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### Summer Days at Newport.

By LUCY H. HOOPER.

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was alone; his wife and aunt, accompanied by little Jack, had gone out for a drive, and the baby was taking a siesta in the nursery. It was a fine afternoon, late in August. A soft breeze stole from the sea and fanned his brow, the setting sun shone brightly, and the flowers on the lawn sent forth their sweetest odors. Yet the colonel seemed unquiet and restless. The cigar went out more than once between his lips, the paper was turned over and over impatiently, and was finally flung aside, and the colonel, rising, began to pace the floor

with rapid steps, "I wish the season was at an end," he muttered. "I hate this place. Every scene, every spot, speaks to me of her. I was made to come here, for the mere sight of the Ocean house has reopened the old wound."

"A letter for you, sir," said the servant, coming out from the house and laying the

Tombile out the second of the Harry Danvers paused in his walk, and took the letter up listlessly. It was a rather bulky packet, addressed in a diminutive female hand to Mr. H. Danvers, Oceanbrink cottage, Newport. It bore no postmark, nor was there any device on the envelope, so after a moment's scrutiny he tore the packet open. Within was another envelope, sealed, and without an address, and a closely written sheet of paper, the contents of which were as follows:

"Dear Sir: It was only by accident that I learned yesterday that you were at Newport, for I am here as companion to a very aged and infirm lady, and consequently go out of the house but little, and see no company. But I seize upon this opportunity to disburden my conscience of a load that has weighed upon it for nearly thirteen years.

"You have not, I know, forgotten Miss Florence Hurst, but you may not remember that she had a governess named Susan Clint, who used to post her letters for her, and who loved her very dearly. She had need of some one to love her in those days.

"I think Mr. Hurst was almost a madman. I have read of men possessed with a devil, and he reminded me of those Old World stories, only no exorcism could ever cast out his indwelling flend, which was a perfectly demoniacal temper. When the fit was on him he would stop at nothing, and his spells of fury sometimes lasted for weeks. It was not just a cloud and a storm, and then clear weather, as is usually the case with quick tempered people, but he was as sullen as he was violent.

"I believe that he broke his wife's heart, and sent her to an untimely grave. I know that he hated Miss Florence because she was not a boy, and all he cared for her was to see her married to a favorite nephew of his own, Barnwell Leroy was his sister's son, and as like his uncle as a young man can be like an old one. Temper and all, there was not a pin to choose between them. I tell you all this, not to exonerate myself from blame for what afterward happened, but merely to explain my conduct. I lived in mortal fear of Mr. Hurst, and but for my love and pity for Miss Florence I would have left his house long before I did, and I wish now that I had.

"One evening, I think it was early in November, Miss Florence came to my room. She had been crying (no new thing for her, poor child), but her face was ghastly, and she looked utterly worn out.

" 'Well, Susan,' she said, in a sort of hard, desperate tone, 'it is all over. We are to leave for Georgia in a fortnight, and I am to be married to Barnwell Leroy the week before Christmas.'

"I could not utter a word, but I took one of her hands in both of mine and pressed it. She understood me as well as if I had spoken, and she stooped down and kissed me,

"'You have helped me before: help me now,' she whispered, and she put a letter into my hand. 'I want this posted as soon as possible. Try to slip down to the postoffice to-night, and oh, Susan, do not fail me in this sore strait, for my very life is at stake!'

"I promised her that I would not fail to do as she wished, and she kissed me again and went away.

"The letter was addressed to you, Mr. Danvers, as I expected. I put it in my pocket, and as soon as it grew dusk I went to the back door and out through the piazza. But just as I got into the grounds I heard myself called. Mr. Hurst was behind me.

"'Where are you going, Miss Clint? he asked. "Only to take a walk,' I replied.

"Indeed! Well, then, I will act as your escort.' And he joined me, and never left my side till we returned to the house. "When I got home Miss Florence was not

there. She had been taken to Mrs. Leroy's plantation, to be kept under strict surveillance, as I afterward learned, and I was watched as closely at Gardenhurst. I had no chance to mail that letter.

"Two days before that appointed for her departure for Georgia, Miss Florence came home. Her first question to me was, 'Did you mail my letter to Harry? And, Mr.



