THE TENTH WOMAN

By Dell Leigh.

silence. An impressionable lad.

as he gazed into the roaring fire. was quite right. We confirmed his op- interested, in fact.

her, somehow, don't you think?"

man? What was the idea?

pared to this. You'll see. But Fred 'Don't know who brought this down ground. Ainslie does you remarkably well and here-I didn't." usually fills the house with riotous livers at Christmas for the shooting. He's plied a detached voice. extremely well off, as you may have "Fred brought it across and sat straddled over the sill. A head and Mrs. Grunzer felt that she ought to heard. But he lived a bit of a hermit's down on the arm of a chair near the shoulders appeared—and then Fred faint. Being uncertain how to set about struck. He fell like a sack of potatoes. It she only half-closed her eyes, cononly opened up the place properly at She took it from him with her left Cushla capered with joy, and forth-rare intervals. Yes; the first Madame hand and passed him a sheet of note-with proceeded to tear her dressing-with admirable docility, handed over gown into strips. Fine stuff, Fred said, his watch, pocket-book and other valu-Yank of their acquaintance. He simply "Puzzled, he took it and read: had to divorce her on account of the family name and the entail, and one that. She was a dreadful woman, in olan, my opinion. Fred was as soured as

by Daphne Phillips, cousin of Fred's, wards the library door. Christmas Eve Cushla, who was sitt- in the window, and he half rose. But woman down, looking as fresh as abart it?" ing on her host's right for no partishe put a restraining hand quickly uppaint and very lovely. She threw piecular reason, got involved in rather an
on his sleeve, again nodding meances of toast at him when he began, and
the postillions, a pistol in either hand, acrid argument with him on the sex ingly towards the door. He had the said 'shurr-upp.' question. She didn't know her man good sense to see that she was right. "But when he hen, and little enough I expect of the says he propounded a very unsporting nt of view about women generally stinctly beastly about them in My dear Miss Fane, believe me, nine omen out of ten are sisters under heir tinted skins. You have usurpe o yourselves certain rights and prividanger, national or personal, you al tinctively to us for initiati and protection; and away go all your

Fred is one of the best. But him on the raw once or twice. You know how heated this sort of art grows. Anyway, she seems to have taken him seriously, and was very terms about him to Daphne in d-room afterwards. Dam silly the whole thing was: threw a bit of a the over the merry party that even-

don't you know. I took some pains Fred stared incredulously. about this, because it struck me after- "Look here," she went on quickly wards, knowing Fred as I do-we were He'll go out the way he came in. The at Rugby together—as being so devil- library window is open. Didn't you ish funny, a complete reversal of the notice the draught? Is there anything usual situation. Also, coincidence play-ed a big part, which proves that it does the plate and stuff?" sometimes outside the covers of the "She was perfectly calm and practi-

"Go and mix the drinks one of you- the strategy of the matter. on, George, like a good fellow. here's gin and It, as well, for anyone pantry. There are a couple of men ser-

Fred was jawing in my room, much to safe under the library table. If he Joy-weary of their play, my disgust, until about one; a distribe knows about that—I expect some On memory's tablet is inscribed me stiff. Eventually he wandered off he'll get plenty there to be going on to his own room and I was asleep in with.'
two seconds, and heard nothing more "He didn't say it was a goodish bit until the tea came in at eight.

