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PART L

was the title that for some fifteen years had been tacked to the name of Percy Marfleet whenever he was mentioned in the local newspapers. Not undeservedly, for in his knowledge of books have much surpassed the leading books have much surpassed the leading men of the town, and his life was entirely devoted to study. Miss Cloud, the borough member's daughter, who had been at Girton, herself the marvel of woman hood in this not altogether benighted region, spoke of Mr. Marfleet with respect; indeed, for the last trades month or an thank hear general. twelve month or so it had been generally surmissed that the friendship between these distinguished persons would end in closer alliance—a most interesting and delightful prospect. The lady had entered upon her twenty seventh year; Marflect drew towards forty, but preserved the complexion and the carriage of youth. For him, such a union would in every way be advantageous, as, from his way of living, he evidently possessed but a modest competence, while Miss Cloud shone

For a man of parts and ambition, raised above the necessity of exerting himself to earn a livelihood, it is dangerous, after academic success, to re-turn to his native country town and settle there with the purpose of produc-tive study. As a rule, non have no such temptation. Percy Marfleet, whose-bent of mind was all towards homeli-ness, and who shrank from the tunuit ness, and who shrank from the tumuit not protonne. Not the great world, even while credit-of the great world, even while crediting himself with power to win distinc-tion, decided after a very brief trial of London, that he could not do better than go back to the scenes of his youth, where kindly notice would inspire him. where his health would be at its best, and where a modest income would, he imagined, assure him a much better status than among strangers. His family had a good name in the town; since the death of his parents and the marriage of his sister, upon him alone lay the duty of keeping the name in honthe duty of keeping the name in hon-grable prominence. Moreover, he owned the house in which he had been dorn, where the days of his boyhood had been passed. With infinite content-ment he read the newspaper paragraph which made known that "Mr. Percy Marfleet, the son of our late honored townson, beginning the property of the content. townsman, having completed a distinguished career at the University of Cambridge," had returned to the town, and intended to make it his permanent

From his earliest school prize to the from his earliest school prize to the final honors at Cambridge, each step of Percy's progress had been chronicled by the local paper. No special brilliance appeared in the successive achieve-ments; he had done well, nothing more; appeared in the successive achievements; he had done well, nothing more; but local pride made reach of his academic record. He was understood to be great in "history:" to historic study his life would be dedicated; if he ran up to London or to Cambridge, the newspaper announced that he was gone for the purpose of "consulting original documents." At first he declined to take any part in the affairs of the town, for which he had absolutely no leisure; but little by little certain honors were thrust upon him, and the satisfaction of making little speeches, carefully prepared and no less carefully reported, lured his mind from exclusive occupation with the past. At length he could be depended upon for an annual lecture at the literary society, for an address at the literary society, for an address of an enlightened movement—unconnected with politics. From strictly municipal business he succeeded in holding aloof, his true reason being fear of expense;, but this prudence not-



NOWADAYS HE ONLY READ.

withstanding: the esteem he enjoyed necessarily cost him-something in coin of the realm, and such demands upor his pocket grew heavier and more frequent with the progress of time. The day came when Percy had seriously to consider his financial position. Seeing no immediate way out of the difficulty, and fewling so comfortable in his daily life that a complete change could be relife that a complete change could hard y be thought of, he insensibly drifted into carelessness of the future. And so it came about that, in his thirtyeighth year, having long lived upon car ital, with steady growth of expenditure from Christmas to Christmas, he saw before him an inevitable crisis. Ine he no longer possessed; me sum of money which, even w parsimonious management, could last

him only a short time, and at the pres-ent rate of living would dissolve with

wful rapidity.
In the way of litreary productions he and done nothing. Years ago he made no secret of his undertaking; the work of his life was to be a continuation of Macaulay; latterly he very seldom spoke on this subject, or even distantly alluded to it. Since his thirtieth year dearcal, a latting had been added to scarcely a jotting had been added to the notes and rough sketches previ-ously accumulated. Nowadays he only read, and for the most part his read-ing had no connection with historic research. A large library, collected at no small outlay, gathered dust upon the shelves. Exponents the shelves. Expensive publications still reached him, simply because he lacked the courage to discontinue his subscriptions, and so to confess that his one object in life had melted away. together with his money. He spent the wonted number of hours locked in his study, but more often than not a day dragged through in sluggish mooning or in the tortures of anxiety. As usual, he pottered about the garden; as usual, he paid and received visits, at usual, he hald and received visits, at-tended meetings, made little speeches, helped to get up little entertainments of intellectual cast. And no fellow-townsman marked the slightest change

