The Puzzling Pretty Widow *@+@+@+@+@+@+@+@+@+@+@+@+@

"Ah!" she said, "it was not like this that I used to entertain my friends. My little dinners had quite a reputation

Then, as if she felt that these words were worse than vain, she turned the subject abruptly, while a spasm of pain for the moment convulsed her

Rudolph, on his side, was sorry she had mentioned the 'little dinners.' They suggested a past life in which there had been something more than frivolity; something with which he would have dissociated Mrs. Dale if he could. But innocent Mabin, wishing to say something, brought the conversation back to the point it had left. "But why can't you have pretty dinners now if you like to?"

Mrs. Dale's fair face grew whiter as she answered gently: "I will tell you-presently-some day -why I don't have anything pretty or

nice about me now." And Mabin, feeling that she had touched a painful chord, became more to rise.

Perhaps it was her sudden subsidence into absolute gleom which caused the other two to make a great effort to restore something of animation to the talk, and, being both young and of naturally high spirits, they succeeded so well that, before the meal, which had begun so solemnly, was over, Mrs. Dale and Rudolph were talking and laughing as if there had never been a shadow upon either of their lives. At first they made brave attempts to drag Mabin into the conversation; but, as these efforts were in vain, it naturally ended in her being left out of the gaiety and in her sitting entrenched in a

gloomy silence of her own. And when dinner was over, and they all went into the little adjoining room which Mrs. Dale called her "den," it was quite natural that Mrs. Dale should sit down at the piano, in the goodnatured wish to leave the young people to entertain each other, and equally natural that Rudolph, on finding that Mabin had nothing to say to him, and that she was particularly frigid in her manner, should go over to the piano, and by coaxing Mrs. Dale to sing him his favorite songs and hers, should continue the brisk flirtation begun at

Mabin had brought it all upon herself, and she tried to persuade herself that it was quite right and natural, and that she did not mind; and when Rudolph was gone and she was alone with her hostess, she succeeded in convincing her that she had not felt neglected, but had enjoyed the merriment

she had refused to share. But when she got upstairs into her pretty bedroom, after bidding Mrs.Dale good-night, she had the greatest diffi- grow rigid with fear. culty in keeping back the tears which were dangerously near her proud eyes. She did not care for Rudolph-of course not; she wanted him to fall in love with Mrs. Dale-if, indeed, he had not already done so—and marry her and console her for all her troubles, and stop the persecution of "the cat.

not give her all the unselfish satisfaction it ought to have done. And Mabin, wondering what had nappened to take the prettiness out of the room and the pleasure out of her friendship with Mrs. Dale, fell asleep with her heart heavy and full of name-

But somehow this hope, this wish, did

She awoke with a start to find a white figure standing motionless in the middle of the room. Mabin sprang up in bed and rubbed her eyes. Was she awake? Or was she only dreaming that the body of a dead woman, stiff, rigid, but in an upright position, was

standing like a marble statue between the bed and the nearest window? She leaped out of bed, and, not without uncanny fears, touched the statuesque figure.

'Mrs. Dale!" she almost shrieked, as the great eyes suddenly turned and fixed a blank, wild gaze upon her face. "Oh! what has happened? What is the matter?"

The figure, which, in white night strong effort, Mrs. Dale uttered these

"Let me stay here. Let me sit in this armchair till morning. Oh, I will not hurt you or frighten you. But if I go back I shall go mad! This house is haunted! haunted! I have seen—" A hoarse rattle in her throat seized her, threatened to choke her. With one wild glance round, peering into the corners of the room, she flung herself on the floor and buried her face in the to make her life unbearable, to cut her

CHAPTER VIII.

Mabin was taken so thoroughly by surprise, on seeing the wild self-abandonment of her unhappy companion, that for a few minutes she stood staring at the crouching figure on the floor like one only half awake.

Was this really Mrs. Dale, this haggard, panting creature, with the hoarse voice, the twitching hands, the wide eyes full of unspeakable terror? Mabin's sympathy was ready, but at how imminent the sumfirst she did not dare to offer it. Such mons may seem, it may still, in God's good provias that from which the miserable wo-

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mind the horrible question, What must this secret be, which was locked in the widow's breast, that could throw her into such paroxysms of abject terror? For, not unnaturally, Mabin came to the conclusion that the vision which had alarmed Mrs. Dale was one of the fell asleep. results of the remorse from which she wned that she was suffering.

