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CHAPTER XXII-Continued.

"Good evening," he said formally. "Good evening," she replied, and he went out of the door.

her rooms, her first coherent thought | the music room. being that she had accomplished it! She had held up splendidly, but she was weak now, and quivering in every took up the eternal question of Gail. sprang into her eyes!

The library was quite steadily devoted to Vedder court tonight. A highly important change had come into the the years of planning had gone the ladies present. way of the wind, and the card houses had all to be built over again. The cathedral had receded by a good five years, unless the force and fire of Rev Smith Boyd should be sufficient to coax capital out of the pockets of his millionaire congregation; and, in fact that quite normal plan was already under advisement.

The five of this impromptu counsel were deep in the matter of ways and means. when a slender apparition, in clinging gray, came down the stairs It was Gail, who, for some reason unknown, even to her, had decided that she was selfish; and Rev. Smith Boyd's heart ached as he saw the pallor on her delicately tinted cheeks and the dark tracing about her brown eyes. She slipped quietly in among them. her brown hair loosely waved, so that unexpected threads of gold shone in it when she passed under the chandelier. and she greeted the callers pleasantly and sat down in the corner, very silent. She was glad that she had come. It was restful in this little circle of friends

A noise filled the hall, and even the lights of the library seemed to brightald, and Dick Rodley, came tumbling

"I'm afraid I can't tonight," refused reason why her voice should not have must be a God, as he tolerated codes the butler with a nod. its firm and true quality just now. "I of social ethics; the conventions which will accompany Doctor Boyd, though, laid down, for instance, what a gentle at home," she said. When he had gone, she flew up to with pleasure," and she started toward man might or might not do, externally

Rev. Smith Boyd was cut off from meantime, if a man-made law came be- his tone which she could not escape. She had seen Allison, and had given the ordinary lies about not being | tween him and the accomplishment of frim her definite answer, and had got in good voice, and suffering from a his ends, he broke it, without a trace his having swept the butler aside ten him out of the house while the slight cold, and such things. He hest of thought that he might be wrong were only a part of his imperious inothers were back in the billiard room. tated a moment, and then he followed. Laws were the mutual safeguard of The Bedouin Love Song, the Garden the weak, to protect themselves to you to which you must listen." of Sleep, and others of the solo reper- against the encroachment of the limb, and she sank on her divan, sup toire which Gail had selected for him, strong; and it, was in the equally natported on one outstretched arm; and came pulsing out of the music room. ural province of the strong to break in this uncomfortable position she first hesitantly, and then with more down those safeguards. In the same strength, as the friendly nearness be-The angry tears of mortification tween himself and the accompanist too, were for the upholding of the became better established.

Presently, the listeners in the library | isted was proof enough that they were noticed an unusual pause between the an acknowledgment of the right of the songs, a low-voiced discussion, and strong to break them. fortunes of Market Square church. It then, the two perfectly blended voices was as if a stone had been thrown in. rose in a harmony so perfect that there to a group of cardboard houses. All was moisture in the eyes of two of the

CHAPTER XXIII.

Gail First!

Allison, springing forward with a jerk as he left Jim Sargent's house, it! headed his long, low runabout up the avenue. He raced into the park, and

glanced up at the lookout house as he sped on past; but it was only a fleeting look. He needed no reminder of Gail. As he passed Roseleaf inn, he slowed down. The roadhouse may have given him, and probably did, another reminder of Gail, in such a manner as to concrete him into logical thought; for he slowed down the ter rific speed which had been the accompaniment of his unreasoning emotion. The driving required too much concentration for specific thought.

With this turning of his mental attitude, even the slow running of the car seemed to disturb him, and, about half a mile past Roseleaf inn, he came slowly to a stop, sitting at the wheel, with his head bent slightly forward, and staring at the spot where the road-

way had ceased to roll beneath his machine. Presently he became aware en, as Lucile and Ted, Arly and Ger of the cold, and running his car to the not where. It was no time now, to refreshed. side of the road, he stepped out, and.

anything upon which he had set his possible to the butler's wooden voice wish must be his, or else every victory There was a sound almost as of a he had ever gained would be swept scuffle, and then Allison, with his top aside and made of no value. He must [coat on his arm and his hat in his accomplish, or dief

of a deity, or of a need for one To life.

what should he pray, and for what. Gail was on her feet almost instanwhen he had himself to rely upon? taneously with the apparition in the Worship was an idealistic diversion, a doorway, and she still held the sheet poetic illusion, the refuge of the weak of music which she had been about to every other consideration, and the glut who excused their lack of strength by deposit on one of the piles. Allison's ascribing it to a mysterious something eyes had a queer effect of being beyond the control of any man He sunken, and there was a strange nerv-Gail hastily, and indeed she had good tolerated the popular notion that there ous tension in him. Gail dismissed