We had been shooting cock pheas- "Fred keeps a diary (dam bad habit), ants all day with considerable success, and writes a fearful lot of hot air in it and were stretched out in deep chairs every night of his life before turning pid." round Mallison's gun-room fire with in, it seems-imagine! He had settled the immediate prospect of some of down to the diary business when he house I won't let you. Take some thrilled to your very marrow, Angelhis very pre-war whiskey, followed by found he had left his fountain pen in thing heavy and bowl him over as he an excellent dinner and more excellent the library. Cursed, and toddled off to crawls out. There's an eight-foot drop bridge after that. In fact, an ideal get it. There is a big square hall at or something of that sort, isn't there? Christmas holiday lay ahead of us, and Highmoor, you'll see; you lean over The last thing he'll be looking for will you a sure 'nuff surprise of a bridal I for one was blissfully content-we all the banisters and watch the revelry in be you outside the window. were. Especially Heagerty, the young- the arena below. Fred looked over in- "Fred unhitched an old Chinese po- Hall inside of half-an-hour if these welcome addition to the personal pos- kiss beneath the Christmas mistletoe ster of the party, doubtless because to the hall and saw that all the lights lice truncheon off the wall in the corthere were some charming women, as were on in the library. Cursed Parker, ridor-handy sort of weapon-and she ded, thoughtfully. he put it, "knocking about the coun- the butler, for his carelessness and said, 'Splendid!' tryside." It was he, of course, who padded downstairs saying things to "Fred said it was a malevolent sort brides could, indeed, have asked more A round wooden lid fits on the bowl brought up the subject of the women himself. They make their own light, of hiss the way she said it. And togeth- of her devoted husband than the offer- when not in use. folk after a few moments pipe-sucking of course, and Fred hates wasting the er they crept out through the back ings of Mr. Grunzer to his newly-wed Military brushes make an acceptable

some time, and as sporting as a ter- hair of hers in a great ship's cable plait if it had come to a mess-up.

inion with acquiescing grunts, we old "'What's the game?' he asked pleas- see what he's doing. Cushla. That's her real name. Suits She stared at him for a moment in a hung on by the windowsill and looked King of Sandusky, O. puzzled, searching sort of way without | in. We did. But why the Tenth Wo- answering. Then she seemed to pull "The brute had left a wee chink i

Mallison laughed. "There's a pret- ed. She was very white, Fred noticed. room again and got to work. She could ty little story hanging to that. You 'Yes,' she said, 'I was in bed. Couldn't see him moving about. But not when may as well hear it, you fellows. We sleep. I sleep rather badly, sometimes. he was engaged on the safe. He was are all dining over at Ainslie's after his I came down here to look for a book. out of range there. All these details shoot on Bank Holiday; it'll be a Do you mind? All your books are so were whispered very quietly into cheery affair, mark my words. He's stuffy. This one has possibilities, p'aps. Fred's ear. She was thoroughly in her got some superb 'bubbly.' It is sure The Private Life of Louis XV. But element; enjoying every moment of it to be referred to, 'cos it's the anniver- haven't you got anything amusing? Do Fred wasn't. He was getting cramp sary of the business, this Christmas; find me one.' She walked over to holding her up; but she made him li but you'll only get a garbled, rotten Fred's writing-table with The Private her at intervals-for her to report. account if she puts in her oar. She's as Life of Louis XV and sat down. Fred "They think they must have lain in modest as she is pretty, and you can't began running his fingers along the wait outside that window-December, say that of all women. But I was stay- shelves in search of light literature as and she in her nightie, mark you-for ing there last Christmas when it hap a cure for insomnia. Directly his back best part of an hour. If never seemed thought when the chaise stopped sud- of the winter seem to be passing, and sened; the Missis was recovering from was turned she pulled a sheet of note- to have occurred to either of them flu on the Riviera, and this house was paper out of the rack, picked up his that the feller might have continued like a mausoleum in consequence. So pen and began scribbling with feverish his depredations upstairs amongst the crowned by a cloth cap wore motor- shape of the head.

I can give it you more or less first haste. 'Here you are,' said Fred in a women's bedrooms. But he didn't. goggles instead of a black mask, but Tomatoes once to minute or so. Other Women's Men, Cushla was in the act to be lifted up "You don't know Highmoor, any of by 'Disillusioned.' That ought to be for about the twentieth time when she you? A great barrack of a place com- about your mark-what?' He chuckled. squirmed away like a rabbit going to was all that the sternest realist could

curtains, probably armed. Don't do butler out of his bed and locked the tered, "Be careful with that, mind. It's thing and another. We needn't go into anything silly. Follow my cue. Have a cove up in an empty cellar.

