SHERMAN AT HOME.

A Chat With the Noted Financier at His Residence in Mansfield, O.

HIS FAMOUS NEW BARN.

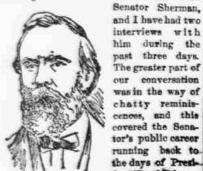
Thousands of Volumes and Historic-Papers in His Library.

A GREAT AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION.

Compliments for Hayes and Stories of Other Prominent Men.

RECIPEOCITY, FINANCE AND FARMERS:

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATOR. MANSFIELD, O., Sept. 26 .- I came from Washington to Ohio to ask for a talk with Senator Sherman, and I have had two



dent Frank Plerce CHAPTER I.

SEXATOR SHERMAN'S HOME Mansfield, Senator Sherman's home, situated on the highest point in Ohio. It is a beautiful town of about 15,000 people, with streets fcrossing each other at right angles, and running out from a public park, filled with old forest trees, which lies in ite center. The town covers a half dozen hills and the rich farming country surrounding it is picturesque and rolling. The best street of Mansfield runs from the park directly westward. It is lined with green lawns and avenues of maple trees, and, about a mile from the park stands the residence of Senator Sherman. This is right in the city, but it has 20 nores of velvety lawn sbout it and great pine, elm and chestnut trees interlock their branches about the house and make the semi-circular roadway which lends up to it a wooded drive.

The half-moon lawn which lies in front of the house is, I judge, at least 200 feet deep, and Mansfield people use this



as a sort of park and visitors drive into the Senator's vard round the house and out again at libitum. Back of the house are orchards of various kinds and the pear trees and peach trees are propped up lest their branches be broken by the rich yield of the resent year. To the left of the house as you go in and some distance away is the new barn which Senator Sherman said he was going to build when he tame home to. A BARN THAT IS PAMOUS.

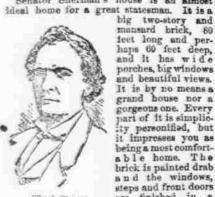
The expression was used in an interview at Pittsburg and was taken up by the news-

aper panagraphers way as the expresa former senatorial Then he said he was coming come to fix his fences, and now he can build a barn. He has built the s preity cottago-like house about 50

feet long and 40 Stephen A. Douglas, feet deep, fitted out with all the best stable requirements. In it I found three or four mirriages and half a dozen good horses which the Senator told me were of his own raising. In the old barn near by were a number of Jersey cows and these are Mrs. Sherman's pets. They produce the finest of milk and cream and Mrs. Sherman has her butter made under her own supervision. She is thoroughly domestic in her tastes

and, not long ago she was so proud of her butter that she had some of it entered at the County Fair, but left her name out of the list of exhibitors and the butter was displayed as anonymous. The judge, in making the award, gave the premium to another butter maker and passed Mrs. Sher-man's butter on the charge that it was so ellow that it must have been artificially velow that it must have been artherary colored. Mrs. Sherman was naturally very indignant at the charge, and she cut the roll of butter up and sent a slice of it to each of the judges with her compliments. THE SHERMAN RESIDENCE.

Senator Sherman's house is an almos



feet long and per-haps 60 feet deep, and it has wide porches, big windows and beautiful views. It is by no means a gorgeous one. Every part of it is simplic-ty personified, but it impresses you as being a most comfortable home. The brick is painted drab and the windows, steps and front doors

are finished in a d red sandstone, streaked with iden veltow, in all the variations of the

butler's pantry, is a hig kitchen lighted by many windows and finished in the cleanest of Georgia pine. I found Mrs. Sherman with a great sunshade on her head, peeling compromise. I remember that I was almost

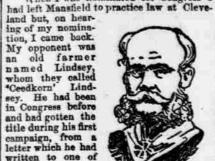
room, and as we looked at the kitchen, she said she hoped, if I was going to make a description of the house, that I would notice the trees and describe the interior of the

MRS. SHERMAN'S IDEA OF HOME Said she: "Our home has been described as a grand mansion and I often find our visitors rather disappointed, when they come here expecting a palace. The house is, as you see, very plain, but it is a comfortable home and we like it." During my stay, I visited the other portions of it. It contains, I should judge, at least 20 rooms, and all of the rooms are large and airy. The windows give fine views over miles of title during his first campaign. from a rolling country and, in one of the libraries, I noted a telescope and asked Senator Sherman if he used this in studying the stars. He replied with a laugh that he now and then looked at the moon and at Venus and Mars, through it, but that the chief use of it, within the past few weeks, had been in turning it on the races which were going on two miles away and which, through it, could be as plainly seen as on the grand

