PROPOSES By BEATRICE STURGES

WOMAN

nart Lee's other as stenograback of his head. This oft ecurring incident, coupled with the leaped. She turned to him tremulously fact that it was a very good looking and said, almost timidly, "I am going and well set on a pair of stalwart to get married." probably had much to do state of affairs at the end of Incredulously. "Why, I thought"lozens of others that traversed the his pockets, gazing moodily across the ame hall, to watch for his smile of river. recting and to listen to his cheery again. "Why do you do this?" he quesand morning" as he took off his hat tioned. d colled up the cover of his desk. Womanlike, she began with the rea-Then she would take a good look at sons she felt least. "Because I want a

smoothly brushed yellow hair and home. tiresome legal forms. Lee was a lawyer and had

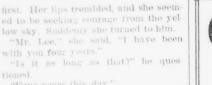
all his young efforts so hard to-Besides, I have worked for four years, and I want to stop for awhile." come his way. At the end of two years luxurious necessity of a private keep my other work in practice so I took larger offices, allowing himself Miss Atherton then had charge of the large outside room, the second stenographer and the office boy. She saw more people and received more salary, but she missed the closer comradeship of the old days and the familliar sight of a blond head rising firmly above blue serge shoulders.

She kept on loving him, though, for the simple feminine reason that she

Sometimes Lee gave her dictations that would take up an hour or more, and then he would make her rest a bit and chat with him before she started



ild ask her advice in the matter of marry." an office boy or as to the choice of two She raised on her tiptoes and kissed samples for a summer suit or whether he looked fit to make a call without ed, "and it's you." getting his hair cut, and he would :



"They have been busy years," he said, "and, I hope, happy ones." "Yes, they were happy," she ans

ed slowly as a pink flush spread over her face. "But now I must go away." "Go away? Leave me? Why, Helen, Miss Atherton's desk was placed you mustn't. I can't spare you. Where In his surprise he had called her Hel

en for the first time, and her heart to be accomplished. "Married!" He brought out the word

ths. Even in that time she had Here he broke off and walked to the ed to distinguish his step from the window, where he stood, his hands in She sat silent until he turned to her afternoon, so that the ring of steel, the

I am all by myself, and I am urn again to her work, which consist- tired of living in a boarding house. copying out long contracts and is nothing but a travesty on life for a domestic woman to divide her time between an office and a boarding house.

"Yes, for I mean to study law and

"Help? Whom?"

"Help-him." "He is a lawyer, then?" Lee almost

"Yes." "What is he like? Is he all right? Is he worthy of you?"

She looked at him, he thought, a little adly. "Like? He is the finest man in the whole world."

He walked swiftly to her. Helen, Helen!" he exclaimed, "I don't understand it at all. I thought you vere happy here, and I supposed, of course, you understood things. I'm lonely too. I haven't had a home for

six years, and I thought that some day -Helen, don't you mind leaving me? Won't you miss me at all? Haven't u seen, girl, what you are to me?" He took her hands and drew her up beide him. "Didn't you know, Helen?" "Know what?" She lifted her brown eves to his.

"That I love you and want you to be 'You never said so," she answered.

"That's because I thought you knew and because I always blunder. I need somebody with me all the time. I need you, Helen. You're the biggest part of my life. Come and make a home for

He folded her suddenly in his arms, and his heart thrilled as he felt her 'Sweetheart," he whispered, "I love

I love you! she lifted her face to his. "Dear,"

she breathed so softly that he had to bend to catch it, "I have loved you for He held her close in the gathering dusk for one ecstatic moment. Then she drew away. He came back to earth slowly. Not letting her go, he looked away and out of the window, where the golden light had been merg ed into a dull purple streaked with reá

and where the evening star gleamed radiant in the upper blue. "This other chap," he began.

