SYNOPSIS.

The story opens in a Confederate tent at a critical stage of the Civil War. Gen. Lee imparts to Capt. Wayne an important message to Longstreet. Accompanied by Sergt. Craig. an old army scout. Wayne starts on his mission. They get within the lines of the enemy and in the darkness Wayne is taken for a Federal of floer and a young lady on horseback is girl and a tenerge. She is a norther string of the north are left alone. They seek shelter in a hut and entering it in the dark a huge mastiff attacks Wayne had not be the girl shoots the brute just in time. The owner of the hut, ded Bungay, and he horsemen approa and the brown of the hut, ded Bungay, and he is introduced to a Miss Minor and the brown of the hut, ded Bungay. He orders the arrest of Wayne as a spy and he is brought before Sheridan, who threatens him with death unless he reveals the secret message. Wayne believes the Sentan to be the wife Bungay, who starts to reach Gen. Lee, while Wayne in disguise penetrates to the ball-room, beneath which he had been imprisoned. He is introduced to a Miss Minor and harely escapes being unmassed. Edith Brennan recognizing Wayne, whey reach the Lee camp and are sent oblidding Edith addien wayne makes a dash for liberty. He encounters Bungay, they reach the Lee camp and are sent with reinforcements to join Early. In the battle of Shenandoah the regiment is overwhelmed, and Wayne, while in the hospital, is visited by Edith Brennan. Wayne and harely escapes being unmasse, ed. Shenandoah the regiment is overwhelmed, and Wayne, while in the hospital, is visited by Edith Brennan. Wayne and harely escapes being unmasse, and

CHAPTER XXXII.-Continued.

"Damn ye, Red told you not to fire!" he yelled. "Come on, you dogs! You could eat 'em up if ye wasn't sich blamed cowards. There's only two, and we'll hang them yet."

He leaped straight up the broad steps, his long cavalry sabre in hand, while a dozen of the boldest followed him. Brennan swung his sword high head, grasping it with both hands for a death-blow, even as I thrust directly at the fellow's throat. The uplifted blade struck the chain of the hanging lamp, snapped at the hilt, and losing his balance the Major plunged headlong into the ruck beneath. The downward fall of his body swept the stairs.

As I stood there, panting and breathless, a woman rushed downward. Believing she would throw herself into that tangled mass below, I instantly caught her to me.

"Don't," I cried anxiously. cannot help him. For God's sake go back where you were."

"It is not that," she exclaimed, her voice thrilling with excitement. "Oh, Captain Wayne, do you not hear the bugles?"

As by magic those hateful faces vanished, disappearing by means of every opening leading out from the hall. and when the cheering blue-coats surged in through the broken door, I was yet standing there, appearently alone but for the dead, leaning weak and breathless against the wall, my arm about Edith Brennan.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

After the Struggle. A young officer, whose red face was rendered extremely conspicuous by

the blue of his uniform, led the rush of his soldiers as .hey came tumbling gallantly into the hall. "Up there, men!" he cried, catch-

ing sight of me, and pointing. "Get that Johnny with the girl."

As they sprang eagerly forward over the dead bodies littering the floor at the foot of the stairs, Brennan scrambled unsteadily to his feet, and halted them with imperious gesture.

"Leave him alone!" he commanded. "That is the commander of the Confederate detachment who came to our ald. The guerillas have fled down the hallway, and are most of them outside by now. Wayne," he turned



Gentle Hand Was Stroking Back the Hair From Off My Temples.

and glanced up at us, his face instantly darkening at the tableau, "kindly assist the ladies to descend; we must get them out of this shambles."

He lifted them one by one and with ceremonies politeness, across the weariness upon a convenient set-mained when I was last there," I re-ever, were extremely explicit; and to ghastly pile of dead and wounded men.

will probably be found clear."

COPYRIGHT BY A.C.M. CLURG &CO. ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL TONDON. nan should not have come personally

shoulder looked a contused mass of battered flesh, my hair was matted, and my face blackened by powder stains and streaked with blood.

