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the County of Halton. against me?" Sales conducted promptly and economically. you, Lola. God forbid that I should do each other's eyes. Valuators of all kinds of property. A. Q. HENDERSON, Omagh P. O.

> me, and remember that it is you who at her, a smile parted his lips and he have laid the foundations of what may raised his eyebrows and shrugged his be a wall of division between us. Re- shoulders as he said in a tone of mock the door. member, too, that I gave you my word praise:
> I would never marry your son unless "You've done well for yourself, Lola, is hard for the old to pluck from the beart a cherished desire. But it is phasized his words by another compre-beart a cherished desire. But it is I would have done had you bidden me,

at once to see if I could help you. But soon as the man had left the room after it seems I have been mistaken, and you returning with the wine. offer me some kind of insult. I wish on having beaten me, don't you?

MILTON, THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1898.

She looked at him with resolute defl-He started as she spoke and looked first angry and then amused. "Devilish good, no doubt, but not

you and I had never met before-on the "Come to the mother, Jaffray," she Devil's rock, for instance." "You are apparently under some 'and so long as you hold to any delu- lin, for which, as I understand, you words. She laughed very softly and sweetly, sion to the contrary I decline absolutewhile her eyes shone brightly with the ly to speak to you."

light of happiness, and holding one of "You are a magnificent liar," he ex-"That I want to love you and you to the mother's hands in hers and taking claimed, "and I know what you mean love me, and in place of that you meet one of Sir Jaffray's she placed all three I don't consent. I want my wife, and I'll claim her."

"Now we are all unconventional peo-"I know nothing about your wife, no you have for me? Is that what our re- ple, thinking of nothing but our three more than about you. If that is all you side and shrugging his shoulders and lations are always to be? Can Jaffray selves, and we two, the mother and I, have to rave about, you will please not have made a great compact that the to come here again, or my servants wil you admission by my express orbear to both of us are to bind us together des f, on the contrary, there is any I can help you with, I shall be s do what lies in my power." and then let us all three promise to do you mean that you dare to deny

and constrained, and if you do not find our lives. Is not that right, mother?", of it. I am Lady Walcote, the wife of cant glance at her, "used to like. Will me so warm as you wish you shall at Sir Jaffray stooped and kissed them Sir Jaffray Walcote, and though I have you try one?" heard of you as a fiddler"-she spoke glad to have your letters and to see in "It's the best news you could give the word contemptuously—"and may them the little overtures which I thought me, mother," he said when he kissed have had a lesson or two from you in I could detect. I thank you for your Lady Walcote. "You know that." And singing or music, in any real sense thoughtfulness, child, in urging me not the earnestness of his tone proved to have never seen you before in my life." The splendid audacity of her manner "It is true, Jaffray," she said. "It almost took away his breath. He was

Then Lola, knowing that if the scene "You are a devil!" he exclaimed in give you one—one that is from my side. would be spoiled, jumped up quickly French. Then he added in English, "Do years past it had been the strong desire | ple of Walcote manor, who ought not you haven't traveled half over the con-

ry his cousin, that Beryl has always and passions. Sir Jaffray," she cried, "That is precisely what I mean," rebeen like a daughter of my own and assuming a very grand air, "will you turned Lola coldly, firmly and deliberthat the project was infinitely dear to give me your arm? I will take the air ately. "Precisely. It is quite ten years me. We old people do not easily pluck in the park. We will leave the lady since I was in Montreux, and I traveled with my poor dear father alone up to the time of his death in Neufchatel, two "Come on, Lola," cried the baronet, years ago. Obviously you have made some surprising mistake."

"You are mad!" he cried. "You And the chief thoughts of the 'lady mother" were that her son's wife was can't set me at defiance. I have proofs lantry, "for she is the most extraor--ample, undeniable, complete-that an exceedingly clever young woman, "Proofs? Of what?" she answered

During the next few days she had more quickly. "Proofs that you married some one else in my name, maybe. ample evidence of this, as Lola's treat-Bring the priest who ever made me your not the slightest interest in anything ment of Lady Walcote was tactful and clever to a degree, and the old lady, de- wife and then talk of proofs." "You devil, you know he's dead, but spite her sharpness and shrewdness and tendency to suspicion when she was I can bring a thousand people to swear what you want." to you. Beauty like yours, my girl.

