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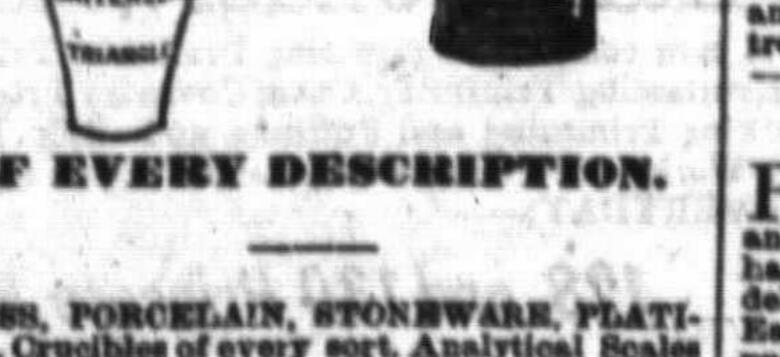
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CHAPTER VII. "You see I falled," says Brian Desmond. quick warm blush has dyed Monica's

'Ah! it is you," she says. "I thought you This betrays the fact that she has been thinking of him, but he is far too wise a

young man in his own generation to take "In what have you failed?" asks she, abruptly, alluding to his opening sentence. "Can't you guess? Have you forgotten the last cruel injunction you laid upon me?

"I wish you hadn't," says Monica, sincerely. "I wish you would go away now, and

"I don't, indeed; I can't conceive such a situation. You do me a great injustice, I think. I verily believe if I tried my very hardest I couldn't instil terror into the small-

est child in the village." "You know what I mean. Of course," man; it is Aunt Priscilla I am afraid of. And see, see there." in an agony, "she is standing quite close to us, talking to some-

"If that is your aunt Priscilla, she is safe tatoes, per bush. 0.40 to 0.45; hides, 4.50 to 5.00 hay, per ton 8,00 to 8.50; dressed hogs, per 100 lbs for an hour at least. The old lady with her is Lady Rossmoyne, and she never lets any-"But then there is Aunt l'enelope," says

"She, too, is arranged. Half an hour ago I met her so deep in andisgraceful flirtation BELLEVILLE.-Wheat 95c to Ares; Barley 50 with the vicar that I felt it my duty to look the other way. Depend upon it, she is not "But some one may tell them I have been

talking to you." "I always thought I had a proper amount of pride until I met you, "says Mr. Desmond. "You have dispelled the belief of years. 'Is thy servant a dog,' that you should be ostracized for speaking to him? Never mind; 1 ; Peas 74 to 77; Rye 60c 00c; Dressed Hogs per Mye minutes more of your society. But listen to me. No one can tell tales of us. because we are both strangers in the land. No one knows me from Adam, and just as few know you from-let us say Eve, for

She laughs. Encouraged by her merriment to believe that at least she bears no ill will, Brian says, hurriedly,-"Come with me to the rose-garden. It is stupid sitting here alone, and the garden is beyond praise. Do come."

"Why?" lifting her heavy lashes.
"For one thing, we shall be free from observation, and you know you dislike being seen with me. For another—" He pauses. "Well?" rather nervously. "It is just this, that I must speak to you,"

says the young man, his gay manner chang-

ng to one of extreme earnestness. were unkind to me that day we parted. want you to tell me why. I understand quite that I have no right to demand even the smallest favor of you, yet I do entreat you to come with me.' For another moment she hesitates, then-"Yes, I vill come with you," she says, raising her soft eyes to his. In her whole manner, voice, and bearing there is some-

thing so sweet and childish and trusting as The path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Priscilla, so they avoid detection But they are singularly silent and grave; when the garden is reached they pass beif rich in thought. At last, when silence is

becoming too eloquent to be borne, her companion turns to her. "It wasn't true what you said to me that last day, was it?" he asks, with far more

said it made me think you disliked me. Te me I thought wrong." "Quite wrong," in a low tone. She is plucking a rose to pieces, and keeps her eyes downcast. "When I said that, I was angry "About something I said?"

