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cluster all the dwellings of the rural We have the stock, our prices are the bottom figures of the market, our show rooms are light and cheerful, and your examination is all that is needed to make you a buyer.

Clisser all the dwellings of the rural apper ten, from the smart white villa of a late shopkeeper's buxom widow of a late sh

Oxford Fellow, who, in the sudden impatience at the barrenness of booklife, had deserted it for the opposite extreme-a moderate living in the depths of the country. "The people think so much of her and she of them that I fear it will be a lamentable day when my son comes to take her from

"Your-son?' repeated Mr. Murray, politely-almost more than politely at-

tentive "Yes, from India. He returns soon,

interpolated Mr. Murray. puzzled by remembrances of two attractive faces solved to please him. near his pulpit, of which one had earnestly marked (or so he fancied) every syllable of his first nervous sermon, while the other had wandered from pointed attention, through smothered to fetch. yawns, into a comfortable little nap. Surely I see two ladies often together, both young; I thought them eisters.' "So they are-at least, half-sisters," explained Mrs. Orde : "for Mr. Temple foolishly married again-a french lady, for, of course, he had only the life in-

on his wife's income, without means or for complaint. position of his own, so he determined brings him home, Mr. Murray."

ing he had no mind to trace to its of her nineteen years. He was seclusion of Corpus into the perils of a they were unfathomable. country pastorate. And how was Mr. Geoffry Orde's

Why, scarcely could she tell. playfellow of her almost babyhoodthe lad who used to bring his schoolboy laurels for her praise-the youth yet with only written words; and at first. though she trusted every syllable, and idealized her absent love perchance more than most maidens-for, save Leonie, no other was near and dear to her-yet, to leave for him the home she clung to more each year, to cast her lot in with his, was a point over

which sadness and gladness often fought, and victory lay as yet on neither side. "I know what I shall do," asserted Leonie, very positively, one night in midwinter, when, being telegraphed as arrived at Southampton, Mr. Orde might any hour appear at Wynford. "When that man comes I shall hate

"O, Leonie! why?" laughed her sister, stroking the pretty, wilfully posed head, shorn of its sunny tresses in a freak of fashion, and left shining, curly, provokingly coaxable. "Remember, when Geoffry left it was you, not ber, when Geoffry left it was you, not ly. "Don't fancy I underrate her, in the cried unceasingly. And who, pray, wrote to him and begged him to had to be satisfied, though the ambigsome back, for fear tigers should eat uous speech left her disquieted.

him? Who-"

"Keep house till we come back.
Three years will soon go by, Lone darling. There will be so much for you and Aunt Helen to do" (Aunt Helen to do" (Aunt Helen to do" (Aunt Helen to do" (Aunt Helen to do") (Au Some three miles back from our Eastern coast, just within sight and scent of the sait water, lies a Suffolk village, Wynford by name, of whose

Columbian.

man joys and sorrows; perhaps, hid- gay, while hers were often grave.

den among its solver generations, some "Be industrious, little woman," she fear, was it for that alone she sorrowtragedies, and to a certainty now and said, with a half-motherly tenderness, ed! "We richer folks have no right to be A doubt, double-barbed, shot through On Wynford Green, near the flint- lazy, but-wait a moment," as Leonie her mind. Guiltless herself of falsity towered, thatch-naved St. Nicholas's, crumpled her forehead into negative in a single thought, it seemed un-

first call, one autumd day. He was an please keep this secret till I am gone." "Till you are gone?" echoed Leonie ruefully. "O, Agatha, to have you ess, was the rector, looking ten years kinder than ever, just before you go, older than when he came to Wynford, that not a single letter or paper passed is dreadful! I hope you may be happy, People said the place couldn't suit over the route. On eighteen routes but I shall be miserable! When that horrible man comes, I'll try not to be wicked, but-I shall de-test him!"

CHAPTER II.

