A NOTABLE WAGER.

New York Tipe-

"You are growing more disobliging and granky every day, old man," said Philip Morrison to his friend and chow-lork, Honz, Enos, one morning then, in a rear office of the Asbestos for the meagre lunch furnished by violating the rule against smoking. "I swear that soon there'll be no hving with you." I don't want any one living with mo," reforted Henry, grumpily. "Perhaps not pechaps you would be wise if you did Bessie says—" "Confound R saiet Shu thinks for immunity from trouble gives her

her immunity from trouble gives her the right to meddle with less fortunate

her immunity men trouble gives her the right to meddle with less fortunate people."

"There you go! You'd best be caroful for if you continue to forget that Bessie Parker is my sweetheart I'll cease to remember that you are her cousin and hence privileged to be as uncivil as you please."

"Besh! I'm as fr'nd of Bessie as you are, and less solifshly so; but she is never content to let ill enough alone, and you are getting just as bad. Supposing I am as quiet and reserved and intent on minding my own business as you say; 'm simply yielding tr the influence of my environments. Isn't the rule of this rushing city life to bid the devil take the hindmost and to heartily wish that your neighbor would join him? Very well. But as for being disobliging, I simply deny the accusation. I'm always ready to loud a ready hand—"

"You always used to be: but now your hand is clinched, and it's a ready until the volut of the rushing of the habit of

ind a ready hand—"
" You always used to be: but now
your hand is clinched, and it's a ready
ouff that you lend. The habit of
surliness is growing with you, Henry;
really it is. I'll bet you couldn't do a
favor if you wanted to, you are so
accustomed to saying 'No."
" You'll bet? Come now, I'll just
take you at your word. I'll bet that
for the next thirty days I'll do whatsecor I'm asked to do; yes and in the
most affable way."

most affable way."

"I'll take that," responded Morrison.

"I wish I had nothing easier to do all day long. But what is the

do all day long. But was is such as a long stake?"

"You know that I disapprove of betting, and only adopt it now as the most adequate means of refuting your calumnies. Let the stake be a dinner if you like. I'll be just as determined to win as if it were a million. But of course, you know, you are barred from asking anything of me yourself, or from suggesting to any one else to ask."

asking anything of me yourself, or from suggesting to any one else to ask."

"Of course: the understanding its that you will only have to deal with such tests as naturally present thomselves. They will be quite sufficient, Henry. I couldn't have dovised a better object lesson. And to think that all your nervous irritability might have been avoided by a little faith on your part. Beasie says that she's sure that Laura Blake dismissed you from an ultra conscientiousness. You always proclaimed such lofy ideals that you fairly frightened her into"—

To what extremesof cousinly candor the justly incensed Enos might not now have proceeded luckily fate was freed from determining; for just then so smart lad thrust his head into the room and piped: "Mr. Enos, the General Manager wants to see you at once."

"Tost number one." lauthed Philip.

ones."
"Test number one," laughed Philip, as Henry, with a grimace, hurried away. For General Manager was of that officious sort whose virtues are more apparent from above than from below.

more apparent from above than from below.

Morrison thought very tenderly of his friend as rather mechanically he bent over his work. Their regard, begun in boyhood, had been cemented by years of compatibility and symathy. As is not common with friendships, there had been one who had unknowingly received the admiration and imitation of the other; and that one had been Enos. His character was essentially lovable, the more so for weaknesses of temper and temperment which proved a counterpoise to as superiority of his intellect. He as persistent, yet timid: self-distrust al, yet with a certain doggedness. He ecoquized his own sensitiveness, and nontinually ridiculed it; though by so Joing he made himself the more suspetible to pain. Had any one asserted that Philip was dependent on him, he would have deemed the proposition too self-evidently ridiculous to be noticed. Morrison seemed to him to posses the qualities which he desired and lacked, and truly so; but there are loftier characteristics than sterling moderation and sound common sense, admirable though these be. oderation and sound common sense

are loftier characteristics than sterling moderation and sound common sense, admirable though these be.

