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CAROLINA SPARTAN.

From Blackwood's Magazine.

HESTER BENFIELD. CHAPTER I.

Stretched upon the pebbly beach which whose appearance indicated that he belongthe incoming tide, of which the waves, as the assurance that she loved him. they followed with a pleasing sound, ap proached him more nearly at every rush.

He did indeed but seem to watch, for bore it back, until, at length, he with earn parent leaves, which a moment before, had floated so lightly before him.

George Maldon Asleigh was one of Fortune's favorites: heir to a title, and possess he could be capable of acts of kindness and generosity in cases where his own interests or whims were not in question; but, like a trated -his best energies were too frequently exerted in the pursuit of objects which, when attained, were cart saide as valueless, and immediate presence in London, and that he speedily forgotten. And still, inconsistent must leave her for a few days. as it may seem, if ever a pure and true af fection warmed the heart of man since the shall finish the Tempest together, dearest, him to be in all things fickle, had refused to listen to his prayer; yet he, the envied

The cause of her husband's hurried de-well.

thus—yes, marry at once the person he thought she would like least; that would like least; such feelings, and shunning society, he had interesting in her grief than he had ever

ing on the ground, while a blow from As- by, and in truth he seemed so. With an

fainting girl there was impossible. Her deeply, she did not dissent.

It was at night, when in solitade the voice

man, he endeavored to lessen his companion's confusion, as he conducted her across ion's confusion, as he conducted her across ly; and it must be written—the toy was being her husband to London, on the chance of the lovely Lady Helen Maidon, but indeed I did and prayed fervently for her happiness, but indeed I did not think much about that at the time—I She told her husband, tearfully, of the kind

THE CAROLINA SPARTAN. | youth, and she had but recently lost her but every day, as the evening mail arrives, | do so unperceived, thought she had never | ed that I should follow afterwards. We | sided in ---shire. The answer he receiv | promising lad of twelve years, was, through mother, to whom she owed the teaching finds her, dressed in her choicest, watching and high principle which had hitherto for him who comes not. caused her to be as much respected for her blameless life, as admired for her her beauty; she had but a short time previously come to the village of Wthe purpose of learning millinery, her desire being first to obtain initiation into the mysteries of bonnet making, and then proreed to London, that city of fabled golden pavements, where alone she believed fortunes were to be made.

Asleigh quickly discovered Hester's calling and place of business, and frequently waylaid her in the evening, on her return to her solitary lodging. At first, curiosity and mere idleness induced him to seek her; then, piqued by the coldness of her manner and resolute endeavors to avoid him, he became more earnest; lastly, information which reached him from the metropolis renewed the idea that his marriage, and such a marriage, would of all things most deep-ly wound the woman who had rejected him; and thus it-ended, that on one October evening, when, as usual, he had been waitfringes one of our southern counties, a man, ing for Hester, and at length in the darkening caught sight of her light figure hurryed to what are termed the "higher classes," ing across the common, he joined her, and watched, or rather seemed to watch, on a ere long had declared himself her suitor, lovely atternoon in August, the progress of eliciting in return from her quivering lips

She knew nothing of her lover's real rank. and it pleased him to think how great would be her supprise when sonte day she should the abstracted look told plainly the spirit find herself a countess elect. There was much, was far away, and had no part in the however, to do in the meantime. George strange intentness with which he leaned Asleigh's wife must be educated as well the spirit of evil whispered, "Cannot your forward and endeavored, by using his stick, as beautiful, and this he resolved to underto draw towards him a portion of pink sea take himself. She was not wanting in talweed, each time as the rippling water ent and delicacy of taste, and a year devowashed it almost to his feet, and as quickly ted to study would work wonders; then would come his hour of triumph. So est vehemence beat the mass to pieces, and thought the newly-affianced husband, as he scattered here and there the clinging trans- parted from the trembling girl destined by an evil fortune to be his wife.

