CHAPTER XXV.-CONTINUED.

Caught? Not in the least likely," anwered Mr. Ravner decisively. should they be? They might be if they had their equals in wits pitted against them; but they haven't. The ordinary detective has the common defect of vulgar minds, want of resource. The chief, if he is clever bough to be a successful jewel-robber, has e abilities of a general. The bolder he he more certain he is of success. The ctive, in spite of repeated failures, es himself infallible. If I was a thief, ld commit robberies as nearly as posder the detective's nose. That asng would never suspect the man who

im to his face." 's very fine to talk "said one acute who thought Mr. Rayner was too far: "but, when it came to e being there, you'd be as bold

us, I'm thinking." er laughed good-humouredly said perhaps he was right e acute villager bragging n Mr. Rayrer, who, has tious for just a gentl t so much cleverer t' emanssed, for all his, to lan the Rayner tried or lk. sain to ino to Monaco, and encourmy perana heartfly.

sions to his, But to all we ed stea fily and coldly ravelli ng, did not feel ie a journey, and the Alders. She rrot-like tone, that she se would do me and Haichat it was very kind of my

er I ran up stairs to my room, the door softly, found Haidee e fire. So I sat down to write begun letter to Laurence.

d him how happy his letter had and then, obeying his injunction everything that happened at the gave him a full account how Sarah ented our meeting on Wednesday and of her stealing my letter out ag on Thursday, of Mr. Carruther's tell me about the robbery at Derourt, of the accident to Sarah on Friight, of her ravings about a bad man d James Woodfall, of Mr. Rayner's n, and of his intentions to take Haimy mother, and me to Monaco in a few

The hope of seeing Laurence again soon had by this time swallowed up every other thought concerning the journey; and I was eager for Friday to come, that we might

Then I told him I had some very grave start. suspicions about the robberg, that I had told Mr. Rayner, who did not think so seriously of them as I did, but that he said I ought not repeat them to anybody until he had thoroughly sifted the matter, and I had promised not to do so.

"So now you are not to be anxious about my safety any more, my dearest Laurence. For Sarah, the only person who wished me harm, is too ill to move, and is in danger, poor woman, of losing, if not her life, at least her reason, the Doctor says. And Mr. Rayner has promised not to go away again for more than a day at a time, either on business or for pleasure. There seems a curious fatality about his absences, for both these dreadful robberies that have frightened everybody so much lately, the one at Lord Dalston's, and the one at Denham Court, have happened while he was away, with no man in the house to protect us against burglars or our fears of them. think your prejudice against Mr. Rayner ought to break down now that through him we are to meet each other so soon; for when we are at Monaco you will come over and see us, won't you? My mother is very anxious to make your acquaintance, though she does not know of our engagement, for I dare not tell her any secrets. I think Mr. Rayner must have guessed it though, for he says little thirgs to tease me and make me blush. And you see he does not try to prejudice me against you, as you thought he would. But he might try, and everybody in the world might try, for years and years, but they would never succeed in

changing the heart of your own ever lov-· "VIOLET."

I had said at dinner that day, in answer to Mr. Rayre's inquiries, that I was not going to afternoon service, but I had not mentioned that I was going to the Vicarage. I felt sure that I should blush if I did, and then Mr. Rayner would guess my visit had something to do with Laurence; and I did not want to be teased any more. So, when five o'clock came, and I knew that service must be over, I put on my outdoor things, kissed Haidee, who was new awake, and slipped softly down stairs and out by the I was not afraid of schoolroom window. leaving that unfastened, now that Mr. Rayner had come back again.

Mrs. Manners met me in the hall of the Vicarage, took me into the drawing-room, and gave me a packet of tracts, two cr three of which had names slightly pencilled on them, as specially suitable to certain of the par shioners, as, "The Drunkard's Warning' -Mrs. Nabbits; "The Cost of a Ribbon"-Lizzie Mojer. These I was to deliver to Miss Maud Reade for distribution in her district this week.

"Tell ner to notice that I have marked some specially," said Mrs. Manners, as she gave them to me; and I rather wondered how the persons they were directed to would Has anything happened?"

take the attention.