"Don't! Don't sob like that! You at the door, and then she heard the housemaid's voice announcing that it There is nothing, there is nobody here to frighten you," said the girl at last, drawing a little closer to the crouching one but herself in the room. figure, but not yet daring to touch her, r to speak in a tone louder than a

At the first sound of her voice, Mrs. quickly, turning to the girl's view a be seen of any intrusion during the face so much altered, so drawn, so night. ld-looking, that she hardly recognized the features of the lovely widow. hen, when the voice ceased, sne game dround the room again, with the same hunted, anxious look as before.
"Nobody—nothing to frighten me!" she repeated, in a shaking voice. "No, she repeated, in a shaking voice. "No, to course not. How ened you, dear!-with my dreams, my

silly fancies!' She struggled, as if worn out and exhausted by her emotion, to gain her feet. Timidly, gently, Mabin helped her

"I'm very glad I was here," answered Mabin, in kindly tones that sent a shiver of grateful recognition through her agitated companion. "Do you feel better now?"

"Yes, oh, yes, I am all right. I am not ill. I am so much ashamed of myself for disturbing you. I don't know how to apologize," answered Mrs. Dale, trying bravely to speak in her usual tone, but glancing at the door and then back to the windows as she uttered the words. "It must have been a dream, of course, that frightened

And then, quite suddenly, she broke down again, and, slipping from the supporting arm of her young compan- that the United States treasury has sympathy and kindness, did exactly the right thing. She drew another chair beside the

wicker one, sat down on it, and, putting her right arm round Mrs. Dale's shoulder, and holding the poor lady's 32 11-16, against 34%, the closing price ed in perfect silence until the first ebullition of violent grief had passed away. "I shall never forget your kindness, trembling fingers .in her own, remainhild, never," said Mrs. Dale, when, as uddenly as it had begun, her passion of tears ended. "You have saved me from going mad-yes, mad. I-I must leave you now, or you won't get any

She rose as she spoke, but Mabin saw that the panic of terror which had been upon her at her entrance was regaining its hold upon her as she approached the door. With her fingers on the handle she stopped, and seemed once more to Mabin was by her side in an in-

"Stay here," she said. "You will have the dream again, perhaps, if you go away by yourself.' At these words a shiver ran through Mrs. Dale and she faltered. "It must have been that gloomy room," she said at last, in a whisper, "and the effect of her visit. But it will kill me if it comes again!" Suddenly she turned to Mabin .. "May I

lie on the sofa until the morning?" she asked, piteously. "I won't disturb you. I feel as if I should be safe from-itin here with you." The wistful pleading in her eyes rought the tears to Mabin's. "Of course you must stay," she cried, heartily. "And I do hope you will get

to sleep, and not have any more Very quietly Mrs. Dale lay down on the couch between the windows, and, drawing the sofa blanket over her, and refusing any other covering, closed her eyes. Mabin knew that this apparent ranquility was assumed only, and she placed herself on the bed in such a position that she could watch her friend while appearing to be herself asleep. Before many minutes had passed, she saw, from between half-closed eyelids, that Mrs. Dale was sitting up, and bending her head in a listening atgarments, had looked so unlike the black-robed widow that she had not ure, with its white dressing-gown,

recognized it, trembled from head to slipped softly off the sofa and hurried foot. The lips parted, but at first no on tiptoe across the floor to the door. words escaped them. At last, with a There it knelt down and listened again, and after a few minutes Mrs. Dale turned the key in the lock and crept back, not to the couch, but to the arm-

Mabin shut her eyes, and tried to disentangle the knot of strange ideas that filled her brain. What was the nature of the secret which weighed on the conscience of Mrs. Dale? Why was she kept in luxury by the very woman who tried ernment as a formal announcement on



years ago, an institution was founded in Buffalo, N. Y., known as the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, which has since become one of the most famous institutions in the world for its enormous benefits to the sick and suffering all over the United States. Thousands have come there for treatment and tens of thousands have received professional adthousands have received professional advice by mail with suggestions for inexpensive home-treatment, whereby they have been cured of severe, and in many instances, apparently hopeless diseases.

A Massachusetis man, Mr. John Brooks, of Boylston, Worcester Co., writes: "About a year ago I was taken with a bad-cold which settled on my lungs. The doctors said I was in consumption and could not get well. I took Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and it did me no good. After taking it four months I heard of your 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and wrote to you for advice. I have taken your medicine and it saved my life. I feit so sick when I wrote to you that I thought I would not live through the winter. In the morning I raised an awful lot and would spit all the time and had pains in my chest. My bowels would not move more than once or twice a week; my strength was nearly gone; I could not do a whole day's work. Now, my bowels are regular every day and I feel no more pain in my chest. I feel a great deal stronger. I am working hard every day, driving a team in the woods, and I owe my thanks to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I The most difficult diseases to cure are stances, apparently hopeless diseases.