Senator Sherman's library is scattered throughout the whole house. The fact that he is a student is written all over it. The moment you enter the front door, you see at the back of the hall a wall of books, and on the second and third stories, you find the balls filled with bookcases, and at the southeast corner of the mansard, there is a reference library of several thousand volumes. The lower library contains thousands more, and, when I asked Senator

nt Washington, he said he thought he must have in the neighborhood of FIFTEEN THOUSAND VOLUMES. In one corner of the library I saw the great fire-proof vault in which the Senator

Sherman how many books he had here and



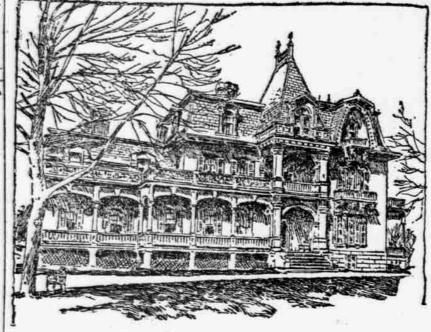
scared to death when they put the gavel in my hand, but I got through somehow.

DEFEATED CEEDBORN LINDSBY. "When I was nominated for Congress

his supporters in which he spelled seed corn 'Oeed Korn.' His constituents, however, claimed that the Whigs were laughing at the farmers. They carried seed corn with them to the polls and made this word the watchword of their campaign and elected him. They ran him for a second term against me, but I defeated him. I was elected by a good majority and I spent my first years in Washington during the Pierce and Buchanan administrations." "What did you think of Buchanan?"

aid I:
"I never considered him a great man,"
solied Senator Sherman, "He was of replied Senator Sherman, "He was of ordinary ability and lacked courage. He was controlled by the Southern Democracy and was neither a bright man nor an able one. He was opposed to us in the Kansas-Nebraska fight with which I had much to do and through which I came into national prominence."

Senator Sherman knew President Lin-coln well, and a mutual admiration existed keeps his private papers, This vault is as | between them. He was intimate with all



SHERMAN'S RESIDENCE AT MANSFIELD.

big as shall bedroom. It is filled with shelves, and it contains tens of thousands of private letters and documents which would make the fortune of a literateur. Here there is a large collection of scrapbooks running back to the time when he entered public life, nearly 50 years ago, and all the important letters which he has received during his long public career are here. Senator Sherman has been noted for knowing how to keep his mouth shut, and public men have opened their minds to him without restraint. There are volumes of unwritten history in these letters, and the names signed to them are those of the great men and women in nearly every branch of life, public and private, for the last generation

and a haif.

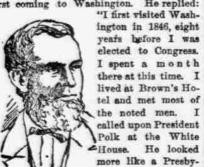
There are about 15 volumes, each as big as a dictionary, which contain letters put side principally for their autographs, and a looking over one of these, devoted to men not politicians, I opened at random to letters from Jay Gould, Cyrus W. Field, noted Sisters of Charity, great preachers and others. As I looked, Senstor Sherman told me he thought he could show me an autograph letter from any noted man I should select who had, during the past 40 years, been prominent either in this coun-try or in Europe. I ransacked my brain, and finally asked him to show me a letter from Francis Lieber, the noted German

ANY GREAT MAN ON NOTICE. "I think I have several," replied Senator Sherman, and with that he turned to the index of another volume, and then turned over the leaves until he came to half a dozen letters which Lieber had written him oncerning the most famous of his books. Among the most interesting letters which Senator Sherman has ever written are those which he penned to his brother, General Sherman, and the correspondence of these two brothers will, when it is published, be

one of the most valuable and interesting books of American history. Senator Sherman has preserved carefully all the letters of his brother from the time he went to West Point to the day of his death, and these letters were very full, and they gave nicture of General Sherman's intellected. a picture of General Sherman's intelle and material life. Many of them are written in camp, sometimes before a battle and sometimes on a drum head afterward. All of them are vivid with the life and ann roundings of the General at the time, and they deal with public men and matters of more than 50 years of our history. One of them tells of the first discovery of gold in California, and many of them detail the inside history of army movements which have never gotten into print.

