# THE PARTON

Evidence in the Hurdville against me on this account." Case at Parry Sound.

## OIL SOAKED PAPER FOUND.

The Wife and Sons Attempt to Shield They Painted Him-Parton Talks to a Reporter-Other Evidence-The Crown's Theory.

Parry Sound, May 9 .- A charred, oil-soaked pile of papers found in the ruins of the Parton home, in which five children were burned, relieved the monotony of an otherwise featureless investigation into the charge of dren? . I would not think of such a murder against Joseph Parton today. The inquiry went on all afternoon and was all but concluded when Constable A. E. Goodall produced this

The Family Attitude.

The evidence given to-day was, with the exception first mentioned, a disappointment to the Crown. Immediately after the fire the Parton this that an investigation was held. so they got angry with me. Then I ruins of the milk house near the re-When confronted in court, however, could not stand any waste. You mains of the house. It had been panied with thunder and lightning, in that quarter at least. His troops it was another matter, and those know where there are thirteen chilwhose statements were most import. | dren you have to be very careful with ticence which told distinctly in the old man's favor. The Parton boys, stated?" while compelled to admit the statements as to their father's cruelty made previously, did their utmost to tone it down. Mrs. Parton showed a similar disposition, and it looked as though the evidence was not strong enough to warrant a committal. The finding of oil, or greasesoaked papers, while in itself by no means conclusive, is a point which deserves some investigation. The bundle consisted of a large number of receipts on a spike file, whose place in the house was upstairs, away from the pantry or other source of oil. Partially burned as they are, the Crown believes they have been used as a sort of fuse or kindler. The idea that they were oiled accidentally, or through contact with some other burned material he not entertained seriously. Then by whose hands was the oiling and lighting done?

The Crown's Theory. In reviewing the position of the prisoner the motive of the crime for which he stands accused does not show immediately on the surface. The theory of the Crown appears to be that this general habit of regarding his children as a burden led him to the extremity, when he was on the verge of moving to Parry Sound, of taking this means of wiping them out. This theory requires proof that Parton's cruelty to and hatred of his children had existed up to the time of the tragedy. In the witness box, however, the children declare this to have ceased when they grew up. The Crown has not the insurance leg to stand upon, as the premises were uninsured. On the other hand, they were no was conducted by Police Magistrate longer the old man's property. James | Farrer. Mr. W. L. Haight, District and Alfred, two of the sons, having Crown Attorney, and Mr. F. R. wrapped in newspaper since yesterbut recently bought the farm for Powell represented the Crown and day and had exuded oil on the wrap-\$1,000. The destruction of the pre- the accused respectively. The prisoner ping. It smelled strongly of oil or mises was, therefore, no great fin- occupied a seat near the witness box grease. Oil would make closely packancial loss to Parton, while, admit- during the proceedings. Most of the ed paper such as that burn more

dened him of his children. The Day's Evidence. tabish Parton's movements im- reached. The evidence given covered back. mediately preceding the fire. He re- largely the same ground tired about 10 o'clock, his wife im- taken at the inquest. mediately afterwards. Mrs. Parton | Martha Parton, wife of the priswas awake until 11 and then slept oner, the first witness, pointed out awakened by the alarm of fire from | that the stovepipe through the her daughter. When she jumped from kitchen ceiling was unprotected from bed her husband was asleep, accord- the wood save by wire supports. The ing to her statement, and had been boys had no lamp with them, but ever since retiring, so far as she the girls had, and she could not could tell. It is still possible that he swear it had been put out when could have risen and come back to they retired. On being awakened by bed while she slept, she being at the her daughter's cry of fire she went back of the bed. The idea that the to the stairway and found the upfire was accidental received some stairs in flames, but the downstairs support in the statement that the was not. There was plenty of time kitchen stovepipe in passing through to rescue articles of value from the ceiling was not protected by downstairs had they neglected the metal. On the other hand, there is children. "But I had no thought of the direct evidence that the fire such a thing," she declared, with broke out simultaneously in the up- feeling. They had intended movstairs of both buildings in the log ing to Parry Sound that Thursday. section on the side remote from the Mrs. Parton admitted that her huspipe hole; in the other part no fire band had dealt harshly with the had existed for two days. The girls elder children, but said he was very were provided with a lamp and there good to the little ones. Amending is no certainty that it was put out this statement, she said the harsh when they retired.