in a fit of repentant amiability

man, whom he was bound to love, not by promise only, but by keen apprecia-Leonie is her child—younger than Miss Temple by five years. Poor of her betrothed increasing her happing in the series of her betrothed increased her happing in the series of her betrothed increased her happing in the series of her betrothed increased her happing in the series of her the testing the series of her underly general, signt the series of her the testing of her the testing was removed for "a flagrant violation was removed for "a flagrant violation in the series of his duty in aiding the defendants." Mr. MacVeagh, declined to act as leaving not the least provision for her; love promised to run smooth. Proud terest in The Beeches. So his widow over her son's excellent match grew and little girl were simply dependent day by day; the village grew deeply on the elder daughter. But the trustees were liberal, Miss Temple most unselfish and generous, and they all lived
selfish and generous are selfished as the time were also
selfish and generous are selfished as the time were also
selfish and generous are selfished as the time were also
selfish and generous are selfished as the selfish as the admirably together till Mrs. Temple's cle of humble friends well-doing while the gloom she dared at last to weepcle of humble friends wen-doing white the ground she should be away. Jestingly, Geoff for herself; for him who, worst pang committee is of the opinion that there are she should be away. our dear Agatha came of age. It was just when my son got his assistant judgeship, Mr. Murray—an excellent but the eager confidence with which she cried, through her tears, appointment-and, on the strength of she would seek to draw him into her his promotion, wrote home as he did. projects, and her delight in his approv-It has been a long engagement, has it al, disarmed him of any passing chagnot? But Geoffrey would never live rin and left him no shadow of excuse

They were all of them certainly very to keep abroad till he earned a pension; happy—perfectly content. And yet—but I am thankful to say, the last How a cloud rose on this fair sky. three years of his exile are not to be none knew exactly. Those whom it Now you understand what overshadowed most acknowledged it last of all. For it was so easy, so Mr. Murray understood Mrs. Orde's right of Leonie to glide into treating modestly triumphant confidence only her almost brother with the free win-By some process of reason- someness that kept her childish spite source, he felt the revelation had necessity almost as often her compan spread a shadow over his own life; ion as Agatha's. She had been fond and as he went back alone, past the golden-brown Beeches, to his solitary duty to be fond of him now? To fireside, was half inclined to wish he had never ventured from the scholarly she didn't stop to measure, until, alas!

And Geoffrey Orde, his word and honor pledged to Agatha, felt himself return awaited by the tenants of the safe to bask, pleasantly amused, in the manor-house † Seemed the days long animated presence of her younger sis or short to Agatha Temple till he ter, never finding out, till May's warm ter, never finding out, till May's warm weeks were entered, and his wedding fixed for the first day of June, that he was turning traitor to his troth : that the charm of Leonie's gay nature was stronger than the sweet gravity of that who had gone for her while she was in to which he owed allegiance. But not her first girlhood-had wooed her as to himself would he allow this possible "I think," urged his mother anx

iously one night as they were leaving The Beeches, "I do think, Geoffrey, as Agatha sings no duets with you, you would be wiser to sing fewer with Leonie "And why !" said her son shortly.

"Well, Agatha-may not like it. Other people may-at least, they do notice i "Agatha is entirely above any wretched jealousy," said Mr. Orde im-

patiently. "Still, I should be sorry," his mother ventured on, "that you should even seem to slight your wife that will be. People might say you were marrying for money, and Agatha docsn't deserve that, Geoffrey.

"With or without money, she de-

serves the best any human creature

can give her," returned Geoffrey warm-"H-u-s-h! Scandalmonger!" cried he would be—loyal; and, strong in

dulling his own spirit into unutterable Leonie gave a disconsolate shrug. aching, bewildering Agatha, who want Helen will rule me with a rod thought the two had quarreled, and

to some twenty acres of park, where stands the chief house of the parish, "The Beeches."

have been saving for your fortune. I at The Beeches, all noting approvingly the close attendance of Mr. Orde at home. Now you know and we will be side.

The Beeches, all noting approvingly the close attendance of Mr. Orde at defrauded of can never be accurately

Here lived the lady of the manor.

Not a stately, exacting dame, ruling jealosy over a tribe of bobbing, hattouching rustics, but a young and beautiful woman, who inherited through to grudge her sweet and noble nature.

"Miss Temple, my daughter that is to be, seems part of Wynford's very self, Mr. Murray," explained Mrs. Orde to the newly come rector, on his first call, one autumd day. He was an interest of the state of the say no more about it."

"But I must!" cried Leonie, clasping hore decided through. Say no more about it."

"But I must!" cried Leonie, clasping hore of the side.