CHAPTER IL

I seked Senator Sherman to tell me of his first coming to Washington. He replied: "I first visited Washington in 1846, eight



lived at Brown's Hotel and met most of

Schupler Colfax. was not particularly impressed with him. Nor was I impressed with Stephen Douglass, whom I saw a great deal of on this trip. About the only person I was impressed with, however, was myself. You know I was only 23 years old

"Had you any idea at this time that you would ever come back to Washington as

Congressman or Senator?" "No," replied Senator Sherman," the district in which I lived was Democratic, and when at the age of 25 I was a delegate to the National Convention at Philadelphia, and was chosen there as Secretary, the man who nominated me said that I came from a district in Ohio which was so Democratic that I could never get an office unless that convention gave me one, This caused a about 15 feet wide, you enter through the front door into a generous hall which, in the shape of a capital L, makes, in fact, two good sitting rooms. At your right on the tary on the same grounds, and we walked wall hangs a pair of antlers which Senator up together. This was my first office, and Sherman got in his trip over the Canadian Parific, and at the right and left are doors opening into the pariors.

my next was during the same year. I was a delegate to the convention at Columbus, O., which nominated Salmon P. Chase for Gov-Around at the other end of the hall, is the sining room, which is, I judge, about 25 feet square, and back of this through a september of it. The reason for the choice

the Presidents from Lincoln to Harrison, and he was as close to President Hayes as any man in his Cabinet. During our conversation I asked him what ex-President Hayes was doing now. Senator Sherman replied: "He is living as an ex-President ought to live. He is rich and he is devoting his energy and his fortune solely to the public good. He is connected with a number of charitable associations and no private life could be more useful than his. He is about 70 years of age now, but he is in a good condition physically and intellectually. He avoids notoriety, and has taken no part in politics since he left the White House. I consider him a man of much greater ability than he is given credit for. His administration was always burdened with the question of the legality of his seat, but he gave the country one of the ablest administrations of its history, and he was as good an Executive as the country has the Presidents from Lincoln to Harrison as good an Executive as the country has ever had."

BEN BUTLER AND THAD, STEVENS, "By the way, Senator, I see that Ben

him." "Yes," replied Senator Sherman, "Ben Butler is a remarkable character. I first knew of him during the Charleston Con-vention of 1860, but I did not meet him till he was a Major General during the war. I don't think he was a fgreat soldier, though considering the fact that he had no military



training, he did fairly well. In politics, he

has always belonged to the school of infla-

tionists. From Butler the talk drifted to Thaddeus Stevens, and Senator Sherman said. "Thaddeus Stevens and I were great friends, though we were always on different sides of money questions and he used to say that my eyes were not big enough to see anything but a gold dollar. He was a man of brilliant intellect, biting sarcasm and innate wit. He was an ardent supporter of mine at the time of the long Speakership contest of 1839, when for eight weeks, the House balloted for a Speaker. When I saw that there was danger that a Democrat might be elected, all of my friends except two said they would vote for any one I selected, and these two were Thaddeus Stevens and Mr. Spinner, who was afterward Treasurer. They refused to compromise on any one and Thaddeus Stevens said that he would vote for Sherman till the friends, though we were always on different that he would vote for Sherman till the crack of doom. Notwithstanding this, I tel and met most of the noted men. I called upon President Polk at the White House. He looked more like a Presbyterian preacher than anything else, and I was not particularly crack of doom. Notwithstanding this, I picked out Pennigton, of New Jersey, as the candidate in my place. My friends voted for him and enough others came in to secure his election, but it was so arranged that, to bring about the election, Thaddeus Stevens had to vote for Pennington. As he did so, one of the Congressmen rushed over to him and said, "Mr. Stevens, I thought you had sworn to vote for Sherman till the crack of doom." "Well," whispered Stevens, as he pulled the man over and put his mouth to his ear, "I think I hear it cracking."

A DYING MAN WHO COULD JOKE. "Thaddeus Stevens was quite ill for some years before he died," Senator Sherman went on. "He knew he had to die soon, but this never affected his spirits. During his last days in Congress he had to be lifted out of his carriage and carried up the steps to the Capitol. He was a very heavy man and he had two big, burly negroes to carry him. One day, just a few weeks before his death, when these young fellows, after great labor, landed him on the top he said as he paid them: 'Boys, I don't know what I'll do when you die.'

