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23RD YEAR.-No. 7,011.

LONDON: TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1904.

PERSONAL.

The haby has passed away; sorry I could no you know before.-X.Y.Z. 1990] NTMENT. - Darling, will you see me in 343, i. come back; forgiven .- P., Criekiewood.

the tatter make costumes on easy payments from and 2s south and Adams, 26, Ludgate-hill, E.C. FOR A SHORT STORY.—The Proprietors of the Manual Proprietors of the Ma

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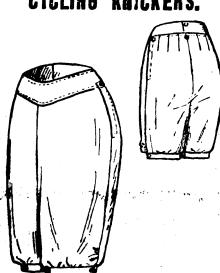
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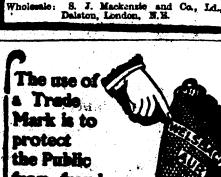
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OUR FEUILLETON.

BEYOND PARDON.

By ESTHER MILLER.

A Dengrarous Convergation

CHAPTER XXIL

Decidedly Geoffrey was relieved at Robert's departure. For the next few days he would be the only man of the party, and he might be allowed, in fact he would be Decidedly Geoffrey was relieved he might be allowed, in fact he would be

The bright face was a little and another man's company? station. doleful.

"I shall miss Robert awfully," she said. It was a natural remark from an engaged girl; nevertheless it caused Geoffrey a Realising her absurdity, she relaxed and so charming, that she should cease to and only because he has generating the shear some that the shear some through the sh girl; nevertheless it caused Geoffrey a regret her lover's absence, if she could not forget it forget it.

"Robert told me to look after and amuse her," he told himself, "and it will not hurt her to like me as a friend." She liked him already—he knew that.

Where was the instinct she had alluded to

Those words of hers occurred to him now liked him; he was Robert's friend! He shouldered a way for her through the

at the door. "Shall we drive back?" he asked.

mind."

windowless shops, devoted to ediples of strange aspect and stranger odours; the market place with its piles of fresh oranges cut with stalk and leaf, and the flowers—the flowers everywhere.

Treturns, as he has left the girl in my further than the circus—not so far in fact, for they did get the foundations and the arches of the coal cellars in.

the flowers everywhere.
Geoffrey carried all their purchases; the boxes of chocolate and crystallised fruits, the carnations and the roses, he who hated carrying things, as his mother was aware. England will seem so uninteresting after this," said Alice.

"But of course you will be glad to get

back?"

"Indeed, I shall not." she replied promptly. "Why should you think so?"

"You are going to be married at home, are you not?"

"We have not quite settled it yet. Perhaps we shall be married out here."

"I suppose it does not matter to you where the ceremony takes place, as long as it does take place?" back?'

does take place?

plied Geoffrey.

"Of course I am happy."

"Then all is well," he said.

A slightly puzzled expression dawned in her eyes. She glanced at him doubtfully, but Geoffrey's averted gaze refused to meet hers, and a silence followed. Why had he tried to suggest to her that she might not be happy? He was annoved with himself, because he wished her to be happy, of course. But, after all, what had he said? He had merely made a remark which was not even a question, which had which was not even a question, which had implied no disloyalty whatever to Robert. Nevertheless, he added presently, as one who throws a sep to his conscience:

"He is the best of \$11.0000 made a remark eyes dimmed, tender, lovable. His voice was fich in quality, as flexible as his conceince, and he quoted well and aptly; and his acute perceptions told him with a thrill of coin as the pieces, by some means, were "He is the best of fellows, and will make the kindest of husbands, I am sure." "Yes," responded Alice eagerly, "and

"Yes," responded Alice eagerly, "and he loves me; that is the most important of all. It is so nice to be loved."

"Is it?" His voice was a little bitter.

"I have no experience on that point."

"Really? But you have been in love?"

"Perhaps I have!"

"Are you susceptible, Mr. Orme?"

"I don't think so. I am fastidious."

He stole a stealthy glance at the girl beside him, with her bright eyes and glowing cheeks. "But if ever I met the right woman I should love her with the love which is adoration, madness, despair!"

