he forest Republican.

CUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, BY W. R. DUNN.

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## TIONESTA, PA., MARCH 4, 1874.

# HIS X MARK.

# BY ELLA F. MOSBY.

"Now of all the distinctions of man, The highest is his infinite power of amend-ment, of reputation, of recovery, of imnew and complete LIVERY STABLE in provement.

### CHAPTER I.

I never liked Leigh Page. His life was of all others the most distasteful to me-an utterly aimless, drifting exstence, without strong desire, either for good or evil.

He had talents certainly,-a keen wit and subtile analysis-but he used them only for caricature and burlesque. His very tone had a drawl, and his face a latent sneer. But his friends (who were few) said he was capable of kind and generous nets, and the Goulricks (his half-sister's family) seemed absolutely devoted to him.

Curtis Rolles, my young adjutant, would have disliked him less but for this. Like him, he never could, because there was an inborn lack of congeniality between the two; Leigh, blase and indifferent, and Curtis, passionate, shy, thoroughly in earnest, and full of intense vitality. But he was engaged to Rachel Goulrick, Then Rachel's bro (George Goulrick's youngest sister,). and her admiration for Leigh Page, and gratification for his kindness to her brother's family, almost drove tears to her eyes. They streamed Curtis wild with jealousy, although he down her cheeks as she lowered her tried to, and I believe did, conceal it from her.

But I knew a crisis was imminent when I heard her reprove her lover indignantly for uttering a rather severe criticism upon Leigh Page's idle life in her presence. "No one shall speak before me against him !" she said, excitedly, and the quick tears stood in her dark-blue eyes, "when he has been the kindest, truest friend my brother ever had. We might be beggars now but for him !"

Curtis Rolles did not reply, but I saw him bite his lip and clench his hand as if with sudden pain, and I knew his pazsion was at fever-heat. He had offered at the time of George's failure to do all which Leigh had done, and he suspected the latter of making capital of his kindness to the brother in order to influence the sister.

So when I entered the mess room that night, and found Leigh Page exhibiting to a crowd of amused companions some clever caricatures on Curtis Rolles,-and they hit fairly enough, poor fellow, for Curtis was too earnest not to be vulnerable-I felt uncasy.

At last I said to Leigh Page-"My ALLERY. good fellow! you had better put these things aside. Curtis will be here soo n, and this sort of thing won't do. One has a prejudice against a joke on one's self, you know."

> out of his lazy blue eyes, and threw the drawings down on the table, in full "But I do view of the group now entering the door. Curtis Rolles was one. "What's this?" asked Burton Andrews, sauntering up to the table. "It's drews, sauntering up to the table. "It's a mighty clever thing! Why, Curtis, the sound of music broke upon the it is you to the life, my boy! Curtis Rolles looked at it in silence, and his boyish features began to grow curiously stern ; but the very force of passion kept him outwardly quiet.

\$2 PER ANNUM.

of four months ago.

He came into my room late one

night. His eyes had a heavy look

"I thought Rachel Goulrick's con-

scientiousness was morbid; it seemed

life-indeed, the happiness of two lives

He fired up at once, and, to my sur

"She is right ! and I am not such a

"You look tired," I said, pityingly,

I agreed readily, for I did not feel

misery was the very worst for soul or

We were awakened at half-past

"It is on the Stregaras road !" I ex-

Curtis did not answer, but I saw by

the flash in his eyes and the sudden

compression of his lips that he remem-

I did not ask what he was going to

do. I did not doubt him more than

my own life. We dressed hurriedly, sprang on our horses, and were on the road in

less time than it takes to write these

The blaze and clouds of smoke were

awful to the right of us. We could

hear the forest trees crack and fall

one by one with a crash, as we rode.

Presently we neared the burning re-

gion, and our horses began to be restive

and to shy from the smoking brands.

pool of water, which had already been

Then we hastened on, still without a

word, to the old house. It was still

standing, though the smoke was blown

in such volumes between ns, that we

could just see it occasionally, as a gust

of wind cleared away the thick cloud

for a few minutes and it rolled back

"I am not too late!" cried Curtis,

burned for some distance around.

We got down, and tied them near a

bered Leigh Page.

few lines.

figure rush into the square where Leigh Page was standing. Curtis Rolles tried to stop her, but about them, and his mouth wore a listshe waved him back with an imperious less, tried expression, as different as possible from the bright, merry smile

gesture that would not be gainsaid. Leigh Page did not see her; he was talking to another officer, when he heard her voice, tremulous, vibrating with intense emotior, as she knelt on cruel and wicked to sacrifice a young the earth before him.

"Since Curtis Rolles will not ask -to a mere scuple ; and I said so very your pardon, I, his betrothed, on whose strongly. heart this failure and shame lics heavily, I ask it on my knees. And," as she lifted her hands to heaven, as if prise, defended her. to call it as witness to here words, "I brute yet as even to wish to change her,

will never marry him until he makes reparation for the blow." or lower her to my level for my pleasure. I know what she says is true, and my whole soul revolts from it. I Leigh Page caught her hand in both can't give up, and I am not worthy of of his,

"I recall my challenge." He turnher ed to Curtis Rolles, and said, in a clear, as the flush faded, and he leaned back ringing voice, "and I apologize for my rudeness before. Gentlemen !" he said exhausted. "Yes," he answered, "I am glad of it. If I could only chill my own thoughts always by fatigue I might be happier. Colonel, if you will let me, to the officers standing by, "I do not need to prove my courage now ?"