I'll do when you die."

Senstor Sherman has traveled through every part of the United States. He has visited every State and Territory a number of times. He has made several trips to Europe, and, during his visit of 1867, he had some remarkable experiences. During our talk the question of Prince Blasmarck's retalk the question of Prince Bismarck's re-tirement to private life came up, and I asked him if he had ever met Bismarck.

He replied: "I met him in 1867. It was at Berlin, and we had a long talk together. The greater part of our conversation was as to the war, which had just then closed, and Bismarck told me that he was glad to say that the sympathies of every man in Ger-many, from the king in his palace to the peasant in his cottage, were with the North

peasant in his cottage, were with the North in that struggie. Bismarck was in his

prime at this time. He was taller than I am, and much heavier. His features were decidedly German, but he talked English as well as I do, and I was much impressed by his ability and character."

"Did you meet Kaiser Wilhelm?"

A MEETING WITH BOYALTY.

"At the time of the International Exposition of 1867 I was presented by our Minister
to France, Hon. John A. Dix, to the
French Emperor, Napoleon III, to Czar
Alexander of Russia and to King William
of Prussia. The audience was in the Palace
of the Tuilleries. We were in evening
dress, with knee breeches and stockings,
and I remember Fernande Wood was presented with me. We stood at the side of
the long hall with the Minister as the imperial procession entered. Napoleon III.
came first, with a Russian princess on his
arm, the Czar of all the Russians came second, accompanied by Eugenie, the Empress
of the French, and following up the rear as
third in rank, with Prince Bismarck and
other minor great men behind him, came

other minor great men behind him, came King William of Prussia.

"I have often thought of what a change there would have been in that procession there would have been in that procession had its members come together five years later. Within five years Napoleon had fallen from being the greatest emperor in Europe, through the Franco-Prussian War, into the existence of an exile at Chiselburst, England. King William, by the consolidation of the German Confederation, was the head of the great German Empire and, with his victorious armies, had taken Napoleon's place as the dictator of the Continent. Bismarck as his Premier was controlling the destiny of nations, Ozar Alexander II. was still on the throne of Alexander II. was still on the throne of Russia, but his days were numbered, and it was not many years thereafter that he was assassinated. As it was, I was impressed by the character of Napoleon. I dined with him later in my visit and found him a very able man. The chief subject of our conversation after this was, as in my talk with Bismarck, the war."

CHAPTER III.

Senstor Sherman Talks Politics The following is my interview with Senstor Sherman on political mattets. The questions were written out for Senator erman, and his replies were revised before being returned to me. The first question was as to the political issues of the day. Said Senator Sherman:

The chief issues in national politics are no doubt the tariff question and the free coinage of silver. Upon these I have expressed my opinions of ully in public speeches that it is hardly worth while to make them the subject of an interview. The McKinley tariff is no doubt the most comprehensive and carefully prepared revenue law we have ever had on the statute books. It provides the largest measure of free trade ever contained in a tariff law. It increases the protective rates on articles which come into competition with our productions, both of the farm and workshop, and tends more than any previous law to build up industries not heretofore existing in the United States. Some of its details will be the subject of controversy during the next Congress, and may be changed, but I believe the principles of the bill will be maintained. As our industries are developed rates will be reduced, and free trade will be extended as rapidly as our needs for revenue will permit. The chief issues in national politics are no

THE-RECIPROCITY SCHEMES. saked about reciprocity and Senator

Sherman wrote:

Reciprocity is spoken of as if there was something novel in it. This is not true, as we have had several examples of reciprocity, most of which have turned out very badly. The two reciprocity treaties with Canada were put an end to by the United States as soon as the treaties permitted. The Hawaiian treaty is a monument of folly, which cost us a great many millions of dollars without any substantial benefit. Other reciprocity treaties were either rejected by the Senate, or the House of Representatives refused to pass laws to carry them into effect. The reciprocity provided by the McKinley bill is extremely limited in its scope. The third section provides that whenever any country producing and exporting sugars, molasses, coffee, tea and lides imposes unreasonable duties on agricultural and other products of the United States, the President shall suspend the free introduction into the United States of such articles from such country, and that during such suspension these articles shall be subject to the old duties provided by the former law. Reciprocity is confined to the five articles named, and, as they are such as cannot be produced at all or only in limited quantities in the United States, it provided a very simple question of fair trade on which the President could exercise his discretion a very simple question of fair stade on which
the President could exercise his discretion
without the intervention of Congress. I see
no objection to such reciprocity, and it is to
the credit of she administration of President
Harrison that he has been able to make very
satisfactory arrangements with Brazil and
Cuba which will be a benefit to all the countries affected. Our trade with the countries
south of us will be greatly benefited by railroads and ship lines, which I believe, without the aid of the Government, will in time
be established, but which I think ought to
be favored and encouraged by such assistance as we can render.