And they were married; not in the village, the place of their first meeting; he did not wish it should be so, and none of ed of means sufficient to procure for him the friends she had made at W--- knew everything that wealth could purchase, it of the step she was about to take. Their had been rare for him to find a wish un- marriage was celebrated in a distant town, sunshine. Naturally of an easy temper, should remain until such time as might please him to re sppear in the world with the lovely companion he had chosen,

Hester had been a wife little more than a spoilt child-as the crushed sea weed illus fortnight; when one morning Asleigh entered the room suddenly, to tell her that business of a pressing nature required his

"I have marked your studies, Hester; we days of our great forefather, it had burned when I return; be sure to write out your portion of Milton daily; God bless you;

Asleigh, would for her sake have gladly parture, which Hester guessed not, was this: sacrificed wealth and title-would have a paragraph in the morning papers had

pierce her woman's heart. A victim to extremity of illness, and his cousin more sought refuge in a distant village on the thought her in her brightest days. There southern coast of England, where we first was a timidity in her manner towards himind him.

Self which touched him more than any other reception could have done. At one scattered to the winds, he took his way time he had believed she loved him; could dreamily across the common, until the cry it be possible that he had mistaken her, for help in a woman's voice aroused him, when lately she had refused to allow it was and turning hastily, he perceived at a short so! The doubt almost distracted him; and distance a girl running wildly along, follow his agony was complete, as his uncle, ignoed by a sailor, whose unsteady movements rant of what had passed between them, thing she possessed but a few articles of told plainly how the morning had been joined their hands, and blessed his children. clothing; she grew pale -was soon to be-"Protect me, sir, for Heaven's sake!" she clung to the society of his nephew, declarscreamed, and, tottering forward, fell faint- ing he felt always better when George was leigh at the same moment arrested her affectionate garrulity he would speak of pursuer's progress.

the union of his children when he should be well again. "Helen," he said, "required no one was to be seen, and to leave the a protector;" and though Helen would blush

some innocent abuse, and making several ineffectual attempts to rise, lay where he had fallen, and seemed to be already settling himself to sleep. Nothing could be but to endeavor to restore animation as best he might; and Asleigh, after loosening her bonnet and shawl, ran to the beach, and dipping hims handkerelief in the sea, and plant a been almost inculcated as a water, returned to place it on her pale fore water, returned to place it on her pale fore water, returned to place it on her pale fore water, returned to place it on her pale fore water, returned to place it on her pale fore water, returned to place it on her pale fore.

It was at high, when in solitade the voice of conscience spoke loudest, that George sign dating they beam — I mean unprotected women. We shall find this humber of words and shawl, ran to the beach, and of purpose. Want of heart in disk length of consciences spoke loudest, that George said they out this sole refered most. During the day he could say the could say the order of consciences spoke loudest, that George said they out this sole refered most. During the day he could say the order of the one honoable man the world fickleness of purpose. Want of heart in disk length of the idea of her bent of the one honoable man the world fickleness of purpose. Want of heart in disk length of the world was not of conscience spoke loudest, that George said to struggle against the fa-cina disk length of the was indeed they feared, indeed they feared, it was the "odd day — to the one honoable man the world fickleness of purpose. Want of heart in disk length of the world was not from any a done in the feared most. During the day he could say the said to struggle against the fa-cina disk length of the was indeed they feared, it was the "odd disk, beau of the contained, according to the idea of her bent disk length of the world was not from any and the world is a done of the said in the said some innocent abuse, and making several of conscience spoke loudest, that George sufwater, returned to place it on her pale forelead; and as he chaffed her cold bands, fastidious as he was, their whiteness and symmetry struck him, notwithstanding that one
first finger bore marks of the needle. But
when returning consciousness brought back

which had been almost inculcated as a
virtue. Her mind, highly stored, rendered
lead; and as he chaffed her cold bands, fastidious as he was, their whiteness and symmetry struck him, notwithstanding that one
first finger bore marks of the needle. But
when returning consciousness brought back

which had been almost inculcated as a
virtue. Her mind, highly stored, rendered
lead as a virtue. Her mind, highly stored, rendered
lead as a virtue. Her mind, highly stored, rendered
lead the same time where to apply for a yearly
allowance. He gave no reason for desert
ing the arena, cheered by his friends, and
of, the world was not to be left without
some one in whom to put futh, when all
other entered minutely into the incutents
of her past life; with tears she recalled the
days of her happy childhood, and spoke of
the mother who had been taken from her

though his predecessor might be disposed.
He same time where to apply for a yearly
side, and listened to with close attention.
He world was not to be left without
some one in whom to put futh, when all
of the world was not to be left without
some one in whom to put futh, when all
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some one in whom to put futh, when all
of the world was not to with the original sole, and listened to with close attention.

