nearly always full, and the guests mostly of a good paying class, the business did

gun to cause her some anxiety. The Misses Williams were stylish; After he had been a couple of days a good looking girls. They added immensely to the attractions of the Virginia House, his doubts took more definite shape, and a plan occurred to him for setting them at rest, for assistance in which he determined to apply to fiable kind. In the course of a season they would have half a cozen promising threations among them, but somehow they more got beyond fibration. This was a disappointment to Mrs. Williams, who, when she condescended to start a bearding house, had been influenced by the horns. I want to last you a question.

least, the flower of the flock.

Bertha had made one conquest. When

sionally engaged in the settlement of the Rev. Harrington Williams' affairs, Mr. Frank Bartlett, their managing man, had been emitten by Miss Williams' charms, though a good looking fellow and a pro-mining solicitor, Bartlett was far from being an eligible party in the eyes of There were obvious reasons for encouryoung lady took good care that that point

ward the end of August, a letter was received, dating from a first-rate West-end club, inquiring whether accommodation could be at once procured for Mr. Stuart Romney-Romney, and one servant.

An answer in the affirmative was promptly dispatched, and a couple of days later the three Misses Williams, from the shelter of a convenient curtain at an upper window, beheld Mr. Stuart Romney Romney drive up, accompanied by a highly respectable man servant, and an enormous pile of luggage.

gentlemanlike man of thirty-two or thirtythree years, with keen, dark eyes, and fairly good features, rather spoilt by a low forehead across which his hair was brushed flat. His manners were at first somewhat distant and reserved. This, however, wore off on closer acquaintance, and after a few days he was unanimously voted a decided acquisition to the house.

From the first there was naturally a good deal of speculation as to who Mr. Romney-Romney was. It happened that there were then staying at Virginia House, two maiden ladies named Horn-

In consultation with her sister Emilia. Mr. Romney-Romney's answers to a few youd much doubt.

Mias Horncastle was particularly gra- Romney-Romney. cious to the new comer, and in his honor circle of female friends upstairs.

But the most satisfactory thing was face upon the ceremony. that from the first Mr. Romney-Romney paid obvious attention to Miss Williams. lawn-tennis, and that more frequently he before he even found himself hoping that Romney-Romney was left behind. lawn-tennis, and tast more requestly no nothing unfayorable to that gentleman 'Don't be frightened,' said Burtlett to They were none too soon, Scarcely

COMMUNICATIONS

was quite certain that these attentions with a large semi-public parents as one of the most fashionable. To the control of the most semi-public parents at the large Although, however, the house was himself received with a marked cold-

ness, odl and a nercil size in 162 not return a large profit. The expenses of an establishment of this kind. especitory when conducted with such liberality ever, was not due solely to jestlousy. as Mrs. Williams, are necessarily high.
Added to this, Mrs. Williams was encumbered by three daughters, the youngest of whom was now sighteen, and neither she now it the young ladies had much neither she now the young ladies had much neither of seenony. After three or fear years, therefore, at Virginia Mouse, Mrs. Williams position had be-gun to cause her some auxiety. as to that gentleman's anteco

ing house, had been influenced by the horns, Tiwant to sale you a question

and had subsequently, on two occasions, sles me. Now, don't laugh. I am perspent his holiday at Virginia House. But feetly serious, and I have come to you

aging I a up to a certain point, but the partner, Tapeham, if he remembers the move early. The Louise Dagmat, the boat back.

photographed since he was a boy. He there was rather a mamper over break another three minutes through a smack said quite seriously that he had such a nervous horror of bein, taken that he morning swim. A note for him lay on could not sit.'

Kate went on, evidently taken with the idea of assisting in unraveling a mystery. 'Mabel took a sketch of his head one evening while he was playing bezique The new arrival turned out to be a it away somewhere, and I have no doubt I could find it."

Bartlett said he should like to have it; and, to his delight, a little later in the evening Kate took an opportunity of handing the portrait to him privately. It proved to be a rough, but very characteristic likeness of the original; and that same evening Mr. Bartlett posted it to Mr. Tapeham, wilh a short statement of the circumstances which led to his send-

ing it. Mrs. Williams had felt rather annoyed with Mr. Bartlett for intruding himself at this crisis in Bertha's fortunes ; but it eastle, sisters of a prosperous banker in really seemed as if his arrival had stimuthe west of England. Miss Horncastle, lated Mr. Romney-Romney's attachment. being not only wealthy, but coming of a On the day after Mr. Bartlett's arrival. county family on her mether's side, was which was Sunday, Mr. Romney-Romney Jooked up to as an authority on questions escorted the ladies to church, and walked could go there and back in ten minutes home with Miss Williams. On Monday if he choose to run. they were together all the morning upon she had discovered the possibility of the beach, watching the arrival of the came, in, and for the next ten minutes their acquaintance's connection with a Boulogne boat. When, on the same they were all busy watching the contiquestions delicately put to him on the in a corner of the drawing-room after of an hour, Mr. Romney-Romney had had planned his next operations very when, after this, Mrs. Williams reported that Bertha and Mr. Romney-Romney siderable uneasiness. The passengers the plice-station and obtain the assistance that her new guest's dressing and travel- were sitting tete-a-tete in the conserva- were all on board, the pile of luggage on ef an Inspector and constable in plain ing paraphernalia were not only lavishly tory down stairs. Presently they walked the quay was being rapidly reduced; and clothes. The three alighted just before mounted fn silver, but emblazoned with up and down for half an hour in front of yet he did not appear. a deerhound's head, and the motto, the sea, and ten minutes after they came "Prisca fides,' the matter was settled be- in Mrs. Williams knew that her eldest daughter had promised to become Mrs.

