

THE ROMANCE OF A GAS-PIPE.

By MARY H. LUNDY. From Harper's Weekly.

Some one had told me once that Will Graham was a telegraph operator. He had evidently taught Miss Emily the art, and here they were communicating with each other in the most satisfactory fashion, while everybody imagined that they were conducting themselves like perfect strangers.

"Oh dear! oh dear! how I did laugh! I waited patiently to hear what was being said. It was a kind of eaves-dropping, certainly, but how could I help it? The conversation I had heard upon ran as follows: 'How are you this evening?' 'Awwfully tired. And you?' 'Tired too. Mamma has been particularly exasperating.'

"'How about the boys?' 'Am I never to have a talk with you again?' 'I don't know. Keep up your eyes.' 'I will, but it's dreadfully trying.' 'I think somebody's coming.' 'Oh dear!' 'I heard a door open and shut, and I knew that somebody had entered the room below. Conversation by way of the gas-pipe had ceased—for that occasion, at least.'

"I can tell you how many of these conversations I listened to. Every time that mysterious 'tick tick tick tick' would begin I couldn't help pricking up my ears. And oh! the sweet little 'I did hear'! One phrase that continually repeated down that gas-pipe was, 'Emily, you are just perfectly lovely.'

"The reply generally was, 'Now, Will, don't be silly.' 'Instead of producing any effect, this usually brought out some sentiment as, 'I never saw you look so pretty as you did at dinner.' 'Don't be foolish.' 'I will be foolish if I. If any other fellow gets you I will have a word to say to him.'

"I will help you with all my might. 'Then tell me what is a good way to kill an old woman?' 'Arctic.' 'That won't do at all.' 'How her up with gas-pipe.' 'Nonsense! You don't help me one bit.'

and on a pair of trousers and a coat. There was no sign to be seen of the sound of a platform before I could get away from the room.

"I went down three steps at a time. On my way I met a party of people coming from the front room, where they had been playing whist.

"'Mr. Jones' shrieked our landlady, seeing my curious face, and placing at Eliza, who was hurrying down the stairs, her hand upon my shoulder.

"'Madam,' I cried, 'there's murder murder murder in your house! Come at once—come! To the rescue, I command you! With the whole house following, I rushed to the door of Miss Martin's room. I flung my whole strength against the door, but it opened as if it were made of wax.'

"'I've looked! I've looked! I've looked!' cried 'Of course I've looked. You indecent man, cried our landlady. The ladies are gone to bed. 'What do you mean?' 'Mean, madam? I mean there's murder murder murder going on behind that door.'

"By this time I had succeeded in convincing somebody that some foul deed was being done in the front room, and I knew that the door would be opened. I ran up the stairs, and I found that the door was open. I entered the room, and I saw that the door was open. I entered the room, and I saw that the door was open. I entered the room, and I saw that the door was open.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'THE WORLD' and other fragmented words.