*L*effeffeffeffeffeffeffeffe Tristram of Blent.

Being An Episode in a Story of An Ancient House. BY ANTHONY HOPE

(Copyright, 1901, by A. H. Hawkins.) Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Adelside, wife of Sir Randolph Edge of Bien; Hall, cloped with Captain Fitzhubert. Sir Randolph died in Russia, presumably in time for Lady Edge and Fitzhubert to marry and so make their son, Harry, testlimate. They learn later, however, that the date of Sir Randolph's death has been given incorrectly and Harry is not the rightful heit. They keep the matter secretically Mrs. Fitzhubert successful eventually Mrs. Fitzhubert successful eventually Mrs. Fitzhubert successful and the successful and the

She flung it across to Iver and rested her chin on her hand, while her eyes followed his expression as he read.

"I have thrown up the sponge at ... ded. Please make friends with Lady Tr. wam

For a white nobody spoke. Then Neeld, leaning forward to the table again, began to explain and excuse his silence, to speak of the hard case he was in, of the accidental and confidential character of his knowledge. Neither Mins nor her uncle even appeared to head him. Iver appeared to listen patiently and courteously, but his mind, too, was distracted, and he did not cease Edgeting with Harry Tristram's letter and referring ever and again to its brief, sufficient message.

'I daresay I was wrong. The position was very difficult," pleaded Neeld. "Yes, yes," said lyer, in an absentminded tone. "Difficult, no doubt, Neeld, both for you and Mina. And now he has-

he has given up the game bimself. Or was his hand forced?" "No," flashed out Mina, restored in a moment to animation, her fighting instincts awake again. He'd never have been forced. He must have done it or his own accord.

'But why "' again he turned to the letter. 'And why does be write to you?" Because he knew I knew about it. udn't know that Mr. Neeld did." 'And this this Lady Tristram of Blent?"

on the scene, to give the speaker a more to help her with the puzzle. atriking answer.

"A woman to see you, ma'am. Miss Mina Zabriska Catusborough.

a sudden wrench Mina turned her chair ute round toward the door. A tall, slim giri in black came in with a quick, yet hesitat-"Forgive me, Mme. Zabriska. But I had what are we to do now?"

to come. Harry said you were his friend. Do you know anything about him? you know where he is?" She looked at the men and blushed as she returned their bow with a hurried recognition.

"No, I haven't seen him. I know nothing," said Mina. 'The letter, Mina," Duploy reminded her

and Mina held it out to Cecily. Ceelly came forward, took and read it She looked again at the group, evidently

"He doesn't say where he's gone," she said.

You are-2" Iver began. "I'm Cecil Gainsborough, But I think he means me when he says Lady Tristram of Blent."

'Yes, he must mean you, Miss Gains

borough. "Yes, because last night he told me-Her eyes traveled quickly over their faces and she reread the letter. "Do you know anything about it?" she demanded, im-"Tell me, do you know what he neans by this letter, and whether what

he says is true?"

'We know what he means," answered Iver gravely, "and we know that it's true. "Have you known it long?" she asked "Iver glanced at Duplay and Neeld. It was Neeld who answered gently: "Some of us have been sure of it for some time.

But-" He looked at Mina before he went "But we didn't intend to speak." Cecily stood there, seeming to consider and for a moment meeting Mina's intense gaze, which had never left her face.

"Had he known for long?" was her nex question. It met with no immediate answer. Du-

play rose abruptly and walked to the mantelpiece; he leaned his arm on it and turned half away from the group at the table. "Had he known for long?" Cecily re-

"Ever so long," answered Mina Zabriska in a low voice, but very confidently.

'Ah, he was waiting till Lady Tristram Iver nodded; he thought what she sug-

gested a very good explanation to accept

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Harry Tristram with a decent excuse for his past silence and a sound reason for the

"He told me there." There was embar- in the Beardsdale case.

"Certainly not, I've only seen him once, and then he didn't talk of his own affairs. takes the thing very well. He's lost his position and he's the hero of the newspapers, and he bears both afflictions quite coolly. A lad of good balance, I think." 'Is he agreeable?"

