IN TWO CHAPTERS, - CHAPTER II.

Miss Marrable, who, when she received this love-letter, was sitting in her bedroom, was thunderstruck. At first, she thought of going to Amy and charging her with baseness and ingratitude; but after some reflection, she decided to let matters, for the time at least, take their course, and to confound the scheme of the rash couple by means of a grand stroke at the final moment. She went, however, at once to Lucy, in whom, as I have said, she had great confidence, and told herall.

"How foolish of her," said Lucy. "Yee, my dear ! how foolish, and how w'cked !" assented Miss Marrable. "I feel it my duty to prevent the carrying out of this mad plan, and also to make Amy suffer for her folly. I shall therefore send her this letter; and allow the hair-brained pair to mature their schemes .- And what, Lucy dear, do you think I propose to do? You will never guess. Listen! Amy and I are of much the same height. I shall personate her by concealing-ahem-my face, and drive away with this vile young man; and then, when he believes that he has left me far behind, I shall overwhelm him with shame and confusion."

Lucy could not help laughing. "That would really be good fun, aunt," she said. "Yes, send the letter to Amy; and by all means let matters take their course for the present."

Miss Marrable did send the letter; and Amy duly received it, unsuspectingly; but five minutes later, Lucy revealed the whole plot to her, and threw her into the deepest

Here, however, Lucy's superior coolness came in most usefully. "You need not despair," said the elder cousin. "If aunt thinks of having fun with you and Mr. Jelwith her? You must find some other way of carrying on your correspondence; but at the same time answer this letter by the old medium. Your answer will of course fall into aunt's hands. You must mislead her, and then"-

"But," objected Amy, "how am I to make matters turn out properly ?"

"Listen!" said Lucy. "Aunt proposes to personate you. Very well; put off the time of your elopement, say, for half an hour; and meantime Mr. Jellicoe must find some one to personate him. My idea is for aunt to elope with the billiard-marker, and so give you time to get away. Do you see ?" Amy could not at first grasp the significance of this bold proposition; but when she succeeded in doing so, she was delighted with

"I shall tell Mr. Rhodes," said Lucy, when she had sufficiently explained the plan; "for I know that he will gladly help you; and Mr. Jellicoe can talk it all over with him and have the benefit of his advice."

"But what will aunt say when she discovers how we-how you-have deceived her?" asked Amy.

"Ah!" said Lucy, slily, "I must talk about that too with Mr. Rhodes. But never fear!" And she went off to rejoin Miss Marrable, who was still much flurried.

Later in the day, Lucy met Robert on the beach, and told him what had happened. "And now," she said in conclusion, "I am going to make a dreadful proposition to you. We must also elope together !"

"I am sure I don't mind," said Mr. Rhodes. "After hearing your news, I was going to propose as much myself. It would take you out of the reach of your aunt's reproaches, when she finds out the trick that has been played upon her.

"You are a dear old love!" cried Lucy with enthusiasm, "I wouldn't for the world have Amy made unhappy; and I feel that I must help ber, although I don't approve of elopements. Now go and talk to Mr. Jellicoe; and don't forget to have the licenses ready. Perhaps Mr. Jellicoe can arrange for both Amy and me to sleep that night with the Joneses, whoever they may be; or perhaps, after all, we had better not go there, since aunt knows of that part of the scheme.

"I daresay," said Robert, "that I can arrange for both of you to sleep at the Browns at Llanyltid. They have a large house, and, curiously enough, my sister Dora, whom you have often met in town, is staying there with them; so you will have a companion and sympathizer. And now l will go and talk to Jellicoe."

I need not follow in detail the progress of the new scheme of double elopement. Suffice it to say that the bogus correspondence destined to mislead Miss Marrable, was steadily kept up; that Amy and Vivian found other means of safely communicating with one another; that the Browns were written to; that the licenses were obtained: that three carriages-and-pairs were engaged, one to call at the hotel at nine o'clock p.m., and two at half-past; that coachmen were liberally feed; and finally, that the billiardmarker at the Cos-y-Gedol, a spruce young fellow of some education, was bribed, at considerable cost, to personate Vivian Jellicoe and to run away with Miss Marrable.