"No. Nothing you said."
"Something I did, then?" growing more and more anxious.

"What was it?" "It doesn't matter now; not in the least ow; and I cannot tell you, indeed." "But I wish very much you would. Perhaps being in wretched ignorance, I shall be

so make you hate me a second time." "I didn't hate you." "No? Yet there was a look in your eyes I wouldn't like to see there again. Do tell me, lest I once more fall into error." be impossible. It could never happen again. I shall take care of that. I shall never as

so unhappy as to do it again some day, and

- Really I have forgiven it all now, so let Though still greatly mystified, Mr. Desmond wisely forbears to press the point, something in her pretty distressed face and

there is another thing I have not forgotten. Ohke & Leader Have you ever cleared up that mystery about my uncle and your aunts?" "Oh! that. It cannot be cleared, I am afraid; it is too muddy a tale for any help; but I have at least found out all about it."

give anything to be as wise as you on this subject? In other words, will you divulge Beresford, stepping back from him with a gay little laugh, and glancing at him mis-

bravery. "I prefer to rush upon my fate. Life has no longer any flavor for me until I "Well, if you will insist upon the sorry tale, 'tis this. Once there lived a wicked

he rode away, leaving her as dismally diswicked knight was your uncle; the maid forlorn my mother?"

"No, indeed; it is all quite true. From

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## to render Desmond her slave-upon the spot. The path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the rose-garden leads away from Miss Princilla, so they avoid detection of the path to the p

tween the rows of growing blossoms mute. All the best known makes will be found in our stock. she, who is so prone to blush on all occa-Ladies having the slightest inclination to purchase Silks should see our splendid stock.

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her heart was all his own, his love Dress and Mantle Ornaments elegant designs.

a fairy tale, haven't you?" asks he, in an unbe found in our Stock and at lower prices than ELSEWHERE.

"You weren't very fond of your mother, then?" he asks, gently. The bare memory

very much notice of us." "Were they so much wrapt up in each

an amount of bitterness in her tone that contrasts strangely with its usual softness, 'I wonder why I called my mother 'mamma' to you just now. I never dared do so to her. Once when she was going away somewhere I threw my arms round her and called her by that pet name; but she put me from her, and told me I was not to make a

these to you," she says, unsteadily. "I for-

got, it did not occur to me, that we are only "Say what you will to me," says Desmond, slowly, "and be sure of this, that what you do say will be heard by you and me alone.' "I believe you," she answers, with a little

"And, besides, we are not altogether strangers," he goes on, lightly; "that day on the river is a link between us, isn't it?" "Oh, yes, the river," she says smiling. "Our river. I have brought myself to believe it is our joint property; no one else

"I kne us that," returns he, meaningly She blushes deeply, and then, in spite herself, laughs out loud, a low but ringing laugh, full of music and mischief. ment has the effect of making Mr. Desmond

"I have never been near it since," says

seems to know anything about it."

preternaturally grave. "May I ask what you are laughing at?" he says, with painful politoness; whereupon Miss Beresford checks her mirth abruptly, and has the grace to blush again even harder than before. Her confusion is, indeed, the prettiest thing possible. "I don't know," she says, in an evasive

"People generally do know what they are laughing at," contends he, seriously. It was ridiculous of me to suppose you would ever come ag a to the river; but one hopes ope. Yet, as Feltham tells us, You were quite right.

"No, I was quite wrong; but-but-you are quite wrong too in one way," still with her eyes downturned. "By what right did I expect you? I was

a presumptuous fool, and got just what

"You were not a fool," exclaims she quickly; and then, with a little impulsive gesture, she draws herself up and looks him fair in the eyes. "If I had known you were there," she says, bravely, though evidently frightened at her own temerity, "I-I-am almost sure I should have been there too!" "No! would you really?" says Desmond,

Then follows a rather prolonged silence.

