Tristram of Blent.

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

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Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Adelaide, wife of Sir Randolph Edge of Blent Hall, eloped with Captain Fitzhubert. Sir Randolph dies in Russla, presumably in time for Lady Edge and Fitzhubert to marry and so make their son, Harry, legitimate. They learn later, however, that the date of Sir Randolph's death has been given incorrectly and Harry is not the rightful heir. They keep the matter secret snd eventually Mrs. Fitzhubert succeeds to the barony of Tristram of Blent and resides with Harry at Hient Hall. Unknown to Lady Tristram Madam Zabriska, and Mr, Jenkinson Neeld, are also in possession of the secret and Madam Zabriska, with her uncle Major Duplay, come to reside at Merrion Lodge, near Blent Hall. Harry learns from his mother that he is not the rightful heir to Blent, but they determine to hold the title for him at any cost. To further his cause he decides to marry Jante love, heiress to Fairholme, but finds two rivals in Bob Broadley and Major Duplay. The latter learns of Harry's unfortunate birth from Mina Zabriska. He informs him that he intends to tell liver and they quarrel, Harry winning in a brisk tussle. Neeld becomes the guest of liver at Fairholme. Madam Zabriska meets Neeld and they form a compact to protect Harry's interests and maintain secrety. Lady Tristram dies after exacting from her son a promise that Cecily Gainsborousn, rightful heiress of Blent, shall be invited to the funeral. Cecily and her father come to Blent, but Harry fails to receive them. Later he comes suddenly upon Cecily in the garden and realizes that she is a Tristram, the image of his mother. The engagement of Harry and Jane Iver is announced, and Duplay announces his determination to expose the false position of his future son-th-law to Iver. Harry unconsciously fails in love with Cecily and without telling her this acknowledges that he is not the legal heir, but she is Lady Tristram of Blent. Then he steals away from Blent by night, stopping to advise Bob Broadley to woo and win Janie. He goes to London, where politi Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

CHAPTER XXIII-(Continued). Well poor Mina understood! All that the enemy thought was legible to her; all the misery that keen perceptions can sometimes bring was sure to be hers. She had spent the most notable evening of her life and she got into her cab a miserable

When she reached home there was noth ing to change her mood. She found Cecily in a melancholy so sympathetic as to invite an immediate outpouring of the heart Cecily was beautiful that evening in her black frock, with her fair hair, her pale face and her eyes full of tragedy. She had been writing, it appeared; ink and paper were on the table. She was very quiet, but Mina thought, with the stillness that follows a storm. Unasked, the Imp sketched the dinner party, especially Harry's share in it. Her despair was laced with vitriol and she avoided a kind word about any-

"Those people have got hold of him. We've lost him. That's the end of it," she

Cecily had nothing to say: she leaned back in a slack dreariness while Mina expatiated on this doleful text. Lacking the reinforcement of discussion the stream pa's lamentation began to run "Oh, it's no use talking," she ended. "There it is."

"I'm going back to Blent tomorrow," said Cecily, suddenly, It was no more than Mina had expected.

"Yes, we may as well," she assented, dismally.

Cecily rose and began to walk about. Her air caught Mina's attention again; on this, evening before she returned to Blent, she had something of that suppressed passion which had marked her manner on the night when she determined to leave it. She came to a stand opposite Mina.

"I've made up my mind. From this

Mina felt the tragedy; the inevitable was being accepted.

"I've written to Cousin Harry. I've told him what I mean to do. He must think it But I've told him I can do it only on one condition. He'll have my letter tomorrow."

"On one condition? What?" "I said to him that he gave me Blent because I was there, because he saw me there in the middle of it all. That's true. If I'd stayed here, would he ever have told his secret? Never! He wouldn't so much as come to see me; he'd never have thought of me, he'd have forgotten all about me, Ie was seeing me there."

"Well, seeing you anyhow." "Seeing me there-there at Blent," she insisted, now almost angrily. "So he'll understand what I mean by the thing I've asked of him. And he must obey." voice became imperious. "I've told him that I'm going back, going to stay there, and live there, but that he must never, never come there."

Mina started, her eyes wide open in surprise at this heroic measure.

"Never see him! Never have him state of things which would result. It was pretty plain what had happened; Cecily had felt the need of doing something; here it was. Mina's sympathies, quick to move, mean to him never to see Blent!" she cried. "To him? Nothing, nothing! Why, you yourself came home just now, saying that we were nothing to him! Blent's nothing so strange, perhaps, since mid-August was said he mustn't come."

