

Mrs. Isabel Weyland, a widow, is threatened with the debtors' prison. Her chief creditor, Mrs. Brymer, suggests a way out of the difficulty, marriage with an imprisoned debtor, who, for a paltry sum, will assume Mrs. Weyland's debts also. He proves to be a young lawyer, Macnamara, who, through no fault of his own, has fallen into dire straits. Mrs. Weyland, in pity, pays his small debt, sets him free and agrees to marry a negro condemned to die in three days. She then retires in poverty to country life, but later falls heiress to a large fortune and becomes a social queen in London. Here she meets Macnamara, now a flourishing barristor, who pledges himself to her service and is most attentive to her, to the anger of her brother-in-iaw, Lord Stratherrick. Mrs. Weyland takes as secretary Alice Fulton, daughter of a former creditor. Stratherrick learns of her marriage to the negro through Miss Fuiton's father, a worthless specimen. He then calls upon his sister-in-law and attempts blackmail, proposing that she pay £500 to him to keep the former creditor quiet. The negro returns to London, having excepted both the gallows and penal servitude in the coionics. He blackmails Mrs. Weyland, who calls Macnamara to her aid. He turns detective, and, in disguise, frightens Truxo, the negro, into the belief that his life is in danger. Macnamara secures a valuable ally in Doil, Truxo's real wife.

CHAPTER XVIII. Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Loss of a Reputation.

Oliver next turned his attention to the bankrupt, then under the hospitable roof of the Grapes, where his bill was mounting at an incredible speed, assisted by the landlord, who pressed upon his guest the finest contents of his cellar. Perhaps the lawyer had private reasons of his own for defeating the purposes of the noble lord, Isabel's brother-in-law, from whom he had ndured many flounts and insolences such a a man of rank may inflict upon one low him in station without risk of retaliation or retort. Perhaps, as a general rule, it might be alleged that the more worthless a man of quality is, either morally or mentally, the more intolerable in his arrogance, so that a nobleman who has nothing but his rank-neither statesmanship, nor eloquence, nor service in the army, nor leadership, nor wealth, nor morals, nor principles, nor the record of an honorable life-carrice off his true obscurity by pride and insolence. In his reatment of Oliver Lord Stratherrick had een especially arrogant, because he foresaw the possibility, which should be prewented if possible, of a closer tie than that of friendship between him and Isabel-Oliver endured this insolence because he was unwilling to quarrel with one so closely allied with the lady. But, when the occasion arrived, it was but human and it was natural that he should seize upon the opportunity in order to defeat the schemes of this penniless peer-

It was now certain that Lord Stratherrick, out of gratitude for the lady who maintained him, was keeping this bankrupt at his former valet's tavern in order to make money for himself by professing to buy his silence-a scheme truly worthy of his race and his ancestry. Now, therefore, Oliver considered the situation with some care. It was as follows:

There was a revengeful, drunken creature who had so often declared Mrs. Weyland to be the cause of his misfortune that he had ended by believing it. This man knew of the Newgate marriage.

He might talk; if he talked anywhere in the town except at the Grapes it would not matter, but this tavern was used by the servants and any scandal related to them would quickly be spread abroad over the whole of the world of fashion. That he had not, so far, spoken was cer

tain, because there was no sign of such a scandal anywhere.

That he was for the most part and always in the latter part of the day speechless with drink-sometimes half speechless and sometimes wholly speechless-seemed a certain safeguard.

That in the morning, when his mind, muddled at best, was at its clearest, no one was in the tavern at all. This was another safeguard.

