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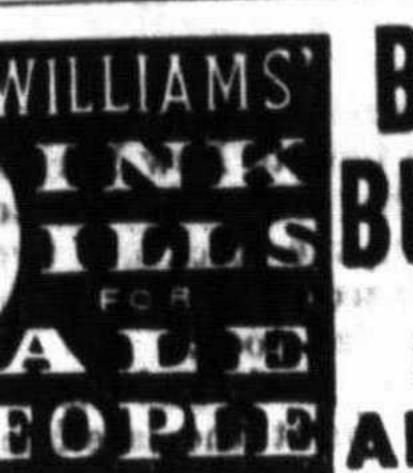
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By FRANK HOWARD HOWE and LAS-CELLES CHESTER MAXWELL

or course this great piece of news knocked all other subjects of conversation on the head. The fortunes of "The Writing Master," the play Garbould had been about, no longer interested me. Fred's letter from The Eclectic while Garbould examined the check (for a good round sum it was, too), at first doubtfully, then critically, but at last approvingly. He was forcer' to admit that Fred had written something which, for some reason or other, had found favor in the eyes of one of the greatest literary | quired, while Garbould stopped his flow authorities in the country. Garbould is a critic, and it goes without saying that he is a skeptic and a cynic at the same time. Of course, he admitted nothing openly, but I thought I could see a gradunily dawning respect for Racburne in his tone and manner as the conversation progressed. The old fellow is intolerant to a degree, and only listens to other people's opinions upon compulsion. But this afternoon he showed unusual forbearance, for him, not contradicting us more than once in three minutes. So that when the two got up to go off together I detained not convinced of your good fortune by the evidence of the check, I should certainly be forced to believe after seeing old Garbould's manner toward you. I congratulate you, my dear fellow.

Fred laughed and blushed, and went off evidently well pleased with himself, with me, with Garbould, and with the world in

general. Well, the result of it all was that Fred and Laura were married. Mrs. Rutledge did all in her power to break off the match, but when she found that was impossible she consented with as good grace as might be to an early marriage. Miss Windom said that she had given her word that if Fred got an article accepted she would marry him, and she was determined to keep her promise. Besides, she argued that the very fact of the acceptance of his story by so high an authority as The Eclectic was proof positive that Fred had a great literary career before him. Whether Mrs. Rutledge was conwinced by Miss Windom's logic I have my reasons for doubting. It is far more probable that she was finally urged to forego her opposition to the marriage rather by motives of policy than because she was converted to a more hopeful view of Fred's future as an author. Miss Windom was an heiress, and she was just coming of age. Her guardians could, perhaps, make her uncomfortable for a short time by withholding their consent. But in the end she would marry the man of her choice, and then she was not likely to forget these who had evilly treated It would, on the whole, be pleasanter to have Laura friendly. And, after all, what real difference did it make to Mrs. Rutledge whether the girl threw herself away on a pauper or not? So I think that astute lady argued the matter to herself, and the conclusion was that she consented to a mare age in the spring.

So when the winter had passed away and there was a smell of early violets in the air they were married. The event took place at one of the fashionable uptown churches. Kitty and I went. It was a, hot, flower scented, stuffy affair, like all church weddings. I don't remember that Fred looked any less miserable than other men do under similar circumstances. I do remember, though, that the bride was radiant. Kitty says her dress was of cream white, set in with front of point lace, and veil of the same; corsage decollete. Her ornaments were diamonds, and she carried a bouquet of white jasmine. All that sounds like Jenkins, I but I want to be correct, and I have written it down just as Kitty gave it to me. Well, in this state Miss Laura Windom traveled up the long aisle to the chancel leaning on Mr. Rutledge's arm, and in precisely the same state. Mrs. Fred Raeburne walked down the same aisle ten. minutes later leaning on her husband's arm. And I give you my word they looked so proud and handsome and triumphant both of them, as they walked out of the church together to their carriage, that for once i.i a way I wasn't sorry to see it done.

They were gone some weeks, and when they returned a grand reception was given to them by the Rutledges. I went, but Kitty could not be persuaded, though ardently entreated thereto by Mrs. Fred and her husband. She begged off on the plea that she was nothing but a little Bohemian anyway, and not at all fit for society people or their ways. We all poonpooled at this, but Kitty was adamant. Lowever, a few days afteralatable, and supply the wastes of the | ward when the Raeburnes had moved into their pretty house over on the west are as healthy as fruit for summer food. | side, Litty told me she wanted me to take her up to see them. So one pleasant,

sunny afternoon we went up. They were both there. I had told Fred we, were coming, and he was on hand, with that proud look of superiority peculiar to young husbands pervading his good looking phiz. Well, of course Kitty had to be taken up stairs and shown all of Mrs. Raeburne's new clothes. Fred and I retired to the dining room to discuss a small bottle of wine in honor of the event. By and by the ladies came down, and then we were shown all the new silver and the other presents with which the young couple had been duly

In the midst of this pleasing occupation the front door bell rang and presently the servant announced Mr. Gar-

Garbould!" exclaimed Fred. "Show him right out here, eh, Laura?" Of course Laura wanted whatever Fred wanted. So Garbould was introduced. Another bottle of wine was opened, and the young people were pledged in due form, Garbould making a very clever little talk, I remember, of a kind appropriate to the occasion. Upon its conclusion and just as he was about to set his glass

down on the table, he remarked sud-"By the way, Raeburne, I was almost forgetting. I've another thing to congratulate you about. Your article has come out. I wish you joy. It is really a

very clever bit of writing, indeed." Raeburne blushed and muttered something about praise from Sir Hubert Stan-

"But where did you see it?" broke in Laura, impetuously. "Oh, dear, I'm so anxious to look at it." "Nothing easier," said Garbould. "The

magazine is issued today. They were just putting them out on the news stands as 1 came up on the elevated. I bought a copy, and one of the first things my eye lighted on was your husband's article.