What other chap?" she asked. ork again. At other times he "The one you were-were going to vigor.

afraid she did. She was a pale little giri, not eighteen, when I saw her last. **On a Pontoon** he had hair something like yours, but ithout those rich, dark shades. I was nighty fond of the little girl, but I'm afraid I've grown away from the cling-By NORA BRYANT The violet eyes were noncommittal. Copyright, 1906, by Beatrix Read

Whitcomb sighed, with firm line For the first time in five years Whithowing around kis lips. "I know it, comb admitted to himself that he was and I'm going back there this summer tired, that he had at last wearled of

"But then perhans she has forgette throwing impossible trestles across impossible canyons, of elimbing the un-A dull red showed under Whiteomb's climbable and accomplishing that which tan. "Perhaps she has. I-I-I've been neither nature nor man ever had meant hoping since this afternoon that she He leaned against the rope which

served for a railing on the old pontoon you think you've any right to say that bridge and looked up the canyon, to me?" where the massive iron structure that "No," meekly, "but-but you are ev-

was the work of his brain was silhoueterything I've grown to admire in a ted against the sky. It was an April woman, so fine and strong, and"afternoon in the mountains, a Sunday "Look! Look!" she interrupted.

atternoon, so that the ring of steel, the putiling of engines, the shouts of work-men, were stilled. The guleh was as men, were stilled. The guich was as swept nearer to the shore. But a few peaceful as it would be six months hence, when the army of laborers would depart, leaving only the great, silent bridge to mark their occupancy. • Whiteomb was frank with himself. He did not deny in these meetings

with himself face to face that this restlessness had appeared because of the presence of the camping party at the Bide-a-Wee hunting lodge up in Smith's peak. Not that he had actual-by met the party as a whole. The men by met the party as a whole. The men awful moment it seemed that they had wandered down to the bridge, had asked many "fool" questions and beneath. But somehow, with the aid He had wandered back to the camp. At a disof the little strength of the girl and tance he had seen women in well made the powerful shoulders of the man, iding habits and outing gowns who they found themselves up on the trunk had given him a horseback thrill. Suddenly he wanted to get back to the The girl looked at him and spoke

land of swallowtailed coats and shimmery frocks. Whitcomb sighed and looked down at his corduroys and hunting boots discontentedly. The pontoons rocked, and Whiteomh was holding both hands in

a horse's hoofs sounded suddenly at the end of the bridge. Coming toward him was a girl leading a sturdy little mountain pony-a girl with a bare head, where the sun glanced and glimyou will ever see me."

> than in feeling it. Come; we must set But the girl stood still. The lowering sun glinted on her beauty until Whitcomb turned away with firm pressed "Perhaps--if only she has forgotten?"

Whitcomb turned to her curlously "Would there be-no, I've no right to The sweet mouth dimpled. "If that little girl had lived out of doors for five years would you recognize her,

Whitcomb put out a trembling hand and turned her face full into the sun. A great conviction lighted his face. "Margaret!" he cried. "Margaret, do "Yes," said Margaret, And there was

no sound on the river bank but the rippling of the water.

Chinese Wodding Superstitions.

S. WHITCOMB HAD LIFTED HER WITH ONE marry within a hundred

ARM. mered on masses of copper colored days after a death has taken place in halr, a girl with flawless skin and the family of either the bride or groom, eyes like sand hill violets, a girl whose for if they do they believe domestic

every slender line breathed health and troubles are sure to follow. There seems to be no reason for this belief, The girl in her turn saw a broad and the Chinese do not attempt to ex-



A little hard on her if she really

would be such a good joke on Miss Allen to send the letter. Here Hugh had been in the Philippines for two years. What would she think when she receiv ed a local letter in the well remember

The eyes were scornful now. "Do postoflice. He would be outside to yell feet ahead of them a great tree leaned carried a lot of the selfsame sort of letfar out over the water, its branches al-ters to the teacher, but that had been be-

stop the pontoon, for the force of the grow up with the country. Before the girl could spring to her his anticipated joke, and Monday morn-

ly Nita Allen came briskly along and entered the postoffice. As she turned away Billy noted that she held in her of the tree. A moment later they were hand only a long blue envelope and a newspaper. He thought regretfully of the flannel cakes as he realized that with lips and voice that trembled. his April fool had miscarried and turn-"That's twice that you have saved ed and followed Miss Allen down the There were the usual pranks played his, but neither of them seemed con- in the school yard, but Billy, always cious of the fact. There was a do or the leader in all mischief, stood apart

the letter to her and collected the mon-The girl seemed about to Interrupt, out Whitcomb gave her no opportu-something he could not understand, though he puzzled his brain until the "If—if I were free I'd do my best to nake you love me. You are my ideal sent just in time.

