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but it could not be so very late, for the pavement was thronged with people—all going the same way, oddly enough, as it occurred to her after a moment. There were so many of them that presently the carriage was blocked and obliged to go slowly. She beat her little hands on the seat in her impatience and looked out again.

A policeman appeared, shouting inaudible directions, and pressing forward through the crowd, which gave way reluctantly on either side. In her ungovernable impatience she let down the window and beckoned him to come nearer.

"Can't we get on?" she cried. "I am in a hurry. What is the meaning of this crowd?"

"They have come to see the fire, ma'am," the policeman answered civilly. "I'm afraid you will have to go round."

"But we are almost there—the Rung club!" she cried.

"It's the club that is on fire, ma'am," the policeman answered. Then, as she turned white, he added kindly, "Don't be frightened, ma'am; they've got the fire well in hand by this time and every one is out."

"All safe?" Mrs. Trelawney gasped.

"Well, a few broken bones and such like," said the policeman cheerfully. "Nothing to speak of, ma'am—only one gentleman killed. A sad business that."

"Who?"

"The gentleman who did such great things out in Burma a few years ago—Major Trelawney."

"My husband?"

"It seemed to her that she had known it all the time. She saw, as if in a dream, the sudden pity and respect in the policeman's face, and then she covered her own and sank back in the carriage.

The long agony of the drive seemed interminable, and yet when at last the carriage stopped she sat quite still for a moment, unable to nerve herself for the next move. Then the door was opened, and, as if in a dream, she passed up the steps, walking firmly, her face white and her eyes set and hard. Her apparent heartlessness was silently noted at the time and afterward freely commented on in the servants' hall.

Had they brought him—home? she wondered with a long shudder. She was in the hall now and some one was hurrying to meet her—the doctor. She was not surprised to see him there. In her dreamlike state nothing seemed strange any more.

"I have bad news for you, Mrs. Trelawney."

"I know—I know!" she answered petulantly. In her unreasoning misery she was annoyed by his hushed tone. Her own voice was unnaturally shrill and strained, and the doctor raised his hand in protest.

"What heartless creatures these pretty women are!" he was thinking—an unconscious echo of the servants' opinion.

"I must beg of you to control yourself," he said sternly. "Everything depends on quiet. His life is hanging on a thread."

"His life? Oh, God! Then he is not dead?"

She had brushed past the doctor, deaf to his remonstrances. With noiseless, flying feet, she was up the staircase and a moment later kneeling by her husband's bedside.

The doctor, following rapidly, stood arrested at the door, looking in at the darkened room, the kneeling white figure, with clasped hands and large, fixed eyes, the swathed wreck of a man lying very still on the bed.

One hand lay outside the coverlet. Her own stole out slowly, hungrily, toward it, as if her own darling scared her. She bowed her head over the bandaged hand at last and knelt on motionless. The doctor, watching and quite forgetting his scathing condemnation of a moment before, thought with a swift contempt of certain reports concerning the Trelawneys' domestic happiness which had reached his ears.

Something came before his shrewd, keen eyes which blurred the picture before him. He turned aside for a moment and then was recalled by a swift, low cry: "Horace! Oh, Horace!"

The doctor sprang forward and then drew back. The injured man's eyes had opened and were fixed on the shimmering white figure with an expression of mingled awe, unbelief, bliss.

"Clara!" said the faintest whisper in the world.

The doctor could scarcely hear it. He did not know that the old pet name had never been used for years.—London Forget-Me-Not.

Eli introduced to the Audience.

All Clark of Hopkinstown was a local wag who, when Eli Perkins visited that town on one occasion, stood his sallies all afternoon long. He was to introduce Eli that night to the audience to which he was to lecture. When the time arrived, it was found that but few were present, owing to a heavy dash of rain that came up just before the hour set for the lecture. Clark took Eli by the arm and walked him gently to the footlights. Making a bow, he said:

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[Continued from page 5.]

from each other "in those ten years of married life, until now they were comparative strangers. Neither could have told how or when the division began.

She looked at the uncomfortable corner again and with new eyes. That pale little face was the happiest in the room—the only contented one in sight—and when the boy husband came near, always with a glance and smile in that direction, what a radiant look was floated back at him! They really seemed to be enjoying their evening.

Mrs. Trelawney reflected, and then, with an indescribable sensation, it occurred to her that she, the admired and petted society beauty, was actually envying that plain, badly dressed, penniless little girl.

Mrs. Trelawney breathed a long sigh of relief when the brougham door was shut upon her and she was on her way home. She had a long way to drive, plenty of time to follow out her present train of thought and to be as unhappy as she pleased.

She told herself that she was a despicable little wretch, a mere society butterfly, and it was no wonder Horace was tired of her. If only Horace had been poor, so that he and she could have worked and struggled together! If only their one child had lived beyond babyhood! But that she could not bear to think of even now. If only all the past ten years could be lived over again, how differently she would use them!

Now it was too late, and then she suddenly sat up straight, with fast beating heart. It was not too late; it could not be too late. She would begin this very night and try to restore something of the old loving relations of ten years ago. She would call for her husband now at his club. She remembered having done so once or twice in those bygone days, when something imperative had prevented him from coming with her to their mutual disappointment.

She gave the necessary order to her coachman, and then sat tense and upright, her eyes bright, her cheeks flushed.

Ah, they were not far from the club now—five, ten minutes more and her new life would have begun!

She had no idea what the time was,