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(AUTHOR OF "A CHILD OF MANY - JOHN MARCH - -PRAYERS," ETC.).

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the door.

"Oh, woman, thy name is vanite!"

CHAPTER VIII.

A Tragedy

ded room ranelled with dark wood

having a large, high chimney-piece

artistically set round with Dutch tiles

The carpet, originally of rich texture

and coloring, was now so worn tha

the once bulliant pattern had fade

to an almost indistinguishable hue.

chord, a treasured relic, belonging i

bygone years to Squire Fleming

grandmother when a girl in her teens

Sometimes in the Squire's solitary

evenings his tancy had planted a sli

figure on the spindle-legged stool, an

out of the gloom would grow a bunch

short-waisted frock, with twinkling

feet in sandaled shoes, and as ofte

as not sweet, quaint, melancholy musi

thrilled and vibrated along the low

ceiled passage ways. The dusk was

the oil paintings of dead and gone

o'd spinet had already lost the dis

tinctness of their outline; they were

slowly vanishing ghost-like into obli-

vion. Felix Fleming was sitting by

he exclaimed, taking his briar pipe

smoking peacefully in the twilight.

it until it is gone."

grand festival in one's life."

the centre of the room. Involuntarily

of powdered ringlets, a low-neck

In one corner stood an old harpis

The Manor parlor was a low, stud

CHAPTER VII.

A Contrite Heart The Hargrave family had dined at back.

an earlier hour in order to enable Sir "'Tis possible," he answered grave-Thomas to discuss his favorite meal ly looking askant at her, and then, in peace, and afterwards to drive lei- breaking into a soft laugh, he shook surely away to the agricultural meet- his forefinger at her and whispereding at East Weyberne.

Paul Farley ,a light coat over his evening dress, his cap in his hand,! ready to sally forth and keep his appointment at the Manor House, stood by the library window endeavoring to decipher a letter in the failing light. He was so engrossed with his difficult task that he neither heard nor saw the opening and shutting of the library

A soft rustle, a faint scent of Parma violets, a weird feeling that he was not alone in the room, at length compelled him to raise his head and his eyes fell upon Judith standing on the opposum rug, in a long trailing gown ANYONE ONE NEEDING of turquoise blue silk. Something New Pumps, Pump Re- cold, like an icy hand, gripped his heart as he beheld the swift subtle pairs, Cement Curbing or change in this young rosebud of a girl. She was very white, but composed, and appeared older, with all the piquancy and rich coloring gone from her pretty face. The violet eyes, the bloodshot, and swollen.

"Will you give me back my letter, Mr. Farley?" she asked, advancing and blushing deeply under his gaze.

"It is destroyed, Miss Hargrave. No

man would keep a letter like that." "I came to ask your pardon," she said. "I am sorry, I, oh, Mr. Farley, no other moment in my life can hold so much shame as this.'

She covered her face with her trembling hands, and stood crushed and shrinking. He went to her and laid his hand on her shoulder.

"Miss Hargrave," he said, in his low slow voice, "it hurts me beyond expression to see you so humiliated. Whatever shame or blame you feel called upon to bear, remember that ! and laboring under its influence I answered it. I ask your pardon, Miss

Hargrave, and your forgiveness." crimson yonder from the west!" "You are very generous," she said, "Just look at me, Miss Judith," he tween a finger and thumb, and let it." said, trying gently to draw away the his dark eyes feast upon the handsome hands from the tear-stained face: "I face opposite to him, paled and can't have you afraid to meet my etherealized by the last rays of lin-

eyes. I want you to trust me, and let gering daylight-a strong face full of me give you a helping hand through wise thought, of innate love for all this dark passage in your life. Once things pure and of good report. again in the sunlight we can drop "I never felt so near happiness as I hands, and go our separate ways. do at this moment," he continued, What did you say?" he asked, bending plucking one of the pale blush roses his ear to her quivering lips, "there clustering about the window and givwill never be any more sunlight? Oh, ing it to Agnes, who stood behind his Miss Judith! When the sun is even chair with one hand on his broad now peering over the shadow's shoul- shoulder. "Here's something smaller der. You won't be able to see it to- and suitable for a button-hole," he day or to-morrow, perhaps, with those added, tossing a half-open bud across misty eyes, but the future is warm to his friend. and beautiful, flooded with golden sunlight. "I think," he resumed after a brief, unbroken pause, "I think you have magnified this trouble out of all proportion. We must get it into proper perspective, and look at it, if we

must trouble him." "I will not do that, I cannot," she said, somewhat defiantly. "Why not?" he asked.

