reporters had stared at her curiously For two days now an almost con- and had wanted to know who she front-page news, for he was more tinuous stream of traffic flowed was-all about her, in fact-but she back and forth along the road. The had been sly enough to give them

weather was dry, and dust thrown no satisfaction. up by passing vehicles and settled She had remained there all day, upon grass and shrubbery. It mingling with the ever-growing penetrated Mrs. Holmes's house and crowd, discussing the case with covered its scanty furnishings with townspepole whom she knew only a thin, gray coating; it hung in the by sight, rubbing shoulders and air and choked her. Dust was talking with utter strangers; she nothing new to her-in fact, dust, had walked home at dusk with a grime, disorder were nearly always new feeling of consequence, with present in her house-but now its her head higher than usual, and taste was irritating and it caused with her heart pounding. As she her to revile the sightseers who had prepared her supper she had even turned this back road into a busy ventured cautiously to sing a few notes-the first in more than a

All were morbid curiosity-seek- year.

ahead of the policemen and the ned, stupefied. reminded her of old times to answer Holmes had read on dizzily. "She was no signature.

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laughter and the comment evoked theory from theseher gin bottle.

As to the crime itself, it had created a genuine sensation. The murder of a man as promient as Amos Ethridge was bound to prove than a figure of local importance. To begin with, he was, or had been, a man of immense wealth-the richest man in the whole state-a politcal power, and in all probability the next Governor. Moreover, the manner of his slaying, the circumstances surrounding it and the evident ferocity of his assassin, had rendered the crime peculiarly shocking. He had been shot to death, riddled with seven bullets, while returning to his home late Thursday night. His body had not been discovered until the following morning; then it was lying in a lane which connected a back road with the rear of his handsome esers; they were bound to or from Anticipation of seeing her name tate and upon its breast was laid a the scene of the Ethridge murder. in print once again had affected cross made of two dead twigs which Mary Holmes had heard the news her so queerly that she slept little had been hurriedly tied together. of the crime while she was feeding during the night and was up and Neither the body nor its immediate her geese two mornings before, and waiting agitatedly for the rural de-surroundings revealed any clue to had hurried up the road as fast as liveryman. But when she had read their identity of the slaver; nothing she could go. She had been one the morning papers, when she had indicated any reason whatever for "Keep off. Reporters will be shot." of the first to reach the scene of seen herself through the eyes of the crime unless a letter found in the tragedy, arriving nearly an hour those reporters, she had been stun- one of Ethridge's pockets was an indication. This letter, which, by era man. "She can't pull anything newspaper reporters. Inasmuch as she had known Amos Etheridge scene of the tragedy is Mary come through the mail and bore scene of the tragedy is Mary come through the mail and bore make a corking picture." quite well and was his nearest Holmes, a middle-aged, slatternly the local Westland postmark; the neighbor, naturally she had come in for a good deal of questioning. She hovel and runs a small chicken a woman's hand, and inside was a and he steadied himself upon a post by inspired at the Spring Cotton. Caldwell Eddie Cepting and Harry had little to tell, nevertheless it had ranch at the rear of the Ethridge sheet of plain note paper containing

and to parry quick, searching ques- is reputed to be a drunken, irre- Why, in the first place, a bache- yard when Mrs. Holmes cried: tions, while reportorial pencils flew sponsible character of violent tem- lor who could come and go at his to keep pace with her words. The per and eccentric habits, neverthe- will should make use of a narrow, Simultaneously she fired. The gence and unmistakable signs of broad, macadam thoroughfare teetering figure exploded into a The other paper had been equally had been laid upon the body; why With a yell, the man flung himold hag with the stride of an Ama- these lent mystery to the affair, fist at the woman, shouting: o bits, and later, when representa- warning or an assignation spiced to interview her, she had refused sufficient to intensify general interto talk to them. But the Ethridge est.

case had grown in importance; the der, was getting out. The man now, so be as nasty as you can. about her and an appearance of and the machine had rolled away. some consequence. That which When she was alone she strode caused the fence climber to freeze back into her house and stood the into immobility, however, was the fowling-piece in its corner, then ight of a shotgun in her hands.

ake it," he began, cheerily.

"Get off that fence!" "Tell her who you are," one of Publish her picture! Use her for the fellows in the car directed. a bit of local color, ridicule her, The photographer hurriedly opened abuse her! Well, she could give the clasps of his camera case.