I thought that, in spite of her hatred of subterfuge, Mrs. Manners seemed to enjoy the little mystery which hung over my engagement. She kissed me very kindly as she sent me off, and told me I was to let her know when Sarah was well enough to be read to, and she would send something to be read which might do her good, promised that I would; but I hope it was not impious of me to think, as I could not help thinking, that she was too wicked for any of Mrs. Manner's good books to have much effect upon her.

I went through the side-gate of the Vicarage garden, where I had run against Laur. ence on that happy evening which seemed so long ago, although in truth only eight days had passed since then, and my heart beat fast, and I walked slowly, for it seemed to me that Laurence must be coming course he did not; and I quickened my which I had left unfastened; and, as soon

knew I must make neste back, or I might risk losing my way, short as the distance was between the Hall and the Alders.

I rang the bell, and asked for Miss Maud Reade; and the servant, who opened the was the Williamdoor, and who, I felt sura i the blunderbuss, son who was afraid v .wing room, There showed me into the day ney were a'l at tea. was no one there, for

ntrance into Laurence's This was my firster , much agitated between home ; and I was w in the house he lived in, pleasure at being ing that by some of the in and shame at fee st, if they knew all, I should habitants at les n as an unwelcome intruder, be looked up into a chair and buried my face that I sank It was a very comforting in my haw though, that I was sitting on a thought, at Laurence must certainly have sat chain the and then I wondered which was his upou.; te, and tried one that I thought like-.o see if any instinct would tell me if I re right. I had not made up my mind on at point when the door opened and Miss

Maud Reade came in. She was a girl of about sixteen, with a weak but not disagreeable face; and she shook hands with me rather timidly, but not

unkindly. "Mrs. Manners asked me to bring you these few tracts for your district, Miss Reade. She has marked some for people she thinks them specially suitable for," said I, giving her the packet. "Thank you; it is very kind of you to

take so much trouble," said she. "Oh, it is no trouble at all!" I answered. There was a pause or rather awkward constraint; and then I said in a whis-

"Laurence-your brother-told me to come and see you, and to ask you to put a said I was to tell you to remember your ed up and came towards me where I was promise, and he would remember his; he underlined that.'

Miss Reade's constraint broke up at once, and she grew as much excited and mysteri-

"Did he? Then he hasn't forgotten!" she said, in a hissing whisper. "I suppose you know what it is ; it's about getting Mr. Reynolds to come here next winter. Oh, do keep him up to it. I'll do anything in the world for you-that won't get me into trouble with mamma or Alice--if you will !'

'I will. I'll remind him again in my next letter-or when I see him. I'll say, 'Don't forget to invite Mr. Reynolds in the wiater.' Will that do ?"

'Oh, yes, that will do beautifully! But it is a long time to wait," sighed the girl. I thought she was much too young to be in love, when she was still in short frocks, and wore her hair in a pigtail; but I was obliged to help her, in return for the service I wanted her to do me,

"I have brought my letter," said I mysteriously. "Shall you be writing soon?"

'I have a letter ready now, and I will put yours inside and give it to a gentleman who is here, and who is going back to London directly after tea, and I will ask him to post it at once."

"Oh, thank you!" said I; and tremblingly, with a fear least the dreaded Alice should get hold of it, I put my letter into her hands, and soon afterwards I left the

The fog was already so much thicker that I wondered whether the gentleman with our letter would be able to find his way back to London that night, and even whether I could find mine back to the Alders. I must be sure to keep to the drive in crossing the park. But, before I got to that, I lost myself among the garden paths, and walked into a flower-bed; and I began to think I should have to find my way back to the door and ask ignominiously to be led to the gate, when I heard voices on my left; and I made my way recklessly in their direction across grass, flower-beds, and everything. could not see the speakers yet, for there was a hedge or something between us; but I could distinguish that they were the voices of a young man and a young woman of the lower class. Thinking one of them at least must be a servant at the Hall, and able to direct me, I was just going to speak through the hedge, when a few words in the man's voice scopped me.

