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LINCOLN'TON, N. C., FRIIDAY, SEPT. 11, 1891.

| New York Ledger. <br> A LITTLE COWARD. <br> BY ANNA SHEILDS. <br> "egUOH a little coward!" <br> The words come floating ap to me from a group of children playing under my window and carry me back two reare, to the aummer I apent in Weatonville and the "little coward" I met there. <br> I had been in practice as a pbyaician for several sears, when Aunt Jane, the rich aunt of the Hutchinaon family, wrote to invite me to speud a few weeks with her. I was rather amazed at the invitation, as Aunt Jane had never had the slightest affeetion tor me; bat the letter was cordial enough to tempt me. <br> "I have three roung ladies vieiting me," she wrote, "aud you may fall in love with any of them, with my consent. They are all well born and well-bred, which is more than can be said ot most girls nowadays. Sereus Maybury is just the womad for a pbysicisu'd wite, self-possessed, calm, courageous and yet perfectly womanly. She is very baudsome, ton. Julia Strong is a literary girl aud writes for the newspapers. she is pretty, but abstracted, lives in a | \|paralyzed with terror, ased gaving at a huge caterpillar ereeping op her arm. Hoaring my step, she raised a coloriesa face, with stained biue eyes aud quivering lips, to say ; <br> "Ob, take It off! Oh, please take it off?" <br> Another minute found her sobbing hysterieally, and with a chok, ing word of thanks she ran away. <br> It all parsed so quiekly that she was gone before I saw how pretty she was, leaving bebind $n$ half-picture of short golden curis aud fright eaed baby blue eyes. The next time I saw those eyes they were fall of tearful gratitude for my herote bandling of caterpillars. <br> It was odd bow they baunted me. Quite resolved to win Serena, if persistent wooing would accom plish it, I sought her on all occa. sions, but, being a united party of friende, we were not often tete.a-tete. And it was to me, always, that Susy rurned in hoars of peril, wheu a toad sat apon her white dress, when the boat tipped a hair's-breadth wore than nsual, when horrible crawling things crossed our paths, and cows lifted their heads to contemplate us. Ou all such occastons, two ting bande, white as milk, soft as satin, suddeuly clasped my arm, | and collected; Aunt Jane was not timid; bat Sary-poor little Sasy ! -she would die, she said; and 1 feared she would. As the train sped on, this thought ot Susy's terror bet came almost maddening ; and when, a: last, I was at the little wayside station, quarter of a mile from Aunt Jane's, I starled ou a ran for the house. <br> The hall.door stood open, and 1 heard a sound in the sitting-room that seamed to chill the thood is my veins. Throwing open the door, I saw Sasy-little Susy !-ehaging at tue throat of a man roughly dressed, who held Aunt Jane in a chair, while he tried to whake off Snsy's arms, at the same time keeping Aunt Jane down. Serena lay in $\rightarrow$ dead faint on the floor. <br> "You shall not hart her!" Susy sried, her slender arms strained to shoke the sufforer. "Let go, you wretch! I'll kill you!' <br> One blow ou the top of his head from my heavy walking-stick brought the fellow down insensin ble. Susy dropped her arms and stood white as death, but perfectly calm, facing me. <br> "Oan you find me a rope to tie this tellow ?" <br> She nodded, sped away, and re- | to bid Susy good might. <br> She was standing at the foot of Aunt Jane's bed, holding fast to a cbair, her face perfectly colorless sod her limbs trembling. I mixed Ler a dose of composing medicine and put it to her hps. <br> "Don't mind me," she said, smil. ing faintly. "I always was a coward. <br> "Nobody shall ever call you so where I am," I sai.1, and thenWell, I will not add all I said, but theu aud there I wou my dariing's coufession of love tor we, aud gave oy life's allegiance to the woman I loved, <br> Aunt Jane was delighted. She uoderstood perfectly the love that prompted the child to attempt to livert the attack of the ruffin James to herself, aud it was a delight to her to make ready pretty hoase for av. Serena comes often to visit co calm and self-poised as ever, aud quite as contemptuous when Mrs. Eutchinson flles to my arms in an agony of terror if a mouse rans runs across the floor, or a spider crawls up the wall. <br> For, although she bas proved berself a heroive, Sasy is still, in such matters as mice and spiders, a ittle coward. |
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| Markbam is scarcely more than a child, eighteen years old, and small as a girl of twelve, fair-harred, blue eved, gentle and loving; but will |
| :---: | | 0 | "It is time you were married, |
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| 00 | it |
| Harry. I bave thougbt it all over, |  |
| and I |  |

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