

Marcia.

SYNOPSIS.

Marcia Nettleton, a young widow, and her brother-in-law, Fred Nettleton, are stopping a the country, a England, win the latter's mother. They plan a two or three days' bicycle excursion of a distant point. On the evening of the second day out, in a heavy rain, and ten miles from an lun, Fred's bicycle breaks down. Mat-cia goes on, intending to send a trap for him, but misses the way. She comes to him, but misses the way. She comes to a house, rings and is received by its mas-ter, a good-looking young man. By a misunderstanding he supposes that her companion left behind is her husband, and by way of a jest she falls to correct the error. She is shown to a room where a maid and all the necessaries of a toilet

PART II.

"I do hope the carriage will find Mr. Nettleton," said Marcia.
"Your husband, ma'am?"

Marcia hesitated for a moment, ther she smiled at herself in the glass as she answered: "Yes, Mr. Nettleton, My name is Nettleton.

"So I understood, ma'am," answered

Prudence and misgivings have little chance beside a consciousness of book ing one's best. Marcia entered the dining room with a bright smile. Her host shared her good spirits; he was laughing to himself as she came in The soup was on the table. A man-servant entered and drew back a chair, inviting Marcia to seat herself. The young man sat opposite and helped

"Susan wishes to know, sir," said the man-servant, "whether she shall prepare the red room

The young man looked up.

"Yes, she'd better," said he.
"You're too kind," said Marcia, "But isn't there an inn to which we could go? We mustn't put you to all this trouble? The young man laughed.

"Not within miles, said he, "Yes, Joseph, we'll have the red room readyin case it is wanted, you know."
"Til tell Susan, sir," said Joseph.

"Have you given the orders about the carriage? "Yes, sir."

The young man turned to Marcia. "Where do you think your husband

"I-I don't know," she stammered -and truly enough, although there was no reason to take other than a hopeful view of the matter, "Oh, but whereabouts?" he smiled,

Marcia suddenly remembered the position, blushed very red, and cried hastily, in the hope that her confusion had passed unnoticed: "Oh, you mean Fred! He's-he's-"

She paused. Her host was regarding her with inquisitive amusement, "He's where I left him," she added, with great dignity, "That's more than a wife can al-

ways say about her husband," remarked the young man. "Do you think you can describe the place for us?" Marcia obeyed; Joseph listened, howed and left the room.

The carriage shall go and look for him as soon as possible," said the young man again, "Oh, and perhaps I might say that my name is Forrester -Nucl Forrester. I hope you found your room comfortable?"

"Delightful, Mr. Forrester. It really looked as if you expected some one. "I am of a sanguine disposition," he answered, smiling, "but fortune outruns even my hopes sometimes."

He was charming, that was certain: but it was equally certain that he was not communicative, Marcia wished she had not begun her silly joke about Fred. She shrank from owning to it now; it would sound so foolish.

Supper went on; food, wine and service were excellent. By the end of the meal, when Joseph brought coffee and finally withdrew, Marcia was in radiant spirits. She had forgotten poor Fred, still out in the rain; she had forgotten the rather unconventional nature of her visit; she had forgotten even the curious readiness of everything in the blue room. Undoubtedly Noel Forrester was charming; and she thought that she herself had been very

Marriage is a very pleasant condition," remarked Mr. Forrester, sud-'Oh-er-yes, very," murmured Mar-

"Provided," he continued, "that per-

fect confidence reigns between husband and wife. I have always insisted on that-I mean I should always insist or it if the occasion arose. It's essential."
"Of course it's nice," said Marcia.

"I should require it from my wife, going, but I do like to be trusted. Don't you, Mrs. Nettleton? But I'm sure your husband must trust you im-

"He never says he doesn't," murmured Marcia, hiding a smile,

"I happen to object very much to be-

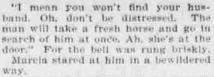
ing questioned," said Mr. Forrester "My servants never question me: I don't allow my friends to question me. Most questions, Mrs. Nettleton, are either superfluous, or impertment, or both. Have you observed that?" "Yes, they are, most of them," said

'So none are asked in this house. Let me put your cup down for you."

