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THE REPORTER

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LAUCHHEIMER, MANN & CO.,

Wholesale Clothiers, No. 311 West Baltimore street, BALTIMORE, MD. MY FATHER'S WIFE

A stepmother ! Every nerve quiv ered and every pulse throbbed at the thought. With pure face and com-pressed lips, I sat in my own room, having fled there for refuge after the an-nonneement, which had seemingly paralyzed me, saying over and over again the words which promised to change the whole current of my life.

Six months before, my father, listen ing to the advice of some friends, who representing that the gay world I was bout to enter, and urging that I should have some fitting chaperon, had advertised in the daily prints for a lady of education and refinement as companio

Among "numerous" applications to the remuneration offered was most libe ral—was that of a lady accompanied by such references as seemed in every way desirable, and an engagement followed. When I first saw ber my heart was drawn to her in sympathy that one so young and beautiful should be thrown upon the world: Ere long I learned to love her

Her years scarcely outnumbered mine but the large dark eyes had in them a look of sidness which proved her no stranger to suffering. Yet she was a sunbeam in the house; the mirthfulness of her laugh was contagious; the touch of her small, white hand in suffering semed to bring instant healing, the low sweet voice never to jars and I had thought her true, had given her my girlish heart, and, lo! I fearned all, al had been a part to gain an end.

This woman whom I had cherished in my bosom had turned and stung me, and was about to supplant the mother to whose memory my father had been true ten long years.

wife," he had said to me but an hour be fore, as I stood in his study, where he had sent for me to come to him. " "You have already learned to love her -a fact which has made my decision in this matter easier. Her absence at present is in reality to prepare for the marriage. In a few days I shall go for her to re turn with her as my wife As bereto fore your happiness has been my first consideration, so now I, hope you will consider mine."

With face white as marble, I had listened in silence; then, unable to utter a word in reply, Erushed to the shelter of

my own room. Out toods like and learly as ! had loved so now I hated her. Each smile seemed a trap, each word to have had its meaning. Her very youth and beauty were but added insults to the dear mother, in her forgotten grave Never never could I bear to see Her in that mother's place. Had I been blind, not to have seen whither the durrent was drifting us?

In mother bour I, too, had made a decision. My home could no longer be bome to me. I would leave it.

Hastily taking up a paper, I scanned the list of advertisements. Fate seemed propitious. This met my eye :-

WANTED: A Governess, capable of lish branches, music and French, to two little girls of ten and twelve: d'Apply to

Within fifteen minutes my reply lay sealed and stamped, referring to the principal of the school from which I had graduated but a year before as to my abilities, then dispatching a short note to her, stating that circumstances had made such a step necessary, and asking her to take the proper course for me in the matter. This done, I felt calmer, and more prepared to meet my father During the next week the subject of his approaching marriage was in no way re-ferred to, he being too proud to open it, though his eyes often sought mina wist fully, and I too sore to dare trust myself.

On the morning preceding the day fixed for his departure, the letter for which I had waited so anxiously was banded me, in which a regular propos tion as to terms, etc., was made me, sta ting, if diacepted, my presence was carry a date as possible

Giving myself no time for thought, I telegraphed my acceptance, and the date at which they might expect me.

The next morning, my father, look ing younger and handsomer than I had seen him in years, folded me to his heart as he whispered :

your happiness their first thought: Will otherwise perhaps have healed." you not give us a welcome on our re-

tions which had sprong into birth at his tender caress, and, still silent and im passive, I saw bim go.

Then I had no time to lose, since, in a few hours, I too, must take my departure-must leave my beautiful home phere all my life I had been surrounded by luxurious and elegant comfort, to go forth among strangers, on el sid:

Selecting the plainest of my dress as most suitable, I soon had my trunks packed; then I sat down to write a fe. lines to my father, stating that I had accepted a situation as governess in a fam-ily, that I left him in ignorance as to their identity, because I feared his opposition to my plan; and under no circum stances could I return to the home where my happiness had been so ruthlessly shattered by the hand dearest to me !

