

coldly, after the first startled feeling that someone was followfeeling of surprise had passed ing her at some distance behind She could not feel anything else But she could see nothing, and but cold to him just yet-cold and became satisfied after a time that proud, and bitterly hurt by his it was again only acase of "nerves." recent attitude and action. Doubt- and that the footsteps she thought less he had come home to spend she heard at a distance behind Christmas with his bride, who, her were only the rustling of the together with himself would wind through the leaves. Besides she had Bran with her, and if delight in flaunting their newlyfound happiness in her face. And there should be anybody about-But at that moment the dog he and she had been such friends -so much more than ordinary gave a deep, low growl and leaped friends-but a little while ago! quickly in front of her. At the How could she feel anything else same instant someone struck a match, and poor Netta had a but sore and resentful, and how hard she would find it to hide it, momentary and most terrifying vision of two grinning evil-looking however much she must try ! faces that leered at her out of the " Mayn't I come with you ?" he

asked, apparently undaunted by darkness "Hand over your purse, my the chilliness of her tones : "It is pretty, and we won't trouble you very late for you to be out alone.' any further," said the one nearest "Oh, I am quite used to it,"

she replied with a kind of mirth- to her. "But I haven't a purse-I less, half-frozen laugh. "In fact, brought out no money with me," I should much perfer to be alone,

faltered Netta, falling back in if I may say so." terror from the malevolent-look-"Oh-in that case," he murmur ed falling back and lifting his ing faces that mercifully disappear-

hat, evidently stung by her mark. ed from her gaze for a moment as ed air of aloofness and hauteur, the match flickered suddenly out. "We'll soon find out, Missie, " I must not think of intruding.", And in a moment he had vanished whether you have or not," snarled one of them, laying a hand roughly into the darkness. on her shoulder. Netta stumbled on a little

blindly. Hadly had she advanced

a dozen paces, however, when she did so Bran, who had all Godfrey's dog, "Bran" came this time been bristling and growling, suddenly flew at the bounding noisly after her. "Away, Bran, away !" she com- fellow's throat. Then a sound of

manded him irritably, as he trotted footsteps racing swiftly behind along by her, side, shoving his her, and in a moment Godfrey's cold wet nose ingratiatingly now voice-the most welcome sound and again into her warmly-gloved she had ever heard, she thought shouted angrily at her waylayers : hand.

Netta gave a scream, and as

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ent is necessary.

But Bran absolutely refused to "What do you mean, you leave her. He was still close to hounds ? How dare you molest a her heels when she entered Mrs. lady like this. Dare lay another Dempsey's cottage, and all that hand on her and I'll shoot the she or the old woman could say both of you dead !" Indeed he or do seemed powerless to alter already had the gun poised ready his determination of remaining to fire.

close to Netta's side. But the two miscreants cowered

"Well, maybe it's for luck, miserably berore him. "Don't Miss Nette, avoureen," the old shoot us, sir," they cried, "and ed for happiness. woman said, after they had their for God's sake will you call this little chat, and the girl stood up dog of your's off. Sure we had no at last to go. "I often heard tell intention of frightening the young that it was a powerful lucky lady-we only asked her for a thing for a dog to follow a body copper or two."

like that. And to tell you nothing Godfrey looked from one to the but the truth, Miss Netta, I'm other in disgust, then back again glad you have his company for at Netta's frightened face. Some

protection, for it's not safe for a young thing like you to be out on the dark lonesome road. And if I were you, Miss Nette, honey, I'd not be going home through the woods tonight. The moon is gone behind the clouds, and its grown terrible dark. And I heard tell there was a couple of very illlooking transferring round here within the last day or two. They say Mrs. Gregory's little house was broken into and robbed las

you had gone to Paris with Julia No. I tried to hang some and your fiancee for the weddpictures and stood on some lictionaries on a table and they

He looked puzzled a moment, shoped from under me." then laughed, yet more loudly "Words failed you, I suppose ?" and boyishly than before.

"With Julia and her fiancee Mrs. Newed (to her husband)you must have heard-and min cook and cook, and cook for understood," he explained. "Yo ou, and what do I get ? Nothshould know, of course, that Julia was engaged to Henri Dumont

Mr. Newed-You're lucky. I Estelle's only brother, for the last always get indigestion. year and a half, and they wer

married a fortnight ago in London MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES -a very happy as well as a DIPTHERIA. wealthy marriage it will prove for my sister. I hope and believe

"Sis won't be able to see you That was why we were so much tonight, Mr. Jones," said her little taken up with Estelle, and Henri, too, when he came. I'm glad the brother. "She's had a tur'ble wedding is happily over, for it accident.

was a great tie and a bit of a bore "Is that so ? What happened ?' "All her hair got burned up. having to show them around so "Good heaven ! Was she burnmuch, and Julia made sure to keep my nose to the grinding ed ?"

"Naw, she wasn't there. She stone. She always did." "You must be very lonely for don't know it yet!"

her, I'm sure." ventured Netta W. H. O. Wilkinson, Strawho was now walking home quite cheerfully and undismayed beside ford says :- "It affords me much her big manly escort, who had pleasure to say that I experienced tucked her arm possessively great relief from Muscular Rheumatism by using two boxes of through his. Milburn's Rheumatic Pills. Price "Lonely for Julia ?" he asked, with a look amused and comically box a 50c.

doubtful. "Well I'd hardly call it lonely exactly, though the house "What's the hardest part of does seem so quiet and still and our new job, Blinks ?" peaceful without her hustling and

"Holding it," managing ways. But I have been feeling very lonely for somebody Bix-How's the job old man else," he said earnestly, and in the alary gone up yet ? pale moonlight filtering down Dix-I guess so. The boss made through the leafless trees she an assignment today.

knew that his eyes were tenderly seeking her own. MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES

"You know whom I mear COLDS. ETC Netta," he went on. " And oh,

sadly, "if only I were not such a There is no wind of March pauper-if I only dared speak to cuts half so deep as the unkind your father-"

vord of a friend. Netta's heart all at once began to quiver with a strange, unhoped Was Weak and Run Down. "Papa has plenty of money,

she said, tremulously almost in a whisper, "and if you only knew COULD NOT STAND how fond he is of you-" THE LEAST EXCITEMENT. "Is he, dear ? And are you

e whispered back softly. "What do you think ?" asked When one gets weak and run down Netta, with her shyest and most adorable smile. And then, just as she laid her sweet face a while ago against the bark of a silvery birch she now laft her cheek

rch, she now laid her cheek Mrs. J. A. Williams, Tillsonburg, against his-but this time not to Mrs. J. A. Williams, Tillsonburg, O Ont., writes: "I cannot speak too highly of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. I suffered greatly with my nerves, and was so weak and run down I could not stand the least excitement of any kind. I believe your Heart and Nerve Pills to be a valuable remedy for all sufferers from nervous trcuble." eep.-Nora Tynan O'Mahony, in the Weekely Freeman. Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are 50c per box, 3 boxes for \$1.25, at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto Ont All kinds of Job Printing done at the Herald

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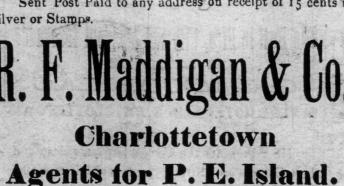
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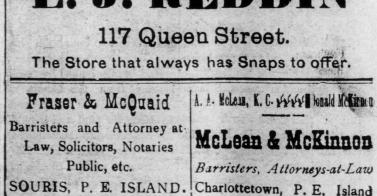
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