what better proof is wanting than this tomorrow. What theu?" -that you stand here bandying words enough to surprise and please Lola herself, who wished that it should be as with me over a matter of this kind?" "You recall me to myself. I have close as possible by the time that the blow fell which she was daily expect-

have you pitched neck and crop out of and had ridden over one morning with Sir Jaffray to a county meeting at a the house and kicked down the drive. town a few miles away when on her Do you understand me? Now, what do return she was told that a gentleman "You are my wife, and I have come

to claim you," was the reply, sullenly She knew without glancing at the and doggedly spoken. You make your own choice. In one She had nerved herself to be always minute after I ring that bell the servant

will be here, and if you have not re- will be a matter of surprise to me. But tracted that slander before he comes went at once to the library, where her will order him to turn you out of the

There was not a sign of embarrass-"You are my wife," he answered between his clinched teeth. Lola crossed the room in silence and pulled the bell vigorously.

Is that what you mean? Do you wish deadly loathing and said as quietly as ion, with resolution in every line of her beautiful face. She said not another gers. word, but watched him closely. The color waned gradually from his sponse and said nothing.

face, and he moved restlessly once or the servant had closed the door, and twice. Then he bit his lip and then his they stood thus looking steadily into nails and eyed the girl angrily. "What terms do you offer?" he said.

"I make no terms with slanderers. she answered steadily in the same de-He turned from her, and, looking all

"You are the devil!" he cried again It gave her. an opportunity to drive At that moment the servant opened make.

"Well?" said Lola, turning to her visitor while the man waiteu for orders. "I retract," he said, rolling out the you yourself said yes. Never forget that whatever may come. You say it that whatever may come. You say it

> Lola assumed an expression of indig-While the man was gone for the wine your side such a woman as you describe the thin cover of the home life at the your wife to be. You must manor. How she cursed the day when she said, drawing herself up. "I was mained standing by the fireplace, flush- bold; you might even as you mean, sir, she had first fallen into the griping, not do it. If you do, I shall stop your ed with a sense of triumph at having hold; you might even, as you say, put cruel hands of Pierre Turrian! She knew her antagonist through and you? If she is such a woman as you say, mly weapon that would beat him down and hold him in subjection. The slightst sign of weakness on her part, the world without you or, gelting freed from you, to marry again. No, no, M.
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> Turrian. And she laughed easily and strong freed from you, to marry again. No, no, M.
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> Turrian. And she laughed easily and strong freed from you, to marry again. No, no, M.
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> Turrian. And she laughed easily and strong freed from you, to marry again. No, no, M.
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> Turrian. And she laughed easily and strong freed from you, to marry again. No, no, M. trong at once. It was only by making ested party and stick to the musical a welcome guest at Walcote manor. aim believe she did not fear the conse. scheme which promises you ease and sir Jaffray, who had at first been led enough—for a time, while my plaus demences of his saving all he know and comfort without risk."
>
> to think of him as a sort of musical velop and," bowing again, "I shall

me in some musical scheme. When I threats as to what he could and might He broke out in this vein almost as

treat the man who insults their mis- thing first. I'll be quite open with you.

with a shrug of the shoulders and an attempted light laugh -- "because suits me better for the time. But, mark me, only for the time." "It will be simpler and quite effective with me," answered Lola contemptuously, "if you will string all tence and get it off like a child says its

want considerable money help, is a much more material and practical subject for an interview of this kind." Pierre Turrian rose abruptly from the low easy chair where he had been sitting and began to walk up and down

the room, moving his head from side to

Then, drawing a cigarette case from his pocket, he turned to her and held it 'Does Lady Walcote," pausing on

the words and laughing, "object to smoke? Perhaps she herself smokes. have here some cigarettes of the kind **Absolutely. You are mad to think my wife," with another quick, signifi-He held it open to her with an impu-

deut leer on his fair, handsome face. "I take no interest whatever in what your wife used to like or dislike," returned Lola, with an expression of absolute indifference. "If you wish to smoke, you have permission," with a wave of the hand. prepared for any other reception than "My faith, but you are magnificent-

sublime!" he exclaimed in French. Then he lighted a cigarette, and, you mean that you were not married to drawing in the smoke with the relish of plans for Jaffray's marriage, that for "Now, we can be again the great peo- me in Montreux four years ago and that an inveterate smoker, he went on walking up and down the room. Presently he stopped again, and