Then, with a casual explanation to the ervants that I was about to visit a friend, with my last quarter's, most liberal allowance intact, with one last look at the room of my girlhood, which a father's ender forethought had so tastefully and luxuriously refurnished, on my return a year before from school-I went hastily forth, my eyes burning, but shedding no

I had been at Fairview three months, when one morning the children my pupils-rushed into the school room, "Oh, Miss Edithy uncle Harry has

come, and mamma says we are to have holiday !" Swiling at their eagerness, I closed

the books. I had heard of "uncle Har-His name was a household word in the little family of which I had be

In all this time no word had reache me of my home. How could it, when they knew not where I was?

I had known many weary, weary days, though I had been fortunate, indeed, in finding friends in my Southern home, and winning the heart of the little girl, who, in her turn, had now won my wn. Still, a feeling of loneliness and desolation oppressed me, as, at liberty for the day, I wandered off among the spacious grounds a dull weight, to which I could give no name, was ever on

Mas it conscience, and were its whis perings those goaded by remorse? "Here is Miss Edith, uncle Harry-

out pretty, pretty governess," burst in pair of voices.

Two bright, laughing faces people

through the screen of trees, and behind them, parting the branches, stood their oldier uncle "uncle Harry."
Never had I seen a face which seems

o strangely to unite the boy and man of such strength, yet such sweetness such mirth-loving eyes, yet capable c such tender sympathys 14

I do not know whether I read this in this first moment, or in the days that Thoraton, and to love him

It was through no fault of mine. T too, was possessed of woman's pride mark, although the knowledge of me stepmother!
wound came to me only through suffer Ob, strange incongruity of fate, Was wound came to me only through suffer

It happened that we were sitting alone ne afternoon, when he told me, unasked, the story of his life; of a young girl to whom, three years before, he had pledged his troth; of her youth, her beauty; until, with every word, the pain grew and grew at my heart, the very ancom scienaness my bitterest mockery; how he had left her, auddenly called abroad on business, an heiress in the midst of a home of luxury, promising to return in six mouths to falfil bis vow

of the wessils on a which the shiled was lost (this story I had already heard many times,) and for mouths he was thought dead, of the letters the had written a soon as the vessel which had saved him touched port, remained unauswered.

He had hastened thomas to find her father dead, his property swept away, his daughter compelled to seek selfsupport, though he could find no further

"The news of my safety must have think, perhaps, I have deserted her in words, how dearly she loves the man who

agine, Edith darling, since, in tuture, ber hour of need, It is this which adds there will be two, instead of one to make ever a fresh sting to wounds which would

Ab, I knew my secret now in all its hopelessness, as, with strength which came whence I know not, I strove to comfort him-to be in truth the triond be called me. : 20 salega bran

As I entered my room, an hour latera paper lying on my table caught my eye, and with it the thought that ere I vetraved myself I must leave my newfound home. But on its first page my glance was riveted. Was it indeed the hand of fate? F "E B." would see her father alive,

to must return at once to the home she decreed not not some state of A.B. They were impriniting and those of

my father's wife. What was the paper's date? Thank God! but that of the preceding day. ing into Mrs. Thornton's room. "L wust

go to him at once !" But when, a few hours later, I stepped into the garriage, awaiting me, I found Harry Thornton had declared his intention of accompanying me, to my home

"Poor child." be said, as, arriving at the depot, he tenderly arranged me comfortably in the care, "you surely did not think I would desert you?"

Oh, the bitterness of the hours which followed ! .. I knew now what meant the weight on my heart; the cruel selfish ness, the undutiful harshness of my conduet, which, robbed of all its self-delu sion, stared me in the face; the months of unhappiness I had entailed upon my father, whose judgment I could so little trust-a judgment which all my life had guarded me from ill.

I could not talk : I could not pray But I think only the presence of the man beside me saved me from madaess At last home was reached; at last the carriage stopped before the elegant house from whence it must have seemed singular indeed that a daughter should have gone forth to seek her daily bread; at last I stood upon its threshold, hopeless and wretched.

-It was my father's wife who met me as I entered, who took me in her arms, with no word of reproach, only whis-

"He is better darling ! The crisis declares Corbiff see avigred and avigred the MAlice Was

"Harry Eta Cen. M. O. BaynaH". Was it imagination, or shad : L: beard these words as La sped up the stairs to my father's room? pausing not until, on my knees beside his bed, I sobbed out my prayer for forgiveness a prayer thank God, he yet lived to grant, all un-

descrying as I was.

