

The Home Reading Circle

The Demon of Revenge

Edward W. Hornung

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Mr. Jack Sellers was a fine-looking young Cornstalk, who might be seen cutting an immense dash in Sydney one week and driving sheep up-country the next.

ning the harbor lights so that she should have them in her mind's eye always. And suddenly—as her eyes fell—there stood before her a rough bushman in moleskins and leggings, whom she was the slower to recognize because she had never before seen Jack Sellers with his beard.



"THEN WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING MY WIFE?"

and as engaging as ever. He touched her hand. He appealed to her imagination. He filled her with a transient remorse, so that she begged his pardon with tears in her voice, and besought him to turn over a new life for her sake.

It was a clear and tranquil night in the height of the Australian summer. The North Shore mansion was overflowing with bridesmaids and grooms-men and already-married daughters of the house; but the chief party, with two exceptions, were dining and making merry at the house of an intimate neighbor. The bride-elect was spend-

"That fellow has been a gentleman," said he. "I can spot them at a glance. He's held her tongue. To activate hypochrysis she could not descend. Suddenly she laid a hand upon her husband's sleeve.

"I hope so," said he. "Well, my dear?" "That you didn't take that man on to please me?"

There is no sadder sight than that of the orphan child bereft of the loving care of a mother. If women would but learn the importance of taking proper care of their health, and all ways look after the health and vigor of the organs distinctly feminine, the pitiful Sabbath day procession of motherless children that goes to the cemetery to "put flowers on ma-ma's grave" would be materially reduced in numbers.

Clay was a perfect husband, forbearing, patient, incessantly kind, level-headed in all things, placid and good-tempered to a fault. His men loved him; he was known as a "white man" far and wide. Yet he was, them with a hand of padded iron, and their love was not unmixt with fear.

Clay was torn between the desire to please his wife and the duty of keeping faith with all men. He had the reputation of treating rich and poor, big and little, black fellows and whites, with equal justice and consideration, and his word was as good as his cheque from the Murrumbidgee to Cooper's Creek. He could not break it to humor a mere whim, even though the whim was Elsie's, and the favor the very first that she had ever asked of him.

The squatter was not skilled in the reading of the human countenance, or he had guessed that these men and there. It often happens, however, that when one has been very blind, the light comes instantaneously at last. It was so with Robert Clay. He was driving over to the out-station, distant some nineteen miles from the homestead, and his valise was beside him on the buggy-seat, for he intended to stay the night. Now, the track led close by Richardson's camp, and his eye caught a man in the distance. Clay pulled up and asked him how he was getting on.

"Oh, not so bad," said Richardson, coming out beside the buggy. "You don't seem to be catching many rabbits, my man."

"I'm doing my best, sir. A man can't do more. I've only just come in from setting the traps."

"Very well, I'll start you rabbiting. Come over to the store and I'll take your name."

SAD FATE. The New York newspapers recently published the details of the suicide of a society woman who became crazed by headachic grief, drowned herself in the harbor. What a sad end to a life that ought to have been completely happy!



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