"George my dear cousin George, I have wished to ask your forgiveness, oh, so often; you must have seen my desire to do so;" and drawing herself up, "you know my pride, it was long ere I could do it; but my beloved father's illness, that perhaps softened me, and your kindness to him, George -am I forgiven?"-and Helen beld out to him her matchless hand.

Suppressing a groan of agony, and to hide the deathlike pallor of his working face, he turned away, and then, without a word, drew her to him, and clasped her in his arms, while one deep sob burst from his overcharged beart.

"Dear George, I now know how truly you love me. When you spoke hurriedly that day, you remember, I had heard something which caused me pain, and I was hurt and angry. You don't know how I repented afterwards having wounded you. o not now ask me to tell you what it was I heard. You shall some day know all: I George, then."

"God bless you-may God bless you," was all his reply.

They were together in the drawing room. but at this moment a summons from her father called Helen away, and the door closed on Asleigh, than whom then the world scarcely contained a more miserable

Desperate was the inward struggle before nor gained the mastery; at one moment marriage be annulled, perhaps denied, and Helen made your own?" at the next, happi ly for him, a better impulse succeeded Should the name which for generatious had remained unspotted be suffied by him? "And yet," he murmured, "oh, Helen, Helen, why did you drive me to do that which that I have made my wife, why did I ever

Helen watched for Asleigh all that evening, but he did not appear. It had rather surprised her to find him gone, when, on her return from her father, she re-entered gratified. Sufficiently good looking, and and Asleigh conveyed his bride thence to the drawing room. How great became her gifted with talents above the average, he a pretty residence he had chosen, where, astonishment during the following day, had been courted until life seemed one long both being unknown, he intended they when a letter from her cousin was placed in her hand, the contents of which were as

> "Helen, my dearest cousin, we may never meet again on this earth. An insurmountable barrier spands in the way of our union. I dare not meet you again, nor can quitted England ere you receive this, it may sist you forther," and she placed a bankbe to return no more. Forgive me. Fare note in He-ter's trembling hand.

and when she told the tradespeople her husband's absence alone caused delay in the payment of their bills, they answered Gradually, to liquidate as far as possible come a mother-what to do, or where to turn, she knew not; friendless and alone,

It transpired one day in the town that Hester had disappeared. No one knew whither the poor deserted girl had bent her steps. The hard-hearted laughed, and said they had always suspected something wrong; and those more kindly disposed pitied while they blamed, adding, they

On the other hand, Lady Helen-for she

it was-equally struck with Hester's appearance, had drawn Lord Redland's attention to her, as, tired of exercising in the yard, he passed through the porch to enter Little did these two women guess the se-

cret sympathy which, perhaps, caused them "Yes, my lady, she only just arrived be fore you and my lord; she is a pretty dear,

my lady, but seems poorly enough; she is going on to London by the next mail, your "Thank you, landlady; she is very inter-

esting, poor thing; I wonder if I might speak to her." "Oh, I'm sure, my lady, she would be very proud. I'll go and tell her your lady-

ship has something to say to her." "Oh do not on any account. Thank you, that will do;" and as the hostess retired courtsying, Lady Helen returned through the porch, in which Hester still shall never conceal anything from you, sat. Playing for a minute with flowers which clung about the trellis, Lady Helen, addressing Hester, said, "What lovely and enjoyal le weather it is! will you have one of these?" offering her at the same time a sprig of jessamine. "Thank you, miss."

