Warian Mayficia

Or, The Strange Disappear

CHAPTER VIII.

On the afternoon of the same day spent by Miss Nancy Skamp at Old Field Cottage, the family at Luckenough were assembled in that broad central passage, their favorite resort in warm weather.

Five years had made very little alteration here, excepting in the case of Jacquelina, who had grown up to be the most enchanting sprite that ever bewitched the hearts, or turned the heads of men. She was petite, slight, agile, graceful; clustering curls of shining gold encircled a round, white forehead, laughing in light; springs under springs of fun and frolic sparkled up from the bright, blue eyes, whose flashing light flew bird-like everywhere, but rested nowhere. She seemed even less human and irresponsible than when a child-verily a being of the air, a fairy, without human thoughtfulness, or sympathy, or affections! She only seemed so-under all that fay-like levity there was a heart. heart! little food or cultivation had it had in all its life.

For who had been Jacquelina's ed-

ucators?

First, there was the commodore, with his alternations of blustering wrath and foolish fondness, giving way to his anger, or indulging his love, without the slightest regard to the effect produced upon his young ward-too often abusing her for something really admirable in her nature-and full as frequently praising her for something proportionately reprehensible in her conduct.

Next, there was the dark, and solemn, and fanatical Dr. Grimshaw, her destined bridegroom, who really and truly loved the child to fatuity, and conscientiously did the very best he could for her mental and moral welfare, according to his light. Alas! "when the light that is in one is darkness, how great is that darkness!" Jacquelina rewarded his serious efforts with laughter, and flattered him with the pet names of Hobgoblin, Ghoul, Gnome, Ogre, etc. Yet she did not dislike her solemn suitor-she never had taken the matter so seriously! And he on his part bore the eccentricities of the elf with matchless patience, for loved, her, as I said, to fatuitydoted on her with a passion that increased with ripening years, and of late consumed him like a fever.

And then there was her mother, last named because, whatever she should have been, she really was the least important of Jacquelina's teachers. Fear was the keynote of Mrs. L'Oiseau's character-the keystone in the arch of her religious faith-she feared everything-the opinion of the world, the unfaithful- ity, as all such scenes are in dreams ness of friends, changes in the weath- and then she thought the ship took er, reverses of fortune, pain, sick- fire, and she saw, and heard, and ness, sorrow, want, labor!

Now the time had not yet come ensued. for this proposed marriage to shock | She woke in a terrible fright. young to marry yet."

urged. and I can't take her to church that and out by the great hall, that was educating her, for her to do so! impotent despair! While, if she had married Grim when Jacquelina looked all around the frustrated this time!"

secluded than ever. Secluded from looking for him in all directions. He society, but not from nature. The was nowhere visible, though the | She was then carried away into one forest became her haunt. And a whole area was lighted up, even to chance traveler passing through it, the edge of the forest, every tree and meeting her fay-like form, might and branch and twig and leaf of

the vision of a wood-nymph.

ity as for fun, frolic, mischief, and statue of consternation. diableric. And every one of these Jacquelina shook her by the arm. Feats of agility became a passion you bewitched? Where is uncle?" with her-her airy spirit seemed only "Where? Here, somewhere. I saw to find its full freedom in rapid mo- him run out before me." tion in daring flights, in difficult -"No, you didn't! You mistook Edith and Marian. achievements, and in hair-breadth cs- somebody else for him. Oh, my capes. Everything that she read of Lord! he is in the burning house! he in that way, which could possibly be is in the house!" imitated, was attempted. She had "Oh, he is in the house! he is in her bows and arrows, and by origin- the house!" echoed Henrietta, now with her gift of tender nursing, and al fitness, as well as by constant roused from her panic, and wringing practice, she became an excellent her hands in the most acute distress. markswoman. She had her well- "Oh! will nobody save him! will notrained horse, and her vaulting bars, body save him!" and made nothing of flying over a It was too late! Commodore Waugh ployed in making up clothing for the

orite pastime was to have a small anguish. ring suspended from a crossbeam, and while riding at full speed, with

