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### LILIAN.

"Had you ever a proposal, Lilian?" asks he, quietly, his eyes still riveted upon her face.

"No," surprised; what an odd question! I suppose it is humiliating to think that up to this no man has thoughtene worth loving. I often imagine it all," says Lilian, confidently, taking her knees into her embrace, and letting her eyes wander dreamily over to the hills far away behind the swaying trees. "And I dare say some day my curiosity will be gratified. But I do hope he won't write; I should like to see him do it. I wouldn't," says Miss Chesney, solemnly, "give a pin for a man who wouldn't go down on his knees to his lady love."

This last remark, under the circum stances, is eminently unwise. A moment later Lilian is made aware of it by the fact of Archibald's rising and going down on his knees before her.

"It can scarcely be news to you to tell you I love you," says he, eagerly. "Lilian, will you marry me?"

"What are you saying?" says Miss Chesney, half frightened, half amused; 'you must be going mad! Do get up, Archie; you cannot think how ridiculous 'hothing,' promptly.

Chesney, half frightened, half amused;

'you must be going mad! Do get up,
Archie; you cannot think how ridiculous
you look."

"Tell me you will marry me," entreats
that young man, unmoved even by the
fact of his appearing grotesque in the
eyes of his beloved.

"No, I will not," shaking her head.
"Archie, do move; there is the most
dreadful spider cree; ing up your leg."

"I don't care, let him creep," says
Archibald, valiantly; "I shan't stir until
you give me a kind answer."

"No. Oh, no," mildly.

"What was he saying to you?" asks he,
apropos of Chesney.
"Tothing," promptly.

Taffy, curiously: "Well, certainly that
was very disagreeable.
Lilian. demurely: "It was."
At this Taffy lays his hands upon her
shoulders and gives her a good shake.
"Tell me directly," he says, "what he
was asyning to you?"
"How can 1?" innocently; he says so
much and none of it worth repeating."
"What was he saying to you?"

you give me a kind answer."

"I don't know what to say, and besides I can do nothing but laugh while "And, look here, Lil, don't you have any."

"No; please don't say another word. I wonder you can be so silly."

"Silly!" somewhat aggrieved; "I don't know what you mean by that. Surely a fellow may ask a woman to marry him without being termed 'silly.' I ask you again now. Lilian, will you marry me?"

"No, no, no, ocertainly not. I have no intention of marrying any one for year-to come—if ever. I think," with a charming pout, "it is very unkind of you to say such things to me—and just where were such good friends too; spoilin everything. I shall never be comfort able in your society again; I'm sure! never should have suspected you of such a thing. If I had.—" A pause.

"You would not have come here with me to-day, you mean?" gloomily.
"Intended I should not. Nothing would have induced me. You have put me out terribly."

"I sungose you like Chetwoode" says seek to you before the years is out."

returns Lilian, composedly.

Then there is another pause, rather longer than the first, and then—after a wiolent struggle with her better feelings.

Miss Chesney gives way, and laughs long and heartily.

"My dear Archibald, don't look so woe-be-gone," she says. "If you could only see yourself! You look as though every relation you ever had was dead.

Why, you ought to be very much obliged positively.

"And I will wait for you as long as you and so much sole, innocent of instep, as makes them unpleasantly suggestive of sledge hammers.

You go right away to sledge hammers.

"May I take that as a grain of hope?" demands he, eagerly grasping his poor shadow of a crumb with avidity, only to find later on it is no crumb at all. "Don't be cruel, Lilian: every one thinks differ. be cruel, Lilian: every one thinks differently after a while; you may also. You have said I am not hateful to you; if then you would only promise to think it over

"Impossible," airly: "I never think it BRUSHES. BRUSHES.

er mood you can return to me, but unti

THE HEIRESS. So saying, she catches her train in one hand and runs away from him fast as her fleet little feet can carry her.

besides I can do nothing but laugh while you maintain your present position. Get up instantly, you foolish boy; you are ruining the knees of your best trousers."

Whether this thought carries weight with Mr. Chesney I know not, but certainly he rises to his feet without further demur.

"You spoke about the Park a few minutes ago," he says, slowly; "you know now you can have it back again if you will."

"But not in that way. Did you think I was hinting?" growing rather red. "No; please don't say another word. I wonder you can be so silly."

"Silly!" somewhat aggrieved; "I don't to know Sir Guy is not inde-

out terribly."

"I suppose you like Chetwoode," says
Archibald, still more gloomily. Having never been denied anything since his birth, he cannot bring himself to accept this crowning misfortune with becoming grace.

"I like everybody—except Florence,"
"I like everybody—except Florence," Guy, I assure you, has as much intention of proposing to me as I have of accepting

you; you should have everything exactly your own way."

"I have that now."

feet are not (or rather are) his strong point. Nature having endowed them with such a tremendous amount of heel,

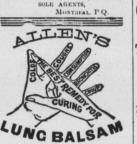
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