the other hand, in attempt- the circus has come to town. ing to avoid this error, he has some-

ley car with gentle unconcern.

Gaines was in the shopping district seemed he must meet her. strictly on business one afternoon, and street and Sixth avenue be fancied ly?" that he saw Cousin Jane. She was and collide with a loaded dray.

"Don't run over the poor cart horse, perience. little girl," said Gaines; "he has troubles of his own."

away, but he fancied that she was "Pass over those bundles to me, time will do."

youngster," said he, "and we'll navigate the crossing together."

fair glimpse at her face. Where were over here!" the eveglasses that always perched upher face averted, as if the sight of him ed as prettily as a frightened deer. would be too painful, she waved her left hand as one who cries "Avaunt!"

man turned pale.

was entirely innocent, but a clear con- be shivering. science is a poor consoler at such times.



"YOU CAN'T HELP IT," SAID SHE. of being vain of their looks, though they may prove by every act of their and take her away. lives that they are more modest than the lowly violet.

explanation, but that did not console to heart and indeed felt so bad about disgrace. it that he could hardly bring himself If Jane were only there, he could really did not seem to him that a man He had heard that she was expected society. Still he eventually mustered his defense till then.

up the courage.

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The second of th



R. CARLETON GAINES has in a corner with Jessie Bingham and His friends complain that he of great importance to communicate. passes them upon the street | "Natalie Clair is here," said she, with

Miss Clair was a young woman times accosted strangers in circum- whom Gaines had 50 times narrowly stances that were extremely embar- missed meeting. Two years ago, when the Clairs were about to come to New The young man has a cousin, Miss York to live, Gaines had heard so Jane Hemenway, a tall, graceful girl, much about Natalle that he had begun with a profusion of dark hair and pret- to dislike her. Many girls in his social ty brown eyes, which, however, one is set knew her, and they all declared for Jane is somewhat nearsighted. She other." The basis of that view, so far New York shopping or visiting her tall and dark, while he was tall and explanation"many friends in that city. Thus it light, and that both of them had the

or flirtation. One may meet a great many pretty | As a rule he did not like girls who women in that region, and it is said were cold and reserved. Suffering that certain feeble minded creatures go from a chronic embarrassment himthere for that purpose. Surely a man | self, he found it hard enough to get must be daft who would do it, for the along with girls who were jolly, talkshop; ig woman is too completely un- ative and open hearted. Moreover, to der the domination of "the fixed idea" be slated as a girl's admirer before to be interest to any but a student a fellow has met her is enough to kill of hyperton. She rushes along the all chance of liking her. Gaines was sidewall. a a state of trance, and the glad when Natalie went abroad with the rescue, boldly if somewhat inluckless the who gets in her way will her mother, instead of coming to New \ discreetly. thereafter view the all devouring troi- York. Within two weeks he had heard ("Well, as Mr. Gaines thought it was

"There she is," whispered Jessie near the intersection of Twenty-third | Bingham. "Isn't she perfectly love-

Gaines glanced across the room, and proceeding westward with that relent- his blood became ice water. He had situation. less fixity of purpose that characterizes always regarded himself as a peculiarthe shopper. Gaines overtook her and | ly unlucky man, but that Natalie Clair, | am so glad to see you again! 'See' is laid a mildly restraining hand upon her of all people in the world, should arm, for it seemed to him that she was prove to be the heroine of the Twentyabout to plunge out upon the crossing | third street adventure struck him as a little the worst blow in even his ex-"Of course I should be greatly pleas-

ed to meet her," said he, and his She uttered a nervous cry and sprang voice sounded in his own ears as if it were being ground out of a phonograph. "But there's no hurry. Any

"What nonsense!" exclaimed Jessie. "Of course you want to meet her this At this moment he caught the first minute. And they're bringing her right

Gaines perceived that Jessie spoke on Cousin Jane's nose? Where were truly. A half dozen young people, with the baby dimples and the smile of the most obvious intentions, were genseraphic good will? This lady was a tly steering Miss Clair in his direction. very haughty person. She froze him She, however, seemed to be wholly unwith the disdain which seemed to sur- aware of their purpose until she was round her like an atmosphere. With within six feet of him. Then she start-

Gaines looked anxiously into her face, and when he saw that he was The next moment, with head in air, recognized he felt as one upon whose she swept across the avenue in front | shoulder the hand of the sheriff is laid. of a moving car and so close to the It was all over in a moment. Early fender that even the hardened motor- in his life Gaines had been introduced to a Boston east wind, and once, when

How Gaines got away from the spot a boy, he had been locked in an icehe never knew, but it is his opinion house as a joke, but Miss Clair gave that he crawled down through the him a new sensation. No one else aptrolley slot, for surely he felt small peared to notice the chill, though it enough to have done so. Of course he seemed to him that all New York must He dared not say anything to the The central fact in nature was that point among so many people, and so he

one pretty girl must forever think of mumbled the ordinary nonsense while him as the lowest form of anthropold, waiting for a chance to escape. That was not to be, however. He saw Miss Galnes had the misfortune to possess | Bingham going one way and Miss that fatal gift of beauty which you Somebody Else going another way, and read about in old fashioned novels. He | there was no way at all for him. He was one of those conspicuously hand- simply got left in the corner with Nasome men who always get the discredit | talie Clair, and if it had been done on purpose it couldn't have been done bet-

A man of tact and assurance would have found no difficulty in saying the right thing, but Gaines lacked those qualities, and his faculties were in a

"The situation is somewhat difficult, Miss Clair," he said. "You must be strongly prejudiced against me, but-

What utter nonsense! Why couldn't he say straight out, "I saw you on Twenty-third street today and mistook you for my cousin?" He knew as well as anybody could that that was the right thing to say. But the words didn't come to him.