"Did you mail my letter to Harry?" Danvers, I did not dare to tell her the truth. I thought it did not much matter; that she was to be married at any rate, and that it would be best for her to think that you had forgotten her, and I answered yes! God forgive me for the lie.

"The next morning she was gone. No trace of her was to be found anywhere. Her bed had not been slept in, her little stock of money, her elegant and valuable trinkets were all in their places; all except the cross and chain which she habitually wore.

"I thought, and so did Mr. Hurst, I know, that she had eloped with you. He forbade any pursuit of her, any inquiry respecting her. 'She is dead to me,' he said. Barnwell Leroy did swear that he would kill you, but that week your name and that of Mrs. Danvers appeared in the paper as passengers on the Scotia for Liverpool; and as politics and secession were then all absorbing topics, Mr. Leroy soon forgot all about his lost cousin and future bride. It was not till years after that I learned that the lady who accompa- | 25c, and the best 30c coffee in the city at nied vou abroad was vour mother, not vour W. D. Hendry & Co.'s

"And all this time poor Florence's letter dared to destroy it at first, and then I had put it away, and so carefully that in my but I never succeeded in finding it. Three years ago, while I was packing my trunk, an to my mother fell from the top of a pile of books to the floor, and from between its leaves there dropped the missing letter. had thrust it there, doubtless, to conceal it.

"It is addressed to you. I send it, herein inclosed. I do not know what it contains, and I do not want to know. Do not try to find my dwelling place or to see me. Let this wretched chapter of my life be closed here and forever. Whatever that letter must contain, do not blame me. I did not dare destroy it, and now it is in your hands. Do SUSAN CLINT." with it as you will.

With shaking hands Harry Danvers opened the other envelope. Within it he found a second envelope sealed and directed to him in the delicate, flowing handwriting of Florence Hurst. He broke the seal, unfolded the letter which was within, and read as fol-

Harry, I am desperate-wild-despair-come to me? My father is going to take me to Georgia, and when there he will force me to marry Barnwell Leroy. I hate him, Harry; he is a cruel, wicked man, and I could never have loved him even never met you. So, if you still love me, if you still wish me to be your wife, meet me at Deadman's pool on the evening of Thursday, the 18th of this month. I am to be taken to Leroy's for a visit, but I will be home by that time. I will go to the pool on that evening; I will wait there till midnight, and if you do not come, if this letter fails to reach you, or if you have forgotten me, I have one refuge still-the waters that they say are so deep. I had better die at once than live to be killed by inches as my poor mother was. But I know that you love me still. Forgive me, Harry, if I seem forward or unmaidenly in thus writing to you, but I have no friend on earth except yourself. "YOUR OWN FLORENCE."

A few days later Harry Danvers sat alone in the dismantled parlor of what bad once been the stately mansion of Gardenhurst. Without, the hot sunshine glared down on what was then a trimly shaven lawn, now planted with corn, and no vestige of the noble trees that formerly surrounded the house was to be seen except here and there an unsightly stump. In the distance flashed and sparkled the well known stream in the garish sunlight. Even Deadman's pool, robbed of its shrouding trees, looked bright and glowing. Men were at work there with cords and grappling irons and strange apparatus, but Harry Danvers never even approached the window or seemed to heed their toil. He sat alone waiting-waiting-silent, motionless and pale.

At last the door was opened and one of the men that had been so busy at the pool came in. Harry rose to meet him, and the face that he turned on the intruder was white as

"Well, Jarvis, have you found anything?" "Yes, sir."

"What is it?" "Portions of a human skeleton, and this." And he laid on the table a wet, discolored object-the diamond cross with its wreath of turquois forget-me-nets.

Harry restrained himself till the man was gone, then he caught the cross from the table

and pressed it wildly to his lips, "O love, love!" he moaned, "you stood there in the bleak autumn night, despairing, wretched, wild, deeming that you were forsaken and that I was faithless! O love! you did not know how well I loved you. O my Florence, my dead darling, what must have been your anguish, when death was your only refuge and your only hope! Do you know now, darling, why I failed to heed your sweet faithful summons? Behold, I have kept faith at last. I am here to bear you to your resting place, and instead of this cross, our last love token, I bring you another gift; not the wedding ring that I promised you, my love, my Florence, but- a coffin and a

THE END.