The most difficult diseases to cure are those which are aggravated by constipation. In such cases Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets should be taken in conjunction with the "Discovery." They never gripe. All good dealers sell them.

+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+®+ | man was suffering, was something off from every human friend? What surely beyond her poor powers of com-fort! And even as the girl advanced elderly woman and the impulsive, volatimidly a step nearer to her grief-stricken friend, there flashed into her which had caused her so much dis-

And why-and why-? More questions surged up in her tired brain; but Mabin forgot them as they rose. She Newspaper Correspondents Sent When she awoke in the morning it

was 8 o'clock. She sprang up and looked toward the sofa, but there was no Surely, she thought, the strange visit of the night must have been a dream. The rug on the sofa was neatly folded, Dale had started, and raised her head to bed last night. Not a sign was to just as it had been when she came up

was to find that someone was knocking

[To be Continued.]

(Continued from page 3.)

and Spain: "My sympathies are with America and Cuba, but I should be sorry to see two great nations involved in bloodshed for so small a cause. I expect Spain to give way at the last moment. Spain has evidently not got the art of governing colonial possessions. She must yield Cuba sooner of later."

THE FINANCIAL BAROMETER. London, April 21.-Money is plentiful, but firm. The statement cabled her ion, threw herself into the wicker arm-chair and burst into a passion of tears. decided to issue the war loan through the postoffices of the United States is Uncertain what to do, Mabin, in her exercising a good effect upon the depression and stagnation of the stock exchange here. Several American securities already indicate improvement. Paris, April 21, 1 p.m.—Spanish fours opened flat on the bourse today at of yesterday.

SHOT AND SHELL FOR AN AN-SWER. New York, April 21 .- A special to the Herald from Washington says: Spain's answer to President McKinley's matum may take the form of shot and shell. Her formidable fleet, which has been mobilizing at the Cape Verde Islands for some days past, have sailed from that point for an unknown des-This information was retination. ceived by the attaches of the late legation of Spain who have remained in this city. So important is this information that there is reason to be-lieve that the navy department will put machinery in motion that it is possible to start to ascertain the whereabouts of the fleet. It is conceded to be highly probable that the fleet will hasten across the ocean to Porto Rico and Cuba, to prevent by force the ousting from the islands of the naval and military forces of the Spanish Government now there. the other hand, it is possible that the ships have gone to the Canaries, but this is not considered probable, in view of the fact officially reported that the vessels were coaling all day yesterday and this morning before their departure, and that their bunkers are filled to overflowing with fuel. As a result of information which the Spanish attaches have received, the officials are confident that the battleship Pelayo, which was officially reported to have sailed from Cadiz on Sunday last, joined the fleet before its departure and sailed with it; and that, furthermore, arrangements have been made for the reinforcement

Carlos V., which left Ferrol, Spain, yesterday. HUSTLED OUT OF MADRID. Washington, April 21.-Diplomatic relations between the United States and Spain are at an end. It is expected that from now on events will move with amazing rapidity up to the climax of actual war. Judge Day, assistant sec retary of state, early this morning reeived a cable from Minister Woodford at Madrid, stating that he was handed his passports and had been notified that official relations between the United States and Spain were ended. His ablegram said that he had been given the passports before he had had an opportunity to present the ultimatum transmitted to him for submission to the Spanish Government, the delivery of the ultimatum to Minister Polo having been accepted by the Spanish Gov-

of the squadron by the armored cruiser

our part. Judge Day at once hurried to the White House, where he found President McKinley about to enter a carriage to take Mrs. McKinley to the railroad station, where he intended to see her off on a short trip to New York. The news that diplomatic re-lations between the United States and Spain were formally at an end was so mportant that the president bade a hasty good-bye to his wife on the White House porticio and repaired immediately to the presidental office. President McKinley is conferring with senatorial leaders, mapping out a policy in view of the ending of diplomatic relations.

"TAKEN THE TRICK." The White House conference ended at 10:30. Senator Davis said, "We've taken the trick." Day sald: "A statement will be given out later."

WAR NOTES. T. Estrada, of the Cuban Junta, and one of Gen. Gomez's brigadiers, it is said, have consulted Gen. Miles, head of the United States army, arranging

for co-operation of their forces against The officials of the American Line have issued a notice pointing out that their steamers from Liverpool and Philadelphia will sail under the Belgian flag.

