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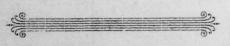
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caution you a little? This neighborhood is an isolated one. I do not think it quite wise or safe for a young girl to be out alone here abouts after dark."

my observation, however, and, fearing to delay Madam's dinner-hour by my absence, shortly after forsook my post and went back to The Ivies, in a state

—that I would put a few questions to old Franklin, and, possibly, take him into my confidence. Accordingly, that night, after I had conducted Madam door brought me back from dream-



FRANKLIN. DOES ANYONE EVER G back to the boudofr when dinner wa over, I asked her to excuse me for a few moments, and returned again to the dining-room, where I found the ancient servitor clearing the table. "Franklin," I began, "does anyone ever go into the Stone House for any outprose?"

pearance with a welcoming smile, for, as I have said, I was a favorite with him, and he was always gratified if

BUTLER, PA., THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1899

ADAMOF THE IVIES.

BY ELIZABETH PHIPPS TRAIN.

[Copyrighted by the Author.]

SYNCPSIS:

CHAPTER L—The scene of the stery is di in the village of Elicos, at an old home ad, "The Ivies," about which there is not and anxiety

I saw that for some unknown reason as if my words had sugnated as the part of the p tonsiderable mystery. Denothy Lothrop, the heroine, applies for the position of companion to Mrs. Eldreage, the mistress of the house. At the station she makes the acquaintance of Dr. Spencer, one of the prominent characters of the story.

CHAPTER II.—Dorothy is engaged by Mrs. Eldridge, who she discovers is blind, and enters at once upon her duties as companion.

I saw that for some unknown reason he was too powerfully affected by the neighborhood of the curious old dwelling to serve me as aid in unravelling its mysteries. I thought it better, therefore, to throw him whorly off the scent, for, as he was not available as conductor, he might be obstructive, if suspicious "Oh, I do not know that anything is really wrong there," I replied. "I dare

house."

If she was in any way concerned in the mystery, she was too wary to be caught napping. Her air of mingled surprise and incredulity was inimitable, and if she was acting a part I thought she possessed a rare gift of dissembling.

"Oh, that could not be!" she said; "unless, indeed, the Stone House is becoming haunted."

I laughed, and went back to Madam,

that the world seldom produces men of such type as his."

"And yet you do not love him," I felt like saying, though, of course, I gave no such license to my speech.

When I returned to my own rooms for the night, I put on a loose wrapper, and as was my custom, seated myself being out at such a time, and insisted upon accompanying me as far as the gates. As I approached the Stone House I detected—perhaps no one but a person bent on discovery would have noted, it—a line of light, a mere luminous thread, gleaming through the intestice of the shutters of one window. I paused some moments, watching it closely. I gained nothing further, from my observation, however, and, Tearing spare no thought for the consideration of fictitious narrative.

and went back to The Ivies, in a state of great doubt and perplexity.

I could not see my course clear in the matter. Had I been instructed in the story of Madam's life, I should have better known how to act. As it was I feared to touch rew wounds, to make trouble for my beloved mistress, by alluding to a mystery which might be connected with past suffering and sorrow. But I did resolve upon one thing—that I would put a few questions to old Franklin, and, possibly, take him into my confidence. Accordingly, that

"Come in," I called. The handle turned, and Mrs. Mayberry appeared upon the threshold. I urged her to enter, and she did o, carefully closing the door behind ler. Her face was even whiter than u al, and I could see

"I will go to her at once," I said. "My sather died of consumption; I am per-ectly informed regarding the proper I spoke somewhat peremptorily, as ne having authority; but she made no lotion of compliance, Indeed, she tretched out her hand as if to detain medies. Come.

The old fellow had greeted my appearance with a welcoming smile, for, as I have said, I was a favorite with him, and he was always gratified if I singled him out for special notice. At my words, however, his face fell into gloom, and his voice, as he replied to my question, was grave and troubled.

"No one, Miss Lothrop," he said, with curt brevity.

