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ENAMEL

TRACED BY A VALENITUE *******

"What am 1? you would say," exclaimed Madeline, passionately. "Oh, don't scruple to ask what questions you choose, Marjorie. I will enswer them all now. I am the daughter of one thief and the wife of another. I am not a thief myself—I have not fall en quite so low as that. But I am one of the gang—I have known their guilty plans-I have been accessory to them plans—I have been accessory to them all. The police have exempted 'ne from arrest simply because, as a wife, I was not bound to denounce my husband's crimes."

BIT OF

BLUE

"A wife!" exclaimed Marjorie, in mazement, as soon as Madeline paused for breath. "Yes, I am Edgar's wife—or was. God help me! I am his widow now!"

"Then he is dead?" cried Marjorie, in horror.
"Yes, he is dead," said Madeline, resuming her stony calm. "He took poison before the police could touch him. He died, and I, who loved him so—ah, heaven! how I loved him!—I,

even I, am thankful for it." Her head sank upon her bosom, and a dry, tearless sob convulsed her

Marjorie put forth her hand, and touched her gently.
"Poor Madeline!" she said. "I am so sorry for you!"

At that kind word the unhappy creature fell into a storm of agony terrible to witness. Her tears came in a flood, and her

frame was racked with sobs.

Marjorie was frightened—never in her life had she witnessed such emotion as this. But it did good.

It was more natural than that stony calm, and outraged nature was appeased by it. Beneath Marjorie's sympathy and

calm at last. And then, in a broken voice, she began to try to tell her her whole sad

"My father"-and she shuddered as she spoke that word-"has been a thief ever since I was a little child. But I have not lived with him all my life. My mother and he had quarreled, and I lived with her until she died. Then I was sixteen, and my father fetched me to live with him. He told me he wanted me in his business and, little by little, I began to see what that busi-

ness was. "He was no common thief, Marjorle, there was a diabolical cunning and cleverness in all he did. I had been well educated—as, indeed, he himself was—and he wanted me to help him to get the entree into the great houses he meant to rob. This I would never do, and he was fearfully angry with me, for he had a frightful temper when roused, for all his bland, pleasant looks. He said he wanted a woman in the business, and when I kept resisting he planned a cruel thing to bring me to his will."

"What was it?" questioned Mar-"He threw me into the company of

Edgar Monson—for Edgar's name was not Hyde. I must tell you; he was not my father's nephew, no relation at all, meither is Charles, Edgar's brother. They were both simply members of Again she paused, then went on in

a broken voice, and with many tears:
"I know now that Edgar was delib erately set to employ every artifice to make me love him. He was represent-ed in the best light to me. He won my sympathy, and, at last, my heart. How I loved him I could never tell you! think that never in this world has man been loved by woman as he was loved by me. Well, I married him—not quite a year ago. He swore he would break with the gang, reform, go abroad with me, and live an honest life. I believed him—and a week after the mar-riage he laughed and boasted of the ruse he had adopted to bind me to him! I remember his very words—

they burnt themselves into my heart.
"'No! No! ,my pretty one,' he said. It is you I am going to reform. I am going to so train you that you shall be the queen and head of the cleverest and richest gang of thieves in Eng-

"He did not do that, Marjorie. Try as he might, he could not bend me to his will. I hated and dreaded their ais will. I hated and dreaded their vile pursuits too much for that, But I went on loving him—I couldn't help myself. I loved him even though I soon saw he had ceased to care for me. Oh, what I have suffered—oh, Marjorie! Marjorie!"

Again she was convulsed with sobs, and seein Marjorie events and seein Marjorie.

and again Marjorie soothed her with all the tender sympathy a woman's

heart can show a sister in distress.

After a few minutes had thus passed, she resumed her narrative:

"We came here—to this house—about six weeks ago. Their object was to rob Sir Edward Mortimer. All the plate and jewels are kept on the premises there and they expected.

piate and jewels are kept on the premises there, and they expected a more than ordinarily rich booty.

"To achieve this, no expense was spared. This house was taken furnished; the servants were all members of the gang. We had been here only

"I sleep well enough at night. And the blamedest appetite Ever mortal man possessed."