become, like you, utterly indifferent." how youthful I am still." "one is the substance, the other the circled and curled above his head: should; but he did, and does. His into early prime, the most perfect por- walk a minuet, and work antique extravagantly; we could-" heart is under your beaded shoe; you tion of a man's life."

young life. Let us forget the inevi answered; "we are not conscious of table, and think only of Pelham." Her color deepened, but she did not! "I believe that," Paul said. "I be-

It seems to me," he continued, "it term our second youth, is happier, tiously. as always struck me in my thought- deeper and richer by far." . ful moments, that some sort of opportunity is given to us poor mortals to receem or to lessen the consequences of our blind and manifold mistakes. think. Miss Judith, that probably your life's opportunity has come. would recognize and use it were

man crowned by such an aftermath.' He speke with the energy of a man the woman who thinks the same," Fewho believed implicitly in what he lix said, knocking the ashes from his said, and she was touched by the sincerity of his every tone and gesture, denly, "don't you think it's time we and the earnest appeal in his great | had a light?"

"You think that, however much it goes against the grain, I ought to go to Anthony and tell him I am will-

ing to be engaged to him?" "I am quite certain you ought. It's

piece, and let her forehead rest on it. "It's not a pleasant thing to do," she whispered.

"Life is not always pleasant with its thousand pressing claims and duties; we cannot have the crown without the cross; we cannot expect to enter even Paradise without a shudder. Don't dwell on the cold breathless plunge, but rather the tranquil float-

ing on the sun-kissed waves." "I won't," she said, looking up at laughed in answer to his puzzled ques- er to Paul and treating him to a qui him through unshed, penitent tears. "I'll do as you wish. I'll tell Anthony that I shall be-thankful for his love." He caught her hands and kissed

"Thank you," he said, a glad light in his eyes, "you have lifted a burden from my heart. All along I have felt tion. "You don't mean that a nice- "Nothing of the kind you horric more or less responsible for the hap- looking, respectable person like Rose wiseacre," she pouted, taking the rose piness of you both, and at times the will deliberately, of her own free from her bosom and hitting him wit weight has been only what I could will, the here if to that drunken black it. He took it from her after a ski just manage to carry."

sinful, selfish girl, and you've been so pleased and thankful she'll be. A one to the other with an indulg a kind, so patient and generous." man and a cottage is the goal of these smile. He was glad a content t

"Not at all," he said, stepping over country girls' aspirations. A youn; see the easy bantering bonhomie 11 the shiny folds of her gown to open | woman in a poor cottage with half : | young people had rapidly establish

behind the woman.

Radler at the Popinjay."

ilcren down with diphtheria, and a violent brute of a husband spending most of his earnings in drink, would deem herself lucky to have eluded a few years of solid, respectable service. Such is the calibre of the bucolic mind!"

"Den't you think," Paul asked, looking at the glowing end of his cigarette, "that the reason women more especially those of the vast middleclass, are compelled to look on marriage as a means of livelihood, a sort of life insurance, because of the cheap stamp placed upon their work? Men never are, never can be fair judges of a woman's capabilities; they smile or sneer, each according to his individual cheerful or splenetic temperament, while the world at large, absorbed in its stereotyped cut-and-dried "Do you think Anthony will refuse | definition of things, never dreams of me?" she asked, suddenly turning taking them or their doings serious-

"A man." Felix said smiling, "can rarely disassociate the magnetism of sex and the personal charm of the worker from the quality of work done. There have been and are I will own, a few exceptional women who have competed for some sort of success or fame in the world's arena and come away with a laurel wreath. Still, Farley, taking the race, I honestly believe the woman to be man's inferior both mentally and physically. She is the weaker vessel, an after thought, designed for a helpmate, not a breadwinner; she was formed for the domesticity, not the publicity of life; she was constitutionally created to be in subjection to man, and therefore her modesty, her deportment, and her color of mind should match the divine

"But look at the thousands of women, sir, who are, whom adverse circumstances have compelled to be, bread-winners.' '

"God help them! Yes, there are millions, but, Farley, I am not saying a woman cannot or should not work. Both Adam and Eve toiled, but he delved and she span. She did not filch looming upward in the corners of the the spade. We have it on good authorroom, casting a dark, grey shade over ity that she worked, and was useful in her day and generation, but with-Flemings. The tall furniture and the in the limits the Creator set when he moulded her."

