Solving the Difficulty.

"Any children?" queried Rose, gently. He had just given her the interesting information that he was a widower. although so young-thirty-five at the

"One," he admitted; and his dejected tone seemed to imply that that one was an unsatisfactory possession-not quite right in its head, perhaps, or disfigured with a barelip. "We had only been married a year, you know, She

"Ah-h" broathed Rose, with soft intensity. She did not like to say more: ind the wemanly pity welling out to him in his misfortune was sufficiently expressed. Having consumed the afterdinner eigarette, indulged in at her urgent bidding, he was at liberty to respond to it; they exhaled their sighs together. It was, in fact, a particular-ly sympathetic night-mild, still, solitary, with a beautiful moon. They sat out in it alone, tete-a-tete, on ham-mock chairs, free to sit thus till bedtime, while their host and hostess, her macle and nunt, dozed over newspaper and knitting in the drawing-room be hind them; the world forgetting, by

the world forgot. Son or daughter?" Miss Lascelles asked, after a pause, not willing to break the thread of such an exquisite

"A boy," said Mr. Boll, still with that unfatherly air of discontent. "Some times I wish it was a girl. She could look after me by and by: I could have her trained to be my housekeeper and sew my buttons on-that sort of thing,

You would have to wait a long said Rose, "Judging by-by upon his very comely person, "it must be a perfect infant at present."

"Quite an infart; that is-let me seourteen months and a little over. Yes, it will be fifteen months on Thursday since he was born. And lost his

"Oh," laughed the young man, in an odd mirthless way, "you needn't waste any pity on him. Miss Lascolles, he's

"You haven't" oriod Hose, smilingly Indigment. "Well, you are a nice sort of a parent, I must say! Don't you have him with you at home then?"

I haven't get a home. I gave it up use of a home to me? I should never be there; my business takes me all over the country, and you can't leave a house and a young child to servants. The little time that I did try to entry on by myself they played the deuce with everything, child and all Onwoman started feeding it with thick arrowroot. She'd have killed it, to a

Yes, indeed. The ideal 1 in it's incredible what some fools of women will do in the way of mismanaging a buby, 1 used to see a great deal of that when I was a district visitor.

"A mother of hulf a degen, too," said | ficulty?" Mr. Fell, reflectively, lighting another l. water-knew last what to do and new to do it. I will say that for her,

The instinct is in us all," remarked Miss Lascelles, drammily, to the man In the recon, who seemed resurvey the with his tonicue in his chock-"the H net, it could be be, I'm succ I could give many a mother points, as

normalisty say the other day, that mothers are boon, ast made. Very mothers are boon, not made. true, one. You see it in the fittle girls moreless their delle. I don't triple anvethree of a she-child that down't want | poor Maled's child messed and mauled dell an sweet her it been been by

"I always level thou," declared Rose, The issued convert to look at a sples to be that the effect light had fast touched, implified it skine out from its posts and there was danger of rup-ture to the delicate thread of the top-late to the delicate thread of the tople that was reaving so charming a and there was the old mother with her conversation. Wherefore the young experience; and I was obliged to go come of his fittle son.

poses, the last purfed auchide in silence, there amended "Nese not exhelly they went to Melbourne together. And With a cread of his mother's, not her

"B nebet have been a great difficulty." minimum of Rose, in a feeling tene. with completely. "In fact, it you me confounded six-one that I can't for matter of that, looking at the business the life of lar see my way out of from their point of view, it appears one that ... However, I mustn't talk even now that I did not for the best,

ought to be talked about to anybody," And yet he yearned to talk about it. w; and to this particularly sym-of her 'teens and experienced in the wince like a galled horse, troubles of life, such as weighed him ; down. There was "something about pealed to him, and he did not know what; but an author, who knows everything, knows exactly what it was:

It was the moonlight night. A few words from her, backed by the nameless influences of the hour,

loosened his tongue. You mustn't think me an unnatural parcet." he said "It's not that at ail. I'm awfully fond of him. I've got his photograph in my packet-I'll show it o you when we go in-the last one pay for the nurse's beard, and that's for the time being. I get a new one about once a month, in all sorts of getups, clothes and no clothes, but all as | with lots of spare rooms in their house, fat as butter, and grinning from ear to and I just tooked on it as a sort of ear with the joy of life. You never saw such a fetching little cuss. I'd give anything to get hold of him-if I

But, surely-his own father"-"No. It sounds absurd to you, nat-urally; but that's because you don't understand the situation." "I can't conceive of any situation"-

CURE IN THE WORLD. ABSOLUTELY PAINLESS. TRIAL BOTTLE FREE.