The Rome correspondent of the London Daily Mail says: "The Italian admiralty, I am privately informed to-day, commanded the men of the iron-clads and six torpedo boats at Las-pezia, under Admiral Accinni, to prepare immediately for sailing orders." Don Carlos, the Spanish pretender, has arrived at Brussels.

A special dispatch from Corunna, Spain, says the United States consul there has received orders to leave Corunna, and has handed the archives of the American consulate to the British consul. A Port-au-Prince, Hayti, dispatch

says a Spanish warship was sighted yesterday to the southwest of Jeremie. The statement in London that the United States treasury will issue the war loan through the postoffice is exercising a good effect on the stock

Given a Rest.

Back to the Rear.

Operations Against the Dervishes Suspended Until July.

Mr. Gladstone Likely to Die Very Suddenly-Time for Completion of the Fast Atlantic Scheme Extended.

ANOTHER WAR PROBABLE. Managua, Nicaragua, April 21.-The peace negotiations between Nivaragua anl Costa Rica have failed. War is

DERVISHES GIVEN A REST Cairo, April 21.—Gen. Sir Herbert Kitchener, the commander-in-chief of the Angle-Egyptian forces, has ordered all the newspaper correspondents back from the front, and operations against the dervishes have been suspended until July.

THE FAST ATLANTIC LINE. London, April 21.-When asked if Sir Wilfrid Laurier's statement that the capital had been underwritten relating to his fast line service, Mr. Pet ersen, of Petersen, Tate & Co., replied: I suppose so, but I do not know. I can't imperil my interests by making any statement at the present time.' It is understood from other quarters that the Canadian Government is granting an extension of time for the completion of the service. So that if all goes well the weekly service may be expected to commence with 1900, instead of July, 1899, as the contract stipulated.

THE G. O. M.

In a Very Precarious Condition-Cur ious Effect of Opiates on the Veteran Statesman.

London, April 21.—The malignant growth from which Mr. Gladstone is suffering has now begun to affect his right eye. An operation is out of the question, and it is only by constantly increasing the doses of morphine that the patient's sufferings are allayed. It is regarded as quite possible by his relatives that his illness may have a sudden termination. A curious effect of the drugs administered is that when they assert their influence Mr. Gladstone repeats some of his greatest speeches with marvelous accuracy, and enters into old discussions and remi-

niscences. SIR ADOLPHE CHAPLEAU ILL Montreal, April 21.—Sir Adolphe Chapleau, ex lieutenant-governor of Quebec who is at Atlantic City, is reported to be seriously ill.

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had a little baby 6 months old, with itching sores on her body. Dr. Chase's Ointment cured her when everything else failed. Another mother who holds Dr. Chase's Ointment in high esteem is MRS. JAS. BROWN, Molesworth, Ont. Her baby boy was covered all over the face, sides and hips with Eczema- The first application of the Ointment stopped the itching, and 8 boxes effected a complete cure.

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Physicians Generally are Complaining

That There is Less Demand for Their Services Than Formerly.

Said a well-known practitioner recently to the reporter of a great New York daily: "I see physicians whom I know, and who several years ago were always busy during office hours, sitting in their windows reading newspapers. This condition of affairs is due very largely to the educational work going on through the presa



by dispensers of proprietary medicines, as well as to the salutary effects of the medicines themselves. Scientifically written pamphlets are distributed by these firms informing the people how to care for their health, and how to live hygienically. Among recent publications none has received more attention than "The Hour of Sickness," issued by S. C. Wells & Co., Le Roy, N.Y. who will send it to you free if you cannot obtain it at yourdruggist. This pamphlet is especially helpful to families livng on isolated farms and hamlets where the services of competent physicians are costly and difficult to obtain. Among pro-

higher than Shiloh's Cough and Consumption Cure, known throughout the United States and Canada for its soothing, healing and expectorant virtues. Mrs. Jean Hamilton, Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "I was much prejudiced against so-called patent medicines until I realized in person the value of one which had cured a friend after suffering three years from distressing chills and colds. I took but four doses when my chills ceased. This experience made me believe Shiloh's Cure efficacious for coughs and colds, so I tried it and wish to recommend it to every one who needs a good cough medicine. If people live in the country, I'd advise them to keep a stock of it in their medicine closets. It will save them lots of worry about croup, coughs and la grippe, for it will stop these very quickly." Sold throughout the United States and Canada, 25c., 50c. and \$1 a bottle; and in England, 1s. 2d., 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d.

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