The Square Envelope

A Valentine That Came on the Wings of the Wind

By HOWARD FIELDING

The eve of St. Valentine's came early an hour or more. At 4 o'clock the eets were dim with shadows flying ture of a rainstorm without rain. a drop had fallen.

mong the tall buildings the wind every direction, but the worst place scraper, the Anderson building.

From the leeward side of this struce came forth Mr. Reginald Forresvery carefully dressed, as usual. in a quiet style befitting the exme modesty of his disposition. He rried some legal documents rather sely in his hand with a rubber band ound them, and he might have borne ighted candle without its being exguished, for there was no more wind ere he walked than in a closed room. passed the edge of the building, d in an instant his hat was snatch from his head and the papers from

hand. The hat struck an urchin. o reeled at the blow; the documents re pasted upon the broad back of a iceman. At the same moment a young woman s propelled against Forrester's onider with considerable violence

d caromed fortunately into the leethe building, where she stood paut g. Forrester turned to beg the young 's pardon, but she was winking the st from her eyes and did not see

The policeman reached a fat hand ound and pulled the papers from his ck as if they had been a plaster, d the urchin recovered Forrester's and also a large square envelope. This isn't mine," said Forrester. h the envelope in his hand.

"Tain't mine, that's sure," said the accepting a coin and promptly nishing upon the wings of the gale. orrester stepped back into shelter d glanced at the envelope, which s addressed to Mr. William E. Langin a script distinctly feminine, writing of a cultivated woman. e inference was casy that the incloe was a valentine.

the human mind under proper conions is a marvelously rapid machine. thin a few seconds there passed ough Forrester's field of consciousa series of memories covering a ashlerable period, a number of sepae inferences, including a judgment character, and upon the top of this argument as to a very delicate quesm of conduct. He knew William E. ugdon. The address upon the enlope fixed the identification beyond abt. As a lawyer he had had cerdealings with Langdon and had clined to have any more. Upon this ue he had broken off a partnership, former associate persisting in conming as Langdon's legal adviser. rrester knew the man to be not only promoter of dishonest corporations, trickster and a swindler, but one lose fate was sure, his exposure only matter of time, his punishment not to evaded except by successful flight. reover, Langdon was a creature of moral standard all the way ough, a college bred crook, the "gen-

manly" villain of the stage. t seemed probable that this envelope d been dropped by the young woman to still stood in the lee of the buildc. If any one else had let it fall that dividual would have been visibly enged in searching for it, but the girl d something in her eye and was giv g all her attention to that.

she was very pretty, and the charm youth and innocence was declared oken of affection or even of rememance to such a man as Billy Langdon time very much at home there. s a proper subject for the tears of els. There was nothing obtrusively will ask you to believe that he was and of a yearning of the heart. honest man and a respecter of wo-

shable that the scheme of destiny d not include another meeting beeen them in this world. There was d been buried together, a seeming ay be, it is certainly not a gentle- that for the moment. an and has no chance of disclosing

ling her that Langdon was a rascal, d it, and time pressed.

om his pocket and wrote hastily, "I a place familiar, if not home,

anintation, offering the envelope.

"Oh, yes," said she. "I dropped it. Thank you very much."

and gave her the card. The act had much the appearance of an attempt to make her acquaintance, and she was startled for an instant, but his manner reassured her. She

read what he had written, at a glance, and looked up at him, surprised. "I am very much in earnest," said

"I regard it as important." She inclined her head, and he felt that she meant him to understand the scarcely perceptible movement as a promise. He raised his hat again and turned away.

During the evening he gave much ing under the scurrying clouds that thought to the problem which had passed through the hall and stole rapid azed the tops of the houses, and all arisen, or at least seemed to have windows were alight. It was a arisen, from this adventure. There could be little doubt that the girl's father or some other male relative would appear at Forrester's office on ed in gusts with breathless calms the following day. The strangeness of ween. Hats were skipping merrily the request would be enough to assure compliance. What should be say about s the edge of the new triangular Langdon? If the male relative appear ed to be intelligent and a person of character, it might be sufficient to suggest an investigation of Mr. Langdon, promising to assist therein, should that prove necessary.

