Mr. Doublechin's Escape

family of unmarried daughters, and in inquiries." the domestic circle he was a model of a "Never heard of the woman in my life," that she would not suffer him to leave staid and respectable paterfamilias. The asseverated Mr. Doublechin, putting on her side and get the chance of carrying order at home, and was dreadfully hen- inizing gaze. pecked and bullied. But being a business man he escaped from the thraldom of domestic discipline for several hours every day, and he availed himself of his this_this creature, Inspector? eye and look unutterably wicked. But the chief objects of his gallant attentions were the young ladies who presided at "How did she get hold of your name, Joseph?" demanded his wife. "She had got it pat enough, certainly," to take his midday meals. He might turned Mr. Doublechin, quite fiercely. was nothing very singular in his conduct should not have come down here. in this respect, for a great many elderly shall have to ask you to attend at the his inventive spirit, with brilliant results. gentlemen, who are foully imagined by Mansion House to norrow morning at Turning to his wife, he said as calmly

platonic admiration. She was the presiding delity at a quiet refreshment bar in a City thoroughfare which shall be nameless. Suffice is to say that Mr. Doublechin found his way there very often, and sir."

a ring belonging to his wife which he was taking to the jeweller's for some triffing "My dear I wish to speak to the Inrepairs. To do Mr. Doublechin justice, spector," he ventured to say mildly. explained that it was one of the presents he was fairly desperate, and his story was for Inspector Potts. he had given his wife during their court- too simple to entrap him into mistakes. The rest of the story is soon told. It

"Would you like a ring to wear as a lit- to the charge.

off-honor bright! Try yourself.

hesitation he gave her hand a parting if the case came into court she would be squeeze of the tenderest description, and sure to hear of it, and he suddered to Miss Stubb's profuse thanks overcame It naturally occurred to him that if he his scruples, and he consoled himself had seen the Inspector in private, all with the reflection that he could buy his this unpleasantness might have be wife a better ring in the place of this averted, and then it struck him that i one. Fortunately for him his wife was might not be, too late to remedy the evil. HOT AIR FURNACES not addicted to sentment, and when Mr. Glancing at his watch he perceived that Doublechin explained that he had parted the Inspector must be still waiting at the with her old ring in part payment of a station for the London train, and h new and more valuable one, she raised might easily have a talk with him and no objection and expressed no regrets. set matters straight before any harm had

Shortly after this Miss Stubb suddenly been done. left her situation, and disappeared from the shrine where Mr. Doublechin had but perceiving that he must be cautious been accustomed to worship her. He for, if his wife suspected his errand, she bore her departnre with equanimity and would be pretty sure to put difficulties 4 R speedily attached himself to some other in the way. He therefore did his best to young lady of equal fascinations and at- look cheerfully indifferent, and presenttractions. The incident of the ring passed in a casual way;—
ed from his mind completely until he
"My dear, it is very warm in the houwas unpleasantly reminded of it some to-night."

months after in the following means. He was seated in the snug sitting room | which would have chilled a refrigerator. in his ville at Balham one evening after "Yes. I-I think I will go out and smoke dinner with his wife and daughters, a cigar outside for ten minutes," said Mr. when the servant announced that a Doublechin jauntily. gentleman wished to see him at the "Nonsense, Joseph. You don't stir

same time handing him the visitor's outside of this house to-night. You were ard.
"Inspector Potts, of the City Police!" complaining of cold at dinner time; it would be suicide to expose yourself in 'exclaimed Mr. Doublechin, with a start, the air." as he rubbed his eyes.

"A police officer? Bless my soul! enough; but it was her tone rather than What can he want, I wonder," ejaculated Mrs. Doublechin, looking alarmed, while chin that he must abandon his design. her daughters raised a chorus of inquiries. For the remainder of the evening he sat

"I can't imagine," observed Mr. Double-chin, in a great fluster, as dreadful turbation which defies description, shrinkthoughts of his safe at the office having been rifled flashed across his mind. "Show the gentlemen in, Eliza," he added,

pulling himself together. The Inspector made his appearance a be imagined that poor Mr. Doublechin moment afterwards, and turned out to be an odd-looking little man in private clothes. He saluted the ladies with a

bow, and turned to Mr. Doublechin—

"Sorry to trouble you, sir," he said in that particular ring—to a young woman. a business-like tone, "but I was instructed But the vehemence of her asseverations to call and ask if you know a young plainly showed that they were not based

woman named Emily Stubbs?" woman named Emily Stubbs?"