The intimacy between these two young men had not been strengthened but perhaps rendered more manifest by the engagement of Morrison to Henry's cousin Bessie Parker. Their course of true love had been so placid, that this couple had found an abundance of time to watch the more exciting career of Enos and Laura Blake, Bessle's closest friend. This young lady had spent several weeks during the Winter at Miss Parker's home, and, consequently. Henry had been thrown much in her society, and, inevitably, whenever the four had been together, had acted as her especial escort. There had been mutual attraction at once, followed by mutual passion, timid and shrinking on Laura's part, and impetuous and fiery on Henry's. His arder proved irresistible; Laura accepted him as her lover,

oven before she felt sure of him as a friend. When she was with him she doubted nothing, regioning in his pride and gladiness. But when at length the girl roturned to her quite Western home and reflected and remembered, giving to romantie vows the certainty of sober truth, her perturbations roturred and filled her with romores. She was not capable of its respression. Thinks of all her lover demanded; unity in mind and heart and soul; was she quite prepared for such interdependence? And if not, was not candor the smallest reparsion that she could make? And so the pour child, reading her consouence rather than her real desire, wrote to Enos that she folt she did not love him as he should be loved, perhaps she might mover be able to do so. Therefore, would it not be better for them not to have any definite understanding just at present? Alas, poor little missive, tear blurred! Inos tore it into a thousand shreds, vowing that all women were false, and never before had the falsest been half so false as Laura, and henceforth the sun was dead to him.

Bessie and Philip regretted this breach, for many reasons, some selfish, and all sincere. It put an end to a lundred pleasant plans for the fatter, which hal been quite as pleasant in anticipation as they could be in realization. It cut of that second visit whole Laura had promised to make about this time. How proveking, too, when her step-father was about to move to the vionity of the city! Did Henry know of Mrs. Blake's recent marriage? Probably not; he was so obstimate in rebetched. What a stame it all was when Laura would be so estrange and and lonely! Then, besides, Henry had developed such moroseness under af

when Laura would be so strange and and lonely! Then, besides, Henry had developed such moreogeness under a and honey I then, besides, refery had developed such morosoness under af-fliction; though he wouldn't talk, he was so constantly thinking! Of course, they didn't want him to keep away, but it cortainly was hard to have him

but it certainly was hard to have him around.

All the details of this situation Philip thought over as he apparently Continued his work; and the idea occured whether from Henry's headstrong wager there might not come some relief. Of course, he had promised not to interfere himself, or to ask any one else to interfere, and he would keep his word. But there was a very extended field of possibilities growing out of such a game, and he well knew that whither Enes was led, thither he would unhesitatingly go. Where was heat present, for instance? Ordinarily, an interview with the Genoral Manager lasted the briefest possible space, and even then Henry would manage to say several things which would have been putting, except against impenetrable blandness. Philip rang a bell and called the boy from the antercom.

"Yessir," that functionary reported.

nave oben sutting, occoping against lingular imponentable blandness. Philip rang a bell and called the boy from the antercom.

"Yessir," that functionary reported.
"Mr. Encs, he kem back for his bat and coat, and then drive away in a kerridge with a lady and gen'iman." Where the deuce had he gone?

This, then, is what had happened to Henry Enos. When he entered the General Manager's office there sat that official beaming impartially on a fat man and a shriveled little woman, both elderly.

"Ah, Honry," he began, with suspicious cordisitiy, "I think you're just the man we need. This is Prof. Windham and his good wife. The professor has latelyjoined our directory representing large Western interests. He purposes to reside in the vicinity for the Winter. I have ventured to suggest that he should take a furnished flat across the river. You are acquainted with the City of Homes, I know, and thoroughly competent to exhibit that charming combination of domesticity with urban whirl. Perhaps you will be so obliging as to consolid the professor and his good wife to such localities and addresses as you may deem commensurate to their dignity and comfort. Ahom!"

Henry's eyes and lips presented strange contradictions. The former sternly said: "You only seconded with important calculations for the company, which no one else can do so well, and which you would be loath to have me relinquish for a half hour. But you count on my refusing, and thus offending this new-comer in the directory. For you are jealous of me, and jealousy with one of your small nature means the most contemptible form of hate." But the lips smiled and assented.

"Certainly," replied Enos; "I should be only to delighted. It will

nature means form of hate." and assented.

form of lasto." But the lips smiled and assented.

"Octainly," replied Enos; "I should be only too delighted. It will be quite a pleasant outing for me, and directly in the line of a favorite avocation of mine. I really consider househunting the king of sports."

The professor marely opened his eyes, which had been closed during the conversation, and wiped his ball head with a bandkerchief which looked libe a cheest. But his "good wife" was professor its and the dear professor is on absentingied. One of the penalties, Mr. Bancs, of genius. On, you can be at prised, assistance to us, and you see se very kind. The carriage is waiting and we are all ready now, Comis, pape, we are going to the City of Homes."

The professor groaned as he button

of Homes."

The problems ground as he button
ed his next, and then ground once
more as he adjusted his hat and suffored himsalf to be led to the front entrance. "His little wife ciloted him

skilfully, though his gait was a rolling one and caused him to once or twice lurch heavily against her. After the second collision, Mrs Windhamseund second collision, Mrs Windhamseund and stopping short, appeal ingly addressed Enos.