Declares His Innocence. "Before God in heaven I am innocent. I say may God strike me down if I am not. I am as innocent as an angel in heaven." It was with such declamations as these that Joseph Parton, accused of murdering his five children, protested the baselessness of the charge to-day. Parton was interviewed in the court house before his trial began. As he slouched into the little room allotted by the sheriff for the purpose he bore every appearance of infirmity and abstractedness, both of which vanished at times when be felt it necessary to give his story in dramatic gestures. Parton is of rugged build, rather coarse and of very hard features, a face and eyes which seem foreign to sympathy. He talks with a slowness apparently born of age, but his logic and reasoning power were surprising. He argued that he had been ill with the grip for three months and went so far as to say he had been half crazy since the fire, but his conversation revealed a

thoughtlessness. fire?" he was asked.

you suspect your neighbors, for in-

There have bothered the Heavy and concerned Parton's statements the old country. They borrow sugar, trying to save them?" flour and many other things, and had I wanted to. I got tired lending | investigated since and found there should there be a committal. He even money. I could have lent \$5,000 and some of them may have spite

"Have you any other theory?" walked on by the boye."

on the night of the fire?" "I went to bed at 11 o'clock, went | done so. to sleep, and never heard a sound until my wife wakened me, saying the house was on fire. I put on my trousers and went outside. I have been sick for three months with the grip and catarrh and was sick the night the Old Man-Not So Bad Now as of the fire. The sight of the fire made me dizzy, and I could not stand up. I was too sick to do anything at rescuing my children." "What have you to say to the

> charge of murder ?" "Do you suppose any sane man would set fire to his house and burn up his property, his clothes, his money and even his children? you suppose I would deliberately set fire to my house and burn my chil-

> > Treatment of His Family.

"What do you say regarding the charges of cruelty to your children." "My boys used to go away and work in the lumber camps. They learned swearing and bad manners there, and when they came home I objected to the examples they set before the younger children. I was not brought up to that, you know, I was brought up well in England, and was a chem-

"No; I used the strap on them. tried to get them to stay at home, but they disobeved me, went away and learned bad habits." "Were you violent to your wife,

as she says?" "The only violence toward her was an occasional word regarding waste, for which she would run to her parents, who lived across the river. My wife punished the smaller children when they needed it. loved my children. I used to come to Parry Sound, and buy apples, candies and nuts for them, and when they saw me coming they would ran out to meet me. Do you suppose I would keep on buying these things for them if I did not love them?

"What did you do after the fire?" "I stood around a while; then, feeling sick, I crawled into the haymow and laid down, but never slept a wink. After daylight I drove to Parry Sound to get some medicine, as I had to have it."

"Why did you not attend the funeral of your children?" "I could not stand it; my head and stomach won't stand such sights. I have not attended a funeral since I came to Canada.

Parton declared he had intended bringing two of the little girls with him to Parry Sound to live. He again affirmed his innocence, and declared that if he was convicted his prosecutors would have to answer for murder before the bar of

This Afternoon's Investigation.

The investigation this afternoon was held in the court house, and ting the Crown's theory, it disbur- time his mind appeared to be far slowly. During the examination of off, and he affected deafness, but this charred paper the prisoner made his face brightened with interest a quick rush to an ante-room, where The evidence to-day failed to es- whenever a crucial point was his wife was, but was soon brought

treatment was in former years. She would not deny her statement at the inquest, that as the boys grew up they left home on account of their father's violence. She denied that the children were kept away from the old man. They could go wherever they liked in the house. She admitted picking up a bundle of partly burned counter checks or receipts in the ruins of the house. The coal oil stock in the house had been exhausted since the previous Friday or Saturday before the fire. All the oil in the house was in their two

James Parton's Evidence.