"Do you, Joseph?" inquired his wife, sharply, as Mr. Poublechin gave a palpable start, and turned the color of a boiled labeter.

oiled lobster.

"Never heard the name before in my defence, to give false evidence against an RAW FURS. life," he gasped, in desperation. iffe," he gasped, in desperation.

"So we expected, sir. May I ask it of perjury should his perfidy be disyou recognise this?" said the officer, pro- covered. The only way out of the dif-

ducing a ring, wrapped in a piece of ficulty which he could devise was to tissue paper, and holding it out for in- start early for town the next morning and endeavor by means of bribery, to "Why, Joseph! I do declare it is my hush up the case and obtain the unlucky old ring!" interposed Mrs. Doublechin, girl's release. This resolve comforted

him a little, and enabled him to snatch in accents of unfeigned surprise. "Oh! pooh! Nonsense, my love," ex- an hour or two of troubled slumber. In claimed her husband, scenting serious the morning he get up the moment he danger in the air, and seeking to look was called and in the midst of his shav ing operation he remarked as carelessly

"My dear Joseph, I should know it as possible:-"My dear Joseph, I should know it among a thousand. Why, here is the stone that I chipped. It is nonsense to twenty-five this morning. I am very prices will be paid at pretend you don't recognise it, 'said Mrs. busy at my office."

prehension and vague misgivings.

"How did you come by it?" inquired the end of this extraordinary case." is wife, addressing the Inspector.

his wife, with emphasis. "A young party, giving the name of Mr. Doublechin was so startled by this Emily Stubbs, attempted to pawn 't, but announcement that he inflicted a sever Mr. Doublechin was one of those infat- was detained. On being asked to ac- gash upon his chin, which, at least uated old gentlemen who imagine them- count for it, she said it was given to her served to cover his confusion. His wife's selves ladykillers. He was stout and by this gentleman," answered the In-intention of accompanying him to the elderly, with a bald head and a fatuous spector, with a glance at the unhappy court meant that she would discover smile. He had a wife and a grown up Mr. Doublechin, "and I was sent to make everything. It was useless to struggle against fate, for he guessed instinctively

did not do so; and if the truth were known liberty to indulge in mild flirtation whenever an opportunity occurred. If he met I believe ma'am but I haven't set my resignation, which was entirely due to a pretty girl in a railway train or about the streets, he would tilt his hat over his with a sidelong glance at Mr. Doublechin. equanimity.

the refreshment bars of City restaurants interposed the Inspector.

The near approach of the ordeal which where Mr. Doublechin was accustomed "flow in the deuce am I to know?" re- he dreaded was proving too much for his have been discovered any day between "Well, Sir," said the Inspector, taking London terminus, he was seized with a twelve and twe o'clock perched on a possession of the ring again, and replac frenzied desire to get his wife out of the three-legged stool, ogling and flirting with ing it in his pocket again, "I was bound way—for an hour at all events. It was some fair Hebe who ministered to his to make inquiries, of course. If we had absolutely his last and only chance of creature comforts. To be sure, there believed the young woman's story, I avoiding the dire catastrophe which

in business all day, find leisure for this "Why?" asked Mr. Doublechin, un- "I think I had better a There was one young lady in particular "The young wo an wal be brought up round to my office first." whom Mr. Doublechin honored by his for not being able to give a satisfactory "Where am I to go to, then?" inquired

spent a good deal of his time at the feet | The fuspector made another bow and plausible that Mrs. Doublechin apparent of his enslaver. He called her by her backed out of the room. Mrs. Double- ly did not doubt his good faith. She Christian name, and conversed with her chin sat with her eyes fixed upon her suffered him to lead her to a harsom cab, on terms of pleasant familiarity. She husband's face and never uttered a word and took her seat inside it.

was rather a sprightly young lady, with a until the slamming of the hall door re "Where to, sir?" inquired the cabin taste for practical joking, but she had al- verberated through the house. Upon ways been tender and sympathetic in her this Mr. Doublechin immediately jump Doublechin loudly, so that his wife could BOOKS Of Theology. meanor towards Mr. Doublechin, who edout of his chair with the evident in hear; "and" he added with intense earn

-that was the name of this particular Mr. Doublechin was so cowed and ter a couple of hours. Do you see?" charmer-knew of everything that went rified by the aspect of his helpmate that A wink, more eloquent than words, on in Mr. Doublechin's domestic circle, including the price of his wife's new set of false teeth, and his hopes of getting by the clock he was subjected to a vigor-his wife had disappeared from view, he

he had given his wife during their courtship. Miss Stubbs went into ecstasies of
admiration over it, and ended by slipping
it on her finger.