"I certainly do appear disreputable enough," I admitted; "but I can assure you it is nothing sufficiently serious to require immediate attention."

As I stepped without and closed the door behind me, I was at once startled by the rapid firing of shot from the rear of the house, and the next moment I encountered the young, redfaced officer hurrying along the hallway at the head a squad of Federal cavalrymen. Recognizing me in the gloom of the passage he paused sud-

"I owe you a belated apology, Captain," he exclaimed cordially, "for having mistaken you for one of those miscreants, but really your appearance was not flattering."

"Having viewed myself since within a mirror," I replied, "I am prepared to acknowledge the mistake a most natural one. However, I am grateful to be out of the scrape, and can scarcely find fault with my rescuers. Five minutes more would have witnessed the

"We rode hard," he said, "and were in saddle within fifteen minutes after the arrival of your courier. You evidently made a hard fight of it; the house bears testimony to a terrible struggle. We are rejoiced to learn that Lieutenant Caton was merely stunned; we believed him dead at first, and he is far too fine a fellow to go in that way."

"He is truly living, then?" I exclaimed, greatly relieved. "Miss Minor, to whom he is engaged, is sorrowing over his possible fate in the library yonder. Could not two of your men assist him to her? She would do more to hasten his recovery than any one."

"Certainly," was the instant re sponse. "Haines, you and McDonald get the officer out of the front room; carry him in there where the ladies are, and then rejoin us."

I left, remembering then my own need. By using the back stairway I avoided unpleasant contact with the traces of conflict yet visible at the front of the house, and finally discovered a bathroom which afforded facilities for cleansing my flesh wounds and making my general appearance more presentable. I found I could do little to improve the condition of my clothing, but after making such changes for the better as were possible, soaking the clotted blood from out my hair, and washing the powder stains from my face, I felt I should no longer prove an object of aversion even to the critical eyes of the women, who would fully realize the cause for my torn and begrimed uniform.

A glance from the window told me the Federal cavalrymen were bearing out the dead and depositing them beyond view of the house in the deserted negro cabins. Ebers and one or two of my own men were standing near, carefully scanning the uncovered faces as they were borne past, while scraps of conversation overheard brought the information that the long it dining room where I had passed the night on guard had been converted into a temporary hospital.

Irresolute as to my next action, I passed out into the upper hall. It was deserted and strangely silent, seem of the war; and our plantation near ingly far removed from all those ter- Charlottesville has been constantly in rooms beneath. My head by this time important battle, indeed, was fought upon your friendship for me." throbbed with pain; I desired to be upon it, so you may realize that it is alone, to think, to map out my future now desolate and utterly unfit for hab- mered. "He has no causecourse before proceeding down the itation." stairs to meet the others. With this "The house yet stands?" in view I sank down in complete "The chimney and one wall alone re- dent embarrassment. "His words, howtee. "Escort them to the library," he upon the arm of the settee, and ited. "Fortunately two of the negro peril my own reputation in both

I was somewhat surprised that Bren- | light, moist touch upon my burning forehead-and I imagined I was a child once more, back at the old home, caressed b, the soft hand of my mother. But as consciousness slowly returned I began to realize dimly where I was, and that I was no longer alone. A gentle hand was stroking back the hair from off my temples, while the barest uplift of my eyelids revealed the folds of a dark blue skirt pressing close to my side. Instantly I realized who must be the wearer, and remained

motionless until I could better con-

trol my first unwise impulse. She spoke no word, and I cautiously opened my eyes and glanced up into her face. For a time she remained unaware of my awakening, and sat there silently stroking my forehead, her gaze fixed musingly upon the window at the farther end of the hall. for some time, and had become absorbed in her own reflections, for I lay there drinking in her beauty for several moments before the chanced was awake. I think the very intensity of my gaze awakened her from reverie, for she turned almost with our eyes met, a warm wave of color dyed her throat and cheeks crimson.