By breakfast time the next morning the two old ladies even went so for as to the news was known all over the house. display from time to time various instalments of their family jewelry, hitherto tions of her friends. Miss Horncastle reserved from the gaze of all but a select came among the first. Bartlett came, toe, and managed to put a fairly good

Now that the blow had fallen, Mr.

ladies upon the Less of an afternoon or would come of that between his paginer. The ladies generally. Perhaps he had evening or when muste was going on in the disapposition of help stocks which is gretione disappositions and good on hord and good blow. I will she drawing your efter disappositions beald not the family go and book. The had not much faith in his own mot with no discouragement from any or the stock about the moved away as he apole, and book are the moved away as he apole, and book are the moved away as he apole, and book after Mr. Roundey-Ross- a ser, merch with kate on the intrinsic of the state of the state

ous event.

ney's idea of 'a regular seg party, it appeared that 'James,' Mrs. Williams manpeared that a large purtion of the company, consisting of Mrs. Boxall work, had gone out for the day, taking with him Maria, the upper housemand their three children, has alweady maid, with whom he was 'keeping company.' Mr. Romney Romney himself had arranged this, like the rest of the excursion. He had made presents to all atta and L'Africai Atta and L'Africai and L'A

sging I a up to a certain point, but the partner, Tapeham, if he remembers the move early. The Louise Dagmat, the boat back.

If they were up to time at Boulogue, and its blossom a countless mass of crime on stamens tipped with gold, faintly fragrant. Even familiar in size and profusion and color. What at home would be a daily, is here would be a daily, is here would be a daily, is here.

rank Bartiett came in late from his passing across their bows, coming out of the hard. A note for him lay on the table; he recognized his partner's had one of the fastest boats on the service, and a good tide under her. With she sat on the seat o nervous horror of being taken that he morning swim. A note for him lay on the harbor. On the other hand, they with Bertha. It's a splendid likeness- mg after Kate Williams cloak and quite as good as a photograph. She put parasol, and other small belongings, his letter, for the moment, slipped his

They found themselves in capital time. When they reached the boat, and comfortable places had been secured for the ladies on deck, it still wanted twenty minutes to the time of starting. " Mr. Romney-Romney was then seen whispering something to Berthe, and presently he hurried off to the shore.

"Why, where has he gone?" asked Mrs.

'To get me some flowers,' answere Bertha. 'I told him not to go, but he said there was plenty of time. 'Oh, I nearly five minutes before her time. do hope he won't be late ! Mr. Bartlett. do you think he will?"

'He need not,' said Bartlett. 'There

Shortly after, the train from London

remembered Mr. Ronney-Romney well enough now, and as his mind ran over of the next two or three days will suit the events of the last few days, he began us, Mr. Romney Romney remarked; to have a general idea that something but Thursday will give us the longest was wrong, though he was unable to see time there. I shall invite some more clearly in what direction. The first suspecible to join us stud we will have a repicion, however, which crossed his mind, gular big party in honor of the auspicible him to go at once to Kate Williams and inquire privately who was left in The scheme was further mooted at charge of Virginia House.

breakfast time on the following day. What he learned from Kate gave his Unfortunately for Mr. Romney-Rom-ney's idea of 'a regular big party,' it ap-peared that 'Lames,' Mrs. Williams' mangoing with them, and their places on the the servants in honor of his engagement. coach were already booked.

Miss Hornessin, however, after some al favor, that James and Maria might be little persuasion, consented on behalf of allowed to go and visit friends at Dover. herself and sister, to honor the party. There remained the cook and the under always providing the weather and the house maid, and, of course, Kate added,

accure places before the arrival of the Unluckly, however, they had been five tidal train from London. Consequently minutes late in getting off, and had lest

down to the harbor; and in the bustle, done but to return to the ladies and enof getting away, and the anxiety of look- deavor to begule the next hour with some talk. It was an anxious and exciting an hour as Bartlett had ever passed. And he found himself continually relapsing into vacant silence as he mentally timed the stroke of the engines, or measured the seemingly endless distance between the ship and the French coast. came in sight, he was fain to bolt away