That he understood, if he could understand anything, that his delightful access to all kinds of drink was the price of si-

That if he spoke at all the value of his tlence was destroyed. Further, the man was taken in at the

tavern by order of his lordship. But his lordship had no money to pay

the bill for the man's maintenance. Therefore, if Isabel refused to pay any-

thing, the mar must be turned nto the streets. If Lord Stratherrick himself, in revenge

drawal of the allowance. If Isabel refused, further, to pay the landlord of the tavern be might start the

scandal on his own account. The man had already called upon Isabel and demanded payment

On the whole, the only person to be feared in the business was this landlord. and he, chiefly, to the extent of his own

Considering, therefore, the whole case

thus presented, Oliver resolved on going behind his lordship's back and on discussing the case with Mr. Pinder direct. He therefore called at the tavern in the afternoon. Mr. Pinder was in the parlor, the room behind the bar where the company met overy evening. He was scated at the table. bis account books before him. In an elbow chair beside the fireplace was a man asleep. By his purple check, his nose swollen and painted, his protruding lips, his hands which trembled in his sleep. Oliver recognized the bankrupt, object of co much solicitude. "Your friend," he observed to Mr. Pinder, opening the conversation, "appears to be very near an apoplectic fit. A swollen neck, short and thick; a bloated face. shaking hands-what do these things mean. sir? He should take care. He is ripe for the seythe unless I am much mistaken."

This was obviously true. Yet men in this condition do sometimes so continue for many years. It is as if the fatal shears were always open for them, and always kept from clesing in order that they might repent and reform. Yet this man never thought of repentance or of reformation. He had no pricking of conscience-his conscience was dead-for the neglect of wife and children, or for the ruin he had brought upon himself. Hundreds, or thousands. there are in this town, of creatures thus esotted and bemired, who can no longer bink, or understand, or act, and are mere

reathing casks of drink, to whom small de is cool and raw punch is hot, and there is no other delight or longing or one and the sweet heat and strength of share with his lordship." the other.

(Copyrighted, 1901, by Dodd, Mead & Co.) Pinder. "You wish to speak to me, sir? will be compensation for this poor man."

him." Mr. Fulton, formerly of Ludgate hill." "It is Mr. Pulton, sir. A most unfor- generosity."

tunate and worthy gentleman." "Of his misfortunes I have no doubt. "From what funds? From what income? one man could drink so much?" Concerning his worth those who know him, You were his valet; you know the circum- "It is difficult, indeed, almost I believe, differ in opinion."

ever, to see me about him." Oliver gazed upon the sleeping man, You have to deal with Mrs. Weyland, that anxiously at the lawyer. "As you say, whose appearance was certainly against is, with me, in the matter." him. "He looks like a gentleman of ster- Mr. Pinder dropped his hands and stared.

You can do so without fear of waking "Go on thinking so, if if makes you happy. Meantime, I can assure you that "If I mistake not," said Oliver, "this is Mrs. Weyland will give nothing in comthe man concerning whom I have come to pensation-nothing. As regards your bill, you see, Mr. Pinder. This is, I believe, it will be for you to decide how long you will keep him-out of your compassion and twopence." "His lordship will pay me-"

stances. Understand, Mr. Pinder, that if The total?" "That's as may be, sir. You come, how- his lordship gives any trouble in the mat- "The total is £35 7a 10d, including yesterter his allowance will be at once stopped. day." Mr. Pinder glanced curiously and

the morning at 7 I will call here and try to get speech with him. Certainly, sir; certainly. That can be

done." "Very good. Now we come to the bill Leave out the question of compensation altogether. Let me know the amount you propose to charge for his drink and maintenance.

Mr. Pinder turned over the leaves of his book. "Lodging at a shilling a night; a He looked at the lawyer. "I shilling?" meant 2 shillings."

"Dear. Very dear. But go on." "Food. Dinner and supper, at 2 shillings and sixpence each-food for the most part spoiled, not eaten. Five shillings a day, Services of chambermaid, boots, potboy, at

2 shillings a day." "Dear. Very dear. But go on." "Drink-Ah! there, I fear, you will stick. Yet the charges at the Grapes are notorious for their moderation. Eight shillings and sixpence a day."