The next day Harry Thornton's card was put into my band. In my joy at again finding a father's love, I had almost forgotten him; but once more the old feeling of mingled suffering and happiness took possession of me as I slowly descended the stairs.

Pausing a moment on the threshold, I stood transfixed My father's wife stood beside the man I loved, one hand laid opon his arm, her beautiful head bent low, her eyes swimming in tears.

In that instant I saw it all. The stobut I think, in that first hour; the ar ry he had sold me—the girl he had loved row sped which all too surely found its and lost he had found. She was my

this woman, with her beauty and her charm, ever to cross my path? I could not move, when, raising his eyes, he saw and called me by name.

As in a dream, heard the rustle of

silken skirts, a swift kiss upon my check then saw I was alone with him.

"Edith," he said, "I have a strange story to tell you—so strange it hardly seems creditable. You remember how I once told you another story, though I dared not tell you all. I dared not tell you all. I dared not tell you that I unburdened my heart to you because I had learned to love you, because I was in honor bound to another whom I still sought, and because I felt it necessary to tell you of my ties for my own strength, when all the time I was onging, as the starving man for bread, to give utterance to the truth, which, spoken, would have made me unworthy the very prize I sought to gain. ling, the bonds are lossened. I am free to speak, free to ask the book I so mad!y covet, since she who claimed my allereached ber," be added. "She will giance has just been telling me, in broken

has been so good a husband, and now she thanks God that his life has been spared Edith, my own, has it been all idle fun-cy that I dreamed you might return in some little measure the devotion that I offer you ?"

When I grew calmer, when the first great burst of happiness had found vent in tears, I told him, his arm clasping me close, of all my doubts and fears, and bow long since my heart, unasked, had passed juto his keeping.
Besides our own. Harry and I have

two homes-we are richly blessed, in deed !- one in the sunny South, where "aunt Edith" has grown, I trust, to be a household and a well-loved name, and one where rules with such peace and charm the woman who casts sunshine or her husband's declining years my father's wife !

The Whipping-Post and Manhood

A Chicago paper has been prodig A Chicago paper the whipping p at lously exercised over the whipping p at lously exerc matter, and indignantly declares: ery stroke of the lash crushes out the manhood of the victim," and utters great deal more of the same sort that paper tell us, if it can, how much manhood there is in a creature that will beat and cruelly abuse his helpless wife, or compel his children to beg or steal, and whip them when they do not, and perhaps, can not, succeed in procuring noney with which he can buy whisky Or, how much manhood there is in the professional tramp, who begs and boasts that he has not worked for years, and does not intend ever to work again, able and strong though he be? Or, how much of manhood is there in the petty thief, who will not work, and lives only by foraging on his neighbors? The Chica, o paper might as well talk about crushing blood out of a turnip as crushing manhood out of such creatures as these. The same paper rages terribly because Delaware and Virginia have adopted whipping as one method of pun-ishment of criminals. That they had a perfect right to enact and enforce such aws, cannot be denied. If other States pursue a different policy, no one will question their right in the premises and it might be very difficult to show wherein the lash would be more degrading to a wife-beater, who already has been degraded to the lowest depths, than is the chain-gang; or, wherein it is more cruel than the thumb-tying, gagging, and ice-water baths, under which two convicts, in the Illinois Penitentiary, died, or were killed, not long since; nor ye more cruel than the terrible floggings not unfrequently given convicts in the various penitentiaries. Perhaps a little gentle flogging in the early stages of their career of crime might have saved them from the penitentiary and all the consequent suffering.

Governors' Salaries.

