A number of letters were awaiting Colonel Haldane, commandant of Newly, on his return from parade. He was unmarrried, rich and rather distinguished looking. It will therefore surprise no one that he was accustomed to receive a great many sweetly scented delicately-monogrammed, prettily-worded ing little carriage, she said. 'I so adone day wear a sprig of that other letters from the various members of the

fair sex with whom he was acquainted. Among the little heap which lay before him was one conspicuous for its and then he looked steadfastly at Florand the looked stea ope. Oddly enough, this was the one ence, absolutely blushing as he did so. he selected first for perusal. Scrawled on the lip of the envelope were these

words; 'Bring Myrile.' manly eye-glass, and held his head a little on one side; he twisted his iron carious words : 'Bring Myrtle.' Who winter blanket clubs and workingmen's was Myrtle? What was Myrtle? How clubs and friendly societies. many times he read and re-read that ed on the lip of the envelope, an un-

Slowly he opened the letter. It was an invitation to afternoon tea at the Whites-people he knew slightly, as he knew so many in the heavily-garrisoned naval and military town close to the barracks at Newly.

The letter was from Miss Florence He called up a vision of Florence White. Tall and stately, a girl with a mass of golden brown hair rolled off her forehead; a girl he had greatly admired, as one admires a serene and lovely them, and treated him like a mere complexion, in a shadowy corner of the drawing room on one or two occasions when he hed to be a constant of the drawing room on one or two occasions. when he had taken 'tea' there, and had matrons, as if in that direction lay his carriage to Miss White? What should natural bias, and now this stately young he do? He shrunk behind the deep lady sends him the jocular postcript bidding him 'Bring Myrtle!'

Colonel Haldane sat down in the comfortable red velvet chair which faced the parade-ground, and commanded a fine view of the ever-companionable sea. The little rippling waves had an expression of infant smiles to-day, and the buoyant clouds were chasing one another like school-boys on a common. How innocent and fair was the world of nature! He sat dreaming over his problem 'Bring Myrtle' quite happi-

A knock with the kneb of a stick on ary off-parade familiarity.

'Jane!' he said, addressing Captain

Hilton by his nickname. "Jane! what on earth does it mean when you receive name 'Au Myosotis, a Menton,' etc. a message from a young lady to 'Bring Captain Hi on.

rollicking smile, took the envelope Tommy, said Miss White; and another daintily, and, after reading it, pressed it time never venture to bring P. D. C. to his heart, and said, with a strong | books into the drawing-room. Go to the brogue: 'Why, man, it's a proposal! What do the ladies wear on their festal brows, and twist about the flowing satin in yet deeper hues, and ran for the of their bridal gowns but myrtle? every joy! She is a sweet girl, if a bold

Without a word, Colonel Haldane sprang, in a melodramatic manner, at Haldane! What does it mean?' the throat of Captain Hilton, and held him with a grip of iron.

like that! She is the most distinguish- what compassionately, and then returned girl of my acquaintance. Apologize! ed to the drawing-room just in time to ghastly appeal on Colonel Haldane, forest cart drawn by a lovely pair of when the latter as suddenly relaxed his Welsh ponies, she saw turning in at the grasp and sald :

"Forgive me Hilton; but really I-I-object to such an unseemly idea.' 'I beg your pardon, colonel,' said Captain Hilton, stifly; 'but I object which rejoiced in the possession equally to being throttled. Allow me seven prizes.

to wish you good morning.' Stop, my friend, said Colonel Hal-I think. Sea and sentiment, as you that you would forget, though I mensaid just now. Come, my friend! Do tioned it in my note. tell me what on earth Miss White means?'

Hilton, viciously; 'but whether sprout the window. Was this long-backed, ing in a tub, after the fashion of the low-legged, flap eared dog the honored blossoming shrub, or done up in a glass object of that message? case after the artificial mode, I know

'Blossoming shrub,' murmured Col- Scotchman about me.' onel Haldane. 'Bless his Hibernian i 'Now it's explained!' said a deep wit! Eureka! Now I have it!'

writing-table, and penned the following once more. 'Au Myosotis No. 10. Avenue Victor Emmanuel a Menton Alpes Maritimes.'

'Send the finest flowering myrtle you possess to the following address; Miss Florence White, The Grange, Porterdown, Sussex. The myrtle must arrive on the afternoon of September the 7th, one week from this date.'

The hesitation of his manner had vanished; he was smiling serenely, and his eyes were fixed with an expression of perfect understanding on the countenance of Miss White.

'Bring Myrtle!' he continued, laughingly, 'This is Myrtle! Rival Myrtles

Then Colonel Haldane rang the bell there may be, but this form of Myrtle hastily, and told his man to post the can't be improved upon! letter. This done, he placed the note | 'Again Miss White's pupils enlarged | Mo from Miss Florence White in the pocket sympathetically. Worse and worse !