He rose, but, by evil chance, as Mar cia handed him her cup, she upset it in the saucer; a few drop fell on her

gan dabbing at the stiff with her hand-"I hope I haven't spoilt this levely tracks in no time new, Mrs. Nettleton.

gown. With a cry of dismny she be-



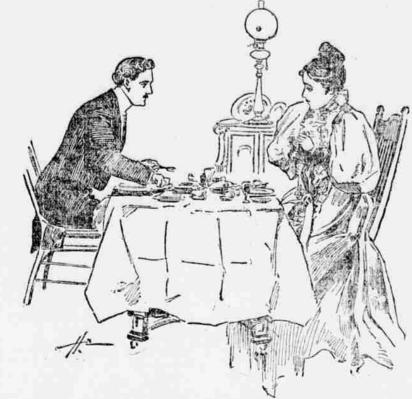
"You see," he explained, "I haven't been able to send for Mr. Nettleton ooner, because my only trap had gone to the station. But never mind, we shall soon find him now-if he's where

"But—but—but who is it?"
"Who is who?" asked Noel Forrester. "Who is it who's come?"

He had walked balf way toward the door. He paused to give his answer. "I can't be sure, of course, without looking," said he. "But it ought to be and is in constant danger of an early Celeste. Excuse me a moment, Mrs. Nettleton," And with a courteous bow torture and motherhood a menace. he went out, closing the door behind

Marcia sank into a chair gasping. Who was Celeste? What was she to think of Celeste? And, worse, what would Celeste think of her? With a flash of horror she jumped to the conclusion that the gown she wore was Celeste's.

After a few moments, employed by Marcia in a succession of desperate and futile resolves. Noel Forester returned. "It's all right," he announced, cheer-"They'll be on your husband's fully.



"OH, YOU MEAN FRED! HE'S-HE'S HE'S-"

gown," she exclaimed. "Its owner They'll find him, never fear. And I'm would never forgive me," "I assure you I should forgive you much worse things than that," smiled Mr. Forrester.

Marcia stared at him for a moment. He would not wear a red tea gown. But -a question rose to her lips. She remembered his objections and paused. Besides, she did not wish to set going an exchange of questions; it might end in her own detection.

"A gown more or less is no great matter." sald he, shrugging his shoulders. "But this is such a lovely one." "I hope it fits you?"

"It's a little—just a little—tight," she murmured. "Ah, figures do differ," he remarked.

"That's inevitable, you know, Marcia's high spirits began to be lashed by a vague uneasiness; the dis-

trust which had assailed her as she followed Susan to the blue room revived. It was nearly ten o'clock; surely Fred would make his appearance soon! The position became embarrassing to her. She had to admit that no

such feeling was displayed by her host He had obtained her permission to light a cigar and was smoking com-"How funny it would look if anybody found me here," she said, forcins

a smile, "But of course nobdy will come now." Her assertion masked a question; did he expect another guest "I don't know about that," observed Mr. Forrester, smiling. "I didn't expent you, you know; but you came all the same. So somebody else might,"

"I'm sure I hope nobody will."
"Except your husband?" he half asked, half reminded her. "Oh, except Fred, of course," she agreed, hastily.

His eyes dwelt reflectively on her face for a moment. "Except Fred, I mean," he remarked

with his pleasant smile. But Marcia to her horror, felt herself blushing Had he guessed her deception? And 'f he had-heavens, what might the man think or not think? At the cost of some humiliation she determined to confess her joke and put matters on a proper footing. She would look very siffy, but that perally must be faced. "Mr. Forrester," she began, timidly, "I-I think I ought to say-"

"Hark" said Forrester, raising his hand, "I hear wheels."

