## THE LORDS OF HIGH DECISION By MEREDITH NICHOLSON

CHAPTER XIV.

A Light Supper For Two. As Wayne entered his father's battailons were recruited from the from her brow, with the brown hair touse he saw with surprise that the bire-book. little reception parlor adjoining the drawing room, which was usually asked, after a moment. His surprise increased as never believe it of me. I've been out gar, in his assay she had never been Mrs. Craighill appeared in the door to Ironstead seeing how the other

"Well!" she returned "Just home from a party, are you? Where's father?'

She put her finger to her lips, and indicated the closed library door with a slight movement of the head, in for that sort of thing?" 'He's writing a speech or something He las a stenographer come tiresome as you might imagine. As a tempt for his father; he had been up right after dinner, I was de trop, social diversion it would compare fa- content to wait for that, and he felt so I have been waiting all this time vorably with shows I've attended in that he had not waited in vain. Tofor you to come home and amuse me. this coighborhood."

He followed her into the reception him. room, a place rendered comfortless ex-officio-is that right?-in a lot of her charm, of which she was not by the decorator and furnisher, and things already. I'd raiser pre'es to ignorant, meant as little to her eld-Mrs. Craighill resumed her seat in wait a little and be recognized on erly husband as moonlight to strong, the least forbidding of its chairs. She may own merits, but then-" suffered Wayne to mitigate its se-

"There's better loafing places in de suggested. house," he observed, as he sat down opposite her and felt for his cigarette me. I'm tikely to cav."

"No smoking! You can't get it out anything to the effect of that gown: roof sheltering them, should be her of these draperies."

You'll have to this time." He have ever seen you wear" i the match stick into a Severes urn at his elbow and looked sudden animation and took a turn ed about her lips, and she bent her "The colonel's been at it ever since shoulder at her shadew in a long

"You might have gone to bed." "Oh, yes, there's always that; but about you, Addie. You know how to

It's a bore, going to bed right after wear your clothes; this matronly air ghost of it still walks! dinner. I've never been used to it. you've been cultivating-the much-And besides, you never can tell; I married look, isn't wholly to my might have been needed; the door taste, but you'll do. What's that bnight have swung open at any min- you've been reading?" nte and a demand made for a tare the Delaware, and whether t was cover significantly. "I really haven't palm, as was her way. real or stage ice they put inti history caught at it, but he held it away so the Father of his Country would and opened upon several hundred look well lithographed in the boat sheets of typewritten manuscript with his clock pulled round his neatly bound into the case. "You reedn'e trouble about being

called in for consultation. When the Addie, do you think you have to do oration is all done you will be given it?" a chance to attend a dress rehearsal. She had colored, but manifested no or two of them. I used to hear resentment at his tone. those things; but now you've cut me

This was the first time since the was the answer?" afternoon of her arrival that Wayne had seen his stepmother alone. He mean advantage though! It was fit had, in fact, seen little of her. They ting that you should come in here to met usually at the breakfast table, read those orations; they're like the but Wayne was never home at mid-furniture--lines of austerest grace, day and as often as not be dired at with a little gilt on here and there. the club. A series of dinners and re- You must have had a roaring time of I septions in her honor had engag- it." ed Mrs. Craighill's attention; her coming had forced the season and produced a novel and tapped the these functions were now lagging cover sognificantly. "I really haven't Her presentation to the society of felt called on to commit all the the Greater City had, however, been speeches to memory. You wouldn't secomplished; and she was now suggest that; would you?" woven into the social fabric, one of its bright figures, discernible to any parental expectations. It would un eye. she was Mrs. Craighiil, a doubtedly boost you in the colonel's

sufficient answer to any inquiry She regard. It would show a becoming had met nearly every one it was interest in his affairs. A man of band of recalcitrants who had sworn wife." that she should never cross their "He's locked up with his ideals,

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her through the crisis with safety. Mother's Friend allays nausea, prevents caking of the breasts, and in every

"Nothing but milk, or distilled waer! You may have either. You wait ence of the Municipal League. Adehere-it would look better." She pursed her lips and bent her toward the library.

there will be cold chicken."

locked-you must have the key."