James Parton, the eldest boy a home, after describing the fire, said in reply to Mr. Haight: "Father has panied by one of his sons, to whom which started out of town before gagement at Sharpolberg. They bealways used me well enough since I he handed the money. was any size. He used to use me a little rough, but I needed some that with the first \$20 the old man bought pace until it broke away and ran West Greylingstad. Gen. Knox's and I got then." The witness declared some clothes for the family with wildly over fences and through fields, Gen. Elliott's columns are converge his father had not used him cruelly part, and gave the rest to Mrs. Par- demolishing the wagon and lacerat- ing on the force, which is shirking and had not injured his back nor ton. He did not know what was done ing itself. caused the scar on his face. He would with the other sum, except that it not say his father had wished to be was given to his elder brother John, man very sane and alive to the op- rid of them. He said, however, his portunity of presenting his defence father had often expressed the wish to the public. His face was unkempt, that "he and his brothers would stay sation with Parton about a year and his clothes, while of good mater- away from home, as he had enough ial, were untidy and bore evidence of of the others to keep." Witness leave for the old country. Parton said thought the fire was strange. He he did not think he would return. "I "Can you explain the origin of the did not know how it was started, said, 'How is your family to get on?' further disturbances the police now He did not know how it could have He replied, 'They can take care of "I know no more of the cause of been an accident. In the excitement themselves.' He also wanted me the fire than that does," and the he had suspected someone of setting take his cart and sell it for him." dramatic prisoner picked up an empty | it on fire. At this point in the ex-

witness with intense carnestness.

They have bothered the life out or | "Wen, I did in an going away may me by borrowing things from me. that after the fire," was the reply. after the fire. The Crowd Atterney You see, they are jealous of me. I "Putting all these things together, commented on the little pieces of inhave more money than the most of the heartless way he had left, the formation which reached the ears of the heartless way he treated his children and not the court from day to day. The them, as I came into a fortune from | way he treated his children and not | the court from day to day. The

was no ground for his suspicions. | thought the interests of justice would his investigation consisted of a con- of four or five days. Every day "A spark may have fallen to the clusion that with his mother in the brought forth some new material roof from the chimney, or a match bed his father could not have got which was relevant and important. may have fallen on the floor and been out without her hearing him. He did Mr. Powe'l, for the prisoner, objectnot remember telling Charlie Sheri- ed to the delay proposed. The Magis-"Will you describe your movements dan of similar suspicions, but would trate's duty was not to allow this

> The Other Brothers. After Reginald, the 12-year-old oner with the supposed crime. brother, had told what he saw of the fire, Alfred, aged 23, was called. He feit hard toward his father for his conduct after the fire. The latter told witness in Parry Sound that he had been sick, but would have returned home if the big boys had not been there. He was not of the opinion that his father had anything to do with the fire.

William Parton said his father had bodies were.

with Parton after the fire. Witness and Parton said, "It must have been set." He once saw prisoner whipping a son when he (Hurd) was a quarter of a mile off, and at that distance heard the blows.

Walter R. Foot, of Parry Sound, said that on the day of the fire Parton told him he and his wife had difficulty in saving themselves. They had to crawl out of the building. The Charred Paper.

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

One witness more, Mr. Haight ex- | nr You told Isaac Hurd you suspected plained, was to be called, but he was

Crown, so far as he was concerned. had no intention of endeavoring to To Mr. Powell witness said he had get down to the present Assizes. To Mr. Haight he explained that be better served by an adjournment THE BOERS IN CAPE COLONY.

not say positively that he had not case to be an oppression. This was a request him to urge her husband to matter of torture. There was not a abandon the war. She speaks highly tittle of evidence to connect the pris-"There is a good deal of suspicion,

the Magistrate interposed. Mr. Fowell argued that there was no motive for Parton to commit the crime. He had by the fire lost his own property and his own security. Mr. Haight pointed out that the property had been sold to his two