> and still remain a gentleman. In the with a certain determined insolence in way he disregarded moral laws. They, weak, and the mere fact that they ex-

There is a mistake here. It lies in Gail's pallor. the statement that Allison recognized no God. He did. Allison. Not Allison. the man, but the unconquerable will of Allison, a will which was a divinity in itself. He believed in it, centered on it all his faith, poured out to it all the

fervidness of his heart, of his mind. of his spirit, of his body. He worshiped you to marry me." So it was that he came to the consideration of the one thing which had attempted to deny itself to him Gail!

A flame raged through his veins there was revulsion. which fairly shook him with its violence. It was not only the reflex of his determination to have her, but it was the terrific need of her which had joined. "As I would build up an em grown up in him. Have her? Of pire to win you, I would destroy one course he would have her! If she to win you. You spoke last night of would not come to him willingly, he what you called the cruelty and trick would take her! She was not to be ery of the building up of my big transconsidered in it any more than he had portation monopoly. If it is that which considered any other adverse factor in stands between us, it shall not do so the attainment of anything he had de] for a moment louger. Marry me, and now, which centered itself upon one I only built this for you, and if you final one where he had planned to sciously. He knew that the moment

hand, strode to the doorway of the The servants were all in the rear of He was without God, this man; be music room, followed immediately by the house, or below, or in the upper had nothing within him which con- the butler, who looked as if his hair rooms, at their morning work. He ceded, for a moment, a greater power had been peeled a little bit at the turned swiftly and closed the door of than his own. In all his mental im edges. Allison had apparently brushed the music room, then he whirled again agery, which was rich enough in may roughly past him, and had disturbed towards her, with ferocity in his eyes. terial things, there was no conception his equanimity for the balance of his He came slowly, every movement of him alive with ponderous strength. He was a maniac. He was insane He

"I cannot," she told him.

The savageness which was in him.

jaws. He advanced a step towards

"I shall not again ask you to love

me," he harshly stated; "but you must

marry me. I have made up my mind

"Impossible!" Angry now and con-

"I'll make you! There is no re

source I will not use. I'll bankrupt

your family. I'll wipe it off the earth.'

palms. She felt that her lips were

cold. Her eyes were widening, as the

horror of him began to grow on her. He was glaring at her now, and there

was no attempt to conceal the savage

"I'll compromise you," he went on.

"I'll connect your name with mine in

such a way that marriage with me will

be your only resource. I'll be an in-

fluence you can't escape. There will

not be as step you can take in which

you will not feel that I am the mas-

Gail's nafls were pressing in her

her. His hands contracted.

to that."

temptuous.

cruelty on his face.

was frenzied by one mad thought which had swept out, of his universe to kill was no more fearful than the purpose which possessed him now. Gail, standing slight, fragile, her brown eyes staring, her brown hair disheveled about her white brow, felt,

"You were informed that I am not every atom of strength leaving her, de voured in the overwhelming might of this monstrous creature. The sheet "I meant to see you," he replied of music, which she had been holding all this time, dropped from her nerve less fingers and fluttered to the floor! There was a triumph in it. too, as if

That noise, slight as it was, served to arrest the progress of the man for just an instant. He was in no frame cention. "I have some things to say

ing dark



to reason, but some instinct urged him sired. He was possessed of a rage I will stop it just where it is. Why, to speed. He crouched slightly, as a wild beast might But the flutter of object, and one alone. Gail! She was don't like it, I shall have nothing to that sheet of music had done more his new summit, his new peak, the do with it." In that he lied, and con- for Gail than it had for him. It had loosed the paralysis which had held rest; but now his angry thought was he had made sure of her his ambition her, had broken the fascination of hor to attain it, and spurn it, broken and to conquer would come uppermost ror with which she had been speilcrumbled, as had been all the other again, and that he would pursue his bound. Just behind her was a low barriers to his will, and press ruthless- dream of conquest with even more ar. French window which led to a small ly onward into higher skies, he knew dor than before, because he had been side balcony. With one bound she burst this open, she did not know how



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ing hilarity in front of them like a a fence and walked through the marwave. Gail shoved her tangle of thoughts still farther back in her head. where he stood for a moment looking and the sparkle returned into her eyes

cation to Arly and Gerald's yacht "You might let Arly extend the invi-

tation herself," objected Ted.

"I've given the pleasure to Gerald." laughed Arly, with a vivacious glance it so much better. Now listen."