Billy Parker grinned joyously. It

In his mind's eve he could see her eagerly tearing open the letter in the 'April fool'" Miss Allen always stop ped for her mail on her way to school There could be no possible chance of a slip up if he mailed the letter Sunday. He had been looking in Hugh's desk for some fish hooks when he had run across the envelope, carefully tucked away in the bottom of the drawer There had been a time when he had most touching the surface. There was fore Hugh began to talk about the Philao time for deliberation, no time to ippines as a place for young men to All day Sunday Billy grinned over

> leaving his mother greatly concerned over his failing appetite. Usually Billy preferred flannel cakes to promptness He had not long to wait, for present-

dle expression ia his gray eyes. "I'm going to say something. You needn't mind, as this will be the last time that anyway Mr. Meade would have given

of what a girl should be. That knowl- Some one must have been playing edge can do you no harm, can it? And jokes on the teacher, for her eyes as I can't help feeling it, I am no more snapped and about her mouth there



## tenth time teacher, with glowing was reading the note. "I have not the courage to speak," it that. I'd go up to the postoffice and n. "but I am coming back Monday show off before the fellers if I'd just the 4:38. If your answer is 'Yes,

I you meet me at the train? If you not there I shall know the answer Catching Your Shadow. "You go out," said the Malay lady 'No,' but if' you can find it in your art to love me, dear, please be there greet me. The others think I am ming on the aight train, and we shall your face to an ant hill, so that your "on the night before the full moon and shadow falls on the ant hill. Then chance to walk home alone." explanation was very simple. you recite certain jampi (incantations had slipped the envelope inside of and, bending forward, try to embrace ice folds of the paper as she had re-stved it. Somehow she did not want tions. If not successful go the next rs to see the precious missive, and night and make a further effort and the night after if necessary-three

come home."

instinctive modesty she had hid- nights in all. If you cannot then catch your shadow wait till the same day in

The afternoon dragged interminably the following month and renew the at her. Every stroke of the clock, empt. Sooner or later you will su tick of the pendulum brought eed, and as you stand there in the brilliance of the moonlight you will see ch nearer to her, and yet the minpassed with leaden wings. It was that you have drawn your shadow into ten minute walk to the station. yourself, and your body will never she lingered over the compositions, gain cast a chade. Go home, and in eyes constantly seeking the slow the night, whether sleeping or waking, ng watch in front of her until at the form of a child will appear before the main the hand had come almost you and put out its tongue. That seize, and it will remain, while the rest of the child disappears. In a little i hurried down the street. Hilly, keeping watch at the postoffice, while the tongue will turn into some as spending a weary vigil, but her thing that breathes—a small animal, and took her in the opposite direction, reptile or insect-and when you see d he did not know that he was waitthat the creature has life put it in a bottle, and the pelsit is yours."-Swet-

The train had just whistled as she tenham's "Malay Sketches." eached the platform, and in a few

inutes the heavy string of coaches illed into the station yard, the engine ting like some tired animal. most of his laboratory experiments in she looked quickly up and down the his kitchen with his cook Anna as his ng line of cars until with a tremenonly assistant. "What is your masgs she recognized a muffled form ter?" asked one of his neighbors. "Oh, he is a chemist." "What's that? What does he do?" "Well, I will tell you. He has something in a big bottle, pping from one of the sleepers. 'Nita," he cried as she sped toward im, "this is a surprise indeed!" "Didn't you expect me?" she dethen he pours it into a smaller one and then again into quite a tiny bottle." anded smilingly. "Did you think I "Well, and what then happens to it?" ould forget so soon?"

Hugh looked puzzled as he fell into ep and passed out of the station. But no one knew I was coming." he eclared. "You don't mean to tell me hat my advent was anticipated?" "I did not tell a soul," she said. "I nly got your letter this morning." "But I did not write any one, not ven you," was the puzzled declara-

ington Star. ion. Nita laughed. "You didn't mean to say that you ex-ect a schoolteacher with a class like ine to forget that this is April fool?" he asked. "The boys were tormenting ne all day, and now you want me to lieve that you did not write me that letter. You must have written some ne else, too, for mine bore the local

"Seeing's believing," he suggested. With a pretty flush, she thrust her and inside her jacket and presently withdrew the letter. He glanced at the uperscription and smiled. gently. Her eyes gave reply. "I have the courage to ask you myself now,"