OUR UNION WITH CANADA. As for reciprocity with Canada, it presents a much more difficult problem. The pro-ductions of Canada are substantially similar to those of the United States, as to which weare natural competitors. Both countries would be benefited by limiting reciprocity, and the difficulties in the way are in the dealls. The natural drift of events is for Canada and she United States to become parts of one country, and I believe such is their ultimate destiny, but I hope it will never occur except by the free consent not only of the people of the United States and Canada, but of the Government of Great Britain. This opens such a wide field of conjecture, involving the future of the Anglocaxon race, that it is hardly worth while to talk of what we hope may be. Canada and the United States to become

Asked as to the inflation ideas of to-day and the remedy, Senator Sherman wrote:

If I am correct in my view of the past, it will be perceived that great loss occurred by two ideas in conflict with each otherone that the greenback should be retired by gradual contraction, leaving nothing but gold and silver and State bank paper behind, and the other, a wild and unreasoning demand for a substantially unlimited circulation of United States notes without regard to their redemption or their specie value. One was in favor of resumption by contraction. The other was indifferent to resumption and was in favor of irredeemable paper money, bearing the stamp of the Government without care for its value in coin. and the remedy; Senator Sherman wrote:

THE SAFE MIDDLEGROUND. These opposing ideas prevail among large masses of people at the present time. Now the inflationists demand an unlimited

the inflationists demand an unlimited amount of Treasury notes, without any basis at all, or based upon silver at more than its market value, and the other party are opposed to, or reluctantly acquiesce in, the issue of Treasury notes based upon silver builion at its gold value. I believe that the present volume of United States notes ought to be supplemented by Treasury notes limited in amount to the production of the precious metals in the United States at gold value deposited in the Treasury, represented in circulation by an equal amount of paper money. This is the middle and safe ground between undue contraction and undue expansion.

As to the farmers and their troubles Sen-As to the farmers and their troubles Sen-

ator Sherman says:
Undoubtedly there has been much discontent among farmers during the last few years as to crops and prices. This year they are blessed with a bounteous crop of all kinds and a favorable time to harvest it, kinds and a favorable time to barvest it, with a very poor crop in competing countries. This fluotuation in quantity and price of the products of the farm is an unavoidable incident to this industry, which depends so largely upon causes beyond human control. The industry of the farmer, however intelligent and constant, may be defeated by want of rain, by frosts, or many causes which no care or foresight can guard against. He has the wide world for his competitors. His productions, being perishable, must be marketed within the year or are of no value. Favorable circumstances may add to his crop in the United States, and the failure of crops in other countries may add to his profits. The condition of our currency and of other industries also effect their value.

THE FARMER'S ADVANTAGES. I do not see how these conditions can be changed. Farmers are entirely justified. like all other producers, in making any arrangement to promote their mutual in-terests, but the number of farmers is so great that protection in this way almost always fails. With these drawbacks they have many advantages not possessed by others. The farmer produces from his own soil and by his own labor all the food neces-sary for existence, and, with a convenient home market, can supply other articles home market, can supply other article essential to life. He cannot be affected by hostile legislation. FRANK G. CARPANTER.



WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCE

BY EDGAR FAWCETT

Author of "The House at High Bridge," "Romance and Reverie." "The Adventures of a Widow," numerous songs and poems and several plays.

CHAPTER I.

CHAPTER I.

All day the wind had stung as it blew beneath a sky of slate, and even Grameroy Park looked bleak and cheerless while a brougham of elegant trim, with two liveried men on its box, rattled up to the door of a mansion just south of Irving place. The inmate, a young man wrapped to his ears in a huge coat lined with sables, remained inside his carriage until the footman's belling had been answered. Then he lightly bounded forth upon the pavement, and ran gestures that young master. In one young master. To new eyes and ears Alonzo's manner was no doubt effeminate. He often chose to use the treble notes of a voice that was not devoid of bass ones, and he gave his body a too mercurial twirt, to his shoulders a too facile shrug. His laugh had sometimes a girl's own shrillness, and he sometimes used his hands in gestures that were so, many challenges to bounded forth upon the pavement, and ran up the stoop into the open doorway,, which was immediately closed behind him by another footman inside the hall.

