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dull and stuffy." This was clearly Miss Fisher. "People like that haven't any business to go visiting. I know my head is going to ache this afternoon." "I suppose he did his best, poor

man. Every one can't be interesting," sighed Mrs. Fisher. "He cert-

Welles did not draw back. On the contrary, he leaned further out, smil-

"I shouldn't have minded the trouble so much, if he hadn't been so

ainly is kind—think of his wanting to take Willie to this circusl I hope

ing grimly.

we seemed sorry when that telegram caine," "Oh, you were both noble!" Fisher spoke with a laugh. "I don't know what has come over him-he was quiet enough at college, but he wasn't such a stick. Fellows liked him. He hasn't improved."

"Well, he evidently enjoyed it," said Mrs. Fisher. "He couldn't say enough about Maggie's cooking. But I hope you won't feel you have to ask him again, Fred."

"Oh, no. But I'm glad we could do it this once. He must have a forlorn life—living in one little bachelor room," said Fisher as the surrey's wheels grated on the gravel.

"I shall go to bed for the rest of the day," said Miss Fisher with an audible yawn.

Welles softly drew in his head, gathered up his things, and went down. Willie was sprawled against the banisters in the hall below, waiting for him. Welles walked calmly by, and made polite protestations to his hostesses. Willie followed and hung over the wheel of the surrey, a shade of anxiety marring the perfect insolence of his attitude. Welles nodded to him carelessly, but sent no signal of intelligence.

"Guess I'll ride down with you," said Willie, climbing to the back seat. Several times during the drive heartfully directed Fisher's attention to the landscape, then hung over between them, his brown paw easily accessible in case anybody wished to slip a five dollar bill into it. But Welles apparently lacked the nerve to seize his opportunities.

They were hurried at the station, and the train was moving as Wells swung himself up on the step, then turned for a last good bye. Willie was running along the platform beside the train, his little red eyes fixed fiercely on his victim. Wells waved his hand to Fisher, then grinned down on the boy,

"Good-by, Willie, I hope you will enjoy the circus," he said sweetly.

Then Willie understood. A sudden flush of rage drowned his freckl-

"I'll tell!" he shouted fiercely after the departing frain.

"Of course you will," Welles returned. "Please do!"

Then he turned into the car and flung himself into a seat with a satisfied smile.

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