"Where is it?" asked Laura, eagerly. "Out in my overcoat pocket," said the critic. "I'll go fetch it." So Garbould brought the magazine, and Raeburne, excusing himself, plunged into

the book, Laura the while looking over

than he. Garbould began to expatiate on the excellence of Fred's style to Kitty in his usual bumptious fashion. When the "Old-man-who-knows-it-all" condescends to commend an author he is just as fierce about it as when he condemus, which, by the way, he usually does.

Garbould wearies me when he mounts his hobby of criticism. So I turned away from him and began to watch Fred and his wife. Every feature of Laura's face was lighted up with interest and pride as her eyes ran rapidly from one side of the page to the other. Fred's face, on the contrary, was a picture of consternation. Presently he laid the book down on the Laura looked at him in surprise.

"What's the row, Fred?" said I. "Why, hang it all, there's some mis-This is not my article at all." "Not 'A Carnival of Crime?"

of speech and cocked up his ear. "Not my 'Carnival of Crime,' certainly," said Fred. "Listen to this: 'A against the banging of horses' talls and women's heads.'" "And a very clever protest it is, too,"

put in Garbould. "But it's not mine," said Fred, consid-

erably chopfallen. "Who the mischief can have done this?" He stared disconsolately at the maga-

zine as if he expected to find an answer to the conundrum there. I looked at Kitty. She was gazing demurely out of the win-Buddenly Frankstarted and loaked over at her.

"You did, it," he exclaimed, pointing

his finger at her. Kitty laughed. "Well, if I did," she said, "I am sufficiently up in the law to know that I can't be compelled to testify against myself. But whoever did it," she continued, "you oughtn't to be very York. angry. See what it has brought you. And she pointed to the lovely face that was leaning over Fred's shoulder.

"Kitty," I put in at this juncture, "let me tell you one thing--no, two things! These young people, like all the rest of us, will have to row their own boats. Also, people who push their noses into other people's affairs are apt to get them sadly pinched."

"You might add a third." Kitty responded. "It is often a very good thing to forget and forgive. You will, won't you, Fred?" she exclaimed, holding out her hand.

Fred grasped it heartily, and I fancied there was a gleam of tears in his eyes as he turned away to explain matters to his wife and Garbould. "The Old man whoknows-it-all" was at first disposed to feel injured, as if a fraud had been perpetrated upon him personally. But upon reflection it was apparent that all he had said about the article was as true now as it had been before, so that he was not compromised in any way.

"Kitty," said I, when some time after we took our leave and were wending our way homeward, "Kitty, so that was the reason you were anxious to get rid of me that evening, was it?"

"Of course, stupid," she said. THE END.



Blobson-Dumpsey, what in the world do you suppose makes my boy so stupid? Dumpsey-I dunno. Have you ever read up any on the subject of heredity?-Burlington Free Press.

#### Variation All Around.

If the portraits of Patti appearing in different soap advertisements vary somewhat it may be said in extenuation that the soaps do likewise. - New Haven News.

#### Must Have Died Happy.

The ancients believed that the whole earth was square, but then they had never had any dealings with the traveling ped

#### dler. - Burlington Free Press.

One Way to Look at It. There is this air of respectability about being in debt: It proves that you had

### credit once. - Philadelphia Call.

A Raven of Rest. "I have been reading so long, Mr. Samp, son," she said, as he came up from the

gate, "that my eyes are really very

"Lay aside your book, Miss Clara," he replied, with tender sympathy, "and let your tired eyes rest on me."-New York

#### Classical Name for It.

Rural Guest (at Boston restaurant, looking at the bill of fare - Dang these foreign named dishes! Bring me a plate of plain hash if you've got any.

Waiter (solemn and erect, in tone of dignified reproof)-Olla podrida for one!-Chicago Tribune.

Consistency. Customer (trying on coat for second time)-But the sleeves barely come below the elbow now. I told you to make them only just a thought shorter. Tailor (with conscious pride)-I have

only great thoughts.-Fliegende Blaetter.

#### A Good Imitation.

"Did you ever go to the circus, Jin?" asked one small urchin of another. "Not a real circus," said Jim, reflect-

ively, "but I've seen my mother water the garden with the hose." - Somerville Journal.

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at Sharbot Lake 10:00 a.m., and Renfrew 2:45 No. 5 Mixed leaves Kingston at 4.15 p.m.; arrives, at Sharbot Lake at 7:10 p.m., Thurs

No. 7 Express leaves Kingston at 11:45 p.m., connecting with C.P.R. Night Express Train at Sharbot Lake for all points east and west. Arrives Ottawa, 5:25 a.m.; Montreal, 8:15 a.m.; Quebec, 2:30 p,m.; Toronto, 7:28 a.m. The only through train service to the North-West and British Columbia, with only one change of cars. No Customs Troubles,

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