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eep a secret?"
""Try me and see," was the prompt reply.
"Read these," said Neal, placing in his "Read these," said Neal, placing in his friend's hands a well-worn packet of letters.

The first letter Cuthbert opened caused him to stare. It began, "Dearest Neal," and then followed a torrent of sentiment ending with the words "Your loving Ella." The handwriting—yes, surely, it was that of Neal's, cousin, Ellen Laing, and Cuthbert's own engaged sweethears.

Rollyn's face grew more and more troubled as he read the letters over, at last coming upon one accepting dearest Neal's invitation to elope on the following Thursday.

Soon after the Cuthbert found a chance to leave the room, and then Neal burst out in a peal of laughter. He was so occupied with his own happiness that he had not noticed the other's disappointment, and probably never suspected Cuthbert's attachment for his cousin.

suspected Cuthbert's attachment for his cousin.

When Neal came down to breakfast in the morning he found this note signed with his friend's initials:

"If you care sufficiently for an old friend," it said, "and can spare time enough from the contemplation of your own happiness to have the lake dragged for his body, perhaps you won't think it too much to do so. But don't put yourself out, pray—and least of all your 'Loving Elleu'—on my account."

Neal Guthrie sprang up, upsetting his coffee and the cup into which he had just broken two soft-boiled eggs, and overturning his chair with a crash, to the general discomposure of the boarders and his landlady's great displeasure, and rushed out, never stopping till he reached the lake at the border of the town.

He had just skirted it but a little way when, lying on a jutting rock concealed by a thick growth of bushes, at the base of which the water was more than twenty feet deep, he found an old coat which he had often seen Outhbert wear, and a little way out, tossed to and fro by the wind, floated a straw hat, just like the one Outhbert had on the day betore.

Neal's face turned ashen pale and he shook like a man in an ague.

"Poor Outh!" he wailed pitcously. "I

inch the one Outbert had on the day before.

Neal's face turned ashen pale and he shook like a man in an ague.

"Poor Outh!" he wailed piteously. "I never dreamed it would come to this."

Then he flew to find the coroner, and with him and a troop of horror-seeking followers returned to the lake. They dragged it from end to end, but only raked up an old crockery crate. Then they got out a rusty cannon that had seen service under Old Hickory at New Orleans, and had smashed the windows of the town every Fourth of July since. "Give him a few gall-busters from that," said Steve Kidder, the village oracle, "and if it don't his 'im, nothin' else will."

But it didn't "hist 'im' for though round after round was fired, up, down and across, it was only so much powder wasted.

"Dod blamed if he ben't the most stubbornsomest corpse I ever seed!" said Steve Kidder, turning asway diagusted.

Neal's face was ruesomeness itself as he started to tell the news to Ellen Laing.
"How can I ever break it to her?" he said as he reached the door.

For some reason he seemed apprehensive that Ellen would take it particularly hard.

"Oh! Ellen! Ellen!" he exclaimed, when they met—"have you heard it?"

"The news—the dreadful news! Outhbert Rollyn's gone and drowned himself!"

Ellen didn't faint, didn't shriek, didn't do anything he had counted on. Maybe she was too stunted.

Nea! like one anxious to get through a heartrending scene, hurried on.

"You know those old letters of grandma's to grandpa before shey ran away together? You remember there was no date on them, and grandpa's name was Neal, like mine, and grandpa's name was Neal, like mine, and grandpa's name was Neal, like mine, and grandma's was Ellen, the same as yours; and she wrote a hand that couldn't be told from your own. Well, for a lark, yesterday, I showed them to Cuthbert as if confiding to him an important personal secret. He fell

your own. Well; for a lark, yesterday, I showed them to Cuthbert as if confiding to him an important personal secret. He fell into the trap at once, and thought they were from you to me. I meant to tell him the truth to day and have a good laugh at his expense. But old Cousin Eller! it drove him to despair, and he went off and drowned himself! I don't ask you to forgive me. I know you couldn't, and I don't deserve it; but if it ill be any comfort to you, I'll go into mourning for the rest of my days!"

