

THE YOUNG WIDOW.

She is modest, but not bashful, From an early, but not bold; Like an apple, ripe and mellow, Not too strong, but not too weak...

THE MASQUERADE.

BY MRS. W. H. PALMER.

"You make a conquest at every turn, Percy," she said. "I would like the sensation of having a man so desperately in love with me as Mr. Wynne is with you."

"I shall have to mention it, for, as a drowning man catch a straw, he has caught at me, to deliver a message to you."

"Don't be childish, Percy. Mr. Wynne feels that he has acted very rudely. Of course I don't know what he refers to. He desires to apologize, and make amends. If you will appoint a time at which to receive him, I have promised to communicate to him."

"You are rather officious. I shall never receive him." "He said, or rather hinted, that he had extorted some sort of promise from you, which he would cancel, if you would grant him an interview."

of honor to which I might appeal. I desired him to free me from the promise he had exacted. But after what I had said to Julia, I could not let her know my intention. It was therefore indifferent enough, or reckless enough, to reply to his note, and appoint a meeting at a quiet up-town restaurant for the following morning.

I went quite boldly to this rendezvous at the appointed hour, and, entering the door, was respectfully and rather distantly greeted by Mr. Wynne. At the same moment, almost, Philip Elton stepped forward from where he was evidently awaiting us, and signed for us to follow him, which we did, speechless. He led the way to a quiet room, and there, turning upon us haughtily, he said—

"I have come here merely to learn the truth. After I have learned it, I will act in accordance."

"Mr. Wynne is at this moment the only person empowered to speak what you wish to hear," I said, rather faintly, after a brief hesitation.

"I am prepared to speak or to be silent, Miss Vigogne, according as you command," was Mr. Wynne's reply, his looks ignoring Philip.

VICTOR EMMANUEL'S WILL.

Before King Victor Emmanuel gave up the ghost, and before he could get absolute, and in order that prayers for the repose of his soul should be valid and effect, the unfortunate king had to become most pious. When he asked for his confessor, and the hopes of life were over, his attendants knew that the human spirit of the world, was broken, and one of them inquired why he took this step: that he should not trouble himself so much.

"I have awakened from a dream," said the dying monarch, "in which a sainted ancestor of mine appeared before me in tears, and I heard voices in a strange tone counting out the hours of life that remained to me, and a hand rose before my eyes pointing to that clock on the mantle piece—

—here he pointed to the clock—and the hands left their place and moved down, one in one direction and the other in the other direction on the dial, and they rested when they indicated the hour of two o'clock or a little after, and the sun seemed to be going down, and then a great glare came over everywhere, and a dazzling light came forth from the depths of the blur and took shape, so that it looked like a figure nine, a mighty huge figure that terrified me. It struck me at once with meaning. It was like the handwriting Balthazar saw upon the wall when he cried out. It meant that death was coming for me, and that I was to die like Napoleon the Third of his name—and—

He paused, great sweat broke over his forehead, so that it ran down fall on him it would not have been thicker, and those around were awe-stricken, while the fog from a morass the impalpable steam rose from his perspiring brow.

"And what, your Majesty," said the attendant, wiping off the dew damp from his hair. A tremendous motion crossed the suffering body of the King. It seemed as if he was about to be stricken with a spasm. The attendants started back terrified, and "Send for Prince Humbert," said he who had spoken before.

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