

THE FACE OF ROSENTEL. BY CHARLES HOWARD MONTAGUE.

CHAPTER XX. MAN AND MISTRESS. Maxey and Dr. Lamar exchanged looks of alarm.

She was reclining in a corner, but when the door opened she started forward and ejaculated in a tremendous voice: "John!"



The physician was too quick for him.

When an officious personage, who would not let the servant's business, called at Mrs. Forgy's house the next morning, he found the place in confusion.

CHAPTER XXI. THE POWER'S WORK.

One afternoon Maxey sought a private audience with his wife. "Annette, dear, I want you to tell me something."

"Is it something about this mysterious affair that everybody has been absorbed in of late? The house for the last few days has been full of 'hush,' 'don't question me,' 'all in good time,' and other such exasperating answers, until I am quite resigned never to be curious again."

up with any silly notions about such subjects in my head. But one time, when I was about 15 years old, she became interested in a book on spiritualism, which she picked up in a second-hand book store.

"Then, in the name of all that is intelligible, why did you sketch it?" "Because, Julian, I wanted to make it real. Then if I must think of it as all I could think of it as a picture drawn upon canvas and persuade myself that it was no hobgoblin that was haunting me."

"That is a morbid fancy, little wife, growing, I fear, out of your unfortunately solitary and lonely childhood. A few years of bird songs and blue sky will cure you."

"But I don't see what all this has to do with the portrait," Maxey said wonderingly. "I will tell you, Julian. It was in one of these waking nightmares that I saw that face. Don't make me tell it, Julian! Don't make me tell it!"

"I was lying there in the alcove room looking toward the fireplace out there. It was just after I had been brought back here, before I had told you my story. I was watching the red coals in the grate. Presently I felt a sinking, dreamy sensation coming over me. I did not understand it. I was too weak to make any resistance to it."

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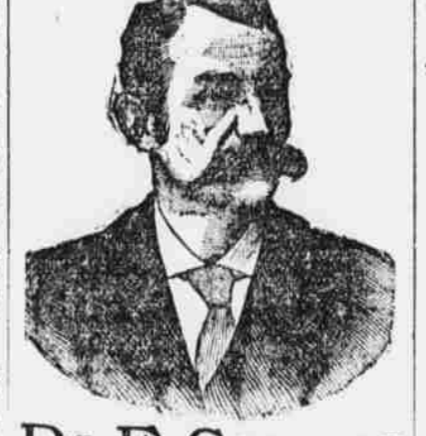
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cried Maxey. "It discards a ghost as if it were a monkey's body and makes of a grim and ghastly apparition the most natural event in the world."

"I shall hardly go as far as that, Eustace, but I am ready to acknowledge that you do many wonderful things."

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