"Would you mind carrying the monkey, she asked;" Jocko sen the he she thest trouble, escent when he

"Would you mind carrying the monkey, 'she asked; 'Jocke in the hundry,' she asked; 'Jocke in the hundry, but I really cannot divide m, attention." and she drew from underneath her closk a tiny marmosaet.

"Octtainly," agreed Henry, cheer fully, 'I like monkeys, especially little ones, my only fear is that this regard may not be reciprocated. How shall I take him. by the string?"

"Uh, dear no! Put him in your pecket, and he will never move, "and so constituted, the party proceeded on its way.

At first Henry sat in the centre of

At first Honry sat in the centre of the front seat, and was gingerly about moving his haude. Jocke might be all that his fond mistress netured him or there might also be a string on this praise. But after a little, amid the multitudinous details into which his duty developed, he ceased to heed and then to remember the presence and existence of the little beast. Mrs. Windham was as voluble as her husband was taciturn, probably because her mental problems were not so recondite. She wanted to know; and Honry found himself actually describing scenes of amiliar as to be a weariness to scan. The professor, too, had the habit of dropping things, and then of signoring them. There would be a questioning look from Mrs. Windham and then Henry would bob up and down after gloves, bundkerchief, and goves. Often Henry would wond after gloves, bundkerchief, and specialos, and spectalos, handkerchief, and golves. Often Henry would would wonder what could be the subject of the learned man's thoughts. He was oblivious to scenery and surroundings. He sat with his eyes closed, and his hands crossed over his stomach. Frequently he sighted; and then his good wife would shake her head as much as to say some marvel ous perception had just been bern. There was something in her devetion which made Henry think that the couple were nowly married, and this added to the scene bitterness of his spirit. "Even they, old and queer as they are, can be happy," he mused, "wille I must suffer as itenerary real esta'e agent lest I should be thought disobleging.

When they reached the City of Homes, and the serious work of their At first Honry sat in the centre of the front sent and managed

When they reached the City of Homes, and the serious work of their mission was about beginning, Mrs. Windham looked up with an air of perplexity.

perplexity.

"I have forgotten something," she redicated, 'but I can't toll what. The professor has his rubbers on, and here are his lemon drops. But there is something; don't forget, Mr. Enos, before you go that there is something; Honry did not forget though in the whirl of seeking suitable rooms any lapse of the memory would have been excusable. Perhaps the time when he was enjoined to remember kept the duty illumined with the light of hope. If he could only get away he wouldn't forfelt his bet with Morrison; oh, no I not on his life; but he did believe that he would be sonfined to his room by sickness for the next thirty days. There would little difficulty in getting a physician to insist on the precaution, a physician to insist on the precaution and, of course, he couldn't be dis

a physician to insist on the precaution, and, of course, he couldn't be disobliquig.

The Windhams wanted a suite of five rooms—a parlor, three bed-rooms study—at least, that is what the good wife [wanted. The professor's interest, however, continued to be diverted by his mysterious inner qualms, and only in dropping things with greater frequency did his bearing change while mounting stairs and squeezing through halls. "You must make all inquiries for us, Mr. Enos," pleaded Mrs. Windham, and for hours Henry heroically persisted in a catechism regarding rent, water, gas, drainage, heat, furniture, and table board, until the questions tripped as mechanically from his toague as columns of figures were wont to from the tip of his pen. At 60 clock the Windhams proncunced themselves suited; at least the good wife did. And, indeed, as they were inspecting the adjacent restaurant, Honry had thought that he had detected the first gleam of satisfaction on the professor's part.

"Yes," said Mrs. Windham, quite heerily; "I think these will do very well. A pleasant parlor, three convenient bedrooms—we couldn't have gotten along with less, you know—and just the proper study for the professor. We are esternally obliged to to you. Mr. Eaos. Such thoughtful kindness has never been equalled. I do hope you will call as soon as we are estitled. We shall ever regard you as a friend."

do hope you will call as soon as we are settled. We shall ever regard you as a friend."

Henry smiled rapturously as he made his parting salutions. He was delighted to be free; so delighted that already the hardships which he had endured were becoming pleasurable through reminiscence; still, he sould not forget his promise.

"Oh, by the way," he said, turning back; "you wanted me to remind you that there was something you had neglected to remember, you know."

