knew just how Kitty Lofton looked at | marry. that moment—just how Mr. Bellair kindled and smiled, and, leaning back gan to chat.

Lofton. 'Rather; but I am at home. I have

my home; I was born here."

'Thank you! Allow me to com h ..... Mr. Bellair !"

Mr. Bellair laughed, and settled himse! more comfortably against his pillar. "Certainly a very pretty place, and expeedingly nice social life. That is generally the advantage of Eastern over Western towns. The people, as a rule, are better educated, more refined. There is less scramble to get money, and more enjoyment of it. Have you ever been West, Miss Lofton?"

" Never." Mr. Bellair evidently made a mental At last

memoranda. Then Kitty turned her nice profile a little more, and arranged the Marechal Niel buds of her bouquet, and the girls saw that the coral lips and the curled, black lashes seemed to hold Mr. Bell-

air's eyes like a magnet. But he looked down at the tips of his polished boots at last, and began explaining to her about the excursionparty who were coming West in October, related some facts in reference to Chicago, and then-'Supper is ready. May I bring you

Tweaty pairs of red lips pouted, twenty pairs of pretty shoulders turned away in a huff, for it was evident that Mr. Bellair meant to evote himself to

came—I just knew it !" exclaimed May ed hands and departed. Morton.

"Oh, well," laughed Lu Dashington, "if you knew it, what is the use of getting mad? You didn't expect to get Mr. Bellair, did you?"

"Of course not! Nobody need expect anything when Kitty's round. "Quite a triumph for Kit," remarked Lu, composedly, an hour later, as she saw Mr. Bellair, with that young lady's scarlet shawl over his arm, escorting how rich he is, and what a splendid

place Three Elms is ?" Of course she did. Lu that immediately when she pounced upon Kitty, in the street, the next day. "Nobody but himself and father, and they are immensely rich, they say—

perfectly affluent, you know, Kit! Old Mr. Bellair is a floriculturist, and they have acres of green-houses! So he's accepted your father's invitation to take tea at your house to-night? Well, you're too awfully lucky, Kit. You're the only girl he's looked at more than a minute, and he's never taken anybody home. Been here three weeks, you know, visiting the Thayers, and strolls about like a Grand Mogul."

Kitty's black eyes sparkled under their curled lashes. Never was a proud girl more ambitious than Kitty Lofton. She exulted in the impression she had made on Mr. Bellair, and she meant to keep her own counsel.

"Oh, yes," she said; "papa knew old Mr. Bellair very well when they were boys. And, by-the-way, Brother Alf is going out with the excursion party. I think he will take me with

"Then you'll see Three Elms. How perfectly splendid !"

She knew she was beautiful—could latter. He had evidently entered the shine in society. She had never meant train at the last station, and had not to marry in Orchardville.

Lofton's that evening. He seemed to curtly. like Kitty's home, and Kitty's bewitching costumes, for he was there two suc- at Kitty's luncheon case, which was the cessive evenings. To be sure the only "occupant," and was turning away Thayers were there, also; but every when Alf jumped up. one could see which way the tide was turning for Kitty Lofton.

talking of her conquest—saying what box into the rack overhead. an exceedingly nice match it would be for her—for Mr. Bellair was seen with sat down, and Kitty tossed her head. her daily. She rode, drove and rowed with him, chaperoned by her mamma, Three Elms, jammed up in this way, of course; but no one believed Mrs.
Lofton, delightful old lady that she
from the old man's dusty boots, though was, to be the attraction. It was Kitty, he was very careful not to incomm and it would all certainly end in an engagement.

remarked sagely :

than Kit thinks. You are not perfecease. tion, my dear sister. Look out he doesn't find it out."

Kitty curled her coral lips.

brothers always are." morning wrapper and scarlet ribbons, Three Elms. turned haughtily to her practice again. Alf assented, and pleasantly continued The slim, jeweled fingers traversed the the conversation. vory keys of the piano deftly; but "You are familiar with the place, do Kitty was secretly a little uneasy, and you say? It is a very beautiful estate,

privately resolved to be very gentle and aristocratic, and keep her sharp little the old gentleman. tongue between her teeth. A certain "It is considered so. It has cost the unfailing courtesy and moderation in owner much labor; but he has been Mr. Bellair had already impressed her, quite successful in making it what he and she very much admired his "nice wished," he replied. manners."

felt that the young man's sweetness of in the conversation; but she was so temper and kindness to all about him evidently inclined to continue her inwas not mere outside polish; but she civility to the old man that he gave it was not given to looking much below up.
the surface, and did not even know "You are a most delightful travelling

shortcomings, and very much doubted and the old man disappeared as they if her attraction for the handsome alighted. Chicagoan would end in marriage.

Mr. Bellair's six weeks' Eastern visit | was Arthur Bellair's. came to an end at last. He realized | "Come directly to Three Elms," he

Lofton the latter part had been. The the evening. Every girl in the room ble-and his father wanted him to elegant and capacious carriage.

You are a stranger among us, Miss | tatious lover of flowers, and peace and | vehicle. good-will toward men.

bee away all summer. Orchardville is gayest and prettiest girl he had ever had resolved to know more of her; and his son. now, after many companionable interm rate you that you were not born views, he had not quite made up his Bellair.

mind regarding his own wishes. her?" he kept saying to himself, and Well, Kitty went to Three Elms. It adieux.

fastened the pink corals, that were so as Kitty was concerned. becoming into her little ears, and went down. But he talked of the Thayers his father informed him that the old and Orchardville people in general, and gentleman was not prepossessed in her for a time made no allusion to herself.