hell about it for some years not sur- riedly with: 'Oh, this book looks most over the home counties. Confederate ette-which adorned his wife's neck. amusing-yes-Other Women's Men; in car on high road, no doubt. That's Only when the marauder, satisfied with "But last Christmas some of his that's the stuff for me. Thanks awfully. how the police said they worked the his haul, turned as if to depart, did the young cousins and nieces and people Well, I'm for bed. By the way, what country houses. Their man had done victim show signs of impatience. "Say filled the house all right for him; in- did you come down for? Think I was two spells of time for robbery with you," he snapped. "You aren't through sisted on it; said he was moping: dare a burglar or something? Another gay violence. He was masked, rubber- yet. How about the dance with the say he was. Cushla Fane (as she was laugh, Meanwhile she was staring hard gloved, and carrying a foul little Colt lady?" then) was among 'em; brought down at him and motioning with her eyes to- automatic, fully charged - pleasant "I don't want none of your lip," said

and switched off the light before he realised what the next move was. She meanwhile keeping up a fire of goodnights' and 'thanks so much,' and that

whispered, 'Come upstairs-go on talking, idiot, say anything. He must think ready spelt-doom, shall we

him in the glass over the library firetains. He doesn't know I saw him. I was looking for a book in the case silence, broken by the hiss of a syphoclose to the fire. He wanted to see if _D. L. was a man or woman, of course Heard me coming downstairs and saw 'He didn't mean the half of this, of the lights being turned on-what

> "There was a gleam of excitement in her eyes and not a trace of fear. Fred

"That's all right,' he said. 'I'll ge deal with him. You go back to bed, A symphony of Love divine young lady. Many thanks for the clever - Played round a little child young lady. Many thanks for the clever warning. He, too, was now thoroug

at I was only able to piece together she answered tartly. 'He's my burgiar arately bit by bit, by getting the and I'm going to be in at the erhem off their guard subse- death. You can't drive me back to bed and at different times, when like this. It isn't done. It isn't, really, sey were in an expansive moment, "What manner of woman was this?

cal. Might have been a man discussing

"'Plate's in the safe in the butler's We drifted off to bed very late, back of the house; difficult to find. He ut half-past twelve or so; the wohad been gone some time. but there's a good bit of stuff in

of Mrs. Ainslie's jewellery, including until 1553,

some rather fine pearls, and all the Christmas Box money for servants,

"'That's what he's after,' said Cushla, 'and we'll have him as he comes through the window all to ourselves,' she laughed softly. 'Can we get out there round some other way?"

"'Yes, through the kitchen quarters -but you're not coming, Miss Intre-

"'Rubbish! You can't rouse the snow; covered wolds. "Don't you feel

herself together with a jerk and laugh- the curtains when he went into the

"Yes, let's have a look at it,' re- a bag being dropped softly on to the 'And over yer cash, and he nippy wif grass out of the window. A leg was it. Too bloomin' cold to stand 'ere"

"She immediately chipped in hur- gang who had been burgling places all formerly bleonging to Marie Antoin-

She seemed so entirely self-possessed men were getting off the usual epith-and practical and so completely in ets and compliments, she ladled some and practical and so completely in ets and compliments, she ladled some disappeared amid a whirlwind of snow. followed her justinctively to the door replied merely: 'You are all very silly low his breath. "Who ever heard of -such children you men are-thoug rather dears.' Then she looked roguishly across at her host and said: 'Nine romen out of ten-do you remember?

"Directly they were in the hall she | "Fred just looked at her. But wit quite a different look. A look that al-

"No, by God!" broke in young Heaearshot, she whispered again. 'I saw gerty, rising and going rapidly towards

> THE CHILDREN'S PESTIVAL It is the Children's Festival, For lol a baby King Lures all the world to Bethiehem

> To hear the angels sing, On music's wings the message came That God is recond

It is the Children's Festival, And little hearts beat fast As roll the leaden hours between To Christmas Day at last, And we, the elders, who have born The burden of the years, Must hide from childhood's happy

The traces of our tears;

And round the Christmas tree Renew again our vanished youth In childhood's merry glee.

he good old games of long ago. Let them prevail tonight! And thrilling tales of daring deeds, Told in the waning light.

Streets in London were not paved

The Highwayman My Oliver Madox Hueffer.

