

SYNOPSIS.

Fran arrives at Hamilton. Gregory's home in Littleburg, but finds him absent conducting the choir at a camp inecting. She repairs thither in search of him, laughs during the service and is asked to leave. Abbott Ashton, superintendent of schools, escorts Fran from the tent. He teils her Gregory is a wealthy man, deeply interested in charity work, and a pillur of the church. Ashton becomes greatly interested in Fran and while taking leave of her, holds her hand and is seen by Sapphira Clinton, sister of Robert Clinton, chairman of the school board. Fran tells Gregory she wants a home with him. Grace Noir, Gregory's private secretary, takes a violent dislike to Fran and advises her to go away at once. Fran hints at a twenty-year-old secret, and Gregory in agitation asks Grace to leave the foom. Fran relates the story of how Gregory married a young girl at Springfield while attending college and then deserted her. Fran is the child of that marriage. Gregory had married his present wife three years before the death of Fran's mother. Fran takes a liking to Mrs. Gregory, insists on her making her home with them and takes her to her arms. It is decided that Fran must go to school. Grace shows persistent interest in Gregory's story of his dead friend and school. Grace shows persistent interest in Gregory's story of his dead friend and lints that Fran may be an imposter. Fran declares that the secretary must go. Grace begins nugging tactics in an effort to drive Fran from the Gregory home, but de drive Fran from the Gregory home, but Mrs. Gregory remains stanch in her friendship. Fran is ordered before Super-intendent Ashton to be punished for insubordination in school. Chairman Clinton is present. The affair ends in Fran leaving the school in company of the two men to the amazement of the scandal-mongers of the town. Abbott, while taking a walk alone at midnight, finds Fran on a bridge telling her fortune by cards. on a bridge telling her fortune by cards. She tells Abbott that she is the famous ilon tamer, Fran Nonparell. She tired of circus life and sought a home. Grace tells of seeing Fran come home after midnight with a man. She guesses part of the story and surprises the rest from Abbott.

CHAPTER XII .- Continued.

"Oh," Grace exclaimed, disagreeably surprised. "I did not know that you" play cards, Professor Ashton. Do you surprised to find her out there, alone." also attend the dances? Surely you haven't been dancing and playing cards very long?"

"Not for a great while," responded Abbott, with the obstinacy of a good conscience wrongfully accused.

"Only since Fran came, I am sure." she said, feeling him escaping. She looked at him with something like scorn, inspired by righteous indignation that such as he could be influenced by Fran. That look wrought havoc with the halo be had so long blinked at, as it swung above her head.

"Does that mean," he inquired, with a steady look, "that you imagine Fran has led me into bad habits?"

"I trust the habits are not fixed." rather contemptuously. "I hardly think you mean to desert the church, and lose your position at school, for the sake of-of that Fran."

"I hardly think so, either," returned Abbott. "And now I'd better go to my school work"

"Fran is imprudent," said Mrs. Gregbry, in distress, "but her heart is pure gold. I don't know what all this means, but when I have had a talk with her-

"Don't go, Professor Ashton," interposed Grace, as he started up, "until you advise me. Shall I tell Mr. Gregory? Or shall I conceal it on the assurances that it will never happen tends to be!"

Abbott seated himself with audden persuasiveness. "Conceal it, Miss Grace, conceal it!" he urged,

"If you will frankly explain what happened-here before Mrs. Gregory, so she can have the real truth, we will never betray the secret. But if you cannot tell everything, I shall feel it



Alone, Telling People's Fortunes."

my duty-1 don't know how Mrs. Gregory feels about it-but I must tell Mr. Gregory."

"I would rather wait," said Mrs. Fran.

both solemnly promise-

demned him.

sead. "I don't want Fran put in an anthropist.



unjust light. She isn't to be judged like other people."

"Oh," murmured Grace, "then you think there is more than one standard of right? I don't. There's one God and one right. No. I cannot consent; what might satisfy Mrs. Gregory might not seem best to me. No, professor, if you feel that you cannot explain what I saw, last night, I shall feel obliged to tell Mr. Gregory as soon as the choir practice ends."

"Didn't Fran refuse to tell?" Abbott temporized.

"Yes," was the skilful response; "but her reticence must have been to save you, for the girl never seems ashamed of anything she does. I imagine she hated to get you into trouble.'