Mrs. Windlam thought for a moment and then uttered a denure skriek. "Oh, oh!" she oried; "to think that I could have been so need; to think that I could have been so need; to think that I could have been so need; bettind of my only child! We left my daughter in the drawing room of the Nonparell Hotel this morning, telling her to wait until we returned, as we wouldn't be goue long, for we didn't expect to get settled to-day, and there

she must be now, without a cent in her pocket, other. Oh, dear! what shall we do; what shall we do?

And now, for the first time the professor's face radically changed. An oxpression of dismay, of construction, straightened its unctuous lines. Great beads of perspiration gathered on his brow, and amid intermittent droppings were noabbed away. Do?" he ro reated. "Why, there is only one thing for us to do, and that is to get our dinner. It's a half hour beyond our time already." The dear professor," pleaded Mrs. Windham. "Regularity is an ab solute essential to his well being. The brain must be nourished, you know. Such force cannot continue without fuel. And yet, my lonely, my deserted child! Ah, what a friend, inde-d, is a friend in need." And then she stopped short with prtcus gaze. "I think I must hurry along," murmured the wretched Enos, I have such an important ongogeneent. One moment young man murmured the professor. "I like you, and I will like you still more if you will do after that poor child and bring her home, now won't you?"

Enos bit his lip and turned a trifle pale, but his answer was prompt and decisive. "Certainly I will," he replied, "you say she is in the drawing room of the Nonparil. Very well I will take the clevated at once. Excuse me if I seem rather precipitate," and he fairly sprinted out of the room.

me if I seem rather precipitate," and he fairly sprinted out of the room.

"Come, my dear," urged the pro-fessor, with glistening eyes; and the worthy couple descended to the dining

"Come, my dear," urgue are professor, with glistening oyes; and the
worthy couple descended to the dining
room.

"Thank God," sellitoquized Henry,
after he had crossed the bridge and
onsconced himself on an up-town
train," "I managed to escape without
being ask to take milk or syllabub to
the brat. I awear, I wish some one
would ask me to be so good as to go
and drown myself! If, after this experience, I had to pay for that dinner.
I believe I would decter it up with all
sorts of noxious and deadly drugs!
So I had best persist out of respect
for my preclous nervous system—one
doesn't say for one's neck under the
new excution law. By George, I'm
hungry and nervous. My waisthand
is in folds, and so-nothing has been
crawling up and down my back for
the past half hour. What a Grand
Inquisitor that Genoral Manager
might have made with his diabolical
suggestions. If I don't change that
bland grin of his into a grimace come
day, may I make another idiotic wager. I wonder if there is some one
aboard that I know. A talk with any
one would be preferable to this talking
to myself."

Henry turned and looked through
the car. There, from one of the contral seate, a familiar face was smilling,
a hittle hand was beckoning vigorously.
It was his cousin Bessie I He sprang
down the aisle with expression at first
alight with pleasure and then strangeity contorted.

"Oh, Bessie." Henry exclaimed, as
he seated himself by her side, with a
rather exaggerated air of care, "I am
so glad to have met you, Pray, where
are you going!

"Why, home, of course. But you
don't look glad. You never do look

rather exaggerated air of care, "I am so glad to have met you, Pray, where are you going!

"Why, home, of course. But you don't look glad. You never do look glad these days, Henry, you know you also look worried and sick. Is anything wrong."

"No." replied Henry, dublously;
"I am overtired I guess. Now and again I seem to have such peculiar spells. But I feel all right just at present. And, oh, cours, if you only come with me, I'll be so grateful. I haven't the remotest idea how to talk to a little brat."

"I should say not; you are too cross yourself for any such combination, But what do you mean? Why must you talk to a brat? Have you started a foundling asylum for your sins?"

"I promised some people to fetch."

sins?"

"I promised some people to fetch their little daughter to them. She is in the waiting room at the Nonpareil, and they are across the river at 1,492 Ultimate Street in a nice flat which I've spent the entire day selecting for them. Can you wonder that I seem fatigued?"

"I wonder rather whether you have

fatigued?"

"I wonder rather whether you have lost your senses, Henry. A nice flat: well, I should say so! You, of all people in the world to have goue not only out of your own way, but out of every one else to oblige! And not a week since, you nearly exterminated me because! ventured to suggest that you kept wilfully gnawing on your nose. Dear, dear! What will Philip say when I tell him? Of course, I'll go with you, Henry; there's always more or less fun about playing the good Samaritan."

"What will Philip say?" interrupted Henry, fieresly; "what can he say to atone for involving me in such a ridiculous mane? Oh, I wish that all the time you were ten times as tantalizing as you sometimes can be; then he might wed an adequate retribution." And with a minuteness of deail which showed how painful had been the imprinting on his somewhat crratic memory, Henry related the notable wager and what; had already cost him.