"Yes . . . yes, dear, very dear. Is

that all?" "Washing: a new pair of stockings; money out of pocket, four shillings and

"Moderate, Mr. Pinder, very moderate." "Could you believe it possible, sir, that

"It is difficult, indeed, almost incredible

moderate."

"I did not say moderate, except for the "Give his lordship nothing?" he gasped. smallest item. Well, sir, it is praise-



"FIVE TO TWO, MY LORD? DONE!"

"Well, sir, before we discourse about him ; at all, perhaps you will kindly give me your name and your reasons for calling upon me."

"As for my name, it is Macnamara. I am a lawyer-of the upper bar as yet-a member of the inner temple."

"What has a lawyer to do with Mr. Fulton or with me? I want no lawyer med-

dling in my affairs." "I come from the honorable Mrs. Weyland, a lady whose name you have heardwhom you have seen-in connection with certain proposals of Lord Stratherrick and concerning this worthy gentleman who is now asleep before us."

"Well, sir, there is no harm, I believe, in acknowledging that I do know her ladyship by name-and by reputation, and that I have had the honor of speech with her. Mr. Fulton, however, knows more about her

than I myself." "Perhaps. It is also certain that Mr. Fulton pretends to more knowledge than he possesses."

"In what way, sir?" "In several ways. For instance, Mr. Fulton credits the lady with being the cause of his bankruptcy. He was already started the scandal he would be sent back bankrupt when he tried to get payment of to his deserted country house by the with- a debt not yet due, with the intention of defrauding his creditors."

"I know nothing about that." "He also pretends that the lady was mar ried in Newgate to a condemned felon in

order to shift her debts to the back of that creature. "Pretends? Why, she was married. "He says so. That is one of the points

on which he is imperfectly informed." Mr. Pinder pushed back his chair and rose. "Sir." he said, "have a care-lawyer or no lawyer, it is certain that the lady was married in Newgate."

"It is, on the other hand, quite certain that she was not." "Then, sir, why did not this gentleman seue a writ for the arrest of his debter?" "First, probably, because he thought she

was not his debt." "This is a very strange story, sir; very

trange.' "Perhaps. Now, Mr. Pinder, your affairs as regards this man are, to a certain jug of small ale." extent, in my hands. You keep this man-Lord Stratherrick and you-in a kind of peaceful heaven-the only heaven the poor devil is likely to know. You keep him in captivity, so to speak; you keep him drunk pay it, seeing that the man is entertained

be spared the end which certainly awaits | 1

keep on selling it as long as this man shall

discuss this business with you. "You are not obliged at all. Keep silence. if you look to Lord Stratherrick for pay- with suspicion. ment of the bill you will be disappointed-" "I do not know that I shall be disap- the man must be turned into the street."

pointed. Quite the contrary." "You think so. You still look to Mrs. minutes." Mr. Pinder made as if he would grave and reverend aspect. They might be you," he replied, "five to two against your he employs his whole time in drinking. Weyland for the payment of this bill and awaken the sleeper. Oliver motioned him solid merchants on 'change, from their bird in half crowns." This, observe, was He has made up a tale with which he de desire left in life but the coolness of the for a certain sum of money, which you will back.

"Nothing. Nothing at all." "He informed me that the lady will give

him all he asks." "You are acquainted, of old, with Lord his present circumstances. What do you think?

"Then-who is to repay me for my outlay on this drunken hog?" "This worthy gentleman, you mean-Pinder, I do not know."

"Somebody will have to pay. shall pay; if I go to court with it." his lordship. You cannot make a noble lord pay. Surely, Mr. Pinder, you know so much. His rank protects him.'

Mr. Pinder groaned. "If this is true he began. "It is quite true. I am commissioned by the lady to present the facts for your consideration."

"His bill is tremendous. No one would ve that a man could run up such a bill

ils man has done in so short a time." tils appearance seems to indicate considerable powers where drinking is concerned."

