.' turned her head, at the sound of a firm footstep advancing up the aisle—to find | the child into the nurse's srms, Tommie, Mr. Kingston Keene quietly taking his as he was led from the room commenting seat in the Eastwick pew. After that | loudly on his sister's behavior. hurried glimpse of him, she looked no more, but was uncomfortably conscious all through the service of that embarrassing presence, all insufficiently separated from her by the intervening aisle-was troubled many times by the certainty that Mr. Keene's eyes were upon her.

"Why could he not have stayed away?" she asked herself, ashamed of her quickened heart-beats and her nervous self-consciousness. 'He is right—there is not

room in Eastwick for him and me." Little Mrs. Archer was a good and tender-hearted woman, but she loved her ease and was a thought less devout than her induigent husband would have preferred. Standing cloaked and bonneted by his side for afternoon service on that same Sunday, she looked a little envious-"Why not? I have every intention of chair, luxuriously at ease over the draw- reviewed the circumstances of the case, ing room fire.

I wonder James does not make you come to church as he makes me?' James's wife said, with a pout and a smile.

Miriam looked up, laughing, into the face of her pastor and master.

"He is wise enough not to strain his authority in my case," she said. "I am not his miserable down trodden wife, and, "Very good," he rejoined calmly. much as I delight in his eloquence, I should rebel at having to lend an attentive ear more than twice in one day. shall have little Tommie down directly, and we will amuse ourselves after our usual artless Sunday after noon fashion."

sweets, as you did last Sunday," the Rev- | the same unwavering eyes. erend James stipulated, as he drew his "I have said all that I have to say on the his engineer to go ahead, which he wife away.

troubled face, then aroused herself with But I have told you that I had yet | that little hole we slipped, and lives

old baby drew attention to itself by wife should? A " " that my antecedents were of importance head, partly to free it from the protect- her down stain, while master Tommie, vousness gone from his voice and manner. superintendent on one of the best room. to you—they were important enough for ing umbrella, partly in farewell to Mr. clinging to her dress, conscientionaly He held out his hand to her.

a pretext, at least; but you did not con | Keene, she left his side and walked away | bringing down both fat short legs on to every stair, remarked aggrievedly that-Why were a bad fire Her n'oughtn't thing to take her mind from the dismal- to der, and to want to come down with "When we, together, committed that new of that return journey. There was Mine because her were only a baby

the fire playing upon broad bands of gold at her throat and wrists, the children's curly flaxen heads nestled against her.

"Tommie wants a song?" the little man announced presently-'not a Sunday song, not a hymn."

So Miriam, in her rich sad voice, sang softly to him all the nnrsery rhymes—not a few—that she could remember. Tom mie was a quiet and appreciative listener. Baby, from the soothing effect of the singing, or of the finger she incessantly tell to prove my right, in spite of anyla Powder. sucked, had fallen asleep, when there came a ring at the door, Miriam stopped for a moment.

"Who can that be, Tommie? Some one

But Tommie was impatient. "Go on," he said—"go on! You hasn't

little pig what left his mummie.". "Where are you going to you littl pig?'" began Miriam, singing Tom Hood's words to an improvised tune of her own. This tragedy of the pig was mie always.

Neither Miriam nor he heard the door open, nor noticed that some one stood for half a minute earnestly regarding that group by the fire, imprinting a picture on his memory that he would never forget, that he was to look at many a time afterwards with such a pang of longing and regret as his heart had never before known.

"The butcher is coming, I've grown so big," sang Miriam, in tragte accents | ed a moment to control his voice. of woe, they broke off suddenly, with a start which woke the child in her | those inquiries?" arms and made Tommie cling closer to

Had the butcher really come? he wondered, looking with terror at the strange man who stood before him, putting out a hand to Miriam, which she could not or would not take. Instead, grasping the children, she rose from her chair, and moved towards the door.

"Do not go," said Mr. Keene; and Miriam, hesitating, looked him question. ingly in the face, while baby, h wing inspected the stranger, broke into a loud wail, hiding her face on Miriam's breast. "I find that there is still a word I must | you?" say to you—you must suffer me to say it

Then Miriam rang the bell, and gave "Her's a coward!" he declared, as he

trotted off. "Tommie's not a coward; Tommie'll take care o' Mim." Muiam's face had grown pale; but she

spoke with ordinary quiet self possession, standing proudly before her husband, looking with unwavering glance into his face. "I had hoped that we had had our last

interview," she said. "Is it not passible that you can spare me this?" "No," he answered, "it is not possible,"

then he paused a moment. "Will you not sit down?" he asked; but Miriam shook her head, standing erect and proud and fearless before him.

"Since I saw you," he began presently, speaking with some hesitation and even nervousness, "I have thought a great ly at Miriam lying back in a big deal over things which you said. I have all that took place five years ago. I have always told myself that I acted then in the only way in which it was possible for me, for any honorable man to act; but-I don't know-you have also your way of looking at matters, and I would not wish to have done you a wrong. My impulse was naturally to save my name from dishonor and my life from a too probable disgrace. I still think the action defensible, although it may have been, as I now see, an action fraught with more terrible importance, both to you and me, than I have ever somehow considered it bef re."