standing close to her he said: "It is no wonder that I mistook you for my wife. This is just as I can conceive her acting in just such circumstances. She is a magnificent actress and I have seen her fool men-aye, the very top of their bent-but there she differs from you, madam," and he bowed low with an assumption of gal

dinary and unabashed liar that evermarried two men in one name." He shot another glance of swift cunning at her and laughed. "I have already told you that I take

that concerns your wife, though I am ready to discuss your scheme if that is "But my scheme, even if it satisfies

can't hide itself or be forgotten. But me today, may not be enough for me "I do not understand you and do not choose to try."

been too indulgent to one who, I was my scheme and all the comfort that lin is my instrument, you know, and I would take him back to Switzerland." led to believe, is mentally afflicted. I the success of it may bring to me will want to urge some changes, but I want She was very restless at the growing will listen no longer. If you repeat the cease to satisfy me one day, and that to do more than merely write. I want intimacy between the two men and had She had been home less than a week slanderous tale that you have told, I will then I may carry out another purpose to organize a band of violin players who striven against it, but the Frenchman which has brought me to England." "I don't ask you what your purpose of the change I propose."

> is, and I take no interest in it, but if it be strong enough to cause you to give up the ease and comfort which your scheme may bring you and drive you to step out into that hard, barren, working world, which I should imagine to be particularly distasteful to you, it t will be a matter for you to decide, of course. If you like to beggar yoursel for a whim, I should not think any one will care, I least of all." And Lola looked all the defiance which her words

"That is not true. You do care,' said angrily, waving the hand which carried the cigarette between the fin-

Lola shrugged her shoulders in re-

"You play the game as if you held all the winning cards," he exclaimed again angrily, "as if I could not with a word strip you of all this fine house, have you bundled into the street for an impostor and made the mark of every

home a point which she wanted to "I thought you had retracted that

scandal," she answered coldly sternly. "I am quite prepared if you are to put that to the uttermost test. either benefit you or bring her nearer to she is much more likely to face the signal of fear, would make him lightly. "Take my advice as a disinter- weeks he succeeded in making himself did not like it at first. I have grown

revenge. If my wife, for instance, who passing, "with money, I could make my life what you call it, one of ease

utterance of them gave him acute pleasure. "I could watch her, holding over her the knowledge that I could crush her at any moment with a single word I could let her live her chosen life, bear has fooled, and then I could snip the thread of the jewel bilted sword which stab the whole of her dupes in the very I could play that part."

Lola, maddened by the cruelty of his



A legisteres Comments

"Well, what is it?" asked the baronet. said, raising his eyebrows, shrugging his shoulders and flourishing his bands. "Personally I do not, but were I that woman I would take your life." "She tried once, but I am not easy to

kill." The expression on his face was repulsive in its leering, malicious tri-"Well, you can take your choice.

am indifferent as to what you do. Only remember what I have said." At that instant the door was opened and Sir Jaffray came in boisterously and noisily, as was his wont.

"Hello, Lola!" he cried. "I got away much sooner than I expected. might have waited for me. Ah, is this allowed to fall more and more out of M. Turrian? I heard he was here.' Lola introduced the two men, and and Sir Jaffray came to the conclusion each scanned the other very closely, though the Frenchman, made his scru tiny furtively.

"I have been explaining to Lady Walcote, whom I had the honor to know "The professor' seems to have deslightly some years ago as a pupil-a veloped under our influence, Lola," he most distinguished and apt pupil-the said one day to his wife. They spoke object of my being now in England." onet, half carelessly, standing by his take up that fifth string rot. Glad he's wife's side and linking his arm in hers'

"I am writing what I think will be "I mean that the purchase price of a great treatise on the violin. The vio- plied Lola, "and I wish an impulse will show the world the real beauties had beaten her.