At length, Wednesday morning arrived and with it eame the last of the billet-doux that were fall into the spinster's hands. One of them had been composed by Vivian and Robert, and written by the former on pink paper, folded billet-doux-wise. It ran as follows:

My Own Amy-I have satisfactorily arranged everything. The carriage will be at the door of the hotel at nine o'clock. I shall not show myself, for your aunt may be about. Be careful therefore to avoid her; and enter the carriage as quickly as possible. In order that there may be no mistake. I have told the driver to wear a white choker round his neck. I hope that you will be punctual. Everything depends upon punctuality. Till nine o'clock, good-bye.

Your most devoted VIVIAN.

Miss Marrable, after reading this note, refolded it as usual, and took care that it reached Amy. Then, with the consciousness that she was about to perpetrate a grand and good action, she sat down in her own room, and waited for Amy's reply to be brought to her by the treacherous maid. The note which was very brief, came to Miss Marrable | drunk. Nice companion, indeed !" in less than half an hour. "DEAR VIV, wrote Amy, "I will be ready, and will look out for the white choker .- Your loving A."

calm and unflurried. At one o'clock she made a very hearty luncheon; at half-past two she took her nieces for a walk, and talk-

about the emancipation of women; and at | but the carriage (and Griffiths) had gone; peppery, the fish too cold, and the mutton too underdone. Her coolness was admirable. Lucy and Amy, on the other hand could scarcely conceal their excitement and agitation. They each looked at least a hundred times during dinner at the clock upon the mantel-piece; and they each started and turned red whenever the noise of carriagewheels without was heard. After dinner M ss Marrable went again to her room and began to make her preparations.

' How sad it will be," she thought to her self, "for poor young Jellicoe when I discover myself and overwhelm him with reproaches. Men are but poor creatures. Perhaps he will faint. Yes; I will take my salts-bottle." She wrapped herself in an ulster belonging to Amy, and having shrouded her face in a thick veil, took a seat at her window, which happened to be im mediately above the front door of the hotel.

Meantime, Edward Griffiths the billiard marker was ill at ease. He knew Miss Marrable by sight, and looked forward with terror to the prospect of an encounter with her at close quarters. Nevertheless, he had Vivian Jellicoe's five pound note in his pocket, and he was determined to see the affair bravely through. He felt, however, that his natural bravery would not be sufficient to support him; and he therefore, at about six o'clock, began swallowing a succession of potent doses of whiskey-and-water. with the object of laying in a stock of Dutch courage. Whether the whiskey was bad or the water too powerful, I cannot say; but at ten minutes to nine, when Vivian Jellicoe arrived to give final directions and counsel to his substitute, he found Edward Griffiths decidedly the worse of liquor. Fortunately the young fellow was neither quarrel-ome nor noisy in his cups. His main ambition seemed to be to go to sleep in peace; and licoe, why not turn the tables, and have fun | no sooner had Vivian bundled him into one corner of the carriage, which was in waiting in the stable-yard, that Mr. Griffiths incontinently slumbered. The carriage was then driven round to the front-door of the hotel. Miss Marrable, from her post of vantage, saw it, and remarking that the coachman wore a white choker, descended at once, and listened, as she went, outside Amy's room, to satisfy herself that that young lady had not forestalled her. The porter with alacrity opened the carriage-door. In the dark shadows of the interior, Miss Marrable caught sight of the figure of a man; and making sure that all was right, she entered at once. An instant later she was being whirled northward along the lonely Harlech Road.

Half an hour afterwards, two other car riages left the hotel, but in the opposite direction. In one of them were Lucy and Mr. Rhodes; and in the other, Amy and Mr. Jellicoe. It was near midnight ere they arrived at the Browns' house at Llanyltid but the Browns were all up and waiting for them, and the two runaway couples were warmly welcomed, and hospitably taken care of.