"You've begged him not to come?" "I've told him not to come," said Cecily haughtily. "If it's his let him take it. If it's mine I can choose who shall come off to Fairholme by the afternoon train. there. Don't you see, don't you see? How Mr. Nesid, he mentioned, was coming to can I ever cheat myself into thinking it's stay with him for a couple of weeks on yourself at a man's head and he'd refused bausted, cursed London and talked of a briska say?" you, would you want to have him about?" "N-no," said Mina, but rather hesita- Blent. Cecily had gone and Mina; the rest

"So I've ended it; I've ended everything, man who three months ago had looked to I posted my letter just before you came in spend his life there as its master. and he'll get it tomorrow. And, now, Mina, I'm going back to Blent." She threw hering suddenly began to sob.

"It's too miserable," she declared in wanted to build Blinkhampton out of hand wrathful wor. "Why couldn't we have said in the months of August and September. nothing about it and just married you? O. The work would have done him good serv-I hate it all, because I love you both. I ice. He was seeking a narcotic know people think I'm in love with him, but believe he's fond of you."

"And you love him." Mina's sorrow

Blent. But he won't understand that-and it would make no difference if he did, I

suppose! O, you Tristrams!" "Yes, I love him," said Cecily. "That evening in the long gallery-the evening when he gave me Blent-do you know what I thought?" She spoke low and quickly, lying back quite still, in the attitude that Addie Tristram had once made her own. "I watched him and I saw that he had something to say, and yet wouldn't say it. I saw he was struggling. And I watched, how I watched! He was engaged to Janie Iver-he had told me that. But he didn't love her-yes, he told me that, too. But there was something else. I saw it. I had come to love him then already-O, I think as soon as I saw him at Blent. And I waited for it. Did you ever do that, Mina —do you remember?"

Mina was silent; her memories gave her no such thing as that.

"I waited, waited. I couldn't believe-Ah, yes, but I did believe. I thought he felt bound in honor and I hoped-yes, I hoped-he would break his word and throw away his honor. I saw it coming and my heart seemed to burst as I waited for it. You'd know, if it had ever happened to you like that. And at last I saw he would speak-I saw he must speak. He came and stood by me. Suddenly he cried. 'I can't do it.' Then my heart leaped, because bat," she added. I thought he meant he couldn't marry Janie Iver. I looked up at him and I sup- he laughed.

as to his own. He found himself wishing found acceptance, or at least surrender in the secret hope that they would modif friendly had it been there. Yet what did the letter mean? He inter-

he was there.

told Iver that in perfect good faith. It would have been in bad taste for him to hard to realize that he could see Blent only by another's will or sufferance. He could almost say with Mina and with Cecily herself, "This is the end of it."

What then of the impressions Mina had pressionable natures study others of like temperament they should not generalize a woman, too. from their conduct at parties. In society dinners are eaten in dissometimes intentional, times unconscious, but as a rule quite impenetrable. If Harry had been uncenscious,

ception was the more complete. He went to see Lady Evenswood one day; she sent, expressing her desire for a talk and said, without preface: before she fled to the country. She had much that was pleasant to say, much of the prospects of his success. "And if you do, you'll be able to think

"You've found out my weaknesses, I see,"

that he had not torn up Cecily's letter. He His mind had wandered back to that scene remembered its general effect so well that In the Long Gallery and he had fallen to he wanted to read the very words again, questioning about his own action. There was a new light on it and the new light and soften his memory. His own answer showed him truth. "I must face it; it's met and destroyed the hope. He knew west | not Blent," he said aloud. If it were he would have responded to anything Blent, it was now Blent only as a scene, a frame, a background. When he pictured Blent Cecily was there; if he thought of preted it as Cecily had declared he would. her elsewhere the picture of Bient van-She could not feel mistress of Bient while ished. He was in love with her, then, and what was the quality Lady Evenswood had And indeed he had not meant to go. He praised in a lover? Let him cultivate it how he would-and the culture would be difficult-yet it would not serve here. If think of going-or going anything like so he went to Bient against Cecily's comsoon as this. Whence then came this new mands and his own promise he could meet feeling of desolution and of hurt? It was with nothing but rebuff. Yes, he was in partly that he was forbidden to go. It was love, and he recognized the impasse as fully as Mina herself, although with more self-restraint. But he was glad to know the truth; it strengthened him and it freed him from a scorn of himself with which he had become afflicted. It was intolerable gathered from Mr. Disney's dinner party? that a man should be lovestck for a house: It can only be said that when people of im. it was some solace to find that the house in order to hold his affections, must hold "Now I know where I am," said Harry.