"Why," she exclaimed in momentary confusion. "I supposed I should know before you awoke, and have ample cult to resist." time to escape unobserved. I discovered you lying here. You were

home when the war ceases; they will prove a trifle better than the mere sky. "The south is certainly paying a ter-

rible price for rebellion," she said soberly, her fine eyes filled with tears. "I long as I should, now that I can be of other escape possible?" no further service."

As she gathered her skirts in her hand preparatory to descending the stairs, I yielded to temptation and stopped her. Right or wrong I must yet have one word more.

"I beg of you do not desert me so soon. This may prove our final meeting-indeed, I fear it must be; surely, then, it need not be so brief a

"Our final meeting?" She echoed my words as though

scarcely comprehending their mean-"Yes." I said, rising and standing before her. "How can we hope it shall be otherwise? I am not free to remain here, even were it best for other reasons, for I am a soldier under orders. You undoubtedly will proceed

the great wide world we shall meet again." "The war will soon be over; perhaps

north at the earliest possible moment.

There is scarcely a probability that in

then you may come north also." "I scarcely expect to do so. work then will be to join with my comrades in an effort to rebuild the shattered fortunes of Virginia. When the Doubtless she had been sitting thus lines of lives diverge so widely as ours must, the chances are indeed few that they ever meet again."

"But surely you can remain here until we leave?" she questioned, evidentto glance downward and observe that ly striving not to reveal the depth of interest she felt in the decision, "It will not be until tomorrow that all detalls are arranged so as to permit of a start and looked down upon me. As our departure. I had supposed you would certainly be with us until then."

> "Mrs. Brennan!" I exclaimed almost passionately, "do not tempt me! Your wish is a temptation most diffi-

'Why resist, then?"

She did not look at me, but stood resting very uncomfortably when I twisting a handkerchief nervously

'How can I ever thank you?" she asked gravely. "Captain Wayne, you make me trust you utterly, and place me constantly in your debt."

"Then you realize that I am right?" "Yes," slowly, but making no efam sure I have tarried here quite as fort to release her hands. "Yet is no

"None within my knowledge."

"And you must go?" "I must go-unless you bid me

"Oh, I cannot; I cannot at such a cost!" she cried, and I could feel her body tremble with the intensity of her emotion. "But, Captain Wayne, our friendship surely need not be severed now for ever? I cannot bear to think that it should be. I am no cold, heartless ingrate, and shall never forget what you have done to serve me. I value every sacrifice you have made on my behalf. Let us indeed part now if, as you say, it must be so; yet surely there are happier days in store for both of us-days when the men of this nation will not wear different uniforms and deem it manly to fight and kill each other."

"The great struggle will certainly cease, possibly within a very few weeks," I answered, greatly moved by her earnestness, "but I fear the men engaged in it will remain much the same in their natures however they may dress. I can only say this: Were the path clear, I would surely find you, no matter where you were hidden."

"How terrible it is that a woman must ever choose between such evils," she said almost bitterly. "The heart says one thing and duty another all through life, it seems to me. I have so much of suffering in these last few months, so much of heartless cruelty, that I cannot bear to be the cause of any more. You and Major Brennan must not meet; but, Captain Wayne, I will not believe that we are to part thus forever."

"Do you mean that I am to seek you when the war closes?"

"There will be no time when I shall

not most gladly welcome you." "Your home?" I asked, wondering still if she could mean all that her wards implied. "I have never known where you resided in the north."

"Stonington, Conn." She smiled at me through the tears yet clinging to her long lashes. "You may never come, of course; yet I shall always feel now that perhaps you will; and that is not like a final goodby, I bowed above the hands I held,

and pressed my lips upon them. For the moment I durst not speak, and then-a voice suddenly sounded in the hall below: "I am greatly obliged to you, Miss

Mivor; she is probably lying down, I will run up and call her." We started as if rudely awakened

from a dream, while a sudden expression of fright swept across her face. "Oh, do not meet him," she begged piteously. "For my sake do not re-

main here." "I will go down the back stairway," I returned hastily, "but do you indeed

mean it? May I come to you?" 'Yes, yes; but pray go now!" Unable longer to restrain myself, I

clasped her to me, held her for one Instant strained to my kissed her twice upon lips which had no opportunity for refusal.