Miss Marrable was less fortunate. As soon as the carriage in which she sat had been driven beyond the lights of the town, she threw aside her veil, and gazed with magnificent scorn towards the dim form upon the seat in front of her. The look eliciting no response of any kind, Miss Marrable ventured to cough, at first gently, and then with considerable violence; but still the figure took no notice.

spinster lady. "I must adopt more active balls. The German, French and Turkish measures." And with great tenderness, she prodded Mr. Griffiths with the point of her umbrella. The billiard-marker groaned in his sleep. "Mr. Jellicoe!" she exclaimed in her deepest and most threatening tones. She had counted upon this exclamation pro- The bouquets of the ladies and the necktie ducing an instantaneous and astonishing pins of the gentlemen are connected with a effect upon her companion; and she was wofully disappointed when he merely groan- ladies in their dress, and by gentlemen in

ill. He would never go on like that, if he were not ill. The fright has been too much | bouquets and pins with their electric flashes for him. Oh, how sorry I am! These men | surprise and amuse the unscientific public. are such weak creatures. I must stop the Ice is made to serve both an ornamental carriage !" And, throwing down the sash and a useful purpose at balls. A huge of the window, she put out her head piece of ice, artistically carved, is placed on and cried to the driver to pull up a silver tray and lighted from within. In his horses. But the driver, like the the excavations in the ice they pour either billiard marker, had been very liberally wine or cream, or both, of which the dancers feed; and he was determined that partake. nothing would stop him until he reached Harlech; he therefore cracked his whip, to d:own Miss Marrable's voice, and drove | bruhooff, gave a ball, to which were invited down the next hill at a pace which threaten- all the leading merchants of both capitals. ed to shake the carriage to pieces.

"Stop, stop! For goodness' sake stop?" shouted Miss Marrable; but finding that | never before were so many diamonds seen her words were not listened to, she drew in | in that hall. Every matron and maiden her head, and strove to revive the wretched man in front of her. She held her salts. bottle to his nose; she chafed his hands; worth a quarter of a million dollars. At she fanned his brow; and she allowed his feverish head to rest upon her shoulder; but she could not awaken him.

"If he should die!" she thought. "I intended to frighten him; but not so much as this. Oh! this is terrible!" And once more she tried to prvail upon the driver to stop; but in vain. The sight of distant lights, however, gave her at length some a directory shall be proclaimed in Russia. satisfaction. The carriage entered a long avenue, the gate of which lay ready opened for it; and about an hour and a quarter after leaving Abermaw, it drew up before the Joneses' house near Harlech.

With a sigh of relief, Miss Marrable threw open the door and sprang out, to find herself in the presence of half-a dozen people | daughters for dowry bushels of diamonds. who were congregated upon the steps. "Quick !" she cried; "don't ask ques-

out !" for the apparition of a middle-aged spinster,

and who were expecting Mr. Jellicoe and Miss Allerton, were somewhat astonished. "Who is inside!" asked Mr. Tom Jones,

the son and heir of the family. "Oh! Mr. Jellicoe! Be quick! For mercy's sake, be quick !"

"You don't mean it !" cried Tom, rushing to the carriage to succour his friend. But an instant later he burst into a violent fit of laughter. "Why, its not Jellicoe at all! he said. "It's Griffiths, the billiard-marker from the Cos y-Gedol; and he is hopelessly

Miss Marrable is, as I have already said, a woman without weaknesses. On hearing this announcement. however, she fainted In spite of the ordeal which was before away. When, thanks to the kind attention her, the good old spinster was perfectly of the female members of the Joneses' family, she revived, she indignantly charged those estimable people with having delib erately plotted her discomforture; and she ed to them with extraordinary affability | insisted upon at once returning to Abermaw; | river?"

half past six she appeared at the tab'e d'hote, so Mr. Jones, senior, who grasped the situaand, just as if the occasion were an ordinary tion, volunteered to drive Miss Marrable one, complained of the soup being too back to the Cos y Gedol Hotel; and by twelve o'clock, or shortly afterwards, she was again in her own room. It was then that she learned of the desertion of Lucy and Amy. I need not describle how she received the news, and how she declared that her ahandoned nieces should never again behold her face; nor that although she is a a woman without weaknesses, she passed the greater part of the remainder of the night in violent hysterics. She telegraphed next day to Mr. Larkspur and Mr. Allerton; and repairing to the Red Cow, furiously denounced Sir Thomas Jellicce as the basest and most heartless of men!