"Hum, I'm not sure of that. cess of modesty, I fancy. "I suppose you mean he's not shy? All

young men are conceited. I think I should like you to bring him to see me." For forty years such an intimation from Lady Evenswood had enjoyed the rank of

proper obedience. "The solution I spoke of has occurred to some of us," he went on. "He's poor new, but with that he could make a marriage. The case is very exceptional-

"So is what you propose, George, "O, there are precedents. It was done "There was a doubt there." Lady

Southend, she had danced with both parties "The house was against the marriage

unanimously. But he did not deny the doubt.

this task, she gave Ceelly a critical The advent of Neeld produced more discussion. Yet Southend said nothing of the matter which he had brought to Lady Ev-CHAPTER XVI.
The New Life.
"You haven't mentioned it to the enswood's attention. Discretion was necessary there. Besides he wished to know how the land lay as to Janie Iver. On that subyoung man himself " asked Lady Evens-

ject his friend preserved silence. 'And the whole thing was actually in old Joe's dairy!" exclaimed Southend. Neeld, always annoyed at the "Joe," ad-

mitted that the main facts had been recorded in Mr. Cholderton's journal and that he himself had known them when nobody else in England did, save, of course, the conspirators themselves. T've seen Harry Tristram.

'Ah, how is he?" asked Neeld. "Never saw a young man more composed in all my life. And he couldn't be better satisfied with himself if he'd turned out to be a duke." "We know Harry's airs." [ver said, smil-

a command; Lord Southend received it with ing indulgently. "But there's stuff in him. A note of regret came into his voice. "Ha treated me very badly-I know Neeld won't admit it, but he did. Still. I like him and I'd help him if I could."

Well, he atoned for anything wrong by owning up in the end." remarked Southend. "That wasn't for my sake or for-well, it had nothing to do with us. As far as we Evenswood knew all about the Bearsdale are concerned he'd been at Blent today. It was Cecily Gainsborough who did it." case, though it was ancient history to Yes. I wonder-

Iver rose decisively. 'Look here, South end, if you're going to do exactly what all my friends and neighbors are doing. I shall go and write letters." With a nod he "Well, what are you going to do?" she walked into the next room, leaving Neeld



WHAT WERE YOU ALL DOING HERE WHEN I CAME?" ASKED CECILY. THEM WHAT I KNEW ABOUT HARRY TRISTRAM, BUT I WOULDN'T TELL."

very much. He watched me, then he asked asked me if I loved the things. And-well, then "It would be necessary to approach Dishe told me. He told me and went straight ney." Southend spoke with some appear-Iver's voice was hesitating and conscious as out of the room. I waited a long while, but | ance of timidity. Mr. Disney was prime he pronounced the name that was to have he didn't come back, and I haven't spoken minister. "And the truth is, none of us to him since." She looked at each of them | seemed to like the job. So John Fullsome Again the pink-ribboned Deus made entry in turn, as though someone might be able suggested you."

> "Somehow you made him do it-you," said | wrinkled humorously, Slowly Cecily's eyes settled on Mina's bite you-not so hard, anyhow."

"Yes, I think so. I think I must have case, nor in any other that I ever heard somehow." Her voice rose as she asked of."

with a sudden access of agitation: "But Mina had no thought for that; it was the thing itself that engrossed her, not the con-

sequences. "There will, o' course, be a good many imagine that the er question settles

His phrase seemed to give Ceally no en-

ightenment.

"Settles itself?" she repeated. "Subject to formal proof, I mean, and in the absence of opposition from the hesitated a second)-from Mr. Tristram which can't be anticipated now you will be put

into possession of the estates and the title. He pointed to Harry's letter which was still in her hands. "You see what he himself calls you there. Miss Gainsborough." She made no answer. With another glance at Neeld, Iver pushed back his chair and girl. rose, Neeld followed his example. They

felt that the interview had better end. Duplay did not move, and Cecily stood where she was. She seemed to ask what was to be done with her; her desolation was sad, but it had something of the comic in it. She was so obviously lost.

