"That will do," I said, holding the sheet, covered with Jack's neat handwriting at arm's length. "Concise; to the point; not too apoony; slightly formal; but under the circumstanec better so."

Jack folded the letter and addressed it; and with serious misgivings at my heart which I dared not express 1 walked with him to the postoffice, and saw him drop the missive into the box. We did nothing all day but lounge shout the house and garden, waiting anxiously. until the postman would bring the letters in the evening. At length the weary day passed and the letter carrier arrived; and sure enough there it was, a little pink note, addressed to John Ferrars, Esq. My heart, beat as quickly as if it were my own happiness that was at stake as Jack broke the seal.

I looked over his sholder and what we both saw was.

Wednesday Afternoon. Dear Mr. Ferrars-I except the great honor

you, I would like to see papa, and obtain his consent to your engagement. Yours, sincerely,

EUNICE HALLAM. There is an old adage that says "trnth is stranger than fiction," and if even I felt the force of it, it was as 1 read that note. Contrary to all my expectations, Jack had actually been accepted!

He bore his good fortune with much more equanimity than I did, his only remark being: "Eunice-what a pretty name!" While I, with strangely mixed feelings, actually got up shurrah.

The next difficulty was how or where to meet Colonel Hallsm and obtain his consent. An idea seized me. I had seen the old colonel walk down the road a short time before.

"Stay you here," I said to Jack; and, putting on my hat, off I bolted.

I had not gone tar when I espied the colonel leading on a wire fence, watching some workmen digging a drain. Pretending to be interested in the same pursuit, I, walked up and made some remarked regarding the work. Thereafter we got on the most triendly terms which ended, as I intended it should by his walking home with me, and, coming into the house to join in a rubber of whist,

I conducted him into the dining room, and then went for Jack. He began to get slightly vervous when he heard what I had done but I told him not to say unything to the colonel about his daughter to-night only to make himself as agreeable as he could. I then instructed longer in Dail d'Arroch ; and summoning Mrs. Mrs. Mason to set down the very best she had in the house for supper and went to entertain as we required to be off by the first steamer in our interesting guest.

We found the colonel a charming old gentleman. At whist he and dummy beat Jack and me; and possessing an inexhaustible fund of humorous stories the time passed so pleasantly that it was twelve o'clock before he rose to

A cordial invitation to visit him was extended to us, as we bade him good night in the hall, which was exactly what I wanted, and meant we should have. Pulling a grave face, I said: "Nothing would give us greater pleasure it we could stay longer, but we have to leave for

London the day after to-morrow." "Then you must spend to-morrow evening with me," was his hearty rejoinder. "I will

take no refusal.

And to the arrangement we agreed. "A thousand thanks to you, Bob; you're a

capital fellow," said Jack, gratefully grasping my hand as we parted for the night.

"Ferrars !" "Hollo !"

"Are you ready?" I was donning my dress suit preparatory to presenting myself in Col. Hallam's drawing room. "Yes."

"Come bere, then."

He came in dressed for conquest evidently, and looking faultlessly handsome. I surveyed him critically. There was not an item amiss, from the nelige arrangement of his auturn curls to the polish of his patent leathers.

"How do I look?" he asked, with a gay laugh and a satisfactory glance at his magnificent proportions in the mirror.

"Like a Polish prince." I auswered. "Miss Hallam might have many lovers, but I'll bet a new hat she never had a better looking fellow than-you. Now look here you'll do exactly as I tell you, and not diverge one iota from the rule I lay down. Ask for Colonel Hallam, and say you wish to see him alone. When the first greetings are over, you'll explain to him that Mr. Harding is detained for a short time with a fittle packing he had to finish, and that you did not wait for him, as you had something to communicate to him—the colonel. Then pitch into the subject nearest your heart; tell him of your business and social connections, and don't neglect to impress him with the fact that you are your mother's only son, and heir to her fortune and estates. These sort of things go a long way."

Having thus delivered my advice to Jack, sent him off to push his sentimental fortunes. with Colonel Hallam, and sat down pensively to smoke a cigar, before following him.

