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In the springtime Ladles' fancies . . lightly turn to . . . thoughts of



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The Face Behind the Mask.

A ROMANCE.

existence but herself.

His highness and his nobles took

their stations of authority behind the green table, and summoned the

them, which was done; while the rest

of the company were fluttering down

to pay the greatest attention. The cases in this midnight court seemed to be conducted in a decidedly origin-

us, half defiant; and the procee

ings commenced by the dwarf's lean-

"My little friend, I warned you be

fore not to be so facetious," said Sir Norman, regarding him quietly: "a

rush of mirth to the brain will cer-

tainly be the death of you one of

these days."
"No levity, young man!" interpos-

member you are addressing His Roy-

and Consort of Fer Most Gracious

Majesty, Miranda!"
"Indeed! Then all I have to say is

that her majesty has very bad taste

in the selection of a husband, unless,

in leed, her wish was to marry the

ugliest man in the world, as she her-

self is the most beautiful of women!"

Her majesty took not the slightest

notice of this compliment, not so

much as a flutter of her drooping eyelashes, betrayed that she even heard it, but his highness laughed un-

"Silence!" shouted the duke, shock-

ed and indignant at this glaring disrespect, "and answer truthfully the

juestions put to you. Your name,

His grace waved down the interrup-

tion with a dignified wave of the

hand, and went on with severe judi-

Ashley between this and the city

"I had the pleasure of shooting

highwayman there, and my only regret is I did not perform the same

good office by his companion, in the person of your noble self, before you

A slight titter ran round the room

and the duke turned crimson.

These remarks are impertment

and not to the purpose. You are the

murderer of Lord Ashley, let that

'He was," said the dwarf, vindict-

Very well, that is another point

settled, and either of them is strong

enough to seal his death warrant

You came here as a spy, to see and

hear and report-probably you were

"Probably—just think as you please about it!" said Sir Norman

who knew his case was as desperate

as it could be, and was quite reck-

'No such thing. I have owned no

Sir Norman Kingsley, this is non

"Well, hearing and seeing constitute

spying, do they not? Therefore you

'Need you ask? What is the fate

No matter what they are in other places, I am pretty certain what they

"A room in black and a chop with

an axe—the Earl of Gloucester's fate,

"You have said it. Have you any

"None; pronounce it as soon as you

"With the greatest pleasure," said

the duke, who had been scrawling on another ominous roll of vellum, and now passed it to the dwarf. 'I never

knew anyone it gave me more delight to condenn. Will your highness pass that to her majesty for signature,

of the gauzy nymphs presented it to her, kneeling, and she took it with a look half bored, half impatient, and lightly scrawled her autograph.

The long, dark lashes did not lift;

no change passed over the calm, cold-face, as icily placid as a frozen lake

in the moonlight—evidently the life or death of the stranger was less than nothing to her. To him. two, she was as nothing, or nearly so; but yet there was a sharp jarring near at his heart, as he saw that

pain at his heart, as he saw that fair hand, that had saved him once,

so cooly sign his death warrant now. But there was little time left

watch her, for, as she pushed it

impatiently away, and relapsed in-to her former proud listlessness, the dwarf got up with one of his

Sir Norman looked steadfastly at the queen as she received it. One

and pronounce his sentence. His highness, with a grin of most exquisite delight, did as directed;

reason why such a sentence should

not be pronounced on you?"

I confess it looks like it.

sensical equivocation! You own you

thing. As I told you before, you are welcome to put what construc-

"You admit that you are a

tion you please on my actions."

"I met him at the Golden

suffice: Probably you were on

hither when you did

Crown but a short time after.'

sent by King Charles?"

less what he answered.

came to see and hear?"

then?

are a spy ...

are here!"

in a word!"

now.

"And that is?"

next?