> These and many other questions occupied Forrester's mind as he consumed cigars before the sea coal fire in his



"WE ARE AT CROSS PURPOSES, RESTER," SAID SHE.

bachelor sitting room. A sort of ghost, most amiable apparition, kept him company the wraith of the girl, so real that he drew up a chair for her, his very best chair that was a considerable extravagance in antique, carven furniture, even for a young man of had asked me to send a man to him." mfortable means The cirl's chost seemed to like the chair, in which her beauty showed to great advantage in charming poses. She smiled in the firelight, she talked wittily, wisely, bewitchingly; she sang to him. Altogether it was a delightful evening, and at midnight, when the hour had come for sleep, Forrester stood for some minutes by the window, looking out upon the wildly drifting clouds and gently blessing the gale that propelled them. He said to himself that it had not been an ill wind for him.

The most important event of next day was the call of the young lady's male relative; that is, it would have been if any such person had called, but none appeared. St. Valentine might be responsible for this; it was a sort of holiday. No such excuse, however, would serve upon the morrow nor the next day, nor the next.

Forrester was slow to accept the verdict of these days, a petit jury of every line of her. The indefinable them, twelve, no less. Hope lingered auty of maidenhood, the despair of with him full two weeks, and then it the poets, glorified and made her died. He had lost her; he would never ered, and the thought of her sending see her again, except in the chair by the fire, dear ghost that was by this

It is impossible, of course, to fall in love with a girl in this way. It was elic about young Mr. Forrester, but all a pretty fancy, born of loneliness

The girl was lost, and yet, of course. n and one that held himself to very there was a tangible clew. There was William E. Langdon, but Forrester But what could be do? The girl could not go to him. He had indeed. s a stranger to him. He had never in a sort of jealousy, inquired of some on her before, and it was highly who ought to be informed upon the matter whether Langdon was contemplating matrimony. The replies were matter whether Langdon was contemrecklessness of fate in the way they plating nothing worse than robbery. He had organized another spider and lous indifference. Whatever chance fly corporation and was in love with

Meanwhile the young lawyer gave self in the opposite character. Yet himself more leisure than formerly, e many rude folk in the world, it is walking for an hour or more every ten the instrument of good. How pleasant afternoon, but especially when uld it be made so in the present in the wind was high. Such days he thought to be lucky, and, in fact, it Forrester could not scrape acquaint- was upon one of them that fortune fae with the girl for the purpose of vored him and he saw the girl again.

She was entering a house in one of t there must be some proper way of the older and quieter residential seccomplishing the same end. He must | tions of the city, a large house upon a corner. It had almost the look of an The girl's eyes were free of dust by institution of some kind, and yet had w. She turned toward the window a peculiar air of privacy. The girl must adjust her hat by the reflection. live there, for she let herself in with crester drew his card and a pencil a key and had the air of returning to

g you to give my card to whomever | Forrester walked briskly to the door, phantom lips have begun to shape trust most fully and ask him to call which opened before him, and there appeared a species of female butler, too prophetic.

He approached the girl and made his masculine to be a maid, too unfriendly to be a man.

"Well, sir?" said she, and from the hall behind her came a half sup-"Will you accept this also?" said he. pressed giggling, very dreadful to the nerves.

This must be a girls' school. The gig gling was hardly mature enough to appertain to a young ladies' seminary. 'Will you give my card," said he, "to

the young lady who just came in?" "Miss Berkeley?"

The female butler eyed him with cold suspicion. She led Forrester to a small reception room, where a woman wearing spectacles sat at a desk, seemingly oblivious of his existence. But there were other persons near at hand who were deeply interested in him. Girls glances at him where he sat in a hard

partition, and he could hear them whis "That sin't him-I mean he," said

chair near the door. Some of them

"This one is too tall." "Mr. Langdon's tall," said another. "I saw him once with her at the gate of her aunt's house. That's where be calls on her."