"He is always drinking. I have taken him into the house at the request of my lord and give him the run of the cellarsalso at his request. He doesn't trouble the kitchen much, but the cellars-the cellars -why the man is like a sponge. He would empty the biggest cellars in London in a few months. He begins in the early morning with purl; all the forenoon he drinks wine by the pint, unless it is beer, which he sometimes prefers to wine as cooler to the stomach. He never eats any dinner, only calls for what there is and turns it on the plate and sends it away and calls for more drink. In the afternoon, as you see, sir, he sleeps off some of the drink. In the evening he drinks punch till he is speechless, when the boys drag him upstairs and lay him on the bed. Drunk? He is drunk all day and all night. He is never truly sober for an instant."

"If I wanted to speak with him, is there was married. Next, perhaps, because it not an hour in the day when he is less drunk than at other times?"

"I suppose he is sobered at 7 in the morning. He wakes in good time and he comes downstairs looking about him for a "An expensive guest."

'Well, sir, who is to pay my bill?" You can hardly expect Mrs. Weyland to in order to insure his silence, which you solely on the chance of getting money from

propose to sell to Mrs. Weyland, and to her." "But, sir, if I cannot get the bill paid stand to lose a large sum." "A large sum. I fear so indeed unless

"I don't know, sir, that I am obliged to of course, you come to terms with me." by all means, if you wish. I would, how- of expression; it might be cunning; it mostly half drunk; butchers, in blue, who friend here has already run up a consider- ing. It had been all three in the course of able bill for drink and maintenance-that their conversation. New it began again,

"If my bill is paid he goes out in three

-"of course my bill will be paid and there time. Let him go on drinking today. In birds, This is their occupation, this their lie said no more and the fight went on. the dignity of your family."

an extent. To return to a disagreeable subject, what security have you for this debt? ou. Yet you thought she might be bullied and threatened. You cannot sue her. You must spread abroad libels and so find yourself in a criminal court. What will you do then?" Mr. Pinder was silent. He stood beside

the table with hanging hands and downcast face-in silence.

"I don't know," he replied. "I own, sir, and I know him; sir, there is not a more contemptible person in the world when you Stratherrick. You are also asquainted with He will cheat and lie and deceive everybody for the sake of a guinea,"

"He has deceived you in this case least, because it is quite certain that he cannot and will not pay your bill." Mr. Pinder groaned. "Sir, I am at your

mercy. are these: You will say nothing to your "As you please. You received orders from friend here, the gentleman in liquor. In the consideration of such a part of this debt as Mrs. Weyland may consent to pay, you will transfer to me-to me, mind-the debt of the man to you. I shall send my attorney to you presently to arrange the business. At 7 tomorrow morning I will come here to see him. Perhaps he will hen be able to understand and to speak." the legs of the chair in which the sleeping outward show of care as they observed

man was sitting. "Drunken beast!" he said, so quickly the Gray's inn cockpit rarely goes. For his may a worthy gentleman lose his reputation.

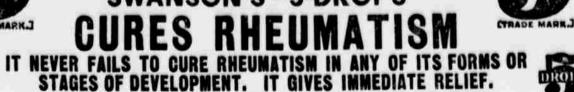
CHAPTER XIX.

The Way to His Heart.