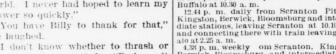
he said tenderly. "This is a letter I wrote before I went away. Do you re member the time I went to New York o arrange about my going to the

"Then you didn't send it?" she asked

"No," he said. "I did not send it beause 1 have come all the way from Manila to ask you to go back with me. I never had the courage to send this. I think it must be that young brother

nine. He probably ran across it in my desk." "What can you think of me?" she

iid, with glistening eyes. "If I told you," he said sincerely, "I TRAINS ARRIVE AT DANVILLE "It don't know whether to thrash or thank him," he smiled. "Perhaps It



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Husband-What! Twenty-five dollars for that bonnet? Why, it's ridiculous! Wife-Yes, I know it isn't anything to boast of, but you said you couldn't afford an expensive bonnet.-Columbus Dispatch.

Ail luxury corrupts either the morals or the taste.—Joubert.

Made It All Clear.

"Oh, then I throw it away."

The Complementary Virtue.

Berzelius, the Swedish chemist, made

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tions she responded gladly, with an inward thrill at the pleasingly intimate basis on which it seemed to place their

Then this friendly glow would be suddenly chilled by a sweeping realiza-tion of the fact that she was only his rapher and that he probably was no one else at hand. Still there had been times when he impul-sively called her into his room to watch thunderstorm or an unusually beau tiful sunset across the Hudson, and, standing close beside him at the winwondered if he had not felt me of the emotion that throbbed in her own pulses. If he did, however, geous sunset was velled in a gray mist for her, and it was a long time before a gold lined cloud sorrow time. Hand hells more its not," before a gold lined cloud appeared on over the ancient world. The earliest

That was when she overheard a fragmentary conversation between Lee and one of his friends. In reply to some remark Lee had said, "I don't know what

The other laughed and responded: Il, she's too pretty a girl to spend her life in an office. Somebody will be

Lee's reply ended indistinctly in it some way" as he closed his desk with a bang, and as they passed out the door she heard the friend laugh again and say, "Do it yourself,

From that day she was a changed She moved as one with a purpose, and yet there was a dreamy softness n her face and manuer that seemed to envelop her as an atmosphere. Lee, looking at her closely, wondered that had not realized how creamy was her skin, now deep her dark eyes and ow fascinating the gold and copper lights in her brown hair. Gradually she told him about herself; that it was er grandfather who had won a certain gallant fight for the Confederacy, her father who had held an honorable ognition for underly obliged to work

ille had accepted her in his Kansas City Journal. atter of course. Companwith her on that basis seemed , and a departure from the conroutine disquieted his phleganture. Their conversation kept the old friendly tone of everyday badige and comprehension, but there was a subtle difference, and he began to feel her presence more and more. Finally one spring afternoon when

the sun was flooding his office with a primrose yellow glow she looked in and asked if she might talk with him. "Why, certainly," he responded, with smile, "and I wish you would sit in

that yellow light. It just suits you in they are well armed. Ja short, the Sardes are the Malays of the Mediter-

She sat down, but did not speak at rauean."

Everybody says that Lee's wife is the better lawyer of the two.

Then she fled into the other office.

## ANCIENT BELLS.

Well Known to the Egyptians Before the Jewish Exodus. Bells were well known to the Egyp-tians before the time of the Jewish exodus. In the description of Aaron's sacerdotal robe mention is made of the fact that upon the hem of the garment there were bells of gold alternating with pomegranates of blue, of purple and of scarlet: "A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pome-granate upon the hem of the robe round about. And it shall be upon Aaron to minister, and his sound shall be heard when he goeth into the holy

bardment of hoofs that drowned the

use of bells in churches was for the purpose of frightening away the evil spirits which were believed to infest earth and air, and the earliest curfew was rung at nightfall to rid the neighborhood of the village or town and church of demons. Most old churches

of Europe have a small door on the north side, and at certain points in the service this door was opened and a bell was rung to give notice to the dev

il, if he chanced to be present, that he might make his exit before the eleva tion. By the command of Pope John IX, church bells were rung as a protect tion against thunder and lightning. The monument of Porsena, the Etru rian king, was decorated with pinna

cles, each surmounted with a bell which tinkle l in the breeze. The army of Clothaire raised the slege of Sens on account of a panic occasioned among the men by a sudden chime from the bells of St. Stephen's church.