"Have you ever met a really clever up-to-date University woman?" Paul

the open glass doors leaning forward "No. I have not," he returned with in an upholstered wicker chair with a laugh, "and I very much doubt one foot in the room and the other on

the stone steps leading to the garden, "Why?" he asked; "would you be watching the twilight deepen and the jealous of the virility of that little | hadows gather about the fruit trees. grey mass of matter commonly called "What a good world we live in!"

Felix Fleming threw himself back from between his lips and combing in his chair, crossed his legs, and his moustache with its amber mouth- broke into a loud, hearty laugh. piece; "what a good and beautiful jealous of a woman-jealous of her too share it. Your letter came to me world! I never watched the coming hard-earned store of knowledge? in something the nature of a shock, of a more glorious evening! Look at Not I. With these two hands I could the icy-blue starlight through the pear | crush the little skull that held the lore trees, Mr. Farley, and that flush of of all the ages. A woman is welcome to all the learning she can pack he Paul leaned forward, his elbows on head with, provided she does not oust his knees, a cigarette held daintily be- out her womanliness to make way for

> "I should think a University woman could be a womanly woman," Agnes said, hovering like a month near the lamp in her white dress.

> "No doubt you are right, sister mine," he said, holding his tobacco pouch between his knees and carefully filling his pipe, "I am simply an old-fashioned fellow, with old-fashioned ideas respecting women and their ways."

"I know exactly the kind of woman to suit Felix," Agnes said, taking a low seat between them. "To begin with she would have a well-educated, well-endowed healthy mind, small piq-For all after-time the faint delicate -uant features, a clear wholesome perfume of a pale pink autumn rose bloom with just a sprinkling of freckbrought to Paul Farley's mind a sud- les-because she would be fond of beden vivid picture of the quaint dusty ing about in the open air with her parlor, of Agnes in her white dress husband-a little, light, elastic creaand coronet of bronze gold hair, and ture as graceful as a bird. Besides, an impressive hand on her arm, "you the handsome manly figure of Felix of course, she would be domesticated, she would be just as accomplished in night, which I am sure is next to im-"This dewy freshness, this juvenes- the drawing-room as practical in the cence in the atmosphere, seems to kitchen, and whether in society or moisten my heart," he said, with a knitting, or scouring pots and pans, "Because by this time he may have quiet laugh. "I had almost forgotten Mrs. Prim would wear a black silk apron, a wincey gown, neat linen col- yourself I shall be much obliged." "I venture to think the comparison "You are young," Paul said, emit- lar and cuffs, and gild the homeliest is not synonymous," he replied stiffly, ting thin blue rings of smoke which duties with an atmosphere of loveliness and joy. I think in all probability shadow. I never loved you, I never "the first flush of youth has passed she would thrum on the harpsichord, tanestry stitches on a sampler-a can mar his prospects and ruin his "Our first youth is no value," he slightly modernized replica of Lucre tia spinning in the midst of her male ens, if you remember, Mr. Farley?" "Remember the croakings of lieve a later period, what one might

frogs in Egypt," Felix said sent

"I expect that is an excellent wo: "I suspect a second youth, a real sketch of the future Mrs. Flem!" Paul said, smiling at her through aftermath, only comes with some glittering glasses. "Do you think she great heart-joy such as a late autumn

love, or-perhaps to crown some other would make a nice docile wife?" "Yes, and the gods will envy a wcgracious, what a paragon of a sister pointment on his brow. in law! Felix is a good sort ,but I. "So you mean to face the music," "Heaven and all its angels bless

Nothing ever charms me more ly's?" pipe. "Agnes ',child," he added sudan when I meet my superior," he remarked, calmly puffing away at his pipe, "one who makes me sincerely o.. the still night air. Felix sprang She touched the bell-pull, and Rose feel he is my superior."

change to live up to her."

