How Do You Like the Idea

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"Pardon me," returned Mr. Huntress, with dignity, as it suddenly oc-curred to him what his host's suspicions might be. "I prefer that Mrs. Mapleson should herself tell you that, since it is more her secret than mine. Perhaps, however, it fould be better for Geoffrey and me to retire to some other room while she speaks with you alone," and he half rose as he

But Mrs. Mapleson threw out one clenched, jeweled hand, with an imperative gesture to check him. "No," she cried, a quiver of agony in her voice; "if any one has a right to hear my confession, my story, you have," and at this Geoffrey turned a startled face upon the man whom he had always regarded as honorable and irreproachable—one of nature's

"Oh, the curse of gold," the unhappy woman went on, wildly. "What will it not tempt one to do? The love of it blunts natural affection and honor. and warps the reason. It leads one to deceive and scheme for the pos-session of it. What blind fools men and women are to sacrifice so much-love, a lifetime of innocence, purity, and happiness, for the sake of a little paltry yellow dust! If I could but live over my life, how gladly would I endure poverty, and toil, and selfdenial, to secure a quiet conscience and a heart free from the burden of sin, and dread! Oh, such a life as I have led is but a miserable fallure

from beginning to end?" Col. Mapleson began to be alarmed at his wife's increasing excitement, while her remorse and her ominous allusions drove him almost distracted. He arose, and going to her side, took her trembling hands in his, say-

Estelle, if you cannot calm yourself, I shall insist upon you going to your room; you will surely be ill if you yield so to nervous excitement. Whatever this matter is that seems to weigh so heavily upon your mind, I can wait until you are in a better state for its recital. Come, let me take you upstairs," and he gently tried to force her to rise. But she wrenched her hand from his

"I will not carry this dreadful burden on my heart another hour! For more than twenty years I have borne the brand of an inhuman monster on my soul, and I wonder that it has not transformed me into something so repulsive and loathsome that everyone would shrink from me in fear and disgust. I have often looked at myself with amazement to think it was possible for any one to conceal so effectually the corruption and wretchedness and duplicity of one's nature. I believe I have realized, as no one else ever did, what the Saviour meant by 'whited sepulcher full of dead men's bones.' William!" turning upon her husband, with a wild, glistening eye, and searching his face with a glance of pitiful appeal, "I expect that you will despise and hate me, that our son will loathe me, when you learn what I have to tell you."

The scene was becoming very painful, and Mr. Huntress, pitying her from the depths of his heart, arose and walked out of her sight, feeling that he could not look upon her agony, while Geoffrey sat spell-bound, dreading the impending disclosure more than he could express.

Col. Mapleson, feeling as if he must do something to calm her excitement, went to a closet, poured out a glass of wine, and brought it to her.
Estelle, drink this," he said kindly,
as he put it to her lips, though his hand shock so that he could not hold

the glass steadily.
She hastily swallowed it, and then pushed him from her; it seemed as if she could not bear him near her while her sin was unconfessed-until he should hear and judge her, and she could know what her doom was

For more than twenty years he had been her husband. He had always been kind and chivalrous in his treat-ment of her. At first she had been proud of him for his honor and manly Then her pride had gradually developed into a strong, deep af-fection, which, however, she had never allowed herself to parade before him, because of his unvarying reticence toward her. She had tried to be a good wife to him, to win his respect by her faithfulness to duty, her devotion as a mother, and his admira-

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tion by preserving her beauty and shining as a star in the society they frequented; and now, after succeeding for so long a time, it drove her nearly crazy to think that perhaps the confession of her early folly would undo all this and breed contempt for

her, or worse—his pity.

His own deception seemed very trivial compared with hers, for a cruel fate alone had prevented him from acknowledging his wife and child whom he had fondly loved and would have cherished as long as they had been spared to him, while she had deliberately planned to abandon her delicate babe and cast it unloved upon

the care of strangers. The wine which she had drunk however, served to steady her nerves, and to give her strength for the trial before her, and after a few minutes she raised her white, drawn face, say-