"It's a little informal week-end party. under discussion. "We should be to gain his ends. pleased to have you join us, and he Gail! If there had been tender included Mrs Boyd and the young rec- thoughts of her, they were gone now. tor with a nod

"Of course we'll come," agreed Gail. a week-end party once in your life?"

"Unfortunately custom has decreed that week-end parties shall cover Sun days," he regretted, but there was a calculating look in his eye which sent Lucile over to him

"Play booky just once," she begged. "This is only a family crowd, the Babbitts and Marion Kenneth, and we who are here."

Rev Smith Boyd looked at his mother, and that lady brightened visibly.

"When is it to be?" he asked.

"Saturday," Arly informed him, jointhought he had never seen a prettier women on either side of her

an instant, at Gail, who was now greatest commercial genius of his sitting on the leather couch leaning time; and he had much applause for it. confidingly against her Aunt Grace He Women. Yes, there had been womhad been at some pains to avoid this en. creatures of a common mold with young lady recently, for it is natural whom he had amused himself, had to spare one's self distress; but there taken them in their freshness, and quick sympathy.

proved Ted. "Stay away a Sunday or cess. Perhaps it had been bad for him. appreciate you better."

Lucile.

gether!"

in, laughing and chattering, and carry buttoning his coat around him, crossed think on that. Gail first! row strip of trees to the river bank.

out upon the misty Hudson, sparkling "We're bringing you a personal invi under the moonlight. He began to walk up and down the bank presently, party," jabbered Lucile, kissing every- the turf sinking spongly under his body in reach except Rev. Smith Boyd. feet, and it was noticeable that his pace grew more and more rapid, until he was striding at a furious rate of speed.

The man was in a torment of pasat that smiling gentleman "He does sion. He had spent a lifetime in the deliberate acquisition of everything

upon which he had set his will; and it on the Whitecap," Gerald informed was one of the things upon which he them, with a new something in him had built his success, that, once he which quite satisfactorily took the had fixed his desire deliberately upon place of cordiality. "Sort of a farewell anything, he had held unwaveringly to affair. Arly and I are about to take a that object, employing all the forces of selfish two months' cruise, all by our | which strong men are capable; patient selves," and he glanced fondly at the waiting, dogged persistence, or vicious handsome black-haired young woman grappling, whichever was best adapted

It was so that he had centered his mind upon her, and himself and his "Doctor Boyd, can't you arrange for will, until, in all creation, there was nothing else but that was trivial; ambition, power, wea'th, fame, the command of empires and of men, were

> nothing, except as they might lead to her! So it was that he had come this far. and the roadway to his present height was marked by the cripples he had left behind him, without compunction. without mercy, without compassion. Bankrupts strewed his way, broken men of purpose higher than his own.

useful factors in the progress of hu man life, builders and creators who had advanced the interest of the com-

monwealth, but who had been more A Flame Raged Through His Veins get you." ing Lucile, who had sat on the arm of brilliant in construction than they had Mrs. Boyd's chair. Arly sat on the been in reaping the rewards of their other one, and Gerald Fosland, with an building. It was for Allison to do this. entirely new appreciation of beauty , It had been his specialty; the reaping of rewards. It had been his faculty to picture than the sweet-faced old lady permit others to build, to encourage with the fresh and charming youny them in it, and then, when the building was done, to wrest it away from

Rev. Smith Boyd glanced, for just the builders. That marked him as the was a look of loneliness about ner broken them, and thrown them away; which sent his heart out to her in this in his earlier years. But in his maturity, he had bent all his strength

nounced, with a twinkle in the eyes of all those other things which men which he now cast upon his mother. had wanted and held most dear, among . "That's being a good sport." ap them acquisition, and power, and suc-

"Gail and Doctor Boyd must sing ing to these, he had the tremendously instructions that one person should re ; would scream, but he did not know for you," announced Aunt Grace, in abnormal moral effect of never hav, ceive that invariable message whom there was a trace of wistfulness. ing been thwarted in a thing upon "I beg your pardon, sir!" was the next Her heart seemed to have lost its ac-; lieving, by past accomplishment, that near startled remonstrance as was in the midst of her strewn music, with livo for years.

CHAPTER XXIV.

