THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

BY EDGAR ALLAN POE

when we read of the functor and hal- ed windows. Frethle gleams of encrimof vThe Hausted Palace" which ap-But one does not ener to read it many and for some moments he was slient times, or, at least, if he is a same and pity and and. Was this fruit, want effect is too unsettling, too depressing:

great figures, wast conceptions half uttered by the writer. It is a haunted was ghastly in its corpositive pallor
Always his finely curied lips had been land where, dimly seen, spectres stalk thin and bloodless, his nose of a dall - the account of the storm on the gerated to such a degree as to give an absolutely uncanny took to the man

in a gloomy retirement in his am estra; the behalter. Its aratesque effect the manufor, the Trums of trainer, he had; gener could not connect with am lifes, once had friends and companions capable of theoretis him and of lifting the manufor of the man incoherent from his mind the dark clouds which with the manuform of the man incoherent even in youth, had haunted it. There, the was truly of treendous indecision and was till of treendous indecision and come to him at once the letter was massered in person in his friend in as short a time as his horse could carry him to the said or mannoon. I sher had seitten that he was oppressed by a mental limerate and in partial and there of his secret; the righen in which the House of Usher was girusated was a particularly dreaty one; and the day at the class of which the man within sight of the man sim had been one of these dull dark, sunless days of autumn.

belowed and perfectly modulated guttural atterance which is heard in the irral atterance which is heard in the

friend felt a sense of deep desclar at the framents, that did not inspire of insufferable gloom come over how bim with terror. He was the whilm The decling was unrelieved by any of of a housing species of terror. thus poetly sentiment which is gover-The walls of the house were bleak and in wime struggle with that great plandare. By good angels tenanted.

Once a fair and stately palace—
Radiant palace—reared its head in the head and a few white tranks of the aying the results of the peculiar nervous trees are lightly than the strucks of the aying the results of the peculiar nervous.

the wide of a smull take or tarn a(i. h test not left tils house, which, he belay with unradied surface before the seed possessed some north notice the solution of the second of the share and the three was more instant and the ghosts trees with a shuther own floure cational cause as I sher timed.

But evil things in robes of sorrow have such as the country of the next three with the country of the country more the filling blant before the small blant in the manifest blant and the manifest blant with the first sight of the manifest had sent him she specified blant she will be small blant about the thready drops a moderal drops about the filling stringly and mention the manifest should drop another than about the house she was endeatly than and he was in the manifest existe and being the stringly and against her only the first windows see that the manifest is a small drop and the stringly and another than the first as a small and the strike in house of the small stringly the sheet problems and the strike in house of the small stringly the strike in the strike in house of the small stringly transition of the strike in the strike in house of the small stringly transition of the strike in the strike in house of the small stringly transition of the strike in the strike in house of the small stringly transition of the strike in the strike in house of the small stringly transition of the strike in the strike in house of the small stringly transition of the strike in the strike in the strike in house of the small stringly transition of the strike in house of the small stringly transition of the strike in the st

this evidence of extensive decay nothing gave the fabric an appearance of finishility unless it was an indistinct through his fingers. That was the last dissure which could be seen by a close stimps, the visitor ever caught of observer six-agging down the front Lady Modeline. That night Roderick wall from the roof to the suiten walters informed him that his sixer bad at the narrow causeway which extended fare and taken to her bed over the little lake to the house. A The friend now devoted himself.

over the little lake to the house A. The friend now devoted himself groom took his horse and, entering the Gothic archway of the entrance thall a valet who stood ready to receive him, conducted him by dark and labrinthian passage to the presence of the Gothic archive to the presence of the Conducted him to the presence of the Conducted himself archive to the conducted himself a

line were the last of an ancient family which for centuries had proceeded to gather age in the direct line of descent enduring direct line must come to an all that belonged to the family, cor-poreal or incorporeal, had been hand-ed down for so many generations that they had become merged in one and so the House of Usher meant both the gloomy dwelling in which Roderick The journey of the visitor through is winding corridors to the studio of sentiments of terror and depression which had filled his raind since he had first come in sight of the House

May doubt that course, the friend questioned him much of his own personality an expression of the second in it some of those stranger was not at all researed by

struggies, those unbalanced, At length the visitor reached the studio of his friend, and Bodarick. the haunted palace of Poe's who had been rectining upon a couch armse to welcome him with vivacious and against which life was for warmth to the house. The study of the master of Caher was a large and loft; room, with long marrow, pointses of Redwick Unber that comed light made their way through we for them upon his own asen. tusion of antique furniture and tattered hangings. Many books and music-al instruments in scattered about but pity and axe. Was this frail, ean worn being before him the companion of his highood?

