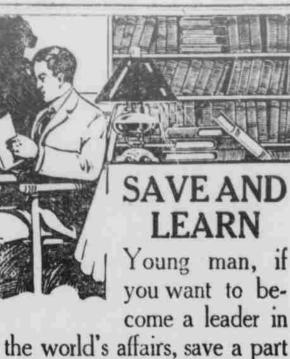


Howard Sloat Presents THE MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THE GIRL HE COULDN'T BUY



the world's affairs, save a part of the salary you now earn, keep your eyes on the future and study your business. Men who make good burn the midnight oil - at home with their books and plans.

Put Your Savings in Our Care

so that you may have funds on hand to grasp business opportunity when it comes your way.

The First National Bank ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.





too damned colorful for me."

"Newspaper talk"

"No!" Lorelel gulped.

right, but mine has some inky blots on "Then I will. She's a 1t, too, and I guess the cleanest part out wrathfulls grafter, Bob, and ber whole family are of it would just about match the darkgrafters. Now, lot me finish. She est that hers can show. I seem to have makes her living in any way she cant all the best of the deal." she smirks at you out of every catch-

"Don't be an ass," growled his fapenny advertisement along Broadway. ther,

Petticont Girl' and "The Bathtub well be consistent." Bob feit the slender form at his shie begin to tremble. There's nothing dishonest in that." and smilled down into the troubled Nus-"Just a minute. I won't have my eyes upturned to his. "Maybe we'll

time I get into a street car. I'd be forgetting I believe that's usual now athe moughing stock of the country. It's days." legitimate, perhaps, but it's altogether "Oh. I'm not whitewashing you." "Is that all you have against her?"

knows what you are." "Not by any means. She's notorl-"I do," agreed Lorelei. "He's adrunkard, and everything that means. But you mught him to drink before he

"Is It? She's made her living by could choose for himself." Mr. Wharton smilled sneeringly. "Adbleeding men, by taking gifts and renting herself out the way she did at mirable! I begin to see that you're Hammon's supper. Men don't support more than a pretty woman. Get his | instantly into his chair and seated hershow girls from oblvalrous motives. I sympathy: It's good business. Now had her family looked up, and it didn't he'll think he must act the man. But kissed her once more, then seized her take two hours. Listen to this report." that will wear off. And understand

" 'No police record as yet'-Broker your family are due for a great disapflying at the Charlevolx apartments'- pointment. Bob hasn't anything, and "Do you mind if I hurt you?" induced by a taxleab while intext- he won't have until I die, but I'm good cated."" quoted Wharton. "Scandal, for thirty years yet. I'm not going to don't-leave me. Your eyes have haunt-

> one thing in the world." We can manage," said Lorelel.

"You speak for yourself, but he can't make a living-unless he has red. I fear you'll find him rather a you see?" heavy burden

Throughout the interview Mr. Wharton had kept his temper quite perfect- with-something altogether different ly, and his coolness at this moment to love. argued a greater fixity of purpose than light have been inferred from a display of rage. He made a final appeal to his son: "Can't you see that it won't do at all. Bob? I won't stand parasites, unless they're my own. Either have done with the matter and let me pay the charges or-go through to the bitter finish on your own feet. Sho's supporting three loafers; I dare say she can take care of another, but it isn't heart, don't you?" quite right to put it upon her-she's notice I've said nothing about your thinking. Kiss me again, mother so far, but-she's with me in days, and I'd like to have you return

er is expecting you. If you decide to stick it out-" Wharton's face showed on the lid to keep you there." He rose, took his hat, and stalked out

backward glance.

"Did he mean it?"

very even account, is it?"

mistakable self-consciousness; this

rorm were indicated if I'm to keep you I'm just an album of expensive habits and-we're broke. Maybe I could-do something with myself if you took a

hand. If's s good deal to ask of a girl like you, but"-he regarded her timidly, then averted his eyes-"if you cared to try it we might make it go for a while. And you might get to care for me a fiftle--if I improve." Again he paused hopefully "I've been as honest as I know how. Now, won't you be the same?"