His Worship remarked that not one father in ten thousand would have acted as this one had. Mrs. Parton asked him to desist when he was went back the second time and found pouring water on the ruins where the him asleep when the house was on fire. "Not one in ten thousand would Israc Hurd told of a conversation have done that," said the Magistrate, with emphasis. "We have the right to received in the city that Dr. Ross, was wondering how the fire started, sit here and examine and find out the who went to South Africa with the truth. It is my place to allow a thor- Canadian Mounted Rifles, is returning ough investigation before this inquiry. to Kingston. A cable sent him an-The Crown cannot make a thorough nouncing Dr. Fenwick's death was investigation in this matter and get delayed in transit, but on receipt of it ready for the Assizes on Tuesday.", it he resigned his commission and It was decided to adjourn until to- started for home. morrow at 9.30.

MET DEATH BY THE STORM.

Bond lead.

remarks, and it was as a result of on me, and I corrected them for it. bundle of charred paper found in the Bradford, Ont., May 12.—This af- operations he is putting the finish-

vaal With 2,000 Men.

Durban, May 10 .- Mrs. Botha, wife of the Boer commandant-general, has arrived here en route to Holland, where she will see Mr. Kruger and of the treatment accorded her by the British. She is accompanied by a number of Boer ladies.

War Office Denies It. London, May 10.-The War Office here denies the statement published in New York that Lord Kitchener has telegraphed advising yielding all the demands of the Boers, with the exception of independence, owing to his conviction that they cannot be forced to lay down their arms without a long continuation of the war.

Returning From South Africa. Kingston, May 10 .- Word has been

Blood's Good Work.

Standerton, May 9.-Gen. Bindon Blood is giving the Boers no rest in Lightning Killed a Young Man of the Middleburg district, and by his

Secretary of State for the Colonies. London, May 9.—His Majesty's Government have received with much

pleasure the following message from High Commissioner for South Africa : "Inspector-General of South African Constabulary reports most fav-

orably on Canadian recruits; average physique of men is splendid, and they seem to be well fitted for their

"Regret that owing to my departure have not yet had time to see them myself .- Milner.' (Signed) Chamberlain,

One Smashes Into a Wagon and Kills Two People.

With a Hundred and Fifteen Persons on Board and All are Injured-Five Injured in the Wagon are in

the Hospital - The Motorman Arrested. New York, May 12 .- Of twenty-

six young people who started from carefully-planned and well executed College Point, L. I., last night, on what is locally known as "Starlight ride, two were carried home this morning dead, five are in the Jamaica Hospital, four were allowed to leave the hospital after having their wounds dressed, and every one of the remainder is more or less bruised. A collision with a trolley car caused the accident. The dead

Michael Schnier, 23 years of age, College Point. Joseph Pickel, 20 years of age, Col-

ege Point. Those still in the hospital are: Ellen Dietz, 17 years; Kate Rooklin. 20 years; Mattle Debverse, 17 years; Kate Hoffman, 32 years; Henrietta

Silver, 20 years. The 26 merry-makers were on their way to an hotel 10 miles away, where they were to have a dance. They were all in one wagon, the bottom of which had been filled with straw. It was almost midnight when they reached Distler's Hotel, on the edge of Jamaica. When in front of the house the driver saw a trolley car approaching. He thought he could cross the tracks in time to avoid a collision, but made a miscalculation. He applied the lash to the horses to no purpose. The motorman was arrested, though claiming to be without blame in the matter.