Two wonderful pieces of de-molded his hair soft and tenues-te writing appear in this story. Now if these characteristics were exagfore, when he wrote an urgent letter was full of tremulous indecision and to a both and friend improring him to be an and perfectly because to him at once the letter was tural atterance which is heard in the

som had been one of these values the faintest light and these from teng-sorders days of automa. At the first glimpse of the house, the fee ultiments that did not impire At the first glimpse of the place in . It instruments that did not impire

do not abbut danger in itself but

he amentors and which in himself.
Over fabric half so fair
the theorem afnormally exaggerated for several years he confessed that he
Wanderers in that happy valley Through two luminous y spirits moving musically reg acting mean his body and mad

as in crumbling condition, astonishment and dread sensations in its place lim beyond for which be was afterly unable to

of his old friend, the master of the Roderick upon the guitar. Long im-House of Usher provised dirges would Roderick play Roderick Unher and his sister Made- or, composing as he went, some wellmelody would accompany with no enduring collateral branches, and amplification of the wild air of And now it seemed as if even this long the last waitz on Von Weber. he last waitz on Von Weber.
It was the morbid condition of

enduring direct line must come to an It was the morbid condition of end. The Ushers had been noted time. Roderick's auditory nerve, perhaps— out of mind for a peculiar sensitiveness, that affliction which made all music of temperament, displaying itself in a intolerable to the sufferer except cermunificent but unestentatious charity tain sounds produced by stringed in-and in an exalted devetion to art. es- struments—which caused him to conmunificent but unostentations charity tain sounds produced by stringed in and in an exalted devotion to art. estruments—which caused him to confine himself to a narrow range upon the minds of the country people one of the chief causes of the fantastic character of his performances. But the fervisi facility of his imby the mental condition of the per-

It was in one of these wild rhapsodies—one in which Usher accom-panied his music with a rhymed verbal improvination—that the friend first discovered that the master of the House of Usher was aware that his once lofty reason was tottering upon its throne. It was that weird but that first come is sight of the House of Unber. There were featastic objects on every hand—gratesome caralogs on the ceiling, somites inpestive doors black as chone with age and phantasmagoric armorial trophies, which rastied as he walked. On one of the staircases he me' a man who from his appearance, he had guessed to he the family physician. The surmise was carred, and the physician, who had evidently been expecting Roderick's friend, accosted.



The first the master shall for the all DREAD," HE SAID, "THE EVENTS OF THE FUTURE, NOT FOR THE MSELVES, BUT FOR THE TERROR WHICH THEY WILL INSPIRE IN ME. I DO NOT ABHOR DANGER IN ITSELF, BUT FOR ITS EFFECT-WHICH IS TERROR."

Through two luminous windows saw

Assailed that monar his high estate.

terruption or device. Certain accessory points of the device served to exceeding depth below the surface of the earth. No outlet was seen in any portion of its vast extent and no torch

striving in vain to improve the mental condition of the master of the house and the other awaiting in terror the half-crazed senses told him was some-how, how, he could not tell, but with circumstances of terror, impending— been placed in its coffin, the while they were thus employed the men bore it to its resting place.

