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down to his head. He regarded it

down to his nead. He regarded it now despondently. "Just had my hair ironed in Pwiccadilly, an' it wants doin' again." The other men eyed him critically,

The other men eyed him critically, Wallsend with a flicker of contempt in his hard eyes. "Comes of wearing your hair so long, Detrich," said Bertie languidly; "get it cut, man, saves a deuce of a lot of worry." He looked com-placently at his own short hair with its neat parting in the middle. The "Nut" shuddered, and his eyes dropped to Bertie's passionate silk socks of a vivid scarlet, shot with yel-low, and then he transferred his gaze to his own white spats thoughtfully. "Bertie's afraid of getting his hair rulled by the divine Judy," sneered Wallsend, "that's why he keeps it chort."

short."

After the laugh which followed this sally, Bertie excused himself in order to keep an obviously fictitious ap-pointment with his tailor, and saunter-ed out of the club.

"'Fwaid of missin' the matinee an' a sight of the divine Judy's legs," giggled the "Nut," as Bertie disap-

After an hour's idle gossip, the other men drifted into the street. Later in the evening they all col-lected at Wallsend's rooms, and amid clouds of cigar smoke and innumerclouds of cigar smoke and innumer-able whiskeys and sodas, gambled away the night, stopping only when a slant of sunlight, filtering through the blinds, paled the electric lights to a sicklier hue, and warned them that another day had dawned. Lighter in pocket, two flushed and rather unsteady youths descended in the lift to the street. The "Nut," still anxious about his appearance, was enveloped in a long coat which entirely concealed his evening dress. Wallsend turned into bed, and at once fell into a sound untroubled

once fell into a sound untroubled

once fell into a sound untroubled sleep. It was well after eleven o'clock be-fore his valet ventured to disturb his slumbers by intruding into his bed-room with a silver salver on which were the morning papers and his let-ters, together with a stiff "refresher." Wallsend opened one eye, and con-signed the valet and all his race to everlasting perdition for waking him. The man, accustomed to such vale-dictory vehemence from his master, looked unmoved.

S EEING the brandy-and-soda, Wall-send opened the other eye, and drank off a tumbler full, after which he tossed his letters over with-out opening them. "Bills," he grunted; "they can wait!"

grunted; "they can wait!"

A dirty envelope caught his eye, ad-dressed in an illiterate hand. "Curse it!" he ejaculated, and separated it from the others. "Can't be bothered with the papers," he said

he said.

he said. The valet ostentatiously removed the offending sheets. "What the devil are you grinning at, you ass?" he asked, suddenly irate, as he caught a peculiar gleam in the man's eyes. "Anything special in the papers?" "Yes, m' lord," replied the valet demurely. "Leastways o' course, un-less it's one o' them roomors the press is so fond o' gettin 'old of." "What do you mean, man? What are you talking about?" Wallsend raised himself on one elbow, wide awake now.

awake now. "It's in the society noos, m' lord—I 'opes no offence if I offers me con-gratulations to yer lordship!" Wallsend snatched at the paper, and glanced over the page placed con-veniently to catch his eye. A sudden intuition of what he would find there flashed through his mind. He read the announcement of his engagement to Margaret Assitas. The Roman General had wasted no time; it was a master-stroke on her part to clinch the matter.

"Deucedly smart piece of work," he muttered, as a slow smile spread over his face. "Now, Peggy, my girl—that's one to me—what will you make of that?

The silver clock in his bedroom chimed twelve strokes to the hour. (To be continued.)



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