

A'S BIRTHRIGHT.

Mrs. MRS. HARRIETT LEWIS.
“The Sundered Hearts,” “The Ballist’s
Ann,” “The Double Life,” &c.

CHAPTER XXV.
FATHER AND DAUGHTER.
And the steep mountain road rose
And the solitary peasant peeped
The sky was obscured by clouds and
Heard the wind howling from his gear,
Disabling.”

as fine and thick. The driver had taken two of ale or something stronger, and he

of the village street and the young woman, who was a friend of Lord Claira's, came forward at a run, of speed that she could not have known, as the driver, not permitting his walk, hurried them with a strain of the steep steps across what she took to be a steep passage with a sudden recklessness. "I shall all be killed," cried Lord Claira, as he fell, and he was indeed, as he fell, himself after a violent pain, forward into the "Fellow is drunk as a lord," said the fellow, "and he is a good one."

Donald replied by putting his head out of the window and commanding the driver to halt.

"In France," continued Lord Clair, ignoring the interruption, "young women do not make such an ado about their affections as the young ladies of this country. I have lived in France for many years, and I have seen the young ladies of the best families. I have lived so long in France that I am more of a Frenchman in many things than an Englishman. This may be a great reason for the conduct I have taken. But all my feelings are ended. You absolutely refuse to marry the earl and he has given over the project, partly in consequence of my refusal."

nted beside the driver and seized the
casing the man by his quiet air of com-

ated beside the driver and seized the steering man by his quiet air of commanding. "I am the captain of this ship," he journey was made. "I will make it carefully with all available resources the tired horse." Under Lord Ronald's no accident occurred, and the carriage at last before the castle upon the peak.

were blazing from every window; the were all opened and curtains were drawn

the splendor of the illumination enjoyed by the people of Brass Town. And it was shared and enjoyed. Lord Ronald had

Would you wish to return to France? I will not consent to leave England until you do so. But I want you to live with me, under my protection. You must agree to remain unmarried until you reach the age of twenty-one. In return for this promise, I will give you the right to marry whom you wish to, and I will secure your place of Residence for at least five years, and will do what I can for your comfort without lessening my own."

She was relieved, with an anxious one less hanging over her.

of the servant as Lord Ronald's speedy

"You have an income of a thousand pounds per year, and you are not going to give it up for the sake of the servant at Longwood's speedy recovery," he said.

"I have no concerns," the young man replied. "I have not even the reading of a book, and I have been returned a little over two years ago from the army, and I am not at all fit, and just at the time when I should be at the height of my career."

"Your lordship has met with so accidental a footman," it's a dark night, sir, and it is bad."

"I am not a violent man," he replied. "I am not a violent man, thank you," replied the footman.

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ald. "I came back with my friend, who
see Miss Clair. Has Miss Clair re-

He paid his part so well that even Lord Ronald was deceived. The baronet's display of selfish nature had served as an effective screen for his darker purposes. Lord Ronald reflected that

Mr. Macdougall, who had decided to
spend the night at the castle on account of the

Mr. Macdougall, who had decided to spend the night at the estate on account of the weather, was the first to speak.

"Clear marks his appearance, precluding and, Helene sprang to her feet in a very error.

"I am of her lover the next moment partially to her, but she was so pale and so tremored in an attitude of flight.

"The fat haren did not frown upon her or

"It might fast be say, in the case of Helene, to such a state of mind. Helene could not ask her at present to marry him; and, under all the circumstances, considering the inevitable scandal a different course would come, Helene herself accepted of the offer as her father's protection. He told her so in few words and in an undertone.

"Helene drew a breath of relief, her heart and judgment were so much inclined to the similar conclusion.

"I accept your proposition, father," she said.

with reproaches, as she expected. His placid face was actually wreathed in

"I will live with you so long as you keep to the terms of our agreement, or until I shall say my word is broken. But if you ever desert me, when I please, and Ronald is to visit me at his pleasure." "And, father," she added, firmly, "I must be a fact recognized by you as a fact, that Ronald is not for sale, and that I am not, and that we shall marry in due course of time."

"Very well," said the baron; "and I must also be a recognized fact: then, you marry, you shall remain my dear ANNE, and I shall be your father."

extended one cold little hand, as her
meel to expect her to do, and the Baron

extended one cold Irish hand, as he
 turned to expect her to do, and the Baron
 redoubled upon it, his nearest approach to
 hands upon ordinary occasions. But Miss
 used to have nothing to say, and looked
 nervous and ill at ease.

"Let Lord Ronald go to the Rose Town inn,"
 said Lord Ronald, and so returned with
 a blush, permit me to present Lord Clair,
 my son, Lord Clair."

ighted to see you, Mrs. Bliss," he said, with
a bow. "You are my daughter's cha-

"Thank you, Lord Blair," said Mrs. Ellis, and she turned to look at the Countess and Lady Carley with a possible speed. I must push through to London by express."

would like to be together, murmured

And I also, said Lord Ronald, who was not despondent at the prospect of a long and unscrupulous barren. "I must see Hecaton, who is no doubt very anxious about me. I will escort Mrs. Miles, and will call upon Miss Clair immediately after you have left. What hotel shall you stop at, Lord Clair?"

"The Alexandra. We shall be a week or two days in reaching London. Lord Ronald. Hecaton can tell you the best hotel to stop at. I am sure of our expected arrival. It is all settled then, and I will leave you now."

General. I have heard, I think, that Mrs. He
was not latterly upon good terms with to

Then Vassavor, being heart-laid, did everything. Is he at home? I started for London this morning, sir," she said. "He is expected back again almost this afternoon."

indeed. Who is the mistress of the castle ?
 your married ? "

[illegible]

glanced at her lover and replied that no

[illegible]

"I have to say to me can be said before my
I do not wish to see you alone."

days to let me know you can be said before my
I do not wish to see you alone."

And the treatment a daughter should accord
filial?"

"You treated me as a father should treat
her," returned the young girl.

"And your answer qualified before her father,"
said the doctor, "and the prints in the lapel of
her sweet blonde face showed him
and no child to deal with, but a suspicious,
and

air was not as harmless as the dove, but only was as cunning as a serpent. XX

deserved this," he said. "I can blame it all."

"You can, father," said Helene, coldly. "Is Lord Chariewick? Did you leave him below?"

"part company with him days ago," replied the duke, "and I have never seen him since."

me, but, he is an evil-minded man, and

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