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UTSIDE, the snow lay thick and white. Inside, a young gir. girl Some fine lace that she was making had slipped unheeded to her lap, and she did not notice the tiny blasts of cold that swept in through the cracks near the window, sometimes with such force that they stirred the locks of her rich brown hair. For a long time she sat thinking;

then, suddenly, a sleigh dashed rapidly by, leaving a confused picture of splendid horses, flashing harnesses, fur robes and tinkling bells. She drew back quickly; but not before the man in the sleigh had seen her and lifted his cap. With a tinge of color in her cheeks she picked up the lace and began to work rapidly, just as the door was thrown open.

"Well, Clare, working as hard as ever, I see!" was the visitor's greeting. She was very fashionably dressed. Even her voice had the latest fashionable drawl. Clare thought invol-untarily of a fashion plate as she helped remove the costly furs and expensive hat.

passed the senator as I came in." she remarked, with a sharp, inquisitive glance, seating herself on the wide window seat, where she sould see everything inside or out-side the room. A trifle more color name to Clare's cheeks.

"Yes, I saw his drive by," she an-Then there was silence. visitor drummed on the window pane

"Well," she finally inquired, "haven't you anything to tell me? Isn't it settled yet? Haven't you seen the folly of sticking here, when you might have more money than you

"And a disreputable old man thrown in!" flashed Clare. "Now, let's not go all over the old ground again. We have done it so often before, you know, with no good results. I have have to yours, You made your own choice, and took wealth and position —and the man! But why bother about me? You have everything you wan

"Yes, and some things I don't want mong them a sister who disgraces me!"

Clare looked up proudly. "You will apologize for that word, or you and I will never meet again," she said, calmly. Mrs. Singleton saw the danger signal in her eyes.

"Oh, I will, of course!" she ex-aimed. "But I really do not know claimed. what word to use in its place. You are the one thing that keeps me back. socially; every once in a while people mention my 'seamstress sister.' Ever Ever since Lady Herford heard it she has taken pains to inquire for you every time we meet. I was not invited to her last dinner, either, and I am sure it was on account of you," she fin-ished, in an aggrieved tone.

"Poor Julia!" exclaimed her sister, half mockingly. "I am not a seam-stress. But don't you think they would better call me one than to say I sold myself for gold?"

Mrs. Singleton shrugged her shoulders.

ders. "If you are going to get personal, I think I'll go," she said, rising. "But, Clare, if you won't say 'yes' to the senator, please, oh, please leave ail this and live with me. Perhaps soci-this," she sobbed, "than a thousand senators, with all their money! L do senators, with all their money! L do senators, with all their money! L do this and live with me. Perhaps society will take you back after a while." A . peculiar smile flitted across Clare's face.

"Do you really think so?" she inquired. Mrs. Singleton pondered. "Yes, I do," she finally said. "Of course it will mean a lot of hard work; they won't forget for a long

The lace fell unheeded again when Clare was once more alone. 'And that is the world I have left! he whispered.

"And the world that is calling me to return! Never!" she exclaimed aloud. "I was undecided before Julia came; now, I am sure of myself. It is clear that I can never live with her, nor allow her to help me; and better live here alone forever than marry the senator, or any other man simply for money. . There, I will settle that matter-at once.

Flinging her work aside she crossed to the desk and wrote rapidly. Then she ran down the stairs and dropped the note into a letter box just across the street. When she returned she waltzed gaily around the room. She had acquired the habit of talking to herself, for at time it was a relief to hear even her own voice break the silence

"Good-by to the senator forever," she sang. "Farewell to his money and all that it can buy! Why, I believe I feel better already. I believe it was that money that was making me blue. Now I will work hard; for I like work and the life here-all but Sundays and holidays-they drag!'

Thanksgiving day had just passed. Clare had spent it alone, trying to think of a long list of reasons for be-ing thankful. Some way the list was rather short. Her mind had persisted in veering off to a certain young man with boyish face and laughing eyes-a friend of long ago. She kept wondering why he had gone away so suddenly. At times she had thought that his eyes told a story that would have been worth listening to; but he had gone without a word. Since she had been living alone she had thought of him often.

The senator, and all the advantages he could offer, being definitely re-fused, Clare grew brighter, and the tired look left her face. She often sang light-heartedly, as the days flew on toward Christmas. All invitations were refused, and on Christmas morn-ing she across as usual and becau to ing she arose as usual and began to paint. Soon she threw down her

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paint, soon she threw down her brush in despair. "It's no use; I can't to-day!" she said, mournfully. "I do really hate holidays. Everything will go all right to-morrow, but for to-day—I must give it up!" To reast the time away she began to

To pass the time away she began to look through some of her father's old books; but her mind still wandered off to the laughing blue eyes. She remembered, with a start, that it was just one year since she had seen him. There had been company—she had slipped away to the library for a stolen glimpse of **a** book she was reading. He had followed and they had a happy half hour together. Then some one called, and when at last she returned the room was empty. She had never seen him since. What was it she had been reading? Oh, yes, 'Vanity Fair!' She looked through the books, and when she found it touched it tenderly. They had dis-cussed it together! Someway, the aughing blue eyes seemed very near her now

