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E. L. C. WARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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BECALMED.

Adrift in my little boat, Becalmed on a cold gray sea : And chill mists lazily float All over my boat and me.

The breezes lie d ad asleep-Not a breath in the idle sails And I wearily watch and weep, And listen for distant gales.

Shall I still drop useless tears, And sit here and wait and wait, Till my head grows gray with years, For the wind that may come too late

To be idle is shame to the strong! I will lay my hand to the oar; And the bark that has waited long, Shall wait for the wind no more.

Reward Of Jealousy.

Feeling in a lively mood, this evening, I have concluded to write, for the edification of whoever may chance to read it, my experience in love. As you must know, I, like all others, was once young, and likewise had my love-dream and also my share of trial and tribulations relative to that distressing evil,

jealousy. Well, shortly after my return from college, I met and formed an attachment for Ethel Graves, a charming little brunette with large brown eyes fringed all around with jet lashes, the daughter of one of our neighbors, a wealthy Southern planter. Being neighbors, and our families being on good terms, we were constantly thrown together, and in due season my affections were made known, and, I am happy to announce, were fully appreciated; so we were betrothed after the usual fashion.

One evening, having called on my lady-love there arose a question of which she had been teasing me to tell her, and having it in my power to tantaize her, I made use of the opportunity. "Woman's curiosity," said I with a shrug of my shoulders, "and feminine

jealousy-' "Nonsense!" retorted Ethel, coloring. "I suppose men are never curious or

jealous either?" "Never," quoth I, with a smile of calm

superiority, "Then you must tell me, Herbert?" "I think, my dear, that your curiosity and the other emotion need a little dis-

cipline." Now why on earth I wanted to be so provoking, I can't tell; the natural perversity of man, most probably; for there was no other reason; I wanted to tease

Ethel, so I withdrew into a veil of inpenetrable mystery. She did not say one word more, but turned quietly and left the room, and as she disappeared through the entrance I saw the downward flutter of a little slip of white paper from her dress; now whether it was dropped unintentionally or on purpose we will leave for the readers to guess. Instinctively I stopped to pick it up, and, as I stooped, I could not avoid reading the characters

inscribed thereon in a clear, masculine chirography .-"11,3-Clark and Newton. No disappointment this time. R. C." I felt the crimson flush mounting to my temples as I read and reread the mysterious words, "R. C." Didn't I remember that Robert Clark was Ethel's second cousin and a provokingly handsome fellow at that? Had I forgotten that people used to think what a "handsome couple" they would make, before I stepped into the ring? R. C., indeed!

And I clinched my fist involuntarily as I crumpled the paper inside its grasp. "What are you looking for, Ethel?"

She stood with one hand resting lightly on the door-knob, glancing uneasily round the room, while there was a guilty flush on her cheek.

" -that is-have you seen a little slip of paper lying about?"

I uttered the falsehood with deliberate calmness, even while the tell-tale billet lay in my hands. So she was anxious about it, She didn't like the idea that I should have an insight into her little arrangements with R. C. Ah! false and fair-all women are alike.

"It must have been something very important," I remarked, as she hurriedly turned over the books on the table, still searching for the missing treasure. "I suppose I have left it up stairs," she said, artfully evading a direct answer. "You are not going, Herbert?"

"I am going. Good-night." Not until I was in my own room did open and re-examine the odious little bit of paper. 11,3-of course the whole thing was as plain as daylight. To-day was the tenth of the month; it was simply an appointment for the morrow at | Morpheus. But my patience was not three o'clock. I ground my teeth as the truth flashed across my brain. "No disappointment this time." I would have liked to challenge Robert Clark to on my ear, the sound of Ethel's sweet, mortal combat on the instant, were it not that duels were entirely out of fashion. What business had he to lay down law to my Ethel? But there was one . "It isn't of any consequence, Ethel; consolation. Willie Newton was my I will make it all right. Let me see,"

solved to appeal to Willie for aid and cord and tassels. When do you want it justice. I glanced at my watch; nine finished?" o'clock; to seek out Mr. Newton, who probably was at his country seat long day." before this. So I lighted the gas, and sat down to chew the cud of my own bitter meditations. The more I medinight, I took my final resolve.

"I will not be made a fool of. I will cast her off as unworthy of my love, but will first possess myself of a clew to this mystery and accuse her boldly to her face."

So I went to bed, to dream fitfully all night of monster sheets of phosphorescent paper, with "R. C." dancing in scarlet fire all over their expanse. * * * *

"Is Mr. Newton in?"

Yes, Mr. Newton was in, and one of the clerks ushered me into the private office, where my friend Willie sat looking over a huge pile of letters.

"Herbert Anderson! Sit down, old fellow; what good wind blows youhere?' He drew out a large arm chair, but I declined it.

"Newton, I want you to do me a favor; will you?"

