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A Comedy of Youth Founded by Mr. Manners on His Great Play of the Same Title-Illustrations From Photographs of the Play

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CHAPTER XXVIL

New Revelations. HY, how do you do, Sir Ger ald?" and Hawkes went across quickly with outstretched hand.

"Hello, Hawkes," replied Jerry, too preoccupied to return the act of saiutation. Instead he nodded in the direction Peg had gone and questioned: "What does she mean-going in a

few minutes?"

"She is returning to America. Our when she was a girl. term of guardianship is over. She ab- "In justice to yourself," proceeded solutely refuses to stay here any long- Jerry, "you must know that he set er. My duties in regard to her, out- aside the sum of £1,000 a year to be side of the annual payment provided paid to the lady who would undertake to yield to the embrace. by her late uncle, end today," replied your training." the lawyer.

"I think not, Hawkes." "I beg your pardon?"

letter." said Jerry authoritatively.

ed that a year was to elapse before man thinkin' he was doin' me a favor!" any definite conclusion was arrived at. "I tell you this," went on Jerry, "be-So far only a month has passed."

father." protested Mr. Hawkes. "Have you told her the conditions of

the will?" tinctly stated she was not to know

most exceptional."

you, Sir Gerald."

"That is a pity. But it doesn't alter stayed! Why wasn't I told?" my intention."

"And may I ask what that intention is?"

"To carry out the spirit of Mr. Kingsnorth's bequest." "And what do you consider the spir-

"I think we will best carry out Mr. Kingsnorth's last wishes by making el's words: known the conditions of his bequest to Miss O'Connell and then let her decide away?"

whether she wishes to abide by them or not." Mrs. Chichester came into the room same time Alaric burst in through the garden and greeted Jerry and Hawkes. "I heard you were here"- began them, an' I know what it is."

Mrs. Chichester. "Mrs. Chichester, I was entirely to that none of the others heard her: blame for last night's unfortunate business. Don't visit your displeasure last night?" on the poor little child. Please don't!"

Jarvis came down the stairs with a pained, not to say mortified, expression on his face. Underneath his left arm he held tightly a shabby little bag and a freshly wrapped up parcel. In his insult of it every time ye met me, as right hand, held far away from his ye said last night. Sure, if I'd known, body, was the melancholy and picturesque terrier, Michael.

Mrs. Chichester looked at him in hor-

"Where are you going with thosethings?" she gasped.

swered the humiliated footman. "Your ['m goin' to stay!" niece's orders."

"Put those articles in a traveling Then he said: bag. Use one of my daughter's," ordered the old lady.

"Your niece objects, madam. She sez she'll take nothing away she didn't bring with her."

The grief stricken woman turned away as Jarvis passed out. Alaric tried to comfort ber. But the strain of the morning had been too great. He looked cheerfully at Jerry and smiled as he said:

"I even offered to marry her if she'd stay. Couldn't do more than that, pank, and I am happy to say that it could I?"

Jerry returned Alaric's smile as he asked:

"You offered to marry her?" Alaric nodded.

"Poor little wretch!"

Down the stairs came Peg and Ethel. Mrs. Chichester looked at Peg through misty eyes and said reproachfully:

"Why that old black dress? Why not one of the dresses I gave you?" "This is the way I left me father, an'

this is the way I'm goin' back to him!" replied Peg sturdily. "You're not going, Peg," said Jerry

quietly and positively. "Who's goin' to stop me?"

"The chief executor of the late Mr. Kingsnorth's will."

"An' who is that?" "Mr. Jerry, Peg!"

"You an executor?"

the past month." He forced Peg gently into a chair. "Have you ever wondered at the real reason you were brought here to this house and the extraordinary interest taken in you by relations who until a

about your existence?" "I have, indade," Peg answered. "But whenever I've asked any one I've always been told it was me uncle's jortable lawyer.

month ago had never even bothered

"and it was. Indeed, his keenest desire just before his death was to atone in some way for his unkindness to your mother."

"Nothin' could do that." and Peg's lips tightened.