There was the scar of a sabre-cut across his hand, which was visible as I will sleep here to-night." he turned aside from the kneeling girl, and the spectators uttered a shout of applause. No man indeed doubted

body. ward, and she went with him, but not three by a dull, roaring sound in our until some earnest, graceful words of ears, and as I sprang up hastily, I saw praise from Leigh Page had brought the whole horizon crimson with a belt of flames. claimed, as I looked out.

soul. He had refused to acknowledge Leigh Page's words to him by the slightest signs; he did move once as he spoke to Rachel the last time, but except for that, it might have been a marble statue standing there. The expression in his face was one that Shak. matchless pathos in his "Cymbeline."

And I did not know how such a rupture, between two natures so tenacious

The voice of the speaker seemed eager and tremulous as he spoke of his love for the young girl by him, whose dark eyes drooped under his own. He told her that she was like a new and Leigh Page gave me a defiant stare be could overlive his worthless and

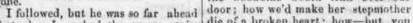
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COING TO SPELLING SCHOOL.

That fair young creature who went with us! It don't make any difference that she went back on her word, grew up to be a batchet-faced old maid, her voice like a file and her temper catsup -she was lovely then. "Would the fair and lovely Augusta accept our company to a spelling school out at Duck Lane, Thursday night?' The fair Augusta would, she said, and she did. Such a moon, such an easy mo-tion of the sleigh! Such singing in chorus! Every girl had a front door key in her pocket, and every young man felt as if he could climb a shed 40,000 feet high to get into his own chamber window. That fair young creature how she pretended to shiver with cold until an arm was gently and affectionately placed around her deli-cate waist. Then the weather suddenly grew warmer, and she didn't shiver any more. It was a beautiful night. We observed that Bill Jones and Sarah Smith seemed very affectionate. She said it seemed so to her, but having stuck the end of a horse blanket in her eye, she wasn't prepared to make an affidavit. Somehow after that the conversation began to grow more and easy about the boy; such a state of more interesting, and with that fair young creature's head on our shoulder we'd have sat out to ride to Vermont and back without a stop. She was so artless and innocent; so child-like and confiding. She told all about how her stepmother pounded her with the roll-ing pin, and when we thought of a rolling piu whacking against her fragile form and bounding over her alabaster shoulders, our hair stood on end with mad freuzy. She said she sometimes thought she'd get married to escape further persecution, and we were about to lay our hand on our heart, and offer to be her's forevermore, when the sleigh stopped at the school house,

Then came the spelling down, It was Brighton against Bungtown, with the schoolmaster in favor of Bungtown. Such words as "catarrh" "tur-key," "parallel," etc., soon reduced the "sides" to a half dozen, and at length we were left to sustain the hon-or of Brighton. The schoolmaster was determined that Bungtown should win, and it did when we spelled "om-nibus" with a double "s". He said it wasn't right, and when Brighton insisted, he offered to uphold Bungtown with the iron poker. However, it was an object to be consoled and sympathized with by "our girl." She positively shed tears of anger and sym pathy, and she said there were two s's in omnibus of course, one on each side, and she wasn't positive but there was one on the door behind. By and by the conversation went back to stepmothers, rolling pins, alabaster shoulders and getting 'married, and she said she'd be "ours." We figured up how too far back. It is at the peril of your we could keep house on \$3.50 per life," they shouted ; but he had already week and have a dollar left ; just how the woodbine would trail over our



Then Rachel's brother came for-

veil and moved away, without a word,

to Curtis Rolles. The young fellow looked cut to the speare had painted with one line of

Past hope and in despair; that way past grace

and persistent, could be healed.

## CHAPTER II.

Leigh Page and Rachel Goulrick had been together for an hour in the garden. It was now twilight in the old, dark town of St. Augustine, and the early moon glimmered on the southern waters, and fell, shivered into a thousand fragments, through the palmetto leaves on the ground underneath. Large white moths floated dreamily in aerial circles over its fragrant blossoms and the moonlit orange-

again. oughs. and his eyes flashed with exultation. There were some men standing on the lawn, and they tried to stop him; "You cannot save him ; the room is

gone.

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"You meant these as insulting to me, Mr. Page?" he asked.

"If you find the truth an insult, Mr. Rolles, replied Leigh, with a cool, sneering lrugh. "Your friends recognize the resemblance."

A fierce blow in the face felled him to the earth; another and another fell with blind, passionate power, until the men separated them by force; but Leigh Page had had no opportunity to retaliate, and we knew the affair would not end there. The first stroke half stunned him, and when he left the room, bruised, scarred, and bleeding, not even his mother would have recognized his face.

sufficiently to go out, and it was suspected that a challenge had been sent. Thursday evening he was among the officers on the parade ground, though there was an ugly red scar on his brow. Curtis Rolles was also there, of course, but no sign of recognition passed between him and Leigh Page, or his friends.