"Who has the keys to it?" I continued, determined not to be discouraged by his apparent disrelish of the subject.

"Mrs. Mayberry," he answered "Don't you ever go down there, to see if things are as they should be? Does not Madam expect someone to see that it is kept in proper repair? She has told me that she has an affection for the place; is it not your duty to see that it is kept in proper repair? She has told me that she has an affection for the place; is it not your duty to see that the house does not suffer from neglect?"

I almost regretted my questions, so shocking an effect did they produce upon the faithful old soul His aged face worked, his lifs trembled, and his hands, that held a tray of glasses, shook so that their burden jingled noisily



"And I," she responded, in a tone as firm as my own, if less musical, "I feel that my duty to Madam impels me to sacrifice more than my life itself to conceal from her the motive for these actions. More than the life itself to conceal from her the motive for these actions. More than the life itself to conceal from her than my life itself to conceal from her than motives asy. But let me warn you Miss Lothrop, that if you meddle in matters of which you'know nothing, you will some day live to repent it. Now I must go. Will you be so good as to tell me what I must co for my patient?"

Once more she was the servile dependant. I sketched a line of action for her, and she took her departure,

In the morning I asked Frankin how his niece was, and, as I suspected, evoked his surprise by my inquiry. Neither of the women was ill; why had I thought that such was the case? I evaded his question. In the course of the morning an event occurred which, for a time, eclipsed all recollection of Mayberry's queer proceedings.

lection of Mayberry's queet proceedings.

I was engaged in singing to Madam about eleven o'clock. We were went to vary our occupations by a little music, of which she was passionately fond. She had, in especial, a light for old ballads, although she had also inpor the threshold. I urged her to enter, and she did o, carefully closing the door behind | r. Her face was even whiter than u al, and I could see that there was an intense tremulousness in all her mus les, which she only commanded by im—ense effort.

"I am sorry to disturb you, Miss Lothrop," she said, und I observed that she was glad to st ady herself by the support of the ba-c of a chair, "but I have no one else o go to, as I never trouble Madam with domestic matters. One of the maids his burst a blood-vessel, and I do not know what remedies to apply. I have had no experience in similiar cases, and ! thought you might be able to offer me some suggestion."

I rose at once from my chair. At first it did not occur to me that the woman was not speaking the literal truth. I had a horror of blood myself, and thought he runusual agitation was due to a like sentiment. My first thought was to go to the sufferer. "Has the hemorthage stopped?" I asked.

"Nearly," she replied.

"Nearly, she replied

but in that instant Madam awoke from

What is it?"

There is certainly a prematernal affection. Before

with an intonation that there was no love for him in her heart. In another moment his arms were about her and I was standing upon the other side of the closed door.

The home-coming of its master naturally made a considerable difference in the simple domestic routine of Tarlivies. A more ceremonious manner of living always follows upon the installation of a male head of a household. Madam and I had refewed informality; Darracott Chester, although a man of few requirements, wished those requirements, wished those requirements propely fulfilled. Our household began to broaden itself out; unused rooms we:- denuded of their swathings and opened to the light of day; more elaborate and more numer-

benefit a Bing was his here's like those of a child who has been de larger to which a graced long been a stranger.

CHAPLER VI.

It was not a great while before the news of Darracott Chester's return crept through the neighborhoad. By degrees acquaintanees began to present themselves at The Ivies, and these no longer found their inquiries greeted by the old formula of exclusion. If resembly it seemed to me that every one within a radius of twenty miles had called, with the exception of Dr. Spencer and his mother. They only, of all whom I visited, refrained from asking he master of the house, beneath whose of the traveler or mentioning him in any connection. And yet I knew that formerly David Spencer and Darracott Chester had been close friends. What had caused the breach between them?