"Seems rather a fantastic sort mission," said the baronet. "Has M. Turrian been explaining the thing Piew had been so long. The Frenchman answered:

great patience and, indeed, if I may met. "When we come back from town. say so, has entered very sympathizingly we must have him here. He'd be the into my plans and has even made some life and soul of a house party, those suggestions on which I shall act." He deadly plagues of the country." shot a quick glance at Lola as he said this. "And I think she has made me can we?" more of a convert to her views of the matter than I her to mine. I think you after him. I'd give a lot to see the litwould be interested in the scheme, Sir Ve De Witt setting those wicked little Jaffray, if I were to tell you the whole wits of hers to work to catch him for

"All right," laughed Sir Jaffray. "If it pleases my wife it'll be pretty certain watching the incidents of the drama to please me. Come and explain it at that was being played at the manor was length this evening and bring your vio- the reverse of pleasant to Lola, but she lin. I'm a bit of a fiddler myself. At said nothing, lest she should arouse least I like it, though I'm only a scraper some sort of suspicion.

"At what time do you dine?"

"Yes, if you like," she answered, "A bit of a crank, I should think," tion," she said peremptorily. gaid the baronet when M. Turrian had gone, "but not a bad sort, and if he's her with his eyebrows raised. They clever with the fiddle I shall be glad were walking on the terrace before dinenough to hear him." "Oh, he's clever enough," replied

would not falter for the space of a sec- of the mass of intrigue which was "Bring some claret, Dalling, and biscould do would never bring back to under her very feet, concealed only by

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

NO. 2

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character he was able to make himself welcome in half a hundred ways. Gradually the "musical fad," as Sir You Jaffray began to call it laughingly, was sight until it was rarely mentioned, that, as the Frenchman seemed to have plenty of money, it had been taken up as a sort of hobby and was to be dropped

of him as "the professor" as a term of "Vell, what is it?" asked the bar friendship. "Wonder what made him

shed that rubbish." "He seems a man of impulses," re-

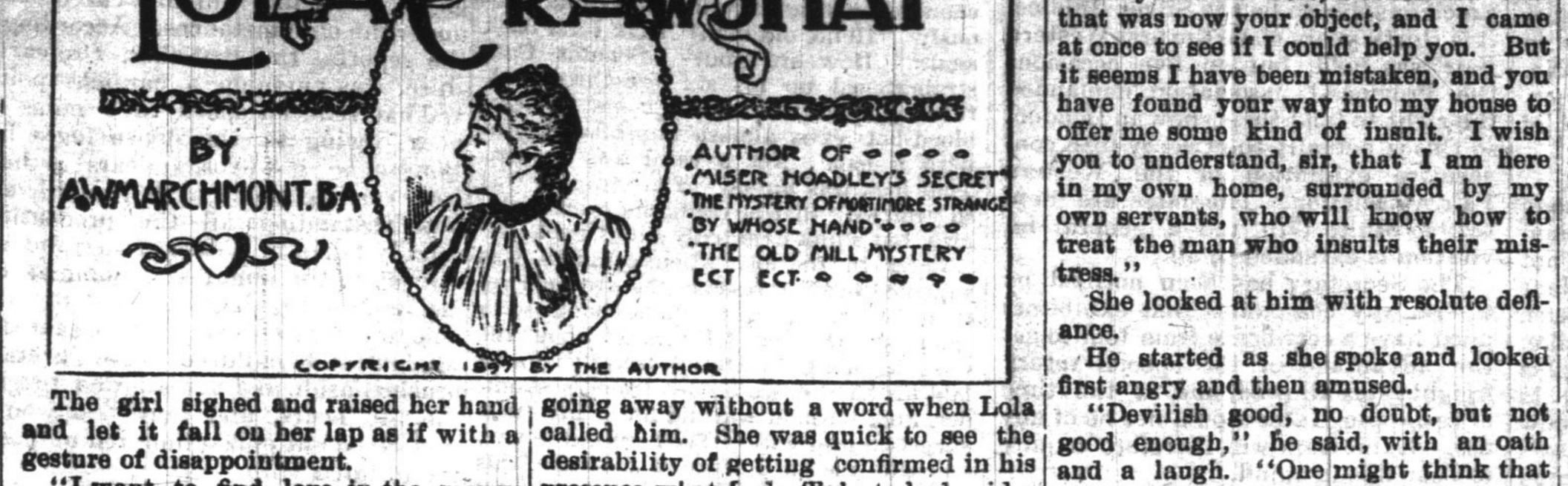
"I can't say that," replied Sir Jaffray, laughing. "I like him. He's one of the jolliest beggars I ever metin one of the few men I've ever known detail to you?" And he glanded at Lo- who can lose his coin without getting la's habit, as if asking why the inter- raggy." The Frenchman had been shrewd enough to let the baronet always have just the best of matters in "Yes, madame has listened to me with every game and sport in which they