"Miss Grace, you have heard Mrs. Gregory say that she trusts me-and she is Fran's guardian. I ask you to do the same."

"I must consider my conscience." That answer closed all argument

'You had better tell her," said Mrs. Gregory, "for she is determined to

"I was taking a walk to rest my mind," Abbott said slowly, proceeding as if he would have liked to fight his ground inch by inch, "and it was rather late. I was strolling about Lattleburg. At last I found myself at the new bridge that leads to the campmeeting grounds, when ahead of me, there was-I saw Fran. I was much

"I can understand that," said Grace quietly, "for I should have been surprised myself."

Mrs. Gregory turned upon Grace. 'Let him go on!" she said with a flash that petrified the secretary.

"When I came up to the bridge, she was sitting there, with some cardsall alone. She had some superstition about trying fortunes on a new bridge at midnight, and that explains the lateness of the hour. So I persuaded her to come home, and that is all."

Mrs. Gregory breathed with relief. 'What an odd little darling!" she murmured, smiling

"What kind of fortune was she telling?" Grace asked.

"Whatever kind the new bridge would give her." "Oh, then the cards stood for peo-

ple, didn't they! And the card you dropped in the yard was your card, of course." "Of course,"

sent herself, perhaps?" "I have told you the story," said Ab-

bott, rising. "That means she did. Then she wanted to know if you and she would in figures."

Mrs. Gregory, I have always her age! She is older than she pre-

"I believe this concludes our bargain," said Abbott, rising.

Mrs, Gregory was calm. "Miss Grace, Fran told me long ago that she is eighteen years old; she came as a little girl, because she thought we would ory responded, "She will not tell." take her in more readily, if we believed her a mere child."

"Does Mr. Gregory know that?" "I haven't told him; I don't know whether Fran has or not."

"You haven't told him!" Grace was speechless. "You knew it, and haven't told him? What ought I to do?"

"You ought to keep your promise," Abbott retorted hotly.

"Sitting on that bridge at midgnight, alone, telling people's fortunes by cards. . . . Professor Ashton-Mrs. Gregory!" Grace exclaimed, with Professor Ashtonone of those flashes of inspiration peculiar to her sex, "that Fran is a showgirl!"

Mrs. Gregory rose, and spoke through her mother's ear-trumpet: 'Shall we go home, now?"

"That Fran," repeated Grace, "is a show-girl! She is eighteen or nineteen years old, and she is a show-girl!" "Wouldn't it be best for you to ask

"Ask her? Her? No, I ask you!" "Let me push the chair," said Abbott, stepping to Mrs. Gregory's side. "Sitting on That Bridge at Midnight He read in the troubled face that she

had known this secret, also, The secretary gazed at him with a far-away look, hardly conscious that he was beating retreat, so absorbed was she in this revelation. It would be necessary for some one to go to Gregory, "and talk to Fran. She will Springfield to make investigations. promise me anything. I trust you, Ab- Grace had for ever alienated Abbott bott; I know you would never lead my Ashton, but there was always Robert little girl into wrong-doing. Leave it Clinton. He would obey her every all to me. I will have a good talk with wish; Robert Clinton should go. And when Robert had returned with a full "And," said Abbott eagerly, "if we history of Hamilton Gregory's schooldays at Springfield, and those of Greg-Grace bit her lip. His "we" con- ory's intimate friends, Fran, with the proofs of her conspiracy spread before "I don't ask you to hide the affair on her, should be driven forth, never toy account," he said, holding up his again to darken the home of the philCHAPTER XIII.

Alliance With Abbott.

walk to Hamilton Gregory's. Abbott has ever had a chance to develop: Ashton pushed the wheel-chair, and it she's too fixed on thinking herself was only Mrs. Jefferson, ignorant of what she isn't. Her opinion of what what had taken place, who commented she ought to be is so sure, that she on the bright moon, and the relief of has never discovered what she really rose-scented breezes after the musty is. And you can't possibly hold a seauditorium of Walnut Street church.

Fran going to choir practice," the old toy from a little child." lady told Abbott, "so Lucy and I went along to encourage her, for they say she has a fine voice, and they want all the good singing they can have at weapons against me, and you may be Uncle Tobe Fuller's funeral. I despise sure she'll use them to her advantage. big doings at funerals, but I expect to go, and as I can't hear the solos, nor me see your face; are you in earnest? the preacher working up feelings, all Your eyes are smoldering-Oh, Fran, I'll have to do will be to sit and look those eyes! What weapons have I at the coffin."