"Of course not. It's a preposterous situation. And I just drifted into it, I don't know how-oh, I do know-it was for the child's own sake; so that you really mustn't call me a heartless parent any more, Miss Lascelles. Nobody would do that who knew what I'd suf-fered for him?" Mr. Bell took the secacrhed deeply. "Even in the beginning it would have been difficult to get out it, having once got in," he contin-

ned, after a pause; "but it has been going on so long, getting worse and worse every day and every hour, till now I'm tangled up and helpless, like

Miss Lascelles leaned forward, rost- only awkward, too embarrassing altoing her arms on her knees, and spread- | gethe ing her hands in the unchanting meonearls-and made her rather worn face was a graceful, thoughtful, confidential pose, and her eyes, uplifted, gleamed just under his eyes, ineffably soft and kind.

'I'm so sorry!" she murmured, "But if I don't know what the trouble is-Oh. don't tell me if you'd rather not! can't beln you, can I? I do wish I

"So do L. Eut I'm afraid nobody an help me. And yet-perhaps a fresh aused, bresolute; then succumbed to mptation. "Look here, Miss Lascelles. I'll just tell you how it is, if you'll emise not to speak of it again. You are no gossip, I know-you will understand-and it will be such a blessed your tooks," she turned admiring eyes | tellef to tell somebody, And perhaps you could advise me, after all'-

"Let me try," she broke in, encourgingly. For an instant her pearly and touched his sleeve. "You may trust me," she said.

"I'm sure of it. I'm sure of it," he responded, warmly. He flung away the "Poor, poor little thing" ejaculated | femnant of the second eigarette, took a ement to collect himself, and plunged

You see, we had nobody belonging any pity on him, Alies Lauvelles, he's to us in this country. I came out to all right. Bolls in fat-never ailed a make a living and a home for her-too thing in his life-might take the prize crowded up in England-and as soon as in a baby show. So they tell me. I I'd got a bit of steady income I sent haven't seen him sayself for a good for her to join me. Of course, we had to be married from somewhere, and some kind old people that I knew took her off the ship and looked after her for a doy or two, and we drove to church from their house. Their daughter acted as beldesmald, and she and when my poor girl died. What's the my wife got to be great chums. She used to come and stay with us a good deat-it was lonesome for the poor girl in a strange land, and me so much way-and we used to put up with them when we went to town. In fact, they were what you might call bosom friends. That was just the difficulty.

'You are speaking," queried Rose gently, "of the person who has the "Exactly. Ah, I see you begin to

understand. "I think so," said Rose, with a smile broad enough to be visible in any kind of moonlight. "But what was the dif-

"Well, you know, being so really fond for the sake of her dead friends what could I say? Especially as those we men were killing the unfortunate beat between them. She was not so very young, and was evidently clever at

'Ves," interposed Rose, smiling still. "And peculiarly situated for undertaking the job-much as you are situ ated here-living with two old folks who doted on her and were only too phased to let her do whatever she liked; fend of a buby, and in want of some object in life, and so on. But burdy it was for Mahel's sake. To se thoughty a set of bungling ignorant creatures, who had no interest whatever in it, was more than she could stand, she said; to tell the truth, I couldn't stand it either, and she begged harden and of back haves and vermela there was no female friend or relative tio to let her have it to look after, as lady hartened to inquire what had bes gway, and-and-well, I just had to say t suppose," she Said, "he is with his the-the doctor found a-we engaged the mother's people of saltitude of research of nurse that does everything, you should reasonable the artifude of research of nurse that does everything, you sort of nurse that does everything, you Unfortunately for family is trouble seemed ever, instead of just in England; so is onic. Neither of beginning. I gave up my bouse and up had a sout here belonging to us. my accessivy business, miserable enough, as you may suppose, but a east with an easy mind about the boy. As far as he was concerned, as far as port, dear Mabel was concerned, I fel into the most rediculous hole, the most that I had noted for the best. For the

shour it to you. It's use a thing that Indeed, I don't for the life of me understand how any man could have noted otherwise under the circumstances." The listener, listening intently, here