"You might walk down to Blent with Miss Gainsborough, Mina," Iver suggested. "No," cried the imp in a passion, leaping up from her chair, "I don't want to have anything to do with her. Cecily started and her cheeks flushed red.

as though she had been struck. Iver looked vexed and ashamed. "It's all her fault that Harry Tristram's -that Harry Tristram's-" The Imp's voice was choked; she could get no further.

Old Mr. Neeld came forward. He took Harry's letter from Cecily and gave it to Mina.

"My dear, my dear," he said gently, as he patted her hand. "Read that again." Mina read, and then scrutinized Cecily keenly.

Welt, I'll walk down with you," she said, grudgingly. She came nearer to Cecily. "I wonder what you did." she exclaimed, scanning her face. "I must find out what you did."

Iver came forward. "I must introduce myself to you, Miss Gainsborough. I live at Blentmouth, and my name is Iver."

"Iver!" She looked at him curiously. A once he felt that she had knowledge of the relation between his daughter and Harry Tristram.

"Yes: and since we shall probably be neighbors-" He held out his hand. She put hers in it, still with a bewildered air. Neeld contented himself with a bow as he passed her, and Duplay escaped from the room with a rapidity and stillness sug- | and pleasure he found Iver in the smoking gestive of a desire not to be observed. When the men were gone Cecily sank into | Iver explained: a chair and covered her face with her hands for a minute. She looked up to find Mina down at Blentmouth. All our old ladies regarding her, still with mingled inquist-

veness and hostility. "What were you all doing here when I ame?" asked Cecily. They were trying to make me tell what

knew about Harry Tristram. But I wouldn't tell.' 'Wouldn't you?" Cecily's eyes sparkled sudden approval and she broke into a smile. "I like you for that," she cried.

wouldn't have told either." "But now!" The Imp pouted disconsolately. "Well, it's not your fault. I suppose, and--" She walked up to Cecily and gave her a brief but friendly kiss. And you needn't be so upset as all that about it We'll just talk over what we'd

better do." There was not much prospect of their talk affecting either the laws of England poor old chap doesn't know whether he's on or the determination of Harry Tristram to any appreciable extent, but the proposal seemed to comfort Cecily and the Imp rang the bell for tea. Coming back from Ah, here's Neeld. He came up with me."

"What brave men you are!" "Well, he might bite us; and he couldn't

face; thus she stood silent for a full min- "And you want me to ask for a higher That wasn't done in the Bearsdale

> "We shouldn't press that. A barony under the very exceptional circumstances away.

formalities," said Iver. "Subject to these I cod's manner stirred the old lady's tention as he could to the buzz of gossip man for his mother's-. There, I her first ball, poor girl."

"Disney used to know her as a girl." "If you're relying on Robert Disney's ro-

knows. But again, why a viscounty-? rather ashamed of himself, Southend explained:

f a match came about between him and the don is home to homeless men.

"What, the new Lady Tristram? Well, you today!" "Not at all," he protested indignantly

'It's the obviously sensible way out." "Then they can do it without a visounty?"

"O, no, not without something. There's the past, you see." "And a sponge is wanted?

bigger the sponge the better. And "I'll think about it after I've seen the

young man," Lady Evenswood promised. his cousin? None at all-except, of course, the way

he's cleared out for her. "Yielding gracefully to necessity, I sup-

"Really, I doubt the necessity; and, anyhow, the gracefulness needs some explanaa daughter of a friend of mine-lver-you

know who I mean?" "Oh, yes. Bring Harry Tristram to see ne," said she. "Goodby, George. You're looking very well." "And you're looking very young."

"Oh, I finished getting old before you, were 40 suggest the viscount as contingent on the marriage.

