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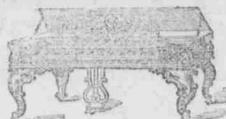
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## LILACS.

They hung, heavy plumes of purple, over the little gateway in that bright afternoon. A charitable breeze swept one scented banch of bloom a bit aside, just out of the reach of a little brown hand that had a moment ago ruthlessly stripped off half its blossoms.

But the owner of the hand had already turned about, with a toss of her black curls and a flirt of her pink calico dress, that scared the butterflies, and before the branch swung back she was hastening up the trim garden path, and flinging back a sharp speech over her shoulder at a tall, sunburned fellow who, with a vexed light in his eyes, stood in the gateway watching

"Oh, it don't matter what I think! Indeed, I don't think at all. You may take whom you like to the next Mayday dance; you won't take me!"

It was such a pretty shoulder over which these words were cast, and there was such a rosy flush of anger on the round cheek half veiled in curls, that it was no wonder that John Armitage took two or three steps in pursuit of the speaker; but he stopped, drew himself up with sudden pride, and said one reproachful word-

"Nancy !" The one addressed wavered a little in her retreat, then resumed it with increased celerity.

"Will you stop and listen to me?" the young man queried, his rising indignation somewhat modifying his tone of appeal.

"No!" and the pink called swept the myrtles on either side of the walk

gate. "But mark my words; you'll be sorry for this before these bushes here" aside-"are out of bloom! Now, good ove."

Nancy, peeping from behind a curtain after his retreating figure, cried. Perhaps the soliloquy will tell why.

"Well, it's all over between us now, any way. It's his fault, too. He'd no business to take any one else to the May-dance when I couldn't go. I shouldn't wonder if he's gone down to Sarah Anderson's now. They'll be engaged next thing, and she'll crow over me finely. He'll try to make me jealous"-here Nancy had a spasm of cry-

"See if I don't make him jealous

The way she would do it became apparent the next afternoon, when, dressed in a jaunty blue suit that set off well her creamy complexion, dark doctor's arm and had sat down in the curls, and tinted cheeks, she started for the village. The dainty blue parasol was lowered a little as she came to the pretentious block of buildings opposite the hotel, upon one of which fice hours from 8 to 10 a. m., from 3 to 5 p. m." But the face of the building was blank, and the office curtains lowered; so with an impatient exchamation under her breath, Nancy went that she could scarcely stiffe in the pilon to the post office, where, getting no low. letter, she turned discontentedly to-

ward home. The Fates forbade her. She had not accomplished a quarter of the dis-Dr. Gray, whose untty top buggy was the envy of all men, and whose faseinhad asked, eagerly:

"Miss Evans, may I have the pleasure of driving you home?"

The color brightened in Nancy's cheeks, the lighe in her eyes, as she assented with a charming smile; and in a moment they were slowly bowling along the road, and the blue ribbons were blown against the doctor's broadeleth.

Dr. Gray was young, handsome, not deficient in brains, with pocket-money enough to prevent him from being tragically carnest in his profession, and very much in love with the coquettish bit of womanhood by his side. As for Nancy, she was a little afraid of the gray eyes that could be quizzical as well as admiring, and of the smile that sometimes curled the corners of the black moustache. But Nancy was minus a lover just then, the doctor was a "catch," and so she laughed and chatted as the bay horse trotted along.

in a speech to inquire,

such a beautiful afternoon!" Nancy demurred, as in duty bound. "I -- I don't know. I guess it must be-almost tea-time."