"Ah, there you hit the weak spot Miss Luscelles, right in the bull's-eye. be thought, that irrestabily ap-ed to him, and he did not know could have paid her, of course there's have been no difficulty at all. But she wouldn't be paid,"
"You ought to have insisted on it,"

"I did insist. I insisted all I knew but she said it was a labor of love for her friend, and seemed so hurt at the idea of money being brought into the question that I was ashamed to press her beyond a certain point. She let me all. The baby didn't eat anything, you see, and they were comfortably off.

temporary visit until we shuld be able to turn around a bit. But"-with another sigh-"he's there yet."

Miss Lascelles nodded, with an air of "Of course, you went often to see the

"Whenever I was in town. And found him always the same, so beauti-fully cared for that, upon my soul, I never saw a baby in my life so sweet and clean and wholesome looking; jolly as a little sandboy all the time, too." "That means that he had a perfect constitution, inherited from you, evifently. And you were fortunate in the

"Very fortunate. But it appeared that beyond-beyond running the com-

lady I spoke of-did everything. Made

> "Hought his clothes?" "Oh," groaned the wretched man, " so. What did I know about : baby's clothes? And she wouldn't answer my questions—said he was all right and didn't want for anything, as I could see with my own eyes. I tried making presents, used to send and things, found out her birthday and gave her a fewel, took every chance I could get to work off the obligation, but it was no use. She gave me a barthday present after I'd given her

"Well, if moths will no into spiders vebs," remarked his companion, "they

oust take the consequences." "Sometimes they get helped out," he replied. "Some beneficent godlike being puts out an omnipotent finger-" He looked at her and she looked at him. At this moment they seemed to have known one another intimately for years. The moon again

Tell me everything," she said, "and

So then he told her that he had been giving up the habit of frequently visig to a little insect tragedy going on liting his son. Cowardly and weak, he knew, but the thing was too confound-

'But she writes. She writes a full light, which made them look white as proport every week, tells me what he weighs and when he's got a fresh tooth sek as if finely carved in ivery. E and how he crawls about the carpet and into her hed of a morning, and imitates the cat mowing, and drinks I don't know how many pints of new milk of day, and all that sort of thing. I be have the rescal has the appetite of a young tiger, and yet I can't pay for what he cats! The nurse was long ago dispensed with, so that I've not even her board to send a check for, that they might by chance make a trifle of profit out of. It seems too late now to simeye-a woman's clearer insight" - He ply take the child away, and there leave it: I haven't the unspeakable shabbiness, the brazen impudence, the mean selfishness, to do such a thing; and, besides, he might come to any seri of grief, poor little chap, in that case There's no doubt in the world that her taking of him and doing for him have been the salvation of his health, and perhaps his life. And I know, by what she tells me, that he regularly dotes or her-as so he ought-and would how! his very head off if we took him from What could I do with him If I did take him? I've no home, and nebody to look after it if I had, and hired serants are the deare with a lone man at their mercy. It would be worse now than it was at first. And so"-with : heavy sigh-"you see the situation. I'm just swallowed up body and bones. drowned fathoms deep, in a sea of Jebt an dobligation that I can never by any assability struggle out of, except"--

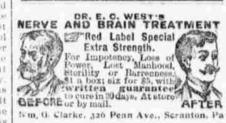
He paused and blushed, 'Except," continued Rose, with the ter, "except by marrying her, you mean" Yes, I see the situation. I appreciate your point of view. I should understand if it were not that she unquestionably laid the trup for you de liberately-just as that spider laid his for moths and files. And marriage by

capture has gone out."
"Oh, don't say that!" the man protested in haste. "I would not for a moment accuse her of that. She was Mabel's friend-it was for her-it was out of pure womanly compassion for the motherless child, at any rate, in the beginning. And even now I have no right whatever to suppose"-