Three weeks afterwards, however, the edge of her anger had worn off. Lucy and Amy were married. It was foolish, but, perhaps, it was not wholly inexcusable; and thus reasoning, Miss Marrable, in the goodness of her heart, determined to gradually receive them back into her favour. But she has never wholly forgiven Lucy for suggesting the substitution of the billiard marker for Vivian Jellicoe.

"My dear," she says, when she retells the story, of her drive to Harlech, "the wretched man was perfectly saturated with whiskey, and I really don't know what he might not have done if I hadn't kept my eye steadily on him. But beneath my gaze he cowered, my dear, positively cowered! I never saw a savage brute so completely

And to this day Miss Marrable believes that but for her Eye, the billiard-marker might-horrid thought !- have run away with her too.

### THE MERRY CAPITAL OF THE CZAR.

A Series of Brilliant Balls in St. Petersburg-Wealth Beginning to Overshadow Aristocracy.

Everybody is dancing and singing in St. Petersburg, from the Czar and the Czarina to the dvornik and the chambermaid. Recently the autocrat gave a brilliant ball in the Palace, opening the ball season here. About 3,000 guests in glittering uniforms and dresses filled the immense rooms of the gloomy palace, ornamented with costly tropical plants. At 10 p.m. the Emperor and the Empress entered the dancing hall of Nicholas, followed by the members of the imperial family. In the first dance the Czar led the Czarina; in the second he led Lady Thornton, the wife of the English Ambassador, the Czarina dancing with Gen. Schewenitiz, the German Ambassador; in the third the august host led Mme. Apper, the wife of the French Ambassador, and the hostess had Shakir Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, as her partner. The Czar wore the uniform of the cavalry guards, and the Czarina a white satin dress richly ornamented with fresh roses and lilies. On her head she had a superb diamond diadem. At midnight supper was served. Military bands played in every room. Massive silverware shone brightly on the tables covered with fresh hyacinths and tulips. The Czarina had the German Ambassador on her right, and the Turkish Ambassador on her left side. The Czar, as a hospitable host, went from one table to another, exchanging words with all his guests.

Following the example of the Czar, every Minister and Ambassador and all the rich-"This is exceedingly strange," thought the | and titled St. Petersburgers hurried to give Ambassadors each gave a ball that stirred the aristocratic public and the fashionable dressmakers.

Among the novelties of the season electric bouquets and table ice are much in favor. minute electric battery, secreted by the the side pockets. The electric current can "Gracious?" she said to herself; "he is be closed or interrupted at any time at the will of the bearer of the battery. These

Millionaire Krutikoff, a tea merchant, on the occasion of his marriage with Miss Sine In the hall of the Nobles' Assembly there were gathered fully 1,500 guests. Perhaps sparkled like a constellation in miniature. Mrs. Avchinnikoff alone wore diamonds this ball the young men appeared in the red, white, and blue tail coats of the French pattern, worn under the Directory. This innovation, however, displeased the Czar, for, as he remarked, "We are not yet under the empire, and not under a directory." So the Russian dudes must pack up their red white, and blue coats, and keep them till

It is becoming evident that the golden bourgeois is more and more talking the lead of the titled aristocrat even in the Czar's country. Nowadays many a prince, count, and baron longs for the society of financial kings, for they only give excellent dinners, treat to the best wines, and present to their The old times has gone by when the Russian merchants entreated some uniformed tions! He is ill; he is dying. Take him | General to honor them with his presence at their balls and dinners. Nowadays the The Joneses, who had not been prepared | wearers of glittering uniforms and ancient, aristocratic shields flock around the rich and hospitable merchants like tramps longing for a free lunch.

## Too Strict.

In Germany, the police regulations are very strict, and any violation of them is promptly punished. The people have a holy terror of the law. Two gentlemen happened to meet in Berlin, and the following conversation took place:

"Have you heard the dreadful news about Miller ?"

"No, what is it?"

"He was in a boat in the river. He fell overboard, and was drowned. The water was too deep." "Didn't he know how to swim?"

"Swim! Don't you know that all persons are forbidden by the police to swim in the

## INTERESTING ITEMS.

A Wonderful Boy-Suicides in France-

Don Carlos-The Newspaper in Russia, &c., &c. Gounod has completed a new work, an

oratorio, which is entitled "Mors et Vita," and is a sequel to the "Redemption."