"Mother," said Mrs. Gregory, "you are not cheerful tonight."

"No," the other responded, "I think it's from sitting so long by the Whited

Sepulcher." Mrs. Gregory spoke into the trum-



Fran Set Her Back Against the Fence and Looked at Him Darkly.

pet, with real distress-"Mother, moth-"And did Fran have a card to repre- er! Abbott won't understand you; he doesn't know you are using a figure ing her friends, about taking their se-

of speech." thirteen, if there's anything unlucky sharp and quick, 'What have you been

Abbott effected diversion. "Mrs. felt that Fran has deceived us about Gregory, I'm glad Miss Noir agreed to Ashton that you are not a young girl say nothing about her discoveries, for the only harm in them is what people eighteen years.' I answered-Being might imagine. I was pretty uneasy, a masquerader of at least thirty-five, at first, of course I knew that if she felt she ought to tell it, she would. I

> never knew anybody so conscientious. There was a pause, then Mrs. Greg- fight Indians in the brush. Then your Abbott had seen them safely into

the house, and had reached the gate you think you've strayed too far from on his departure, when Fran came run- the tent?' she asked. I said-Oh, I to Mr. Gregory's great charity enterning up. In pleased surprise he brought the show with me; Professor prisesopened the gate for her, but she Ashten is my advance advertising stopped in the outside shadow, and he paused within the yard.

"Fran!" he exclaimed with pleasure.

Is the practice ended?" She made no response.

"Fran, what's the matter?"

Silence. Abbott was both perplexed and hurt, Remember what we said on the new bridge," he urged; "we're friends 'while we're together and after we part!

"Somebody ought to burn that new bridge," said Fran, in a muffled tone; 'it's no good making wishes come

"Why do you say that? Aren't we

the best of friends?" Fran collected herself, and spoke with cool distinctness: "I have a pretty hard fight, Mr. Ashton, and it's nec-

ing a foe for a friend." "Which you will kindly explain?" explains it."

"I am your friend, too, Fran."

terly. "Oh, thanks-also!" tried to read her face. "Does the fact band receiving a vigorous lecture parliament, and, with a laugh, they that I am her friend condemn me?" from his wife. 'Madam,' he had just adopted the name. When the subject

reflector of her opinions."

that's rather to her credit, isn't it? the exits, when the comedian, com- by drawing lots."

Would you mind to explain your imagination of her character?"

His jesting tone made her impa-For the most part, that was a silent tient. "I don't think her character cret from her, if you're her friend; she "They were bent and determined on takes it from you as one snatches a

> Abbott was still amused, "Has she emptied me of all she wants?"

"Yes. You have given her strong

given her?"

Fran set her back against the fence, and looked at him darkly. "The secret of my age, and the secret of my past." "I told her neither."

"As soon as you and Mrs. Gregory wheeled away Mrs. Jefferson," said Fran, "I went right down from the choir loft, and straight over to her. I looked her in the eye, and I asked what you had been telling about me. Why, you told her everything, even that I was trying to find out whether you and I would ever-would ever get married! I might as well say it, it came pat enough from her-and you told! Nobody else knew. And you dropped your King of Hearts over the fence-you told her that! And when we were standing there at the gate, you even tried-but no. I'll leave you and Miss Grace to discuss such subjects. Here we are at the same gate, but I guess there's not much danger.

"Fran!" cried Abbott, with burning cheeks, "I didn't tell her, upon my honor I didn't. I had to admit dropping the card, to keep her from thinkng you out here at midnight with a stranger. She saw us in the shadow, and guessed-that other. I didn't tell her anything about your age. I didn't mention the carnival company."

Fran's concentrated tones grew milder: "But Mrs. Gregory has known about the show all this time. She

would die 1 efore she'd tell on me." to say that again; but you shall be-

lieve me." "Of course, Abbott. But it just proves what I said, about her emptycrets, from them even without their "Yes," said the old lady, "number knowing she's doing it. I said to her, saying about me, Miss Noir?' She said-'I understand from Professor at all, but a masquerader of at least you should have found that out, yourself.' I hardly think she's thirty-five: it wasn't a fair blow, but you have to friend said, 'Professor Ashton informs me that you are a circus-girl. Don't agent.' Then she said that if I'd her.'

that I'm an impostor. But I told her no tickets are going to be returned. I said-This show absolutely takes place, rain or shine." "Fran," said Abbott in distress, "I

want to talk this over-come here in the yard where you're not so conspicuous."