"Once only he left his post, when Leonie, who had obstinately refused a single song, suddenly yielded and sang, not the gay air that used to suit her best, but the very saddest of her strains, with a tremulous pathos that ended in a sob. Then Geoffrey Orde drew slowly towards her, as if scarce of the strains, with a tremulous pathos that ended in a sob. Then Geoffrey Orde drew slowly towards her, as if scarce to his steps, and, as the notes of \$2,172,132 and estimated on over-payment aggregating over \$4,000,000. One route was cited on which the compensation had been increased to \$50,000 per annum when the reference of Agatha had never wakened. of Agatha had never wakened. Standing near, with his young host-

for response, saw to his pain that tears year, while the revenues from all the were trembling, too, on his compan-

to rob your parish of its mistress. You ling to those accustomed to her natural swiftly away, abrubtly left her guests, had not heard this? Oh, well, I think our clergyman ought to understand what goes on among us. It makes gentleman appeared perfectly callous drove her into solitude.

wandered hither and thither; now to the penitentiar

By the time this happy transforma-tion was effected, Mr. Orde had been back a month, and had discovered the and played her way from childhood up back a month, and had discovered the and played her way from childhood up value of the prize he had come home to now, and thence, with door fast \$150,000 was paid attorneys and de-Five years had changed the girl-friend he had left into a beautiful wo-gramest neither turned or noticed her. Dorsey and Brady case. The report tion of her worth, grown now and had idly plucked fell to the ground un hindering the prosecution of the cases ripened even as she herself. And for cared for. As the two passed from and says Marshal Henry, according to little Agatha's governess; and Miss weeks his task seemed very easy, sight the self-control, so difficult to her the testimony of the attorney general,

Mrs. Orde's air of dignified gratulation thousand times I have deserved it all. upon the ground that he did not see over her son's excellent match grew And yet it is so hard!" over her son's excellent match grew day by day; the village grew deeply interested in the coming wedding, and trouble sunbeams sank into twilight, for Mr. MacVeagh's retirement which

> "But she shall never, never know!" she cried, through her tears, "If only she can go, and I can die, why, she to read carefully the testimony taken need never know." "Never know what !" said a soft,

stant Leonie was in her sister's arms. "O, Agatha," she entreated, striving to get free, "let me go! Don't come so mean ! "Wait!" answered Agatha, with wonderful calm on her pale face. "I

can tell you, Leonie, what it all means. That two of us have nigh made a terrible mistake, but have found it out in time. I was slow to see it, Lono, but know it now. I have no right to Geoffrey. He loves you best." "Agatha !"-"Hush! He belongs to you, not me.

It has been a tangled skein for us, but this is the only right way out of it : and Geoffrey sees that it is so." "But, Agatha," urged Leonie, trembling between exceeding pain and mar-

velous joy, "he has never said"——
"A word. I know he has not. Both of you meant to be faithful to me. Perhaps"-with a wistful faltering in her tender voice—"it was my fault you could not be. There, darling, there!" -as Leonie wept passionately on her bosom-"let Geoffrey come to you" his step was sounding on the path outside, "and thank God for all of us, this hour s not too late! How this extraordinary news was re-

ceived by the household and wedding guests, by poor, disappointed Mrs. Orde by the whole startled parish, we must leave to our readers' imaginations. Long before the ferment of excitement had subsided a quiet marriage had taken place—so Agatha had willed it, and all yielded to her—and with his bride (not portionless, as, to his contrite surprise and his mother's comfort. he discovered) Geoffrey Orde was speeding away to the far East.

Till the hubbub of discussion was

past, Agatha Temple deserted The Beeches, and, returning after weeks of absence, brought back in her brave serenity scarce a trace of the trial that had driven her away.

"Leonie is happy!" she says, and allows no tongue to blame her sister in

Perchance her home, her people make up to her for what she lost. Perchance the very power to renounce what she did wakens mistrust as to her fitness ever to have filled the state she missed. Or perchance (and this way

The Star Route Frauds.

REPORT MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON EX

The committee on expenditures in the "Ant Helen will rule me with a rod of iron. She means to be good, but she's like Mr. Orde, and knows I'm poor, and—and—she'll make me mend my gloves and be industrious."

By no means, indeed! Wynford has decided opinions, brisk little quarrels, many social grades of its own, and has, moreover, its full quantum of human joys and sorrows; perhaps, hid-den among its sober generations, some decidence of the poor, and leonie's sister, gazing at her, white here always gay, while hers were often grave.

"Be industrious, little woman," she little woman," she little woman," she little woman, social grades of its own, and has, moreover, its full quantum of human joys and sorrows; perhaps, hid-den among its sober generations, some "Be industrious, little woman," she little woman, social grades of the little woman, save that the lines were always gay, while hers were often grave.

"Be industrious little woman," she long the two had quarreled, and filling with pain unspeakable the heart that was just learning its luckless slike season of Congress investigated filling with pain unspeakable the heart that was just learning its luckless secret.

"How the child frets over your leaving!" said Aunt Helen, pityingly; and Leonie's sister, gazing at her, white and listless, wandering through that was just learning its luckless secret.