You are the same who shot Lord

Has your grace any object

you say, is Sir Norman Kingsley?"

til he was perfectly hoarse.

tions to it?"

cial dignity.

ome hours ago?"

turned and fled."

ed the lord chancellor, rebukingly;

al Highness Prince Caliban,

court, ancient or modern. Sir man took his stand, and eyed

of laughter right in his face.

into their seats, and evidently about

guards to lead the prisoner up

 "Tour majesty, the royal ban just is waiting," insinuated the lord high chamberlain returning, and bending over until his face and his shoe-buckles almost touched.

"And what is to be done with this long lashes over her dark eyes, seemed to forget there was anything in

les almost touched.

"And what is to be done with this prisoner, while we are eating it?" growled the dwarf, looking drawn

words at his liege lady.

"He can remain here under care of
the guards, can he not?" she retorted sharply. "Or, if you are afriad that they are not equal to taking care of him, you had better stay and watch him yourself."

which answer her majesty sailed majestically away, leaving the gentleman addressed to follow or not, as he pleased. It pleased him to do so, on the whole, and he went after her, growling anathemas between his royal teeth, and evidently in the roval same state of mind that induces genlemen in private life to take sticks their aggravating spouses, under millar circumstances. However, it ight not be just the thing, perhaps, kings and queers to take broom cks to settle their little differences opinion, like common Christiens nd so the prince peaceably followed salle a manger and entered the the rest, and Sir Norman keepers were left in the hall of ete, monarchs of all they surveyed. stavithstanding he knew his hours ere numbered, the young knight uld not avoid feeling curious, and

the tapestry having been drawn aside, he looked through the arch with a good deal of interest. The apartment was smaller the one in which he stood—though still very large, and instead of being all crimson and gold was glancing and glittering with blue and silver. These azure hangings were of satin, instead of velvet, and looked quite light and cool, compared to the hot, glowing place where he was. The ceiling was spangled over with spangled stars, with the royal arms quartered in the middle, and the chairs were of white polished wood, gleaming like ivory, and cushioned with blue satin. The table was of immense length, as it had need to be, and flashed and sparkled in the wax lights with heaps of gold and silver plate, cut-glass and precious porce-lain. Golden and crimson wines shone in the carved decanters; great silver baskets of fruit were strewn about, with piles of cakes, and confectionery—not to speak of more solid substantials, wherein the heart of every true Englishman delighteth. The queen sat in a great raised chair at the head, and helped herself without paying much attention to anybody, and the remainder were ranged down its length, according to their rank—which as they were all pretty much and duchesses,

The spirits of the company - de pressed for the moment by the unone of their number beheaded—seemed to revive under the spirituous influence of sherry, sack, and burgundy; and soon, they were laughing, and chatting and hobnobbing, as animatedly as any dinner party Sir Norman had ever seen. The musicians, too-appeared to be in high feather, and the merriest music of the day assist-ed the noble banqueters' digestion.

Under ordinary circumstances, it was rather a tantalizing scene to stand aloof and contemplate, and so the guards very likely felt; but Sir Norman's thoughts were of that room in black, the headsman's axe, and Leoline. He felt he would never see her again—never see the sun rise that was to shine on their bridal, and he wondered what she would think of him, and if she was destined to fall into the hands of Lord Rochester or Count L'Estrange. As a general en to melancholy moralizing, but in the present case, with the headsman's axe poised like the sword of Damo-cles above him by a single hair, he cles above him by a single hair, he may be pardoned for reflecting that this world is all a fleeting show, and that he had got himself into a scrape, to which the plague was a trifle. And yet, with nervous impatience, he wished the dinner and his trial were over, his fate scaled, and his life end-ed at once, since it was to be ended soon. For the fulfillment of the first wish, he had not long to wait; the feast, though gay and grand, was of the briefest, and they could have scarcely been half an hour gone when they were all back.