The cockpit of Gray's inn, lying on the north side of that venerable inn of court, was a place frequented by Lord Stratherevery evening. The sport is in no rick way inferior to that of the cockpit in Tothill fields, while the company is not by the serene contempt with which he recomposed of noble lords and gentlemen, garded the clamor around him. nor is the betting, without which the sport would be dull and spiritless, beyond the means of persons impoverished, delayed or beginning. The place itself is like a round ping down behind him, touched this man tower outside and within is filled with on the shoulder, whispered a few words benches, which rise one above the other and placed a coin in his hand. The man round a circular stage in the middle, which rose and exchanged scale with him. Oliver, is the place where the birds fight. The therefore, was now sitting beside the man company which assembles at the Gray's inn for whom he came to the place. Lord cockpit every evening is truly of a mixed Stratherrick paid no heed to the change; character. For the noise that they make, not that he observed nothing, but it was for the shouting swearing, fighting and brawling offered up every evening in sacrifice to the powers of evil, it should be called the rabble rout, but there are frequenters of the pit who must not be classed which belong to a main; it was a bye fight with the rabble. Thus one may find here decayed gentlemen who have run through their estate, officers who have carried his majosty's colors over many a field, "That," said Oliver, "is the difficulty. Templars and others, lawyers who love the Everyone was bawling at once; the noise ancient sport of cocking, tradesmen from the city, who would be wiser to keep at neighbor that he know him, introduced home and attend to their shops; young merchants, who should be making up their ledgers; visitors from the country, anxious to bet?" to compare the cockpits of London with those of their own towns; farmers and cattie drovers, skippers of merchant ships, "What may your terms be?" Mr. Pinder's with stories of cock fights in the West Inexpressive countenance had a limited range dies and on the gold coast; young bloods, remind you, Mr. Pinder, that your might be suspicious; it might be threaten- are always patrons of the sport; craftsmen of the clamor of those who backed the of all kinds, pickpockets, footpads, highwaymen and thieftakers; men who come to that the other was fresher, better plucked family." bet, and, if they lose, to slink away, if "My terms are not hard. First of all, they win, to clamor for payment-a motley It was not his business, however, to display and mixed company, indeed. Among them his own knowledge so much as to humor may be found every day certain persons of and please the other man. "I will give "Well"-Mr. Pinder changed countenance Do not awaken the poor wretch before the are the owners, breeders and trainers of to two, my lord? Done!"

CTRADE MARKJ

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livelihood, and the cockpit is their exchange | Alas! In five minutes after the usual in which they make their money.

Oliver stood in the upper ring for a while, had seen the Gray's inn cockpit. Now, birds, the smaller cock sprang upon the edge not only the expenditure, but also however, he looked on with special interest, because he came on an errand which blow of his steel spur laid him dead. concerned one of the company and not the

He discovered his lordship sitting in the lowest circle of seats, that close to the who bet. stage or pit where at the moment a pair of birds was engaged in the duel, which they love as much as the men who stimulate them and fire them. Lord Stratherrick was watching the combat with face rapt and absorbed; the peevishness had gone out of it; his lower lip no longer proclaimed his discontent; the insolence of his pride had gone out of him; he was transformed sport which had ruined him. Like all gamesters, had he received a second fortune, it would have gone the same way as the first. Oliver hardly recognized him, so transformed he was. He saw, further, that great a cocker as your lordship," said ship was nothing but an attorney. It would that they did not press upon him or crowd Oliver, politely. "Perhaps on some other be proper in such a case to offer a round land; you called upon her and she warned him-yet to other gentlemen they showed about the privileged to take anno respect as to rank. In this case they other lesson. espected-could these gamesters but re spect?-the man who had given to the sport by which they all desired to become rich (but never succeeded) the whole of his estate, and yet remained the votary of the sport. They also respected the man who had made of cocking the sole study of his life; who knew all the points of a bird; how to pick out likely chicks; what to pay that I can do nothing. I had looked to his for them; how to breed them; how to delordship-I might have known that there is velop their fighting spirit; how to feed not any man in the world whose word can them; how to trim their feathers for the be less trusted than his. I was his valet fight; how to fix their spurs; how to weigh and match the birds, to note their marks and their age, as well as their weight and have taken away his ribbon and his star. in fighting out the main to take care that in or are proved to be within an ounce of each other in weight. These are very important matters, and it will be confessed that since a cockpit is frequented by those who live upon the success of their birds, the presence of an umpire to see fair play important function was performed by Lord Stratherrick, not by election or appointment, but by universal consent. The redoubtless helped to reconcile him to exiquity of his bets and the small amount of his transactions over the sport. The company respected him; they al