He knew what he had to meet now; he thought he knew how he would treat him-An unexpected ally came to his assist-

if the mood had played the man, the de- ance. He received a sudden summons from Mr. Disney. He found him at work, rather weary and dishevelled. He turned to Harry "We're going to arbitrate this Barililand

question, on behalf of the company, you know, as well as ourselves. Another instance of my weakness! Lord Murchison's contains no dangerous drugs or injurious now that you've done it all off your own going out for us. He starts in a fortnight, inedicines. He asked me to recommend him a secretary. And I want to have one in whose letters I can place some trust. Will

Here was help in avoiding Cecily. But

"I should like it, but I've contracted cer-

tain obligations of a business kind at

said, "The Canadian papers, please."

"I'm very grateful to you, anyhow."

"That's all right, Tristram. Goodby."

There was no doubt what would be the

practical way of showing gratitude. Harry

He left Mr. Disney's presence determined

to accept the offer if Iver could spare his

He went home and wrote to Iver: the let-

ter weighed all considerations save the one

which really weighed with him; he put

himself fairly in Iver's hands, but did not

conceal his own wish; he knew that if Iver

were against the idea on solid business

ground he would not be affected by Harry's

personal preference. But the business

reasons when examined did not seem very

serious and Harry thought that he would

get leave to go. He rose from his writing

with a long sigh. If he received the an-

swer he expected he was at the parting of

the ways and he had chosen the path that

An evening paper was brought to him. A

tremendous headline caught his notice.

"Resignation of Lord Hove! He will not

arbitrate about Barilliand. Will the gov-

ernment break up?" Probably not, thought

Harry; and it was odd to reflect that, if

Lord Hove had got his ways Harry would

have lost his heroic remedy. So great

things and small touch and interest one

led directly and finally away from Blent.

what about Blinkhampton? Harry hesi-

tated a moment.

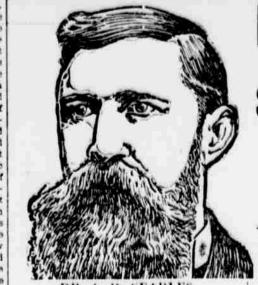
home," he said.

Saturday.

went out.

another.

services for the time.



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the country, special, for your photo." "That must have proved a disappoint ment, I'm afraid. The romance was better than the hero."

"You may say romance," she concluded heartily. "To be a lord and-" She leaned forward. "I say, how do you get your living now! "Gone into the building trade," he an

"You surprise me!" The observation was evidently meant to be extremely civil. "But there, it isn't so much what your job is as having some job. That's what I say. "I wish I always said and thought things as sensible," and he took courage to offer her another glass of lager. She accepted with a slight recrudescence of primness, but her eyes did not leave him now. "I never did," he heard her murmur, as she raised her glass. "Well, here's luck to you, sir! (He had been a lord, even if he were now a builder.) You did the straight thing

"What?" asked Harry, a little startled "Well, some did say, as you'd known it all along. Oh, I don't say so. Some did." Harry began to laugh, "It doesn't matter, does it, if I did the straight thing in the end?"

"I'm sure as I shouldn't blame you if yo had been a bit tempted. I know what that is. Well, sir, I'll say good evening." "Good evening, miss, and thank you ver much," said Harry, rising as she rose. His manner had its old touch of lordliness. His

"Well, if you're bound keep your word and do the work. If you find you're not, I young lady evidently approved. should advise you to take this. It's a good "You've no cause to thank me," said she beginning. This is Tuesday. Tell me on with an admiring look. Goodby." He rang a hand bell "Yes, I have. As it happened, I believe

wanted somebody to remind me that I had done the straight thing in the end, and lost no time in calling on you" I'm much obliged to you for doing it." "Well, I shall have something to tell the girls!" she said again in wondering tones.

Harry was comforted. The stress of his pain was past. He sat on over his simple meal in a leisurely, comfortable fashion. He gained his rooms. A letter lay wait- acter and conduct. It is not necessary.

winter, and since you won't come here, this cager attention. is the last of me for a long time, anyhow.

