#### CAMERON COUNTY PRESS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13 1906

### A Watch Night Romance

By OLIVER LEROY

[Copyright, 1908, by T. E. McGrath.] ARY MORTON was the happiest girl in New York. It was a glorious night in June. It Arthur Wainwright had just bidden her good night, and she returned to the little parlor to turn out the gas before retiring to her room. For a moment she reseated herself upon the old fashioned sofa where both had sat that night when Arthur told her what she knew already-that he loved her.

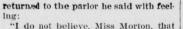
She had told him that it was her fancy to be married on New Year's eve while watching the old year out and the new year in. "Splendid!" Arthur had said. "Besides, the firm has prom ised me a considerable increase in salary beginning with the new year. How happy we shall be in that cozy little cottage I have in mind up in the Bronx!"

When Mary arose next morning and looked into her mirror it seemed to her that the utter happiness of her heart had made her face more beautiful.

"He deserves the most beautiful wo-man in the world," she murmured. "He is so high minded, so honorable, so noble!

The housemaid tapped at her door and left a letter. Mary kissed the envelope before breaking the seal. It read:

read: Dearest-I have lost \$25,000 belonging to the firm, which I was to have deposited yesterday, but on account of a street ear Probably imprisonment-If I stap here, I have thought it all over, and I am going to disappear, go far away, change my name and try to earn money to pay back, this sum. It will take me years and years no doubt. I release you, and God knows I want you to be happy. Simply forget me. ARTHUR. Stunned by the blow, the cirl want



you have the slightest guilty knowl-edge of this affair, and, though it looks bad for Mr. Wainwright, I can see that it was quite possible for him to lose the money." "Thank you, Mr. Sherwood," said Mary. "You will help me, then-help

us?'

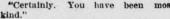
"My present duty is to try to find Mr. Wainwright."

"Find him!" she cried. "Find him for me. They can't prove that he stole the money, while I am sure that in time it will be found. Then"—

"But if a dishonest person finds it or has found it?" For a moment she was overcome by



Stunned by the blow, the girl sank We were children together in the town into a chair. She thought it over, up the state where we were born. There must be some other way. It We met again a year ago in this great



It was the last day of December when Mary received a note from Sherwood. He wanted to call that evening. It was to have been her wedding night, she recalled, and her heart was ineffably sad. Perhaps Sherwood could tell her something that would be of comfort-something about Arthur. She bade him come.

The assistant chief of detectives arrived late, explaining that important bysiness had detained him. He talked about his voyage. He had been to Australia on an official mission. He had visited the great gold fields, where some men make fortunes in a day and others toil for a lifetime without strik-

ing it rich. "Now, Miss Morton," he said, his voice shaking with emotion, "I had hoped to come here upon my return and ask you to be my wife. You know. surely, that I love you. I cannot help that. But I know you are true to-him, and I have ceased to hope for myself. If it were in my power I should gladly do something to prove my great love for you. If"-

"If what, Mr. Sherwood?" the girl asked eagerly. "If we could prove that Wainwright

lost that money," he said.

Sherwood sat upon the old sofa, the girl occupying a chair near by. He leaned heavily against the back of the old fashioned piece of furniture, and it creaked loudly. A gap opened between the seat and the back. Sherwood put his hand down into the opening to ascertain if he had broken the sofa. "Well, somebody's pocketbook!" he

ejaculated, drawing forth a long, fat wallet. "Whew! Arthur Wainwright --his name is on it!"

"Open it, quick!" the girl cried, leaning forward tensely. One by one the detective counted out

twenty-five bills of the denomination of \$1,000.

"Miss Morton," he said, rising, "you win; no, we both win.'

"But Arthur-can we find him?" "I have found him. I arrested him in Australia at the gold fields. He sold his claim for \$20,000. He said that was not enough, and he was eager to was not enough, and he was eager to stay a little longer, but of course I had to do my duty. He is now at the Vandeventer hotel. I let him stay there overnight for your sake on his own recognizance. Let us go and meet him.

Together they went out into the night. It was another glorious night for Mary Morton. As they passed by the "Little Church Around the Corner," where so many romantic mar-riages have taken place, they observed that a watch meeting was in progress It was within half an hour of midnight. In the doorway stood a tall, bearded man, looking within upon the impressive scene.

"Why, there is Mr. Wainwright!" cried Sherwood.

"I don't see him. Where?" excitedly cried the girl.

"The man with the beard. Hey, Woodson!" The man turned suddenly at hearing

his Australian name. A moment later the lovers were embracing. The fllp-pant, unknowing people who stood about the door snickered.

The little party entered an unoccupied vestibule, where Sherwood told Wainwright about the finding of the money. Then the detective excused himself, went forward and consulted with the pastor of the church. Just after the solemn bells pealed the midnight hour and the new year was ushered in the pastor requested the con-gregation to remain seated. And Sherwood, who had earned the

place of honor, was best man.

#### The New Year's Resolution

B RING out the resolution We made a year ago; Dust off its cobwebbed features Its smiling face to show. The dust of months-remove it And bring the thing to view. That good old resolution-'Tis just as good as new!