"Sit down, all of you, for my story is not a short one, though for your

sakes I will make it as brief as pos-"You will remember, William, that after I came into possession of my half of Uncle Jabez's fortune, I went abroad. I had always had an intense longing to see Europe, and when the means to do so were at my disposal, know, too, that as a family, we had always been poor. It had been a continual struggle with us to secure even the necessaries of life, and the battle with poverty had been a most bitter one to me. Now, I was bound to get the most I could out of life, to make up for the deprivations of my youth. I indignantly refused to marry as my uncle desired, for I, as well as you, considered that he had no disposing of his money; but I was young, I had seven years before me in which to enjoy my wealth come bridegroom by Ernest Burtch, brother of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Best, of Springford. in which to enjoy my wealth, and I said I would spend every dollar of my income in being happy and making up to my family for the hard-ships of previous years. So I settled a comfortable income on my father and mother, and then, taking my sister Nellie for a companion, I sailed for Europe to gratify my taste for travel and sight-seeing. We both spoke French and German fluently, or we had been faithful students, and fitted ourselves for teaching; both were self-reliant and courageous in spite of our youth—our conflict with our unfavorable surroundings had made us so-therefore we felt onfident to travel by ourselves without a chaperon, who, we felt, would hamper our movements. Some of the ime we had a guide, but in England,

France, and Germany we were able o go about quite independently. It was, perhaps, a daring thing to do, but, dignified in our bearing, and we never met with the slightest inconvenience from being without an escort. We had a very pleasant time together; we had plenty of money, and did not need to stint ourselves; Nell loved art, and I music, so for a year we put ourselves under the best of masters, and gave ourselves up to these accomplishments, and had our fill. But I am getting somewhat ahead of my story.
"While we were in London, a few

months after reaching England, we met a literary gentleman, a Mr. Chas. Southcourt, who paid me considerable attention, and to whom I was very strongly attached. We met often, too, upon the continent, for he also was traveling in search of material for his writings, and our routes frequently crossed each other. Finally, during my second year abroad, h confessed his affection for me, and asked me to marry him. He was brl-Had he been rich I would not have hesitated a moment, for I loved him; but I knew, far too well, what poverty was to be willing to relinquish my fortune and the handsome income it brought me, the luxuries and pleasures it yielded me, to say nothing of depriving my parents and sister of the comforts and advantages they were enjoying, and I refused him. He knew that I returned his affection—he had not dreamed of being rejected-and demanded the reason. I told him frankly. He then informed me that all pecuniary difficulty could soon be removed, for there was a prospect of his soon receiving a responsible appointment somewhere in the Far East, which would secure him an ample income which, with what he could realize from his writings, would enable him to provide for the comfortable support of my family, my own fortune was then giving me. Would I become his wife if he secured this appointment? he asked. I told him yes, and I believe that if it had not been for depriving my delicate and aged parents and sister of the comforts they were enjoying—if I had only had myself to consider, I could willingly have thrown up my fortune, and become his wife, whether secured the appointment or not. "Full of hope at having won my consent, Charlie returned at once to London—we were at that time in Rome—to bend all his energies to secure his coveted position. Two months later Nellie and I returned to Paris, where we were again joined by Mr. Southcourt, who was jubliant, for he said he was sure of his appointment, and he showed me a letter from a person high in authority, which seem-

> (To be Continued.) CURED OF SCIATICA.

ea to promise it beyond a doubt.

Lett Hip Affected - Suspected Kidney Trouble-Relieved and Perfectly Cured by Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Toronto Junction, Jan. 18 .- Mr. H. as everybody here knows that he is foreman at No. 1 fire hall. He was by your correspondent, and told his 'In April, 1896, I suffered from a se-

form of kidney trouble, and as they had been recommended, I procured a box of Dodd's Kidney Pills."

"Alt the end of the fourth day I was entirely relieved, but desiring a permanent cure I continued to use that and another box, and am now perfectly cured, and as well as ever in my life A brother of mine living at Pine Orchard has been cured by Dodd's Kid-

Babies should not be put to sleep on feather pillows. An eminent physician wrote: "The proximate, if not the original cause of great mortality These are made from the Ralston formula, and are recommended by the President of death to result from dysentery of cholera infantum the immediate cause is frequently affection of the brain supervening upon bowel disease. The reads of American babies are for the most

part little furnaces.' THE MEDICINE FOR LIVER AND KIDNEY COMPLAINT.—Mr. Victor Auger, Ottawa, writes: "I take great pleasure in recommending to the general public Parmelee's Pills as a cure for Liver and Kidney complaint. I have doctored for the last three years have doctored for the last three years with leading physicians, and have taken many medicines that were recommended to me without relief, but after taking eight of Parmelee's Fills I was quite relieved, and now I feel as free from the disease as before I was troubled."

Death of a Kent County Pioneer-Look ing for an Illicit Whisky Still.

Rev. John McGillivray, who died in Montreal last week, was a native of Goderich.