knew him for a ruined nobleman; they Mr. Pinder administered a savage kick to took his bets in shillings with as much in their few guineas-higher than guineas part, he took no share in the bellowing and bawling of the company; he sat in silence, unmoved even when the brawl to slink out lay half murdered on the floor, or when another who could not pay was hoisted in a basket to the roof and there ment." hung up, exposed to the derision of the house. In all the hubbub, he sat still and silent, distinguished among the rest not only by his dress and his star, but also

Beside his lordship sat a fellow in a leathern apron, who was a smith, or craftsman of some kind. Presently Oliver, slippart of his manner to show no interest in any of the company. Oliver watched for an opportunity; the

fight then going on was not one of those between two young cocks still at the age when they can be called stags and of unequal weights. For some reason the match was terrific. Oliver, without reminding his himself in the manner allowed in all sport. "Does your lordship," he asked, "choose

Without taking his eyes off the birds, this prince of cockers made immediate reply. "I will take five to three against the smaller bird"

Oliver, who knew something of the sport stronger and the larger bird, he could see

sparring, feinting, retreating and advanc- that man." ing, which gives cock-fighting so much ex-

Then there arose the usual clamor which with the usual disputes and claims of those

"Five half crowns, my lord." Oliver ship will give me my revenge."

The evening went on. Oliver betted with continuous bad luck. In other words, he showed himself obstinately of the opposite which have been incurred on behalf of this opinion to that of his lordship. When the play was over the latter was in great good humor; not only had he won many guineas,

"I am proud to lose a few bets with so

The people rolled out noisily, fighting

their battles over again.

Bay.

"Sir, I am here most evenings. "My lord, I have had the honor of meeting you once or twice at a certain house in St. James square." Lord Stratherrick affected unconsciousness. "At the house of

Mrs. Weyland." "Ay, ay, as you say, sir," he resumed at once the cold and insolent air of the nobleman. Outside the cockpit this manner was nothing for him. I may have been dehabitual with him. "No doubt, sir, as you

"My lord, there is a tavern not far from here, in Covent garden. I should be greatly honored, and so would the company, which is chiefly composed of lawyers, if your only those birds are matched which fall lordship would take a glass of punch with me. A coach will take us to the spot in a few minutes."

"Sir," his lordship hesitated, but yielded to the seductiveness of the punch, "I shall be honored by accepting your invitation. After two or three glasses of the punch spect with which his opinion was received at the house of my sister-in-law on several and end." occasions, if I am right.'

"Quite right. On several ocacsions. Let excellent punch. It is whispered among as I should myself have proposed. The except your lordship."

legitimate claims." "Mrs. Weyland, if one may mention her name with the greatest respect in this est manner. turned into a fight, or when one who tried company," Oliver dropped his voice to a whisper, "your lordship's sister-in-law, is,

I am sorry to say, unhappy at this mo-"Allow me-another glass. If your lordship is as good a judge of a glass of punch as of a bird, we shall be pleased with your approbation. The lady's unhappiness is, ir

fact, partly due to your lordship." "How, sir?" "I am glad of an opportunity-unexpected as welcome-of laying the matter before your lordship even in this public place. Your lordship cannot but know the reverence with which Mrs. Weyland regards the head of her husband's family."

"Why, sir," thinking of the smallness o his allowance, "I was not aware-" "Of course, the lady cannot be always proclaiming the fact. Your lordship will, however, remember that her own family is inferior to her late husband's, which makes her the more ready, perhaps, to recognize the respect due to its leader."

"Pray, sir, proceed." "She is, then, uneasy because she imagines that she has in some way forfeited your lordship's esteem."

"Ahem! My esteem." His lordship sipped his glass thoughtfully. He could not understand what was meant, because, indeed, that esteem for the head of the family had not of late been marked.