"It has been such a delightful sumner that I have accepted everybody's invitation to come again. I have so- despair-she never became Mrs. Arthur lemnly promised to bring little Pinky Belfair. Thayer a Christmas box; but before that, I shall see you at Three Elms. Alt has promised to bring you out with the excursionists.

"I want you to see Three Elms, and -my father," added Arthur Bellair, thoughtfully.

"I shall be very happy," said Kitty, sweetly, but a little alarmed that Mr. Bellair had risen and taken his hat. Yes, it was certain that there was to

be no offer, for her papa indiscreetly came in to say good-by; and there was Alf, who was to drive to the depot with Kitty Lofton during the remainder of the traveler. Kitty bit her red lips till the blood came, but still smiled sweetly "I knew it would be so when Kitty when Mr. Bellair shook both her jewel-

If she had known that he rode away with a heavy heart and many misgivings | Patented in England, the United as to the wisdom of not confessing a word of his feelings, she might have taken consolation for her disappoint ment. But Kitty kept her own counsel and there were only three weeks till the first of October, the time for the

excursionists starting. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer left Orchardville with Alf and Kitty, and joined the rest of the party in Boston. The weather her down the stairs. "He's going was splendid, and everybody in excellent spirits. The Thayers were going to Three Elms, while the rest of the party sojourned at a hotel in Chicago," and Mr. Bellair charged me or to fail to bring you with me, Kitty. His carriage will be sent in, you may be sure, and take us at once to Thre

Elms," said Mrs. Thayer. With such brightening prospects Miss Kitty held her pretty head correspondingly high. Her traveling dress was very elegant and becoming, and supposing they were to remain at Three Elms for a few days, the most elaborate costumes lay packed in her capacious trunks. The good taste of this arrange- Photographing and Picture ment might have been doubted by some; with Kitty there was no doubt whatever, though Alf scolded over those trunks, and dubbed her Miss Flora Mc-

But on the bright afternoon they reached Chicago, Kitty's gay spirits were seriously clouded by an accident which had happened to her pretty traveling silk. Some lemonade had been spilled upon it, disfiguring it slightly, but to Kitty the matter was weighty. "Just arrived, and my elegant ap-

pearance spoiled !" she murmured, disontentedly. Mrs. Thayer, who had suffered several hours from sick headache, had fallen Kitty shrugged her shawled shoulders asleep upon a travelling-cushion, and with an air which meant everything or Kitty was sitting in a silent fit of the nothing, and turned away, flushed and sulks, when a bent old gentleman asked radiant, exultation deep in her heart. leave to occupy the vacant seat by the

Mr. Bellair stayed late at Doctor yet been able to find a seat. "The seat is occupied," said Kitty, The old gentleman looked wistfully

"No, it isn't, Kit. You've a right to only half a seat. You can sit down ing attended to as usual." In a week everybody in town was hero, sir," and he promptly stowed the

> The old man, evidently very weary, "My dress will look nice to go to

He looked at her with a half-murmur Kitty meant that it should, and her of apology, but she scornfully averted parents looked on and approved; but her flushed face. Alf, ashamed of his Alf Lofton observed incredulously, and sister's ill-temper, withdrew the old man's attention by a few civil remarks,

The stranger was well dressed, but was evidently one of those exceedingly modest and amiable souls who often "Thank you, my Lord Persimmon! get rudely jostled in this selfish world.
We all know how complimentary He looked mildly about him, surveyed Mrs. Thayer's sleeping face, and at last Miss Kitty, looking exceedingly asked Alf if he understood the young

Then Alf, thinking Kitty would be Perhaps the petted and spoiled girl interested, made an effort to include her

how thoroughly a gentleman Arthur companion," Alf remarked, looking as THEOPS. S. DESBRISAY. if he would like to shake her, as the Alf, who saw even more of him than train rolled into the Chicago depot. she did, regretfully reviewed his sister' The excursion-party bustled together, OONVEYANCER, &c., &c.

The first face almost that they saw

thoughtfully how full of pretty Kitty said; "my carriage is waiting for you." With Mrs. Thayer on one arm and

While the party were seating them-Arthur Bellair was exceedingly fond selves, he absented himself for an inof his father. All that was creditable stant, and in that time the gentle old against a pillar near Kitty's chair, be- in him he said he owed to that good man, so objectionable to Letty, apold man's quiet example—an unosten- proached, and was about to enter the

"This is not a public carriage, sir!" Kitty seemed to Arthur Bellair the exclaimed Miss Kitty, resentfully. "I am aware that it is not. It is my known. Her figure was very charming. own," returned the old man, mildly, "Allow me to congratulate Orchard From his first moment of attraction, he and turned to be presented at once by

> "My father, ladies!" said Arthur But Mrs. Thayer had already clasped "I wonder how father would like the hand of her old friend.

went up to Doctor Lofton's to make his | was spacious and beautiful, the hospitality magnificent; put soon after their Kitty saw him come into the yard. arrival, Arthur Bellair's warm manner She was in her chamber; she hurriedly turned to the most icy courtesy, as far Evidently an early conference with

> favor, and thus Kitty's triumph ended. In spite of what everybody had said -in spite of her most becoming toilets, desperately made between hope and

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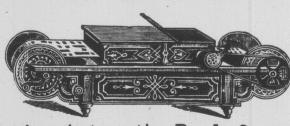
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