The other day when Wm. J. Deans. of West Garafraxa, went out to at end to the usual duties about his stable, he was met by a hen and thirteen newly-hatched chickens. Chatham is stirred over a proposition

by the mayor to dam the River Thames, and provide a great water power for manufacturing enterprises. Competent engineers pronounce the scheme feasible. Mrs. John Conery, Wingham, met with a severe accident while on her way to prayer meeting Thursday night. She had just turned the corner at the

Queen's when she slipped and fell, tearing the muscles of her arm from

the bone, which is much worse than breaking the arm. A very pretty wedding took place last week at the residence of A.Burtch, of West Otterville, when his daughter, Mrs. Dow, was united in marriage to John Smart, of Springford. The bride was assisted by Miss Nellie Langin,

Mr. Gibson, of the firm of Gibson & Ireland, Blyth flour mills, recently met with what might have been a serious accident by getting entangled in some of the machinery. Fortunately, he was a powerful man, and released himself from his perilous position, only losing his clothing, and escaping with some severe bruises about the body.

It was a close call. Two lads, John and Joe Graham, came up before Judge Hughes at St. Thomas on Saturday on the charge of theft of Bruce Davis' horse and rig on Sunday, Jan. 3. Judge Hughes sentenced both boys to Victoria Industrial School, Mimico, to serve as long a term as the statutes permit. The Industrial School detains boys until they reach the age of 16 years.

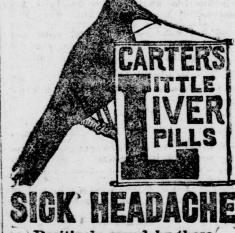
Mrs. Sarah McLeod, of Windsor, was walking up Michigan avenue, Detroit. While crossing Wayne street she stepped on a gutter plank, one end of which went down beneath her weight, and the other flew up and struck her a severe blow on the body. She has sued the city for \$20,000, after making a persistent effort to secure an allowance from the common council. Chief Skirving and a posse raided Watkins' cider mill in South Norwich with a view to discovering an illicit still, where whisky is said to be extensively produced, with hard eider for a basis. Vats of hard cider, chopped corn, chopped oats, buckwheat, etc., were found, but the very material part of the business, namely, the "worm," could not be discovered, and after a prolonged search the hunt was

reported that the young and handsome wife William Donald, of Tupperville, eloped on Friday night with an English farm pupil named Hunt, taking with her \$500 in gold and coniderable portable property. She is scarcely 30 years of age, and her husband is many years her senior. Hunt land. The elopers are said to have purchased tickets for California, and relatives are on their track. Mr. Hezeklah Wilcox, son of Hezekiah Wilcox, sen., one of the settlers who came to the district in 1783, died

on the old homestead near Chatham, on Thursday, aged 84 years. He was born in 1812 on the farm on which he lived and died. Mr. Wilcox was married in February, 1842, to Miss Coyderman, of Howard, who survives, and to them were born fifteen children, twelve of whom survive, six sons and six daughters, all filling useful places in the world. As next neighbor to the ate Hon. Arch McKellar, they were lifelong friends, and at the golden wedding in July, 1892, the sheriff was an honored guest.

In the Ingersoll Division Court, a garnishee action was brought by H George & Son against Wm. Butler & Son, both parties being dealers in thoroughbred stock. It was to recover \$36 for express charges on two hogs shipped by Whinnery & Co., of the State of Ohio, to H. George & Son, who paid the charges, received the case, and afterwards returned them to Wm. Butler & Son, who were acting as agents for the company, alleging that the hogs were not up to the standard order. Butler & Son sold the hogs, and claimed \$63 for expenses. feed and care of same until sold. They urged that there was nothing due from them to Whinnery & Co.Judgment was given for H. George & Son for \$20 and

There died on Thursday at his residence, lot 9, con. 14, East Zorra, Chas. Fulick, who came from the parish of Bramshiet, Hampshire, England, where he was born in the year 1818. He came to York Station in 1845, and the following year removed to East Zorra, and purchased the lot named. He made a good home for himself and family, and acquired considerable property. He was a ling-time member of Toronto Junction, Jan. 18.-Mr. H. the Huntingford church. In 1850 he Playter is not a difficult man to find, married Miss Elizabeth Sisson, whose mother still lives in Woodstock. Mrs. Fullick died in 1872. One son, James the picture of health when called upon owns an adjoining farm, and another, John, owns the homestead, and resides there. One daughter, Sarah, is the wife of Henry Buck, Blenheim; vere attack of Sciatica, affecting my Jane, now Mrs. James Shenan, jun. left hip, and the leg, to the tip of the and Mary Ann, the wife of Andrew toes. I suspected it came from some Emerson, now living in Wiarton.



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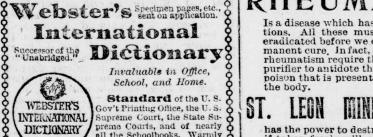
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Correspondence invited.

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