Loreie) roused herself, and spoke with quiet decision.

"Fil go through to the end, Bob." Bob started and utieged an inarticuinte word or two; in his face was a light of gladness that went to the girl's heart. His name had rison free ly to her lips; he feit as if she had laid her hand in his with a declaration of absolute trust.

"You mean that?" She nodded.

He took her in his arms and kissed her gently; then, feeling her warm She's The Chewing Gum Girl and The "I've always been one-I may as against his breast, he burst the bonds that had restrained him up to this mo ment and covered her face, her neck. her hair with passionate caresses. For the first time since his delirium of the daughter's face grinning at me every both have to do some forgiving and night before he abandoned himself to the hunger her beauty excited, and she offered him no resistance.

At inst she freed herself, and, Hannibal snapped. "She probably straightening the disorder of her hair, smiled at him mistily. Walt Please-

"Reautiful!" His eyes were affame "You're my wife. Nothing can change that.'

"Nothing except-yourself, Now, you must listen to me." She forced him re self opposite. He leaned forward and hand and held it. At intervals he this: You can't graft off me. You and crushed ids lips into its pink palm. "We must start honestly," she began,

"You can't hurt me so long as you disinherit him. I'm merely going to ed me every night. I've seen the curve wait until you both get tired. Take my of your neck-your lips. No woman word for it, poverty is the most tire- was ever so perfect, so maddening." "Always that. You're not a husband

at this moment: you're only a man." He frowned slightly.

"That's what makes this whole matsomething in him that I never discov ter so difficult," she went on. "Don't

He shook his head.

"You don't love me, you're drunk It's true." she insisted, "You show it. You don't even know the real me."

"Beauty may be only a skin disease," Bob laughed, "but ugliness goes clear to the bone.

"I married you for your money, and you married me because-1 seemed physically perfect-because my face and my body roused fires in you. I think we are both pretty rotten at

"No Anyhow, I don't care to think sure to weary of it some time. You'll about it. I never won anything by

She ignored his demand, with he this. I'll be in the city for several shadowy smile. "I deliberately traded on my looks: I put myself up for a to Pittsburgh with me when I go Moth- price, and you paid that price regardless of everything except your desires. We muddled things dreadfully and got more than a trace of feeling, his deep our deserts. I didn't love you. I don't volce lowered a tone-"you may go to love you now any more than you love hell, with my compliments, and I'll sit me; but I think we're coming to respect each other, and that is a beginning. You have longings to be someof the spartment without so much as a thing different and better; so have L Let's try together. I have it in me to

succeed, but I'm not sure about you." "Thanks for the good cheer."

HAPTER XVIII.

NOT A MOVING PICTURE But A Powerful Play of Love, Laughter and Thrills.

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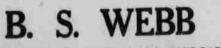
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is one essential to happiness in life. Make your dwelling place as inviting as your means will permit.

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then for the sake of your appearance keep neatly shaved. Neither your sweetheart nor your employer prefers to see you with a mess of sprouts on your chin half the time. Self respect begets the respect of others.

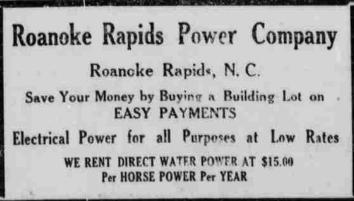
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can have it elaborated. What do you say, Mrs. Wharton? Is it true?" Locelel dropped her head. "Most of it. I dare suy. "Did you try to blackmail Merkle?" stiff drink. "Your mother and your brother did " She was silent: tains, and rivers dry up, and the whole "They tried to scare him into marry-

'That's a Lie!'

blackmail, graft. It's all here, Bob.