The visitor felt instinctively that to mention her name would but increase the affliction under which her brother was laboring, and he waited for Rod-erick to speak. But Roderick spoke erick to speak. But Roderick spoke not of her who was in the minds of both, naturally, most of the time. During this period the visitor obtain-

. (A modern physician would probably say that Roderick's idea was not tile four malaria exerting itself upon a race from generation to generation. But in the days when Poe wrote sani the kerm theory had not been. That strange guttural well-on-the kerm theory had not been anced and modulated speech, which evolved. This by way of digres-anced and modulated speech, which he had formerly used in alternation tation was known only crudely, and

and his friend pored-books which had for years formed no small part of the mental existence of the invalid They were all weird, all fancy. As they sat one night in the studio discussing one of the most weird and fanciful of these books Roderick suddenly unnounced that his sis-She had died that courage. day, and he made what appeared at

Roderick said that he intended to to this resolution, he haid, by a consid-

When his friend recalled the sus-While Roderick Usher and his picious and sinister face of the medical man when he met him upon the stairs on the occasion of his arrival at the House of Usher he had no deand the other awaiting in terror the sire to oppose the proposition of final catastrophe which his morbid, Roderick Usher requested his friend personally to assist him in the temporary entombment. The body having been placed in its coffin, the two name of the Lady Medeline was not was a small, damp vault, built far be-mentioned between them. the coffined body of the Lady Made-

> constructed in feudal times for the worst purpose of a donjonkeep, and it was evident that in more modern days it had been used for the storage of gunpowder or something else a highly combustible nature, for

ordinary manner had vanished. The terrestrial objects about were in the palior of his countenace assumed, if unnatural light of a faintly glowing, but a woman, he simply hied out and possible, a more ghastly hus; but the but distinctly visible. gaseous vapor, left them. wild weird light which had burned behind them had suddenly gone out into ashes. The change was terrify

with his voice of undecided, trembling quaver, was now habitual with him fluence of extreme and awful terror He spent his time mostly in from chamber to chamber with a hurried, unequal and objections step. His friend thought, at times, that his boring under the possession of some oppressive secret, to divulge which he vainly struggled for the necessary eit gazing into vacancy as one with first a singular proposition, but one atrained ear listening to some imagin-which, upon reflection, his friend ary sound. His friend set all this thought reasonable and sane enough. down to the vagaries of a madman down to the vagaries of a madman and had now no doubt that the reason of Roderick Usher had been night in one of the subterranean tirely dethroned, the final blow have apartments of the house previous to ling been given to it by his sister's its final interment. He had been led death. The friend felt that he himeration of the unusual maindy of the tinual association with the madness of Roderick. or other means of artificial light. Yet and eager inquiries of the medical man degrees he feit the wild influences of a flood of intense white light rolled and begune of the remote and exposed Usher's impressive yet fantastic suthrough the place, bathing the whole position of the family burial place.

It was upon the seventh or eightly day after the Lady Madeline had been placed in her temporary tomb that the friend, upon going to bed, felt fdeas come over him. Sleep would not approach him while the hours passed, and he tried to reason himself out of his fancies in vain. tried to tell himself that his glo-surroundings, the tragedy of friend's fate, the death of Lady Made-line and the mounting of a rising tempest which was rapidly increasing in force were the things which influenced him. But his efforts at applying reason to his state were fruitless. He felt an irrepressible tremor pervade his frame and upon his heart sat the very incubus of a causeless alarm. He sat up in bed and peered earn

both, naturally, most of the time.

During this period the visitor obtain—
and many glimpass of the strange halinclinations which were ever clustering,
thicker and thicker, about the doomed
reason of Roderick.

The opinion in its general form
that there is a senience in all vegetable things is no novelty. It has been
advanced and maintained by many
eminent accentists. But in the disordered mind of Roderick this theory
to took on a more daring character. His
belief was connected with what had
hinted at before, the influence of the
stones of his father's house upon his
mental character. He believed that
were stones and minarals had a seniteme and that this had been fully
proved of them as well as of vecetable
of the stones of which the building
was connected from the funcwas connected with what had
hinted at before, the influence of the
stones of his father's house upon his
mental character. He believed that
were stones and minarals had a seniteme and that this had been fully
proved of them as well as of vecetable
of the dead woman and that of
the brother, and mentioned it. Roderit even the order of the arrangements of
the thicker, about the doomed
reason of the stones of which the building
was composed, as well as in the fungwas composed as well as in the fungdecayed them and of the
even stones and minarals had a senit even the order of the arrangements of
the brother, and mentioned it. Roderis even the order of the arrangements of
the brother, and mentioned it. Roderis even the order of the arrangement and its
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was to be seen, he said, in the gradual, yet certain condensation of an atmosphere of their own about the waters and walls