Furs, Underwear, that we are going to dis-

pose of in the next two weeks regardless of

#### Cost.

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Childre	en's 4.00 and 5.00 hats.	. 1.99

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Ladies	6.00 furs now 3.78
Ladies	10.00 furs now :
Ladies	15.00 furs now
Children	's \$3.00 fur set now 1.49
Children	's 5.00 fur set now 2.98
Children	's 7.00 fur set now 4.00

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Ladies	\$3.00	skirts	now.			\$1.69
						2.39
						3.19
						4.00
						4.98

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Ladies 16.00 Coat now	11.00
Ladies 20.00 Coat now	13.50
Children's \$4.00 Coat now	1.98
Children's \$6.00 Coat now.,	3.49
Children's \$8.00 Coat now	

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### Waists

Ladies \$1.00 white lawn waist now	.49
Ladies 1.50 and \$2.00 white lawn	
waist now	.78
Ladies \$1.25 white Madras waist	.75
Ladies 2.00 white Madras waist	1.19
Ladies 2.50 white and colored	
wool waist	1.60
Ladies \$3.50 white and colored silk	
waist	2.49
Ladies \$4.00 white and .colored	
silk waist	2.98
Ladies \$5.00 white and colored	
Silk waist	3.89

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could not be that Arthur was going away-had gone already! She would try to help him. Hastily dressing, she called at the brokerage firm's offices and was received by the senior part-ner, who had just arrived. Like herself, he was greatly perturbed. The girl handed Arthur's letter to

"I HAD HOPED TO ASK YOU TO BE MY WIFE."

Mr. Meredith and tearfully made her plea. The broker laughed scornfully. "Even if you si that he is guilty?" "I have just received a letter from this young rascal with a similar story,"

since. I know that he is incapable of doing what he is at present accused of doing" "I do not accuse him, Miss Morton I simply do not know

city. We have been much togethe

"But I know, and I shall stand by him." "Even if you should come to know

"He is not guilty!" almost shrieked

the girl. The young detective departed, ex-pressing the hope that all would come out well. Miss Morton was grateful. Senior Partner Meredith was mistaken when he intimated that Wain-wright would be in jail by night. A

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**Christmas** Goods

he said brutally. "Going to get married soon, was he? Ah, needed money -I see!"

"Mr. Meredith," said the stricken girl, "I want to tell you that Arthur Wainwright is the soul of honor. He Wainwright is the soul of house. At whigh notice the high intelligence and never stole a cent, and he never will, young man of high intelligence and I am going to stand by him and help quick perceptions, he apparently had I am going to stand by him and help him in some way—I don't know just how. I am going to prove that he lost this money, as he says he did,"

store it.'

"I wish to find Mr. Wainwright first," she said, "and let him know" that I am going to help him." "Oh, that will be easy! We already

As Miss Morton was about to de-part she was requested to step into "You may another room, where a coarse looking man from police headquarters quesman from police headquarters quest tioned her roughly, plainly giving her to understand that he regarded her as an accomplice of Wainwright in ap-propriating the money. She was high-ly indignant. When at last she was permitted to depart a handsome young wardly. " detective, who had been present dur. prospects."

of searching her lodgings. "Yes." resp A matron from police headquarters embarrassed. "Yes." responded Sherwood, plainly "Miss Morton, I am go-A matron from ponce heltaquarters choardingstat. Also notion, I am go-was already on hand at the boarding ing to start tomorrow on a long voy-house to assist in the search. Under age. I shall be gone two months, and the eye of the detective she ransacked I shall think of you often. When I every nook and corner of Miss Mor. return I-may-be able to do some-ton's room. Several times the detecting for you. You will regard me as tive apologized and when the party your friend?"

country. Young Sherwood called at the board-"Well, I wish you success, for we ing house a few days later "to report ertainly need that money, and the progress," he said. Plainly touched by eertainly need that money, and the progress," he said. Plainly touched by only way you can help this young the beauty of Mary Morton and by her scoundrel is to find the money and repoignant grief, he lingered a little while to speak words of comfort to the girl.

escaped from the city and from the

"I shall call again if anything turns

up," he said. Nothing turned up, but he did call have the police after him, and quite again and again during the next few yrobably you will find him in jall by courteous gentleman. One evening he

"You may be pleased to learn that after the first of next month I am to be

"Thank you," he said rather awk-vardly. "You see, I-It brightens my

"Mr. Wainwright was to have been ing a portion of the questioning, but "Mr. Wainwright was to have been had taken no part in it, was sent along promoted, too, next New Year's, as you to escort her home. He explained that know," the girl said sadly, "and we be had been assigned to this pleasant were to have been married on New duty and to the most disagreeable task Year's eve."

THE glad day that we made it How well we recollect! We deemed that thence forever We would walk circumspect. It threw upon our future A brilliant, rosy hue, But now that we behold it 'The tue as good as next! 'Tis just as good as new



DUST OFF ITS COBWEBBED FEATURES

ThAT good old resolution-How soon we laid it by: How soon its hopeful virtues We ceased to even try; How soon our wayward footsteps Turned oft trod highways through! That good old resolution-"Tis just as good as new!

U<sup>PON</sup> the shelf it's gathered Some dust as there it's lain; We take it down (to shelve it, Quite likely, soon again) And see no mark of usage; It still is good to yiew 13 ARTHUR J. BURDICK. For the shoppers of Holiday Goods it will be to your interest to see our display before purchasing, as we have the largest assortment ever shown in Emporium.

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