"Despair?" queried Alice, blushing, because she, knew he loved her, and this was a dangerous conversation. dangerous conversation. He restrained himself, subdued his voice.

"She might not care for me."
"Why not?" asked Alice, with carefully sepmed unconsciousness. His sense of humour came to the rescue. "You think I am to be cared for that a really nice girl might—might.

"Of course," she said. "You must think so yourself!"

"Then I need not love despairingly?"

"Certainly not!"

"But where is this nice girl who will love.

"You could find her if you looked."
"Shall I look, Miss Enderby?"
"How do I know whether you wish to "How do I know whether you wish to marry or nat!" she said.
Geoffrey began to laugh, and Alice joined him presently.
"For a moment I thought you were serious, and was going to give you some good advice; but you are only in fun," she added. "Want a shame to take me in! Yagrare very frivolous, Mr. Orme."
"Lindeed, I am the most earnest man in Marttons."

"No: but the longer I stay the more difficult I shall find it to tear myself away," but remarks the bottle at this moment, and Alice rate upsetsive, and entered the stilling recent, fellowed by Godfrey with his beating of sweets, and flavors.

Many Hardestle, who was reading at the window set down her back.

White a long time you have been gone!"

What a long time you have been gone!"

The world in the woman in her makes. the didn't come straight back," replied grant.

lieve he would have changed his mind i he hadn't been afraid of seeming weak."
"I think Mr. Enderby is too strong to be afraid of 'seeming weak." said Miss Hardcastle. "Probably he knew that his trip to England could not be postponed."

"Five days isn't long, after all," said Alice philosophically. "Look at this lovely basket of crystallised fruit that Mr. Orme has bought us. Isn't it kind of him?"

Mary Hardcastle gave the sweets a very being downcast at Robert's departure, she

he might be allowed, in fact he would be expected to perform those little services for Alice which Robert had menopolised as a matter of course.

He stole a glance at her as they set the station. The bright face was a little and arother results and arother results are considered. She had exempted Alice from both olasses, believing her to be capable of a miscarried—at any rate, did not reach Gor miscarried—at any rate, did not reach Gor don's hand.

Was she as shallow, after all, as the average injection of a station of the prisoner was not despetched, or which miscarried—at any rate, did not reach Gor don's hand.

Poons Gordon got very cross with Lord injection of the station. The bright face was a little and arother marks are allowed. If Robert had been her brother Miss

to do with her.

The Sweetness of Forbidden Fruit.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Alice did not feel in the least like crying. She was in excellent spirits in fact. when he had called on her at Wood End? At this period she had no sentiment when "If ever I come face to face with the happy; she was more like a warm-hearted murderer, I should know him for what he and affectionate boy than a woman; as yet the word "passion" had no meaning for her. She was fond of Robert as she might with an odd thrill, which was half pain, have been of a kind elder brother, and half exultation. Not only had they come found life cheerful enough, although he had face to face," their hands had met many gone away. Sincere above all things, it times, and her "instinct" was dumb. She did not occur to her to feign melancholy

on account of his departure. As for Geoffrey, he was enjoying crowd of hotel porters, cabmen, and luggage feverish rapture which could not be called happiness. He flushed like a girl when Alice spoke to him; he thrilled when their "I think I would rather walk, if you don't hands met; he followed her about the room with his eyes. That he had to sup-He was pleased. The walk would prolong press his adoration added to its intensity. their tête-a-tête, and as they strolled home- Every moment he spent in her company ward his brain was busy seeking excuses to was a feast of forbidden fruit. She was so prolong it a little more. He bought her sweets at Rumpelmayer's, and flowers in the market, and begged, as a last resource, to show her some quaint corner of the old town which he had discovered the previous day.

Was a least of fordiden flutt below to so charming, and yet so natural. He thought he had never seen a girl with less affectation and keener sensibilities. Did Enderby appreciate her? Could auy man appreciate her as he did? If only they had met under other circumstances!

from Alice was a waste of the most pre-cious moments of his life.