Rilev's farmer is the very picture of a man advanced in years, yet in the enjoyment of perfect health. A good appetite, good digestion and sound sleep, are the chief factors in a vigorous old age. Life is sustained by food, when it is properly digested and assimilated. When digestion fails, there is a loss of nutrition which soon shows itself in physical weakness, nervousness, sleeplessness, etc. Doctor Pierce's Collars Medical

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Thompson, of Townsend,
for the relief, as I had sufit seemed that the doctors
it seemed that the doctors
it got down in weight to ered so much and it seemed that the doctors ould do me no good. I got down in weight to 25 pounds, and was not able to work at all. own I weigh nearly 160 and can do a day's work in the farm. I have recommended your medi-nity of the commended of the commended of the notation of the commended of the commended of the property of the commended of the commended of the The Common Sense Medical Adviser,

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a short time, when he-my raunermet with you. He had always said that a woman, young, and beautiful, and well-educated, would be invaluable to them; and it was his purpose to try to win you over. He showed you an advertisement which he pretended was

his, and you believed him and came."
"Ah!" exclaimed Marjorie, in horror. Who could have suspected that a man who looked and spoke as he did, could have been so vile!"

"His pleasant countenance has been his capital always," said Madeline, bit-terly, "and he has traded on it to the uttermost. With a view to impressing you favorably, he has assumed the ap-pearance of great benevolence and piety; and this would have continued till he felt you were in his power.

"You were so young and so com-pletely friendless that he made sure of winning you over in the end. You were to be tricked, as I was, through your affections. Charles had orders to do everything in his power to make you fall in love with him."

Again an involuntary exclamation burst from Marjorie's lips. She saw the whole tile plot now from beginning to end. Her cheek crimsoned, and then

again turned pale.

"I did all I could, Marjorle, to sava you from the snare," said Madeline, gazing on her very mournfully. "I dared not betray them, I dared not tell you the truth, but you remember how, whenever I could, I warned you against Charles. I hinted to you over and over again that he was unworthy of your love."

"Yes, I remember," acknowledged Marjorie; "and I thank you. It was not your fault that I wouldn't take your warning. Oh, Madeline, if I had! if I only had!"

And then, unable to bear her misers with calmness, she gave way utterly, and broke into tears.

"Dear Marjorie, don't grieve for him. He isn't worth one thought from your pure heart. Forgive me, darling, that I didn't tell, you all the truth in time."

"I have only myself to blame," sobbed Marjorie. "You warned me enough, I ought to have believed you."

After a time she calmed herself, and turned to Madeline with gentle resolu-

"Go on, Madeline, tell me all." "There is not much more to tell-not much that you can't guess at, or that you don't already know. Last week they made an attempt on 'Mortimer House. It failed, and they resolved to try again, so bold and desperate they were. They made the effort again: it failed; they were pursued, although they thought they had got clear away, and were followed here. In my heart I had felt sure that would be the end of it. Something within me seemed to

prophecy it would come to this."
"Madeline, you were imploring some thing from—from Edgar in the draw-ing-room before you came to bed. I heard you by accident. What was it you were asking him, dear?"

"To give up the plan, not to go out to-night. I told him how full my heart was of the belief that it would end in something terrible. I intreated him, if not for myself, yet for the sake of his unborn child."

"His child!" exclaimed Marjorte, with a sudden burst of tender pity. "Oh. Madeline!" "Yes, Marjorie. I have that to look forward to. You may judge whether I look forward to it with joy. I hope my baby will die. Why should it live, poor innocent? A murderer's child!"
"Madeline!" said Marjorie, in a low,

awe-struck whisper. "Was it he-vour husband-who killed my father?" To Be Continued.

The best nourishment for the Weak and Sickly

Englishmen Cultivate Rabijis and Thus Combine Pleasure With Profit— Animals at 850 Each.

"I spend hours upon hours in here," said a London fancier just lately, during a chat in his rabbitry. And after all, when exhibition rabbits are daily changing hands at prices ranging from £3 to £30 apiece, there is no cause for surprise that men spend time-and money over their cultivation.

One hundred pounds was refused.

their cultivation.

One hundred pounds was refused during the Crystal Palace show in the Autumn of 1900 for a winning Belgian hare doe, while £50 for a winning buck was paid. Canadians and Americans were over here at that time with the object of satisfying the cryst then aristated in this

that time with the object of satisfying the craze then existent in their country for Belgian hares.

Medical men having propounded the theory that the flesh of these little animals was better food in every way than anything else, nothing would do but that the best of the breed should be found in the hundreds of Belgian hare rabbitries that sprang up in America.

areas of Belgian hare rabbitries that sprang up in America.