"You are going to London, are you not? ter last resided. He said he had made inou must be sorry to leave the country thile everything is so beautiful; I am so

happy at finding myself in it again."
Tears filled Hester's eyes. No place looks beautiful now to me, miss;" and then she hesitated and stopped.

"How sof 'It is sad to hear one oung as you are speak thus. I see by the ing you wear that you are married; is your husband in business in town?" "I don't know, miss; I am going in search

have done? Wretched, hateful woman past, and I do not know whether he is dead her feeble state of health, could better bear "Poor thing, poor thing! have you friends

in London? "None," she replied in a faint voice.

"Have you ever been there before?" "No," in a voice still fainter. Helen paused, and then bending down,

said, "My poor girl, are you well provided ith money? I fear not: do take this." Hester's wan face flushed crimson as, gently putting aside Lady Helen's hand, she answered, "You mean kindly, miss, I

am sure, but I have never a-ked or received charity, and cannot accept it now.' I further explain my conduct, which I know | Helen; "you shall repay me when you can. must appear incomprehensible and fickle. See," she said, taking a card from her reti Forgive me, I beseech you, and believe cule, "when you find your lusband, which only that, whatever I may seem, I love, God grant you may soon do, you can reand shall ever love, you better than life - mit the little loan I have made to you; the

The carriage was by this time ready, and only knows whether he is alive or dead, still her admiration and respect for the part-How the proud Lady Helen suffered in Lord Relland, seated in it, waited for his You are not the first victim this wicked ner she had chosen were most genuine, and threw us in each other's way; at the time I

ful Providence as worthless now.

His humor altered from despair to angry on the little suspected the truth, but weather having tempted most of the passentian and fondly had they magined that, like other lovers' quarrels gers to travel outside, she found herself, as not believe there is faith or truth in any further remark about him, believing he fuldefiance; at one moment the desire to end hoped he would in very truth become so, which had preceded it, it would blow over, the mail drove up, compelled, against her man living—but one; well. I must except by understood her reasons for speaking as you. I saw you were not indifferent to me, a life now so aimless was uppermost, at another the wish for retaliation took its another the wish for retaliation In the meantime Hester watched on, but again watching over her, and providing but, thank Heaven, I have outlived them. soon go through the ordeal he most dread were. This, perhaps, I looked upon as suf-

well doing or probable return; terrible fears ance, entered into conversation with her,

one very unsuspicious, for neither doubt, nor fear of imposition, seemed to enter her lady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter her leady's neck, and her sobs husbed on her leady to enter he mind to deter her from her charitable purpose, when, having reached London, she Frank Benfield was a fine boy of seven ed to him as it she and all the world should you. When, after waiting many months, by smiles which cut her to the quick, pose, when, having reached London, she

remember, you pass for my consin, and the bride elect no other than our friend then the servants and neighbors need have nothing to gossip about; and by the by, my name is Morris—Miss Morris; thank goodness I never had a husband to control expression of trusting timidity which had been the characteristic of her youthful beau tyours, my poor child. It was providential that I met you in the coach to day. Land a serious carnestness pervaded her that I met you in the coach to day. Land a serious carnestness pervaded her that I met you in the coach to day. Land a serious carnestness pervaded her the child whose birth fortune had rung in with golden bells.

"And, George Asleigh, you never loved me, and yet I am your wife. Ohl great the child whose birth fortune had rung in with golden bells.

"And, George Asleigh, you never loved me, and yet I am your wife. Ohl great the child whose birth fortune had rung in with golden bells.

"He tried first one thing, and then and "Hester, hush! There is but little time."