The Flutter of a Sheet of Music. Gail, in a pretty little rose-colored norning robe, with soft frills of lace cable tension, a reflex of his own, but, around her white throat and at her though her face was still pale, she white elbows, sat on the floor of the stood very calmly before him. music room amid a chaos of sheet music. She was humming a gay little held too long in leash, sprang into his song suggested by one of the titles face, his eyes, his lips, the set of his

Which Fairly Shook Him.

through which she had leafed, and was gradually sorting her music for the yacht party: instrumental pieces here, cold, something within her discovered popular things there, another little pile a will which was as strong in resistof old-fashioned glees which the as- ance as his was in attack. She knew sembled crowd might sing, just here it, and trembled in the knowledge a little stack of her own solos, nearby of it. the rector's favorites, between the two their ducts. It was her part in one of the latter she was humming now, missing, as she sang, the strong accompaniment of Rev. Smith Boyd's mellow voice. She was more peace but dimiy, in the eyes of any man; ful this morning than she had been but she needed no experience to tell for many days.

his hinges should be oiled.

"Miss Gail is not at home, sir," she two, and Market Square church will this concentration, for now it left him heard the butler say, and Gail paused hoarsely told her, and, his arms tensed at the height of his maturity, with mis- with a sheet of music suspended in and his head slightly lowered forward. died!" "Let's have some music," demanded taken fancies, with long pent fires, her hand, the whole expression of her he made as if to advance toward her with disproportionate desires. Bring- face changing. She had only given He saw in her frightened eyes that she

"They do sing so beautifully to which he had set his mind, and of be observation Gail heard, in a tone of as tion, and she stood, trembling, faint, them this morning he was likely to

"That would make no difference, Mr and leaped over the light balcony Allison," she replied. "I told you last rail, and ran across the lawn to the night that I would not marry you be- rectory gate, up the steps and into the cause I do not, and could not, love you side door, and into the study, where There does not need to be any other Rev. Smith Boyd sat toiling over a reason." There was in her an inexpli sermon.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Avoiding Disaster.

The parish priest had spoken seri ously to Murphy several times about the wasteful habit of treating, and urged him when attending market to keep his change in his pocket until he reached home, and then hand it over to his wife.

Some weeks afterward his reverence, passing through the market, no ticed Murphy and a few companions leaving a public house. "Now, I saw you in there a moment ago," began his reverence.

"Ach, sure Oi cudn't hilp it, yer rivirince!" said his parishioner. "Sure Of fist foun' a hole in me trousers pockit, an was afeered Oi'd lose the change afore Oi'd git home!"

Birds' slaughter Blocks.

In country districts where shelled snails' are abundant a thrilling thing it is to see robin, goldunch or thrush capture a snail and hie them to a certain smooth-topped stone, there to soar high in the heavens and repeatedly drop the unhappy snail until finally the shell is triumphantly cracked open as you would a nut.

ter of it. Marry you? I'll have you These slaughter blocks, anvils 'M if it takes ten years! I'll have no stone are to be found almost anywhere other end in life. I'll put into that one that birds and snails are common. It purpose all the strength and all the is, to be sure, no easy matter, to catch will that I have put into the accomthe resourceful birds in the act; but plishment of everything which I have even if your patience goes unrewarded done; and the longer you delay me the crushed and broken houses of the sooner I'll break you when I do shell scattered near such stones tell the tale.

Painting Walls.

Before paint or calcimine is applied to walls every crevice should be filled with plaster or cement. To the calcimine put one-quarter pound white glue in cold water overnight and heat grad ually in the morning until dissolved Mix eight pounds of whiting with hot water; add the dissolved glue and sur together, adding warm water until the consistency of thick cream Use a teeth. Into his eyes there sprang a calcimine brush and finish as you go blaze which she had never before seen. along if skim milk be used instead of water the glue may be omitted.

That Ought to Cure Her.

A man out West, who married a widow, has invented a device to cure her of eternally praising her former husband Whenever she begins to descant on his noble qualities, this ingenious No. 2 merely says: "Poor. "Then I'll have you anyhow!" he dear man! How I do wish he had not

The Sorrow of It.

"Is there no cope about the links rich old uncle?". 'None, whatever. The doctor toid

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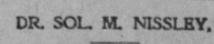
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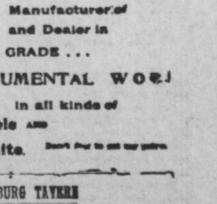
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Out of her very weakness had come strength; out of her overwhelming humillation had come pride, and though the blood had left her face waxen and "You can't make me marry you," she

said, with infinite scorn and contempt He cienched his fists and gritted his her its despicable meaning. His lips.

The butler came through the hall, which had been snarling, 'suddenly "I think I'll play hooky," he and to a greater passion; the acquirement and Gail looked up with a suppressed took a downward twitch, and were half giggle as she saw him pass the door | parted. His nostrils were distended, She always had an absurd idea that and his blood, feeding into his face. empurpled it.

that at that moment she could not.