O, you Tristrams! Goodby. "MINA ZABRISKA." "Poor little Imp!" said Harry. "She's a very good sort. And she seems about comtesse. She paid him a visit-secretly, I right. It's the end of everything." He paused and looked round. "Except of these rooms-and my work-and, well, life at large, you know." He laughed in the sudden realization of how much was left after there was an end of all-life to be lived, brilliant woman-she died, by the way, two work to be done, enjoyments to be won. "But I don't believe." he said to himself. slowly smiling, "that I should ever have come to understand that or to fulfil it unless I had-what did the girl say? done the straight thing in the end and come out of Blent. Well, old Blent, goodby." He crumpled up Mina's letter and flung it into the grate. The maid servant opened the door. "Two

gentlemen to see you, sir," she said. "O, say I'm busy-" he began. "We must see you, please," insisted Mr. Jenkinson Neeld with unusual firmness. He

CHAPTER XXV. There's the Lady, Too

There was nothing very remarkable about built, trim man, but his trimness was not burg. He could not hope to be well enough she, on his prompting, as she declared, and been anything save that just now the tan a paper, authorizing payment to be made to adopted. My brother, having railled from on his face witnessed to an out-of-door her or to an agent appointed by her. The his first collapse, kept up the fight a little tife. His manner was cold, his method of money being destined for her ultimately, while longer. It was, however, plain to the speech leisurely and methodical. At first this naturally seemed the best arrangement, doctor that he could live but a very short sight Harry saw nothing in him to modify She could go and receive the money or send time. The countesse knew this. My brother the belief in which he had grown upthat the Edges was an unattractive race, unable to appreciate Tristrams, much less worthy to mate with them. He gave the colonel a chair rather grudgingly and turned to old Mr. Neeld for an explanation of the visit

Neeld had fussed himself into a sent already and had drawn some sheets of paper covered with typewriting from his pocket. He spread them out, smoothed them down, cleared his throat and answered Harry's look by a glance at Edge. Mr. Neeld was in a fidget, a fidget of importance and ex-

'You will know," said Edge gravely.



papers. I went to the Imperium club to night-I arrived only this morning-and dined in Neeld's company. As it chanced we spoke of you and I learned what had happened since I left England. I have

Neeld was listening and fidgeting with his sheets of paper. The colonel's preamble excited little interest in Harry; the reaction of his struggle was on him; was courteously but not keenly attentive. "It is not agreeable to me to speak of my brother to you, Mr. Tristram. we should differ if we discussed his char-"Is Sir Randolph Edge concerned in what you have to say to me?" asked Harry, "Yes, I am sorry to say he is. Another

person is concerned, also," "One moment. You are, of course, aware that I no longer represent my family? address yourself to Lady Tristram-my

"I have to speak to you. Is the name "Yes, I've heard my mother speak of

meeting her in Paris." "You are aware that later-after he things about and alter arrangments at parted from Lady Tristram-my brother Blent. That's what brings it home to me went to Russia, where he had business in-

> "I have very good reason to know that, Harry smiled at Mr. Neeld, who had apparently got all he could out of his papers "What I am about to say is known, I be-

Heve, to myself alone-and to Neeld here, to whom I told it tonight. While my brother was in Russia he was joined by the need hardly add. She passed under the the house adjoining Randolph's. When he fell ill be had just completed the sale of one of his Russian properties. She was a or three years ago-but extravagant and fond of money. She prevailed on my brother to promise her the price of this taken for death." property as a gift. The sum was considerable-about £7,000."

Harry nodded. Here seemed to be some

a certain day. I speak now from information imparted to me subsequently by the stance," said Harry. comtesse herself. It was given under a promise of secrecy, which I have kept hitherto, but now find myself compelled in tending him saw to that." honesty to break." "There can be no question of what is

your duty, Edge," Mr. Neeld put in. "I think none. My brother during his illness discussed the matter with the com- that, according to the comtesse's story, it Colonel Wilmot Edge. He was a slightly tesse. The money was payable in Peters-He might have to go there. At her suggestion he signed certainly with his connivance, afterward for it-as a fact she went in person when was not in a condition to transact business the time came-and all would be settled." and was incapable of securing to her any

