For Weal or for Woe;

Or, A Dark Temptation

CHAPTER XXII.—(Cont'd)

"I am Gaynell E[illegible]—ook," she answered hesitatingly; "I ought to have told you that before, but I—I—" Again she stopped short in utter confusion.

Young Cheseleigh gave a start of surprise.

"Gaynell," he repeated, "why, what a pretty name; I have never heard it before. But about those cries?" he inquired anxiously; "surely they were not—they could not have been uttered by you. It must have been a delusion of my imaginative brain, I almost think."

Gay hesitated in the most painful embarrassment, and he went on eyeing the lovely face curiously:

"They do say a weird old gypsy crone inhabits a grotto or tumbled-down hut in the heart of the woods yonder, who inveigles susceptible young girls hereabouts to her den under the pretense of telling them their fortune, and fleeces them out of their money.

"Many a foul murder has been committed in these woods and many a daring robbery; but no one was ever yet cunning enough to trace it to this strange old gypsy—the last of her race. Surely it was not to meet her that you have ventured here to-night."

"No," said Gay, faintly, "it was not that which brought me here; I uttered a cry on the bridge the railing broke, and I almost fancied myself falling down—down into the dark water with the broken rails, and—"

"No wonder you were frightened," interposed the young man; "but you have not told me what brought you here, and at this ghostly hour, so far from Leighton Hall."

"It is because I was turned away from there," she sobbed.

"Turned away from Leighton Hall?" he repeated in strong astonishment. "Why, what—what—what—what on earth was it for?"

Then the whole cause of it came out—how the best (best of the best) had seen how Ione Leighton had hypnotized to some into her room after it was all over, and discovered that she had been seeing the dress she had worn on a chair, and of the tempestuous scene that had followed; and how, to appease Miss Leighton's wrath, she declared she would be turned away from the Hall with the morrow's light, and had gone at once, and walking for the porter.

Harry Cheseleigh's eyes glowed as he listened.

"[illegible] hear the cruelest imprecation [illegible] between his white teeth because the daring housemaid as the [illegible] to [illegible] him.

"[illegible] blood [illegible] spirited away from among the messengers during the confusion [illegible]

As he finished, [illegible] the messengers had [illegible] that the heroic [illegible]

There was great consternation at Roseclif[illegible] [illegible] back as them with great dark, [illegible] of [illegible] mention of Gaypy immediately.

"Gaypy! [illegible] young lady [illegible] that designing [illegible] I am [illegible] but [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]