The afternoon of the 7th July arrived | said : and with a strange palpitation at his 'What is explained? Confusion of heart (a sensation which ought to have | circumstances?' aroused his suspicions as to the exact | 'Confusion of envelopes. Bring state of his susceptibilities), Colonel | Myrtle was scribbled on the wrong back Haldane drove up in his little hooded carriage, with the tiger jumping up and With a sudden illumination, Miss SUGAR, LARD, ETC.

down behind, to the gates of The White sank down beside Colonel Hal-'Here comes the pig in the poke,' said mortified confusion. Felicity White, a younger daughter Does that account for the presence of who was given to using her brains in off the flowering myrtle in the hall?" she hand criticism. 'If a man will drive asked, after a moment of horrified sia carriage with a hood, what is one to lence.

ly, Florence; do come and look.' 'I like that heeded carriage,' said at Mrs. Danvers, who, with a finesse Florence. And then she turned with worthy of her, dashed away to the other ready grace to meet Colonel Haldane, end of the room to meet the extended who had just entered the room. 'Feli- hand of an apropos acquaintance. He

'Do you?' said Colonel Haldane, gratefully. It is very kind of you! who answered to the ubiquitous name

rogative, was arrested in her amiable intention of transporting him to the other end of the long, lone drawinggray moustache into a yet more poig-nant expression as he inspected those

It's all very fine to talk about leading message he was perhaps unaware. But an unpuzzled existence, like Jane Austen; but why on earth did Colonel it was useless. 'Bring Myrtle' remainable glance from his undeniably fine gray eyes? What did it mean? Sh fell away from him, musing, and turned the outward machinery of trite common places on her greeting of the numerous guests, who were now rapidly arriving.

The Whites had just started a page, of 'Tommy;' one of those specimens much adapted by ambitious matrons as White, who wrote in her mother's name. an improvement on parlor maids; a creature raw off the fields, with the expression of an animated turnip and brains to match. In the midst of a buzz of voices intermingling with the landscape; a girl who made him feel denly darted into the room, and made frou-frou of rich dresses, Tommy sud- N. provokingly 'fogyish.' Other young straight for Miss Florence White, cara sub, asked him to play tennis with rying in his lobster-colored hand a book suggestive of the P. D. Company.

Colonel Haldane, from his solitary placed him, with due regard to his seat in the deep recess of the bay win-Was this the myrtle arriving, and had introduced him to some deep-toned the Menton folk absolutely charged the amber of the curtains, then as suddenly

emerged. 'Bring Myrtle !' these were her own words, and he made a violent rus across the room to her side.

'It's the myrtle,' he said, breathlessly 'Allow me! The stupid people have made a mistake,' he continued, incoher ently. 'The idea of charging the car riage to you!' and he threw a sovereign into Tommy's bashful fingers.

Miss White looked at Colonel Haldane with ever-enlarging pupils. He had returned lately from Egypt, had been indefatigable at the bombardment the door breaks into his reflections, and of Alexandria, had had an illness on his Captain Hilton enters with his customthat he had been obliged to have his Well, old fellow, what's up? Sea head shaved. She continued to look at 'Well, old fellow, what's up? Sea and sentiment, eh? It's fatal to sit in flitted phantom-like about her.

he vanishing figure of Tommy In the round, roomy hall stood a

huge tub matted up and bearing the 'Its a flowering myrtle, miss,' said Myrtle? and he handed the envelope to Tommy; 'the biggest the carrier says it ever fell to his duty to deliver.' Jane who had a rolling eye and a 'Fetch a pair of gardening scissors,

housekeeper with that kind of thing.' Tommy took the color natural to him scissors. Miss White soon snipped the

Bring myrtle, I tell you, is a proposal detaining strings, and gave way to a -a bona fide proposal. I wish you very natural delight as the starry blossomming myrtle was exposed to view 'Very odd,'she thought, 'its addressed unmistakably to me. Poor Colone

Thinking again of the shaven head and the hombardment of Alexandria. 'How dare you speak of Miss White she sighed a little pensively and some Captain Hilton rolled his eye with a escape the entry of Mrs Danvers, whose gates. That lady now entered, followed by her inseparable companion, a perfect Dandy Dinmont, a long-bodied, lowlegged, flap-eared, pedigreed creature,

Florence immediately made a rush at dane, confusedly: 'I don't know what 'Ah! you have brought Myrtle. is the matter with me! I'm half asieep, was afraid when I saw you this morning

Both ladie had moved in the direction where sat Colonel Haldane, plunged 'Means? Something green,' said in startled reflections, in the recess of

'Of course I brought dear old Myrtle not. I wish you good morning, colonel. retorted Mrs. Danvers. 'I should And with that he retreated to the suffocate at an afternoon if I hadn't a bit of natural life like that trusty

voice from behind the amber curtain, And with that he sat down at his and Colonel Haldane came forward vanished; he was smiling serenely, and his eyes were fixed with an expression

of his frogged coat, and then proceeded | Poor Colonel Haldane! She trembled to read the rest of his correspondence.

\* \* \* \* \* \*

Fixing bim with her bright eves, she Fixing bim with her bright eyes, she

dane in the recess, with a deep blush of

all him, but a pig in a roke, you know Yes. Charming mistake for me,

He is fidgeting at the gate mest awful- muttered Colonel Haldane. 'Gave me an opportunity that I-' and he looked

Quality Always to be found at Miss White didn't say 'No;' so she

evidently intended to say 'Yes. General Ausiness.



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and sentiment, eh? It's fatal to sit in that attitude, looking at the sea. What's up, I ask you?'

Colonel Haldane roused himself from his reverie with an effort; he gently tapped his left hand with the letter which yet remained idly between his finger and thumb.

Live fatal to sit in im quite tenderly, as these thoughts flitted phantom-like about her. 'Thank you, Captain Haldane,' she said. 'You have saved me the trouble of fetching my purse. This is a new boy—country manners, you know—he wants instruction,' and, smiling pleas—antly, she moved out of the room after the vanishing figure of Tommy.

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