not appear on the face of Sir Randelph's if he had wished to do so. Her only chance accounts or bankbook," Harry suggested. that consideration, too, but it is not very help, even although my brother should die material. The countesse, then, was in pos- before it fell due, and the authority she session of this authority. My brother's ill- held should thereby lose its legal validity." ness took a turn for the worse. To be brief he died before the day came on which the out a fraud if necessary?" "And she presented the authority all the

money was to be paid." did shere "That is precisely the course

adopted," assented Colonel Edge. Harry took a walk up and down Dr. Burkhart's Wonderful Offer 30 DAYS' TREATMENT

eling? If so, you are in need of Dr. urkhart's Vegetable Compound, the most nous spring and summer medicine, re-ined throughout the universe as a great

said she presented the authority all the same.

"The report of his death was, of course,

contradicted immediately. The doctor at-

rence of the 18th has for us at present is suggested to the doctor the course which "Quite so. And the transaction would benefit by testamentary disposition, even

was the money for the property. This she "It's possible that weight was given to saw her way to securing with the doctor's "You mean that they determined to carry "Precisely. I must remind you that my brother knew nothing of this. He was al-

I may be very brief now, but I am still anxious that you should fully understand. All that I'm saying to you is beyond question and can be proved at any time by taking evidence on the spot; it is easily avail-

-that I was Lady Tristram and he-Harry other." Nothing," he said, 'Harry Nothing-at-"I understand," he smiled. "My con-

"Tell him!" She smiled in superb scorn. friend or a pleasant companion. "I'd die before I told him. I could go and know. And he'll never know now. Only cerned. And I'm told Lord Hove does as now, you can understand that Blent is- to the rest. But, then, it was only Flora on the table and, as his secretary entered, Ah, that it's all bitterness to me! And you know now why he must never come.

TRUST, WILL YOU GO?"

Yes, it all ends now." Mina came and knelt down by her, caress ing her hand. Cecily shivered a little and moved with a vague air of discomfort. "But I believe he cares for you," Mina

whispered. "He might have cared for me, perhaps

But Blent's between.' Blent was between. The difficulty seemed moment, Mina, Blent is mine. Up to now insuperable-at least where you were deal-I've beld it for Harry. Now it's mine, ing with Tristrams. Mina could not but I shall go back and begin everything there acknowledge that. For Harry, having nothing to give, would take nothing. And Cecily, having much, was thereby debarred

from giving anything. Yet at this moment Mina could not cry, "Oh, you Tristrams!" any more. Her sorright; it's the only thing he's left me to do. row was too great and Cecily too beautiful. She seemed again to see Addie, and neither she nor anybody else could have been hard

to Addie. She covered Cecily's hands with "Yes, this is the end," said Cecily. "Now, Mina, for Blent and her ladyship!" She

Cousin Harry! "No; he shall never come to Blent."

> CHAPTER XXIV. After the End of All.

"My dear cousin-I shall faithfully obey your commands. Yours very truly, H. A. F. Tristram." And below-very formally "The Lady Tristram of Blent."

To write it took him more than a moment-even though he wrote first, "The ommands of the head of the house," and destroyed that, ashamed of the sting and malice in it. To send it to the post it was the work of another moment. The third Blent!" Mina was trying to sort out the found him back at the Blinkhampton plans and elevations, Cecily's letter lying neglected on the table by him. After half an hour's work he stopped suddenly, reached for the letter, tore it into small fragments darted out to Harry. "Think what it'll and flung the scraps into his waste paper basket. Just about the same time Cecily and Mina were getting into the train to

come and only the people stayed in town who had to. Harry met Duplay over at Blinkhampton. Duplay was to join his niece at Merrion in about ten days. mine by right if I see Harry there?" She Friday. Even Southend, whom Harry enpaused a moment "And if you'd thrown countered in Whitehall, very hot and exrun down to Iver's Merrion-they all meant were going there-everybody except the

And business will grow slack when autumn arrives; it is increasingly difficult for self into an armchair, leaning back in a a man to bury himself in deeds, or plans, I've known Mme. Zabriska at the sudden weariness after the excited emotion or elevations, or calculations when everywith which she had declared her resolve, body writes that he is taking his vacation Mina sat on the other side of the table and that the matter shall have immediate looking at her, and after a moment's look- attention on his return. Harry grew terribly tired of that polite formula.

