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spoke up, and with leering laughter

declared that he knew the reason why,

ry him, that you had cast me from

joiced again. Here was more romance after all. Oh! if Pietro and Luigi would

only fight! Would not that be glorious'

What greater distinction could come to

a maiden than to have two men fight

over her. "I did not kill him then," Pietro continued, "because I did not

know whether or not he was lying

Now, I ask you if he was lying. If he

was he shall die, or I shall die. We both have our stilettos, and they are

ever ready. Whichever is the best

fighter shall die, and that at once. But

if he told the truth, then I shall not

fight him. I shall go away and see you never any more. Answer. Did he lie?" Pippette was in her element again

was most delicious of all.

whole street would talk about her, and

tell about her beauty if these two hand-

some men fought over her. She an-

"It was not the truth he told. Lulgi

Rossi is a handsome man, and he is my

friend and I like him and may marry

Pletro's face grew darker. She had

added venom to his rage by saying

that she liked Luigi, and might marry

him. She made it maddening when

"But I would warn you not to fight

him. He would cut you into little

That was the last straw. Pletro

man. To have the woman he loved

bear. It was like a scene in a melo-

pieces, and kill you quick!"

him. But I have not promised to,"

swered quickly.

she added:

Pietro paused, and Pippette de-

# HACKETT,

### Pippette's

By EDWARD MARSHALL

(These short serial stories are copy-righted by Bacheller, Johnson & Backel-ler, and are printed in The Tribune by special arrangement, simultaneous with their appearance in the leating daily

CHAPTER IL.

It was while she was alone with him, after her parents and his had gone, that he sat smoking his pipe of gloom and bad tobacco, suffering keenly, while she smiled and made a bed with a heart as happy in its sensational triumph over a difficulty which she had created but to overcome, as her fingers

For half an hour this was most delicious. The hated lover sat and alternately cursed and pleaded, while she afe in the knowledge of the alderman and the mayor and the police and the president and the army and the navy, scorned him, and refused to pernit him to even so much as touch her and. It would have been a little santer if he had flercely rushed upn her and, seizing her, compelled her scream for help, and it was a little ard to keep the sorrowful faces of her rents out of her mind; but she made ne best of what she had, and enjoyed It all. She was emancipated!

But presently Pietro changed his tone in a way which she had not calculated upon. Majestically, he rose, and the pleading in his face changed to scorn.

"Very well," he declared. "Very well. Let what is be as it is, I go. There are in the sea many good fish of which one fish is but one fish. There are others than you and of them I can catch. Adieu, Pippette! I go to marry the green grocer's lovely whose eyes are soft as the depths of a well, whose smile is bright as the skies of Naples, and who has long looked upon me out of the corners of her eyes Adleu! I go!"

Heavens, here was an impossibility come true! While yet in dismayed discomfiture she was trying to contemplate it, Pietro stalked away.

Pippette sat down, limp and nervecer's daughter with disgust. Yet, yes. she had eyes which some might htink pretty, and she was always smiling in rder to show her white teeth-the bold thing! But Pietro! She had thought im to have more self-respect! He ought to be filled with shame. This was outrageous and incredible.

She had been sitting there five min-

utes, overwhelmed by this new turn. It was not at all romantic. None of the banker's wife's predictions had included such a contingency as this. And Pietro had looked so handsome as he

She was aroused from her bitter re ctions by his return. Instantly she ruggled to regain her lost ground.

heart. She will not have you; but go

slowly. "Keep silence while I speak. The grocer's daughter can wait. I speak, and I wish to be answered and him, and had recently promised to marwith truth. Attend"

esting and pleasant. There was



More."

away from the grocer's daughter. "I was about to leave, this house,"



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for you can find no usefulness in my have heard the truth-the truth that

Pietro's brow was lowering, and his height was masterful. She stopped as he looked at her, for there was a command in his eye which she had never

"Enough! It is enough," he said

This, too, was new, but it was inter-



was willing to accept tragedy in lieu of romance, if only Pietro would keep Pietro continued impressively, "but paused at the threshold to say good