"I shan't suggest anything till I've seen he boy-and I won't promise to then." Later in the afternoon Southend dropped in at the Imperium, where to his surprise room. Asked how he came to be in town. "I really ran away from the cackling

are talking fifteen to the dozen about Harry Tristram and Lady Tristram, and me, and up to the time of your birth almost. After my family, and-well-" Well there's a good deal of cakling

up here, too. But tell me about the new I know." girl." Lord Southend did not appear to consider his own question "cackling" or as tending to produce the same. "I've only seen her once. She's in abso-

woman. You don't know her.' "I know about her, I saw it in the paper She had something to do with it?" "Yes." Iver passed away from that side

of the subject immediately. "And she's struck up a friendship with Cecily Gainsborough-Lady Tristram-I eught to say, on his face. I had a few words with the father. The his head or his heels, but as they're of about equal value, I should imagine, for thinking purposes, it doesn't much matter.

alone with his inquisitive friend. Southend lost no time

There was some talk-" "It's all over," whispered Neeld, with needless caution. "He's released her and she accepted the release."

'What, on the ground that-" finally over; you may depend upon that."

August. "You want to see the end of it? Come. would do. But if Disney thought that know that's it!" He laughed as he walked

of the efforts which were being made to sisted. The slight embarrassment in South- arrange his future and paying as little atcuriosity. "It's rather odd to reward a about his past, had settled down in quiet rooms and was looking at the world from say a word about Addie. I took her to a new point of view. The season was not over yet, and he liked to go out about 8 in nantic memories-" But she stopped, add- its life in all the rush and the gayety of it. ing after a pause. "Well, one never Somehow now he seemed more part of it and more at home in it than when he used | him. Driven into a corner, but evidently to run up for a few days from his country home. Then Blent had been the center of "The viscounty would be more convenient and a solourner. Blent was gone, and Lon-George, romance has taken possession of life, as well as of the river Blent. There sink. No such notions had been fostered by days spent on the banks of the Blent. 'What shall I do? What shall I do?" The question hummed in his brain as he walked about. There were such infinite varieties of things to do, such a multitude of people I'm doing them. To some men this reflection get my nose bitten off by asking Robert | brings despair or bewilderment. To Harry Disney for it? And if by a miracle he said (as, indeed, Lord Southend would have exyes, for all I know somebody else might | pected from his observation of him) it was titiliating evidence of great opportunities. stirring his mind to a busy consideration of changes. He had £15,000 in forms as good "Have you any reason to suppose he likes as cash. He was living more or less as he had once meant to live in this one particular-he was living with a respectable, if not a big check by him, ready for any emergency which might arise-an emergency not now of a danger to be warded

off, but of an opportunity to be seized.

the name. lady the image of peace, for Harry there, great, she had known the great; if she had not done the things, she had seen them Disney binnself came in for a pocket knowledge of secrets, a natural intimacy with the inaccessible. It was like Harry to show no signs of being impressed, but broke it down at last by speaking of Addie

"The most fascinating creature in the world," she said. "I knew her as a little girl. I knew her

that she hardly left Blent, did she? At least she never came to London. You traveled, there, you know. 'Were you ever at Blent?' he asked "No. Mr. Tristram."

not to be able to ask people there, just, lute seclusion and lets nobody in except too, as he was awaking to the number of Mina Zabriska-a funny little foreign people there were in the world worth ask-

Evenswood went on. "I used to think that, but I was wrong."

You were wrong? Who's like her, posed to be feeling." 'Her successor. My cousin, Cecily's very like her."

entirely any heattation or affection in nam- for her."

who had supersuded him. "She talks and moves and sits and looks "It's less than a fortnight since I first suppressed in his voice. But he had the When you've nothing better to do it'll pay

curious these likenesses are," he ended with a shrug. tonishing. She had heard her father describe Pitt at II and Baron at 18. Without gance that the great mon had exhibited.

She had not meant to make even this much apology. "But perhaps an old woman may tell you that she is very sorry for-for this turn in your fortune, Mr. Tris-

tram." "You're very kind. It was all my own doing, you know. Nobody could have flowery condolences. touched me.