Not an awkward one, but certainly a silence fraught with danger to both. There is no greater friend to Cupid than an unsought si-"What lovely roses there are in this garden!" says Desmond, pointing to a bush of glowing beauty near him. "Are there not?" She has taken off a

long white glove, so that one hand and arm are bare. The hand is particularly small and finely shaped, the nails on it are a pi ture in themselves; the arm is slight an childish, but rounded and very fair. Breaking a rose from the tree indicated, she examines it lovingly, and then, lifting it to his face, as though desirous of sympa-

"Is it not sweet?" "It is indeed?" He is staring at her. Very gently he takes the little hand that holds the flowers and keeps it in his own. He dotains it so lightly that she might withdraw it if she pleases, but she does not. Perhaps she doesn't please, or perhaps she sees nothsions, does not change color now, but chatters to him gayly, in an unconcerned manner, about the scented blossoms round her,

behind the tall flowering shrubs that surround the tennis ground. And still her little slender fingers lie passively in his. Glancing at them, he strokes them lightly with his other hand, and counts

and afterwards about the people yonder,

"Four-five," he says; "quite a burden for such a little hand to carry.' "I like them," says Monica; "brooches and ear-rings and bracelets I don't care for but rings I love. I never really feel dressed until they are on. To slip them on my fingers is the last thing I do every morning be-

fore running down-stairs. At least, nearly 'And what is the last?" "I say my prayers," says Monica, smiling "That is what every one does, isn't it?" "I don't know," says Mr. Desmond, looking at her. It seems to him a long, long time now since last he said his prayers. And then he suddenly decides within himself that he will say them to-morrow morning. "the last thing before going down-stairs;" he cannot have quite forgotten them yet. He is examining her rings as he thinks all

this and now a little pale turquoise thing at-To be Christmunk!

