capital sleighing beneath, and a keen, knife-like midway between, when Silas Monteague's superb chesnut col- ready ?' ored horses were checked in front of the plate-glass windows of a fashionable coiffeur's establishment, just out of the whirl and tumult of Broad- butway, and a young lady of about seventeen alighted from the chocolate colpomatum and frisettos.

The knight of comb and scissors advanced briskly from behind the harshly, 'this is the third week you've mode. counter to meet his pretty customer, had this 'ere two rooms, and not a 'I know you're a sworn admirer of who was dress in velvets and sables red cent of rent have I set eyes on. the young lady, Gilory,' returned his that might have, and probably did, Need'nt tell me your husband's sick; companion laughingly; but women cost a small fortune.

tes perfectly well.'

'You are very kind, Miss Montaside for our cutter to take it off.'

Montague.

'Certainly, ma'am. Its a very com- with a caressing touch. mon thing, I assure you, more particularly since it has become usual to as this?" wear the hair short. And then hard times, you know-'

'But surely it is impossible to get money to pay this man?' enough to be any compensation for the young lady, earnestly.

hair, for instance, as yours, Miss Mon- poorly paid work. tague-we give as much as three dol-

'Three dollars!' repeated the girl, fore. scornfully.

can I serve you to-day?'

'I came in to request you to send row evening.'

'Mrs. Warrener's ball?' smoothly care for aught else.'

pearls round the braids.'

patroness out of the store with smilspoke to the liveried servant on the in half an hour.'

shall not need you any more to-day,' she said quietly.

hat and then his horses, and in a few time. moments was out of sight, very glad to be relieved.

tague walked briskly away; brushing have my hair cut off, will you give ly amid the moving leaves and fiery the pavements of obscure streets with three dollars for it?' her costly silk as if she cared not for alleys, and at length ascended the uncarpeted stairs of a tenement house going to the third story.

The door was opened by a pale, Montague herself, but alas! how much wish it. Please step this way.' more aged in the record of care and

affection.

see me, Lizzie, than I am to be here! hieroglyphic for all that her tear finished. And there was another I was out shopping, when suddenly swimming eyes could decipher of it. the idea occurred to me of stealing an John home, and here I am.'

this visit. Papa's conduct has been so all gone!

daughter.'

at this moment, without even the although handsome face. He had bent taining a banknote for fifty dollars. It was the afternoon of a clear and a wiry head, with sharp terrier words. February day, bright sky above, eyes to match, was thrust unceremo-

niously in. 'I say, missus, is that ere money

Lizzie turned very pale and clasped her wand fingers tightly together. 'I am sorry,' she stammered,

The head and eyes now advanced bound !' entirely into the room, with the short, ered coupe to enter the dominion of thick-set figure to which they be- tracting his eyebrows, "that Miss

there's enough tenants I can get with- are alike !' 'Don't let me interrupt you Mr. out sick husbands. I don't want to 'All women are alike!" The words the sum of total human happiness if Macasser,' said the lady, carelessly hear no excuses—they don't amount fell like molten iron on Clarence Gilsinking down on a crimson brocatelle to nothing. I jest want you to under- roy's heart. Was it indeed so? Had sofa, and glancing toward two wo- stand this much: if them three dol- the idle dream that Flora was better men with whom the coiffer had been lars ain't paid down before the clock and nobler than the rest of her sex, in deep conversation at the moment of strikes five, out you go, bag and bag- proved but a vanishing delusion, af- travelers that he meets on his jourher entrance. 'I can wait a few minu- gage, on the pavement. I've stood ter all? He remembered the words he

He disappeared, closing the door or two before; gue, but our business is completed,' behind him with a bang that made the 'Nothing shall ever induce me to he added in a lower tone of voice. walls rattle. Flora had listened to have my hair cut off in the absurd fellow. The poor, solitary, and way-'Only some women come to sell their the brief colloquy with paling cheek, way that people call fashionable.' hair. You see they have stepped in- which grew still whiter as Lizzie | She had not scrupled to periure To sell their hair?' repeated Miss hinding her face in her hands. Flora and frivolous as the idlest butterfly

Lizzie replied only by sobs.