Pilgrim entered with a lamp and set it on a massive black walnut table in | meet that man often," Paul remarked. "Oh, come, Farley," he returned Paul's great searching eyes went with a broad smile, "I can't digest him. across to her. He felt a certain inter- flattery absolutely free of adulterathe only road by which you will ever est in the garl on account of her assotion, I don't value a compliment. ciation with the Larches and little Guy wrap it up as poetically and delicately down there, and find out who the ras-She laid her arm on the chimney- Wycherly. She was not, he discover- as you may. I am plain, honest yeo ed, particularly young looking, but man, and if I tried to flounder about comely enough in a fair red-aud-white in that artificial tomfoolery, I should "Yes," he said, "I'm in very good plump way. Their eyes met and Rose soon be beyond my depth."

blushed a deep red, which suffused her "Pardon me," he said, with a winwhole face from brow to chin, then ning smile, "I spoke out the thought slowly receding left her exceedingly in my mind; it was not expedien. in my hand." and has certainly a fulsome flavor "Rose is all confusion at being coming from almost a stranger."

brought unexpectedly face to face with "Now, I'll compliment you both. her sweetheart's handiwork," Felix Agnes said, shifting her ottoman near tioning look when the door had closed | sing smile from her half-closed eye "a great, good, wise and handson "I don't quite understand," he said. man stands the first of all create "Why, Denham is courting Rose Pil- things!"

ought to pinch you," he said, throw "Mon Dieu!" he said in consterna- ing away the end of his cigarette. mish and put it in his button hole with "I am sorry, dreadfully sorry. I'm a "Yet, I to Belix said, "and very the half-open bud. Felix looked from

grim, and Rose is a friend of Mrs. "That's a crib, Miss Fleming, and

11 1 1

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between the aselves. It augured well for the long cosy winter eveningsthe parlor ruddy with a cheerful fire, the light glimmering and dancing on the dark oak panelling, and the interesting, artistic figure of Paul Farley very much in the foreground.

"Tell me, Miss Fleming, are you going to the ball at the Larches?" asked Paul, holding out the rose.

"Yes, I am, Mr. Farley, and I shall expect you to sit out all the waltzes

"Rather a large order, when nowadays every other dance on the programme is a waltz. Are you going, Mr. Fleming?" he asked.

"I am going to take Agnes," he said, "I think this affair will be a shade out of the ordinary dull routine. You see, there's precious little dissipation in the country, and I don't want the child to get hipped. I shall run up to town next week and get her a domino. What do you say, Farley, to a jaunt with me? How will the 'Cecil' suit you, a first-class rechérché dinner, a theatre, and home next day?"

"Admirably!" he said, pushing his chair back into the shadow of the cur tain, "that is if I could get away for a

"Pooh ,nensense." "Now, Mr. Fleming, if you will purchase me a mask when buying for "I will, with pleasure," he said cordially, "but, on my soul, I don't see why you should not come with me. There's no necessity to launch out too

"I can quite understand why Mr. Farley demurs," Agnes interposed; "he has been such a short time at the Hall; it would seem like taking advantage of Sir Thomas's good nature to ask leave of absence so soon."

"I would much prefer not to ask permission unless some very important and unavoidable business called me away," he said, with intense earnest-"Very well, Farley, don't bother,"

he said. "I'll run up for a few hours "Yes, I think she would, but, oh, my and take Agnes," a shade of disapcont believe even he is virtuous he inquired after a pause, "and put in

an appearance at the Widow Wycher-"I promised-" The sharp report of a gun rang out

to his feet, ran down the steps on to "I don't think you will be likely to the grass, and stood searching the horizon with his keen grey eyes. "What is it?" Paul asked, joining

"Someone after the pheasants in the plantation yonder. I think I'll slip cal is. Are you in the mind for a

trim just now." "I suppose you are a crack shot?" "Great Scot! I've never had a gun

"I'll give you a day's shooting later. I don't think it will take much tuition to ensure your getting a rabbit. Agnes," he called, "fetch a couple of caps and the lead bludgeon from the keeping-room, and then run in, that thin dress is no protection when a heavy dew is falling."

Paul stopped and turned up his trousers at the ankle. "You think that thing sufficient de-

Continued on page 7.

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