> his hand, shouted: "It is false! It is an insult! You shall see! I go! I shall kill him —dead! And you, I shall never look upon again! Adleu! Adleu! With that he turned, with flaming eyes and every muscle quivering with rage. His hand, quick as lightning, had already drawn the stiletto which is ever convenient. Without another glance at her, her rushed through the door, and in an instant she heard him jumping down stairs in great leaps, Her gratified vanity ended that second. Suddenly she saw the whole thing in its dreadful, real-life aspect. banker's wife's story book romances were instantly forgotten. She remembered only that she loved Pletro, and that she had sent him into deadly peril. She forgot that she was emanci-She did not want to be emancipated. Like kinetoscope flashes, pic-tures gleamed in her mind of Luigi plunging his long, slender dagger into Pietro's heart. Then she saw Pietro kill Luigi, and afterward saw the murcould see no aspect which did not mean death for Pietro! Death for her Her handsome, brave, loving and adorable Pietro! For a moment she crouched, shaking in a chair, with

she said promptly. "Well, return to day to neighbors. I was greeted with ject terror at what her silliness had

Then, like lightning, she sprang up you, whom I have loved and was to and, screaming, "Pietro! Pietro! Stop marry, had cast me from you and him! Stop him! Tell him that I, Pipcalled upon an alderman for protec- pette, am coming!" rushed through the tion against me. Their sport cut me door and down the stairs. like knives, but I said nothing, for it When she reached the bottom she

was truth. But then Luigi Rossi-he saw people hurrying through the hall, that lives in the tenement in the rear- back toward the course. The great tenement was all aroused. A murmur of many excited voices came to her declared that it was because you loved ears, and she almost fainted from fear. She had come too late, she thought too late! too late!

But, recovering herself, she again sped like the wind to save Pietro. Into the court she dashed, still scream

There the sight might well have turned her heart cold. As she entered the two men were just crouch-



The Sight Might Well Have Turned He Heart Cold."

ready to spring upon each other intimate that Luigi Rossi could beat Glittering knives were in their hands, him in a fight was more than he could and she read excitement and horror in the faces of the Italians, who formed a little ring about them. Italians drama when he turned and, raising never interfere in an affair of that sort It was the ring of spectators that delayed Pippette. She could not force her way through it until the men had, with fierce jumps, like wild beasts, met, and were struggling with murder in their hearts. But at that moment she reached them. Her strength at this crisis was tremendous. How she stopped Luigi's descending dagger with her plump little arm, she does not know now, nor how she turned Pietro's blow aside. She only knows that she did stop the one and turn the other, and that she forced herself between the men and clung to Pietro's brawny, brown neek with loving arms, swearing that she worshiped him, and him alone, and that she had her way through it until the men had, him, and him alone, and that she had been a wicked, wicked girl. Two bright-eyed, brown-skinned Italian babies are now, three years later

proof positive that Pippette did no change again. The very next day she and Pietro were married by the same alderman who had protected her. So this is the tale of the end as well as the beginning of Pippette's Emanci Edward Marshall. Printing for Grocers.

her skirt over her head, swept by ab- fice that they will sell goods for you.

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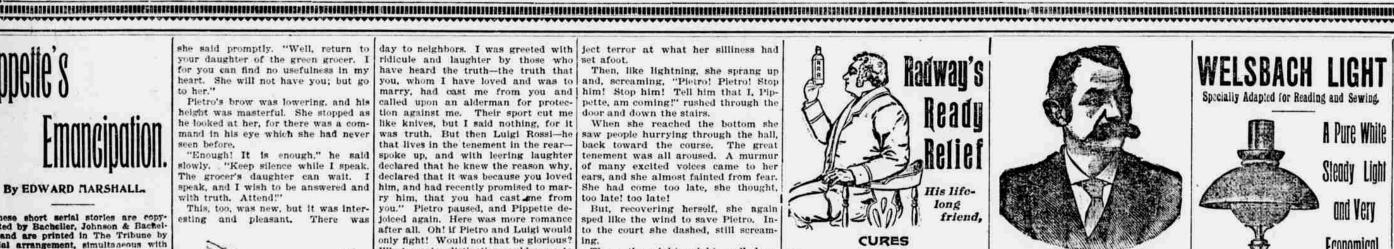
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