

Fran arrives at Hamilton Gregory's conducting the choir at a camp meeting. 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 tells her Gregory is a wealthy man, deeply interested in charity work, and a pillar of the church. Ashton becomes greatly interested in Fran and while taking leave of her holds her hard and is ing leave of her, holds her hand and is seen by Sapphira Clinton, sister of Rob-ert 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 room. 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 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. Gregory explains that Fran is the daughter of a very dear friend who is dead. Fran agrees to the story. Mrs. Gregory insists on her making her home with them and takes her to her series. Fran declares the secretary must arms. Fran declares the secretary must go. Grace begins nagging tactics in an effort to drive Fran from the Gregory home. Abbott, while taking a walk alone at midnight, finds Fran on a bridge telling her fortune by cards. She tells Ab-bott that she is the famous lion tamer, Fran Nonpareil. 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. She decides to ask Bob Clinton to go to Springfield to investigate Fran's story. Fran enlists Abbott in her battle against Grace. Fran offers her services to Gregory as secretary during the temporary absence of Grace. The latter, hearing of Fran's purpose, returns and interrupts a between father and daughter. Grace tells Gregory she intends to marry Clinton and quit his service. He declares that he cannot continue his work without her. Carried away by passion, he takes her in his arms. Fran walks in on them, and declares that Grace must leave the house at once. To Gregory's consternation he learns of Clinton's mission to Springfield. Clinton returns from Springfield and, at Fran's request, Ashton urgest him not to disclose what he has learned.

CHAPTER XVII.-Continued. It was impossible for Abbott to re-

ceive all this as a whole; he took up the revelations one at a time. "Is it possible that Fran is Mr. Gregory's daughter?"

of his only legal wife—that's why she it, any more than you or Fran: but came, thinking her father would do I'll limit the thing to Grace-" the right thing, him that's always praying to be guided aright, and balking whenever the halter's pulled straight."

"Then," Abbott stammered, "Mrs. Gregory is . . ."

"Yap; is with a question mark. But there's one thing she isn't; she isn't always a-preying upon the consciences of folks that thinks they're worse than him."

sternly-

Robert pursued the name with a vigorous expletive, and growled, "One thing, Mr. Gregory has done for me, been so long dammed-yes, I say dammed-I say-"

"Bob," Abbott exclaimed, "don't you understand Fran's object in keeping the secret? It's on account of Mrs. Gregory. If she finds it out-that she's not legally married-don't you see? Of course it would be to Fran's interests-bless her heart! What awhat a Nonpareil!" "Tain't natural," returned Clinton,

"for any girl to consult the interests of a woman that's supplanted her mother. No, Fran's afraid to have it



"le It Possible That Fran Is Mr. Gregory's Daughter?"

told for fear she'd be injured by your cut-glass paragon, your religion-stuffed pillow that calls itself a man." "Fran afraid? That's a joke! I tell

you, she's thinking only of Mr. Gregory."

ert allowed, "but Grace Noir is more to me than any other woman on earth. You don't see the point. When I think of a girl like Grace Noir living under the same roof with that-that-" "Mr. Gregory," Abbott supplied.

"-And she so pure, so high, so much at its most frenzied stage. above us. . . It makes me crazy. And all the time she's been breathing the same air, she's thought him a Moses in the Wilderness, and us noth. Gregory would confess. Now that consent to a divorce."

IOHN BRECKENRIDGE ELLIS ILLUSTRATIONS BY O · IRWIN · MYERS (COPYRIGHT 1912 BOBBS-MERRILL CO.)

engraving in a Family Bible! No, I descended the hall stairs. mean to open her eyes, and get her out of his spider's web."

"I see your point of view." "You do if you have eyes.

of that perfect angel-but just say Grace Noir and you've called all the virtues. And her in his house!-" "You still believe in angels?" in-

quired Abbott gravely. curly hair, and pretty womanish faces, and voices like molasses."

"But Fran wants Mrs. Gregory spared-"

"Abbott, when I think of Grace Noir spending one more night under the roof of that burrowing mole, that crocodile with tears in his eyes and the rest of him nothing but bone and gristle-"

"Bob, if I assure you that Miss Noir will never spend another day under his roof, will you agree to keep this discovery to yourself?"

