



Mrs. Dene, thoughtfully. "Have you forgotten that Major Larron will be Lord Larronmore some day, while Mr. Graeme's money was gained in trade?"

"You seem to expect great things for your friend. I should have thought the latter match a more suitable one, supposing that either cared to play to win."

He spoke savagely, for the doubt had assailed him whether perhaps she regretted the title which once she might have shared, and he invariably grew bitter when the circumstances of his marriage were recalled to him.

But his wife, who had started at his tone, guessed what was passing through his mind, and with a gesture succeeded in clearing the cloud from his brow.

CHAPTER VII.

Unaware of the schemes that had been made for her settlement in life, Jane was charmed when the invitation came for her to go to Cawnpore. Independently of a natural love of change and gaiety, she was full of nervous delight at the idea of entering society—the society of which she had so often thought and dreamed.

But his wife, who had started at his tone, guessed what was passing through his mind, and with a gesture succeeded in clearing the cloud from his brow.

CHAPTER VIII.

asked, partly to carry off a certain shyness which all men feel on being they have won a woman's love.

"Certainly not; and it is extremely unlikely you ever will return it. That is what you to keep away and let her get this infatuation."

They were in her bungalow now, and she her white shawl close, and picked up umbrella which had fallen down.

"You are angry with me?" she asked him.

"Angry you? No."

"And yet I think I have meddled with matron not do not concern me?"

"I think like your sweet womanliness to see you have done. I respect you fondly and thank you."

They stopped before her door, and jumping up ground, he assisted her to alight.

"Good-bye, Mrs. Dene, I shall remember you have said, and I won't."

He stopped half-amused embarrassment.

"Won't?" she persisted, mercifully.

"I won't with your little friend, I promise."

Laughing comical confusion, she shook hands him, and wished him good-by, and for a moment looking after him drove away. Then with a smile stirring upon her lips, she went into bungalow.

Smiling she sauntered into the drawing-room taking off her gloves; but she became expressionless in a moan she saw her husband seated the open window. How was it that essence seemed to drive every feeling her heart except—except—was it?

"Gerald, I know you were here I would have home earlier."

"Then I ad you did not know, I never to deprive you of any pleasure."

He had now quickly the smile had faded her face on seeing him, and was but it should be so. Was he always to restrain upon her?

Could he not share her simple everyday though they were he for ever shut out participating in her deeper joys drops?

"My pleasure with you," she said, gently, as unconscious of what was in his mind.

"Your duty, I wish the words were synonymous."

Her lips quivered, and the tears came into her eyes before they could fall as he was at holding her ungloved hand between.

"Nora, don't I am a brute. I did not mean and I said. I was only vexed for a that I had not succeeded in making life happier than it is."

She looked at him sweetly, if gravely still, in a mist of unshed tears.

"Indeed," she said, "I think I am happy that I know she left him puzzling over the

CHAPTER V.

Mrs. Dene had been very constant in visits to Jane during her convalescence. Independently of her desire to satisfy the Colonel by showing his personal kindness in her power, she liked girl for her own sake, and was zealous for her social success.

"You are so pretty you are sure to be," she told her candidly one day.

"Don't you think?"—hesitatingly—"that it is vulgar to be pretty?"

if so, it is a vulgarity that many be glad to share?"—laughing.

Very likely, but that does not alter the

in England they say every milk-

and fisher-girl you meet has a trim and pretty face. Good looks are another name for good health. Now,

we are well educated—"

For we are as many of women who move in good society, and have very charming manners, which will find more useful still. What else on want?"

wish I could dress as well as you," plied Jane, who, like a very woman inclined to set a high value upon branch of feminine industry.

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