At the end of his recital Ellen Laing burst into a fit of the wildest lengther.

"Oh! don't!—don't!" pleaded Neal, starting back appalled. "Heavens!—she has lost her wits!"

her wits!"
"Don't you blink we've punished him enough?" said Outhbert Rollyn, entering from an adjoining room, and laughing almost as wildly as Bilen.
"You see," he added, turning to Neal, "I wasn't quite fool enough to go and drown myself without first seeking an explanation from Ellen. I guess you know the rest." Prom The Week, June 14.

Having completed her great Southern Rail-way to Samarcand, Russia is now turning her attention to the North. Siberia is next to be pened up to trade and civilization. We have all of us had from childhood indefinite con-ceptions of this vast land as a dreary, inall of us had from childhood indefinite conceptions of this wast land as a dreary, inhospitable region, a land of terrible frost, fathoniless snows, and interminable wastes. All these features have existed in our minds but as the background for dark pictures of the miseries endured by wretched exiles, doomed by a cruel despotism to all the horrors of a living death in a region of absolute despair. In the light of the better knowledge now afforded by such writers as Mr. Keenan, who is describing the country in The Century Magazine, we find the truth of some of those pictures fully confirmed, but we have at the same time-revelations of a very different character. Siberia is now known to be a country of vast, though practically undeveloped, resources, having immense tracts of tertile land, regions of impressive and often beautiful scenery, and, in some parts, of already advanced civilization. The opening up of this vast domain, a continent in itself, will be an event in the history of European civilization. Of course with the entry of the railroad the system of political exile must come to an end. The Government is already taking steps for its abolition. The Administration Council of the Penitentiary Department has recently reported in favor of abolition of transportation to Siberia as a judicial punishment, and in all probability the system is doomed. As the prisoners will henceforth be shut up in dungeons at home, instead of being sent into Siberia as a judicial punishment, and in all probability the system is doomed. As the prisoners will henceforth be shut up in dungeons at home, instead of being sent into Siberia as a judicial punishment, and in all probability the system is doomed. As the prisoners will henceforth be shut up in dungeons at home, instead of being sent into Siberia as a judicial punishment, and in all probability the system is minimized to change and of emancipation is manifestly at work, and will not cease till the whole land has come under its influence. When political exile has died, politi

In Case of | oubt Use There The Detroit Free Press gives the fellowing verbal snares, and declares them to be useful testing the sobriety of men:

"Gaze of the gay gray brigade."
"The sea ceaseth and it sufficeth us."
"Strange strategic statistics."
"Cassell's solicitor slyly slashes a sloe." "Say, should such a shapely sash shabby

"Give Grimes Jim's gilt gig whip."
"Sarah in a shawl shovelled soft snow She sells sea shells." "A cup of coffee in a copper coffee cup."
"Smith's spirit flask split Philip's sixth
sister's fifth squirrel's skull."

Quite Put Out. From Harper's Bazar "Adolphus, d'ye know that I'm a little "What happened, Arthur, old boy?"

"Well, you know, I pride myself on my singing. We were at the piano. Till sing one more song, and then go home, I said."

"Was it late?"

"About midnight."
"And what did she say?" "She said, 'Can't you go home first?"
"And did you?"
"Yes, Adolphus. I tell you I'm a little

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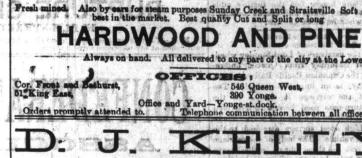


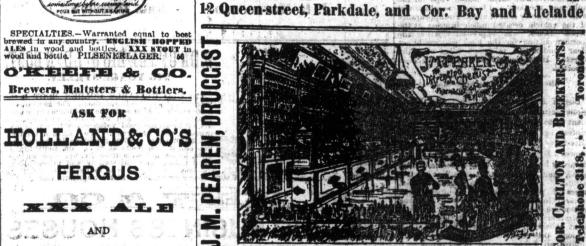
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