### THE' TEA TABLE.

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Hanson's magic corn salve cures corns and bunions with three applications. 15c. per box at Wade's drug store. R. Kondo, of the mining university of

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Augustin Daly is going to produce a short play by Justin McCarthy, M P., at the New York theatre this month.

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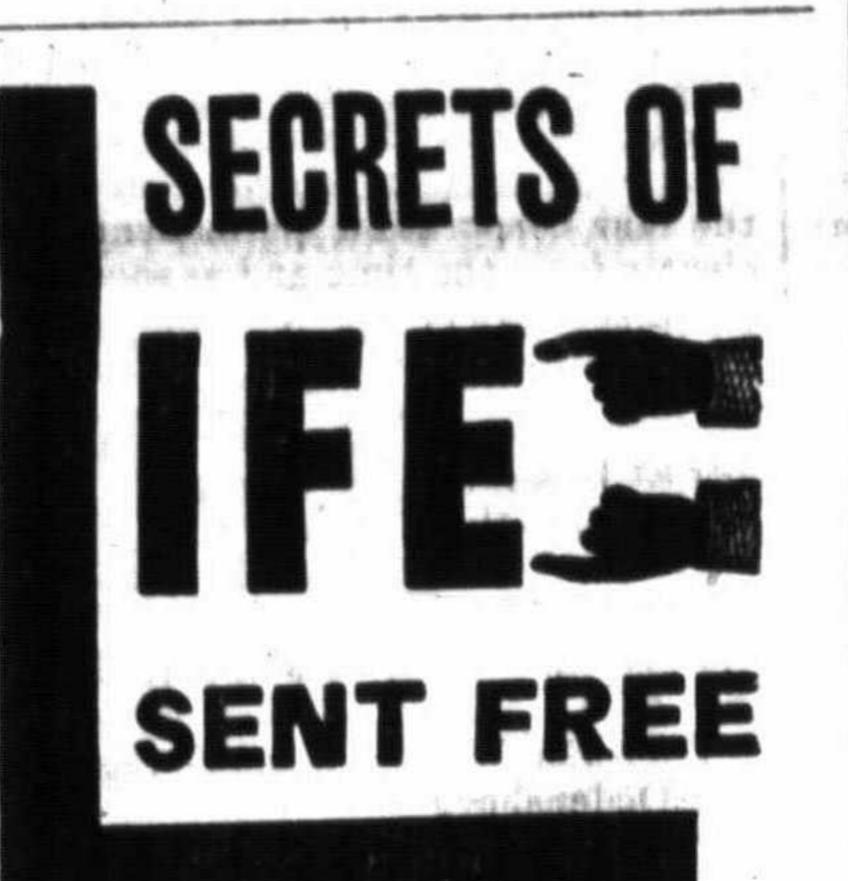
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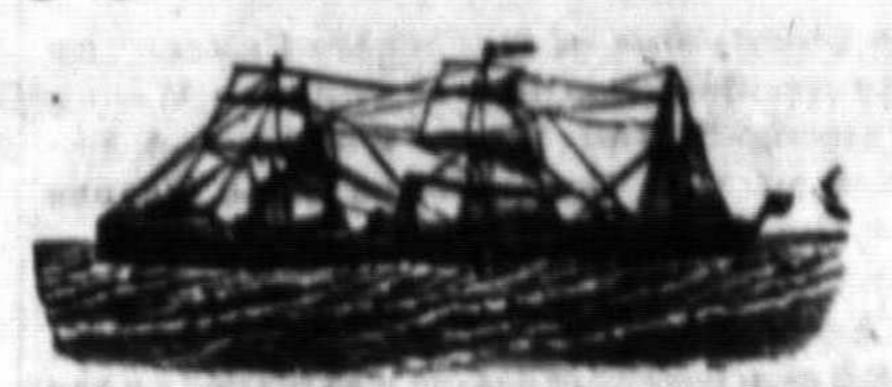
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