When he heard her at the swinging pantry door a moment later he sprang up and flung it open. She carried a fowl and bread, and told him he might fetch knives and forks and other essentials of their feast. She was in a laughing mood now, and in the midst of their preparations, she ran to the hall door and listened, like a child about to ravish the jam pots. The grace of her sight figure; her pretty way of catching up her skirts,

Forecast for Charlotte and Vicinity. Fair and colder tonight and Tuesday; temperature below 40° by Tuesday morning.

State Forecast.
Fair and colder tonight and Tues

Weather Conditions. Low pressure continues in the ex-

treme Northeast, and cloudy and unseasonably warm weather prevails over the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic states, with snowfall in the lower Lake region. A slight barometric de pression is located also in the far West with resulting unsettled weather in that region and light snowfall over the lower Rocky mountains and the Plateau region. Cloudiness covers the Gulf states and light rain has fallen in portions of Louisiana and Texas. In all other districts the weather is under the control of a large high pressure area, in consequence of which fair and cold conditions obtain. Marked falls in temperature occurred over the upper Lakes, middle and upper Mississippi valley, the Plains states and the Northwest. It was below zero tas , Montana and northern Wyoming, the lowest reported beig 14° below zero at Moorhead, North Dakotah and Havre, Mon.

Fair and colder weather is indicated for this vicinity for the next 36 hours, with temperature below 40° by Tuesday morning

W. V. MARTIN, Observer.

Washington, Feb. 27.-Georgia, cloudy tonight and Tueslay, colder in north portion tonight; slightly colder Tuesday; moderate north winds.

tonight, probably rain tonight or Tuesday, colder tonight; moderate acrtheast winds New Orleans, Feb. 27 .-- Forecast: Louisiana, tonight and Tuesday un-

which arep robably quite beyond me

uded plaintively

thresholds had sat with her ac other clasped her throat and a diamond

at larger functions whose charging from it by a tiny chain. The line

"Rather a new shot ; but not so must share in time his own con-

"What have you been doing?" she throat,

"I'm afrai! to tell you; you would

'Maybe they're airaid to wait for

your merits to disclose themse'ves,'

"Please don't say unkind things to

it's one of the most perfect thing; I

"It 'en't bad, is it?' she rose with

across the room, looking over her

"It's charming There's no deaying

He stooped and picked up what ap-

He flung it aside, laughing aloud.

"He asked me if I didn't want to

read some of his things and what

"Yes; what was it? It's taking

"Oh, I haven't done so badly!" She

"I shouldn't exclude that from the

"The colonel's speeches!!

that there's so netning very Lice first afternoon."

"Don't do that Tears wouldn't add

the ice cream and coffee."

and I'm outside the door," she con

"That's wholly complimentary. You

are distracting-never more so than

now. You affect my own ideals pleas-

antly. It was always so, I wonde

what would have happened if-well.

obviously and beastly grasping."

you dear mother hadn't been so

He had not expected it to come so soon, this change—this appeal, this

cry, faint thought it was, of dis

watched her. A black velvet band

rising abruptly above it, to her fair

some child she had, in effect, been

to important matters within. It was

inevitable that Wayne, by reason of

their acquaintance, and with the same

chief dependence in unhappy hours.

She had gathered herself with an

"I thought I asked you not to

"I'm not so sure we buried it. The

"Well, what would have happered?"

"It had no ghost; it was

"If it had been dead -

nel prepared his oration."

what do you call it?--subtle?"

there's no doubt of that. And know-

than that, I asked you to help me.

and she leaned back and turned her

in the pantry for something to eat." "Splendid!" shec ried, jumping up.

"Stay right here, please! I will

"The strong drink is usually kept

I threw myself on your mercy!'

face away from him,

He rose with a laugh.

dead for that."

came home."

upon. Though he had never

the mockery of her anxiety lest they be discovered, brought them into

new and delightful intimacy. "Do you remember?" asked Wayne, crossing his legs at ease and nibbling he sandwich she had made for him "do you remember our little picnic reople's tables, and taken her hand twinkled in a pendant that swung Cove, when we got lost on the drive home? There was chiken then-per haps it was a distant cousin of this one. All chickens are sacred hence-

the pine grove by the shore was dark of standard weight and fineness; she half amuses itself in my old triend had been offered at too many prices and sad. Paddock's parish house. There was in too many markets, and he was not "And I kissed you that night-the irst time!"

