

HALF-HOURS WITH GREAT AUTHORS

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Half-hours with great authors by Various

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**HALF-HOURS WITH
GREAT AUTHORS**

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HALF-HOURS

WITH

GREAT AUTHORS,

*WM. M. THACKERAY, T. B. MACAULAY,
BRET HARTE, THOMAS HOOD,
AND OTHERS.*

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A TREBLE TEMPTATION.

By the Author of "It is always too early to Sew," "Love me Tall, Love me Short," "Who's Griffiths?" etc.

CHAPTER I.



SIR CHARLES BUSSIT was, from an early age, subject to fits, but he inherited the Tuppennie Bussit Estates. Mr. Robert Bussit, his cousin, would have done so if Sir Charles hadn't. Hence Robert's hatred of Charles. Nothing more simple.

Sir Charles, being a gay young man, was on visiting terms with the beautiful La Dorchester. Becoming, suddenly, a marrying man, he fell deeply in love with Miss Isidora Spruce. Robert also loved her. This was an additional reason for his hating Sir Charles, and added fuel to the flame.

From this moment, Robert commenced writing anonymous letters to Isidora and her father. He

wrote at least twenty a-day, signing them differently every time. Observing that the letters were taken in, but that the young lady and her father were not, he had recourse to other means.

He called on La Dorchester, who saw through him at once, played him adroitly, and then ordered him out of the house.

This was his third reason for hating his cousin.

He now took to shouting through the keyholes and windows of Sir Alexander Spruce's house defamations of Sir Charles's character.

These energetic means, at last, had their effect.

Sir Charles being refused admittance, had a succession of fits on the doorstep. He was told to move on by a policeman, and was rescued from his painful situation by La Dorchester in her pony-chaise, who thenceforth took the matter in her own hands.

Robert was now delighted, and, on the strength of the probability of the Tuppennie Bussit Estates coming to him, bought a secondhand brass door-plate, with somebody else's name on it.

Sir Charles Bussit got over his fits, and came out stronger than ever.

This sent up Robert's hatred to fever heat.

It was evident that the Tuppennie Bussit Estates had slipped from his grasp for this once.

Then he waited.

But while he waited, La Dorchester acted



CHAPTER II.



ISIDORA SPRUCE was the daughter of Commander-in-Chief Spruce, a retired veteran much beloved by his officers and men, as a genuine martinet of the old school. So much was he beloved, that when he retired, the entire army retired with him. This led to complications and subsequent alterations in the Purchase System.

Isidora was a blonde, tall and *mince*, with gentle blue wondering eyes, of about the middle height, with dark brown tresses, and rather inclined to that sort of *amblyopia* which is the sure sign of gentle descent.

She was always saying, "May I?" in a plaintive tone, which caused her to be a favorite with every one.

To this her fond doting father had but one answer, "No, you mayn't," which evinced the deep sympathy existing between the parent and child.