"You can't make no such assurance. If she ain't put wise to what branch of the animal kingdom he twigs to, she'll not leave his roof."

"Bob, if she leaves that house in the morning, for ever, won't you agree to silence, for Mrs. Gregory's sake-and because Fran asks it?"

"Fran's another angel, bless her heart! But you can't work it." "Leave it to me, Bob. I'll be guided

by the spur of the moment."

"I need a bookkeeper at my store," Robert said, ruminating. "I promise you that Miss Noir will

soon be open to offers." "See here, Abbott, I can't afford to lose any chances on this thing. I'm going to see the feathers fly. No-I "Oh, she's his, all right, only child don't want Mrs. Gregory to learn about

> "She'd tell Mrs. Gregory." "Don't you say anything against Grace Nqir, Abbott, for though you are my friend-"

"I say nothing against her; I say only that she's a woman."

"Well," Clinton reluctantly agreed, "I reckon she is. I'll tell you what the legal wife of this pirate what's I'll do. I'll go with you into that wolf's den, and I'll let you do all the talking; and if you can manage things in half an hour-just thirty minutes "As for Mr. Gregory," Abbott began by my watch—so that Grace leaves there tomorrow, I'll leave you to steer things, and it's mum for keeps. But I'm going to be present, though I don't want to say one word to thathe's opened the flood-gates that have that-But if he don't crawl out of his wool far enough to suit the purpose, in short, if he don't cave, and in half an hour-"

"Half an hour will do the business. said Abbott stoutly. "Come!" .

"Be sure to call for Mr. Gregory by himself," said Robert, as they walked swiftly back to the Gregory residence. "If Grace comes into the room while we're talking, or Mrs. Gregory-"

"If they do," Abbott said quickly, "you are not to utter one word, not one, about Springfield-you understand? It's a bargain, and I shall hold you to your word of honor."

"For half an hour I won't say a word," Clinton declared, "unless it's some word just drawn out of my bosom by the sight of that villain.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Just Thirty Minutes.

During the week spent by Robert how I look at it." Clinton in search of Fran's life-secret, a consciousness of his absence and its cause was like a hot iron branding Gregory's brain. What a mocking fatality, that it should have been Grace send Robert on his terrible errandan errand which must result in ruin!

Mrs. Gregory would be pitied when it became known how she had been deceived; Fran would be pitied because she was a disowned daughter; Grace would be pitied for trusting in the integrity of her employer-but Gregory, who of all men needed pity most, would be utterly despised. He did not think of himself alone, but of his works of charity—they, too, would fall, in his disgrace, and Walnut Street churcheven religion itself-would be discredited because of an exposure that could avail nothing.

Gregory had been too long proclaiming the living God not to feel Him as too far apart to be as we were in the the result is a yawn, stretching the a Presence, and in this Presence he "I'm sorry for Mrs. Gregory," Rob- felt a shuddering fear that could suggest no relief but propitiation. He as well as Abbott Ashton had kept himself informed of Robert's movements as far as they were known to Miss Sapphira, hence the day of Robert's return found his thought of atonement

As evening wore on, he made up his mind to the fatal step.

Before Robert could oppose bim,

ing but the sticks. Think of her be- the last hour had come, he sought his lieving in that jelly pulp, that steel wife, reeling like a sick man as he are you mad? Do you think I want

old hymn, when he discovered her presence in the brilliantly lighted par-Think lor. Grace was expecting a visit from Clinton and had made the room cheerful for his coming, and Mrs. Gregory, looking in and finding no one present, had sunk upon the stool before the piano. She did not see her husband, "Yap; and devils with long sort-of- for her face was bent low as she feelingly played, "I Need Thee Every against-" Hour."

Gregory, well-nigh overwhelmed to do, grasped the door for support. Presently he spoke, brokenly, "Lucy, how true that is—we do, indeed, need Him every hour."

his presence had been unsuspected. ory, you are ill."



My God! Then Somebody Has Told You About Springfield. It Was Fran!"

turned off the lights and drew a chair near her. The room was partly revealed by an electric arc that swung at the street corner—its mellowed beams entered the open window. "Lucy, I have something very impor tant to say to you."