Everybody seemed in better humor, too, after the refection, but the queen and the dwarf—the former looked colder and harder and more like a Labrador ice-berg tricked in purple velvet than ever, and highness was grinning from ear ear-which was the very worst possible sign. Not even her majesty could

ALSIKE, RED CLOVER' AND

TIMOTHY SEED. SEED PEAS, CORN, BABLEY AND BEANS,

FLOUR AND FEED Baled Hay and Straw

Tennent & Burke

finard's Liniment is used by Physi-

"Sir Norman Kingsiev, you have been tried and convicted as a spy, and the paid hireling of the vindictive and narrow-minded ther'es; and which I have the honor to preside is that you be taken neare immediately to the place of execution and there lose your head by the axe. "And a mighty small loss it will be," remarked the duke to himself,

in a sort of parenthesis, as the dwarf concluded his pleasant observatior by thrusting himself forward across the table, after his rather discomposing fash or, and breaking out into one of his diabolical laughter-

The queen, who had been sitting passive, and looking as if she were in a spirit a thousand miles away now started up with sharp sudder ness, and favored his highness one of her fiercest fiery glances. "Will your highness just permit somebody else to have a voice in that matter? How many more trials

are to come on to-night?"
"Only one," said the duke, glancmg over a little roll which he held; Castlemaine's, for poisoning the Duchess of Sutherland."

"And what is my Lady Castle-maine's fate to be?" "The same as your friend's here in all probability," nodding easily, not to say playfully, at sir Norman "And how long will her trial

al plan, and with an easy rapidity that would have electrified any other "Halt an hour, or thereabouts. There are some secrets in the matter that have to be investigated, and judges with a look half contemptwhich will require some time. ing forward and breaking into a roar

Then let all the trials be over first, and all the beheadings take place together. We don't choose to take the trouble of trevelling to the Black Chamber just to see his head chopped off, and then have the same journey to undergo half all hour after, for a similar purpose. Call Lady Castlemaine, and let the prisbe taken to one of the dunand there remain until the geons. time of the execution. Guards, do you hear? Take him away!"

The dwarf's face grew black as a hunder-cloud, and he jumped to his feet, and confronted the queen with a look so intensely ugly that no othearthly face could have assumed it. But that lady merely met it with

of cold disdain and aversion, keeping her dark bright eyes and. fixed chillingly upon him, waved her white hand, in her imperious way, to the guards. Those warlike gentlemen knew better than to disobey her most gracious majesty when she happened to be, like Mrs. Joe Gargary, on the "rampage," which, if her flashing eye and a certain expresher bandsome mouth sion spoke the truth, must have been hours out of the twentywenty As the soldiers approached to lead him away, Sir Norman tried to

catch her eye; but in vain, for she kept those brilliant optics most unwinkingly fixed on the dwarf's face "Call Lady Castlemaine," com-manded the duke, as Sir Norman with his guards passed through the doorway leading to the Black Cham-Your highness, I presume, is

ready to attend to her case.' "Before I attend to hers or anyone se's case," said the dwarf, hop-ing over the table like an overping grown toad, "I will first see that this guest of ours is properly taken care of, and does not leave us withthe ceremony of saying good-

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What seems to us but dim funerea tapers, may be heaven's distant lamps.

—Longfellow.

|Had to Conquer or Die.

"I was just about gone," writes Mrs. Rosa Richardson, of Laurel Springs, N. C., "I had Consumption so bad that the best doctors said I could not live more than a month, but I began to use more than a month, but I began to use Dr. King's New Discovery and was wholly cured by seven bottles and am now stout and well." It's an unrivaled life-saver in Consumption, Pneumonia, La Grippe and Bronchitis; infallible for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Hay Fever, Croup or Whooping Cough. Guaranteen bottles 50c. and \$1. Trial bottles free at A. I. McCall & Co.'s Drug Store.

The praise that comes of love does not make us vain, but humble rather.

J. M. Barrie.

6 Th Grove This signature is on every box of the genuit Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets

he remedy that erres a cold in one day Most excuses are, consciously or consciously, falsehoods.

Ability involves responsibility; power to its last particle is duty.—A. Maclaren.