The Car Runs Away. New York, May 12.-An open troiley car, on which were packed 115 persons, got away from the motorman this afternoon near Fort Lee, N. J., and dashed down Leonia Hill Every person on the car was bruised, but only three were seriously hurt and only one of them is likely

to die-Frank Sunstruck, the con ductor, who received possible internal injuries. J. E. Robinson and his wife, of this city, were seriously The heavily loaded car had started down an incline a quarter of a mile in length, when the motorman lost control. It went so fast that no one dared to jump. The road is a

Church was also damaged by light- days, and every day a large contin- cident as happened this afternoon. ning. Two young men, named Grant gent come in and give up their rifles. When the front trucks hit the curve they started around and made porch of this church when London, May 13.-Gen. De Wet, ac- it. The rear ones followed part of the lightning passed through the cording to a despatch to the Daily the way. The wrench upon the car, belfry into the porch, Grant being Mail from Pretoria, has resumed op however, as it swung about, was so instantly killed and Robbins badly erations, and is reported to have great that the body was lifted and stunned, but not seriously injured, crossed into the Transvaal with 2,- torn from the trucks and rolled over and hit the ground. The motorman stuck to the car, and when the jerk which pulled the car apart took place he shot into the air and landed in the soft earth near a fence at the corner. The passengers were caught in and under the car and were piled in a screaming. praying, cursing heap. Another car was close behind, though under control, and on reaching the curve stopped and the passengers piled out. This gave plenty of hands to aid the ones pinned under the car and caught in it. Inside of three minutes all were out of the car. The injured were taken back to Fort Lee, where such as needed it re-

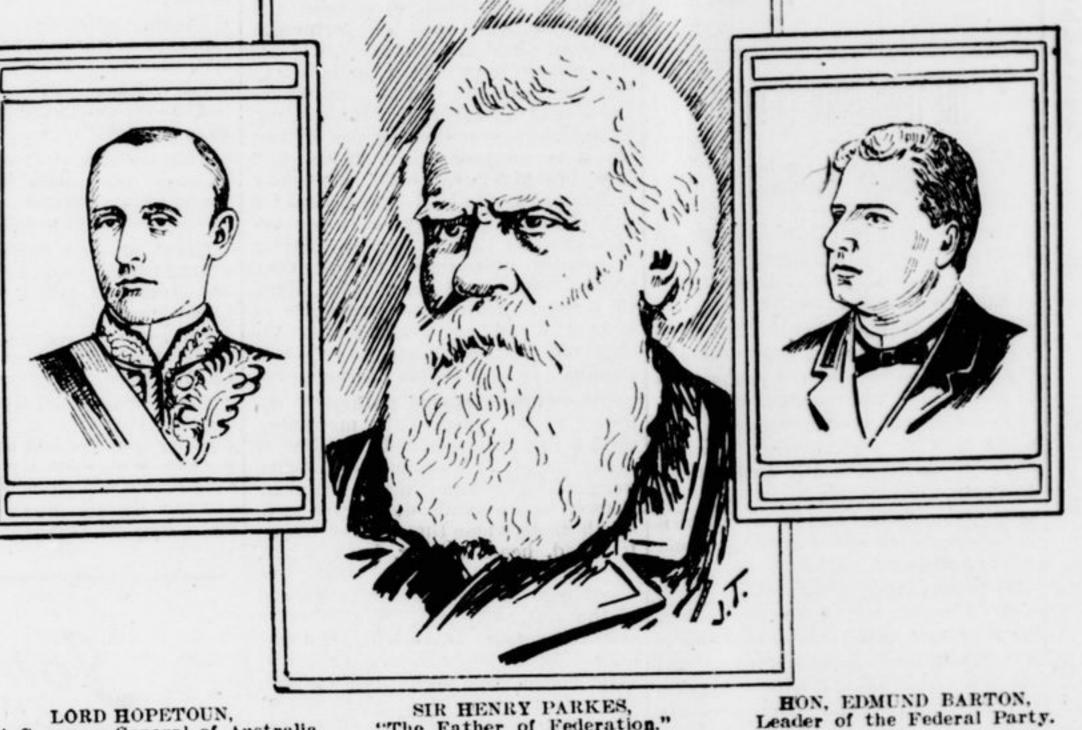
> ceived medical attention. What caused the car to run away will probably never be known, as it is too badly wrecked to warrant an uable to settle the point.