to catch this ring and bear it of

upon the point of that lance. In feats of agility alone she excelled, not in those of strength-that airy, fragile form was well fitted for swiftness and sureness of action, yet not floor, she glided swiftly up the stairs for muscular force. Her uncle and flight after flight, and through the Grim indulged her in all these fro- suffocating passages, until she reachlies-her uncle in great delight; Grim, ed her uncle's door. It was open, under the protest that they were un-

eternity to prepare for. In these five past years, Cloudesley had been at sea, and had only returned home once-namely, at the end of the stated three years. He had been received with unbounded joy by his child-friend; had brought her his outgrown suit of uniform; had spent several months at Luckenough, and renewed his old delightful intimacy then before. with its little heiress presumptive, "Uncle! uncle! You will be burn- the old mansion and preparing the and at length had gone to sea again for another three years' voyage. And it must be confessed that Jacquelina lently. time Cloudesley had fully shared her sorrow, He had been absent a his great arms." year, when, upon one night the old "Luckenough is in flames! Uncle! health. mansion, that had withstood the wake! wake! 'she cried shaking him During her illness, Jacquelina had storms of more than two hundred winters, was burned to the ground!

How, no one knew exactly. the first time in her life some little sodden, hopeless sleep. uneasiness about her uncle's "whim" of wedding her to Grim, she had ewer: it was empty. There was no them. But Marian declined the jour- whist or chess, perhaps talking to walked about the floor for some time in much disquietude of mind and body; then she went to a wardrobe, and took out Cloudy's treasured first uniform, and held it up before her was scarcely too large for herself! And how much Cloudy had out grown it! It had fitted him nicely at sixteen, now he was twenty-one, and in two years more he would be home again! Smiling to herself, and tossing her charming head, as at some invisible foe, she said:

The fire broke out in the kitchen

see them marry me to that ogre

face, and put it away, and, still smiling to herself, retired to rest, to dream of her dear playmate.

She dreamed of being in his ship on the open sea, the scene idealized to supernatural beauty and sublimfelt the great panic and horror that

for a year past, since his niece had confusion, and resounded with cries creaking, heated stairs, flight after visited. attained the age of fourteen, he had of "Fire! Fire!" everywhere. What flight, and through the burning pasbeen worrying himself and the elders happened next passed with the swift- sages out of the house in safety. of the family to have the marriage ness of lightning. She jumped out solemnized, "before the little devil of bed, seized a woolen shawl, and shall have time to get some other wrapped it around her head, and even notion into her erratic head," he in that imminent danger not forgetsaid. All were opposed to him, ting her most cherished treasureholding over his head the only rod Cloudy's suit of uniform-snatched it he dreaded, the opinion of the world. from the wardrobe and fled out of "What would people say if you the room. Her swift and dipping were to marry your niece of four- motion that had gained her the name teen to a man of thirty-four?" they of "Lapwing" now served her well. Shooting her bright head forward But I tell you, young men are be- and downward, she fled through all ginning to pay attention to her now, the passages and down all the stairs some jackanapes don't come caper- all in flames, until she reached the ing around her, and the minx will get lawn, where panic-stricken and nearsome whim in her head like Edith ly idiotic household were assembled, did-I know she will! Just see how weeping, moaning and wringing their Edith disappointed me! ungrateful hands, while they gazed upon the huzzy! after my bringing her up and work of destruction before them in

I wanted her to do it, by this time group, each figure of which glared I'd have had my granchil--! I mean redly in the light of the flames. All nieces and nephews climbing about were present-all but the commomy knees. But by-! I won't be dore! Where could the commodore

well suppose he was deceived with which was distinctly revealed in the strong, red glare.

The effervescent spirits of the elf "Where is uncle? Oh! where is had to expend themselves in the same uncle?" she exclaimed, running wildway. As a child she had ever been ly about, and finally going up to as remarkable for surprising of agil- Mrs. Waugh, who stood looking, the

high fence or a wide ditch. But her was in the burning mansion, in his

was an analytical bedchamber, near the top of the house, fast asleep!

> "Good heaven! will no one attempt to save him?" screamed Henrietta, running wildly from one to the other. They all gazed on each other, and then in consternation upon the burning building, every window of which was belching flame, while the sound of some falling rafter, or the explosion of some combustible substance, was continually heard! To venture into that blazing house, with its sinking roof and falling rafters, seemed certain death.