About half an hour atterward I sallied forth and a minute or two found me ringing at the colonel's front door. My heart beat audibly, as, following the servant up the stairs, I heard the sound of a piano, and Miss Hallam's voice mer-By humming a bar or two of some lively air. and felt much relieved when the door of the library was thrown open, and I found myself ushered into the presence of only Colonel Hallam and Jack.

One glance at Jack's flushed and radiant face as he stood leaning against the marble mantle piece, sufficed to assure me that all had gone "merry as a marriage bell" with him, and with a feeling of thankfulness I returned the colonel's cordial greeting.

"Come away, now, and see the ladies; I in the fence, know this boy is getting impatient," he said with a twinkle in his eye, as he laid his hand familiarly on Ferrar's shoulder.

"It's all right, old boy, and I'm the happiest fellow alive," whispered Jack as we followed the colonel down stairs; but I had only time to grasp his hand and give it a squeeze of congratulation, when the drawing room door was opened and we entered.

The elder lady was seated on a couch beside the fire-place, where a fire had been lighted, for the evenings were getting chill; the younger was leaning on the grand piano, engaged in looking over some music. Both stood erect when we entered. The colonel, going over to the elder lady, took her hand, and led her forward, saying as he did so:

"Eunice, I have much pleasure in introducing Mr. Ferrars to you. My daughter, Mr. Ferrars."

Ferrars turned deadly pale. "And-and-the other-lady?" he gasped, looking around at the beautiful young girl at

the piano.

"My wife !" I don't suppose our consternation could have you have done me. Before, Fowever, meeting been greater had a bomb-shell entered the apartment. Jack would have fallen had I not supported him. Everyone scemed to take in tue situation at a glance. Miss Hallam did not faint nor scream, or do anything which a younger or more sentimental lady in similar circumstances might have done, but she blush ed as deeply as her faded complexion would allow of, and, covering her face with her hands scid:

Oh, how dreadful! he has thought Nelly was my father's daughter."

Mrs. Hallam glided to her side and led her the from the room, while the colonel and I applied restoratives to poor Jack's colorless ITALIAN & AMERICAN MARBLE,

"Poor fellow," muttered the colonel; "I see his unlucky mistake. I wish, for the sake of everyone concerned, this had not happened."

"This explains the ready acceptance of Farrar's proposal, and the colonel's willing agreement to let his daughter marry a comparative stranger," I inwardly growled, in disdain of the whole business, as I loosened the tie which Jack had so carefully arranged an hour

When he had somewhat recovered, we took him home and laid him on the sota in the dining room. I sat by him all the evening, and although he did not seem in the least excited or feverish, he kept asking me such strange questions, and seemed so unconscious of all that had transpired, that I was afraid his brain was affected. I, however, was determined that we should not on any consideration remain a day Mason, I instructed her to get our traps ready the morning.

"Mr. Ferrars does not feel very well," I added, in reply to a glance of inquiry she cast at Jack as he lay motionless on the sofa. "He has had unpleasant news from home."

My conscience smote me for the deliberate talsehood I uttered, but I felt that some excuse was necessary for the prostrate condition of

But Mrs Mason was so profuse in her expressions of sympathy that somehow or other I could not help conjecturing that she guessed somewhat of the truth.

At seven o'clock the next morning a close carriage was drawn up to the door, and Jack and I were driven for the last time down the trim avenue, and arrived at the pier in good

time to catch the steamer. Ferrars' manner was unnatural and excited and I felt as if I dared not leave him for an instant. What need to relate our miserable journey south; enough to say that when we reachen London, Ferrars was in the delirium

The attack proved a violent one, and for six weeks he lay partly unconscious; even at ter the delerium had left him. When at last he began to recover, I took a run down to the Isle of Wight with him, leaving him in charge of his mother, who was staying there.

In the course of six weeks he came back looking almost as well as ever. He showed me a letter which he had received from Colonel Hallam, in which that worthy gentleman expressed his deepest sympathy. The letter went on to state that the writer had adjusted matters at home as delicately as he could; and that, had he for a moment supposed that Mr. Ferrars had mistaken his wife for his daughter, his friend should have been spared the unfortunate denoument in the drawing room.

The occurrence which so nearly cost him his life was never again reverted to by us. And up to this date, at least, he seems quite contented with his bachelor chambers and the society of his old friend Bob Harding .- Chamber's

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