"How the child frets over your leaving!" said Aunt Helen, pityingly; and Leonie's sister, gazing at her, white and listless, wandering through that was just learning its luckless state.

"How the child frets over your leaving!" said Aunt Helen, pityingly; and Leonie's sister, was it for that alone of the secret.

"An thelen will rule me with a total department of justice, which during the department of justice, which during the department of justice, which during the last season of Congress investigated that was just learning its luckless state.

"How the child frets over your leaving the said utilized in its immunities, and utilized in its immunities, and utilized in its immunities, and utilized in i ommittee It is an exhaustive review of the fraudulent mail contracts, the investigations which led to the prosecution of Dorsey, Brady and others, and the ineffectual efforts to have Park er, Salisbury and other contractors in

ceipts to the government therefrom for the year amounted to only \$597. During thirty-nine days it appeared "Your sister sings with tears in her the pay to the contractors was invoice," said he, and, waiting vainly creased from \$41,185 to \$448,670 a

offices on these routes amounted to only When Mr. Orde really did return, then, Miss Leonie accorded him a jealously cool reception, vastly amus-Colonel Bliss, the counsel for the govwhat goes on among us. It makes him more at ease, does it not?" And, with the friendly view of furthering pleasant footing, Mrs. Orde chatted complacently into accounts of the neighboring family, and told how a Mr. Temple, well connected but of no fortune, had married the heiress of Wynford manor, who, sadly enough, was born.

"But there are two Miss Temples?"

It makes him more at ease, does it not?" And, with the friendly view of furthering pleasant footing, Mrs. Orde chatted complacently into accounts of the neighboring family, and told how a bright ways that made her what Wynford manor, who, sadly enough, had died, when this one child, Agatha, was born.

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It makes him more at ease, does it not?" And, with the friendly view of furthering pleasant footing, Mrs. Orde chatted complacently into accounts of the neighboring family, and told how a bright ways that made her what Wynford manor, who, sadly enough, had died, when this one child, Agatha, was born.

"But there are two Miss Temples?"

It makes dote in the first time Agath and obtained the statement from Thos. All talk with Leonie that night, all talk with Leonie that part of the f for one year. His flushed, now pale; betaking herself at presence in Washington could not

locked, she watched two figures pace tectives in addition to other expenses, A book was in her hands; what refers to the removal of local officers book she never knew. A rose she in the District of Columbia who were

"Which was—"
"Four years ago, six months before the time she spent in confabulations Agatha before the very thought of the successful prosecution of the Star route offenders. Whatever these causes may have been it is doubtless true that those who will take the pains by your committee on this subject, comprising nearly one thousand pages sad voice close by ; and the next in- of printed matter, will reach different conclusions. There was a great diversity in the testimony and many contradictions will be found wholly irreconkindly to me! Don't ask me what I cilable upon any other theory than that of willful perjury. It is sufficient, however, for the purpose of this inves-

tigation to state that while the evidence against the Star route contractors and public officials was strong and conclusive as to their guilt and that the government was defrauded out of large sums of money and that large sums were also expended to secure indictments and convictions, yet no person was convicted or punished and no civil suits have as yet been instituted to re cover the vast sums illegally and fraud alently obtained from the public treasury. Died of Laughter.

Chalcas, the sooth-saver, died of aughter at the thought of his having outlived the time predicted for his death. A fellow in rags told him that he would never drink the wine of the true you may claim me for your slave.' When the wine was made, Chalcas held a feast, and sent for the fellow to see how his predictions had failed. he appeared the sooth-sayer laughed so immoderately at the would be prophet that it killed him. Crassus died from laughter on seeing an ass eat thistles Margutte, the giant, in the Morgante Maggiore, died of laughter on seeing a monkey pulling on his boots. Zeuxis. the Grecian painter, died at sight of a hag he had just depicted. A peculiar death was that of Placut, who dropped found themselves doing the same thing.

-Troy Times. There is enough water power in Georgia to supply 10,000 times as many was cut in gray stone these words, mills and factories as are now operated "Kentolochus Rex." The skeleton was

American beef in the English mark ts is now sold as Scotch, and as such to the back brings four cents more per pound than under its true name.