"I have had enough of you Norfolk gir's you are too stand off for me."

It was the voice of Tom Parkes. "Yes, to such weather cocks as you," answered the girl with rough coquetry. "Why, you were keeping company with that ugly Sarah at Mr. Rayner's; and, now that sae is ill, you want to take up with me. Oh, a fine sweetheart you'd make!"

But she was not as obdurate as these words promised. It seemed to me, with my suspicions concerning Tom already strong, that in the talk which followed he managed with very little difficulty to find out a good deal about the ways of the household, and also that he spoke as if he had learnt from her a good deal already. Presently I heard the sound of a kiss, and he promised to come and see her again on Wednesday; and then went away; while I, seized by a sudden inspiration, found my way not to the park, but back to the house, which was less difficult.

I asked for M ss Maud Reade again; and this time she rushed out of thedrawing-room and met me in the hall as soon as I was announced, and whispered-

'They are all in there. Come into the library. "May I have my letter back, just to put

in something I have forgotten?" said I. 'Oh, yes; here it it !"-and she drew it from her pocket. "Write it here. I will give you a pen. Why, how white you look!

"Oh, no, no, nothing, thank you !" I wrote on a half sheet of paper, which I carefully folded inside my letter, these words :-

"A man who was at Denham Court, and about whom I have strong suspicions, is hanging about the Hall now. He is coming here again on Wednesday night."

I put my letter into a fresh envelope, and put the torn one into my pocket that it might not be seen about; then I begged Miss Reade earnestly to send the letter off at once, as there was something in it of the utmost importance; and she whispered again, "Remember-Mr. Reynolds in the winter!" and, having this time got Williamson to show me as far as the beginning of the drive across the park, I made my way in safety, but slowly, and with much diffi-

culty, back to the Alders. I slipped through the schoolroom window, as I was inside, I heard Mr. Rayner's study though it was only a little past five; and I | Parkes in the passage leading from the hall. | other servants to know I'm her brother. It | food.

and friendly way to him, and I thought to myself that it would be useless for me to tell him what I had just heard, which, after all, was nothing in itself, and only became important in connection with the suspicions I had already of the man-suspicions which Mr. Rayner himself refused to share. And, when Tom Parkes had said, "Well, good night, sir," and gone in the direction of the servants' hall, and Mc. Rayner had returned to his sudy, I ran up-stairs and prepared for tea, at which meal I felt rather guilty, but said nothing of my expedition or its re-

That evening Mr. Rayner kept me in the sulls. drawing room accompanying his viol n, and talking, until Mrs Rayner had gone up to the room she now used on the upper floor. He described to me the beauties of the Mediterranean shore, and said that I should be happier there than I had ever been in my I fe-which I could easly believe when I thought how near I should be to Laurence He asked me if I was not anxious to see the pretty dresses my wother had been commissoned to get for me, and told me l should look like a little princess if I were good and did just what I was told.

"There is no fear of my not doing that, Mr. Rayner," said I smiling. "But you must not give me too handsome dresses, or I shall not feel at home in them."

"You will soon get used to them," he said with a curiously sharp smile. is nothing that women get used to sooner than fine clothes and beautiful jewels, and

pretty idleness and-kisses." Certainly I liked Laurence's kisses; but the tone in which Mr. Rayner said this grated upon me, and brought the hot blood to my cheeks uncomfortably. He saw the effect his words had upon me, and he jump-

those things are the lawful right of pretty | if she's got a sweetheart?"

"Then it is a right a good many of them are kept out of all their lives, Mr. Rayner,"