It was almost a duty to make the most of them, and he became an epicure of senof the sea form a background for her profile. He watched the play of emotions on her mobile face, every varying expression

and hoarded them as a miser hoards gold. She made a poet of him and an artist, Alice gave a happy little laugh.

"No," she said, with delightful candour.

"Don't you think I am a very fortunate girl, Mr. Orme, to be engaged to Robert?"

"Very fortunate, if you are happy," replied Geoffrey.

"Office area place?

and hoarded them as a miser hoards gold. She made a poet of him and an artist, bringing out that southern half of him lieve no roof to his more which was passionate, eloquent, subtle, as opposed to that northern half which was coldly selfish cautious, calculating.

Mr. William Frith.

Mr. William Frith.

Mr. William Frith. He gathered relics, too—the flowers she discarded, a book which had pleased her, glove dropped on the road and stolen by magician" and his feats. Mr. Frith once

> carriage, to climb a steep mountain path, he was happy for half an hour—their hands had met, he had touched her. He ransacked his memory for stories to amuse her, recol- One of the feats was the placing of a lections of old reading, scraps of verses tumbler beneath a table at which several each time he brought her into perfect sympathy with him, each time she realised:
> "How well he looks!" each time she thought: "He is charming." Sometimes he inflamed his passion for the girl by picturing their farewell, a cold performance of necessity, his lonely journey to some distant country, and the awful day, long marked in his calendar, of her marriage. He would never forget her; she would always be to him his one romance, while he would linger in her memory merely as the friend of the man who had become her husband.

He began to count the hours which were left to him before Robert's return. He made elaborate plans for making the most of the, securing tête-a-tête with the girl, contriving to get Kitty and Miss Hardeastle out of the way. Here Mary's new friend, Mr. McIvor, proved of inestimable value. His determined efforts to attach himself to their party were welcomed eagerly by Geof-frey, who gave the "rough diamond" every opportunity of monopolising Miss Hard-castle's company. Kitty's presence was never much of a restraint; she was a child

never much of a restraint; sue was a child still, with none of the precocious perceptions of some girls of fifteen.

Three of Geoffrey's precious days slipped away on oiled wheels. A telegram from Robert had announced his arrival in Longital and responded as a lo don, and Alice had responded as he had begged. All was well. He hoped to return in a couple mere days, as he had said. "And then you will need me no longer, and I shall have to be taking my leave of you," said Geoffrey.

"Oh, why?" asked Alice in surprise. "I did not know you thought of going yet awhile. Robert will be so disappointed."

awhile. Robert will be so disappointed."

"And you?" he said, in a low tone.

"I should be sorry too. It would be a pity to break up the party. I am afraid you must be tired of us, Mr. Orme!"

"No: but the longer I stay the more difficult I shall find if to tear myself away,"

GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

LOBD KITCHENER, when he hears, if he has not already heard, of the alleged disagreement between Admiral Alexeieff and Prince Kuropatkin, will recall one of the indifferent glance, and did not respond few instances in his own career in which Alice, a little disappointed. Instead of he was at loggerheads with a great man of our own Army. General Gordon was the came in smiling.

"And I thought she cared for him,"
Mary mused. "Is there nothing in her?"

An extensive experience of quite young expedition that came not, he waxed wroth man. As he gazed from the palace roof at with the then Colonel Kitchener of the Intelligence Branch, whose information for the prisoner was not despatched, or which

come a virtue. He was even then a silent man. "He gave me no news in his letter," Hardcastle could not have been more Gordon wrote in his pathetic "Journal." jealous for him, and he was nothing at all But in the carden a servant who But in the garden a servant who knew English picked up the wrapper in which the batch of letters had been enclosed. It was a newspaper of September "as you may imagine, since we have had no news since February 24, 1884!" But there was a misunderstanding between a rair even more notable in history than these, or than Kuropatkin and Alexeieff. Wellington and Nelson met but once, and the meeting was not a happy one. Tho Duke never forgot it, and afterwards deecribed it.

