A WINTER'S EVENING.

The short December day was clos-g in. The twilight mingled pleasant-In the short December day was clos-ing in. The twilight mingled pleasant-ly with the ruddy glow of the fire, and the girl at the window could no longer see to read. She looked, instead, into the neighboring garden, bounded by low hedges and wind-bowed fir trees, sharnly outlined accinut a clowing sharply outlined against a glowing crimson sky. The thin, rasping voice of a mother roused the girl from the wintry thoughts which had saddened her large, dark eyes. "Maisle," she began, hesitatingly, "I want to encel, there are no heat "

want to speak to you again about—" (the girl knew the particular tone of volce, and broke in quickly with "Oh, mother, please not that!") "My dear girl, it's positively ridiculous the way you always interrupt me and refuse to isten to reason," and, with a whine, "it makes my position exceedingly awkward and unpleasant. What am I to do with you? Do you realize your age, Maisle? Nearly 24. Why, your sisters were all married before they were your age, and Connie had two children.

"At present," the mother went on "At present, the mother went on releatiessly, "I am besieged on all sides by men who wish to marry you, for you are a pretty girl, Maisie-prettier than any of your sisters, and more like your dear grandmother, who was quite a belle in her time-but in a few years whody will look at your schemed nobody will look at you, your chances of happiness and of making a good match will be over forever. Percival Sutton"-("Ah. I knew that was com-ing," sighed the girl)—said he would come to tea this evening, and he is very anyious to speak to you." very anxious to speak to you.'

After a pause she went or "I want to know what stands in your way of doing as the others had sense enough to do-of setting my mind at rest about you, and of taking up a position in life as the wife of a good man." "You mean of a rich man," the girl said languidly, folding her hands and

again turning her eyes to the garden.

den. A tall man, with bowed head and hands clasped behind him, was walk-ing restlessly over the little lawn, a few nches of freshly fallen snow dead-ening the sound of his quick footsteps, and the girl watched with unconsolous fascination the dark shadowy pcints left in the flat whiteness. The tall stranger with the grave face and ech left in the flat whiteness. The tail stranger with the grave face and ath-letic, though now stooping form, had never shown the slightest desire to make friends; indeed, had scemed de-termined to avoid any chance or risk of doing so. Years ago, when the girl's mother had called upon the lonely newcomer, she had found him at home, and he only acknowledged the visit by a polite note of thanks ex-plaining that he never made or receiv-ed calls, and lived a life of study and umbroken solitude. To-night, as her ed calls, and lived a life of study and unbroken solitude. To-night, as her mother talked and the girl's attention-wandered to the growing number of blue-gray footprints in the snow, an unusual circumstance arrested her thoughts and drew her still farther from the sordid and wearisome con-versation. A servant came out of the house and handed to the man an or-ange colored envelope, which he did not open till he was again alone. Then he disappeared. The girl returned to consciousness

he disappeared. The girl returned to consciousness with a slight start, and became dimly aware of a question in her mother's face and voice. She risked, at ran-dom, the first answer that occurred to her: "Oh, yes, if you tike, mother." The reply was evidently appropriate. "Yu dear good child this is sweet "My dear good child, this is sweet of you! That poor young man will be That poor young man will be

so happy' "And will you tell him so yourself, learie: or shall I see him alone first? expect you will both feel a little shy

and constrained." "I should like you to see him by courself, mother," said the girl, rising and wondering with complete disin-erest what would be the outcome of her mental aberration and wandering response.

'And I may tell him-" said the mother, eagerly.

"Anything you like," her daughter answered as she disappeared. The servant entered with a tea tray.

The servant entered with a tea tray, made up the fire, and lowered the binds. The girl passed swiftly through the hall, wrapping a soft gray cloak about her as she went, and then, opening a side door and closing it quietly behind her, she slipped out into the snow covered garden. In the low hedge which divided it from the neighboring patch there was a broken space large enough to squeeze through and a moment later she was skinming across the very lawn where she had just seen the owner's footsteps multi-plying in the snow. As she had explying in the snow. As she had ex-pected, he had left his garden door open, and through this she made her way juto the hell, and there in the

"Come in and shut the door," was his greeting. "I have been waiting for

"You are alone, as usual," she asked, drawing nearer.