"Only the silly ones," he returned in a tone I did not understand. "Well, I will explain to you on our journey to Monaco." He looked very much excited, as he often did after an evening spent with his violin; and his blue eyes, in which one seemed to see thevery soulof music, flashed and sparkl-

ed as he held my hand. "Don't be surprised at what I have said to you this evening. You have brought me luck, and you shall share it. This journey shall take you to the arms of a lover who will give you all the things I spoke of and

more-a thousand times more !" That was true indeed, I thought to myself, (but did he mean what I meant?) as I tore myself, laughing and blushing, away and ran up-stairs There was more delight in the mere fact that Laurence preferred me to any other woman in the world than in all the beautiful gowns and jewels that ever princesses wore. And I went to sleep that night with my hands under my pillow clisp

ing his letter. Haidee left my room next day for the first time, and spent the afternoon by the dinning-room fire. So after dinner Mr. Rayner came in with his riding boots on, and asked with a smile if I had not a letter to send to the pest. He was going to ride to Beaconsburg, and, if I gave it to him, it would go a post earlier than if I put it into

the bag for the postman to fetch. "No, I have no letter, thank you, Mr. Rayner," said I, with a blush. "Not a line for-Nice, to tell-some one

you are coming?" said he, archly. "No," answered I, shaking my head. "You posted that one yesterday yourself, didn't you, Miss Christie?" whispered little Haidee, putting her arms round my neck.

Mr. Rayner heard the whisper. "Yesterday," asked he quickly. "I-I gave a-a note to Miss Reade to put

with hers," said I. A curious change passed over Mr. Rayner. The smile remained on his face, which had, truced to her.' however, in one second turned ashy white. He said, "All right, my dear," in his usual voice, except that I faucied there was a sort of hard ring in it, and left the room.

"Was it naughty of me to siy?" sid feeling that something was Haidee,

"Oh, no, my darling !" I answered. I too was afraid I had displeased Mr. Rayner by going to the Hall, without saying anything about it to any one, in what must seem a sly, underhand manner; and I wish Laurence had not erjoined me to send my letter in that way.

That evening, at tea-time, Mr. Rayner announced that he had found a letter waiting for him at the Beaconsburg post-office which obliged him to go to Monaco a day

So Haidee and I must be prepared to start on Thursday morning.

CHAPTER XXVI.

On Tuesday afternoon, while I was helping Haidee to dress her doll in the diningroom, there was a ring at the front-door bell, and shortly afterwards Jane came in, looking rather frightened, saying that a gentleman was in the hall asking for

"And I've told him she is ill, Miss Christie; but he won't believe me; and he won't go away, and Mr. Rayner is out; and please will you speak to him ?" I got up, and, following her into the hall,

found, not a gentleman, but a respectablydressed man, who very civily apologised for disturbing me.

"Mrs. Rayner ?"

"I beg your pardon, ma'am; but are you Miss Rayner? "Oh, no !"

"No. Mrs. Rayner is an invalid, and I am afraid you cannot see her. I am the governess. If you have any message for Mr. Rayner, I will give it to him; or, if you like, you can write him a note, and it shall be given him when he returns. "Thank you, miss." Still he hesitated.

"Would you like to wait for Mr. Rayner? He will be back in about an hour." "Thank you. Could I speak to you in

private for a few minutes, miss?" here?"-and I opened the door of the school of the medical expenses incurred. He tollowed me in and shut it carefully.

"I am the brother of Sarah Gooch, miss, who is a servant here." I nodded assent. "I've been abroad and worked myself into a good position, and now I want my sis-

Mr. Rayner was speaking in his usual kind | may be pride; but perhaps you'll excuse it, miss. Would you mind sending for her without saying it's her brother that wants

How could I break the fact of her illness to the poor man? "Oh, please be prepared for bad news

I'm so sorry !" said I gently, "She is illvery ill "

To my surprise, he looked more incredulous than unhappy. He said very sudden-"She was quite well last Friday after-

"Yes-an accident happened to her on Friday night. She fell down a flight of stairs and injured hers If severely. If you will only wait till Mr. Rayner comes, he will speak to you. Sarah is a very old servant in this family, and much respected, and she has every possible care, I assure

But he still seemed more curious than anxious about her, I thought.

'She has been in the family a long time then? Excuse me, miss, but I ve been away so long that she is almost like a stranger to me, and I had great difficulty in finding her out. But I'm very glad to hear she is thought so well of."