Drill and Tactics Go on Just the Same as Before.

London, May 12 .- Lord Roberts returned to England with the reputation of being the only general capable of reorganizing the British army and turning the lessons of South Af rica to practical account. Military men assert that while he has been in the War Office several months, there have been no changes in drill and tactics. The drill season has opened, but the troops are trained precisely as they were before the Boers gave the British a series of object lessons in the resources of defensive and guerilla warfare. The fact that Mr. Brodrick's reorganization scheme has not yet received the approval of Parliament does not explain the slowness of the headquarters staff in adapting the old time system of training to new condi-

Bomb Outrage at Malta. London, May 13.-The Daily Mail enhuis mines. These recruits will be publishes the following from Malta: given preference in securing work A bomb was exploded at midnight when the mines start crushing again, against the residence of the Archbishop, but no serious damage was

mailing tube lying on the desk. amination the prisoner moved to that he did not find Parton deaf for are awaiting a settlement of the Governor-General has received has been called to the Senate to the following cablegram from the succeed the late Hon I I Rose



First Governor-General of Australia.

"The Father of Federation." passed over this section in Bondhead, | are forming a network of patrols

Parry Sound, May 10.-The investidaughters were burned in the fire farmer, of West Gwillimbury. which destroyed their home, went on slowly to-day, and was not concluded. It will be resumed in the morn- "GO FIRST, YOU'RE MARRIED." ing, and it is expected to finish by noon. In view of the complications | Heroic Self-Sacrifice of Kentucky which have arisen, it is generally expected Parton will be committed for trial, in order that the High

post-mortem examination. The of heroism cost him his life.

This afternoon the court entered hours. on a thread by calling R. N. Moffatt, accountant in the Bank of Ottawa here, where Parton has money on prisoner withdrew lifty dollars from his account by check. Two days afterwards the old man entered and

the second occasion he was accom-J. C. Whitchelo, in reply to questions by Mr. Haight, told of a converago, when the latter was about to

Constable James Hanna testified dead, fearing unseemly scenes, and

about six miles west of this place, which are harassing the enemy so winding one; at the foot of this the spire of the English Church was successfully that they are unable to hill the track curves sharply, and blown down and the church other- organize even small parties. The sur- the rails at this point were laid wise damagd. The Presbyterian renders number hundreds on some specially to counteract such an acand Robbins, were standing in the gation into the charge of murder Grant was about 20 years of age and 000 men. against Joseph Parton, whose five was a son of Mr. Hector Grant, a

## Man Costs Him His Life.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 12.-William Court may sift the matter to the Phelps, of Richmond, Ky., and James Stansbury, of this city, were cleaning | Kamloops buying them as rapidly as The investigation began this morn- the inside of an upright boiler at the ing with the evidence of Town Con- Cerealine mills this afternoon, when of good size, most of them being musstable John Williams. To him Par- an employee turned on the steam. ton said after the fire that he had thinking the cock was tight. It to crawl out of the burning house leaked, and the stalding steam poured various times and joined the wild on his hands and knees. This, in on the two men. The only exit herds. contradicts the other evidence, which was up a ladder to a manhole in the goes to show that the downstairs top. Both jumped for the ladder. part of the house was free from | Phelps reached it first, took one step flame at that time. Parton also and stopped. He jumped aside and said: "I am out of debt, have a good | shouted: "You go first, Jim; you are baiance in the bank and am all married!" Stansbury sprang up the right." Dr. James Appelbe, of Parry ladder and escaped with slight burns Sound, described the remains of about the face and legs. Though Sarah Parton, as disclosed by the Phelps hurried at his heels, his act have a couple of field guns. General court then adjourned until 2 o'clock | By the time he had followed Stansthis afternoon, when some further bury up the ladder the flesh was dropand important evidence is expected. ping from his limbs. He lived two

Hitched to a Car.