"There are certain passages in the lady's past history which should be forgotten, out of respect to her husband's family. They have been misrepresented, especially by a fellow who is a drunken liar-saving your lordship's presence. She fears that you believe the story of this fellow and that you may be protecting him at the way of her own reputation and the honor of the

son-

a certain tavern in Jermyn street, where manner and their dress. They bring with not only to offer a bet nearly sure to be ceives those who listen to him. I would "We will come to your bill afterward, them bags, and in the bags are birds. They lost, but also to give longer odds. "Five submit to your lordship that the maintenance of such a creature is derogatory to

Sir, I have been at great expense over

"Deceived by him and mislead by your looking at the scene, with which he was not citement and the charm of apparent un- own most noble desire that no dishonor unfamiliar. Every Irishman loves all kinds certainty, save to those who know the should rest upon your name. My lord, as of sport. It was not the first time that he meaning of the game and the powers of the the legal adviser of the lady, I acknowlneck of his antagonist and with a single the motive-the most honorable motive which called for that expenditure. Now, as we are, so to speak, in a private place, welcomes the conclusion of a cock fight, perhaps I might with the utmost submission and respect suggest that the support and countenance which your lordship has given this man should be withdrawn on the passed them along. "I hope your lord- ground that his story is an impudent fable and that the man is unworthy of credence. At the same time the lady in question should repay to your lordship the expenses man. Let me give your lordship another glass. So, a small slice of lemon? The least touch of the nutmeg? A little more sugar? Is it quite to your lordship's

liking?" "Quite. To return to the question of

money paid-" "We cannot expect a bill as if your lord-The help?" 'A hundred and fifty, I believe, would

"A hundred and fifty. I will bring the amount to your lordship's lodgings tomor row. No mention of the subject, I would submit, should be made by any one concerned at any future time." "Sir, as regards this person I can do

more nearly cover the amount.'

ceived. Probably I have been deceived. In my rank we frequently are deceived, but this fellow may go to the devil his own way. He is, as you say, a drunken beast." "A drunken beast, indeed. Quite unworthy the notice of a man of your rank." "He was brought to me by a person for merly my valet-now the innkeeper of a tavern. I depended upon that person's

word. Who can trust a valet? Well, sir, I have been, as I said, deceived. It is not for the first time. Two hundred, you say?" "A hundred and fifty, my lord. This sum will cover all expenses." The allowance and to take care that there shall be no and listening to two or three songs from was, indeed, ample, seeing that he had been trickery may be at times most useful. This the young lawyer in the room, Lord at no expense whatever-"and will ensure Stratherrick began to show signs of some the dismissal of this fabricator of lies, and, cordiality. He was but human. "Sir," he I need hardly say, silence for the future said, "I remember, now, I have met you as to the whole business, beginning, middle

> "I cannot bargain, sir. I shall receive the amount you bring and I shall observe me offer your lordship another glass of this the conditions you propose. They are such ourselves that the lawyer's wig covers the history of the lady may or may not be finest judge of punch, but tonight we must such as to cause scandals. For my own part, these scandals will have no exis-"Why, sir, you may do so, perhaps, withtence." His lordship rose with much digout prejudice, as you lawyers say to your nity. "I thank you, sir. No more punch. Your name, I believe-" He looked straight through him at the wall beyond in his cold-

> > "Never mind my name, my lord. It is useless to repeat what you will forget again until we meet once more in the cockpit for the fighting of a bye. I am honored by this conversation, and tomorrow I shall wait upon you with that bag of which we spoke. I have the honor, my lord-" He opened the door and bowed low as this noble lord departed. In this way Oliver cleared the ground of

one more danger. There would be no fear now of suggestions, hints, even discoveries made by this nobleman concernig his sisterin-law. Oliver went home to his chambers with a cheerful heart. There was little more left. The lady's reputation was almost saved.

(To Be Continued.)



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