Notwithstanding the fact that Madam am had prepared me for the absence of herole attributes in her son's appearance. I was distinctly disappointed in him at first sight. He was neither tall nor short, graceful nor awkward, handsome nor homely. My first impression of him was one of exceeding mediocrity. Meeting him in the street, I should never have glanced at him agent to atone, approached with a place of the mistress, and the state of the day, proved too much for my seems deleasy in the position of deliter, and I knew that I adan or short that I had no right to interpose between mother and son, but the contemplation of that tacit acknowled in the state of the contemplation of that tacit acknowled in the state of the contemplation of that tacit acknowled in the state of the measure of the travel of the and policy and the policy and the project of the many of the policy. I made one or two tentative remarks hopping to open up a channel through the hopping to open up a channel through the hopping to open up a channel through the form y sense of propriety. I fave to the sale and, failing on my kness, there are projected and, failing on my kness, there are projected and, failing on my kness, there are projected and, failing on my knes



are grounded on fact; it is but common retribution that I should be reminded

Fomerly

Fom "NOU ARE A COWARD!" I CHIED.

IN ANOTHER MOMENT HIS ARMS WERE

IN

future merely to humor his own in This would give one the impression won me to him was a rare and never-failing thoughtfulness, which antici-pated the need of others almost be-fore it was experienced. Yet I felt it illustrative of the contrariety of his nature that, while so considerate of the small requirements of those about him, he could yet have left one to whom he was bound by the closest ties of nature to a desolate, lonely and bereft old age.

One day, after Darracott had been at home some ten days, I received a note from Mrs. Spencer, containing an invitation, or rather a request, that I should dine and pass the evening with them upon the following day.

"We feel sadly forsaken of late," she wrote. "David has grown dull and disspirited, and I am too old a story to entertain him. Do come and cheer us up, there's a good child. David will bring you safely home, if you will allow him to do so."

If happened that, as I was presenting the case to the Madam and asking for leave of absence, her son entered the room. Observing that I was reading a letter, he was about to withdraw with a word of apology, but I prevented him.

It's nonsense, miss, of course, but it may in time make it impossible for my mistress to secure servants willing to live here."

"And what does Mayberry have to say to all this?"

"She gets quite violent and excited, miss, and calls them hard names. She's changed a good bit of late, Mrs. Mayberry has. I wouldn't like to say it to anyone but you, Miss Lothrop, but she really does not properly attend to her duties in the house here, and I am obliged to look after things a good deal more closely than my position re-I am obliged to look after things a good deal more closely than my position re-quires, for fear my mistress and NR. Chester will not be properly cared for I I chewed the cud of this reflection as I strolled down to the village. I, of course, had detected long since the change in the housekeeper, but it was not my place to comment upon it.

for my interlocutor laughed knowingly, which so filled me with a desire to prove indifference to David Spencer that I was inspired to make a most unusual request of my mistress.
Could Holmes drive in for me about ten o'clock, Madam?" I asked. "I should prefer not to trouble Dr. Spencer to see me home."
She gave a ready assent, but her son confinued to terse me by begging me to consider the doctor's disappoint-

"You will simply be forced to go back the next day and cheer him up again."
he protested. "What a mission you have found in life, Miss Lothrop!
Mother, you are not half so solicitous for my welfare as Mrs. Spencer is for Dayid's. I have never heard you sug-

reduced so distressing an effect upon Isdam. She was not one to display motional disturbance, unless for some rave reason, but now her features to an ashen palfer, and her hands hasped each other tightly, while term the those of a child who has been descried in a fiagrant fault.

I knew that I had no right to inter-

terrupted by the placing of a soft hand over my impetuous lips.
"Dorothy, Dorothy, hush!" she entreated. "You know nothing about it, my child. I deserve it all—and mease. Nay, Dare, my son"—ob! what san imfinity of tenderness and remorsefulness was there in the gentle voice as it addressed the man who, repentant and eager to atone, approached with a picliminary ejaculation of "Mother!"—"nay, you need not seek to make a mends for your just implications; they

"YOU ARE A COWARD!" I CRIED.

a quizzical and yet stern smile in his eyes.