Her fingers continued to wander among the keys, making the hymn barely audible, then letting it die away, only to be revived.

"Lucy, I have never spoken of this before, but it has seemed to me for a long time that we have wandered rather far apart-yes, very far apart. We sit close together, alone, our hands could touch, but our souls live in difwav?"

She ceased playing abruptly, and ferent worlds. Do you ever feel that answered almost in a whisper, "Yes."

"Perhaps it is my fault," said Gregory, "although I know that if you had taken more interest in what interests me, if you had been true to the Faith as I have tried to be-"

"I have been true to you," said Mrs. Gregory.

"Of course-of course-there is no question of our being true to each other. I feel that I am not wholly to blame. Lucy, it has been my fault and it has been your fault-that is

There was silence, then she said There seems nothing to be done." "How do you mean? You speak as if our love were dead and buried-"

She rose abruptly, saying, "And its

grave unmarked. "Sit down, Lucy-I haven't told you what I came to tell-you must listen and try to see it as I see it. Let us be reasonable and discuss the future in a-in a sensible and matter-of-tact

way. If you will agree-"

"I will not agree to it," she answered firmly. "Let me go, Mr. Gregory, there is no need ever to bring up that by an ordinary respiration. There is subject."

He had risen, and now in blank amazement, he stared at her, repeating, "You will not agree to it? To what? You are unreasonable. What

subject have I brought up?" "It is very true that we have drifted beginning. But there is still something left to me, and this something I them with clean, fresh air and driving shall cling to as long as I can. I mean to avoid the publicity, the open exposure, the shame of-of-a neglected yawn. For another, yawning opens wife."

"My God!" whispered Gregory, tall ing back, "then somebody has told you about Springfield-it was Fran!"

"I don't know what you mean," she returned, apparently without emotion

"A divorce? Good heavens, Lucy, a separation because you disown the Mrs. Gregory was softly playing an church? What have I ever done to the room. make you imagine such an absurdity?"

> She answered gently, "Yes, it seems I misunderstood. But you said you wanted me to discuss the future in a matter-of-fact way, and I couldn't think of the future as having any other matter-of-fact solution." Gregory was hotly indignant. "Lucy,

if that is meant as an insinuation

Mrs. Gregory raised her hand compellingly. "Do not speak any name," with the realization of what he meant | she said, looking at him steadily. "I can endure much," she went on, in a milder tone, finding him silent; "I often wonder if many women could endure as silently-but there must never She did not start at his voice, though | be a name mentioned between us."

Her manner was so unwontedly She raised her serious eyes, and ob- final, that he stood looking at her, not served his haggard face. "Mr. Greg- knowing how to resume the pressing subject of his past. They were in that same silent attitude when Grace Noir came in from the hall.

> Grace turned up the lights, and then 'Oh!" It was impossible to prevent an unpleasant compression of the mouth at discovering Gregory so near his wife. "Am I in the way? I am looking for company, and I heard the doorbell-please excuse me!" she added, biting off the words.

> "Of course you are not in the way," Gregory returned desperately. "Company, you say? And you heard the doorbell-is Bob Clinton-" He grew white. "My eyes are bad, for some reason," he muttered, and switched off the lights again. "How very dark you have it in

> here!" said Grace reprovingly. "Of course Mr. Clinton has been shown the back-parlor, where it is light. will go to him there, and leave' you two-" she paused irresolutely, but neither spoke.

Grace had no sooner gone than Gregory with an effort found his voice. "Lucy, my conscience has tormented tered, me until it will not let me rest-about you. It's right to know something time drawing a little farther away more about my life than I have ever from the man he despised: "Bob have told-"

"Right in there," said the maid's voice, from the hall, and Astots Ashton and Robert Clinton entered the I do-tell it out-all of it." half-light.

Gregory with exaggerated pleasure, in order to escape facing her husband, are determined that—that they will sense of meanness, as if he partook, the past, and at the same time be by mere nearness, of the other's cow- help to Bob." ardice. "I wish to speak to you for a few minutes, Mr. Gregory."