He occupied himself that evening in speculating upon what his new acquaint ance would turn out to be, where she lived. She was certainly very lovely, and her language not ill chosen; but she could never be oblighed the acts of the past three dimbs and tottering steps, entered the yard now hard I worked to her language not ill chosen; but she could never be oblighed the acts of the past three dimbs and tottering steps, entered the yard now hard I worked to he better educated, and her was been had with his own hand upreared to prevent the accomplishment of his dearest wishes. The kindly landlady was bustling out a royal present on each safe delivery of this damage. He said he wished me to be better educated, and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he was dead and how hard I worked to he has been the accomplishment of the long low building, asked when had with his own hand upreared to prevent the accomplishment of his dearest wishes. The deaded and how hard I worked to he had burned from place to the royal family. Where he has been the advice of one of his oldest could never be oblighted and how hard I worked to he bester educated, and how hard I worked to be better educated, and how hard I worked to he had with his own hand prevent the said on the royal family. Where he has been the accompliance of the accompliance of the said on the royal family. Where he has been the royal family with a was deaded and horities—none other than the last few miles, agreed to ask the accomplications of

were married on the day I joined him, and ed to this letter was to the effect that she where, for a fortnight, we lived so happily."

by Hester, as she muttered the word "bad."

seeing him place it in his desk.' Another shake of the head, and a repeti-

ion of the little word twice over. "Were there any witnesses to your mar-"I think not, but I really do not know;

was so frightened, and it was all so unlike the merry weddings I had seen at home,

"Ah, I fear so, indeed-God help you, my poor child."

Old Miss Morris was untiring in her ef forts to discover Hester's husband. An ad vertisement addressed to "G. M. A.," entreating him to return to his sorrowing wife. was inserted in several of the newspapers, but to no effect. More for the satisfaction of a friend whom she had consulted than for her own, she wrote privately to the various places at which Hester had lived, and found her statements all corroborated. Her anxiety was much increased by an answer she received to a note she had written to the clergyman of the parish in which Hesquiries about the persons mentioned by Miss Morris, and found that a gentleman of the name of Asleigh had lived in the town for some weeks, having as his companion a young woman who passed for his wife, and who had subsequently disappeared. Miss Morris no longer doubted that Hester had been the victim of a false marriage, but so confident did the poor girl continue of the her kind friend shrank from expressing this conviction to her. She saw that Hester, in to hear of his death than of his having de-

The time at length came when Miss Morris felt she dared speak on the subject to Hester. It was after her child's birth, when, in recovered strength, she was about to take him to the church to be christened.

"Hester, my dear, what was your father's ner. name!" inquired her friend. "Frank, Miss Morris."

Hester hung her head.

"A good honest name; and one that, 1 row." um sure, belonged to an honest man. 1 rope you will give that name to your boy."

"Hester"-a pause. "Hester, my dear, I son cannot honestly bear the name of As- wife uttered the word "never," ended the leigh. I have thought it all over againand again, and have spoken to one I can trust on the subject. I fear, my poor child, your marriage was not a real one; I cannot Not another eye but her own saw George's Sufficient composure to utter her thanks, last; your case is one that is but too com-Jacob for his Rachel; but, denied the treasure of the love he sought, he looked upon the love he sought, he looked upon town.

Not another eye but her own saw George's letter, and while the old man mourned town.

Not another eye but her own saw George's letter, and while the old man mourned over the quarrel which he supposed had dever the quarrel which he supposed all the gifts showered on him by a bounti all the gifts showered on him

which never called a blush to your cheek his care-worn face for an instant, and were near relative. I burried to what I believed well doing or probable return; terrible fears for his safety assailed her, vexatious calls upon her purse, which she could not meet, came in daily; her servants grew insolent; well doing or probable return; terrible fears ance, entered into conversation with her, and let your son be called by it likewise. A very discerning old lady she was, or not speak more on this sad subject;" and in care worn face for an instant, and were with drawn with an expression on them of cold unforgiving disdain, that he felt how much he had miscalculated the effect of the learn that she loved me, and had ever done

when returning consciousness brought back the color to her cheek, he was astonished at the beauty of the young creature so uncertainty the instinctive feeling of a gentleman, he endeavored to lessen his compan.

Helen appeared, all others fell for the time into the shade. Her very pride seemed to add to her perfections, and gave her that high-born look of dignity which is never to be acquired.

With the instinctive feeling of a gentleman, you say, Hester?

With the endeavored to lessen his compan.

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With the instinctive feeling of a gentleman, you say, Hester?

With the instinctive feeling of a gentleman, you say, Hester?