Ice Cream and Cream Soda

Wm. Somerville

Origin of Coke Walk. The cake walk proper and its origin among the French negroes of Louisi-ana more than a century ago, says the New Orleans Times Democrat. is little doubt that it is an offshoot of some of the old French country dances It resembles several of them in form From New Orleans It spread over the entire south and thence north. It was

found of convenience to the plantation negroes. They were not wedded by license, and it was seldom that the servtees of a preacher were called in. At a cake walk a man might legitimately show his preference for a woman and thus publicly claim her for a wife. In effect the cake walk was not dif-

ferent from the old Scotch marriage which required only public acknowledgment from the contracting parties. So this festival became in some sense a wooing, an acceptance or a rejection and a ceremony. This explains its pop-ularity with the blacks outside of its beauties, with the accompaniment of music, which is competent at all times to command negro support.

Cake walking has improved, as do most things that are constantly practiced. It has lost its old significance in the south. Negroes now get married when they marry at all in the white folks' fashlon. It has become, however, a pantomime dance. Properly performed, it is a beautiful one. The cake is not much of a prize, though the ne gro has a sweet tooth.

A Discovery by Chance,

Finiguerra, the master of early engraving, delighted in doing deeds of kindness. One day a washerwoman in washing a piece of clothing in which a needle had been carelessly left had the misfortune to run it into her hand. The needle broke, and more than half of it was left imbedded in the flesh. It gave her much pain, and as soon as she could she went to Finiguerra's studio, put down the bundle of damp clothes that she was carrying to their owner and asked the artist to help her. After much patient, careful manipulation with his fine tools he succeeded in ex tracting the broken needle.

The woman thanked him, and as she lifted her damp bundle to leave the studio Finiguerra noticed that it had rested upon one of his engravings and had received an excellent impression from it. The engraving, like all others' of that time, was a metal plate complete in itself and was regarded as a single picture. The impression made upon the damp cloth suggested to the alert mind of Finiguerra the possibility of producing an indefinite number of pictures from a single original. By experimenting he perfected his discovery and eventually made it possible for all homes to have beautiful engravings, for previous to his discovery only the wealthy could afford them.

Found a Mare's Nest. A brigadier general or major general is entitled to the keep of three horses at Uncle Sam's expense; a colonel, lieutenant colonel, major aptain to two

only. The forage allowance is often commuted by turning over the same to the quartermaster, and this practice once betrayed a suspicious new member of the house into a curious blunder. He announced that he had discovered that "officers of the army are selling the forage allowed to them, and one such case I am prepared to cite in records of the war department, a case in which the oats and hay were trans ferred, doubtless for a consideration,

to a person named Q. M. Corral." There was an exchange of looks and winks among his astonished hearers, and then an old member kindly rose and said, "I presume, Mr. Speaker, that the memorandum referred to by my distinguished friend refers to a transfer of forage, in the ordinary course of business to the quartermas

The Has Beens.

They met again in after years by chance at the door of a circus tent, the indee and the middle aged woman who had been Maud Muller.

"Great scott," muttered the judge to himself as he noted her sallow face, faded hair, stubby fingers with the marks of the washboard upon them and the group of slatternly children she was angrily trying to induce the ticket taker to pass in free, "what lucky escape I had!"

"Merciful gracious," she mused in wardly, looking at his bald head, watery eyes, double chin and protuberant stomach, "and I once wanted to marry that man!" They passed in, with their respective

noses perceptibly elevated and were listening a few minutes later to the time honored jokes of the clown.

Breaking the News. Jackson-See here, Jimson, that confounded dog of yours kept up a contin ual howl under my window till 3 o'clock this morning! Jimson (firmly)-It wasn't my dog

Jackson-I'm glad to hear that, old man, because I hated to ask you to bury the body. To whom did you sell him?

Evidence of Genius. "My wife," said Mr. Snickers, "is truly remarkable woman." "We all know that," we said. "But

do you wish to specify?" "Yes, sir. She wrote and sold a story the other day, and she spent only once the money she expected to receive for

"Of all the fool things," said the farmer wearily, "the advice to make hay while the sun shines is the worst. Why, when the sun shines it'll make hay itself."—Chicago Post.

The tip of the minute hand of the average watch travels nearly four-fifths of a mile every day.

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