"Oh! my God! my God! will none last whim was the most eccentric of even try to save him?" cried Henall. She had her lance. And her fav- rietta, wringing her hands in extreme

Suddenly:

"Pray for me, aunty!" exclaimed her light lance balanced in her hand, Jacquelina, and she darted like a bird toward the house, into the passage, and seemed lost in the smoke and flame!

Wrapping her woolen shawl closely about her, and keeping near the and his room was clearer of smoke worthy of an immortal being with than any other, from the wind blowing through the open window.

There he lay in a deep sleep! She sprang to the bedside, seized and shook the arm of the sleeper.

"Uncle! uncle! wake, for God's sake, wake! the house is on fire!" "Hum-m-m-e!" muttered the old man, giving a great heave and plunge

ed to death if you don't wake up!" cried Jacquelina, shaking him vio-

had found the second parting more "Humph! Yes, Jacquelina! um- was able to sit up, and then the phygrievous than the first. And this um-um-Grint! um-um-Luckenough, muttered the dreamer, flinging about

frantically. at her tricks again!" he said, laugh- under the daily influence of the beau- famous cricketer who was absolute-

ing in his sleep. Be the cause as it may, upon the At that moment there was the company the family to Bently. Jac- cricket. He was quite rational while evening of the fire, Jacquelina had sound of a falling rafter in the ad- quelina insisted that Marian should batting or bowling, but immediately gone to her room-she had an apart- joining room. Every instant was be asked to make one of the party, the game ended he relapsed into his ment to herself now-and feeling for worth a life, and there he lay in a Accordingly, the commodore and Mrs. usual state of dementia.

time to be lost! every second was in- ney, and Commodore Waugh, with his themselves all the time about their valuable! He must be instantly wife, his niece and his Grim set out hallucinations. wrong way with all her might, until, or be sent to a nunnery. To the con- of its own. a fury, and, seeing her, exclaimed:

"Oh! you abominable little vixen! grace. is that you? Do you dare! Are you frantic, then? Oh, you outrageous lit-"Yes, indeed. I should so like to the dare-devil! Won't I send you to a mad-house, and have you put in a strait-jacket, till you know how to be-She pressed the cloth up to her have yourself! You infernal little Modern Asylums Are Replete wretch, you!"

> A sudden thought struck Sans Souci to move him by his affection for herself.

'wretch,' she must perish in the not want their freedom."

senses; he understood everything! he made this statement to The London leaped from his bed, seized a blanket Daily Mail apropos of a complaint

A shout of joy greeted the commodore as he appeared with Jacquelina in the yard.

But heeding nothing but the burden he bore in his arms, the old sailor strode on until he reached a convenient spot, where he threw the blanket off her face to give her air. She had fainted-the terror and excitement had been too great-the reaction was too powerful-it had overwhelmed her, and she lay insensible across his arms, her fair head hanging back, her white garments streaming in the air, her golden locks floating, her witching eyes closed, and her live lip apart and rigid on her glistening teeth-so she lay like dead Cordelia in the arms of old Lear.

Henrietta and Mrs. L'Oiseau, followed by all the household, crowded around them with water, the only restorative at hand.

At length she recovered and looked up, a little bewildered, but soon memory and understanding returned and, gazing at her uncle, she sudden-And so Jacquelina was kept more Jacquelina ran through the crowd ly threw her arms around his neck and burst into tears.

> of the best begro quarters and laid upon a bed, and attended by her mother and her maid Maria.

> The commodore, with his wife, found shelter in another quarter. And the few remaining members of the household were accommodated in a similar manner elsewhere.

It was near noon before they were all ready to set forth from the scene of disaster, and it was the middle of traits augmented with her growth. "Aunty! Where is uncle? Are the afternoon when they found themselves temporarily settled at the little hotel at Benedict in the very apartments formerly occupied by

Here Jacquelina suffered a long and severe spell of illness, during which her bright hair was cut off.

And here beautiful Marian came, devoted herself day and night to the service of the young invalid. And all the leisure time she found while sitting by the sick bed she busily emalmost denuded family. And never



had the dear girl's nimble fingers all the games and pastimes of a flown so fast or so willingly.