With the mother who had been taken from her who had to her perfection; of the match of the first!

When never a far more splending that th the common, antil perceiving her to grow uneasy as they approached the village, he gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to-writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to be writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took leave of her, and turned to be writing to his wife; by the close of the gently took l gently took leave of her, and turned towards the house which for the time he called his home.

Late in the month of May, tootstore and
weary, Hester had arrived within a stage
fourth day he felt he could not address her,
With bitter regret, half in remorse, half in

With bitter regret, half in remorse, half in

With bitter regret, half in remorse, half in

Helen, when, Friendless and poor, sine was
or two of the metropelis. She had walked
the last few miles, and now, with feeble
gently took leave of her, and turned toweary, Hester had arrived within a stage
or two of the metropelis. She had walked
the last few miles, and now, with feeble
just the same. He said he wished me to
she said, but the debt of gratitude she owed
on the royal family, where he has been
on the royal family, where he has been

higher station in life than her plain dress indicated; what could she be?

Reader, Hester Benfield—for such was her name—was a sewing girl, and an orphan: her father had died during her early

The lady was young, and Hester, who phan: her father had died during her early

The lady was young, and Hester, who might he created, to T—. It was arrang
"Were you muristructed mind cannot yet follow—all to grow a fine disposal. Find the warm sunshine, in front of the door of the warm sunshine, in front of the warm sunshine, in front of the wa

immediately set out for the pretty spot had disappeared, no one knew whither. The writer added that her health had, prior Miss Morris shook her head, unperceived to her disappearance, been much impaired, and that in all probability sho was since "Have you the certificate of your marriage, dead, especially as no inquiry had ever been made at the banker's with whom the money "No, my husband has it. I remember left for her maintenance had been placed.

Asleigh's sufferings and remorse were increased fourfold after this. Oh, if the past could be but his once more! -- but there was now no remedy, no-none. He could not deserted girl. present himself before his cousin, the woman still so dearly loved, for a dark mystery hung over his wife's fate, and all his efforts to clear it away were baffled. With anxious eye did he search the newspapers, Helen's marriage, but for very long he was spared this additional pang. At length, when seven years had passed over the head charge. of the self exiled man, he learned that she had pledged her faith to another.

He could remember her husband, one worthier than he had himself ever been to possess the treasure he had lost.

After passing two years longer in India, ie climate began to tell seriously on Asleigh's health, and, little caring where he went, he retraced his steps through Egypt, through the Continent, until he reached Paris. While idling in that capital, during the tenth year of his banishment, tidings reached him of his uncle's death; and business rendering it necessary that he should now return to England, the new earl once more set foot on his native land.

Helen could not avoid an involuntary start as she read "that the Earl of Hedland had, after an absence of some years, arrived truth and honor of the man she loved that perfectly. Had she not torn his unworthy image from her heart, with a merciless hand made strong by wounded pride? She could long since have met him anywhere, without her color deepening a shade or the How is it that I find you here?" quickening of a pulse. And now, as a wife and mother, she would indeed have scorned herself had it been otherwise.

"I see my cousin Redland has returned." she said, in her coldest accents, when she met her husband, Colonel Allenby, at din-"Oh, indeed! I wonder he has not come

to see you. I must call on him to-mor-"No, if you please, do not: we quarrelled many years ago, and I should not wish my

husband to seek him " "Surely it is time now, dearest to forgive and forget," Colonel Allenby remonstrated. half laughing, but the way in which his

conversation. Helen piqued herself on being a good wife, and her husband's devotion to her admitted of no question. If her exhausted doubt but that you were deceived. God heart had been incapable of loving again, am detestable in your eyes. Listen, Res-

In the meantime Hester watched on, but her husband came not; days grew into weeks weeks into months, and still he was another friend for the lonely girl.

An old lady, the only occupant of the on the surname, "resume the name under on the surname, "resume the name under the lonely girl.