Gregory, like an animal brought to bay, said, "I suppose you've some excuse about playing cards with Fran." "More important than playing cards," Abbott returned.

Gregory fought off the inevitable: "If you refer to losing your position where a bookkeeper is needed." at the public school-"

Springfield, and we have a matter-" "It's pressing business," spoke up Robert, who all this time had been asking Mrs. Gregory if her mother was well, if Simon Jefferson was no worse, if Fran was hearty, if Grace Noir was at home—"and private business."

"This is-" cried Robert. Then remembering, he struck the keys a resounding chord. Mrs. Gregory was about to leave

not know."

"No, no!" exclaimed Mr. Gregory, starting to the door to intercept her, "I want you to stay. I'll have no secrets from you, Lucy. I want you to hear what these gentlemen have to say." He glared at Abbott as if daring him to speak the words that must destroy his wife's last feeble hold on her position.

"I have no business," Mr. Gregory

exclaimed, in fear, "that my wife need

"I hope Mrs. Gregory will excuse us," said Abbott, smiling at her as cheerfully as he could, "but she knows that there are matters of business. that women don't understand, or care to learn. This is something that relates merely to you, Mr. Gregory, and ourselves."

"Of course I understand you, Abbott," said Mrs. Gregory gently, "and Mr. Gregory is wrong to insist on my interrupting--women are always in the way-" She smiled, and, slipping around Gregory, had reached the docr, when she came face to face with Grace Noir, entering. At sight of her -for Grace did not pause, but wert over to the prano-Mrs. Gregory agparently reconsidered, and stepped to her husband's side.

"So you did come," Grace said, smiling at Robert. "Shall we go into the church at Sardis-"If therefore other room?"

Robert reveled in her beauty, and to that extent his anger against Gregory flamed higher. "Pretty soon," he maid. "pretty soon, Miss Grace-in fist twenty minutes-" he looked at his watch, then at Abbott.

thirty minutes to consummate the matter with you-just half an hour, with the drunken; the Lord of when we came here, and ten minutes servant shall come in a day when are already gone. Only twenty minutes are left."

"What do you mean by your twenty minutes being left?" Gregory blus-

Abbott spoke carefully, at the same been to Springeld about that matter, you understand."

"No, I don't," cried Gregory. "Or II

"He has been to Springfield," At While Robert was greeting Mrs. bott went on, "and he got on the inside of the business, and the interests Abbott spoke to the other with an odd retaliate on you for your successes is

"I don't understand," Gregory gasped blankly.

"Me neither," muttered Robert. "It's very simple," Abbott maintained. "The Springfield interests want to give you a blow, and give Boba helping hand. Therefore, you are to transfer your secretary to his store,

"Oh, indeed," interposed Grace Noir "No, Clinton has come home from icily. "I am a mere pawn, I presume, to be sent where I am wanted. But 1 ing" (Luke 12:35). He who is wall would like to ask Mr. Chinton if he found out anything about Fran, while of it, witnessing for him. "Ye he was in Springfield?"

"Fran is all she claims to be," Rob ert declared bluntly.



Beneficial Exercise, Though It Might Be Well for One to Select the

Yawning may be rude—especially in company-but it is a good thing for you to do.

For one thing, it ventilates the lungs. When you take an ordinary breath the lungs are not completely filled, nor are they thoroughly emptied a certain quantity of air left in the lungs always, which physiologists call "residual air."

This air in time becomes foul and affects the blood, and through the blood the nervous centers. Certain nerves get tickled, as it were, and lungs to their fullest extent, filling the foul air out. That's one reason why it is good to

and stretches and ventilates all the various passages leading to the lungs. You will perhaps be surprised to know that yawning is even beneficial to your hearing.

yawn is due to the stretching and his labor,

MUCH VIRTUE IN GOOD YAWN opening of the custachian takes. These tubes communicate between the ear and the back of the throat. If ing: verily I say unto you, that they are congested, which happene shall gird himself, and make the when you have a bad cold in the head, sit down to meat, and will people complain of deafness.

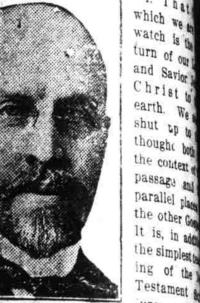
If you feel inclined to yawn, then do so. It is Nature's way of cleaning out your lungs and air passages.

