

**SYBILLA AND
OTHER
STORIES; VOL. II**

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Sybilla and other stories; Vol. II by Mrs. G. Linnaeus Banks

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MRS. G. LINNAEUS BANKS

**SYBILLA AND
OTHER
STORIES; VOL. II**

21 Nov 1884

SYBILLA,

AND OTHER STORIES.

BY

MRS G. LINNÆUS BANKS,

AUTHOR OF "GOD'S PROVIDENCE HOUSE," "THE MANCHESTER
MAN," "GLORY," ETC., ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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1884.

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BY WAYS UNKNOWN.



CHAPTER VI.

IN THE AMBER SATIN CHAIR.

WHEN poor Mrs Fleming instructed the vicar of St Mary's to enclose his appeal to her father in another to her aunt, she was as blind as Will Ashurst.

Mrs Norreys was an officer's widow, with two sons and a daughter, and a very small property apart from her pension to live upon, when her brother invited her to take charge of his household in Russell

Square, and of his own motherless girl, then seventeen.

His proposals were liberal. For her eldest son, Cecil, he purchased a lieutenancy in his dead father's regiment, and offered a seat in his own counting-house for the other—his namesake; for her daughter Clara, all the advantages enjoyed by his own child.

She seemed to expand with gratitude, as the recipient of his favours; and certainly the dignity with which she carried her inches, made people forget how few they were.

Her brother was not tall, but he too carried his head as if he had only to order and be obeyed; not offensively, but with a natural dignity which sat well upon him, and did not belie the benevolence of his countenance, set in a bush of light whisker and loose curls, into which silver threads were creeping.

As a business man, he had not his rival in the city. His sister was just as clever a business woman in the house. She vied

with the father in spoiling her niece, indulged her fancies and caprices, caressed her as affectionately as her daughter Clara, but she never let the reins of government out of her own hands for an instant.

From the first she had planned a nice little family union between her son Martin and her brother's daughter Margaret; it would consolidate business and property so compactly.

She meant no ill to her niece, she only loved her so well she desired to have her for her daughter.

It was a blow to her cherished plans when, in spite of covert opposition, Carl Fleming, one of the few sea captains who had a seat at the merchant's table, was allowed to marry Margaret Copland.

Even then she had a hand in fettering the pair with a promise she knew would be soon broken. I will not say she had any wilful hand in the breaking, but it is certain her attempts to mollify the anger of the father only tended to irritate him the more.