

"There," he exclaimed, a moment later, "it's all untangled but one little curl. Before I loosen that one, I want your answer."

"Oh, dear, what a torment you are," she said laughing. "Please undo that last lock."

"No," he returned, relentlessly, "not till I have your answer. And, by the way, it had better be a favorable one, too."

"Well, since you have me in your power, I suppose I shall have to surrender with the best of grace. So I'll say 'yes.'"

But the tone of her voice did not at all indicate that she had been forced to the decision.

Quickly the last little knot was untied, and she gave a little sigh of relief. The big policeman passed a few paces away, and glanced curiously in the direction of the young people. What he saw there caused him to smile.

The young man seemed to be suspiciously close to his fair partner, and the big guardian of the law thought he heard a soft sound as of an osculatory exchange. But a cloud had at that moment slightly obscured the face of the moon, so that the big policeman was not sure that he had kissed her. For he knew how deceptive was summer moonlight.

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### "THE LADY OR THE TIGER."

#### A SKETCH.

He sat in his easy chair before the fire place, deep in thought. Did you ever notice how stimulating watching a fire is to thought? Ever since the days of Ik Marvel young men and maidens have delighted to indulge in fireside reveries.

And this young man was no exception to the rule.

What were his thoughts, think you? What did he see in the coals?

What he saw there bothered him, as it has bothered mankind since the beginning of Time, and as it will continue to bother them until the end of things.—A girl's fair face.

Yes, he thought he loved her—and she—well, he knew she wasn't indifferent to him. Their acquaintance had gone so far that he must now make a deciding move. What should he do? Should he go and see her to-night. He knew to do so would result in his asking her to share his life-work? He looks to the coals for answer. Her face rises before him with renewed intensity. How sweet and tender and loving she was. He fancied