"It is but half-past three," said the

"Confound my office hours!" com-

he said, "I'm sometimes obliged to others talked crops, politics and prosbreak through my office hours. I'm pects. She could not have spoken for it.' going now to see a -a patient on the her life, though she lenged to speak as How different seemed the way home, outskirts of the town." So they drove a condemned criminal longs to ask with John at her side. But Fancy

been in a critical state. The doctor speak to her, and at last he rose to go. leaning back in the carriage, let the reins lie loosely on the horse's back as ling particulars about grazing lands, to they paced slowly through the shady say "good-bye," while he just touched first." wood roads smelling of pines, while her hand. If he had looked at her, the Na the warm breeze fluttered the light miserable, pathetic look of appeal on curls across Nancy's arch black eyes, ber childish face would have gone and the blue silk parasol had to be straight to his heart; but he did not lillars aren't out of bloom yet, John; held up to keep the sun from her rose dare to look, and turning away ab- and I am-sorry as you said I'd be!" held up to keep the sun from her rose-bud of a face. The doctor had a lurking fear that Nancy was rustle and ignorant, but ah! she was so pretty!

How far they rode in this lazy way, sholly rapt in conversation, is not known. How far they would have forbid that girls should often know of the tragedies that are played everyridden is uncertain, if Nancy had not such misery as she suffered then! where in the springs and autumns, in sent a mischievous glance straight into When she at last joined the doctor, as the time of snowdrifts as well as in the the gray eyes, and inquired,

yours live?" The doctor laughed frankly, color-

ing nevertheless. "I see you understand the 'ways that are dark and the tricks that are vain' In the corner of the high old pew, with pretty well, Miss Nancy. And now I her veil hiding her face, she could at rois achievement near that place by

to before you spoke." rious and conscious.

his own fane closer to the curl-shaded one at his side, "that I wish I had the aisle, she pressed her hand impulsiveright to keep you with me always. Miss Nancy, will you look at me-will you let me?'

It was well that the doctor did not blushes, her lip quivered and her eyes "Very well," was the angry response, filled with tears. She had made up as he who pleaded turned toward the her mind to accept the doctor, but in this decisive moment the thought of John Armitage sent a pang, cruel in -brushing the low sprays sharply intensity, through her heart. Then came the memory of their yesterday's quarrel, and Nancy faltered, with a struggling smile,

"I-I don't know." She did know when, in the late twilight, she and the doctor walked together into the dusky sitting-room at home, where her father was dozing and her mother knitting, to ask their con-

sent and their blessing. "Dear me," said the good farmer, rubbing his eyes. "Two sech pieces of news in one day's cur'us hereabouts. I Armitage is a-goin' to Texas to farm to the Armitages. on his own account. I sorter thought, too, 't he au' Nancy fincied each other, but here she's wantin' to marry an-

other man. It's cur'us!" Nancy had taken her hand from the window. She heard, mistily, comments and congratulations; she answered questions, laughed at jokes. She walked down to the gate with the dector when he left, and stood there under the number the sign, "Dr. Miles Gray. Of lilacs, his arm about her, replying to his tender talk; but when he was gone, leaving a tender kiss on her lips, she rushed up stairs and threw herself on the bed in a perfect agony of sobbing

The story of the next week is backneyed. Such happenings are too common. Nancy came and went like the ghost of herself, but the whole village tance before the light roll of wheels was goesipping over her engagement, made her turn her head and start per- and her evidences of trouble were asceptibly. In a moment more young cribed to the "queerness of a girl just engaged." Little tired Mrs. Armitage ran over neross I ts one afternoon to ating smiles had won the hearts of all tell the Evanses that John was going the women, had drawn up his horse at Monday, and she guessed he would her side, had leaped to the ground and manage to get over and bid them good bye; and cried because her pet son was going away, and was cool and sharp to Nancy, evidently suspecting that she was the cause.

Perhaps light natures suffer most overwhelmingly. Often in those bantiful June days Nancy, all alone in some shadowy grassy place, with sunbeams shimmering above, would wonder in a dim, childish way if she would not 'die when John went.' Only one liope was left; John was coming to say good bye. Oh, if she could only let him know how it really was! But how could she? And she would look down despairingly at the little gold circlet on her finger.