Chicago. We've been sent down The scum! The blackguards! She here on the Ethridge case and was sorry they had fled so swiftly

robably read," Mrs. Holmes told in their lives they had heard some-

and it's getting bigger every hour. common country lout, no mere You can't shoot us for trying to get "goose woman."

"Can't I?"

"Perhaps." ight?"

ou heard what I said." "But, Mrs. Holmes-" ble character of violent temper!" "You want a picture, do you? She wished now that she had shot Bah! You're all alike. Vultures! that reporter in the legs.

in sudden anger. "You read Westland papers, but also the big what these Westland papers said Chicago-dailies, carried amusing and about me, didn't you? Well, get highly colored accounts of that

occupants said when they stopped heard his car that night? All we mentary things they said about her; to stare at her premises or to read want is a brief statement from but indignation is a fire that quickher sign. Evidently the term you." Unobtrusively, the speaker ly burns itself out and it gave her "goose woman" had stuck, for she shifted his weight, lifted himself some satisfaction to read of her vicheard it over and over again. The further over the fence. "We city tory. This satisfaction increased

"I shall count three."



"Go ahead, Jim." urged the cam-

The trespasser now had one leg -neither a graceful position nor been an exciting experience; it had estate," the first account ran. Mrs. the one word, "Thursday." There one of a great stability. He was about to let himself down inside the

> less she shows surprising intelli- unlighted back road instead of the dry grass and weeds beneath the education. She was positive in her which passed his massive front dusty cloud as the charge of bird focus both eyes upon the same gates was puzzling; why that cross shot moved a path through it. point. uncomplimentary. It referred to in fact, anyone should wish to kill self backward, leaving a fragment For her as "the goosewoman" and it de-scribed her as "a queer, bedraggled, of pure conjecture. Questions like He picked himself up and shook a

defense, Mary Holmes had wired of the party had stepped down and buzzards!" Mrs. Holmes' voice was gives her children, she says: "They of the party had stepped down and harsh and strident; she appeared to like the taste and it gave such good was trying to disengage the wire tower higher as her rage mounted. results." fastenings of the gate; another, "Poke fun at me, will you? Well, at the gate started to climb the You want to know who killed Amos fence, but he was halted by a chal- Ethridge, do you? Rats! You lenge from the house, and looked up don't care who killed him. All to discover that a tall woman in a you want is to choke your filthy aded gingham dress had emerged papers with scandal and lies and upon the porch and was facing him dirt. It is all you can write, all threateningly. She was a vigorous you can think about. Lies! Dirt!" woman; long-limbed and erect, She had quite lost control of herand she carried her chin high. In self now and broke into an incospite of her ill-fitting garments, her herent torrent of invective. She flat, shapeless shoes, and her untidy checked it only when the objects of hair, there was an air of command her wrath had slammed the door

> tramped about the living room, her 'Hello! You're Miss Holmes, I head high, her back straight, her deep bosom heaving. So! They'd get a story out of her, would they? them back as good as they could "We're newspaper men from send in the line of personal abuse. -while her mouth was still so full "If you are reporters you can and her tongue so bitter. For once "What does that sign say?" thing which they could remember. "Now see here, this is a big story They knew now that she was no

As she reflected more calmly upon the encounter she felt some "You knew Amos Ethridge, didn't pride in the way she had carried it off. It had been her scene: she had held the center of the stage "You heard the shots, Thursday and she had played it well—as well as anybody could play such a scene, upon short notice. After all, only "That's what you told the local an artist can rise to dramatic porters. Come on, talk to us. heights; none but the finished actor We want to get your picture. too." can portray sincere emotion. She, "I've been talking to you and "a bedragged old hag!" Old, at u heard what I said 'forty-five! "A drunken, irresponsi-

Jackals!" The woman's voice rose The next day, not only the local shotgun encounter, and Mrs. "Mr. Ethridge used this road a Holmes derived a grim enjoyment

could watch the automobiles com- good deal, I understand. At night, from reading them. Again she Juniors To Present ing and going and hear what the I mean? You probably saw or flared into fury at the uncompli-Mammoth Minstrel Show