"Ob, yes! Mr. Rayner has the greatest confidence in her." I did not want to say anything disagree-

able about the woman now that she was ill, especially to her brother, whose affection did not seem very warm as it was. "Ah, that's the great thing! We've al-

ways been a family to hold our heads high, and I couldn't hear anything to please me more about her. But I expect it's little use my coming home and wanting her to keep house for me. She was a good-looking girl, and I've no doubt she's looking forward to marrying on her savings, and then we shall be just as far apart as ever. Do "You look hurt, my child, but you have you know, miss-if it's not troubling you no reason for it. Don't you know that all too much, and you won't take it a liberty-

I hesitated. The man's cold curiosity seemed so unlike the warm interest of a brother that I begun to wonder whether I was right in giving nim the information he wanted. My doubts were so vague and his questions so very harmless, however, that, when he said-

"I beg your pardon, miss-of course it is not for a lady like you to interest yourself in the likes of us-

I broke out-"Oh, pray don't think that! Sarah has an admirer, I know-

I stopped. I could not say anything reassuring about Tom Parkes. "Ah! An honest hard-working fellow, I hope, who'll make her a good husband.' He was more interested now, and was

looking at me very searchingly. "I can't speak to a man's prejudice behind his back," said I slowly; "but-" He was very much interested at last, and was waiting impatiently for my next words, when Mr. Rayner quietly entered the room. There had been no ring at the front door. He looked inquiringly at the man, whom I was just going to introduce as Sarah's brother, when the latter anticipated me by saying quietly-

"From Scotland Yard, sir." "Scotland Yard?" echoed Mr. Rayner inquiringly. But the name did not seem new

to him, as it did to me. "Yes, sir; I've been sent after a woman named Sarah Gooch, from information received that she was in your service. Mr. Gervas Rayner, I believe, sir?"

Why did he not own that he was her brother? I thought to myself. "Yes, that is my name. But what on earth do you want with my servant Sarah

Gooch ?" The man glanced at me. Mr. Rayner

"Go on. Never mind this lady; she is as much interested in the woman as I am. What do you want with my old servant

"Suspected of complicity in the Denham Court robbery, sir-some of the property

I started violently. This man, then, was not Sarah's brother at all, but a detective who had been trying to extract information from me by a trick! Mr. Rayner stared full in his face for a few moments, as if unable to find words; then he exclaimed, in a low voice-

· Impossible! "Sorry to shake your trust in an old s.r. vant, sir ; but proof is proof."

"But what proof have you?" asked Mr. Rayner earnestly. "Last Friday afternoon, between half-past

four and twenty minutes to five, your servant, Sarah Gooch, was seen to give the contents of a black bag to a man in Beaconsburg. The fact excited no suspicion. The man took the next train to London, travelling second class, But south of Colchester he was seized with a fit; he was taken out at the next station, the bag he had with him examined for his address, jewels found in it, and the police at Scotland Yard communicated with. The man escaped; but, on inquiries being made, witnesses were found to prove conclusively that the biscuittin which contained the jewels had been handed to him in a street in Beaconsburg, on Friday afternoon, between half-past four and twenty minutes to five, by a woman who was identified as Sarah Gooch."

I remembered seeing Sarah pass through the plantation on Friday afternoon, on her way to Beaconsburg, with the black bag. But I was too horror striken to speak, even if I had not been, now that the blow had fallen, as anxious to screen her as Mr. Rayner was to prove her innocence.

"But I cannot believe it !" said Mr. Ray ner. "She is a rough, harsh woman; but I have always found her as honest as the day."

(TO BE CONTINUED

"Dead men tell no tales;" but this is not always true of dead politicians.

Dyspepsia and Dr. Carson's Stomach Bitters can't live in the same Stomach, one of them has got to go and it isn't the Stomach Bitters. The people's own favorite family medicine in large bottles at 50 cents.

In a recent suit in Glasgow of a tenant against his landlord for damages arising from defective drainage, the Judge made an "Oh, yes, certainly! Will you come in order in favor of the plaintiff for payment ignitate.

At the Munster Agricultral School cows were fed on ensilage for a week and on mixed food for a week. The milk was analyzed and the butter weighed which had or external, arising from i almost identical, the experiments proving that ensilage was not inferior to ordinary food.