"Oh, It's Fred! How glad I am!" cried Marcia. "Do let me run and open Mr. Forrester went on, "I'm very easy the door for him." She rose to her feet. Her host followed her example and stood with his back to the fire. "You can open the door if you wish it," said he, flicking off the ash of his

elgarette, "But I'm afraid you'll be disappointed." "Disappointed?"

told there's a little inn quite near where you left him, so perhaps hell have found his way there; I hope so, for it's a horible night." He sat down by the fire. Marela, after a minute's hesitation, formulated

her question.

"And-and your friend?" "Oh, it was Celeste. She's just gone to get into a dry gown, she'll be down firectly. I've sent up some soup and things for her.

"You've told her I'm here?" Forrester gave a little start, and then an amused laugh.

"Upon my word," said he, "I forgot to mention it. But it's all right. I'll introduce you, Mrs. Nettleton, You'll like her. I'm sure. She's not a bit stiff or strait-laced."

"But she'll-she'll be so surprised." protested Marcin. "Most pleasantly, I'm sure. You can explain to her yourself, can't you? Tell

her about your husband, and so on."

He ended with another amiable smile.



"IT OUGHT TO BE CELESTE." and again Marcia was conscious of

hateful blushes "Ah, I think I hear her step," he went

"But what am I to call her?" sh eried, springing up and catching his

"To call her? Oh, to be sure! Of course! Oh, call her Forrester, Mrs.

Nettleton." And with a merry laugh he opened the door. On the threshold stood a very handome girl, tall, fair and slender. At the first instant her lies were an er gaging smile; the next moment her eyes fell on Marcia; her face assumed an expression of intense surprise. She started back a step then came forward and entered the room with an air of mingled dignity and wonder, Noel For-

rester closed the door behind her and came forward where Marcia stool in an agony of embarrassment.

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(To Be Continued.)

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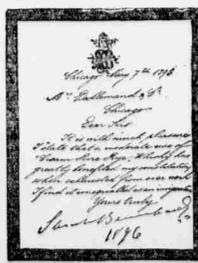
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10.15 a. m., week days, for Hazleton,
Pottsville, Reading, Norristown,
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Baltimore, Washington and Pitts burg and the West. 3.15 p. m., week days, for Sunbury,

Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Balti-more, Washington and Pittsburg and the West. 3.15 p. m., Sundays only, for Sun-bury, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburg and the West.

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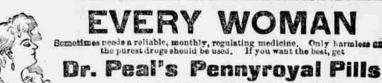
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65, 120, 3.33 (Black Diamond Express), 12.05, 1.20, 3.33 (Black Diamond Express),
4.ii and 11.30 p. m.
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14. Hhaca, Geneva and principal intermediate
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Express for Easton, Trenton, Philadelphia and the South, 5.15, 8.00 and \$.55 a. m., 1.19 and 3.33 p. m.

Washington and way stations, 3.45 p. m.

Tobykanna accommodation, 6.10 p. m.

Express for Binghamton, Oswego, Elmira, Corning, Bath, Dansville, Mount Morris and Buffalo, 12.29, 2.33 a. m., and 1.55 p. m., making close connections at Buffalo to all points in the West, Northwest and Southwest. o all points in the west, vocations outshwest.

Bath accommodation, 9.15 a. m.

Binghamton and way stations, 1.05 p. m.

Nicholson accommodation, 5.15 p. m.

Binghamton and Elimira express, 5.55

. m. Express for Utica and Richfield Springs, 35 a. m. and 1.55 p. m. Ithaca 2.35 and Bath 9.15 a. m., and 1.55 Ithaca 2.35 and Bath 9.15 a. m., and 1.55 p. m.