'How can I?' moaned Lizzie. ly to comprehend. loss of a fine head of hair,' said the 'Everything we have, except the very 'Oh, you are mistaken. For long, ed. I am faint from lack of bread, and hair, and she had gone into the comluxuriant hair of a good color-such it is impossible to get even the most parative solitude of the conservatory

'Hair will soon grow again, Miss ed. 'But papa never gives me any stood directly beneath its pink glow Montague,' said the hairdresser, shrug- money; he pays my bills cheerfully, all unconscious that Clarence Gilory ging his shoulders. 'In what way but everything passes through his leaned against the further door, a own hands.'

some one to arrange my hair to-mor- ed,' sobbed Lizzie. 'If I could but ob- scarlet stars almost touched his foretain the three dollars I would not head.

be au fait in fashionable intelligence. shining braid of glossy golden hair stepped backward to observe the gen-'Certainly, to be sure. I will send became detached from its fastening eral effect, 'that everybody is wonder-Francois. What jewels do you wear?' and fell from beneath her bonnet. ing what in the world possessed you 'Only a small wreath of netted She put up her hand mechanically to to cut off that splendid golden hair replace it, and at that moment she re- of yours?' Some lay it to the score of And Macassar bowed his fair young membered Mr. Maccassar's words.

'Lizzie!" she exclaimed, impetu- anding complaisance. She stood a mo- ously, 'wait a few minutes and you ment on the step, as if thinking, then shall have the money. I will be back of Flora, with a tremulous falter in

'You may drive home, John. I son cheeks and sparkling eyes.

Mr. Macassar was lounging over a imagine me capeble of such frivulous newspaper when Miss Montague er- folly. I will tell you just why it was John touched first his gold banded tered his luxurious room a second cut off, if you will promise me to keep

'Sir,' she said, and advancing close to the counter, and speaking in a her arm caressingly around Flora's Then, and not till then, Miss Mon- tremulous tone, 'I have concluded to waist. Clarence Gilory moved uneasi-

Its lustrous splendor, treading narrow Miss Montague in earnest, or was this and besides it is not a very dignified only a jest?

asked, sharply.

shadowy-looking woman, scarce older mered the hairdresser, recovering his Montague had cut off the lovely tresses in the calendar of years than Miss tongue. I shall be most happy if you of which she well knew him to be

Poor Flora! Never had her golden 'Flora, dearest, how kind this is of and lustrous as they did at the moment that the deft fingers of Francois about my poor Cousin Lizzie's mis-For Flora Montague had thrown unbraided them and passed the cruel, fortunate marriage with Clement Perher arms round the slender figure, gleaming scissors among the bright cy.' and was showering kisses on the pale strands. And when Mr. Macassar, And she went on to tell the simple forehead with true girlish warmth of with polite alacrity presented her story of her adventure the day be-'You can't be more surprised to as well have been an Egyptian Hyde was in tears ere the recital was

She carried the money to Lizzie, and dimmed, also. interview with you. So I sent then, woman-like, went home, looked 'I had no money,' pursued Flora

'He never will know,' said Flora, with gold and blending into auburn ject, and so-. Was it very wrong demurely. And besides, Lizzie, my lights at every turn of her dainty to sell my hair Nellie? If you could a general assortment of house furniture—Bedconscience does not condemn me for head. And now they are all gonc have seen how welcome the money steads, Bureaus, Clothes Presses, Lonnges,

unkind, so actually inhuman toward 'Who is that pretty girl just comyou. Think of it, dearest. After giv- ing in the room, in the white crape, perfumed aisles were vacant, and Claing you a luxurious home until now, to with blue forget-me-nots in her hair, rence Gilroy left his nook among the turn you out of doors just for marry- and the little short dancing curls, vines he felt that one glimpse into of walnut, pine and poplar, from \$1 upwards. Winder, winds thread without running the thousand which ing a poor artist-and you his sister's like bits of coiled sunshine, round her Flora Montague's heart was worth head?' The speaker was an elabor- half the fortune that made him the work and warrant satisfaction. Will take good 'Trne,' said the delicate young crea- ately dressed young man, who stood idol of maneuvering mammas and furniture.—Shop nearly opposite Watchman ture whom Flora addressed as Lizzie. with gold-mounted glasses at his eyes marriagable daughters. The eclipse Office. 'Yet if it were not for Clement's con- in Mrs. Warrener's brilliantly lighted upon his soul had passed away. tinued illness and poverty, I should saloons. At his side stood a tall, The next day Clement Percy

trifling formality of a warning knock, eagerly forward at his companion's And the next day after that Flora