For he was in pain. It came on about I'm not. It's both of you, it's the whole week after he had sent his curt acknowlthing; and now it never, never can go edgment of Cecily's letter, laying hold of straight. If he got back to Blent now by him, he told himself, just because every- life, and come back and tell me all about a miracle, it would be just as bad. And I body was taking his holiday, and Blinkhampten would not get itself bought and A scornful smile was Cecily's only but sold and contracted for and planned and of being just told about it some day." laid out and built. "I must take a holiday myself," said Harry, in a moment of seemmade her forget all her fear. She said in ling inspiration. Where, where? He this moment what she had never before suffered under the sensation of having no- ever honest with himself. It was one night, dared to say. O, of course you do, or you'd where whither he would naturally go no a little white after this conversation, that Well, I shall have something to tell the England. For two months I have been out "I'm very sensible of your kindness in able."

pose I said something. He caught me by | "Oh, I doubt if there's any such thing as , you go?" the arm. I thought he was going to kiss an absolute strength or an absolute weakme, Mina. And then-then he told me that ness. They're relative. What's an advan-Blent was mine-not himself but Blent tage in one thing is a disadvantage in an-

"WE'RE GOING TO ARBITRATE THIS BARIHLAND QUESTION," SAID DISNEY. "LORD MURCHISON'S

GOING OUT FOR US. HE ASKED ME TO RECOMMEND A SECRETARY AND I WANT ONE I CAN

founded conceit may help me on in the "O, if you'd told him that!" cried Mina. world, but it doesn't make me a grateful "I believe George Southend agrees as far offer myself to him just because he didn't as the grateful friend part of it is con-

> Disney herself who said so." "And what do you say?" "Oh, pride's tolerable in anybody, except lover," she declared. W'ell, I've known lovers too humble.

> told one so once; he believed me, went in and won." "You gave him courage, not pride, Mr Tristram." "Perhaps that's true. He's very likely tot the pride by now." He smiled at his

> thoughts of Bob Broadley. "And you've settled down in the new groove?" she asked. He hesitated a moment. "Oh, nearly Possibly there's still a touch of the 'Desdichodo' about me. His would be the only

> shield I could carry, you see." "Stop! Well, I forgive you. You're not often bitter about that. But you're very bitter about something, Mr. Tristram." "I want to work, and nobody will in Au-

"Oh, go down and stay at Blent. No. I'm serious. You say you're proud. There's a good way of showing good pride. Go and gave a bitter little laugh. "And goodby to stay in the very house. If you do that, I shall think well of you-and even better

than I think now of the prospects.' "I've not been invited." "Poor girl, she's afraid to invite you! Write and say you're coming." "She'd go away. Yes, she would.

consents to live there only on condition that I never come. She's told me so." "I'm too old a woman to know your family! You upset the wisdom of ages flerce. Impatient of his quiet rooms, he and I haven't time to learn anything went out into the crowded streets. new.

"I'm not the least surprised. If I were in her place I should hate to have her there." "Nonsense. In a month or two-

"If anything's certain, it's that I shall never go to Blent as long as my cousing owns it. "I call it downright wicked."

"We share the crime, she and I. lays down the law, I willingly obey." "Willingly?" 'My reason is convinced. Maybe I'r. little homesick. But your month or two will serve the purpose there."

"There's a great deal, more in this than you're telling me, Mr. Tristram." "Put everything you can imagine and the result's the same." She sighed and sat for a moment in pen sive silence. Harry seemed to ponder, too.

he announced.

time.

"So many young men in their early twenties succeed in that," she murmured "What does little Mine Za-"O, everything that comes into head, I suppose, and very volubly." "I like her," said the old lady with

"Is there such a thing as an absolute lik ing, Lady Evenswood. What's pleasant at one time is abominable at another. And

"You were probably at the other "I thought we should agree about the relatively."

"There may always be a substratum friendship," she argued, "You'll say it's honor," said Harry. something very sub! Ah, well you're human in the end. You're absolutely forgetting Blent-and you spend your time with an old woman because she can talk to you about it! Go away and arrange you it. And if you're discontented with life, remember that you, too, will reach the stage Things will come home to a man at last, "Yes, you're the man who—why, yes, strive he ever so desperately against them you're Tristram!" Things will come home to a man at last