He paused a moment; she was still Quicker than I can tell you the brake "Only don't make him ill with standing before him, regarding him with

subject," she replied coldly. "It seems to sharply, but basely in time to let Miriam sat and dreamed on for another | me as unnecessary as it is unpleasant to | through. In fact, the pilot of my engl

"And yet," he rejoined, "it was not "If that is all you have to say to me, a sigh, and ran up to the nursery. Tom- something to say." He turned slightly property were saved. Now, the brake such a very unlikely thing to contem I should be glad to be getting home," she mie, a small and chubby urchin just pro- from her as he spoke, and, leaning on one man was only a common railroader. moted to knickerbockers, ran to her at hand on the mantelpiece, looked down saw that situation at a glance. The into the fire; then he asked-"Will you wasn't time to run his whole train of "Tommie go down with Mim," he an- come to me now? You are my wife; will crossing, nor even half of it—barely

"Never she replied, through white firm lips "I sey never! Hy you suppose for one moment that I show consent to that? For what manne woman do you take me? Don't you keep lit is that I would rather be dead than by the wife now, that I would sooner kill proper and the sooner kill proper and was the day of my necessity and helpla led of ness; but I am still the daughter of lings mother, remember, and the daughter my father. You would still run then ze of And—and trouble might come again be as some one might vitify and slander once more—who knows? When on the you had owned me as your wife, it might bur it not be so easy for you to turn your bear boil ear on me, to slink away and leave me leave cooki bear the burden alone. No; you have mored. properly considered the risk you run, i CUMBO Keene."

His face had grown almost as white beef hers; the hand wuich had lain on the med codfish. telshelf grasped the marble now with the it all v uncor scious powerful grip; his voice to am "Is that your final answer?" he was small bun

"Final, though you asked me everyd gether, as of your life on your knees for the taken years," she answered. "I shall not do that. But you are an green par

perhaps that, if it were worth my vi into a sau -if I liked, I could compel you to v agreeable sent to my proposal." "I do not bel eve it," she said calm hours, st

"Laws are to protect liberty, not to apoon, a sure oppression. And if it were not a water to t if I failed with the tale which I show GUMBO to keep myself as far as might be in whatever from you-why, then, as I said, I wou with fried kill myself—that is all."

And she meant it. The man knew theunto po full well, looking at the proud fearlafor three eyes, listening to the passionate scorn the fire un her voice. you have

"No," she went on more calmly, "meat of ca cannot be forced to live with you, a GUMEO you cannot be forced to let me go entin Put five p ly free. I know so much of the laws with one the land." "Of the latter part of your assertithorough!

you have probably assured yourself 'laliced to remarked suspiciously. chopped o For the first time she turned away hand a qu

eyes from him, and a rush of color stainto thin ed the pale face. the soup "The matter was inquired into for me wowly, bu she said. "There is no reasen that I show set to boil

not tell you that." At sight of that suddenly crimsen hours. S face he started upright, his hands clinche fully. his blood on fire with the hitherto a GUMBO guessed at madness of jealousy. He was Boil four

"Some gentleman probably prosecute whatever At the sneering tone, she lifted he fire, I

eyes again calmly to his face, and answellerd, and ed deliberately-"Exactly! You are right; he was a gentleman.

"And supposing that I had dead, or the law had been more con siced, an plasant?" "In that case I should have been

wife now." The look which came into his face nee ly daunted her for a moment.

"How dare you tell me this?" he asked suppressed fury in his voice. "How dat

Why should I not dare? Of white so as t should I be afraid? But, having told yo so much, I will tell you more, that, when head ver once it was found to be impossible, whe once we knew that I must for my life is perf yours be bound to you, he—this man i sones an whom you grudge the title of gentleman in the and I said farewell for ever. how to accept the inevitable. He woul and let it have died rather than have run the re browned of causing fresh trouble to me."

"Confound him!" Kingston Kee will mal said, through clenched teeth. "Conform mion-pe him!" Miriam looked at him, infinite con

tempt in her eye. "He anathematised you," she said w terly-"perhaps with better cause."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

chopped, The Engineer's Story of the Brak great im

behind time, and if there's anything | counds l the world I hate it's to finish a run behis wit schedule. These grade crossings of on a day. horse roads are nuisances to the tru lines, and we had a habit of failing stop, merely slackening up for 'em. one crossing I had never seen a train that time of night, and so I rounded curve out of the cut at full tile. I astonished to see that a freight train standing right over the crossing, evide striarch ly intending to put a few cars on of switch. I gave the danger whistle tried to stop my train, but I had sen heavy sleepers on, and we just slid do that grade spite of everything I could man on that freight train uncoup!ed just back of our crossing and signal took the buffer off the rear car. Throu in this country.

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Several years ago I wa winning a fr The ca express. One night we were three hor an ex eld, but They ar butcher, The Tar etten 1,0 meed is ly for s wit htfall Cou

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