"You can't help it," said she: "neither of us can help it now. Let us forget everything that happened before

we met tonight." And then she looked around with a frightened eye for somebody to come

Gaines felt as if the black cap had been drawn over his face. He had had Gaines was aware that if he had his chance to speak, and it had passed. been insignificant and ugly the lady in | Evidently Miss Clair, knowing the cirquestion might have paused to hear an cle to which he moved, had decided to tolerate him, perhaps even to be silent him. He took the incident very much about what she believed to be his black

to attend a social "function" to which have pointed to the resemblance and he was bidden for that evening. It have told his story with a good grace, so disgraced as he was fit to go into later in the evening. He would reserve

Somehow he escaped from Miss There were a good many people in Clare, and immediately, to fortify his the big drawing room at the Bingham soul, he mentioned to a number of perhouse, Washington square north, when sons that, in his opinion, Miss Clair Gaines made his appearance, some- strongly resembled his Cousin Jane. what late. Presently he found himself The first two or three had never no-

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of which I have any knowledge."

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ticed it. Gaines began to be alarmed. He ran from one to another. Apparently there was not a human creature present who had the eye to see a trace of that likeness upon which his fate depended. So it seemed that Jane's coming would only heighten the improbability of his tale, already weakened by delay.

Many of the people whom he questioned spoke of a strong resemblance between Miss Clair and Olive Trask, a young lady whom Gaines had met several years before. Would it be possible to substitute her in this story? His acquaintance was just sufficient to warrant him in addressing her. He couldn't call her "little girl," but probably the fact that he had used those words would not come out in the explanation.

A sudden resolution seized him. He would take the risk. Fearing that his courage would ooze away if he hesia very bad memory for faces. became aware that she had something | tated, he sought Miss Clair at once. As luck would have it, he found her with Jessie Bingham and Olive Trask. without recognition, and, on the air of a small boy announcing that To his great delight. Miss Trask greeted him very cordially. His courage mounted higher.

"Miss Clair," said he boldly, "I think there'll never be a better time than this to set myself right for the Ar, Savannah unfortunate mistake I made this afternoon. When I spoke to you on Twenty-third street, I mistook you for Miss Trask, whom I have known some obliged to view veiled by eyeglasses, that he and she were "made for each | years. It was very embarrassing, of course, but you kindly promised to forlives in Trenton, but often goes to as he could discover, was that she was get it. I think, however, that a full

"I promised to forget it!" exclaimed would not be surprising to meet her reputation of being very cold, reserved Miss Clair. "Why, nothing of the sort any day in the shopping district of and hard to approach in friendship ever happened. I never saw you before tonight, and when I spoke of forgetting I referred to all the silly things that our friends have said about us. As to the incident on Twenty-third street, I fear you will have to take your apology to the young lady whom you actually accosted, if you can find

> There was a moment of awful si lence, and then Miss Trask came to

that she was home again. And now it | I"- she began and stopped, not knowing how to finish her sentence. Gaines groaned.

At this critical moment who should appear but Cousin Jane! She was hailed as the deliverer from an awkward

"Oh, Miss Clair," she exclaimed, "I



"JANE," CRIED GAINES.

MY LIFE! hardly the word for me tonight, for I've lost my eyeglasses, and you know I'm half blind without them." "How did you lose them?" asked Ar. Chester Gaines, rejoiced to say something that

was safe. "Why," said Jane, "I was coming out of a store on Twenty-third street this afternoon. There was a dreadful crowd, and a brute of a man brushed against me and caught the chain of the glasses on a button of his coat. The chain broke, the glasses fell, and the Lv Ridgeway Jet " 1 20am brute stepped on them. And would you believe what the creature did?" He asked me to go to an oculist's with him and let him buy me a new pair. Ar Baltimore, I fled, but the fellow followed me all | Ar Philadel'a, the way to Sixth avenue. I could see | Ar N. York, him out of the back of my head, it seemed. And just as I was about to cross he spoke to me again. He

said"-"Jane," cried Gaines, "you have saved my life! 'The man who had been following you was not the one who | Ar Balti'e BSP Co. spoke to you. It was I."

"You!" she exclaimed. "Can this be possible? Of course I didn't look at Ar New York, " 8 38pm him, but his voice"-"What did he say?" demanded

"'Don't run over the poor cart horse, little girl.' Little girl! Fancy it!" "And you thought it was I, Mr. Gaines," said Miss Trask icily. "Well,

upon my word!" "No, I didn't," said Gaines, with deep humility. "I thought it was Cousin Jane at the time, and later I thought it must have been Miss Clair. But everybody said they didn't look a bit alike, whereas you and Miss Clair-

you know-I-I-thought you wouldn't The sentence ended in something so like a sob that all the girls laughed. And then they agreed that he had reestablished his reputation, for he was proved to have been guilty of only a little white lie, which in society entails

And they also agreed to keep the story secret, but it would have puzzled you an hour later to have found any one in the house who had not heard it.

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