An old lady, the only occupant of the on the surname, "resume the name under the lonest name and the surname," resume the name under the lonest name and the surname, "resume the name under the lonest name and the surname," resume the name under the lonest name and the surname, "resume the name under the lonest name and the surname," resume the name under the lonest name and the surname and the "Hester, Hester Benfield," with a stress ed, and which he had yet, in a manner, ficient compensation for everything else.

oade Hester enter the hackney-coach she years of age, when one day a quiet party, have been aware of this, and, instead of no answer came to my letter, I wrote to Eng-

that I met you in the coach to day; Lon- countenance. She was about to give her ther; still the old failing of instability seem- to spare; we may be interrupted. Listen don is a dangerous place for young and hand—her heart had been his for many a ed to haunt him, but now it was not from yet again. I can make you this sole re-

and poor Hester! still studying that dry bistory till your blue eyes lose their lustre as she called Hester, when a carriage drove and Lypt, he she must, he thought, have occupied a bistory till your blue eyes lose their lustre as she called Hester, when a carriage drove sublime writings of Milton—lines which she must, he thought, have occupied a bistory till your blue eyes lose their lustre as she called Hester, when a carriage drove days. Oh! I fear, I fear he must be dead, and of better lopes sublime writings of Milton—lines which she must, he thought, have occupied a bistory till your blue eyes lose their lustre as she called Hester, when a carriage drove days. Oh! I fear, I fear he must be dead, and of better lopes she this world's goods, and of better he had sent her on leaving England, or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at any rate, that she would have drawn or, at the proof she told Prince Albert that his

the good Doctor's liberality, parsning his education under a clergyman in the country, prior to entering the army, the profes-sion he had chosen, and for which Miss Morris had expressed her intention of fitting him out; for, still as kindly interested in Hester and her son as of yore, their good old friend had settled her little fortune on Frank—"her boy." as she called him; and thus all was bright and prosperous in and about the house of the once friendless and

Hester was in her dining-room, her child by her side, dressed for her morning's walk, "There, darling, go to nurse," said the fond mother, pressing a kiss on the lips of the little upturned face. "Shall mamina dreading to see the announcement of Lady take you to her?" and catching up the child in her arms, slie carried her from the room. calling as she went, "Here, nurse, take your

The nurse was standing without at the hall door, through which, at the moment, the man servant was admitting a gentle-man, by whom, ere Hester could escape, she found herself accosted.

In some little confusion, she begged him to walk in, adding that Doctor Thornton, whom she presumed he came to see, would be disengaged directly; and was in the act and over the well-known beaten track of leaving the room, when, with an agitated gesture, he detained her, and in trembling accents, a voice which she now, recognised-one she had believed to be long silenced in the grave—called her by name, "Hester, Hester! don't you know me? am I so changed?" She staggered back, and nearly fainted.

"George Asleigh, do I see you again? After these many years, why have you sought met Is it to bring more shame on the head of one who never wronged you?"

"You mistake my purpose in coming to this house, Hester, though seeing you has relieved me from a load of misery and remorse. I came to visit Doctor Thornton.

"I am-I am-his wife!" she almost shrieked; and then, dropping on her knees, clasped her hands, and said in a voice scarce audible, "Oh, for the love of Heaven, tell me, George Asleigh, that I was never vonrs; tell me I was wronged, deceived -anything, but not that I am your wife. My child, my

little Mary, think of her." "The infant I saw in your arms but

life. Oh, Asleigh, in mercy tell me it was all as they said, false, and that you deceived

"I did not deceive you, Hester, as regarded our marriage, nor did I wish to do so subsequently. A letter from me, did it not

"None-oh, none; and God knows how long I sought for and trusted you."

"And now you hate me-is it not so! I ter, while I explain the past. Accident had provided, and getting in beside her, took the poor wanderer to her own comfortable home.

"I shall call you 'Hester at once; and the occasion, you might have recognised in the occasion.

The left the ball room in which they is abbing still more deeply, have placed the stabbing still more deeply, have placed the finger of love and pitty on the yet open into the carriage which had been hired for the occasion, you might have recognised in the occasion.

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The left the ball room in which they is abbing the occasion of the occasion occasion.

"And, George Asleigh, you never loved