"Certainly, if I can."

the store, no doubt."

I looked up at the clock; it wanted just fifteen minutes to three, and I hurriedly confided the whole story of my wrongs to Willie's honest breast.

"My dear fellow, I really think you are attaching to much importance to a

"A trifle!" I bit my lips until the blood came. "I think differently, and it's very easy to see you are not standing in my peculiar position, Newton.' "Shall I send for Clark? He is in

"You will do nothing of the sort." "Well, then, what is it you require of

"Listen; she will be here, probably at three, to-to see Clark."

"Well?" "Where will he be likely to receive

"In this room, I suppose." "Is there no place where I can be an

unseen listener to their conversation?" "Why, there is the wardrobe, but-" "The very place," I exclaimed, exult-

"Yes-but, Herbert, wouldn't it be a mean thing to listen to what is not intended for your ears?" faltered Willie with some embarrassment. "I don't care a fig whether its mean

or not," I retorted, "I'm in no state of mind, just now, to split hairs. If you are going to oblige me, say so; if not, I may as well go."

"Of course the room is at your service, Herbert, I am going out, but that makes no difference. I hope you will discover that you are in error."

I smiled bitterly. I entertained no such hope. The clock struck three as Mr. Newton took his leave, and I hurriedlyensconcedmyself in thewardrobe, with my head against Willie's business coat, and my other extremities in a perfeet grave of linen dusters and obsolete pantaloons. Altogether it was not an agreeable position; a wardrobe where one can just stand erect, with closed door, on a hot evening in August, is not a very enviable place. But I would have endured anything then.

"How warm it is! In fact it is getting decidedly tropical," I reflected, as wiped the dew from my glowing forehead. "Why don't Ethel come, if she is coming?" And then I began to reflect on St. Bartholomew and his bed of hot coals, as I pushed the door a quarter of an inch open.

Hush-a footstep! I jerked the door to again, with an emphasis that made my prison-house sway in a sadly neryous condition, but it was only a clerk, sent for something, and I breathed freely once more—that is, as freely as it was possible to do under the circumstances. Good gracious, how hot it was! A thermometer would certainly have stood at a hundred in this close atmosphere. I was streaming with perspiration; my hair was as wet as if I had stood in a summer shower; but I would have cheerfully remained there all day, to detect the monstrous conspiracy between my Ethel and "R. C."

Four o'clock; Ethel must have been detained. I could hear "R. C's." voice occasionally in the store, proof positive he was on hand.

Five o'clock. Decidedly, this was getting rather monotonous; I was inclined to be very sleepy; but it wouldn't do to yleld to the blandishments of destined to go entirely unrewarded; do." just as I was about to give up in utter despair, there was a flutter of garments familiar voice.

"I'm so sorry I lost that memorandum Robert!"

if he could help it, and I promptly re- lined with crimson silk, with crimson into his overcoat pocket.

"By Thursday, its Herbert's birth-

"I think I can promise it to you by that time; I was sorry to disappoint you before, but we really hadn't a bit of tated on my injuries, the more furious I anything in the store that was at all became, until, as the clock chimed mid- appropriate. This material is elegant." "Beautiful!" ejaculated Ethel. "How pleased Herbert will be!"

If there had been a crack in the bottom of that wardrobe. I most assuredly would have fallen through it, so exceedingly small did I feel.

"By the way, Ethel, in which direction are you going?" "Home," she replied.

"Then I'll escort you; just wait half

a second until I get my hat." The blood in my veins seemed turned for a second to ice, and then again to fire. What a blockhead I was not to foresee this emergency! I held my breath and clung desperately to the inner handle of the wardrobe, as I felt

Robert Clark's touch upon the outer. "Why," soliloquized that young gentleman, "what on earth ails the doorhandle? It won't turn;" and he gave it an energetic wrench, that defied all

my efforts to impede its revolution. The door stood open, and there I stood revealed among the coats and

like to know how you came here!"

My feelings at that moment can be it in the same way." petter imagined than described. knew there was no alternative but to step bravely forward and face the music, which I did accordingly. But I wasn't going to tavorClark with an explanation Ethel, and, drawing the slip of paper from my pocket, placed it in her hand.

"I found that on the parlor floor last night, Ethel: it excited my curiosity. and I fancied all sorts of ridiculous things, and came down here to-"

"To hide in a wardrobe, mischievously added Ethel. "Man's curiosity and man's jealousy. I didn't know that two

"Now, Ethel," I appealed, most pitifully, at which that wretch, Clark, broke out in a laugh which grated harshly upon my every nerve.

Ethel, seeing my dismay promised not to mention the incident again; and though she has long been my own Ethel I have never heard her allude in any way to my jealousy.

The Grand Duke Nicholas.