'But that would have meant-" she exclaimed, startled into candor. "Oh. yes, I know. Still-but since things

ave turned out differently I needn't trouble you with that." She saw the truth, seeming to learn it from the set of his jaw. She enjoyed a man recommend me to a gentleman with £10,000 who was not afraid to defy things, and she had been heard to lament that everybody had a conscience nowaday-nay, insisted on bringing it even into politics. Immediately with a shake of his head. she conceived the idea of inviting him to dinner to meet Mr. Disney, but of cours

that must wait for a little while. "Everything must seem rather strange to you," she suggested. "I'm beginning to think that some day I shall look back on my beylood with down

right incredulity. I shan't seem to have "What are you going to do in the meantime to procure that feeling?" She was get

ting to the point she wished to arrive at, but very cautiously. "I don't know yet. It's hard to choose, "You certainly won't want for friends."

"Yes, that's pleasant, of course. O, and serviceable, too," she corrected him with a not of wise experience. "Jobs are frowned at now, but many great men have started by means of them. Robert

borough "Well, I really don't know," he repeated thoughtfully, but with no sign of anxiety or fretting. "There's lots of time. "Not for me," she said, with all her

He smiled again, this time cordially he rose to take leave. But she detained him. cousin. I suppose "

"Certainly, if we meet.

haven't seen her since I left Blent. She's "Have you written to her" 'No. I think it's best not to ask ber to think of me just now

She looked at him for a moment, seeming to consider. "Perhaps," she said at fast. "But don't overdo that. Don't be cruel." "Cruel?" There was strong nurprise is

to think what she may be feeling?" "I don't know that I ever have." Harry The smile that Mina Zabriska knew came admitted; slowly. "At first sight it looks as if I were the person who might be sup-

he said. She wanted to say, "Brayo!" and find out something about it. After all, to pat him on the back, he had avoided so I've given some evidence of consideration ing his cousin-Addie Tristram's successor, | "That makes it worse, if you give none

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that in addressing Mrs. Pinkham

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What confidence does one gain by consulting one who has occasionally met a case just like ours, but has had no great experience? None whatever. All treatment under such a person must of necessity be experimental. As a matter of fact, in the treatment of female ills Mrs. Pinkham has had more experience than any one person in the world. For a period of over twenty-five years women have been

constantly in correspondence and consultation with her; and it is

safe to say there is not a case or complication of female derangements

rience in treating woman's diseases

Is greater than that of any living per-

relate your private troubles to a man; besides, a man does

not understand, simply because he is a man.

that are manifest in our particular case.

son, male or female.

On the whole he was glad to hear the news. at you in the same way. I was amazed to met her. She won't miss me much, Lady "Time's everything, isn't it? Oh, you're studying him very curiously, began to make not stupid! Think it over, Mr. Tristram. also about what lay behind her visitor's think about you because it's only an hour composed face; there was a hint of things since we met. We women are curious-

now. Goodby."

As Harry walked down from her houin Green street his thoughts were divided She decided that he was remarkable, for between the new life and that old one a boy of his age, bred in the country, as which she had raised again before his eyes by her reference to Cecily. The balance making abourd comparisons there was, all of a man who was associated in his mind the same, something of that precocity of with it-Sloyd, the house agent, who had let Merrion lodge to Mina Zabriska. Sloyd was as smart as usual, but he was walking

She was very glad that she had sent for along in a dejected way and his hat was un tashionably far back on his head. started when he saw Harry approach him. "Why it's-" he began, and stopped, in evident hesitation. "Mr. Tristram," said Harry.

meet you, Mr. Sloyd, though you won't have any more rent to hand over to me.' Slyod began to murmur some rather

Harry cut him short in a peremptory, but good-natured fashion. How's business with you, he asked.

nmand the opportunities that others do. He laughed as he added, "You couldn't spare, could you, Mr. Tristram? I know just the man. What's it for?" 'No, no. Principals only." said Sloyd

Might be worse, Mr. Tristram, I don't

emplain. We're a young firm and we don'

"How does one become a principal then I'll walk your way a bit." Harry lit a mar: Sloyd became more erect and amended the position of his hat; he hoped hat a good many people would recognize Yet social pride did not interfere with business wariness.