"That was why he sent for you." "Sendin' for me won't bring me poor

mother back to life, will it?" "At least we must respect his inten. tions. He desired that you should be given the advantages your mother had

Peg sprang up and walked across to her aunt and looked down at her.

"A thousand pounds a year!" She "As the chief executor of the late turned to Jerry and asked: "Does she Mr. Kingsnorth's will I must be satis- get a thousand a year for abusin' me? fied that its conditions are complied Well, what do ye think of that?" cried with in the spirit as well as to the Peg, gazing curiously at Mrs. Chichester. "A thousand pounds a year for "Mr. Kingsnorth expressly stipulat- makin' me miserable, an' the poor dead

cause I don't want you to feel that you "But she insists on returning to her have been living on charity. You have not."

Peg suddenly biazed up:

"Well, I've been made to feel it," and "Certainly not. Mr. Kingsnorth dis- she glared passionately at her aunt. Peg's anger gave place to just as sudden a twinge of regret as she caught "Except under exceptional circum- sight of Ethel, white faced and starstances. I consider the circumstances ing at her compassionately. She went across to Ethel and buried her face on "I am afraid I cannot agree with her shoulder and wept as she wailed: "Why wasn't I told? I'd never have

> And Ethel comforted her. "Don't cry, dear," she whispered. "Don't. The day you came here we were beggars. You have literally fed and housed us for the last month." Poor Mrs. Chichester looked at her

> daughter reproachfully. Peg grasped the full meaning of Eth-

> "And will ye have nothin' if I go

Peg persisted: "Tell me-are ye ralely dependin' on me? Spake to me. Because if ye are and went straight to Jerry. At the I won't go. I'll stay with ye. I wouldn't see ye beggars for the wurrld. I've been brought up amongst

Suddenly she took Ethel by the Jerry interrupted her anxiously. shoulders and asked in a voice so low "Was that the reason ye were goin'

Ethel tried to stop her.

The truth illumined Ethel's face, and Peg saw it and knew. "Holy Mary!" she cried. "And it

was I was drivin' ye to it. Ye felt the dear, I'd never have hurt ye, I wouldn't. Indade I wouldn't!"

She turned to the others. "There, it's all settled. I'll stay with ye, aunt, an' ye can tache me anything re like. Will some one ask Jarvis to "To put them in a cab, madam," an- bring back my bundles an' Michael?

Jerry smiled approvingly at her. "That is just what I would have ex-

pected you to do; but, my dear Peg. there's no need for such a sacrifice." "Sure, why not?" cried Peg excitedy. "Let me sacrifice meself. I feel

like it this minit." "There is no occasion." He walked over to Mrs. Chichester and addressed her:

"I came here this morning with some

very good news for you. I happen to se one of the directors of Gifford's will shortly reopen its doors, and all the depositors' money will be available for them in a little while."

Mrs. Chichester gave a cry of joy. "Oh, Alaric!" she exclaimed. "My larling Ethel!"

"A panic in American securities, in which we were heavily interested. caused the suspension of business," explained Jerry. "The panic is over. The securities are rising every day. We'll soon be on easy street again." Jerry looked at Peg. She caught his

ye and smiled, but it had a sad wist-Ilness behind it. "Sure, they don't want me now. I'd

better take me cab. Good day to ye." And she started quickly for the door. Jerry stopped her. "There is just one more condition of

Mr. Kingsnorth's will that you must know. Should you go through your "I am. Sit down-here in our midst- | course of training satisfactorily to the and know why you have been here all | ige of twenty-one you will inherit the rum of £5,000 a year."

"When I'm twenty-one I get £5,000 1 year?" gasped Peg. "If you carry out certain conditions."

"An' what are they?" "Satisfy the executors that you are worthy of the legacy." "Batisfy you?"

Peg looked at the somewhat uncom-

"And Mr. Hawkes."