The report was made by one of our

down, I believe: but dad isn't governed ing you, did they not?" "Hammon said something about by any natural laws whatsoever. He's that," ejaculated Bob, "but I don't be-i built of reinforced concrete, and time hardens him. He's Impervious to rust Lordel checked him. "It's quite or decay, and gravity exerts no power

over him Merkle said you had nothing to do "Then I think you'd better make

with it personally, " conscientiously ex- your choice tonight," plained Mr. Wharton, "and Fin willing to take his word. But that's neither here nor there." There was a moment of silence during which he folded and replaced the report; then he shook his head, exclaiming. Second-hand goods, my boy

"That's a lie!" Lorelel's volce was did I until a moment ago--but I'm not. like a whip. Mr. Wharton eyed her grimly.

"That's something for liob to determine-I have only the indications to go on. I don't blame him for losing his wits you're very good looking-but the affair must end. You're not a girl I'd care to have in my family-pardon my bluntness She met his even fairly. At no time

had she flimbed before him, although inwardly she had eringed and her flesh had guivered at his merchess attrack. "You have told Rob the truth," she began, slowly, "in the worst possible way; you have put me in the most unfavorable light. I dare say I never would have had the courage to tell against that, I possess-let me see-1 him myself, although he deserves to

know. Eve been pretty-commercialbecause I had to be; but I never sold myself, and I sha'a't begin now. Bob tsn't a child; he's mariy thirty years was, so far as Lorelei knew, his maldold-old enough to make up his own en effort to be serious. He ran on hurmind-and he must make this decision. riedly: not L'

Hob opened his lips, but his father forestalled him.

"What do you mean by that?" "I have no price. If he's sick of the you a cent.

snilled for the first time during the interview "That's very decout of you," he said.

"but of course I sha's' put the good "I was getting pretty tired of faith of your offer to the test. I don't things," he added, "and I s'pose I'd want something for nothing. I'll take have wound up in the D. T. parlors of some highly exclusive institution or becare of you nicely Thus far Bob had yielded precedence | hind a bathroom door with a gas tube

to his father, but he could no longer | in my teeth. But-1 met you, and you restrain himself. "Now let me take went to my head. I wanted you worse the chair." he commanded, easily. "My than I ever wanted anything-worse mind is made up. You see, I didn't even than I ever wanted liquor. And marry 'Peter Knight, residence Vale,' now I have you. I've had you for one nor 'James Knight, reputation bad,' day, and that's something. I suppose nor even Mathilda Knight, wife of it's silly to talk about starting over-Peter.' I married this kid, and the I don't want to reform if I don't have books are closed. You say the Knights | to; moderation strikes me as an awful are a bad lot, and Lorelel's reputation cold proposition; but it looks as if re-

'You're afraid you can't make a liv-"Whew! That was a knockout. But ing for us-I know you can. I'm mere

who got licked?" Bob went to the lit- ly afraid you won't." "What do you mean?" he asked. tle sideboard and helped himself to a

"I don't believe the liquor will let you

"My dear, time wears away moun-"Nonsense. Any man can cut down." "'Cutting down' won't do for us solar system is gradually running Bob." He thrilled anew at her infl-



"I Divorce the Demon Rum.

mate use of his name. "The chemistry "What I mean to convey is of your body demands the stuff-you this: I have no regrets, no questions couldn't be temperate in anything to ask, no reproaches. I got all I ex- You'll have to qui

"All right. I'll quit. I divorce the demon rum; lovers once, but strangers now. I'll quit gambling, too.'

Lorelel laughed. "That won't strain your will-power in the least, for half my salary goes up Amsterdamsavenue, and the rest will about ron this flat."

Continued Next Week

"You say you'd like to own a pattleship?

"Yes."

dances.

"That's a curious wish. What would you do with it?"

"I'd anchor it off Newport and lease it to fashionable folk for

pected, and all I was entitled to when I married you. But it seems that you've been cheated, and-I'm ready to match we'll end it, and it won't cost do the square thing. I'll step aside and give you another chance, if you say Bob looked inscrutable; his father During this little declaration Lorelel had watched him keenly; she appeared to be seriously weighing his offer.