deposit. He said that on April 30, Frisbie, a Woodbury farmer, hitched tering Wonderfontein, the force opthe day succeeding the fire, the his horse to a freight car standing posing having a pom-pom. on a siding at Pomperaug station yesterday and left it there while not touched during Gen. French's he went to make a purchase at the | recent operations. withdrew another fifty dollars. On village store. In the interval the car was coupled to a freight train, cent drafts, have thad a hot en-Frisbie could liberate the horse, haved splendidly. Subsequently the Alfred Parton, recalled, said that The animal was dragged at a lively Boers' commando moved south

> Grave-Diggers on Strike. Rome, May 12.-The grave-diggers at Naples have gone on strike, and are trying to prevent all interments. They have attacked some funeral processions, and to prevent accompany such processions to the to cemeteries. In several instances relatives have refused to bury their

Horses for Africa.

Vancouver, B. C., May 12.-Hun dreds of horses which have been running wild during the last few years on the plains between Lilloost and Cariboo and Okanogan are being captured to be sold to the British Government for use in South Africa, An Imperial cavalry officer is now at they are brought in. The horses are tangs bred with the domestic horses that have been lost by ranchers at

### Lots of Field Guns.

Cape Town, May 12.-A force Boers raided a store Friday thirty inspection, which would prove valmiles from Richmond, Cape Colony, The Boers who were in the Bed ford district last week have moved "BOBS" MAKES NO CHANGES north into the Transvaal. They still Campbell, of the Seventeenth Brigade, while returning from Middleburg, met with opposition from forces of the Boers, who employed two guns and two pom-poms. They moved parallel with the British forces. General Smith-Dorrien's brigade was also Winsted, Conn., May 12.-Watson | sniped at considerably before re-en-

Large areas of Kaffir corps were The Yeomanry, including the re

Recruiting is going on for a new force of the mines division of the Rand Rifles. The military authorities have sanctioned the recruiting of 800 men, including 100 each for the May, Primrose, City, and Geld-

Admires Canadians. Ottawa, May 12.-His Excellency Mr. A. M. Dechene, M. P. for L'Islet,

EYLON

British grown t

characteristics.

DON

THRILLING S

two women. Miss ing Helene closely, appointed. Her fac proud lines, but si of trouble. "Under these circ mid. "the locket If you will allow ! for my maid. I an evening. "I should like," M

"You will excus the said. "It is s which interests in Miss Merton flu was at a disadval "I thought that much interested i the said spitefully "I have found h

tell you about Lo

than the majority "But you don't him-from me!" claimed. Helene smiled. "I have no dest said, "but since | way I will admit The girl bit he the had only part girl was more th suddenly changed "Oh! you are ed. "You want to I know you do ! H

me-before you ca me! I dare no "I can assure quietly, "that I est desire to t from you-or from not like this con I do not intend haps if you have you will go to y wish to go away riage for you. P Miss Merton sp towards the dod was distorted w "I do not wan said. "I am leav

will walk." "Just as you c Helene murmure She was alread, turned back. "I can't help it got to ask you Wolfenden asked Helene was di not hard-hearte dently distressed her that she mil She herself could a lack of self-re of pity mingled

"I am not at I question," she si cerns Lord Wol self. But I have ing you this. I a of Bourbon, an my cousin, Prit marry Lord We go away at on Miss Merton room literally s the bell. "If that youn I think her nat me again before

The man bow Helene was left an easy chair her head upon trol was easy now that she w softened. The p quivering. A fe utter depression stood for a mo she brushed the "How could murmured. "I w After all, then,

she is not admit

A Little Mr. Sabin, w him down at th tion with barel took his sent smoking carria and deliberate was filled with ant self-satisfs the lot of a mi duous labor su sees very near sire of his life. work, and his ! he had pledge would have re

The finishing t ter of detail. I dertaking-mot than he had ev himself with no other man brought it to clusion. His ha endeavors ; thi crowning triul He watched the train with interested in a saw their face world, nor he denly he recel sat upright, moisture from that he might ing newspapet yard or two the figure a

iar. He wait turned, and the