"Mr. Hawkes! Oh-o! Indade!" Bie about the five thousand? When I'm

"He drew the will at Mr. Kingsnorth's dictation," replied Jerry. "Was that why ye wanted me to be engaged to ye until I was twenty-one?"

she asked the unhappy lawyer. "Come, come, Miss O'Connell," said Hawkes. "What nonsense?"

queried Jerry. "Well," besitated the embarrassed lawyer-"in a measure-yes."

"That's what it was," cried Peg, with a laugh. "It was very measured. No wonder the men were crazy to kape

me here an' to marry me." Then Jerry spoke to the others, "Now may I have a few moment alone with

my ward?" Peg stared at Jerry incredulously. "Ward? Is that me?"

"Yes. Peg. I am your legal guardian -appointed by Mr. Kingsnorth." "You're the director of a bank, the executor of an estate, an' now ye're me guardian. What do ye do with yer

spare time?" Jerry smiled and appealed to the others:

"Just a few seconds-alone." "Will you write to me?" urged Jerry when he and Peg were alone.

"What for?" "Peg, my dear!" He took both of her hands in his and bent over her. Just for a moment was Peg tempted

Had she done so the two lives would have changed in that moment. But the old rebellious spirit came uppermost, and she looked at him defiantly

and cried: "Are you goin' to propose to me

That was the one mistake that separated those two hearts. Sir Gerald drew back from her-hurt. Jarvis came quietly in:

"Mr. Hawkes says, miss, if you are going to catch the train"-

"I'll catch it," said Peg impatiently, and Jarvis went out.

Peg looked at Jerry's back turned

eloquently toward her as though in rebuke. "Why in the wurrld did I say that to him?" she muttered. "It's me Irish tongue." She went to the door and opened it noisily, rattling the handle loudly, hoping he would look around.

Under her breath she murmured: "Goodby, Misther Jerry, an' God bless ye, an' thank ye for bein' so nice

to me." And she passed out. In the hall Peg found Ethel and Hawkes waiting for her. They put her between them in the cab, and, with Michael in her arms, she drove through the gates of Regal Villa never to return.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

After Many Days. RANK O'CONNELL stood on the quay that morning in July and watched the great ship slowly swinging in through the heads, and his heart beat fast as he waited

impatiently while they moored her. His little one had come back to him. Amid the throngs swarming down the gangways he suddenly saw his daughter, and he gave a little gasp of surprised pleasure.

They reached O'Connell's apartment. It had been made brilliant for Peg's return. There were flowers everywhere. His heart bounded he saw Peg's

face brighten as she ran from one object to another and commented on "It's the grand furniture we have

now, father!" "Do ye like it, Peg?" "That I do. And it's the beautiful picture of Edward Fitzgerald ye have on the wall there!"

"Ye mind how I used to rade ye his "I do indade. It's many's the tear I've shed over him an' Robert Emmet."

"Then ye've not forgotten?" "Forgotten what?" "All ye learned as a child, an' we talked of since ye grew to a girl?"

"I have not. Did ye think I would?" "No, Peg, I didn't Still, I was wondherin' "-"What would I be doin' forgettin' the

things ye taught me?" "An' what have ye been doin' all these long days without me?" He raised the littered sheets of his manuscript and showed them to her.

She looked over her shoulder and "From Buckshot' to 'Agricultural Organization.' The History of a Gen-

"This."

left ye."

eration of English Misrule, by Frank Owen O'Connell." She looked up proudly at her father.

"It looks wondherful, father." "I'll rade it to you in the long evenin's now we're together again." "Do, father."

"An' we won't separate any more, Peg, will we?" "We wouldn't have this time but for

you, father." "What made ye come back so sudden-like?" "I only promised to stay a month."

"Didn't they want ye any longer?" "In one way they did an' in another they didn't. It's a long history-that's what it is. Let us sit down here as we used to in the early days an' I'll tell ye the whole o' the happenin's since I

She softened some things and omitted others-Ethel entirely. That episode should be locked forever in Peg's

Jerry she touched on lightly. "There's one thing, Peg, that must part us some day when it comes to you," he finally said.

Continued on page 7.

"What's that, father?"

turned back to Jerry. "Did he know twenty-one?"

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