The British fanciers, seeing how matters stood, simply sat tight until the most fabulous prices were obtained, £25 being an ordinary figure! One fancier I know made over £1,-000 during the temporary boom.

But the boom died out, and we will confine ourselves only to present-day obtainable prices.

The Belgian hare, so-called because

day obtainable prices.

The Belgian hare, so-called because of its likeness in color and form to the wild hare, is always a favorite among the visitors to a show because of its lovely color and "racy" style; £5 to £15 are everyday prices paid for a good specimen.

paid for a good specimen.

The lop rabbit's beauty lies in its The lop rabbit's beauty lies in its length and breadth of ear, specimens having been shown with ears measuring 27 inches from tip to tip, and 7 inches broad, for which £25 was paid without a murmur. The Flemish Giant is so-named because of ish Grant is so-named because of the tremendous size to which it grows, show specimens having been known to turn the scale at 20 pounds, while those weighing 15

pounds are quite ordinary.

Silver-greys—at one time termed thinchillas—silver-fawns, and silver-browns are strikingly beautiful little animals, with their body color silververed all over, short coats, and very

neat ears. neat ears.

Five pounds was lately paid to a North London fancier for a silvergrey thirteen weeks old, and before it was in full coat, while £3 to £10 is the price paid for a really good adult, £18 being mentioned as the price given for a doe a short time area.

A peculiarity of the young of the A peculiarity of the young of the silver-grey lies in the fact that they are jet black until about a month old, when they begin to turn grey on the nose, taking from that age to about four months to "silver off" completely.

The English rabbit is a largish ani-

The English rabbit is a largish animal, white, with color dispersed over fits body in certain patches and spots, the proper location of these spots determining its show value. Especially is its face curiously marked, the nose being colored in the shape of a butterfly, while it has other important spots and circles round the eye. At the present day there is a specimen of this breed that £20 would not buy from its owner.

The Dutch rabbit is small—in fact, from a fancier's point of view, diminutive size is a greater consideration

nutive size is a greater consideration -but its chief characteristic is its

markings.

From the centre of the body of the hinder part is colored black, blue, gray, yellow, or tortoiseshell, with gray, yellow, or tortoiseshell, with the exception of the hind feet, which are white for one and a half inches from the toe. The forepart of the rabbit is white, with the exception of the head, which is the same color as the hind part, but with a white muzzle, from which runs a white mark right up the centre of the head to between the ears.

to between the ears.

There are specialist clubs for all the breeds, but the United Kingdom Dutch Rabbit Club is the strongest.

In 1902 over 300 rabbit shows were held; this number only includes public, not small club shows. There were instances of over 1,000 exhibits being penned at a show, and 124 different rabbit judges were engaged. At the Tunbridge Wells agricultural show, held this month, there are five rabbit judges engaged, and the entry

show, held this month, there are five rabbit judges engaged, and the entry will probably be over 500.

What style of man is the rabbit fancier? Readers will have visions of Seven Dials and its bird shop-keepers, but oh, dear no! Take a few of the rabbit fanciers in and around London known personally to me. One is a solicitor, who gave £9 10s. for a Dutch rabbit during the auction at a Dutch rabbit show held in Brighton last year, when there was a record entry of 324

held in Brighton last year, when there was a record entry of 324 Dutch rabbits to judge.

Another is a stock broker, who spends much of his time among his rabbits in their comfortable houses in his large garden. Another is an insurance agent, who spends his spare time with his hobby, which besides pleasures gives him profit to add to his none too excessive income.

Another is a South London carrier

Another is a South London carrier, whose work necessitates his appearance at 5 a.m., but releases him at 11 a.m., until evening. It was this lancier who made the remark at the beginning of this article.

Another is a doctor's coachman, another a plumber, and so one might give dozens of different trades and professions represented in the rabbit fancy in London, while in the north of England and elsewhere the collier, with his few shillings a week, and the doctor and the retired merchant vie with each other to breed the winners. What is the good of the hobby?

What is the good of the hobby? Well, many and many a wife will tell you that since her husband has become interested in rabbits he spends his spare hours with them and not at a public house or his club, for all his time and spare cash is wanted if he wants to be among the successful exhibitors; and the money so spent comes back when the young rabbits are sold. It never came back from the public house.

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