"Ha, ha, ha!" laughed the girl as "I wonder rather whether you have

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or Ultimate Street.

"But there as paraciple mivolved, pleaded theory,
"Dut there are brains involved, mode dependent of the work of the west. He has lately become affector in our con—" Who?"
"Prof. Windham and wife from the West. He has lately become affector in our con—" "Who?"
"The brat is their little girt, of course. Probably you can find something amusing in this statesment, also?"
"Oh, no, I can t, 'retorted Bessio, wiping her eyes. "Not amusing, but too exeruliatingly ludicrous for words! So it's their little girt that has been withing all day at the Nonparoll, and whom you are now going after eh? "We,' I should say; for I wouldn't kind a will have a memory of the second find of the second of monkeys!

"Wha,' should lienry, springing to his feet. "I remombe was coming down with toomotes at aris. Let mo see. Hero's a station. If I feed the brute, he'll keep quiet, and I'm bound to take care of him. I can't explain now, Bessio; but you go, nike a good girl, and a muse that out, and I'm bound to take care of him. I can't explain now, Bessio; but you go, nike a good girl, and a muse that out, and I'm bound to take care of him. I can't explain now, Bessio; but you go, nike a good girl, and a muse that out, and I'm bound to take care of him. I can't explain now, Bessio; but you go, nike a good girl, and a muse that out, and I'm bound to take care of him. I can't explain now, Bessio; but you go, nike a good girl, and a muse that out, and I'm bound to take care of him. I can't explain now, Bessio; but you go ni, like a good girl, and a muse that out, and I'm bound to take care of him. I can't explain now, Bessio; but you go ni, like a good girl, and a muse that out, and I'm bound to take care of him. I can't explain now, Bessio and the will be good to be a many that we will be a many the search of the service of him of the will be a many the search of the service of him of the serv

wouldn't know him even if you wanted to—,

"For shame, Bessie !" oried Laurs, with glistening eyes; "when you know how hard I have tried to be perfectly honorable with such a dear, good fellow. But tell me, doesn't he know that my mother married Prof. Windham a month ago, and that we have moved East to live ?"

"Ide knows nothing about you, Laura, since you wrote that letter."

"Then perhaps he doesn't care. Perhaps he has forgotten—"

"His grief is too sacred for disoussion, Laura. Had Shakespeare been a close student of human nature he would have pictured concealment at work on a man, instead of on a woman. You know how we all do like to talk. But it makes them cross. Why, there has been no living with Henry."

"Ah, poor fellow!"

"Ah, poor fellow!"

"And now, when he comes—if he ever is able to come—matters will be all the worse for the shock of seeing

"Perhaps I had better hurry away d avoid him?" and av

and avoid him?"
"And thus make him have all this trouble for nothing, besides losing his wager. He's under promise, remember, to escort you to your mother, and he'd do it, too, if he'd broken his lege and he'd the senter which the senter of the senter his terms. and had to come on his stumps.
There is nothing that exceeds love's
ardor except a bet's craze. I hardly
know what you should do, unless—
unless—"'

unless.—"' You know there can be be no unless, Bessie, said Laurs, reproachfully. "Why, I would die of mortification if he should turn away, from the slightest, faintest hint."

"But he wouldn't turn away; he couldn't! He's bound to oblige; he'd lose his bet if he didn't."

"Beesie!"

"There is a time, Laura, when the idle distinctions of our sex should give way before the generous, open-hearted conduct. Could you have seen poor, distraught Henry rush from the train, could you have viewed his agnoized countenance, you would think that this time has now arrive! think that this time has now arrive t. But hark! what a commotion there is down in the office! Look out, dear, perhaps you can see something."

notable wager and what; had already cost him.

"Ha, ha, ha!" laughed the girl as morrily as a mountain eascade. "That proves man's superiority in judgment, now, doesn't it? A poor woman would have referred eating a good din-

ner, no matter who paid for it, to chasing domesticity from pole to pole, even unto the hyperborean regions of Ultimate Street.

"But there are brains involved, mocked Bessio." But tell mo who are these people who have found you so marvelously obliging?"

"Prof. Windham and wife from the West. He has lately become a director in our con—"

"Who?"

Henry and Laura joined their discreet friends, nothing could exceed the fervor with which he thanked Morri-son for making that notable wager with him.

with him.
"You certainly look like a winner,"
said the delighted Philip. "Come,
let us four reunited friends go and get

let us four returned greends go and get the dinner."

"But your dear, good mother may be worried about you," suggested Henry, tenderly.

"No, indeed," replied Laura; "we will have finished long before the pro-fessor has."

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