> "I WENT to the Colonial Office in Downing-street," he said, "and there I was shown into the little waiting-room on the right-hand side, where I found also waiting to see the Secretary of State a gentleman, whom, from his likeness to his pictures and the loss of an arm, I immediately recognised as Lord Nelson. He could not know who I was, but he entered at once into conversation with me, if I can call it conversation, for it was almost all on his side, and all about himself, and in really a style so vain and so silly as to surprise and almost disgust me."

Brown: Is the original of this portrait a friend of yours? Smith: She was before I took the pic-

PORTLAND-PLACE, over which a pall of day.

Alice was willing enough. She loved this little half-French, half-Italian city, climbling from the shore of the Mediterranean, through its flower gardens and olive woods, to the mountains crowned by cloud.

It was all delightful to the girl; which ever way she turned there was something to give her vivid sensibilities a fresh pleasure. The dark, qualat streets of the sure. The dark, qualat streets of the himself safely in a maze of hopeless speculation than this unexpected passion for Alice in the crescent. Another scheme which missing the largest circle of buildings in the world. It is, as it stands, a magnificent thoroughfare, 100 feet wide, and might have been cut bodily out of Paris. The original plan comprised the investigation of Robert's detective. Scarcely had the enterprising Salmon lost himself safely in a maze of hopeless speculation than this unexpected passion for Alice. of the investigation of Robert's detective, sure. The dark, quaiate streets of the sure. The dark, quaiate streets of the sure. The dark, quaiate streets of the sure of the s

MANY NOTABLE foreigners have been housed in Portland-place. Where the Chinese Embassy now stands was formerly sations. He took infinite pains in framing lodged the French Ambassador, the Prince her in surroundings which accentuated her beauty. He filled her arms with yellow mimosa in order to bring out the colour of Charles X. involved him in the ruin which her eyes; in their walks he always selected overtook that monarch. Later there came for her the seat where the sunlight could to the same old house the brilliant wit and set her hair on fire, or the vivid blue-green diplomatist, Prince Talleyrand. Sydney Smith never said an unkinder nor a more unjust thing than when he described Talleynoted every tone of her voice.

"I shall have nothing of her but these devoured, but digested his dinner, pictures in after years," he told himself, which did not occur until everybody was rand: "He nover spoke till he had not only which did not occur until everybody was asleep.. . . . He had no teeth, and I believe no roof to his mouth. It was not talk-

MR. WILLIAM FRITH, R.A., will smile as he reads the story of Milwaukee's "natural the man who loved her.

If he could help her to descend from a went with Sothern, the actor, to a seance of dumped into the glass. Beside the medium sat a young assistant.

TAKING A HASTY peep beneath the table, Mr. Frith saw in an instant how the 'spirit' was working. The girl had bared one of her feet, and with infinite skill was picking up with her toes coins scattered on the floor, and dropping them into the tumbler. Sothern, with the aid of a piece of soap, which made a brilliant imitation of foam at the mouth, counterfeited a fit, in his feigned terror; rolled upon the loor, and took such a bite out of the old lady't calf that the seance broke up with rapidity.

Magistrate: You are fined forty shillings. Prisoner: Don't you allow a discount to a reg'lar customer?

THE FESTIVITIES AT Henham Hall, promoted in honour of the first anniversary of the birth of the heir of the Earl and Countess of Stradbroke, have an interest for Queen Alexandra, who is the little one's godmother; and a pathetic interest, too, for the Princess of Wales. The Countess is the granddaughter of the late Mme. de Falbe, to whose beautiful seat, Luton Hoo. the King and Queen were frequent visitors during the old days. It was there during one of their visits that the then Princess May of Teck was betrothed to the late Duke

of Clarence. It was an experience such as that of Mr. Candler, the "Daily Mail" correspondent in Tibet, that made Laurence Oliphant a Spiritualist. He was not the victim, but another. Years afterwards the incident was mentioned at a Spiritualistic seance at which he was present. He thought that none present had ever heard of it, and was so impressed that he subscribed to occultiem from that time forth.

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