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a. m., 1.00, 2.15, 7.10 p. m. Sundays 5.00,
a. m., 1.00, 2.15, 7.10 p. m.
For Atlantic City, 8.20 a. m.
For New York, Newark and Elizabeth,
8.20 (express) a. m., 12.45 (express with Buffet parlor car), 2.05 (express) p. m. Sunday, 2.15 p. m.
Train leaving 12.45 p. m.
arrives at Philadelphia, Reading Terminal, 5.22 p. m. and New York 6.00 p. m.
For Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton and Philadelphia, 8.20 a. m.,
12.45, 8.05, 5.00 (except Philadelphia) p. m.
Sunday, 2.15 p. m.

unday, 2 15 p. m. For Long Branch, Ocean Grove, etc., at 20 a. m. and 12 45 p. m. For Lakewood, 8.29 a. m.

erty street, North River, at 2.10 (express) a. m., 1.10, 1.30, 4.15 (express with Buffet parlor car) p. m. Sunday, 4.30 a. m. Leave Philadelphia, Reading Terminal, 2.00 a. m., 2.00 and 4.30 p. m. Sunday, 6.25

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TABLE.
On Monday, Nov. 23,
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7.55, 8.55, 10.15, a.m.;
12.00 noon; 1.21, 2.20, 2.52,
5.25, 6.25, 7.57, 9.10, 10.30,
11.55 p. m.
For Albany, Saratoga, Montreal, Boston, New England points, etc.—5.45 a.m.;
2.20 p. m. possible 5.45, 8.55, 10.15 a.m.; 12.00

20 p. m. For Honesdale-5.45, 8.55, 10.15 a. m.; 12.00 2.20 p. m.
For Honesdale—5.45, 8.55, 10.15 a. m.; 12.00 noon, 2.20, 5.25 p. m.
For Wilkes-Barre—6.45, 7.45, 8.45, 9.33, 10.45 a. m.; 12.05, 1.20, 2.28, 3.33, 4.41, 6.00, 7.50, 9.30, 11.30 p. m.
For New York, Philadelphia, etc., via Lehigh Valley Railroad—6.45, 7.45 a. m.; 12.65; 1.20, 3.33 (with Black Diamond Express), 11.30 p. m.
For Pennsylvania Railroad points—6.45, 9.38 a. m.; 2.20, 4.41 p. m.
For western points, via Lehigh Valley Railroad—7.45 a. m.; 12.05, 3.33 (With Black Diamond Express) 9.50, 11.30 p. m.
Trains will arrive at Scranton at follows: From Carbondale and the north—6.40, 7.40, 8.40, 9.31, 10.40 a. m.; 12.00 noon; 1.05, 2.44, 3.25, 4.37, 5.45, 7.45, 9.45 and 11.25 p. m.
From Wilkes-Barre and the south—5.40, 7.50, 8.50, 10.10, 11.55 a. m.; 1.16, 2.34, 3.43, 5.22, 6.21, 7.53, 8.03, 9.45, 11.52 p. m.
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Eric and Wyoming Valley. Effective Jan. 4, 1897.
Trains will leave Scranton for New York. Newburgh and intermediate points on Eric, also for Hawley and local points, at 7.05 a. m. and 2.28 p. m.; and arrive from above points at 10.33 a. m. and 9.38 p. m.



In Effect October 4th, 1896. North Bound. South Bound, 203 201 202 204 Stations Trains Daily, Ex- 2 2 2 MP MArrive Leave
7 25 N Franklin S.
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P MArrive Leave MP MARTING Leaves

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Scravion 6 20 11 25 Priceburg 7 34 4 07 6 18 11 03 Phroop 7 38 4 10 6 15 11 00 Providence 7 39 4 14 6 12 11 05 Part Place 17 4 1 4 17 6 10 10 55 Scraw 00 7 40 4 20 P M A M Leave Arrive A M P M

Sunday, 2.15 p. m.

For Long Branch, Ocean Grove, etc., at 8.20 a. m. and 12.45 p. m.

For Lakewood, 8.20 a. m.

For Reading, Lebanon and Harrisburg, via Allentown, 8.20 a. m., 12.45, 5.00 p. m.

Sunday, 2.15 p. m.

For Pottsville, 8.20 a. m., 12.45 p. m.

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