No Time For Surgery.

The average woman thinks the sun and stars would cease to shine sooner than that she could interfere with the regular routine of household duties. A Sabetha woman was recently informed by her physician that she would have how she to have an operation performed. She said she didu't see how she could; finediate thing, but that Monday was washing day, Tuesintention of being a day ironing day, Wednesday the missionary society met, Thursday was the

what she would day to clean up. Friday to bake, Sater what she would and day to clean up. Friday to bake, Sat-urday to give the children their baths and mend. If he could get it in Sun-then blushed deepday after dinner and before evening

## The Sardinians.

dle of the last century. A traveler says: "The men are clothed in goat-skins, one before and another behind, without breeches, shoes or stockings, and a woolen or skin cap on the head. The women have no other habiliments than a long woolen gown and a woolen cap. The peasants always go armed to defend themselves from one another, so that traveling in the interior is extremely unsafe without an escort, and it is even dangerous for ships to send

their people on shore for water unless

which his blond hair shone curlously. as an undisputed fact. A Chinese bride SHE HELD IN HER HAND ONLY A LONG The corduroy hunting suit was strange- may be brought to the house of the ly becoming to him. The girl stopped groom while there is a coffin in the hug her. Even when Ned Matthews

"Can you tell me," she asked, "If after it has been taken out. If a bride have it jerked from beneath his grasp there is a quicker way for me to get breaks the heel of her shoe while she by a bit of thread Miss Allen only back to the Bide-a-Wee lodge than by is going from her father's to her hus- looked the other way and tapped with the long Smith road?"

arm about the amazed girl, he leaded husband she is anowed to she be any only half a bowl of rice, lest she be he laughed good naturedly. "She got two letters this morning." a mad pace, the white bell mule lead- | new abode.

ng, was the herd of mules used in oulding the trestle. There was a bom-A DRAMATIC ARTIST.

maker of Paris.

a foot into the water. There was a erash of the floor as the herd passed with a long nose and big, winsome drop his cap as an excuse to look at the so close that both their faces were eyes. Wearing a gray frock coat and under side and there had been nothing stung by the lashing tails; then silence patent leather shoes, corseted and pow-hidden beneath. again in the valley, except for the dered and perfumed, he is more than a But if Billy had hung about the

"Careful, careful." cried Whitcomb offensive kind. His manners are a have seen that Mr. Meade was right, as the girl drew herself from his arm. strange mixture of humility and in- for on teacher's desk was the envelope 'We are afloat!"

The strain on the old bridge had been too great. The worn flooring had parted, and, still elinging to a bit of the rope rall, the man and girl were floating rapidly downstream on one of the ponteons. This little raft rade wall silks and volvets and sating and lace the pontoons. This little raft rode well silks and velvets and satins and lace out of the water, and the river, swoll- and wool.

en by the spring freshets in the moun- The mere man who comes into a tains, towed them along at a smart | dressmaker's shop of an afternoon-h pace. The two looked at each other Paris no one goes to the dressmaker's

and suddenly smiled. "There is really not much danger," said Whitcomb. "It's five miles down to the ranks and two miles before here." That mood does not last long. Conand suddenly smiled. to the rapids, and two miles below here tempt gives way to admiration. There the river narrows so that I shall have is something marvelous in the way this no trouble in lassoing a 'land mark' lord of lace and ribbon dominates the no trouble in lassoing a 'land mark' with these bits of rope. In the mean-time," spreading his coat on the damp floor of the pontoon, "do be seated and be comfortable." be comfortable."

be comfortable." "Don't you suppose some one saw us and will come to the rescue?" asked the girl the girl the girl. Whitcomb shook his head dublously. "Tm afraid not. The mule boy was will study—an inspiration will come not in sight when the thing happened,

The girl did not appear as anxious as might have been expected, and Whit-

comb sat down beside her.

Wild place in the mid-ventury. A traveler She watched his clever fingers L. whether any noet has been guite so silence, and Whitcomb was moved

ern girl I've spoken to in five years?" rn girl I've spoken to in five years?" Surprise on the rose tinted face be-published five volumes of 'Imaginary dde him

"I haven't been back east since I finished college. At first I wrote often, specially to-to, well, I wrote often,

BLUE ENVELOPE AND A NEWSPAPER.