"Is everything ready, Jameson?" "Yes, sır," replied the man, as his young master slipped out of the coat and let its big, sumptuous bulk drop into this third. servant's waiting arms. A large mirror cleamed opposite the form which has thus lightly unsheathed itself, and its possessor, later twenties, of excellent height and build, though of meager personal beauty. Bronze eyes, with a merry spark in them, and waved hair of silky yellow did their best to keep the face from being commonplace. An impudent nose somewhat aided it—a nose with an airy upward, slant and little arches Alonzo Lispenard, gave a saucy stare at his

impudent nose somewhat aided it—a nose with an airy upward slant and little arches to flank either nostril.

"Oh, I think I'll do," he exclaimed, half to himself and half, as it were, to Jameson, who grinned serenely. "If the don't like me this way they'll have to take me, all the same." He wheeled round on one heel and hurried to the staircase. He had reached the middle of it, taking two steps at a time, when he suddenly paused, and called over one shoulder:

"Oh, Jameson, are the carpet and the awning out there? I forgot to notice."

No, sir, not yet. But they're sure to be in time, Mr. Lispenard." Alonzo fronted the speaker, and shook with vehemence an upraised foreinger, "Now, Jameson," he cried, "If anything

gestures that were so, many challenges to dignity. But those who knew him best-knew him for an athlete of skill, a rider of pluck, a keen sportsman when laziness let him shoot and hunt, and a mental force replete with every opposite of womanish trends and tastes.

trends and tastes.

The new valet had been in office hardly a week yet, and here was not the first slur that his fellow servants had heard fall from his lips. He had chosen a dangerous atmosphere in which to vent his aversion, and this fact was soon made clear to him in no careful terms.

And without a recommendation, too. Yes, sir; you needn't look sour and uppish. Mr. Lispenard won't mind that. If you take him for what you've just called him, you'll get so left you won's know Monday from Saturday week."

The new valet (who was thought to wear stays) put a neat white hand on either hip. He had been in this country three or four years, and had learned not to squander his h's. But in the excitement of repartee he now forsook a few of them. With "bloomin'," "blarsted" and an occasional "bloody" as his recurrent adjectives, he declared himself anxious to learn of Jameson why he so admired Mr. Lispenard. And Jameson swiftly told him

with vehemence an upraised forefinger, "Now, Jameson," he cried, "If anything goes wrong to-day, you'll not forget it till your dying hour. To say that you'll merely be discharged isn't anything. I'll have you traced by detectives to the uttermost parts of the earth, and the instant you try to get a new place they'll prevent you."

He sprang upstairs again, still two steps at a time, while Jameson watched him with eyes that twinkled fondly. Just as he disappeared, the new English valet, Fletcher, sauntered from back regions. This person had a sneer on his clean-shorn upper lip as he muttered to Jameson:

"Well, if he ain't one o' the reg'lar"

"He's got his harum-scarum ways," announced the butler in tart semitone, "but he's every inch a gentleman behind 'em. His foolin's only like the white of an egg with a big yelk to it. When I was sick in the hospital two years ago he went to see me twice a week, and put me in a room that must 'a' cost him \$100 a month if it cost a cent. The man that was here just before you got drunk three times and was forgiven, and at last, when the rascal stole a scarf pin worth \$70, he got his discharge, but Mr. Lispenard shook him by the hand—wes, sir—before he quitted these doors with his dirty feet, and told him that he hoped with all his soul not goin' to prison "He's got his barum-scarum ways," an-

police was spoilin' for the mean devil, and Mr. Lispenard could 'a' had him sent up by the wave of a finger! And he gives to the poor! Lord, sir; I've seen him bring tramps into this very hall that made me itchito look at 'em. And I don't itch easy, neither " pursued Janeson with a fresh neither," pursued Janeson, with a fresh scowl, meant to be deeply angust in its convincing agency. Meanwhile the object of this eulogium (which went flowing on, to the mindled surveying and the mingled surprise and amusement of its hearer) had reached the draw-ing rooms on the higher floor and had paused there, surveying their

quiet splendora. There were three rooms in all, the first and second spacious, the third a little smaller, being in fact a diningroom, but large enough for a good-sized throng to feast in, as many a good-sized throng had done. Their curtains had been drawn; the clusters of side light. drawn; the clusters of side lights had been lit. There was no profession of ornament. You had a sense of heavy falling tapestries, of occasional pictures, each in itself a gemlike masterpiece, of cushions piled in al-

chair. "By the way, you're to be my best man next April if you will. Will you?"