Knew His Work Well. Some years ago an ass was employ:

ed in the Isle of Wight, in drawing water by a large wheel from a very deep well. When the keeper wanted water, he would say to the ass, "Tom, my boy, I want water, get into the wheel, my good lad," which Thomas immediately performed with promptness that would have done credit to a nobler animal; and no doubt he knew the precise number of times necessary for the wheel to go around on its axis, to complete his labor, because every time he brought the bucket to the surface of the well, he constantly stopped and turned his honest head to observe the moment when his master laid hold of the bucket to draw it towards him, because he then had just one more turn to make to bring the rope to the top. It was pleasing The cracking sound which you so to observe with what steadiness and "What I mean is, that I shall never often hear when giving an extra big regularity the poor animal performed

## Watching

not what hour



and Savior Christ to earth. We shut to to thought bot the context passagu au parallel plan the other Go It is, in add the simplest ing of the festament/

in I Thees. 1:9, 10, "ye turned to from idols to serve the living me God; and to wait for his son heaven."

II. The difficulty of watch flustrated in the drowsiness of disciples in Gethsemane-"What " ye not watch with me one he (Matt. 26:40). The spirit was ri but the flesh was weak. A conof things quite as likely in the of spiritual truth, if one may by the frequent appeals to Chris to awake out of sleep, see h 5:14; Rom. 13:11, 12; I Cor. # 1 Thess. 5:6. There are few at who are not aware of this from experience, alas! As in the phy so in the spiritual sense, the we have to watch the more diffe a task it becomes.

III. The danger of not watching seen in our Lord's warning to shalt not watch, I will come to as a thief" (Rev. 3:3.) "The cometh not but for to steal, and kill, and to destroy" (John 1) This last figure is partly interms by another in which Christ s "But and if that evil servant shalls "I must tell you, Mr. Gregory," Ab in his heart, my Lord delayeth bott began rapidly, "that I had just coming; and shall begin to smitt fellow servants, and to eat and to looketh not for him, and in and that he is not aware of, and shall of him asunder, and appoint him his ! cion with the hypocrites: there be weeping and gnashing of te (Matt. 24:48-51).

IV. The accompaniments of wall

(1) Prayer (Mark 13:33)-To M aright is to watch, but surely he not watching who is not praying Hence "men ought always to pa (Luke 18:1. Not that we must ! be in the external attitude of prate as when the Pharisees loved to standing at the corners of the street but that our inward habit should one of daily communion with God, he heareth us always.

(2) Service "loins girded all (Luke 12:35). See I Kings In Prov. 31:17, 19. It is the slott servant who is not watching busy servant may not have the part ular thought of his Lord's return mentarily present to his mind, but is nevertheless the underlying more of his activity.

(3) Testimony-"your lights ! ing for his Lord's return is speak as lights in the world; holding in the word of life" (Phil. 2:15, 16) others may see the way of life.

V. The rewards of watching are (1) Escape from danger-"Watch therefore . . . that ye may be counted worthy to escape all Chings that shall come to pass" 21:36). Compare the context and parallel passages with II Thess. I's (2) Bestowal of divine honor

Blessed are those servants, whom Lord when he cometh shall find wall and serve them" (Luke 12:37). of course, impossible to apprehend meaning of this promised fell (Isaiah 64:4); we show know our Lord's language implies and tation beyond our his hest thous

(3) Increase of power and opport nity. "Who then is a faithful wise servant, whom his Lord made ruler over his household, to them meat in due season? Blessel that servant, whom his Lord he cometh shall find so doing.

> All hail, the Coming Son of God He's Coming back again, He's Coming in the Charles of hear He's Coming back again to rele

Sinners whose sins are Go, hail, the Advent of your Lerd Nor left a single stall. He's Coming back to reign!

Let every kindred, every tribe, Free of Creation's pall. Aloud Acclaim His Welcome back He's Coming back to reign.

Ah! soon with all the ransol Beholding Him once slain, we'll see the rolling cloud, and He's Coming back to reign