Nicholas has a face which in repose is proud, imperious, and shows a wonderful capacity for passion. A lightninglike temper might at a moment's notice be betrayed by those keen eyes, ordinarily filled with pleasant smiles. Quick in all his motions he likes quickness in others; he rides a horse which it wears others out to follow, and was fond of dashing away to some distant village, and then sending for the others to come up with him, while he was on the road to Tirmova. He told me with great glee that he left the palace of Cotroceni, in Bucharest, by stealth, went down to the Danube, and had half his plans perfected before anybody outside his immediate personal circle knew of it. He speaks English as perfectly as a foreigner can; it was the first language that he learned, and he had a Scotch nurse. His dress is always simple in the extreme, and while to accept the deference paid him by the officers who surround him seems second of blackish dust, each particle of which an experience that was not altogether nature to one bred to it, he will not receive it from strangers, and even dislikes to be called by his title. On the stems and leaves of aquatic plants, find the wind blowing eighty-four whole, he has the strength of character stones, sunken logs, other oysters, etc., and fine sense of honor which are the etc., and begin to grow. If you should sure of 450 pounds per square inch! It family traits, with a winsome, fascinating manner added to them. Of his this time you would find it peppered abilities as a military commander the all over with this spawn. The baymen | When they had gone about two miles world has been able to judge. Although say that each oyster spawns successfully they reached a warmer strata of air he has been surrounded by competent only once in three or four years, and advisers, he is nevertheless entitled to then in such profusion that a few weeks much credit for the successes which the Russians, in the face of tremendous obstacles, have finally achieved.

The Value of a Compliment,

An old apple woman offered her fruit to a vessel captain who was sighing over the good times of 1864. She wanted three cents apiece for her apples. He gave her a pleasant look and said:

as you did ten years ago. Same bright eyes and redcheeks—same white teeth." "Take an apple for two cents, captain," she replied.

"I presume you are fifty years old," he continued, "but who'd know it? Lots of ladies at thirty look as old as you

tain," she answered, smiling like a rose. "Some rich old fellow will come along some day searching for a buxom rects, but a fair quantity is from 1,500 wife," said the captain, "and you won't to 2,000 bushels, costing, at constantly mind. Treasure up these. It is not have to peddle apples any more."

two, the largest!" she exclaimed, and

Helping a Convict.

Many a convict, after getting out of prison, would lead a respectable life if he could only begin well. But people are afraid of him, and won't trust him or give him employment, and so he falls into roguery again to make a living. The late Henry Raymond, of the New York Times, made a convict houest by lending him \$10.

One day, while busy in his room. there appeared to him a man saying, "Is this Mr. Raymond?" Being as sured of this he continued-

"Can I speak to you a few moments. sir?" The MSS, was shoved aside. "I have just come from Sing Sing,"

hesitated the man. "Not from the prison, I hope," said the editor, by way of putting the caller at ease with a joke.

"Yes, sir," said the visitor. "I got my discharge a few days ago." "Well, my man, I hope you were in-

nocent." was guilty. You see, sir, I am an engineer and machinist by trade. I want had to be out of that. Then I got an-

Raymond.

haven't got the price of a dinner with | luscious morsel within, and, it is said, me now, and I don't know where I am so I turned somewhat sheepishly to to sleep to-night. I think if I had ten dollars I could get along until I found little univalve mollusks, the "borer" somebody to take me for what I am (Buccinum) and the "winkle" (Nerita?) worth, and give me some honest work to do. I don't want to go down hill, like tongues bore a smooth round hole

The ten dollars closed the conversation on the instant. Perhaps a year which the oyster holds its shell shut), afterwards, Mr. Raymond was at a fair and then suck out the life of the poor of the American Institute, and while prisoner. Lastly the star-fishes insinusuch emotions existed in the masculine looking at some machinery on exhibi- ate themselves between the valves and Mr. Raymond?"

"Yes," he replied. "I don't remember you."

"Don't you remember the man from Sing Sing?" "No," said Mr Raymond, "I don't remember any man from Sing Sing."

Sing, "don't you recollect?" and then he rehearsed the story recorded here. He had subsisted on Mr. Raymond's loan until he found employment in his

responsibility. the engineer repaid the borrowed shipped in barrels from the shore towns money, saying he had carried it for some months without finding an opportunity to leave his work and come to

town for the purpose. "It's a good ten dollars, Mr. Raymond, for its just the cost of saving me from ruin." When he told the story their own diminutive bivalves, Euroafterwards, Mr. Raymond said it was cheap, and said he had charged all his other loans to the account of the engineer and balanced it.

Oysters.