Lexington's dark face flushed a little.
"Will it? Thanks immensely, Long I—I thought you'd ask Winthrop Delavan."

"Did you? Well, you see I haven't, so you accept?"
"Accept! Is there a man you know that wouldn't be delighted?"

"Oh, don't put it that way."
"But I do put it that way," persisted
Lexington. He left the alcove and dropped lexington. He let the alcove and aropped into a great satin easy-chair near Alonzo, wheeling it still nearer. He was of good family, good position, but he had the reputation of being a snob who only courted the rich and socially powerful. He possessed a very small income and was a notorious idler. Alonzo had made him several large learn during the next few years, and not a loans during the past few years, and not a dime had yet been returned. Society, however, had no shred of proof that this was true. But it criticised the intimacy and drew its own rather cynical deductions.
"I often tell myself, old fellow," Lexington went on, "that your'e the most modest man in creation. Who you are quite



oves, of just a few white glimmering bits of sculpture, of an exquisite little antique head here and a bit of choice Japanese enamelling there. But no huddled masses of-fended the eye, which royed easily from one point of elegance to the next, finding nothing inferior, nothing with the faintest tarnish of cheapness.

Alonzo had just stooped to bury his nomina huge basket of fresh violets, when a voice from a near alcove called to him

"For heaven's sake go and dress."

Alonzo gave a sharp start. "Good gracious, Phil, is that you?"

"Yes," replied Philip Lexington, rearranging a cushion to fit his shoulder blades, "I found you out, drifted upstairs, got hold of this revolting French book and have wallowed in its corruption ever since. I really should think, Lonz," he continued, with an autocratic little pull at one end of the dark moustache which so well became his olive and oval face. "that in your French reading

Rising on the great deep courch of tufted silk, Lexington drew out his watch. "Well, more shame for me. I've actually spent half an hour with it. And, my dear boy, you'll forgive me for making myself so ter-ribly at home in your absence, won't you new?"

"That's what you're always saying,

escapes you, and as for what you are, -- an artist of splendid talents—you never seem to give it a thought."
"Who I am?" came the airy reply.

"Who I am?" came the airy reply.

"Oh, in the name of common sense, Phil, don't try to gammon me by any suggestion that I'm anybody from the patrician point of view. Kitty and I came of respectable stock, that's all, and you know it as well as I do. When your ancestors, the Lexingtons, were swells in New York 100 years are the Lignanged were probably carago, the Lispenards were probably car-penters, grocers, perhaps even brickingers. I had a lucky father, who founded a big banking house, and educated his two children. If there were any real aristocracy in this funny pretentious town, I wouldn't have the ghost of a claim to call myself a part of it. I'm no more a Knickerbocker than I'm a Carolus Duran on a Bonnat."

"You're a very powerful artist, though," twisted Lavington.

moustache which so well became his olive and oval face, "that in your French reading you might draw the line somewhere."

"I draw it at just such abominations," returned Alonzo. "True, the leaves of that horror were cut, but they've only been skimmed, and not all of them, either."

Rising on the great deep course of them.

Lexington heaved a repreachful little sigh. "Then you think I praise you," he began, sadly, "for no other reason than be-

Alonzo jumped up from his chair and esught his friend's hand between both his own. "I don't think anything so masty of oul" he cried in the shrill eccentric voice he sometimes used. !'Come up into the studio, and let's look at her picture. I laughed his host, "and you're always forgiven, and there's never anything to forgive." Here Alonzo threw himself into a

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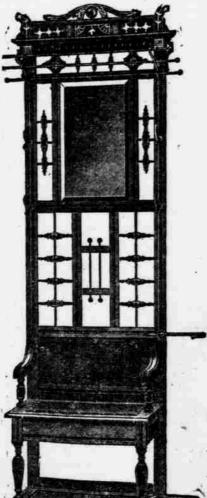
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