When at last the Boulogne harbor from his friends, and take up a position in the bows. From that point of advantage he descried to his relief the smoke of a steamer within the harbor, A moment later he learned from one of the crew that the Louise Dagmar, after one of the best passages on record, was in

Bartlett never quite knew how he got on board the other steamer, still less what excuses he made to his party for is a shop just across the harbor. He this second desertion. All he clearly remembered was his arrival, perspiring and breathless, on board the Folkestone boat about half a minute before she cast

It was barely one o'clock when he their acquaintance's connection with a certain family of Derbyshire Romneys. eyening, Frank Bartlett was holding the nental tourists swarming on board. found himself jumping on shore again in division lists of the House are attached. above conversation with Kate Williams When however, at the end of a quarter Folkestone harbor. In the meantime he subject, confirmed this theory; and dinner, every lady in the room was aware not returned, the ladies manifested con- carefully. The first step was to drive to they came in sight of Virginia House, As the harbor clock struck the half After sending the constable round to hour, and the steam whistle roared out watch the house from the back, Bartlett lustily, Bertha Williams stood up and and the Inspector advanced to the front looked toward the xusy, biting her lips door. Contrary to custom, it was shut, nervously. The last portmanteau came but Bartlett had a latch-key in his thundering down on deck, and the gang- pocket, and they effected an entrance way was drawn up. There was an in- without difficulty or noise. They a ter-change of signals between the Cap- once became aware of a large pile of tain and the shore, a shout or two, and a luggage in the hall, portmanteans, trunk splash as the cables were cast off, and and packing cases being heaped up inthen a quiver ran through the boat, and discriminately; so, on seeing this the the quay suddenly appeared to move Inspector changed his plan of operation Bartlett found himself undergoing a cer- away, and Bertha dropped back in her Upon a sign from him they retired paid obvious attention to bliss without the generally tain revulsion of feeling toward Mr. chair with a sob which would not be recontrived to have Bertha for a partner at Romney-Romney, and it was not long pressed, for they were off, and Mr. lessly behind them, and took up their position in a narrow side street.

were they out of sight, when Walters dreve up in a large, roomy fly. He led the way into the house, and was soon thaily engaged, with the flyman, in removing what Sartlett's companion spoke of the way. As the boxes and portunanteens mounted up, Bartlett because amounted up, B

escorted down to Sandgate by the affable Mr. Walters, who after setting them down to a lunch at a small inn, had auddealy left them to speak to a friend who was passing down the street, and had forgotten to return. They assisted Bartlett to unpack Mr. Romney-Rom ney's luggage.

Miss Kate is now Mrs. Bartlett, but Miss Bortha is still anmarried, though from her sattitude toward one or two gentlemen boarders, there is no reason to suppose that she is not inconsolable for the loss of Mr. Romney-Romney.

Flowers on the Kansas Prairies. Barbaric splendor of the scenes Atda and L'Africaine seemed repeated as the glorious pandrains of blossoming prairie unsolled day after day. Can you picture toyourself ten acres of portulaca? or whole hillsides curtained with what seems a superb variety of wisteria, except that it grows on a stalk sinstead of hanging from a vine? Do you know how it feels not to be able to step, without crushing a flower, so that the little brother in lay in prospect.

Kate, he said, saking the bull by the saves providing the westher and the home. Save providing the saves provided the

not. And how beautiful were the grasses the most useful one the most beautiful of all, the delicate little buffalc grass, for which the prairie is famous, waving its tiny curled sickle of feathery daintiness as if its beauty were its only excuse for being, yet bravely 'curing' itself into dry hay as it stands, when the autumn winds begin to blow, that the happy flocks may 'nibble, sharp-toothed, the rich, thickgrowing blades' all through the winter, without their being gathered into barns, - Alice Wellington Rollins,

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The Franchise Bill, as it passed its third reading is a widely different measure from the Franchise Bill Sir John Macdonald introduced and tried to force through at a single sitting and without amendment. Nearly every clause has been altered and many new ones have been added, as a result of the fierce fire that the Opposition brought to bear upon it. Not a word or a line has escaped their vigilant scrutiny and their efforts to improve the bill, where they have failed to be effective, have been placed Greatly as the bill has been improved by their determined exertions, it is still a monetrous bundle of iniquities. In its original shape it was a sigantic sample of legislative infamy, unparalleled in its audacity as a measure to protect the school furniture asspecial to party in power against the indignation of as Al Orders promptly attended to.

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portuninteens mounted up. Barilett became impatient, but still the Imspector bleed his time.

At less Mr. Rowney-Rowney appeared the steps, arrayed in a suit of fashionably-cut garments, and carrying a rather pretty travelling bag, which Bartlett recognized as his own. Then, at a given a cognized as his own. Then, at a given steps, and have given no opinion on the times, on the church, on alayer, on marriage, on socialism, on secret-secreties, on the college, on parties and persons, that your verdict is still expected with curiouty, as a reveal made of the law.

An hour or two later the cook and house maid came back in a state of considerable excitement. They had been escorted down to Sandgate by the affable

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