A local sample dotted in sample dotted in the sample dotted in t been produced in each instance, with results ter to leave service. And I don't want the

SUN LIFE ASSURAGE OF CANADA.

The following is a brief synopsis of the statements presented at the annual meeting of this Company lately held in Montreal From even this brief summary the sound an prosperous condition of the business will a

The life applications received during th year were 1 411 for \$2,328 990, while th accident were 1 551 for \$2,919,600, making in all 2 962 for \$5 248,590. The assurance in force are: - Life, 4 007 for \$6,779 565, ar Accident, 1,875 for \$3 367,050, in all, 5,8 for \$10,147,615. The applications for the year, both life and accident, and the assi ances in force, both life and accident, we larger than ever before in the history of t Company. The fact that nearly 3,000 p sons applied for new assurance is the b possible evidence of the high position to

"Sun" occupies in public confidence. The progress made in the life departm during the last ten years is well shown

the following statement :-Applications Received. 621,342 1876..... 1,154,998 1878 1.606,301 1880 2,142,344 1882 1,962,462 The financial statements are briefly as

DISBURSEMENTS. Dividends on capital.....\$ 6 Matured endowments..... 6,038 85 Expense account.....

Commissions Medical fees.....

Municipal and other debentures market Molsons Bank stock (at 112) per cent).... Montreal Loan and Mortgage Co.'s stock (at Loans on bank stock (market value \$40,680). Loans on real estate, first mortgages..... Cash on hand and in bank..... Loans on policies (within surrender value)....

Bills receivable and office furniture Interesi and rents due and accrued Set aside to cover death claim awaiting dis-

Less 10 per cent. for collection - 8,109 55 Commuted commissions - - - - - -Due for policy re-assured and sundries -

Capital stock subscribed and unpaid - - -Life reserves, valued by Domin on Insurance Department - \$618,526 26

Annuity Reserves - - - - -Less Reserves on Policies re-Unearned Accident Premiums

Profits due Policy-holders Debenture Sinking fund - -Total liabilities to Policy-holders Surplus to policy holders - - - - - -Capital paid-up - - - - - - 862,500

Surplus over liabilities and Capital Stock - - - 21,447 The assets and income were mu than in any previous year. It was out that if the same rate of progre

up for the next ten years as in the income will then be nearly one as millions and the assets four millio The interest on mortgages due 31st December, and still unpaid, reduced to about \$300 or about on of one per cent, on the current Even this small amount is expe shortly paid. This speaks volut

sound nature of the investments. The report is one which canno extramely gratifying to all fri company, and we commend it to

As we have already given an the proceedings at the annual m unnecessary for us to refer to t It will be remembered that they harmonious and satisfactory .- T

A prairie farmer reports that storm lifted about everything f except the mortgage.

Don't You Do IT, Don't wait a buying a bottle of Putnam's Pain tractor. It is safe, painless, prom never leaves sore spots behind, perfection itself. Substitutes ar for the genuine Putnam's Extra the name of Polson & Co. is on Sold by druggists and country d

The camel is the ideal tem vidual. He is not a strict teet he seldom drinks. Every one speaks highly of Dr Cars

ters as a Stomach, Liver and Kidney best family medicine we ever used," bottle this Spring as a blood purifier. On looking over a list of Am we can only wonder who there to keep house.

The most incredulous ar mit that for perfection in col Dyes have no equal. Ask for package, and see that you ge "To the pure," said the sold a quart of milk to an girl, "all things are pure." One of the most necessar

gentleman's attire, is a ra fortable suspender, which with a little strain, or rip an untoward moment. Si to be found in the "Com pender" manufactured by Co., 277 King St. W., for ease, simplicity and d tainly superior to all o worn it we know whereon buttons are required on is no possibility of any s or pants, and the cost that of the ordinary bra quality of web.

They are a people of gr these Chinamen; they tak PAIN CANNOT STAY W

VILINE is used. Composed. ful pain subduing remedie cannot fail to give prompt tism, neuralgia, cramps, pa side, and the host of painfi