10

house, but not within a hundred days sought to pick up a reader only to he long Smith road?" "Yes," he answered, "there is, and if ness to her new relations. A side of at other times the source of this

"Yes," he answered, "there is, and if you would not mind waiting for me to get my pony I'll set you on it. I never could direct you from here." To his surprise and delight the girl acquiesced readily, but as he turned to fetch his broncho, which he had left grazing on the shore, he gave a gasp. "Great heavens!" And, throwing his arm about the amazed girl, he leaned as far out with her as the rope rail

use asking questions. He had seen her come out with just the one big engirl's frightened cry. The pontoon sank The Winning Ways of the Man Dress- velope, and that was from the school committee. The other was not under roar of trampling feet and a rending The dressmaker is a slim young man the big one, for he had pretended to

sounds of retreating hoofs up the man; he is a dressmaker. He is sat-schoolroom instead of pursuing his in-mountain road.

solence, for he is at once a salesman he had dropped into the box and for KILL THE COUCH



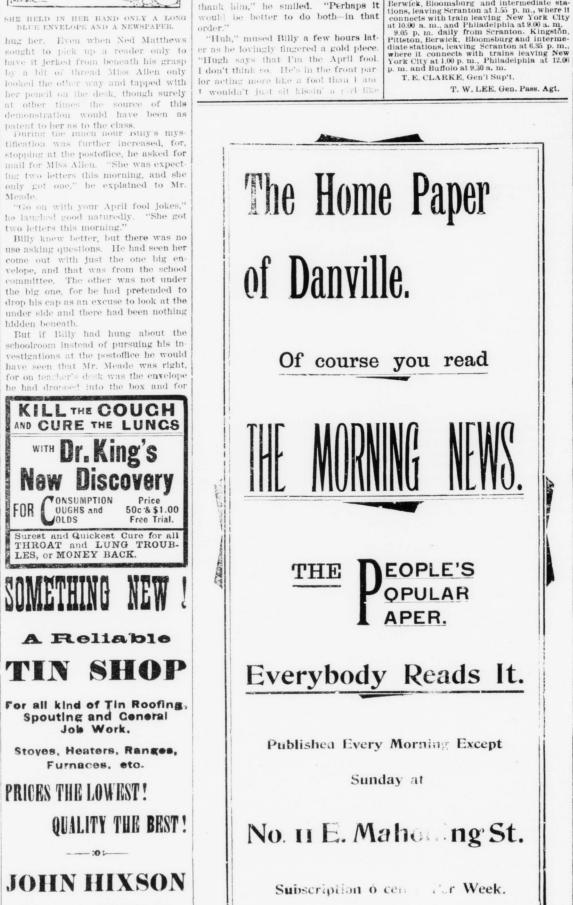
Landor's Prose.

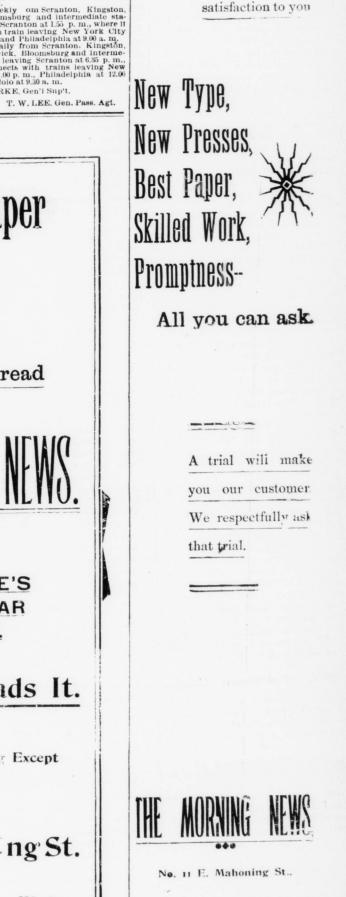


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white on the looked at her gratefully. Without his prose Landor is indeed but half, if he is half, himself. Arthur Symmetries in Atlantic. NO. 116 E. FRONT ST. -Arthur Symons in Atlantic





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