

"Mary," he said to hang at her elbow, I remember."

My poor mother had dropped into a stiff-necked, unbecomingly severe attitude, and formed prayers to God, but no source of comfort from them, and her eyes staring uncomprehendingly at the man who had been her friend and confidant for so long.

He stooped and reached to the side, and he was then in the position of a warder key from the chain, knowing of old the secret of the catch. Then he went to the door, and laid the key on the table, there always came a piece of ginger ale and honeycomb as often as it was opened.

"Mary," he cried, "you are as of old, Mary. You keep the bottles well supplied. I hope his taste in Holland is as good and sound as mine was."

He took a tall glass, filled and presented it to her, and, as he was relating her fingers, so fascinated that she could not take her eyes away from his for a moment.

So, long afterwards, she told me.

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"Set it on the table," he said; "do not hurry till you can overmaster your feelings. I own this must have been something of a surprise!"



TURE NOT WHOLLY IRONICAL.

from the prying eyes of neighbors. He noted how the flush of dawn had begun to spread upwards, and then calmly dropped the blind again.

"Drink it now, Mary!" he said. And with her habitual obedience my mother took the glass and drank.

"And I also—after you—to your service madam, and that we may prove better friends!"

He lifted the glass as high as his head with a gesture not wholly ironical, and drank the raw spirits down like so much spring water.

Then at last my mother's lips formed the word that had been on them ever since she had seen Philip Standfield looking down at her from the angle of the mantel shelf.

"You are a murderer!" she whispered hoarsely, as if to herself. And again

she repeated with yet greater horror and indignation.

Captain Stansfield shrugged his shoulders with the air of one who pardons the inconsistencies of women.

"I thought," Mary, we had agreed to be hypocrites bygone, but since you run your mind me, I have been called by that name—and by others. My own son bore testimony against me—as did also Jacob the Supplanner—I mean your friend Umphray Spurway. Spence Symmes, and I have been guilty—or I may have been innocent. That I have not time to argue. At all events, I was a rude man in those days, dazed with strong drink and the lust of the chase. I have never since been able to blame no man for—except myself. And forgive all who bore testimony against me—have only Umphray Spurway, with whom I have risked my neck to reckon, and whom I have branded."

Then, again, my mother's lips formed words, spoken hoarsely and with effort but still intelligible words.

"You have not killed him?" she asked.

"You plead for him?" he went on, smiling.

"I have not," she said, "but I have ever pleaded for me when I was a greater traitor. But—there, that also is bygone. Let us be friends, Mary, so far as we can. I have not killed him, and you have not killed him. I have not killed my hand shall never kill him more."

My poor mother could say no more, but only watched him as the mouse may eye the ravening monster between whose cruel jaws she might be tempted to leap.

"I have no long time to waste, Mary," he went on, positing himself easily against the little table, which creaked under his weight; "I must hasten and get aboard again. I must not, alone. You must come with me, Mary."

My mother was not more terrified than before, simply because from his first onset she had touched the ultimate of human

tear and horror. He went on:

"That is all I have to say to you. The things are inducements of weight; you should let bygones be bygones and return with me. I will not speak words of reproach to you. For that, I take it, is over between us. If, indeed, it ever had a being. But I am not here to speak of the past. I am here to speak of the future. I am concerned in your actions far considerably more practical. I desire your company for several reasons. First, because I am an old man; and, second, I desire to be a good man; and better than I am at present."

"Again, my brother John Gleick. John Gleick owns the estate, which is my son's. For fear of his neck he will send me a full half of all his receipts. Hitherto the estate has deduced the portion due to you. I am not here to speak of the past, reading of the law. With that in hand, as well as brother John's money, I am

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