We have put ourselves to the trouble to ascertain the salaries of the Goverpays \$3,000, Connecticut \$2,000, lowa \$3,000, Kausas \$3,000, Maine \$2,500, Nebraska \$2,500, New Hampshire \$1,000, Oregon \$1,500, South Carolina \$3,500, Vermont \$1,000, West Virginia \$2,700, Arkansas \$3,000, Georgia, most prosperous of Southern States, pays 64,600. Illinois, with three times the wealth and population of North Caroli ba, pays but \$6:000 Missouri, double as large and as rich, pays \$5,000.18 Oh to, with its three and a quarter million people, pays but \$4,000 as New York, worth twenty times as much as North Carolina and with a population consider ably over five million; can afford to pay \$10,000, even shough it be excessive and anti-republican.tes

It North Chrolina should pay its Gov. erony \$3.000 and furniste him schome & will be doings as well, in spriportion, as she most of the large and prosperous States, and be giving all that it can afford considering it owes over twenty-seven million dollars .. Ot course, if the Governor dereives bat \$3,000, it canno be expected that other officials should receive more than two-thirds as much he is not the nominated finethe bond." Wilmington Star sussing add most re-

South Carolina has increased the umber of ber schools four hundred and thirty nine the past year. No wonder the colored voters are joining the Democratic party by thousands

The Country Newspaper.

The country journalist is no louges the poor victim of circumstances, as he was ctured, too truthfully, perhaps, twentyye years ago. He was then a slave to his passion for an unappreciated art, and a victim of poverty. He wrote his own editorials and locals, set type, made up a form, did job work, and, in fact, turned his hand to any kind of labor. The credit system was pursued, and it kept him a bondsman, for the last debt paid was generally the printer's. Horace Greeley said that the New York Mirror, an excellent literary and news journal, an excellent interity and the published by him before founding the Tribune, would have been a great success had those who subscribed for it and cess had those who subscribed for a read it also paid for it. As only a few did pay, he was obliged to suspend.

But a wonderful stride has been made.

since that time. Country journals have not only multiplied in number and interest, but they have risen in ability to high rank. They are stronger in the appreciation of the people than ever. ot content to give a sickly reflection of their community, they now advise and their community, they now advise and lead. Growing stronger, they have bestoome more independent. A few years ago, a candidate for office cared little or nothing about the weekly papers in his district; now he respects their power and courts their favor. As a rule their editorials are pointedly, and some of them brilliantly, written, and compare favora-bly with those in many of the dailies. There is ho longer, an enmity between the city dailies and the country papers, for each has discovered that it has a field of its own and they are rapidly learning that in helping each other they are helping themselves

The country editors are genial, wholesouled, intelligent, and withal good looking, as has often been noted when seen in a body at their annual meetings. They probably enjoy life as well as the average genus homo While they have great pride in their profession, to which they are certainly entitled, they never tire of making fun of one another, and the profession is a butt of ridicule. If the liberty came from outside, it would be resented and the libeler annihilated. Rockester Express.

Never Known Here.

All the good that prayer has done will over be known till the last day, then it will be seen that those who could be use ful in searcely any other way, brought down blessings by their prayers. "It is related concerning a poor man, who was for a long time confined to his bed by sickness, that he made it his daily end ployment to pray that light might enter borhood !! Every one of those willeges, for which he thus seperately prayed, were in a short time, and in a remarkably degree, visited with spiritual mercies There can be no doubt that conversions are often in answer to the unknown prayers of some pions relative. Delightful discoveries may be made in a world concerning our obligations to the who have prayed for us in this life. ass

Without a Newspaper. As exchange says : Nothing presen sadder commentary upon the present condition of society than the large num ber of families, both in town and country, but more especially in the latter; that subscribe to no prper of any kind. Hundreds and thousands of families are thus growing up atterly ignorant of what is transpiring in the world around them ignerant of the mighty events of the day. But who can tell the vast amount of injury that is being inflicted on the rising generation -those who are to take our place in the busy world at no distant day-growing up without any knowledge of the present, any study of the past this ignorance, too, being imbued into hem by the sanction of those who should and doubtless do, know better, did they only think of the injurious effects o their course. Let the head of every family think of this, and place in the hands of those for whom he is respon ble, the means of sequiring some knowl edge of the moving panorams in which we act the different parts.

Gov Vance will have an elegate res ception accorded to him before leaving for Washington

The jury in the Arlington case return ed a verdict for the plantiff, Gen Lee, for the whole pro erty in fee. The defendants moved for a new trial.