

**BY WOMAN'S
FAVOUR. VOL. III**

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By woman's favour. Vol. III by Henry Erroll

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HENRY ERROLL

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HENRY ERROLL

AUTHOR OF 'AN UGLY DUCKLING,' 'THE ACADEMICIAN,' ETC.



IN THREE VOLUMES—VOL. III

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BY WOMAN'S FAVOUR

CHAPTER XXVII

LAUGHED AT

GEORGE'S play progressed steadily. As it grew nearer to completion Mrs. Fellowes took more and more interest in it, suggesting improvements, correcting the mistakes George was so afraid of making, and listening with indefatigable patience to the reading and re-reading of each scene. George was very often in Cavendish Square, as often as he could make sufficient reason for going there. He went not only

on account of his play, although that was always the pretext, and was made to serve in the most ingenious manner. He had other reasons for wishing to be near Helen—he had fallen in love with her.

For the first time in his life he was really and truly in love, for he dignified by that name the unlawful feeling which he had allowed to grow up in his breast for another man's wife. He had not Vernon's excuse—Helen had been a wife when he first knew her. Nor had she given him any encouragement; she had been kind to him, interested in him, and desirous, in her position of manager's wife, of getting a good play for her husband's theatre, but nothing further. She had always kept him at a proper distance, a by no means easy task, for George, with his really slight knowledge of women, and more especially of gentle-

women, was inclined to be almost brutally direct in his expressions of admiration. Helen had not taken offence at his sometimes rather annoying familiarity ; she knew him to be of an emotional, artistic temperament, and she had come into contact with too many of these not to be aware that a good deal of allowance must be made for them ; and then she could see for herself that he had not been accustomed to the society of ladies, and did not know exactly how they should be treated. When George sat down quite close to her she moved her chair back ; when he stared sentimentally at her she changed her position ; and lastly, when he grew romantic in his conversation she had a quiet way of turning the subject, which she had hitherto found completely efficacious. If George had known how little place he held in her thoughts he