"Show-girls ought to be conspicuous. No. sir, I stay right here in the glaring moonlight. It doesn't call for darkness to tell me anything that is on your mind, Professor."

"Fran, you can't hold me responsible for what Miss Grace guessed. 1 tell you, she guessed everything. I was trying to defend you-suddenly she saw through it all. I don't know how it was-maybe Mrs. Gregory can explain, as she's a woman. You shall not deem me capable of adding an atom to your difficulties. You shall "Fran, step back into the light-let feel that I'm your friend 'while we're together and after we part.' You must believe me when I tell you that I need your smile." His voice trembled with sudden tenderness.

She looked at him searchingly, then her face relaxed to the eve of revolution. "Who have you been trying to get a glimpse of, all the times you parade the street in front of our

Abbott declared, "You!" In mute appeal he held out his hand.

'You're a weak brother, but here-And she slipped her hand into his. "If she'd been in conversation with me, I wouldn't have let her have any presentiments. It takes talent to keep from telling what you know, but genius to keep the other fellow from guessing. What I hate about it is, that the very next time you fall into her hands, you'll be at her mercy. If I told you a scheme I've been devising. she'd take it from you in broad daylight. She can always prove she's right, because she has the verse for it-and to deny her is to deny Inspiration. And if she had her way-she thinks I'm a sort of dissipation-Fran."

of Fran, I'd be the first to smuggle hot things should be served piping you in somehow, little Nonparell, hot. Isn't it something for me to have taken you on trust as I have, from the

very beginning?" His brown eyes were so earnest that Fran stepped into the shadow. "It's more than something, Abbott. Your trust is about all I have. It's just pudding? "I never told, Fran. I'm not going have. I'm going to confide in you like me to be wanting more than I my scheme. Let's talk it over in whispers." They put their heads together. "Tomorrow, Grace Noir is going to the city with Bob Clinton to select music for the choir-he doesn't know any more about music than poor Uncle Tobe Fuller, but you see, he's still alive. It will be the first day she's been off the place since I came. While she's away, I mean to make my grand

effort. "At what, Little Wonder?" "At driving her away for good. I'm going to offer myself as secretary, and with her out of sight, I'm hoping to win the day.

"But she's been his secretary for five years-is it reasonable he'd give her up? And would it be honorable for you to work against her in that way? Besides, Fran, she is really necessary up and pinch the edge; lay in a but-

"The more reason for getting rid of



Natural Aptitude to Grasp a Situation Turned to Good Account on Stage.

Natural, aptitude to grasp a situation has been turned to account more venting a serious calamity." essary to know who's on my side, and than once on the stage, and, in one who isn't. I may not come out ahead; case, if the veracity of a favorite but I'm not going to lose out from tak- comedian goes for anything, it saved a panic and possible loss of life.

"We were playing one-night stands," "You are Grace Noir's friend-that said he. "in Kansas during the ter- of spending a winter on the island. rible period of cyclones, and found

QUICK WIT PREVENTS PANIC ing down to the footlights, looked up into the air, and, quick as a flash, of baking powder. Add one pound of turned to the lady, and said: 'There, what did I tell you?" "The audience howled with laugh-

ter, and the quick-witted comedian was undoubtedly the means of pre-

St. Kildan Parliament. One feature of St. Kildan life would

have appealed strongly to Doctor Johnson if he had carried out his intention "The men of St. Kilda," writes John ourselves in a large, dilapidated build- Sands, "are in the habit of congregat-"My friend, too!" she echoed bit ing called, by courtesy, a theater. ing in front of one of the houses al-"The low comedian was on the most every morning for the discussion Abbott came through the gate, and stage in the part of a drunken hus- of business. I called this assembly the "No - just classifies you. You observed, "if you keep on you'll talk is exciting they talk with loud voices couldn't be her friend if you were not the roof off, when there was a roar and all at one time, but when the quesa mirror in which she sees herself; heard, followed by a tremendous tion is once settled they work togethher conscience is so sure, that she crash, the building swaying like a er in perfect harmony. Shall we go to hasn't use for anything but a faithful tree in a storm. Everybody jumped catch solan-geese, or ling, or mend to their feet, for they saw the roof the boat today? Such are some exam-"Her friends are mere puppets, it had been carried away. They were ples of the questions that occupy the and most flexible strips of material appears," Abbott said, smiling. "But about to turn and make one dash for house. Sometimes disputes are settled could be used, and the mat is like the

the food supply would be prob ably better selected, varied and cooken if the daily supervision were allotted definitely to one who has been trained for the purpose, and chosen because of capacity for the office.