"But you know it, all the same. Evthat you know it. You may as well be

"Well-but it's a caddish thing to hasn't she the right to expect it? However, that's neither here nor there. The onesty, in common manliness, I should repay her if I can; and there's no othr way-at least, I can't see any other way. It is my fault; and not hers, that I don't take to the notion, for a better woman never walked, nor one that have your free choice, don't you?"

would make a better mother to the boy. But, somehow, you do like to "And ought to have it," queth Rose, with energy. "And must have it, and shall. Now listen, Mr. Bell'-address ing him in such a tone of confidence and encouragement that he felt surshe was going to cut his bonds forth-with-"you have asked me to help you, and I can help you. It will be perfectly easy, situated as I am here. He will not miss her after a couple of days, nd she has really no earthly righ either to him or to you, and it would give me the greatest pleasure you can narine. This is what you must do"the leaned forward in her chair and gazed earnestly into his paling face, you must just hand that baby over to



'-Lengman's Magazine.

HERCULES ASBESTOS PIPE COVERING

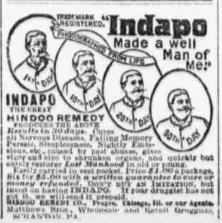
The Most Perfect Insulation.

WARREN-EHRET COMPANY Contractors for

Applied by

Ehret's Slag Roofing, 321 Washington Avenue

Choice Cuts E. MARKET, 321 Adams Avenue Everything in the line of fresh and alted Meats, Sausages, Lard, Etc. POULTRY AND GAMEIN SEASON. Telephone, No. 6823





We Want to See Your Countenance Today.

We'll Put a Smile On It with These on our Windows New Spring Suits and Overcoats on our Windows



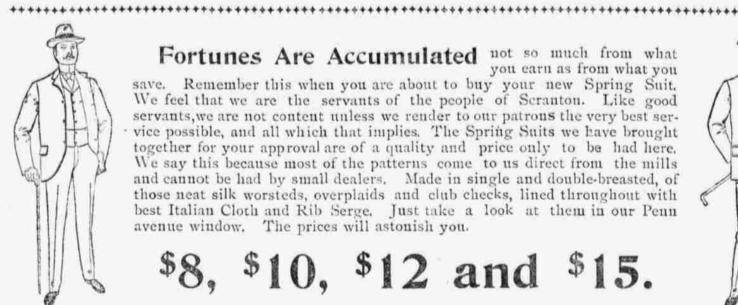
They Are Selling Fast! These Spring Top Coats. The people of Scranton read, mark and learn, that we are leaders. This is not a half price sale of Overcoats, but it is a moderate price sale of the best manufactured Top Coat to be found in the land of qualities, which will compare more than favorably with those turned out by the best merchant tailors, and our prices are certainly less than half. Look at these two in our show window.

\$8 and \$10



Some of the Best Dressed Men in this city are wearing our "Spring Pool Special," and one gentleman remarked: "I as little expected to get a Top Coat ready to wear, to fit me so perfectly at these moderate prices, as to hear of a night watchman dying in the daytime." They are the finest tailored garments we ever saw at these prices, and it is no wonder we had to send in duplicate orders so early in the season. See them in our show window.

\$12 and \$15



Fortunes Are Accumulated not so much from what you earn as from what you

save. Remember this when you are about to buy your new Spring Suit, We feel that we are the servants of the people of Scranton. Like good servants, we are not content unless we render to our patrons the very best service possible, and all which that implies. The Spring Suits we have brought together for your approval are of a quality and price only to be had here. We say this because most of the patterns come to us direct from the mills and cannot be had by small dealers. Made in single and double-breasted, of those neat silk worsteds, overplaids and club checks, lined throughout with best Italian Cloth and Rib Serge. Just take a look at them in our Penn avenue window. The prices will astonish you.

\$8, \$10, \$12 and \$15.