Sunday afternoon John finally came. Nancy, sitting in the parlor with the doctor, caught a glimpso of the wellknown figure at the gate under the lilars again. For a moment the room whirled around, and she was deathly The farm house came in sight too white; then also rose mechanically, soon, and the dector stopped saidway saying she must bid Mr. Armitage good bye, and went out to the door-"Won't you take a longer ride? It's way, where John was greeting her parents, and warding off the Newfoundland with a laugh.

"Yes," he was replying as Naucy good chance out there for a young felsomewhat confused. "But aren't these ways been enterprising, so I mean to ly. try it."

mented the doctor to himself. Aloud in pieces while for half an hour the mercy. Not once did John turn his The "patient" could hardly have obstinate auburn head to look at er He interrupted himself, while detailruptly, walked down the garden path "And the doctor?" asks the critical with the garrolous old farmer hobbling reader. Ab, Nancy is no model of escape her mother's eye by running up faulty young girl, erring and loving stairs. She did not faint; but God and suffering, playing her part in one in duty bound, the stunned look in her | time of lilacs. "Why, where does that patient of face was pitiful. She "was not well," she said, in answer to his alarmed que-

It was Nancy who proposed that they should go to church that evening. effort would have been insupportable. a farm in Tom Green county, Texas: "What was it?" queried Nancy, cu- Mrs. Armitage was alone in her pew, and cried throughout the service. ly, saying in a quick whisper, "Mrs. Armitage, I'm so sorry for you!"

"I don't want any of your seriow!" was the sharp response. "It's fine to

sorry enough!" Poor Nancy! The clock was on the stroke of eleven that night when her lover finally took his leave, and she was free to pace the moonlit sitting. room from end to end with glittering eyes. She did not cry. She felt as if she were going crazy, and in her desperation she did not care if she did. Hour after hour passed, and still she paced there, till her rigid face showed

whitely in the first faint gray of morning. "Oh, would be go? Could be go? Would nothing happen to stop him?" Scarcely knowing what she was doing, Nancy slipped through the door, and hatless, trailing her dainty blue skirt

It was all still dark and dewy. She she paused on the outskirts of the oldsickened her. Her mind was in a whirl. She did not know why she was there or what she would do. She was in deadly fear lest some one should discover her, yet she could not go away. For half an hour she crouched there her! A hasty peep through the bushpot, and he stood with folded arms where they fell. looking down at her a moment before his amazement found vent in the exelamation:

"Nancy !" He had never seen such utter abandon and agony of shame as that with their money when they advertise a which the poor little maiden hid her purse that is "open to all." She wonface and cowered in the wet grass with ders how long their cash will hold out the cry:

"Ob, what shall I do? Don't speak to me! Go away!" and burst into a

storm of tears. For answer he gathered the little wet figure in his arms, smoothed the tumbled curls, tried to warm the icy hands, and did not dare to question, while he sootbed her in his tenderest you can finish it." And the heart of

"Take me home," said Nancy, as soon as she found strength to speak at

"I shall do no such thing," was the decided answer, as John's disengaged hand lifted her face so that he could see it, "till you tell me why you came. ] Naney, I couldn't help hoping a litcame up, "they say there is a pretty the when I saw you here. Don't make

Nancy stood pulling the rose vines Nancy in tones of heartfelt relief. Yale."

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All bills for yearly advertisements collected quarterly. Temporary advertisements must be paid for in advance.
Job work, Cash on Delivery. But somebody'll see us. Take me home, John, and I'll tell you all about

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How different seemed the way home, was in no hurry to tell all about it. She only said, nervously, halding John's hand in both hers :

"Promise me you wen't go away." "Ah, but I want another promise

Nancy looked back at the plumy hedge whose shelter they had left, and said, with a half smile, "You see the

by his side. Nancy had just time to Christian maidenhood. She is only a

## Some Indian Fighting.

One of the editors of the Ean Antonio Express was recently at Fort Stockton, and relates the story of a hedon't dare tell you what I was going least he quiet, and one hour more of Mr. James D. Spears, now residing on