Every day the commodore, accompanied by Dr. Grimshaw, rode over down and clearing away the ruins of site for a new building.

Six weeks passed and brought the first of August, before Jacquelina sicians recommended change of air and the waters of Bentley Springs for the re-establishment of the

become passionately attached to "Ah! ha! yes! the little rascal is Marian, as all persons did who came tiful girl. Dr. Grimshaw was to ac- ly insane except on the subject of Waugh, nothing loth, invited and "Some of the worst cases' I have Suddenly Sans Souci ran to the pressed the kind maiden to go with known played a splendid game of

(To be Centinued.)

LUXURIES FOR LUNATICS.

With Attractions.

"I am convinced that many persons of quite healthy minds prefer "Uncle, look around you! The to remain voluntarily in our county house is burning! if you do not rouse lunatic asylums because of the luxyourself and save your poor little uries that surround them. They do

Dr. L. Forbes Winslow, the well-This effectually brought him to his known authority on mental diseases,

all the comforts of a good hotel and Great.

West End club. There are now to be found in these institutions: Billiard tables, card tables, chess

to Luckenough to superintend the tables, concert rooms, ballrooms, and turning over into a heavier sleep labors of the workmen in pulling theatres, tennis courts, cricket and football grounds, croquet lawns.

"At some of the large asylums," added the doctor, "private theatricals are conducted every week. I have been present at many such performances. In one opera in which I played the whole of the scenery was painted, and admirably painted, by a certified lunatic.

"Frequently I have been the only sane member of a cricket team. Once I remember the team included a

roused, and Jacquelina was not fas- in the family carriage for Bently "Concerts and balls-costume balls tidious as to the means in doing so! Springs. Jacquelina rapidly regained frequently-are held every week, and Leaping upon the bolster behind health and rushed again to her mad one institution, the Holloway Sana-How small it looked now; why, it his great, stupid head, she reached breaks. After a stormy scene with torium, Virginia Water, where fees over, and, saizing, the mass of his the commodore, the latter vowed she are now demanded of the inmates, gray, grizzly beard, she pulled up the should either marry Dr. Grimshaw possesses a very handsome theatre

roaring with pain, he started up in vent of St. Serena she went, but "But of all asylums, the Bethlem within a week she was home in dis- takes the greatest care of, and provides the most amusements for its patients. Concerts, dances, and theatrical performances are held there regularly.

> "Unfortunately the money expended upon trying to amuse them and to lighten their oblivion is simply thrown away, for these unfortunate people could not be happy in a

> Male lunatics, it further appeared, receive daily allowance of tobacco and alcohol at the discretion of the medical officer.

NAILS WORTH MILLIONS.

We hear much of rich jewels in famous settings, which have come down the merry maiden. She was 'ower part of her dream was true! Her enveloped her in it, raised her in his by a Warminster guardian that the as costly heirlooms from days long chamber was filled with smoke, and arms, and, forgetting gout, lameness, Wilts Asylum is better furnished past. Not of this sort is the famous So thought not the commodore; the house was chaotic with noise and leg, and all, bore her down the than many noblemen's houses he had crown of Lombardy, which is not valued for the rubies, emeralds, and "I would rather send a patient of sapphires which adorn the circlet of mine to a country asylum than to a gold of which it is formed, but for a private institution, however wealthy few iron nails which form its basis, he or she might be," averred the and which are said to be those used at the Crucifixion. They were given These rate-maintained homes of by the Empress Helena to her son the growing army of mentally inef- | Constantine, and they have now been ficients do not, as the doctor show- in use for more than fifteen hundred ed, tally with the common impres- years, forming the circlet on which sion of being cheerless., prison-like the crown is based. The workmanplaces, whose inmates droop dismal- ship bears a close resemblance to ly under the burden of their afflic- that of an enamelled ornament found tion. An enumeration by Dr. Forbes at the close of the seventeenth cen-Winslow of the "attractions"-if tury and now at the Ashmolean the word be permissible-provided in Museum, Oxford, which is inscribed an average modern asylum included with the name of King Alfred the



THE FINAL LESSON OF THE WAR.