"It is quite lovely!" she exclaimed.

"It certainly looks very well on your

"It certainly looks very well on your

"It certainly looks very well on your

"It is quite lovely!" she exclaimed.

"It certainly looks very well on your

"It is quite lovely!" she exclaimed.

"It is quite lovely!" she exclaimed. dear little hand, Emmy," said Mr. Double- suggestion of how his name had come to down after awhile; and when his wife at

"Really!" ejaculated his wife, in a tone

Under these cirumstances it may easily

"Yes, Joseph. I am curious to hear

be mentioned, His wife was fain to drop length made her appearance, looking "Oh, indeed! What would you say, now, if I couldn't get it off my dear little hand?" remarked Miss Stnbbs, archly.

be mentioned, this whe was lain to drop length made her appearance, looking the subject for the moment from sheer very pale and agitated, in consequence helplessness, but the expression on her of the cab-horse having, as she innocent face warned him that she would return by believed, run away, and borne her to a tle keepsake, Emmy?" inquired Mr. Meanwhile, however, he was thankful gave his enemy on the spot. Mrs. Doublechin, lowering his voice, and look- for the respite, which he took advantage Doublechin suffered herself to be easily of to endeavor to collect his ideas and to convinced of the truth of her lord's re-"A bird in the hand, you know," re- realize the situation. But his reflections presentations; and returned home in a turned the young lady, still admiring the only served to turn his uneasiness into subdued and applogetic frame of mind. "Besides, I really can't get it another channel. From what the In- As for Mr. Doublechin, he wisely resolved ff—honor bright! Try yourself.

spector had said, it was clear that he to profit by the lesson he had received held poor Emily Stubb's fate in the hol- and to make no more presents to young Doublechin discovered when he endeav low of his hand. If he denied giving her lady acquaintances; but to this day h ored to remove it. But the truth was, he did not try very hard. The pleasure of victed of coming by it dishonestly. Of young Stock Exchange colleagues perholding Miss Stubb's hand between his course this was out of the question but, sonated the sio-disant Inspector Potts, own, and the beseeching glance she be- on the other hand, it would never do to though he soon discovered to his cost stowed upon him; proved too much for run the risk of his guilty secret reaching that the joke was generally known in his strength of mind. After a moment's his wife's ears. He felt convinced that "the House"—Truth.

abandoned the ring to her. He felt a think of her furious rage and indignation twinge of remorse and uneasiness, but when she learnt he had deceived her.

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suspicion.

"Of course, my dear, you know best," said Mr. Doublechin, trembling with apasted poor Mr. Doublechin, with a start.

"Did—did you say 'we,' my dear?"

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"Did—did you say 'we,' my dear?"

Bring along your Prime Furs.

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STORE Bowards the end of the journey to

nerves. When the train reached the

"I think I had better put you into a

heartened did he feel that it was only

town, however, he began to manifes

The suggestion was so natural and

"To the Mansion House," said Mr. imagined he had made quite a conquest.

One day he brought out of his pocket "Stay here, Joseph," said his wife, in a heaven's sake, go by way of Hampstead and Highgate."

"By way of where?" gasped the cabhe had never attempted to pass himself off as a single man, but talked freely of him. I want to know the meaning of couple of sovereigns into the man's hand. his wife and family at every restaurant this, Joseph," said his wife in an awful "The lady wants to go to the Mansion House; but you musn't get her there for

one of his daughters married to the curate. On this occasion he handed the ring to Miss Stubbs for inspection, and

distant part of the metropolis, he for-

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Doublechin, with a glance of sudden "We shall have pienty of time," return LEMONT'S

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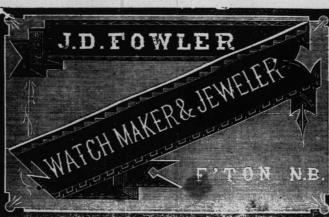
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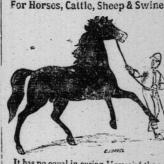
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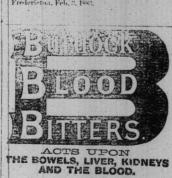
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