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One hope remained; yet it could hardly be called a hope; rather, a troubled imagination of something that might have fallen to his lot in happler circumstances. Until of late no thoughts of marriage had lured or perturbed him; he cared but moderately for the society of women, and, like most men of his temper, kept very clearly in view the sacrifices and perils attaching to wedlock; his pleasant, roomy house, al ways quiet and fragrant under the rule of an excellent domestic, would under-go such changes if a mistress entered into possession. For all that, there was one woman who often occupied his thoughts, and in some degree had power over his emotions; in part because of her social rank, partly because of her education, and, last but not least, by virtue of her personal charm. Certain-ly he liked Eveline Cloud; he was flattered by the deference she paid him, and felt something very attractive in the modesty with which she spoke of her own attainments. By slow degrees their intimacy had grown and ripened. At first he was slightly afraid of her; the smile ever lurking about her lips seemed to threaten criticism of an unas the sole heiress of her father's forfamiliar keenness: who could say what equipment of modern views these young ladies brought with them from Girton's Gradually he perceived that Eveline's position in the town was somewhat like his own—that her prestige rested upon



vague report rather than on present evidence of learning and ability. He

judged her intelligent, but certainly not profound. Nor did she make parade

TAM DELIGHTED," WAS HER EX-

CLAMATION. ferred the companionship of her pro-vincial friends to the society she met when with her father in London. Her pronounced; she was fervent in orthodoxy, and, as years went on, accepted with decision her place as leading lady in social or charitable organizations Personally, Miss Cloud no longer over-awed him, for he felt that he under-stood her. Her behavior to him was of such frank friendliness that no wonder their acquaintances observed them with a genial smile. Marfleet sometimes came away from the house brooding. But for his incredible folly. which had brought him within sight of disaster he saw no means of repairing, might he not reasonably have aspired to a marriage which would at once exalt his position and promote his happiness? What possibility of it now?

The secret, of which no one had a sweet of the culm banks have been putting out quite a heavy output. This is also meeting with a good demand at a fair price. We have heard very little of late of an increase in freight rates. picion, weighed but the more heavily upon his own mind.
In conversation one day with Miss

Cloud, he chanced to speak of some political incident in the reign of Queen Anne, a point which it seemed to him the historians had misunderstood.
"Have you reached that in your book?" asked Eyeline, with a glance of

interest.
His eyes dropped; he was uncomfortably aware of that lurking smile about the fresh-colored lips.
"In the first rough draft," he

strained himself to answer. And Eveline's eyes reassured him, so friendly were they, so devoid of troublesome

"Have you never thought, Mr. Mar-

work was written, but might it not be possible 10 shape out of his notes a few interesting chapters, which the reviews would print and pay for? 'Miss Cloud's happy suggestion had a strong effect upon him; it revived his energies, and for the next few weeks he actually engaged in literary composition. He wrote a more of some learth He wrote a paper of some length. and dispatched it to the editor of an important monthly. What was more, so sanguine had he become in consequence of this effort, that he revealed the matter to Miss Cloud

"I am delighted!" was her exclama-tion—and she really looked it. "When do you think it will appear?" "Oh." he faltered, "impossible to say. Perhaps—it might not strike the editor as worth much.'

"What! the result of years and years of study! That's impossible." And Eveline added: "I have noticed, Mr. Marfleet, that you seem rather despondent of late."

They were alone on one of the garden They were alone on one of the garden terraces, and Eveline's voice had an in-tonation of peculiar gentleness. A more ardent admirer or less scrupulous man would have used the opportunity: Marfleet merely grew confused "It's nothing, I wasn't aware of

"I'm afraid you work too hard," sounded in the soft, kindly accents, "Oh! dear, not." He laughed, "I feel perfectly well-perfectly." And, indeed, there was little amiss in

And, indeed, there was little almss in his appearance. He had a pleasant color, a clear eye, the excellent teeth of a healthy man who did not smoke. For years he had gone to bed at eleven o'cleek and risen only at nine; he had never fallen short in exercise, are heartly, and found plenty of amusement. It would take a long time before mental distress, such as he was now suffering wrote itself upon his countenance. No one thought it unnat-ural for Miss Cloud to take an interest Marfleet; decidedly he was a personable man, well set up, well featured, and always carefully dressed. Eveline, for her part, could not be called handsome; but for her position, suitors would hardly have singled her from a group of amiable-looking young women. Yet the good blood in her yeins, the kindly, intelligent light of her eyes, and that lurking smile, wrought durable bonds for the heart of any man once thoroughly subdued

to their charm.