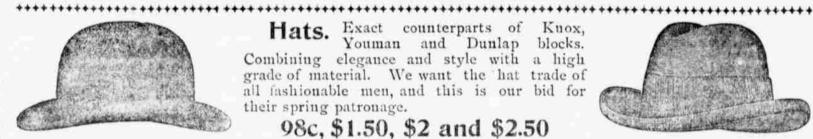


The Boys' and Children's Clothing Department

In this store, will be found full of novelties of the first water, and we defy all competition in quality and price, we want the mothers of Scranton children to see our show windows and judge for themselves. Our prices for three garment long pants suit from \$5.00.

Two-garment knee pants suits from \$2.25.

And we want you to see that Vestee Suit from \$1.89 to \$3.50.



Hats. Exact counterparts of Knox, Youman and Dunlap blocks. Combining elegance and style with a high grade of material. We want the hat trade of all fashionable men, and this is our bid for their spring patronage.

98c, \$1.50, \$2 and \$2.50



KEEP YOUR



On Our Windows

SAMTER BROS.

Clothiers, Hatters and Furnishers.

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇





On Our Windows

Seeds

Fertilizers

Refrigerators

Ice Chests.

HUNT & CONNELL CO., 434 Lackawanna Ava.

Lager Beer Brewery

Manufacturers of OLD STOCK

Telephone Call, 2333.

NEW YORK DENTAL PARLORS "TEETH MADE PERFECT."

ORIGINATORS OF PAINLESS DEVILISTA! We have all the latest discoveries for allalating pain.
We extract teeth, fill teeth, and apply gold. y a method patented and NO CHARGE for paintess



Full Set Teeth, \$5.00. Gold Crowns, 83.99.

All other work at proportionately low prices, an Gold Crowns and Bridge Work a Specialty.

Being the oldest and largest dental pariors in the world, we are so well equipped that all work done by us is the best to be had. Our operations are positively painiess. All work guaranteed for 10 years.

NEW YORK DENTAL PARLORS Corner Luckawanna and Wyoming Aves., (Over Newark Shoe Store.

Finest Solderless 18k Wedding Rings. The new Tiffany Style.

Wedding Presents

--IN-Fine Sterling Silverware,

Rich Cut Glass. Clocks, &c.

Our optician, Mr. Adams, can fit

all cases of defective vision. Prices

very reasonable.

130 Wyoming Ava.

NEW YORK HOTELS.

The St. Denis

Broadway and Eleventh St., New York. Opp. Grace Church. European Plan. Rooms 51.00 a Day and Upwards. In a modest and unobtrusive way there are few better conducted notels in the metropolis than the St. Denia.

The great popularity it has sequired can readily be traced to its unique location, its bemedike atmosphere, the peculiar excellence of its crisine and service, and its very moder ate prices.

WILLIAM TAYLOR AND SON

NEW YORK. AMERICAN PLAN, \$3.50 Per Day and Upwards.

Cor. Sixteenth St. and Irving Place,

Day and Upwards. I. D. CRAWFORD,

Proprietor.

EUROPEAN PLAN, \$1.50 Per

The Cinchbar Mopstick

> Price 25 cents. Worth a Dollar. Order of your dealer. LADIES

Clean your Kid Gloves with MILLER'S GLOVEINE. For sale only by Mears & Ha gen, headquarters for dressed and undresse. Rid gloves in all the most desirable shades.

OF SCRANTON.

ness and Personal Accounts. Liberal Accommodations Extended According to Balances and Responsibility. S Per Cent. Interest Allowed on

Interest Deposits.

Special Attention Given to Rusi-

\$200,000 Surplus 350,000 79,000 Undivided Profits,

WM. CONNELL, President. HENRY BELIN, Jr., Vice Pres. WILLIAM H. PECK, Cashler

The vault of this bank is protected by Holmes' Electric Prolective system.

ASK FOR THE B95KLET ON

GIVES THE OFF BEST LIGHT THE WORLD AND !S ABSOLUTELY SAFE FOR SALE BY THE

ATLANTIC REFINING CO SCRANTON STATION.

ST. PAUL ASSOCIATION, missariat department, so to speak, she did next to nothing for him. Miss the