"I am always alone. Why in the world did you come?" "You had a telegram just now, in the garden," garden," she explained; "I feared it might be bad news."

He gave a little hard, mirthless laugh. "Bad news has long ceased to be possible in my life," he said, cold-'v. Was that why you came?"

"Vog " "Reason enough to keep most

the away," he remarked, drily, At last she asked: "Why do you walk round and round your lawn every evening?" He shrugged his shoulders. "Force of habit, I suppose; it is the way I think.

Then, hastily changing the subject, he inquired: "What will your mother say when you tell her where you've been?"

"I don't think it will occur to her to "I don't think it will occur to her to ask. Her thoughts are taken up at the present moment"—she glanced at the clock—"in accepting an offer of unarriage on my behalf. She is an ad-mirable woman; I am her sixth daughter, and when she has disposed of me we shall all have been married before the age of 24." The girl was gazing at him steadily

and without flinching; vaguely she found herself wondering if there had found nerself wondering if there had ever been at time in her life when she had not known him—when, in fact this stranger had not been her first and greatest thought, the supreme interest which completely filled the emptiness of her world. So had love come to her unsought, and as yet she knew it not by that name. When she spoke her volce was low and appealing: "Well, it can matter little how one works out one's destiny, if in the end all will in-failibly turn out well. For instance, I shall marry this man of my mother's choice, and perhaps for a few years we will be miscrable together; but at last death will free one of us and then l'fe's object will become clear and I will view it from the impartiality of my last hour, from the standpoint of of her world. So had love come to her my last hour from the standpoint of age, experience or resignation, as a charming picture in a circular frame, and shall smile to see how well the colors blended." She laughed hope-

essly. "Poor little giri!" he muttered, ris-ing, and, leaning against the mantle-piece, he looked down at her with yearning, dreamy eyes. "Shall I tell you the riddle of my life?" he asked. She assented She assented

She assented "Ten years ago I married the girl my father chose for me—an helress, the only child of rich and indulgent parents. We did not love each other— a punishme at which I doubtless de-served. Less than a year after our marriage I first noticed a strange ex-pression in my wire's face, which day by day became more apparent, and then she began to talk strangely and to say senseless things. Vainby T then she began to this strangely and to say senseless things. Vainly 1 strove to fight the fear which was fast growing to certainty, till at last the violence of a mad woman left me in doubt no longer as to the terrible thing which had come upon me.

"I won't describe to you the horror of the next few months, when the best brain doctors in London pronounced her case hopelessly incurable, and when I had done all I could to restore the balance of her disordered mind, without avail. I did not want to send the poor thing away: but the matter white a value is a did not want to send the poor thing away; but the matter was taken out of my hands. When I was recovering from a knife wound in my left temple—you see I am destined to carry a reminder of her to my grave—the doctors insisted on remov-ing bot to an acrium and they low ing her to an asylum, and there I have been obliged to leave her ever since." The girl had drawn nearer to him:

his story had been a shock to her, but her thoughts were not of herself, "How dreadful!" she said, "and how lonely you must often be! Why have you never let me know you all these years?" "I-I dared not!"-he turned away.

"1-1 dared not."—he turned away, He did not see the glory of love and suffering that shone in her soft, dark cycs. Maybe he heard both in her volce, for there stole into his eyes the light of happiness. "It was unkind of you," she said; "I might have been been showed by

"It was unkind of yoa," she said; "I might have been better than nothing," She crept close to him, and shyly put her hands in one of his: he bent over them, holding them to his brow. "Little girl," you don't understand," he said softly. "Better than nothing! —It was just because you are better than everything that I could not say to you, "Come!!" Every day since I first came here I think I would have given my soul to see you come in at that door as you did to-night. I was often lonely, but it satisfied me to know that you were near. It amused know that you were near. It amused me to wonder what we should say to each other if we ever met." If an inset "Yet," said the girl, "I wonder that you can hold such happy theories about life! Do you really believe that your riddle will be solved?" "I think," he answered gravely, "it was solved by the telegram you saw me open in the garden; it brought me the news of my poor wife's death-and you came to save me from the horror of my thoughts." The girl would have drawn away her liands, but he detained them; she swayed a little, and he supported her her manus, but he detained them; she swayed a little, and he supported her with his arm. "I must go back," she said faintly. He folded her cloak about her tenderly. "I am going to take you home," he said.—Max Hara-liton in St. James' Budget.