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Nickel is the coming metal, an artiie in the Boston Traveller says : its importance is now generally recognized ; its uses are destined to be vastly multiplied. It is only a few years since the metal was first separated from its impurities in commercial quantities,

world : but only in a few places has it been found in sufficient quantities and of sufficient richness to be worked with commercial stocess. The recent discoveries in New Caledonia (an island lying to the east of and not far from Australia bave given such im-portance and commercial cheapness to this metal as to bring it into economical uses heretofore anknown. This ceality is at present the main source of supply for the world. The only piace in the United States where it has been extensively mined is at Lancaster Gap, Pennsylvania. This is the well-known mine of Joseph Wharton, of Philadelphia. He is now the only roducer of nickel metal in the United States. The ore from this mine conains in bulk from 11 to 2 per cent. of rickel. It is worked into its commer ial state at Mr. Wharton's extensive works at Camden, N. J. The important deposits of nickel ore recently found in Nevada are now attracting attention. These deposits are rich in oxides of nickel and oxides of cobait. The grade of this ore is as high as the

per cent, of nickel or nickel and cobalt. Nickel is now worked so as to be ductile and malleable. This metal is to be viewed as a new material, a new gift to the industrial arts, with an unknown number of applications before it. Its most extensive use is in plating and in the manufacture of German silver. For coin age, there has been a large demand. which is destined to be greatly increased as its advantages and economy are better understood. It has varied in price from \$1 to \$4 per pound in the last twenty years. The price in England in 1883 was quoted in a memoria

can export to Europe. The consumplarge. One company, known as the United Nickel Co., admit that the royalties received under its patent for planting processes amounted to no less than \$175,000 a year. This is all recent and new. In the coinage up to June, 1876, the United States had alone is sued of the five-cent nickel to the extent of \$6,716,129 in value. In the German Empire the total nickel coinage amounted in January 1877, to about \$9,880,000, and in Belgium, in 1876, to 6,598,865 frames in value. There is to be added. also, the amount of one cents nickel coin in the United States Great Britain ought to substi-

tute nickel for its clamsy pennies. The refining of nickel and cobalt was commenced in the United States by Professor J. C. Booth, of Philadel-phia, in 1846. Mr. Wharton has done more than any one else to promote the metallurgy of nickel in the United States. The treatment of it to secure the best results is a matter of high degree of skill. Expensive works for rolling nickel have been recently erected at Camden, containing among other machines, two trains of 40-inch rolls, 18 inches in diameter, with annealing rooms and their adjuncts, and a 90-inch horse power engine. The largest sheet yet rolled at Camden was 72 inches long and 24 inches wide, pure nickel. Nickel is also welded upon iron and upon steel plates. A great variety of domestic utensils have been made out of pure nickel. It is a noble metal in its beauty and in its durability and freedom from rust and discoloration. It s proposed to make nickel boiler-plates. Knives and razors will be made of it. A more uniform and constant supply of this metal is demanded. Its production will constitute a pro-

fitable industry, now that the probabil ity of increased supply is afforded by the discovery of the Nevada mines

Giants in Olden Times

The giant exhibited at Rome in 1830 measured nearly eighteen feet. Gorapius saw a girl that was ten feet

high. The giant Galabra, brought from Arabia to Rome, under Claudius Ciesar, was ten feet high. grapes growing in his vineyard; and Fannum, who lived in the time of added: "If these words do not come Eugene II, measured eleven and a half Fannum, who lived in the time of

The Chevalier Scrog, in his voyage to the Peak Teneriffe. found in one of the caverns of that mountain the head of the Gunich, who had sixty teeth, and was not less than fifteen feet high. The giant Faragus, slain by Orlando nephew of Charlemagne, was twenty-

eight feet high. In 1814, near St. Gernad, was found the tomb of the giant Isolent, who was not less than thirty feet high. In 1590, near Reuben, was found

skeleton whose skull held a bushel of dead in the act of paying a bill. There corn and who was nineteen feet high, are many men to-day, however, who would probably die of surprise, if they feet high; his thigh bones were found The giant Bacart was twenty-two feet high; his thigh bones were found

in 1708 near the river Moderi. In 1623, near the castle in Dauphine. a tomb was found thirty feet long, sixteen wide and eight high, on which found entire, twenty-five feet and a fourth long, ten feet across the shoulders and five feet from the breast bone

Near Palermo, in Sicily, in 1516 was found the skeleton of a giant thirty feet high, and in 1559 another forty-

Leonie, her cheeks aflame. "Then 1 self trust, went next day to The Beechwas small and foolish; now I am old and wise, and I wish he had kept across the sea forever. He'll take you away, and what shall I do!"

A new device for evading the Maine liquor law is to open the eycholes of young cocoanuts, scald out the interior and refill with whisky. The meat of the head was the size of a man who has loved her from the limprove the new contents.

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