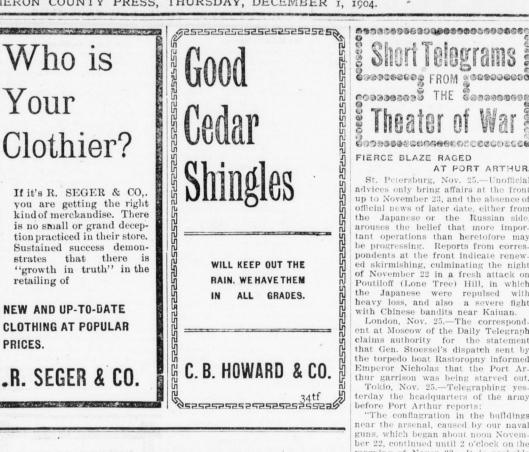
"If he had said only one word," she murmured.

Suddenly something white and bulky fell from the book to her lap She caught her breath as she saw that it was a letter with an unbroken seal. She knew the writing—and her hands trembled. In a flash she saw it all He had left it in the book she had been reading, thinking she would find it at once. And she had not opened the book since! As she read, tears filled her eyes; it was the outpouring of a boyish soul, revealing his love and asking her to wait. When she

not think I dislike holidays so much, after all!" Christmas evening was spent in

writing page after page of explana-tions. There were so many that the letter was much over weight. The last days of the year slipped

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AT PORT ARTHUR. St. Petersburg, Nov. 25.—Unofficial advices only bring affairs at the front up to November 23, and the absence of official news of later date, either from the Japanese or the Russian side, arouses the belief that more impor-tant operations than heretofore may be progressing. Reports from corres-pondents at the front indicate renew-ed skirmishing, culminating the night of November 22 in a fresh attack on Poutiloff (Lone Tree) Hill, in which

Poutiloff (Lone Tree) Hill, in which the Japanese were repulsed with heavy loss, and also a severe fight with Chinese bandits near Kaiuan. London, Nov. 25.—The correspond-ent at Moscow of the Daily Telegraph claims authority for the statement that Gen. Stoessel's dispatch sent by the torned heat Particement informed the torpedo boat Rastorophy informed Emperor Nicholas that the Port Arthur garrison was being starved out. Tokio, Nov. 25.—Telegraphing yes-terday the headquarters of the army

before Port Arthur reports: "The conflagration in the buildings near the arsenal, caused by our naval guns, which began about noon Novem-ber 22, continued until 2 o'clock on the morning of Nover 23. It is probable that the coal stores have been

Manchurian headquarters in a telegram dated November 23, reports: "At midnight November 22, 600 of At midnight Kovember 22, 600 of the enemy's infantry attacked Sing-luntun. Our advanced pickets, after resisting the attack for several hours, safely retired to the main body. The village was entirely burned by the enemy.

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"At dawn November 23 the enemy made several surprise attacks near the Shakhe railway bridge and at Pactzuyen, but the attacks were entirely repulsed."

the steamer Tungchow, laden with 30,000 tins of meat, was captured by the Japanese on Wednesday while trying to enter Port Arthur, appears to be correct. The Theorem be correct. The Tungchow was a British vessel.

Hadquarters of the Third Japanese Army Before Port Arthur, Nov. 25.— The only permanent forts in the pos-session of the Japanese are the two Panlung forts captured in August. They hold the advance works of the Rihlung redoubt, called Fort Kuropat-kin, an entrenched hill miscalled P fort, Kobu Hill, Sachitakiyama and One Hundred and Seventy-four Meter Hill

They also occupy the galleries and moats of the two Rihlung forts and North Kekwan fort.

EMPEROR NICHOLAS GAVE ZEMSTOVISTS A HEARING.

St Petersburg, Nov. 26 .- The unexpected may happen after all. The meeting of Zemstvoists may indeed work the inauguration of a new era for Russia. Emperor Nicholas, the initiator of the plan for universal disfor Russia. armament, may turn back upon the reactionaries and crown his reign by granting to his subjects the constitu-tion which his grandfather had al-ready prepared when he fell by the hand of an assassin.

The basis of such a possibility is the significant fact that yesterday the em-peror received in the palace at Tsars-kee-Selo four prominent members of

koe-Selo four prominent memory or the Zemstvo congress. They explained fully their position and reiterated the views expressed by the memorial that the salvation of the empire from ruin by revolution lay in the adoption of the ideas expressed in the memorial. The emperor was greatly impressed by what he heard and asked many questions. While it is understood that he gave no indica-tion of his purposes except the sympathy he displayed, the deputation.

pathy he displayed, the deputation, when they returned to St. Petersburg, were in high spirits. St. Petersburg, Nov. 26.—There is an entire lack of news from the front. mitting the use of a small quantity at a time. It is just the article needed in



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The Steel pipe ¹⁸ made of cold rolled, heavy sheet steel, ¹⁴vited so at to leave it smooth inside. The pipe is corered with a preparation that makes it rust proof. The wood pipe is made of staves matched and grouved, bound with heavy iron bands, treated chemically against rust and coated with a preparation that will stand climate and will practically ex-clude moisture. The entire length is of even diameter. Obstructions will not lodge in it. Manntactured in all sizes up to SIXTY INCHES. Write for catalogue and prices, or a postal card will bring to you a represen-tative with samples of our goods.