confirmed absolute. Estate of B. F. Edgar, late of Bloomsburg. Personalty \$300. Estate of Samuel H. Sitler, dee'd, late of Center township. Fersonalty \$61.50. Realty \$283.50. Estate of Jonathan R. Gordner, late of the Borough of Berwick. Fersonalty \$27.150. W. H. HENKIE. Clerk of Orphans' Court.

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No. 209

TWO ACRES,

more or less. Also one piece of WOOD LAND

containing SIX ACRES, more or less, adjoining lands of George Fry, J.S. Yohe, also, one in lot

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BLOOMSFURG, PA

way into the nail, and thence into the only room from which as yet a light emerged. A cozy fire and a red-shad-ed lamp showed her a charming study, lined from floor to ceiling with books, and in a deep arm-enait before the fire also belied her them present fire she beheld her three years' neigh-bor, the owner of this delightful sanctum

On the threshold she stood still with astonishment. From what she had seen of his face she had not thought him remarkable in appearance-this man was without doubt singularly handsome. She had believed the handsome. She had believed the bowed form belonged to a man of 50 at least, whereas this man could not have been more, and was probably less than 35. A vague sense of vexa-tion filled her, and she wished she had tion filled her, and she wished she had not yielded to the ridiculous impulse which had brought her thither. Then, in a moment, a revulsion of feeling made her glad, with a great throb of gladness, that she had obeyed the die-tates of her folly. He looked up from the fire, gazed at her abstractedly for half a second, and when he spoke his voice showed no surprise. what hat

CLAIM EVERYTHING

When you see a sky of blue, Think that sky was made for you! When the breeze bends down the trees, You just think that that's your breeze. Every blessed drop of dew Falls upon a rose for you! --FHANK L. STANTON. Estate of John A. Funston, deceased, Notice is hereby given that letters of adn tration, with the will annexed, on the est obm A. Fusion, late of the town of Bil-burg, Columbia county, Pa., deceased, been granted to Charles W. Funston, reside said town, to whom all persons indebied to the are requested to make pannent, and having claims or demands will make know same without delay. D 20-0t. Administra Administra

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Earle Hess, Deceased. The undersigned Auditor, appointed by Orphans' Court of Columbia Courty, if pass upon exceptions and make distribu-will sit, to perform the duties of his app ment, at the office of kobert Buckingham, Uneprover of Biogensburg, Par., on Thur Where all partless interested m. m. when where all partless interested months in op said 11-3-4t W. H. KHAWN, Audit

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE. ESTATE OF WM. H. YORGY, DECD. Notice is hereby given that the undersig Auditor, appointed by the Urphans' Cou doubter of the thereby and the thereby and the account filed, will sit, for the purp of his appointment, at the office of Free Harman, on centre street, Bioomsburg, fa Friday, Nov. 25th, 1893, at 10 ciclock a. m., y and where all partices interested may ap and support their exceptions, or prove t latima, as the case may be, or be forever barred. JOHN C. HARMAN

CE. d. timinis- state of blooms- to said d those own the a., vator.	No. 279. Seized, taken in execution, at the suit of A. W. Snyder, executor of samuel Snyder, de- ceased, vs. Hiram Eckroth. he property of Hiram Eckroth. FREEZE & HARMAN, W. W. BLACK, Attorneys.	ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Clark's Building, cor. Main and Centre Sta, BLOOMSBURG, Pa. GCan be consulted in German.	Large and convenient sample rooms. Ho and cold water, and all modern conveniences The hotel has been lately refurnished. CITY HOTEL,
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