Not long after this conversation Miss Not long after this conversation Miss Cloud went with her father to town, where she remained for more than three months. For nearly the same period Percy Marfleet lived in uncertainty as to the fate of his historical essay, and the time passed drearfly enough. When Eveline's return drew near he resolved to make inquiry of the silent editor, and a stoody really but silent editor, and a speedy reply put an end to his suspense. The editor re-gretted that he could not make use of Mr. Martheet's interesting paper, which he now sent back. It was a blow to Marfeet, and after a few days spent in recovering from the dizziness, the poor fellow took a dark resolve.

(To be continued.)

Anthracite interests claim that the actual demand for pea and buckwheat sizes of coal at advances is destined to materially increase earnings. Heretofore these sizes have been more or less of a drug on the market at this season. The improvement is attributed in part to the formation of the soft coal pool, bituminous being a direct competitor in the steam market.

The Supreme court of Virginia has just decided a case of great importance to railroads and other corporations in that state. It was the case of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Rail-York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Rai-way company against the board of su-pervisors of Northampton county, in which the right of the county to levy the property of such companies for district school taxes was involved. The court holds that this cannot be done under the present statutory laws.

At the annual meeting of the stock-holders of the Columbus, Hocking Valley and Toledo Railroad company held Wednesday the following directors were elected; Thomas F. Ryan, C. B. Alexander, W. A. Mills, C. Morris, J. W. Ellsworth, Calvin S. Brice, P. W. Huntington, Samuel D. Davis and James Kilbourne, Samuel D. Davis and James Kilbourne, Samuel D. Davis James Kilbourne. Samuel D. Davis was elected first vice-president and Charles B. Alexander second vice-president. The full report for the year was not ready to be submitted to the stockholders, owing to the recent death of President Waite.

Officials of the Southern Railway company say that the plan proposed with reference to Memphis and Charleston will prove profitable to the South-jern road on account of the volume of new business which can be given to the Memphis and Charleston. Herstofore the Southern railway has turned western traffic over to the Kansas City.
Memphis and Birmingham line because
the Southern had a larger haul by this
route than it would get by the Memphis
and Charleston. It received business in exchange at Birmingham. Should the Southern control the Memphis and Charleston, it could at once divert this Southern control the Memphis and amount of business to the Memphis and

to an increase in production. The general answer has been that it will not, and there appears to be very little desire in that direction. Whatever controlling influence there may be in the trade will be exercised against it, and in ad-dition the companies as individuals would be opposed, fearing a repetition would be opposed, rearing a repetition of the demoralization of previous years. They are very well satisfied with current net results, which return fully 30 cents per ton more for coal than was received in March of last year. An important factor from the revenue point of view is the sharn advance in pea and of view is the sharp advance in pea and buckwheat sizes. They are in excellent demand at from \$2.30 to \$2.50 for pea. and \$2 for buckwheat. This is an advance of some 30 to 50 cents per ton. and returns a handsome profit on from 20 to 25 per cent, of the total tonnage. Of late a number of washeries operating on the culm banks have been put-The secret, of which no one had a sus- and it is probable that this will not be made unless there is in prices. As to higher figures for coal this spring, there is some little diversity of opinion, although the maand summer. There were a number of reports last week in the New York market of slight concessions by inde market of slight concessions by inde-pendent operators. As far as we can learn these are practically baseless. The operators independent of the com-panies are having no difficulty in se-curing their quota of tonnage, but any attempt to exceed this amount is met with a statement from the railroads that there is a shortage of cars. Knowing that they cannot increase their tonfleet, of publishing some portions of ceive as much therefor as possible. Most your work in periodicals—as some of the independents are marketing their Yes, he had thought of it, and very lately. To be sure no portion of his work was written, but might it not be possible to shape out of bless.

> A Youngstown, O., dispatch says: The Union Iron and Steel company is running on one of the largest orders of finished iron ever shipped from this valley. The order is from Bombay, India, and shipments have already begun. An immense amount of cotton ties have already been shipped, but this will form but a small part of the Every package sent out will be d: "Made in the United States."

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The board of directors of the Lehigh Valley Railroad company at a recent meeting decided to restore the 10 per cent, reduction in salaries made in 1883. The change affects all employes who reenved fixed yearly compensation.

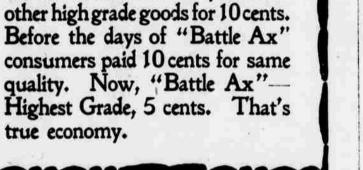
### INDUSTRIAL.

Says the stockholder: A general air Says the stockholder: A general air of satisfaction permeates the anthractite coal trade these days. Every bit of coal that is being mined finds a ready market, and some of the interests are complaining that they are forced to buy from competitors to meet orders. In view of this, full circular prices are not surprising. In, talking with different producers, we have inquired if this shortage will not lead to an increase in production. The genjority are of the belief that the present circular will be reaffirmed for the spring nage, they are naturally anxious to re





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