"Four miles west of the station, in a

mesquite flat, is a spot which was the "It was," said the doctor, bending Nancy's heart so went out to the poor scene of a combat with Indians. In woman that, when they met in the April, 1870, twenty-six Comanches attacked the down stage. The driver was A. J. Bobo, and two colored soldiers were aboard as guards. The only other passenger was James D. Spears, the agent of the El Paso Mail Compaguess why, smids. Nancy's bright talk; but you and I know well enough my. Fortunately the nules were genwho's the cause of it all. One word | tle, and the stage was balted when the from you would step it now if you were Indians approached. As they emerged abreast from the mesquite thicket within forty yards, Spears, who was standing with his left foot on the step and his right knee against the stauchion inside, called out to the Indians: "Hold up; where are you going?" There was a momentary halt and a burried handling of weapons; but, be-fore they could fire a volley, the clear crack of Spears' Winchester rifle had rung out three times, and three Indians had tumbled from their saddles. At the unexpected reception the party scattered, and continued the fight in ancient Indian style-by dashing at full gallop in circles around the stage, yelling and firing as they ran. One heard on'y an hour since that John through the dewy grass, ran across lots had his thigh broken by a ball from Spears' Winchester, and fell sprawling to the ground, but rose, holding fast to heard the village clock strike three as the reins and bugan to hop off, leading his horse, when another bullet from fashioued flower garden behind the the same death-dealing rifle felled him house, and shrunk behind the hedge of to a last embrace of mother earth. blossomy lilacs, whose potent odor Meanwhile, another dashing brave, riding at full speed upon a superb white horse was shot dead by Baba, who fired his earbine with his right hand, while holding the whip and reins in his left. The horse was killed a moment after by Spears, and fell not shiveringly, never taking her eyes off far from him. Just after this, among John's window, but starting every time the numerous bullets fired by the Tuthe curtain blew. Suddenly a step on dians, one struck and wounded one of the garden path startled har so violent- the stage mules, and the team took ly that she scarcely could suppress a fright and ran on to the station. The scream. It was probably some of the Indians did not follow. During the work people-oh, if they should see fight, one of the colored guards was so paralyzed with fright that his gun es showed her that it was worse than dropped from his hands without a shot that: that it was John himself, strid- being fired by him, and the other, afing straight toward the gap in the ter shooting once at an angle of fortybedge, and wearing a most unpropi- five degrees upward, subsided into the tious face. Nancy, in blind terror of interior of the stage, showing a large discovery, crawled on her hands and surface of white about the eyes and knees close under the lilaes. He had mouth. No one in the stage was hit. passed, was almost by, when a bird Five Indians were killed and four that Nancy had disturbed flow out wounded. Two of their horses were with loud chirpings. One end of the killed and five were crippled. The Inloosened bine sash had caught on a dians removed their dead and woundstiff bough, and the color arrested his ed as usual, but the bones of the horses eye. Two strides brought him to the are still to be seen on the roadside

A young woman in Springfield, who doesn't exactly understand about the "fall meeting," thinks the Park Association are getting decidedly free with with such a spendthrift policy.

There is only one eigar left in the oox, and there were two young hopefuls struggling for it. The first little boy clutched it, but he said consoling. the other little boy was comforted.

You can generally tell the man who has just come from the senside. Ho has a burnt nose. If it is of Grecian outline, it now looks like a half scraped radish, while a pug nose does not look unlike a strawborry, ball hidden in dough.

Blipkins: "I ain't much on probme give it up! I thought my pride lems in Euclid, and don't care about doctor, after consulting his watch. low with health and energy—How do would support me through anything, evolution, but when a man sits down Oh, well, then—" began Nancy, you do. Miss Nancy?—and I've al- but I'm afraid it won't," he ended sad- on a bumble-hea at a picnic I can tell would support me through anything, evolution, but when a man sits down him how long it will take him to ge