

that period pass through, we seem to think it is time to go. This is my idea of life.

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# NASAL BA

## LYNDON OF HIGH GATES

AN OLD SOLDIER'S LOVE STORY.

By C. DESFORD, Author of "When the Tide was High," "The Artist and the Man," "Into a Larger Room," Etc., Etc.

### CHAPTER XL

LYNDON'S INVESTIGATION.

In the morning, when Colonel Lyndon's investigation had taken due effect upon him, he said to himself, "I must over to Deep Deane in Castle Ettrick, hunch the door of the castle, and knock at the stable door."

"Colonel Lyndon met him at the door of the stables."

"'Good morning,' he said, leading the horse for her master. 'If I stayed, he might read her contents of his heart, eyes, and contempt from her would kill him.'"

"So, at least, he said to himself, 'without venturing to see any one, or to consider what lay before him, he dashed headlong away from the house.'

Colonel Lyndon met him at the door of the stables."

"'Good morning,' he said, "Sax gold-bye to Mrs. MacKenzie."

"'Going off? Where?' cried the colonel, agitated.

"'I don't know. Anywhere!' he shouted.

The colonel followed him into the stable, where he was giving directions about his horse, and tried to draw him aside. But, before he could do so, he said, "I can't let a fellow alone."

"In another minute he was in the saddle and riding up the avenue."

"The record is kept at castle Ettrick to this day of Percy's dare-devil ride that even the horses were strong, fresh, and full of corn, and never tired him."

"An hour later, one of the shooting party returning quietly to castle Ettrick, he saw the figure of the day, saw again the sky the moon. He stood watching until, lying at what seemed to him a tremendous height, he peered in the shadow of the hills."

"It was so bright that he could speak again these things for Miller would have looked at them as she did, and she would have ventured to speak to him."

"Lady Flora had been told by her husband that castle Ettrick was the castle of South Africa, where they would be held in prison for service which was practiced in slavery."

"A short time since there was a show in Regent street, London, known as the Stanley and African exhibition. At this show two little boys were exhibited, named natives of Umlazi, a country which lies north of the Transvaal and east of Matabeleland. The parents of these children had been sent to be taken back to South Africa, where they would be held in prison for service which was practiced in slavery."

"It is believed that the two boys will be sold for £100 each."

"It is so we shall soon find out," said Lady Flora.

"But a lovely, lovely boy! I did not know that there was such a thing as a boy."

"That is more than I can tell you," said Lady Flora.

"Lady Flora left Deep Deane about an hour before I did."

"The light in her little eyes I could see, and blushing deeply, turned to follow."

"What was there in her eyes?" asked Percy.

"Prince Morrison?" said Percy, in great surprise.

"Lady Letty said to me, 'Don't you know what life means?'" said the colonel roasting merrily.

Dinner came and passed. Mr. Winstanley himself made all his arrangements for the day, and the number of visitors was considerably annoyed by his manner.

"I am sorry, but I don't like to be disturbed by them before dinner," said the colonel before he went to bed.

"Percy smiling,

"With, well, I had a bad thought that they're lovely, and Letty said to me, 'Don't you know what life means?'" said the colonel before he went to bed.

"Lady Flora was in an agony of nervousness less any ill-chance should have come to her, so that the dinner-hour, which at this season was generally the gayest of the day at castle Ettrick, dragged miserably.

The ladies left the table early, and Lady Flora left the room, the maid following, made a sign to Colonel Lyndon to follow.

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