"I think it's mean she isn't going to be married here." And that was the last word that Forrester heard.

The female butler returned, bearing a card not engraved with a name, but having this message written upon it by the same hand that had addressed the envelope to Langdon:

Miss Berkeley regrets that she can be of no service to Mr. Forrester. Though she was present on the occasion in question, she saw nothing of the accident and rouid not testify as to any detail of it.

Forrester read those enigmatical words, and his legal mind detected mischief. He wrote upon the card: Will Miss Berkeley graciously pardon

Mr. Forrester for his insistence and per-mit him to express his regret that no person representing her has called upon him in response to his request? It required some diplomacy to induce

the female butler to return with the card, but Forrester was equal to the emergency, being now wholly desperate and fighting for heart and conscience. As he expected, the young lady responded in person to his mes-

"We are at cross purposes, Mr. For rester," said she. "We seem not to understand each other."

"The confusion results from the form of my request, written upon my card the day that I had the pleasure of see ing you for the first time," said he. "I asked you to send to me 'whoever Mr. Langdon. I did not foresee that." "Well?" said she.

"Mr. Langdon has not done me the honor to call," he returned.

"But surely there is some mistake," said she. "Not being acquainted with you, Mr. Langdon may have called upon some other Mr. Forrester. Whoever it was that he went to see is a lawyer having an office in the Anderson building. He told Mr. Langdon that he recognized me as one who had been present at an accident-a man injured by a street car-and that he desired my evidence, but was afraid I might take offense at a request made upon the street in that way, and might be timid about testifying in court, so he I have no such case," said For

"Then Mr. Langdon must have called upon some one else of the same name."

"There is no other Forrester in the Anderson building," said he, "nor any other lawyer of that name in the coun-Moreover, Mr. Langdon knows me well and has been my client."

"This seems to raise a question of veracity," said she, "which is not permissable under the circumstances."

"No," he replied; "If you will pardon me, it is a question of error, of very grave and momentous error, which may have the most serious consequences. May I ask whether you have an aunt?"

"I have." "A widow?"

rester.

"And you reside partly at her house and partly here, where you teach?" "Yes, but why do you ask these questions?

"Because," said he, "your aunt is the only person who can set this error right. I trust that she can see me at once.

"I do not understand you in the least," she said, "but somehow I can't help believing in you. There is some purpose of good behind your mysteries. I will go with you to my aunt's house."

It was the child's whisper in the hall that had put Forrester upon the track of Grace Berkeley's aunt as her natural guardian and protector. The lady proved to be an amiable and in most respects an intelligent woman, but she was a great admirer of Billy Langdon and had put the bulk of her money into one of the hollowest of his corporations. When Forrester learned of this he knew that the battle was won. It was merely necessary to expose to the lady the true inwardness of the bubble in which her dollars had float-

The Langdon-Berkeley wedding was postpened once, and then it was postponed indefinitely when the truth finally found lodgment in the girl's mind that Langdon had fled to her in regard to calling upon Forrester and to many other things besides. Meanwhile Langdon was breathing a flery vengeance upon Forrester, but in the midst of it the inevitable crash came in his affairs, and he fled "between two days.

And now the ghost girl in the chair by the fire looks so real that she almost obscures the chair back, and her words incredibly precious, sweetly RUSHING SUMMER BOOKS.

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February 15 has been fixed as the were lurking on the other side of the final date upon which advertising copy will be received and this date applies alike to all advertising no-tices, whether paid or free, new or old, intended for the Delaware & Hudson books. Because an advertisement has appeared before in these books is not a guarantee that it will appear again. Unless written auhority for its renewal has been recived at the office of the General Passenger Agent on or before Feb. 5, the notice will be omitted from the editions of 1912.