"This world is not so wide but that somewhere in it I shall again find the one woman of my heart," I whispered passionately, and was gone.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

A Plan Miscarried.

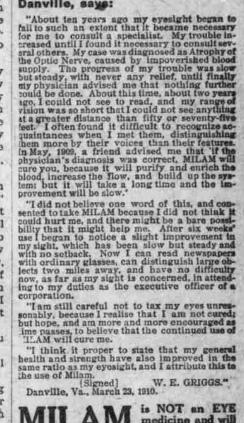
I remembered as I hurried down the back stairway her flushed face, but could recall no look of indignant pride in those clear eyes whose pleasant memory haunted me. She loved me; of this I now felt doubly assured, and the knowledge made my heart light, even while I dreaded the consequences to us both.

I stepped out into the kitchen and came to a sudden pause, facing a table faden with such a variety and abundance of food as had been strange to me for many a long day. Directly opposite, a napkin tucked beneath his double chin, his plate piled high with good things, sat Ebers, while at either end I beheld Mr. and Mrs. Bungay simlarly situated. The astonishment of our meeting seemed mutual. The Sergeant, apparently feeling the necessity of explanation, wiped his mouth so-

"I vos yoest goin' to fill me op mit der dings like a good soldier, Captain," ie said in anxiety.

"No doubt; well, I am rather hungry

Genuine must bear Signature



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ness, and Indigestion. They do their duty. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE,

myself. Mrs. Bungay, in memory of



first came, and I felt it my duty to through her fingers. The abrupt questigue came in our defense."

corrected. "But I have already been back into my throat. more than repaid. Your hand upon a woman's hand press back my hair self." since I was a child."

"There was a look of pain upon your face as you lay sleeping, and I thought it might ease you somewhat. I have Brennan." had some experience as a nurse, you The high color deserted her cheeks, you know," she explained quietly. "You and her eyes met mine in sudden in-

friends, but since my capture we have a duel?" lost all trace of each other. I was I bowed gravely. "I was permitted knows the truth. Everything is afterwards." so confused in the capital that one not directly connected with the rades? army, once you lose exact knowledge

of their whereabouts." "Your father, then, is dead?"

"He yielded his life the first year

My heavy head sank back plied, glad of the interest she exhib- ignore them by departure is to tesuggested, as I hesitated. "That room deep sleep closed my eyes. It cabins were yet standing. Doubtless ies. I would do so for no one was in my dreams I felt it first-a these will form the nucleus of our the world but you."

render your position as easy as pos- tion startled me almost into full consible. I did not forget that your fa- fession, but fortunately my eyes changed to fall upon her wedding-ring, "Could you not say in yours?" I and intently I crushed the mad words "Because it is right," I replied slow-

my brow was far more restful than ly, feeling each sentence as a death-I can tell you-its soft stroking min- blow. "For me to remain can mean gled in my dreams even before I awoke. only one thing. For that I am ready It brought back to me the thought of enough, if I thought you desired it, but my mother. I do not think I have had I dare not choose such a course my-

'You speak in riddles. Went is the one thing?" "A personal meeting with Major

mentioned your mother; is she yet quiry. "Oh, no, no!" she exclaimed with energy. "You and Frank must "She is in Richmond, stopping with never meet in that way. You mean

reported as having been killed in ac- to aid in defense of this house only tion, and I doubt if she even yet by pledging myself to Major Brennan

"But why need it be-at least now is impossible to trace any that you have tood together as com-"I fear," I said quietly, "that fact

will not count for much. We both fought inspired by your presence." "Mine!" I hardly knew how to interpret her tone.

"Certainly; you cannot be ignorant rible scenes so lately enacted in the the track of the armies. One rather that Major Brennan's dislike is based "But there is no reason," she stam-

> "His reason I must leave him to ezplain," I interrupted, to relieve her evi-