"And there was a moon and the

boxing match; a girl recited 'Cur- sure yet how much alloy lay under few Shall Not Ring Tonight, or the bright surface. On the day of She was serious instantly and held enough of it, then a social mix-up her home-coming he had mistakenly ip her hand warningly. Don't be naughty; that was a "Something new, isn't it, your going him on his own terms, but she had long time ago!"

"Two years last August, which is not so very long! "Long enough to be forgotten,

though. "I am not in the habit of forgetting night, with only a month of married pleasant things. You were a being The met M. Paddock; I'm an the life behind ber, she had a grievto worship that night.'

> driving the next day." "But we didn't have a picnic and

> Decidedly not, as she was from Philadelphia." And they laughed soft ly, in the subdued key of their talk heard at the library bidding the stenographer good night. Mrs. Craighill rose, clutching her plate and

whispered, and on this hint Wayne restored her chair to its place against the wall, and with a little nod, a shrug of her shoulders, a pretty lifting of the brows, she vanished through the pantry door and took think of that. We buried all that that flight upward by way of the back stairs. Wayne heard the click of the buttons in the hall as his fath- 709 Realty Building, Charlotte, N. C. er turned off the light, and a moment later Col. Craighill appeared at the door with a handful of pa-

"You up. Wayne? I thought a bris OSTEURAIR . . . REGISTERED she asked, bending toward him, her lar was entertaining himself. I rea. -at just what nour George crossed peared to be a magazine in a linen elbow on her knee, her chin in her ly believe I'm hungry, too. I've de layed writing a statement I was ask-"For one thing, you wouldn't have ed to prepare of the educational consat here all evening in this hideous. ditions of the South, and there was stiff room. You have a comfortable a lot of statistical matter to go over. sitting room upstairs where you could I think I have it the way I want it have taken your ease while the colo- though.'

> He stretched himself at eases in a 'I don't believe I understand," she chair, while Wayne brought a plate said. "You know I am a very dull and cut him a slice of the fowl. person, Wayne; I am not a bit-What have you been up to to-"You're a mighty pretty woman;

"I went out to Ironstead to a show at Paddock's parish house.' Col. Craighill's face expressed sur-

ing I think so and would be likely to mention it, you stayed down here to prise and pleasure. sure not to miss me when I "I'm glad to hear it; Paddock's a good man for you to cultivate."

"Please don't speak to me like "Oh, I don't know about that!" that; it is not what I expected of said Wayne, instantly resentful. "I'm you. I told you when I came here that not sure but he's a dangerous charac meant to be very, very good. More ter." "No man who gives his life for the good of mankind can be any other

The tears were bright in her eyes than a useful member of society." "I suppose that's so, but if Pad dock should lead his ragged legion in an attack on the banks downtown "For heaven's sake, don't cry! It's and raid the shops it would be less bad for the complexion. Let's dig admirable." "We must take a hopeful view of society; every school house in the He tried to take her hand, but she land is an outpost of democratic

brushed by him and ran toward the ideals," declared Col. Craighill impresnecessary to meet; even the small ideals must have a sympathetic diving room, where she bade him sively, plucking, Wayne guessed, a turn on the lights and wait while she phrase from his address he had been preparing. "Here at home we're going to need bring the things myself; don't ex a good many school houses to knock pect too much, but I think-I think the spirit of democracy into the rift-

raff of Europe. When do you go away again?" "Oh, not till early in December, when I go to Boston for the confer-

laide will go with me." "I have intended speaking to you head with the slightest of inclinations about one or two matters. Since Walsh left I've been going over all our affairs."

Col. Craighill stared at his son in frank surprise. "You have been checking over the securities? If you had asked me could have saved you a good deal of bother. I have them all tabulated so that their silent features can be

seen at a glance of the eye.' "Yes; I have a copy of your synopsis and have been checking it." (CONTINUED TOMORROW.)

THE WEATHER.

By Associated Press. North Carolina:--Fair and • • colder tonight and Tuesday; • · moderate northwest winds. South Carolina: -- Generally • fair tonight and Tuesday, cold-• er; moderate north winds.

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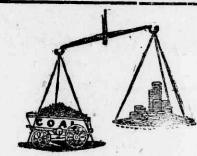
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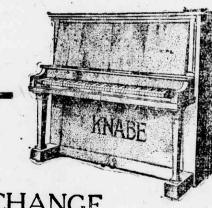
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