The oyster spawns in July, filling the

is an embryo. These attach themselves pleasant. They passed the night at the to whatever object comes in their waytake up an old shell from the bottom at soon began to snow heavily, but two or asterward the minute oysters cover the ing downward they finally came to old bed to the depth of several inches, where the climate was favorable to killing off of course, all the parent taking a rest without getting chilled, molluska. This host of young oysters and one of the party discovered that having been born in July, are by the both ears were frozen, while another next spring eight or nine months old, had two fingers in an uncertain condiand in size about as large as the finger tion. As they went on towards the nail. They are now taken up and distributed over the ground which is in- a mile before they reached the foot, it tended to be planted. It is calculated "Well, well. Why, you look as young | that they wil. not spawn in their new home when they reach the proper age, being discouarged by the different temperature or qualities of the water into which they have been transferred. To have them spawn is disastrous, since the new little oysters attaching themselves to the old render both unfit for The number of such books is not too market. The planting is done from "Take an apple for two cents, cap- April till the end of June. One can put on a four-acre lot just as little, of education can lay his finger on half a course, as his inclination or money divarying prices, perhaps 20 cents "Here, captain, two for a cent; take bushel. If it is the original seeding, derive from them-it is the impression oysters two years old may be used, and old friend; he would not see mewronged said Robert reflectively, "you want it then ran after him and dropped two more these will cost more. The oysters having been dumped upon the ground and immaterial,

will stay there. They are not given to wandering, but it does not therefore follow that they will be brought up alive when they are sought in the autumn. If two-years-old oysters are planted in the spring they can be taken up the next autumn and during all the winter when the weather and ice will allow. There is more safety in this. but far less profit. The more risky but more renumerative way is to plant yearlings and let them lie over. If they live, five times the original outlay is not too great a return to expect at the end of two years. The chances of selling at a good figure are increased by a "trick of the trade," which consists in taking the oysters from the bed where they have been growing, and laying them in shallow water on a gravelly bottom, preferable at the mouth of a fresh-water stream, where they will be covered alternately by fresh and salt water never stagnant. In two or three days even they will "fatten" handsome-"No, sir," replied the convict, "I ly and sell for a higher price than they would otherwise obtain. Oysters, however, have many enemies. If the winto lead an honest life, and when I got a ter is such that the bay is not steadily place to work all went yery well, until frozen over, the constant turmoil of the some kind friend came along and told drifting ice and the fierce lashings of my boss that I was a prison-bird, and I the storms will keep the bettom torn up and the water so roiled that the sand other place and got well to work, and either drifts into the shells faster than the same thing happened. Now I am the animal can force it out, and so kills "Hallo!" ejaculated Clark, staring at looking for another job, and I am go- it, or the currents bury the bed altome in blank astonishment. "I should ing to begin by telling what I am, and gether beneath a new bottom. Three when I get anything to do I shan't lose | years ago a large part of the crop was lost in this way. There are also various "How much is it, my man?" said Mr. | sea-animals that prey on the oysters. The red drumfish crushes the shell in "Well, sir," replied the man, "I its formidable mouth and devours the caused the utter failure a few years ago of oyster culture in Newark Bay. Two creep over the beds and with their filethrough the shell (in just such a spot as will paralyze the adductor muscle by bition, a decent looking man in charge | eat the defenceless mollusk on his own of it approached him and said, "Is this | "half-shell." All these perils past, he is reserved only for death at the hands of his owner. From June 15 to September 15 the law prohibits the taking of oysters. They are then spawning, or at least growing. In the autumn the dredging begins. This is done by means of double-handled "tongs," which scoop "Why," said the man from Sing up the oysters rapidly. Most of them are brought ashore and sold to shippers who have previously contracted for the whole catch. Many, however, are disposed of at a bargain. Owners of aloops own line with a good man who knew and schooners will go to the bay, hoist his story and was well pleased with a basket to the masthead as a signal that him, giving him good wages and steady | they want to buy, and get a shipload on work in a place of honorable trust and | the best terms they can, which they then carry to market and endeavor to Taking a bank-note from his pocket, sell at a profit. Immense quantities are -how many it is extremely difficult to estimate. Lately a trade has grown up with Europe, and Sayville alone is reported to have forwarded five thousand barrels to England. Only the smallest oysters are sent abroad. Accustomed to peans are afraid of big "Blue-Points" and "Saddle-Rocks." The Weather on Mount Washington.

A party of tourists, while on the top of Mount Washington, had an unusual opportunity for observing sudden surrounding water with a vast quantity | changes in the weather, and underwent summit, and in the morning awoke to miles an hour, which is equal to a presthree gentlemen started to walk down. where no snow had fallen, but the atmosphere was still very cold. Proceed-Glen the air grew warmer, until at last, was found uncomfortable to walk with coats on. At the foot the sun was scorching, and the weather was altogether hotter than it had yet been this

Reading.

Spend, if possible, one hour each day in reading some good and great book. many to overwhelm you. Every one who reflects on the former years of his dozen, perhaps even fewer, which have made a lasting impression upon his only the benefits which you yourself which they leave upon you of the lasting power of that which is spiritual