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To make the very best soap, simply dissolve a can of *Banner Lye* in cold water, melt $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grease, pour the Lye water in the grease. Stir and put aside to set.

while. But I think it might be managed."

Then Clare laughed outright, and laughed again at Mrs. Singleton's surprise

'Let me see, Julia," she said gently. "It is now six months since fathe: died and I came here to earn my own living by painting and making lace. Yes, I know I refused to share your home, and insisted on coming to this 'unfashionable street.' And this, you say, has cost me my position in soci-Will you open that top drawer of the desk? See what is there."

Why, it is full of letters-invitations!" exclaimed Mrs. Singleton, do-ing as she was requested. "What! Do ing as she was requested. you mean to say you've been receiving them all the time?"

'Several every day," carelessly,

"And you never told me! You always were the oddest person I ever saw, and-what's this? The Hon. George Verner's dinner and Louis Beresford's!" she exclaimed, enviously. "Lady Herford's, too!" she almost screamed. "And you refused .nvita-tions that half the town would have

not quite," laughed Clare. "No. go soon, Julia. You get me all 'mud-dled up," as old mammy used to say. and I can't work so well. Here, let me hold your coat."

Mrs. Singleton dressed silently. She was too dazed to speak. As she started to go she brightened up for a moment.

"Of course they knew you would decline,' she explained, "and they in-vited you just to spite me. Good-by, dear!"

began to look anxious. All sorts of fears beset her; she could not account for his silence. Finally came the last

for his shence. Finally came the last day of the year—ahd still no reply. "Another holiday to-morrow!" Clare groaned. "How I hate them!" She retired early and cried herself to sleep, dreaming all night of deaths, sickness, murders, fires and many horrible, impossible things. A vigorous knocking awoke her early in the morning.

"Telegram, ma'am!" said a voice Clare dressed as hastily as possible, a terrible fear at her heart. Her dreams For Bill Heads, must have meant trouble of some kind, and she felt that it had come Trembling, she tore open the envelope

"Happy New Year for us both. Will arrive to-day. Letter just received. "FRANK." "Oh, I wish I had never said such horrid things about holidays!" exclaimed Clare, with solemn joy.

Sugar-Glcss on Butter. A singular method of protecting rolls given anything to get! Are you side influences is practiced in Germany of butter from deterioration due to out-It consists simply in coating the butter with a glaze of melted sugar laid on with "But I think I shall be if you do not go soon, Julia. You get me all 'mud-is slightly melted and a protective varnish is formed. The process has recent-ly been employed on a large scale in England.

> As an encouragement to school childran to be regular and punctual in their attendance at school, the Surrey county (England) education committee has de-cided to give them picture postcards bearing views of places of historic and local interest in the county.

Letter Heads,

Fine Commercial

Job Work of All Kinds,

Get Our Figures.

an entire lack of news from the front. The report that the Japanese are concentrating their energies for a desperate assault on Port Arthur, in view of the approach of the Baltic squadron, is generally credited.

Long Standing Suit Settled.

St. Louis, Nov. 23.—Judge Wood, of the circuit court, in the case of Henry the circuit court, in the case of Henry Nicolaus against Charles H. Turner, formerly president of the Suburban Railroad Co., the German Savings In-stitution, Ellis Wainwright and others, decided yesterday that the plaintiff was entitled to recover \$75,000, the "boodle" fund placed on deposit with the Lincoln Trust Co. by the Suburban Railroad Co. to bribe members of the house of delegates, for the reason that "Mr. Nicolaus was ignorant of the purposes for which the money was to be applied."

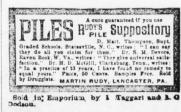
Ship and Crew Probably Lest. Philadelphia, Nov. 22.—The British steamer Aros Castle, Capt. Day, 57 days out from Java with a cargo of sugar, arrived at this port Monday and reported the probable foundering on November 15 of the Spanish bark Tafalla with her crew of 15 men dur-ing the recent southern storm. ing the recent southern storm.

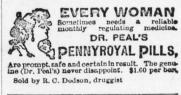
Passenger Train Wrecked

Hoxie, Ark., Nov. 23.—Passenger train No. 17, southbound from St. Louis, known as the Hot Springs spe-Louis, known as the Hot Springs spe-cial, on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern railroad, yesterday ran into an extra freight train which was tak-ing the siding at Swifton, a small town 20 miles south of here. Harry Wells, fireman of No. 17, was burned to death and Engineer A. DeGuire, of the same trøn, was badly hurt. Fifteen pas-sengers were slightly injured. The passenger engine was demolished and three coaches and ten freight cars loaded were burned.

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