-if the things are true and the man

sure of his self-control. But again he mastered that, and again paced the streets. now in a grim resolution to tire out mind and body so that these visions should have nothing to work on, and finding blank, unresponsive weariness, should go their ways and leave him in an insensible fatigue. The remedy worked well. At 8 o'clock he found himself very tired, very hungry, paradoxically composed. He turned into a little restaurant to dine. The place was "I'm going to think of nothing but my crowded, and, rather shamefacedly (as is the national way), he sat down at a small table opposite a girl in a light blouse and a very big hat, who was eating risotto and drinking lager beer. She assumed an air of exaggerated primness and gentility, keeping her eyes down toward her plate and putting very small quantities into her

> glanced up stealthily. "A fine evening," he said, as he started on his chop. "Very seasonable," she began, in mincing tone, but suddenly she broke off. to exclaim in a voice and accent more natural and strenuous, "Good gracious, I've seen you before, haven't 1?" "I'm not aware that I ever had the

mouth at a time. Glad of distraction Harry

watched with amusement. At last she

"Well, I know your face, anyhow." She was looking at him and searching her memory. "You're not at the halls, are you?" "No. I'm not at the halls." "Well, I do know your face. Why, yes I've seen your face in the papers. I shall get it in a minute, now. Don't you tell me. She studied him with determination.

Harry ate away in contented amusement

"That's right. I'm Tristram. "Well, to think of that! Meeting you!

as she nodded to him and turned slowly

ing for him on the table. He opened it and

found that it was from Mina Zabriska. "We are back here," she wrote. "I am staying at Blent till my uncle comes down. I must write and say goodby to you. I daresay we shall never meet again, or merely by chance. I am very unhappy Legally, I'm not about it all, but with two people like Cecily it. and you nothing else could have happened. I see that now, and I'm not going to try to cousin-or to her lawyers. interfere any more. I shan't ask you to forgive me for interfering, because you've of Comtesse d'Albreville known to you, made the results quite enough punishment | Mr. Tristram?" for anything I did wrong. And now Cecily goes about looking just like you-hard and proud and grim; and she's begun to move most of all. ('And to me,' interposed terests?" Harry, as he read). If I was the sort of woman you think me, I should go on writing to you. But I shan't write again. I am going to stay at Merrion through the and was sitting quiet and upright in an

It was his last struggle; he had no doubt that he could win, but the fight was very At first he found himself envying everybody he passed, the cabman on his box, the rough young tellows escaped from the factory, the man who sold matches and had no cares beyond food and a bed. But presently he forgot them all and walked among shadows. He was at Blent in spirit, sometimes with Addie Tristram, sometimes with Cecily. Half afraid of himself, he turned round and made for home again; he could not be

turned to the man with him, saying: "Here is Mr. Tristram, Colonel Edge."

distinctively military.

pectancy.

That no ordinary matter has led me to call on you, Mr. Tristram. You must consider this interview purely as one of a never have told him he musn't come to home, no place to which he could return the truth came to Harry Tristram and girls. Why, a friend of mine wrote down to of the way of receiving letters or news-

DR. W. S. BURKHART, Cincinnati, O. conduct is that of a man of honor. But at It is possible that you ought to this point I'll stop you, please. I'm aware that prima facte the law would pronounce me to be Sir Randolph's son. That has always been disclaimed on our side and could easily be disproved on yours. I have nothing to do with Sir Randolph Edge or his

property." The colonel listened unmoved. "In any case you would have nothing to do with my brother's property," he remarked. "He left a will by which I was constituted sole legatee." "Then if she robbed anybody she robbed

"Certainly; and three years later she came and told me so." "Then how in the world does it concern me?" cried Harry impatiently. "You put your finger on the spot, Mr. Tristram, but you took it off again. You

"Well, yes. The authority would be revoked by his death. At least I suppose name of Mme. Valuer and she resided in there's no question of that. Did she get at them before they heard of the death?" "This money was payable on June 22the 10th as it's reckoned in Russia-but we needn't trouble about that. As you and Neeld are both aware, on the 18th my brother fell into a collapse which was mis-

"Yes, the 18th." murmured Neeld referring to the paper before him, and reading Josiah Cholderton's account of what possible light on the reasons for the inter- Mine, de Kries had told him at Heidelberg. "From that attack he rallied temporarily, "This money was to be paid-in gold-on but not until his death had been reported." "I am not the man to forget that circum-

> "Naturally; and I suppose the comteres would see to it, too." "And the only importance that the occur-

same?" asked Harry. "And got the money, together past understanding anything about

(To Be Continued.)