'It can't be possible!' he exclaimed she was engaged to Clarence Gilroy 'And yet-it is- Miss Montague!'

lated young Manvers, 'Flora Mon- ment shall share it. Clarence said tauge, and none else. But what on so.' earth has the bewithching little fairy done with that glorious hair of hers? Flora Montague had pledged. Cut it off to be in fashion, I'll he

'I do not think,' said Gilory, con-Montague is one to enslave herself to

this kind o' nonsense long enough.' had heard her speak but an evening that he comes across! It is never for-

burst into a paroxysm of bitter tears, herself, then; she was unthinking arose and bent over the bowed form that ever fluttered around the flower gardens of society. He turned away 'Dearest, are things really as bad silently; and when Flora Montague's innocent, violet blue eyes were raised smilingly toward his face, they en-'Can't you contrive to raise the countered a cold repellant gaze that the fair young girl was unable entire-

The spray of the blue forget-mebed Clement lies on, is sold or pawn- nots had fallen from Miss Montague's with saucy Nellie Hyde, to re-ar-Flora's lip quivered. She had never range them. One chandelier alone seen poverty in this ghastly guise be- diffused its soft luster among acacias and tea-roses, from shades of crim-'Oh, if I could help you,' she sigh- som-tinted glass, and the two girls few steps beyond in the shadow of a 'It would kill Clement to be mov- blossoming tropical vine, whose fiery

'Do you know, Clory,' said Nellie, interposed the man, who appeared to As Flora bent over her cousin, one as she adjusted the truant flowers, and vanity-others to that of caprice

'Nellie!' said the soft serious voice its accents, 'I never meant to reveal And she hurried away with crim- the secret to any living soul, but I cannot bear that you, dearest, should the secret within your bosom.'

'I promise,' said Nellie, passing dropping stars of his fragrant screen. The spruce coiffure started. Was But he could not well retreat now; characteristic to record of such a 'Why do you not answer me?' she stately individual as Mr. Clarence Gilory, but there certainly was a keen 'Certainly, Miss Montague,' stam- impulse of curiosity to learn why Flora such an enthusiastic admirer.

And so, not without a secret miswaves of hair seemed half so lovely giving, he played the part of listener. 'You know,' resumed Flora, 'all

with a bank note, the big "3" might fore, with such pathos that Nellie pair of eyes not very far off, slightly

in the glass, and then cried heartily. 'I felt that it would not be honorable But, Flora, what would my uncle For she had been passing proud of to sell anything that papa had given those pale brown tresses, threaded me, knowing his feelings on the sub- make them, and their work not inferior to any.

was to poor Lizzie.' When at length the conservatoy's keep an assortment of

never for a moment regret that-' foreign looking gentleman, with large was astonished very agreeably by the The door was rudely pushed open black eyes and somewhat haughty, receipt of an anonamous letter con- For sale by

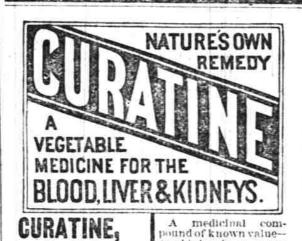
stole around to tell, her cousin that

'And when I have a home of my 'Faith, Gilory, you're right!' ejacu- own, dearest,' she said, 'you and Cle-

Mrs. Gilroy kept the word that

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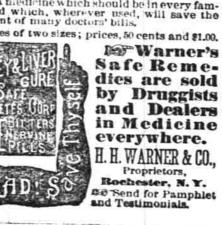
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