> The advertising charges remain Owners of camps and cottages to let and for sale may have their places listed in both the Delaware & Hudson Camp and Cottage Booklet, which will be out about March 1st and in A Summer Paradise, which will be out May 1st, for the single charge of \$3.00 if no illustration is used; for the single charge of \$8.00 if printed in halfpage formation with illustration and for the single charge of \$25.00 if used in full-page formation with illustracion. For A Summer Paradise, the standard 360-page resort direc-tory of Northern New York, three ustracion. lasses of advertisements are receivd; brief notices without illustraons, for which no charge is made; half-page advertisements with illustrations, \$8.00; full page advertise-ments with illustrations, \$15.00. Charges for all illustrated advertisements include the cost of half-tone No To Rent or For Sale adertisements are published free. Address all letters and advertising matter to Mr. A. A. Heard, General Pas-senger Agent, Delaware & Hudson R. R., Albany, N. Y. 9t3.

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SHERIFF'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE. By virtue of process issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Wayne county, and State of Pennsylvania, and to me directed and delivered, I have levied on and will expose to public sale, at the Court House in Honesdale, on

FRIDAY, FEB. 16, AT 2 P. M., All the defendant's right, title, and interest in the following described property-viz:

All the right, title and interest of Henry Cole during his lifetime and the estate of said Henry Cole, deeased, in and to all those certain pieces, parcels or tracts of farm and imber land, situate in Clinton township, county of Wayne and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described THE FIRST BEGINNING at a post

west line of the Eik Forest tract and is the southwest corner of land con-veyed to Lorenzo L. Sweet; thence along the said line of Elk Forest south ten (10) degrees east to a post and stones the northwest corner of and surveyed to Philander Beattys; eighty-eight and one-half (88 %) degrees east sixty-eight and four-tenths (68.4) rods to the southwest corner of land bargained by Samuel Stone to Thomas Clark; thence by land last mentioned north ten (10) degrees west one hundred and eighteen and one-half (1181/2) rods to a corner in the south line of the aforesaid land surveyed for Philander Beattys; thence along the line last mentioned south eightynine (89) degrees west sixty-eight and one-half (68 1/2) rods to place beginning. Containing fifty (50)

THE SECOND REGINNING at a stones corner of Benjamin Simpson's land; thence by the Elk Forest Tract south nineteen (19) degrees east one hundred and sixty-nine (169) perches to an ash stump south twenty (20) degrees east ninety-six (96) perches to a stones corner; thence south seventy (70) degrees west nine and six-tenths (9.6) perches to a stone; thence by land of James Chapman north forty-four and one-half (44½) degrees west one hundred and eighty-four and one-half (184½) perches to a stone; thence by vacant land north ten (10) degrees west two hundred and fortysix (246) perches to stones; thence south forty-six and one-half (46 1/4) degrees east one hundred and sixtyfour (164) perches to place of be-ginning. Containing one hundred and forty-eight (148) acres and sixty-nine (69) perches.

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And being the same property coneyed to the said Henry Cole by Milton Salmon by deed dated March

9, 1903, and recorded in the Recorder's office of said Wayne county. in Deed Book No. 90, at page 521, et. seq.

Seized and taken in execution at the suit of James McPherson, assigned to George I. Cole, assigned to John R. Jones, versus Annie Cole, administratrix of the estate of Henry Cole, deceased, No. 174, October Term, 1911, in the Court of Common Pleas of Wayne county, Pennsylva-nia. Debt \$320.26. Interest Oct. 20, 1911. The sheriff to collect full amount of debt, interest and costs on this judgment. Fi. Fa. to March Term, 1912.

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Seized and taken in execution at the suit of James McPherson, assigned to George I. Cole, assigned John R. Jones, versus Annie Cole. administratrix of the estate of Henry Cole, deceased, No. 176, October Term, 1911, in the Court of Common Pleas of said Wayne Debt \$473.15. Interest October 20. The sheriff to collect full amount of debt, interest and costs in this judgment. Fi. Fa. to March

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