BREAKFASTS.

There is probably no meal where dainty service and pretty dishes are more appreciated than at the first meal of the day, when the appetite needs urging. It is much better to have two or three well prepared dishes than too much variety. For young or old, fruit is a most acceptable beginning, and the season brings its own variety. One of the most appetizing and wholesome dishes for children. and in fact for any one, old or young. is the whole wheat. Get it from the mill or granary, if you are fortunate enough to live on a farm where you can have plenty of cream; if not, top milk is very good to serve with it. Soak the wheat over night, then cook it for eight hours in a double boiler or fireless cooker until the grain is soft and easily digested. Salt while cook-

Breakfast Muffin.-A simple little breakfast cake, easy to make and very good is this: Beat an egg, add a half cup of milk, salt, two tablespoonfuls of baking powder; add flour to make a soft batter, add two tablespoonfuls of melted fat and pour into well greased gem pans to bake in a hot

When bananas are not liked uncooked, they are delicious baked with butter; add lemon juice with a sprinkling of sugar and a pinch of

salt. One needs to remember that most of the prepared cereals need double the time for cooking that is specified on the box.

A well made and seasoned hash is another good breakfast dish which is usually a great favorite. If baked in greased cups instead of the usual method it makes an agreeable change. Eggs in a multitude of forms are one

of our most easily prepared breakfast dishes, and ope of the most nutritious. Omelets, too, are of endless variety, changing the flavor by the sauce or

filling used in them. An ordinary poached egg served with a nice, smooth, well flavored sauce will lose its ordinary commonness entirely.

Toasts and coffee are too good, when well prepared, to slight by not menthere'd be a national prohibition of tioning. Toast should be well browned and crisp. Coffee clear and well fla-"If there were a national prohibition vored and most important of all, all

She was so skilled and perfect in the art of everything Hor fairy fingers touched Seemed like Ambrosia.

Sweet lady, tell me, can you make &

PRACTICAL PUDDINGS.

Baltimore Pudding.-Take half a cupful each of molasses, milk and beef suet, a cup of flour and a cup of raisins, the juice and rind of a lemon. half a teaspoonful of soda, a teaspoonful of salt, a pinch of ground cloves, and mace and cinnamon. Steam five hours and serve with an egg or hard sauce. The hard sauce may be prepared from two tablespoonfuls of creamed butter, a cup of powdered sugar and two or three tablespoonfuls of whipped cream. Flavor with van-

illa Cranberry Roly Poly .- Make a short biscuit dough, roll it out about a half inch thick and spread generously with a layer of chopped uncooked cranberries well sprinkled with sugar. Roll tered plate and steam forty minutes. then set in the oven to dry. Serve with cream and sugar.

Queen of Puddings .- Take one plat of bread crumbs, one quart of milk, one cup of sugar, the yolks of four eggs, the grated rind of a lemon and two tablespoonfuls of butter. Bake in a pan of hot water. When done, spread over the top a small glass of jelly, then cover with the meringue made from the whites of the eggs, a cup of sugar and the juice of the lem-

on. Bake until brown. Date Pudding .- Beat the whites of five eggs until stiff, add a cup of granulated sugar and three teaspoonfuls chopped walnuts and a half pound of dates Bake in a slow oven for thirty

minutes. Serve with whipped cream. Oatmeal Pudding .- To one quart of milk add a cup of uncooked oatmeal, one-half cup of sugar and a half cup of molasses. Add salt, dot with butter and bake an hour and a half in a slow oven. Serve with cream,

Nellie Maxwell.

Costly Ivory Mats.

There are but three mats of ivory in axistence? The largest one measares eight feet by four feet, and, although made in the north of India, has Greek design for a border. It is used only on state occasions, like the signing of important state documents. The cost of this precious mat was almost incalculable, for more than 3,400 pounds of pure ivory was used in its construction. Only the finest finest woven fabric.