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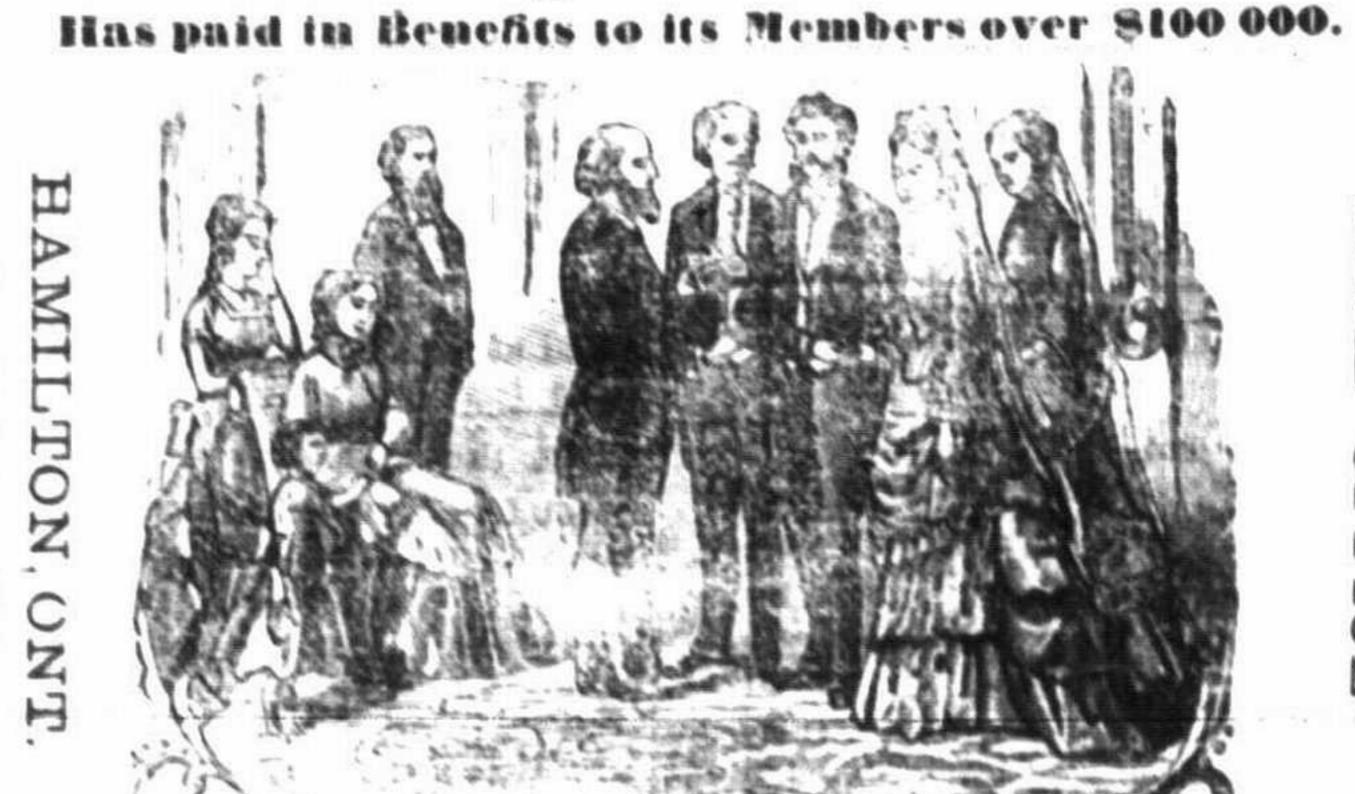
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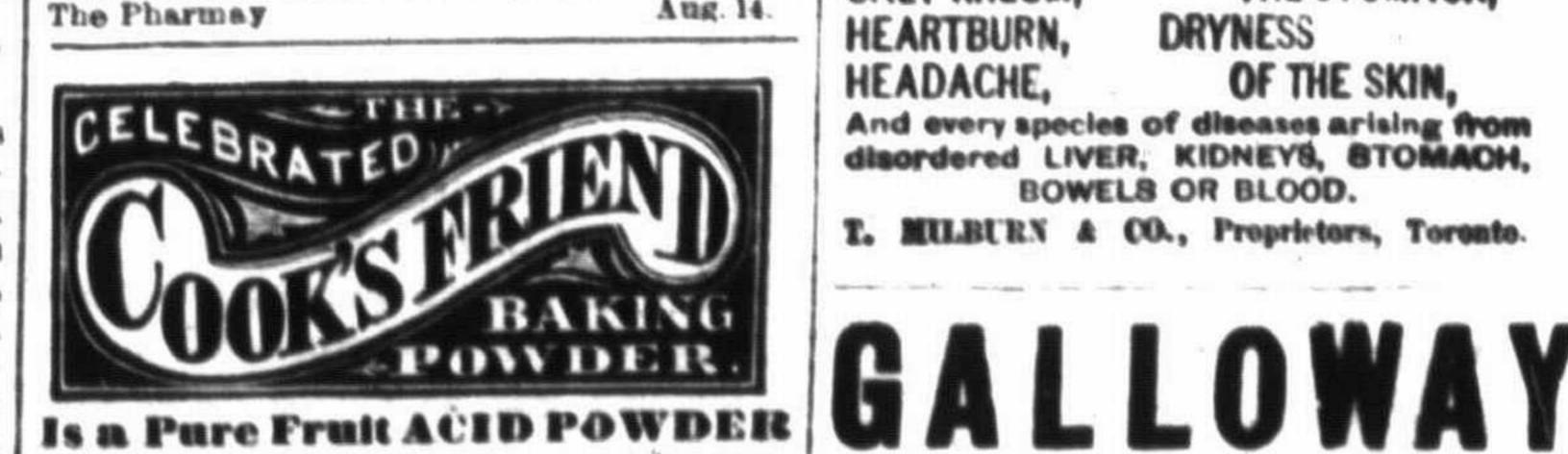
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