A tour-year-old boy at Felicity, O., is the sensation in that town, as he can or is alleged to be able to read books and papers at sight, though he was never instructed.

More than a millon head of cattle wintered in the Territory of Wyoming, and the general "round up" of this enormous number will begin about the middle of May.

ulation of Berlin as 1,226,392 of whom 20,

587 are soldiers. In 1850 the population was only 419,720, of whom 17,547 were ing to a certain phenomenon in chemical soldiers. A new ladies' club has been started in London, close to Piccadilly. The Countess of Portsmouth, Lady Elizabeth Cust, Lady

Mary Harvey, and Lady Knightley are on the council. It is calculated that there are now resid ing in the United States nearly a thousand Japanese, and of this number it is said that not one has ever been convicted of any crim-

inal offence in an American court. In France, according to the statisticians, suicides are rapidly increasing, not only among adults with real woes or sufferings to account for their rash act, but also among juveniles, who make away with themselves for the most trivial causes.

Father Anderledy, the proposed new general of the Jesuits, is now at Rome, lodged in the palace in Piazza Margana, which belongs to the order. The number of living Roman Catholic Cardinals is fifty-six, so that fourteen hats are still vacant. It is said that these will also soon be supplied.

to carry revolvers lest they might be tempt. | H swife, the Duchess of Madrid, Marghare a ed to use them too carelessly. A recent and or Bourbon, and daughter of the ex-Duke of somewhat protracted discussion of the ques- | Parma, resides at her own castle near Viartion of arming the police has ended in pro- ezzio in Tuscany. She spends millions in viding for them no more formidable weapon | charity. Their eldest son is at school in than a new and improved whistle.

It is said that the claimant, Sir Roger, is to adopt the stage as a profession on his release from Portland prison, which will now shortly take place. The first character in which he will appear is Sir John Falstaff. He was to have been installed in a public house, but it was felt he had enough or trial at bar already.

The worshippers at a church at Solano, Col., went on Sunday night as usual to service, but found that the bats had taken possession of the house and were so thick and aggressive that the service was necessarily postponed. On Tuesday the deacons inaugurated a bat hunt, and behind one of the window casings found and killed 241 of

M. Chevreui, the eminent scientist, who The census returns for 1883 give the pop- is nearly 98 years of age, was delivering a lecture on chemistry the other day at the Paris Museum of Natural History. Referrchange, he said: "This fact was first mentioned to me in 1804 by a Leipsic student named Schamberger, or Schomberger, I am not quite sure which. It is curious, but I an beginning to lose my memory for names.'

The death is announced of M. M. ssiri, a member of the Italian Parliament, who was the friend of Cavour and biographer of Victor-Enanuel. During the period of the formation of Italian unity he was in correspondence with all sorts and conditions of men, from Napoleon III. to Mazzini, and he has left behind him a collection of papers containing much secret and unwritten history. On account of the compromising characters of these documents, the Government seal has been placed on them, and they may never see the light.

Don Carlos is staying at the Hotel Grande Brettagua, Naples, under the name of Count de Lacar, attended only by his secretary and two servants. He was advised by the physicians to try Naples in order to get rid of an obstinate bronchitis. His ordinary resi-In London the policemen are not allowed dence is the Palazzo Loredano of Venice. England.

# SPRING

We beg to call the attention of the Ladies of Toronto and the surrounding country to our Magnificent Stock of New Spring and Summer Millinery now on Exhibition in our Handsome Show Rooms.

We are this season making a Greater Display of Trimmed Millinery than usual, and are also showing a Splendid Stock of Rich Silk and Satin Brocade and Cloth Mantles, Fichus, Shoulder Capes, &c., and a number of Handsome Costumes in Silks, Satins, Cashmeres.

We, therefore, respectfully invite the Ladies of Toronto and the surrounding country, to visit our Stores, and we will be pleased, (whether purchasing or not), to show them through our Immense Establishment.

N.B.—All Street Cars pass our Stores, ask the conduco. to let ou off at PETLEY'S.

128 to 132 King St. East, Toronto.