The Greater Junior Minstrels, on that night, Paul Caldwell, king manner in which it was used, the men have an altogether different as she reread the stories. After a scheduled to be held on the night of rhythm, Walter Ritter, Catawwhile she experienced an actual of April 7, have been postponed un- ba's Elmo Tanner, Boots Fisher. by her warning sign, were so offen- The woman on the porch cocked thrill at realizing that she had be-til Friday night, April 17, in the tapper extraordinary and many sive that she turned for comfort to her shotgun and raised it, saying, come a figure of importance in the Catawba college auditorium at 8:00 others. It will be one of the bigbiggest news sensation of the day o'clock. The junior class has been gest variety shows in the history of and the people from Maine to Cali-preparing for these minstrels for the college. "Oh, come now! Don't be fool- fornia were reading about her. some time, and members of the stu-

made up of men's voices, singing

in their seats through-out the per-

formance. Their repertoire will include jokes, songs and stunts, guar-

anteed to bring joy to the gloomi-

Carolus, all of whom are at present

The many featured acts will con-

ist of the little German Band, not-

ed campus entertainers who will

perfecting their negro dialect.

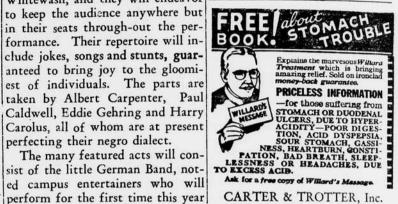
iod back, old Southern melodies.

They saw the name "Mary Holmes." dent body are looking forward to ment will consist of a hilarious one-And after twenty years! She the time when they will be presentwondered if any of them would re-ed for the first time on the Col- of Catawba Boyden High School lege boards. A large variety pro- This play has been pronounced one gram has been arranged by the ar- of the funniest ever produced. and rangments committee, composed of made a great hit when introduced Albert Shenberger, Eddie Gehring, in Salisbury some time ago. Harry Carolus and Herbert Stool- Various members of the class and man, among which are many of the leading entertainers of both the col-

lege and Salisbury. The first part whom are Red Strauch, ticket of the show will consist of a real, manager, Everett Lynch, electriold-fashioned minstrel show, all tion, Carl Fink, house manager, characters appearing in black-face, Dorothea Hupper, costume and proand will feature jokes and gags cen perty mistress, and Bill Gerhardt tered around leading campus per-stage manager. sonalities. There will be a chorus

"SONG OF SOLOMON"

the beautiful ballads of a short per-First of a new series of exotic, Albert Shenberger, last year's interpretive Biblical paintings by the distinguished artist, Edmund sophomore-seniors's genial master of Dulac, reproduced in FULL COLceremonies will preside on the stage OR in the April 12 issue of the as interlocutor, and will introduce American Weekly, the magazine the end-men and the featured en- which comes regularly with the tertainers of the evening. Four BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERIoutstanding end-men have been se- CAN. Your local newsdealer will cured, Ham, Sam, Snowball and supply you. Whitewash, and they will endeavor



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be inspired at the Spring Cotton Carnival in the Merchandise Mart here. Shown is a navy blue cotton lace frock with pique collar and cuffs that will retail this season at about \$3.95. The chameleon is the only mem-

ber of the reptile family that can

nember having seen it before.

(CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

Cotton Lace Frock

Bad Feeling Due to Constipation

Get rid of constipation by taking Mary Holmes had torn the papers which might have been either a have you arrested for that! What you begin to feel sluggish. Thought have you arrested for that! What you begin to feel sluggish. Thought have you mean, anyhow,—?" tives of the afternoon papers came it with a suggestion of scandal just He paused as he heard the ominous click of the second barrel, and Mrs. Ray Mullins, of Lafe, Ark., hurriedly backed closer to the car. writes: "My husband and I both take Mary Holmes dozed in her rock- The photographer made haste to Thedford's Black-Draught and find

Chicago papers had rushed men to Westland by the first train and these newcomers were even more inquisitive than the local newsgatherers. This morning, in self-

Come and See our Easter Flowers, both cut and potted. They will be worth seeing, whether you buy or not.

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with a press camera over his shoul- you've got something nasty to write BLACK - DRAUGHT Say I Saw It In The Watchman-Thank You



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statement-" etc.

on and the airs of a queen."

up her gate and nailed a sign to it

Keep off. Reporters trespassing on this place will be

She sat now inside the open win-

low in her front room where she

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