"Isn't it just too perfectly wonderiul?" exclaimed Mrs. Ezra F. Grunzer, letting down the window of the postchaise to gain a wider view over the

husband. "Now say, haven't I given trip. We ought to be at the Baronial pampered steeds keep going," he ad-

doors round the garden to the shrubs wife (nee Theda Stubenheim of Peo- gift, and come in good plain designs, fire, the larger the better, for Yule log "I say, Mally, what an absolute "He walked through the open door by the library window. A nice situa- ria, Ill.). Not only had he purchased fitted in a festive box. fizzer Mrs. Ainslie is. What d'you call of the library without a sound in his tion for a fellow to find himself in on for her Wahmsley Manor, one of the Manicure sets, either in travelling her-Cushla? Funny name. Rather bedroom slippers, and, much to his a dark night; but when you know Cus- most perfect remaining examples of kits or in the more elaborate plushnice though . . . by J-o-v-ell" His surprise, saw Cushla at one of the hia a bit better you will realise there is Tudor architecture in England, not lined boxes, are useful and approprivoice trailed off into beatific reflection bookcases. He said 'Hullo!' jaunty- no gainsaying her when her mind is only had he arranged for triumphal ate as gifts. Most men prefer their like, don't you know, and she swung made up. As Fred says, it was as if he arches and assorted loyal tenantry to toilet articles to be of ebony, and to We had all observed her carefully: round with a gasp of breath and a had been dealing with a dangerous sit- greet her on arrival, not only were this end the manufacturers have turnnaturally. Who wouldn't? The wife scared expression. 'Oh, it's you!' and man, and not with a wo- there to be Yuletide revels, waits, ed out inhumerable designs in this of a man whose shoot marched next then she looked immensely relieved. man at all. And to do the old boy jus-to our host's, she had been out with Fred said the sight of her standing tice one must say he would tackle any ances to a mediaeval Christmas—their the guns all day, and bringing them there against the dark brown back- two men barehanded at any time-he's wedding happening at that festive per- DISCORD FELL UPON own by the head every time. One of ground of books in a hilac silk dressing a plucky devil. And he would, no jod. He had even arranged that the he handsomest women I had seen for gown, with that wonderful ripe-corn doubt, have shoved her out of the way last stage of their journey, from Chidrier. Did everything very well, accord- was a very pleasant sight. He was no "Arrived outside the window, she an honest-to- goodness postchaise of yate Junction, should be carried out in ing to all accounts.. Young Heagerty longer annoyed with her; distinctly pulled Fred's face down to her own the period, driven by postillions in apand whispered: 'Lift me up; I want to propriate uniform and immortalised at to the leader and said: "Come along the start by a whole army of reporters with me, I'll put you on to a good

> "You're sure there is nothing I've forgotten, Peachpoppet?" he enquired said the stranger. "If you play for an anxiously, capturing an errant hand. hour or so I am sure he will give hand-"There is just one thing, Duckalove. somely." If you could have fixed up for a highwayman, on a wonderful black mare, like-what was his name-Tom Tur- approached and asked the leader of pin, to hold the chaise up, and insist I the band what they were doing. "What should dance a minuet with him in the do you mean, sir?" asked the leader. snow. It always was done in the old days, and it would have made Mame laughing louder, "don't you know you Schnittberger just mad when she read are playing in front of the Deaf and about it. Mercy on us-what it that?" Dumb Institute?"

Her husband had just conquered a smile of satisfaction at his own forethe gesture with which he thrust an automatic into the face of Mr. Grunzer have desired. "Nah then," he barked. "The next thing he was aware of was "Put them 'ands up, and keep 'em up.

wide strips of silk for trussing a man ables, even to his diamond bosom-pin, There is a man, masked, behind the up with. They fetched the disgruntled and made no more protest than a mutvaluable," when the highwayman de-"He was one of a member of the manded the famous pearl necklace the

who was at Rodean with her; great "Fred's first impulse, of course, was "Fred broke the news to half a dozen "You keep your math shut an' you pals. It appears that at dinner on to make a dash for the curtained recess men at breakfast. Cushla was the only won' get 'urt. Nah then, Bill. What

ther comment he ordered the postil-

So mad he seemed, indeed, that for a time his wife thought it wiser to say nothing. She was on the point of contoling with him for the foolish ignorance of historic detail shown by his employees when again the chaise stop-ped. A man on a tall black horse was beside it, extending towards the winwore a steeple-crowned hat, a black mask through which his eyes glittered wickedly, a long riding-coat with many capes; from head to heel he was the typical Knight of the Road "Stand and deliver!" he commanded in an affected voice. "I'fack and Odebodikins-an thou delayest-

Mr. Grunzer sprang from the chaise aflame with fury. "You doggorn mutt, he thundered. "What in the name ofof the Eighteen Amendment do you think you are doing?"