"Are you in earnest, Mr. Tristram? It's a safe thing." "O, no, it isn't, or you wouldn't be hanting for £10,000 on the pavement of Berkeley

"I'll trust you," Sloyd declared. Harry nodded thanks, inwardly amused at the obvious effort which attended the concession. 'If you don't come in you'll not give it away?" Again Harry nedded. "It's a big chance, but we haven't got the money to take it and unless we can take it we shalf have to sell our rights. It's an option on land. I recured it, but it's out in a week Before then we must table £20,000.

"What'll happen if you don't?" "I must seil the option-rather than foroff it, you know. I've an offer for it, but

Who from?

After a moment's scrutiny Sloyd whisered a name of immense significance in a connection. "Iver." I should like to hear some more about this. It's worth something, I expect, if

Iver wants it. Shall I go with you to you.

cut whistling. He looked very pleased, boyish, pleasure in the fact that the affair was for the present to be a dead secret. shrunk, He was against Iver, too, in a certain sense, and that was another spice; not could hold his own. It occurred to him "There's only one thing he could think," At first sight, yes. Is that always to that in case of a success he would enjoy exclaimed Southend. be enough for you. Mr. Tristram? If so, I going and telling old Lady Evenswood shan't regret so much that I haven't-lots about it. He felt, as he said to himself,

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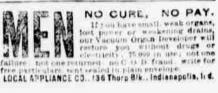
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back. He went to the theater that night, to the pit twhere he would not be known), and enjoyed himself immensely. And Lady Evenswood had made up her

mind that she would find a way of seeing Mr. Disney soon and throw out a captious feeler. Everything would have to be done very carefully, especially if the marriage with the cousin were to be made a feature of the case. But her resolve, although not altered, was tempered by a curious feeling office?" He halled a passing cab. "Two to which her talk with Harry had given got the money," he said, "and I want to rise. There was now not only the very use it. You show me that this is a good grave question whether Robert Disney-to say nothing of somebody else-would en-An hour passed in the office of Sleyd, tertain the idea. There was another-a Stoyd & Gurnsey. Harry Tristram came much less obvious one-whether Harry hunself would welcome it for him. Howhis step was aler; he had found something ever, when Southend next called on her, had made a beginning-good or she possessed her readiness to attack or at He had found an added, perhaps a least to reconnecter the task from watch

"Only" she said, "if I were you, I should find out tolerably early-as soon as from any ill-will, but because it would we know that there is any chance at allplease him especially to show Iver that he what Mr. Tristram himself thinks about it."

"O. very well," smiled Lady Evenswood. A long life had taught her that only very jolly, careless and jolly, more so than facts convince, and that they often fail. (To Be Continued.)



WERE TRYING TO MAKE ME TELL

'What's happened about Janie Iver

"Really, I don't know any more. But it's Southend lit a cigar, with a satisfied air. "Staying much longer in town" he asked.

"No. I'm going down to Iver's again in Meanwhile Harry Tristram, unconscious bridle on himself again in a moment. "Very you to study us.

the evening and watch the great city starting forth to enjoy itself; then he could feel manhood here, something also of the arrohis life and in town he was but a stranger looked back he seemed to himself to have lived hitherto on the banks of the river of had been no need of swimming. But he was in the current now; he must swim or

These new thoughts suited well with the tions in a case like this. Still, I always visit which he paid to Lady Evenswood and fancied he was going to marry another girt, gained fresh strength from it. He was announced as Mr. Tristram. He had just taken steps to obtain a royal license to bear

Although the room was in deep shadow and very still, and the old white-haired too, the current ran strong. Though not done; her talk revealed a matter-of-course very shrewd eyes were upon him, and his Lady Evenswood! impassivity met with amused approval, since it dropped short of inattention. She

Tristram.

He frowned for a moment; it was odd

There never was anybody in the world his voice and on his face like her, and there never will be." Lady

Lady Evenswood was more struck by the of time. way he spoke than by the meaning of what

'Yes, I see. Perhaps. I daresay I can be remembered feeling for many months

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