"I am a man of average proportions, Miss bothrop; scarcely infinitesimal enough to be reckoned outside your category."

"You mean—" I paused in amazement, absolutely unable to construe him.

room, which he did almost immediately. I made my excuses to my mistress. I spent a charming evening at the Spencer's. Both mother and son were in good spirits, and the hours sped rapidly away. I told Dr. Spencer that i had arranged to have Holmes come for me, and, probably understanding my motive, he considerately made no comment on the arrangement. I must not forget, by the way, to mention a little incident which occurred before I set out for my visit.

Franklin had come to my room during the afternoon with a very dis-Franklin had come to my room during the afternoon with a very distressed face.

"Miss Lothrop," he began, "I state afraid we are going to have trouble with the new servants. They and Mrs. Mayberry are at odds, and there's rowing below-stairs about all the time,"

"What seems to be the trouble?? I asked. "What do they complain of?"

"They don't complain exactly," he replied. "But they've taken it into their heads—the stupid fools!—that the Stone

"They don't complain of?"

"But they've taken it into their heads—the stupid fools!—that the Stone

"They don't complain of?"

"They don't complain exactly," he replied. "But they've taken it into their has given you delain upon my regard second to my mother for my mother has given you delain upon my regard second to my delain upon

The ancients made a art of the cultivation of the eyelashes. It was recognized that, besides adding to the expression of the eyes, the lashes preserved them from the dust cold wind. cognized that, besides adding to the expression of the eyes, the lashes preserved them from the dust, cold, wind and to glaring light, all of which tend to irritate and often inflame the eye. It is therefore not a vanity to endeavor to obtain them and then preserve them from faling out.

A little pure veseline applied to the eyelashes every night will aid their growth and strengthen them.

change in the nonseaseper, our it was not my place to comment upon it. Since the night when I had weedyed her appeal for advice I had very seldom come in contact with her, and new interests at The Iyles had rendered me

dwell upon the thought of the Stone House or its singular manifestations. I would have loved dearly to take my

I would have loved early to take my kind hosts into my confidence this evening, and ask their advice as to the whole affair, but I had never broken through my rule not to gossip with anyone of events connected with my life at The Ivies.

About ten o'clock I heard the sound of wheels stopping before the doctor's

About ten o clock I neard the sound of wheels stopping before the doctor's gate, and prepared to depart.

"Will you be so good as to call dut to Holmes that I am coming?" I suggested to my host; "it will save the old man's getting out."

He complied, and, a few moments later accompanied me out to the car-

newhat inattentive to the claims of my rillage friends and pensioners, so that I had had but little occasion to

An interesting calculation has been made, which shows that a pound of good coal equals the work of one man for one day. One square mile of a seam of coal only 4 feet deep would

"They don't complain exherty, he replied. "But they've taken it into their heads—the stupid fools!—that the Stone House is haunted, and the idea sends Mayberry into fits. She gets regularly violent when they talk about it, and they talk more than they otherwise would do simply to tease her."

"H'm!" I murmured. "I wonder what they say about the house; do you know, Franklin?"

"Well, miss, they do say that when they come home from the village at night—a couple of them have families living in Eldon, and they go back and forth often—they sometimes see a ghostly figure standing at one of the windows and hear a woman's voice singing or screecting in the house. It's nonsense, miss, of course, but it may in time make it impossible for

"Tabacco Piant as a Floral Emblem.

"There is one flower," says a writer in a London paper, "which has apparently been overlooked by Americans in their search for a suitable floral emblem, which I think is worthy of their attention. I refer to that of the tobacco plant (nicotiana) in its many varieties. It is handsome; the plant is, I believe, indigenous to America, and its importance as the solace of the human race is indisputable.

exceed the work of 1,000;000 men for

It is perfectly amazing to notice carefully how much an ordinary shrub will grow in a single summer. A silver fir 2½ feet high was lately carefully measured. It had put forth 585 new shoots, varying from ½ an inch to 6 inches each.