There was a large crowd of spectators present, and among them, Rachel Goulrick. She was a light-hearted, impulsive girl, almost as quick with a she looked pale and downeast. I was gan discussing the chances of a duel. They seemed to thing there was no reconciliation between the two men, doubt of it.

"Ch, dear! and will no man try to stop them?" she exclaimed, in low, passionate tones; and then, before I quite understood the situation, the arrested by seeing her slight girlish would rather die than yield.

softly, "except as a dear friend. I love Curtis Rolles. Overlive your past for a nobler sake than mine."

air. It was some one playing the lovely Haydn Sonata of Beethoven. The melody seemed to float into the moonlight and shadow, and infuse them with a strange passion and pain. An infinite sweetness of desire thrilled through, while long, sorrowful, sighing notes trembled in the exquisite andante movement. It was as if a soul on the confines of eternity spoke to the souls behind in unearthly entreaty and tenderness.

As it died away, Leigh Page answered, with a new tone : "Then make your lover happy. Do not let me feel that I have blighted your two lives; and, indeed, I was to blame for the for the first provocation. There is no repation due to me now. Do not think of me, but forgive him, and make him happy."

She turned a face glowing with en-But in a few days he had recovered thusiasm toward him. "I know my judgment of you was truest. You are very generous, but I must be loyal to my sense of right as to my lover and my vow is between my soul and Heaven. You cannot lessen its force." He took her trembling hand in his, and kissed it with a reverential tenderness.

"I wish that you could have loved me," he said. "I wish I could have made you happy. No one could love you more.

And he went away. Three months had gone by, and still Rachel Gouljest as with the flash of temper which had gone by, and still Rachel Goul-marked her displeasure. This even-rick and Curtis Rolles were estranged. Leigh Page was ill in the old Stregastanding near her when two men be- ras house, a mile from town; and as yet there had been no further sign of

although it was understood that Leigh

"But I do not love you," she said, that when I reached the upper stairform of Leigh Page in his arsm.

burned and bleeding wound on his forehead, but he looked as if a new fiber.

His example animated the lookers-on to new efforts, and at last the fire was suppressed.

Leigh Page recovered, and after-West, where he did his country noble lars with the advice "to turn them and true service. I never saw him af and chalk the edges." This might be ter he left St. Augustine.

were married. Curtis always had a zigzag sear on his brow, which, by a curious coincidence, was in the same elegant spittoon. place that he had struck his enemy in

the face; but we, who knew how it came there, never thought that it disfigured his open, manly countenance,

Rachel's eyes were never so full of tender, passionate love and enthusiasm, nor her voice so full of emotion, as when she looked at it, for she be lieved, with her whole heart, that the noblest work of man was to atone and make reparation for a wrong. This scar-his x mark, as the old signatures have it-was in her sight the sign and symbol of the noblest and highest honor.- To-Day.

-The common phrase, "I thought I should kill myself laughing," became a sad reality with a man in Massachusetts last Friday morning. He was engaged in conversation with his wife and laughing very heartily, when suddenly he said, "Stop ; you make me laugh to much," and falling to the floor instantly expired.

A stoical Scotchuran was addressed by his sick wife: Oh, John I shan't leave this bed alive." "Please thee-self, Betty, and thee'l please me," re-

turned John, with equanimity. "I quite understood the situation, the such a keenly-sensitive and fiery na-whole crowd, about to disperse, were ture only could be,) and I thought he ted the dying woman. "Middlin Bet- Green Bay is northeast of Detroitty, only middlin,'

die of a broken heart : how-but you case, I met him with the insensible all remember. It was a boy's dream. She dicouraged us when she thought A brand from the falling door had she could marry a dashing clerk, and struck him as he came out, and left a her father set the dog on me, and her brothers threatened to shoot; but as I said, it don't made any difference life were bounding in every vein and now. When I think over the past, I feel to exclaim like Walt Whitman, "Oh, gim'me back them other days!

An applicant for old clothes at a Pine street residence, Saturday, re wards went to a new station in the far | ceived a half dozen soiled paper col-called generosity without judgement, Curtis Rolles and Rachel Goulrick and is in keeping with the act of a soldier's mother during the late war, who sent him in a Christmas box an

> "This is a very crooked path," said Jones to Brown, as they wound up the side of Montauvel. "Cooked !" was the reply, "it is so confounded zigrag you can stand with one foot on zig and the other on zag without any difficulty."

Galway, the capital of the Western Highlands of Ireland, is often humor-ously called "the nearest parish to America," it being the most westerly point in the Britsih Isles whence communication may be had with the New World,

It will afford sweeter happiness in the hour of death to have wiped one tear from the check of sorrow than to have ruled an empire, to have conquered millions, or to have enslaved the world.

"Well, Bridget, if I engage you, I shall want you to stay at home whenever I shall wish to go out." "Well, ma'am, I have no objections, providin' you do the same when I, wish to go out.

A Green Bay paper says that a widower with a clean shirt on can boats leave in May.