> "We can hardly have him here, then, "Why not? The women'll go mad her snuggery." And he laughed again. The idea of that sharp little woman,

The baronet was as good as his word. and in a flush of good feeling one day

"You must not accept that invita-"No?" And he stopped and looked at ner, and he was smoking a cigarette. "No. I say no," said Lola ener-

"That is coarse. We may be-cripsinals, but at least we should be polite." And he bowed with affected courtest. Pierre Turrian amply justified the "Give me your real reasons," he con-



gesture of disappointment. "I want to find love in the manor presence what Lady Walcote had said.

house," she said, after a pause, looking up into Lady Walcote's face, "and you said, "and hear what we have been dooffer me—this," dropping her voice, ing. We have just been concluding a strange delusion. I have never seen but keeping her eyes fixed steadily on great treaty of love and peace. Give me you before in my life," she said firmly, ALL DRUGGISTS-25 CENTS A BOTTLE. her companion's face. Vour hand " The old lady returned the look with "What do you mean, Lola?"

me with diplomatic answers and neatly in one clasp. turned retorts. Is that all the welcome bring us no nearer than that?"

It was a subtle plea and for a moment love we both bear you and the love you let went unanswered. Then, taking the girl's hand with a always in a love for each other. Kiss be more kindly action than she had yet us both, Jaffray, in witness of it all, and shown, Lady Valcote said: "I, too, wish to love Jaffray's wife, whatever lies in our power to make you are my wife?" Lola, but love is not a thing to be driven that compact the chief cornerstone of least find me quite frank. I have been both.

you see, for the time, to see how we get

to leave the manor, and I have staid, as her what he felt.

shall be so with me."

alone, could not resist the girl's charm

visitor was waiting.

"You wish to see me, I rstand

CHAPTER IX.

on. It is an experiment, no more." "Why need we doubt the result?" "There are many reasons, but I will lasted a moment too long its sentiment You know that I had cherished other and said lightly: of our family that Jaffray should mar- to be troubled with hearts and feelings tinent with me as my wife?" out from the heart a desire of this kind, mother to her thoughts." which has struck such deep roots there as this in mine, and I have yet to see and they went out of the room togeth.

how the old manor will seem to me er, laughing. with another in Beryl's place." "That is very hard for me to hear," said Lola after a long pause. "It is not meant for hardness, only whose wits were as sharp as her face you are my wife." to tell you frankly what I feel, so that was beautiful. you may know the full truth as to my

chair, walked to the window and sooked out, and there was a long silence in the She was disappointed at Lady Walcote's attitude and began to regret that when they were together. Thus the inander the circumstances she had ever timacy between them ripened quickly yielded to a gentler impulse to try to appease her by getting her to stay at

Lola sighed, and, rising from her low

the manor and so win her affection. It would be an infinite complication if she was to have this sharp, clever, inc suspicious old woman in the house while the trouble with Pierre was being settled, but at present her only course was to try to win her round. that failed and she grew to be in the

way, a quarrel must be fastened on her which would drive her away. was waiting to see her. She was not long making her decision, and she went back and sat down card who it was. again, close to the old lady, though not in the same chair she had sat in before. ready for the meeting, however, and If she was to win, it would be by her without staying to change her habit she wits and not by her witchery.

"If you reject my love, then," she said, "how are we to stand toward one another? You have scarcely thought ment on her face or in her manner as what the effect of your words must be she passed the servant and entered the on me. You make me feel that I am room, and no one could have detected something like an interloper in my hus- even a quiver in her voice as she went band's home and to Jaffray's mother. up to the man whom she hated with a Then she turned toward her compan me to be uncomfortable at the thought to a stranger: that I am not Beryl Leycester and that

I did not steel my heart against your What is it?" son as his mother had steeled hers "I have not steeled my heart against

open it to you." narder to near still. I will tell you why. I have never had a woman friend in all my life except my Aunt Villyers — and the woman who is not loved by woman grows hard. Still, let it be as you will. I am no pleader for the impossible. You tell me in signs that are round the room and then glancing back in French.

as though carried away by one of her

told by my servants that a M. Turrian