The highwayman was obviously tak-en aback. "I beg your pardon," he stammered," are you not Mr. Grunzer, the American gentleman who has just bought Walmsley Manor?" "I am, you dodrabbited rube. And

who the Gorramity do you think yo

"I-my name is Arthur De Vere Montgomery. I am playing in The Babes in the Wood at Linchester and I was asked by Mr. Travers, the

vere the others-the ginks in the au-

minutes ago? I have no idea. Stay, though-I did notice a grey car outside the 'Mitre and Crozier' at Chidyate, while I was making up there, j before starting. Of course, everyo was talking about your-your inge ious idea-and I noticed a couple

him. Already he was in the chaise, and with his body half out of the window was shouting at the postillions to drive like fury to the nearest police-station.

—O. M. H.

"SHAVING TACKLE"

Razors and Shaving Soaps, Etc., Come Useful at All Times.

No man ever owned too many reliable razors, and when Christmas comes aThose Who Kiss Beneath the around with unfailing regularity h naturally expects another addition of the safety kind to his supply. They come in plush-lined metal boxes, accompanied by a packet of blades.

A man-sized bath sponge might well top the bulging sock, hanging by the "I certainly do, Sweetie," agreed her fireplace beside a miscellaneous collection of small stockings. Outside of the fun it provides for the family, a business-like bath sponge would be a sessions of any man.

Shaving soap in one of those quaint Not the most exacting of American new wooden bowls is a delight to use

EARS OF THE DEAF

The Christmas waits were doing their best to create discord in the neiantly. 'Don't you modern ladies ever "Obediently-he was now entirely and cinematograph operators. Never thing. Come along with me." Six men go to bed? Not that it matters, of under the spell of her, I'm certain, he certainly was there a more considerate followed him obediently. They stop-"Yes, she's a class apart, is course. Do what you like down here.' prized her up on his sheulder. She bridegroom than the young Gumshoe ped opposite a big house apparently occupied by a wealthy man. "Here is a mon who loves music,"

> The waits had played themselves al-"Why man," said the policeman,

The very high, pinched-in crowns denly and a man thrust his head now we have a crown that is creasthrough the open window. It was ed, but molded very closely to the

SUITS MOST MEN Burning Yule Log Was a Big Event

> Mistletoe Will Never Quarrel."

Christmas in the old days teemed with spells and omens and if our ancesters faithfully observed them all they certainly deserved to have the best of luck during the coming year. Embrace as many friends as possible will never quarrel. A flat-footed woman about the house during Christmas tilling the ground. However, puffs

time will always bring bad luck. great event. It was dragged in with furrows. flames out all memories of wrongs and anger, and brought peace and goodwill to all who warmed themselves in! a tax on bachelors,

its heat. None was allowed to stir the fire for fear of breaking its beneficial influence; no squinting or barefooted person was allowed to enter the room while it was burning for this brought poverty and poor sight to the household. It was thought unlucky, too, for an odd number of persons to be in the room at the same time and a charred piece of the log was carefully saved and preserved in the cellar during the following year; this was an infallible security against all danger of fire.

Plows by Wind Power. Brightlingsea, Eng., Dec. 11 .-Sails were introduced as an aid to plowing in a soil tillers' match near here. At times the sails caught the wind and speeded up the work of of wind blew the plow from its The burning of the Yule log was a straight course and caused irregular

The birth rate of the United States

is decreasing. The Irish Free State has imposed

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The prophecy of the old Hebrew poet is coming nearer to fulfillment each year. Nineteen Twenty-Five has made valuable contribution in the Locarno Peace Agreement.

> May this Christmastide bring to one and all the heartiest expression of our goodwill.

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