The visitor started, for he remembered how, when he had paused on the further side of the causeway upon his arrival and looked at the house and like domain he had fancied he saw a peculiar atmosphere—an aurabolithem Roderick went on to say that it was this atmosphere which had for selluries been exerting an influence upon his family, and had an influence upon his family with a terrible and portentous influence.

The date terrible in death. Not all gular in its terror and beauty A ling day apparently collected its forces in the yicinity, for the great the sample of the graine first form one distance of air came first from one distance. These frequent and violent alternations and some project that required a little sample of air came first from one distance. These frequent and violent alternations and some project that required a little sample of air came first from one distance. These will have known that it was this atmosphere which had been exerting an influence upon his family, and had apparently collected its forces in the yicinity, for the great force in the yicinity, for the great for any first force in the yicinity, for the great force in the yicinity, for the great force in the yicinity, for the great for any its forces in the yicinity, for the great for any its forces in the yicinity, for the great for any its forces in the yicinity, for the great for one of air came first from one distance of air came first from one distance. These recessive density of the clouds were carefully at the excessive density of the clouds which hung so low they actually to which hung so low they actually to the prevent a perception of the fact that these clouds were carefully at the properties and the properties and prope possible a more ghastly hue, but the but distinctly visible, gaseous vapor, left them.

strange luminousness of his eyes had or exhalation, which seemed to hans a followed the lives of four men vanished utteric it was as if some about and enshroud the mansion. Was who had married women this way and wild weird light which had burned it the aura of the falling House of had seen their faith abused, their tenders out that they condensation of tenders out that they tinies of his race?
The friend dragged Roderick back

from the casement and closed it. "These appearances," said he. "are electrical phenomena not uncommon, or it may be they have their origin in the rank mlasma of the tarn. Sit in the rank mlasma of the tarn. Bit down, pray. Here is one of your fatorite romances. I will read to you and so we will pass this terrible night

ith an idea that the mad folly which Mrs. Bella Gunneas was able to he might read in it would bring re-lief to the now agitated hypochon-driac, for the history of mental disorders is full of such anomalies. Usher listened to the wild tale with a strained, eager air of vivacity until the reader came to the part where Ethelred kills the dragon. of the sentence were: "And Ethelred lifted up his mace and struck the head of the dragon, which fell dead before him and gave up his pesky breath with a shrick so horrid and breath with a shriek so horrid and harsh, and withat so plercing, that Ethelred had never heard the like thereof before."

At this point the reader paused

abruptly, for he heard, distinctly heard, with a feeling of wild amaze-ment, a few and apparently distant. harsh, protructed screaming or grating sound exactly like that which his sound estactly like that which his fancy had conjured up for the unnatural shrick of the dying dragon. Rod-erick had gradually while his friend read brought his chair around so that he sat facing the door, at which he gused steadfastly. He was trembling now and then and muttering. His body rocked from side to side with a gentle but uniform sway. The friend began to read again, but had not pro-ceeded much further in the tale when he stopped, aware of a hollow, rectallic, clangerous yet muffled sound as if a shield of brass had fallen upon a floor of silver. Rederick began to

roshing year. It was that did it, but it seemed as if they had opened in obe-dience to some awful spell. And there, standing just as Roderick had said, was the shrouded form of the Lady Was the arrounds from or the lasty Radeline. There was blood upon her white robes and the evidences of a bitter, struggle to free herself from the vanit in which she had been un-wittingly placed alive while in a cataleptic state by her brother and his

For an instant she stood trembling and reeling to and fro upon the threshold of the room, and then, with a low, meaning cry, threw betself a low, meaning cry, threw herself upon her brother. He full to the floor in her embrace—full dead through the horror of the thing, a victim of the terrors he had anticipated. Lady Mad-eline, exhausted by her struggle to free herself from the vault fell be-side him in her final death agonies. From the terrors of that chamber and that house the friend fied, aghast

His mind had been so worked upon by the associations and horrors which he had endured while he had been a guest at the House of Usher that he was incapable of regarding anything in a practical and natural light. The storm was still abroad in its wrath. he found, as he crossed the causeway But suddenly a wild, red shaft of light shot along the path, and he turned to see the source whence a gleam so unusual could have issued from the vast house and its shadows

which were alone behind him.

The radiance came from a full, blood-red and setting moon, which had now broken through the clouds, or set so far as to be below their canopy. And it shows through that rift in the front of the mansion which he had noticed upon his arrival as he had noticed upon his arrival as almost imperceptible, but extending in a signag line from roof to foundation. The rift had enlarged, and, as he watched, it grew atill wider. There came a highly gust of wind, and the great, blood-red orb of the moon burst fully upon his sight. The hearn realed fully upon his sight. His brain reeled as he saw the walls of the building rushing asunder. There was a great. prolonged, tumultuous shouting, like the voice of a thousand waters and the deep, dark tarn at his feet closed sullenly over the fragments of the House of Usher.

NEXT WEEK'S ONE-PAGE CLASSIC WILL BE "SANDFORD AND MERTON," BY THOMAS DAY.

Getting Married by Correspondence.
Mrs. liessie Cooper Cundy points out the road some people travel reach the marriage state, in The Housekeeper for June.

Gentleman, 56, in business, with many first-class credentials, educated, Scotch, ready conversationalist, Presbyterian but liberal minded, wishes matrimonial correspondence with an intelligent domesticated woman with some means from 45 to 50.

Usher—that condensation of vapor lives ruined by finding out that they which Roderick said had been going had married women of no virtue or had married women of no virtue or which Roderick said had been going on for centuries to influence the destinites of his race?

The friend dragged Roderick hack from the casement and closed it ives anyone could find. But oh, the ives anyone could find. possibilities of evil in this method." Even at its best, it cheapens the sacredness of the marriage tie, and must depreciate the home. And the home of the American people strikes at the root of the national foun dation. One thing in honesty I must together." The volume which he caught up at random was that ontique fantasy of Sir Launcelot Canning.

The Mad Trist."

The friend had selged the book with an idea that the mad folly which

se many men to their death did not surprise me, for the way men take what a woman says and she states without trying to find out the truth is simply appalling. So many men believe that a woman just a sort of angel. Others think she has no good in her. But while there are trusting women who put their lives in the hands of men without investigating, they are not so many as men Just to see how far a man would so. I asked a man to come to see me on a certain date. After but few letters had passed between us, and without in the very least trying to find out anything about me, knowing nothing of me but what I had told him, to my infinite surprise he came four hundred miles to see me. I then thought it was best to rest from my investigations.

Elsie Ferguson's name is upon the lips of every stage-struck girl these midsummer days, and her story, as told in Human Life for July, is coe of the most interesting that has appeared in the series entitled "Actresses of Today". Of all the apparently sudden rises

to fame, here was the most spectacu-lar. We say apparently, because rises on any plane of life are never really sudden. The public knows nothing sudden. The public knows nothing of the years of preparation. They see only the finish of the riss. All this is made very clear in the compessing story of Miss Perguson's life, starting with the time when, at her father's death, she found herself without money or influential friends and obliged to face this much-abused old obliged to face this much-abused of world and earn its buffets or rewards. Her femily, in solemn conclave. decided that she should become a school-ma'am. So they bundled her cided that she should become a school-ma'am. So they bundled her off to a Normal Behool. But right here Fate gave a new shuffle to the carda and dealt the little embryo star, whose whole soul even then was wrapped up in the mimic world behind the footlights, a trump hand. What followed was all very unusual and romantle, and seems to dovetall fittingly into the kaleidoscopic changes of her professional life.

Miss Ferguson's philosophy of clothes is so simple and so practical as to fit perfectly the needs of the everyday women, even though stars are supposed to be garbed far above the heights to which ordinary mortals may aspire.