TEE UNION A VCCATE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1902.



CHAPTER III.

Time, noon of a midsummer's day

dangling after you forever? I've loved

ment. I, for one, don't agree with

scornfully ignoring his question,

you Bel?" he retorted, significantly.

The blood deepened in her cheek. "And what has Charley Marsha

done," she asked, with augmented in-

solence, "that his conduct and yours

should be weighed in the same bal-

dressed evidently thought forbearance had ceased to be a virtue. He sprang

"Some man will kill you yet for

She stood entirely calm, looking at

him with supercilious indifference

"How do you suppose I am stand such talk from you, Bel Point

er? Wasn't I raised right here in the

go to school together, you and m-

and your sweet Charley Marshall

And didn't we always call each oth

Charley and Bel and Len togeth

I'll own that the Marshall's have ways held themselves above on c

monfolks, but a they don't . the good to by scall their nam

See .

neighborhood with you? Didn't

your devilish tongue," he cried, ap

to his feet angrily.

preaching her.

"Do you fire up when Marshall calls

'that you should call me Ecl?"

It might have been supposed that | fall in love with Bel Pointer. Far b young Marshall should have suffered it from me to make so ungallant some in his family pride when he be- suggestion. I do but speak on general came the rival of his "butcher, baker principles for the good old hymnist and candle-stick maker," for Bel's uttered an unalterable and unassaillovers came from all ranks. Her beau- able truth in those beautiful old nurty and grace were sufficient attraction | sery rhymes. for the highest, while her humble or-Entire physical idleness is impossi igin encouraged those of a lower de- ble to a man of energy, and if his I reckon, because he's too smart to supposed that she did not feel her angree. And among them all she reign- life or his surroundings furnish him ed impartially. Whoever behaved no pursuit, the devil is always at well to her, to him she behaved well hand to supply the deficiency. But I cared how many wounds she got in some extent, at least, "the goods the in return, but not one of them could did not take up my pen to deliver boast of the slightest favor. With a homilies, moral or otherwise, but he continued, looking at her sternly, certain proud wilfulness, she kept | simply to relate some incidents in the them all at an equal distance. lives of Charley Marshall and others,

This was such a state of affairs as and just now to give you some idea well might be animadverted upon by the old family servant who had the whistling away from the door of his boy's real welfare at heart, but with kindy though ill-advised monitor. him it only had the effect of deepen- As for Bel Pointer, whether worthy ing his wild and wilful passion into or otherwise, whether indifferent or the determination that to no such fond, being a woman let her speak for rivals would he succumb. He swore herself. that Bel Poieter should be his wife, and with his customary careless arrowhere he was to win. As to Jim Pointer and the other manifest incon- scene, a rude gray porch thickly emgruities, he gave them no thought, bowered in wisteria and trumpet but rushed straight toward the gaol creeper, and for dramatis personae a of his desires. He dropped for the girl, tall, dark of hair and eyes, with nonce all his old coquetries with the skin pure and well tinted; head small other beauties of the neighborhood and well set upon a faultless neck; and addressed himself solely to the form slender, lithe, and instinct with

one object in view. nervous grace. It is only fair in this connection to | Having expended so many words mention one fact in partial exonera- upon the girl, we can only say of her tion of the career of this erratic and companion that he was short, stout unheroic hero of ours. Although we and of neutral tints, and totally uncannot approve of his treatment of like her except in a certain sombre, the gentler sex so far as their affec- fire of the eye. His attire, tawdry yet tions were concerned, he certainly had flashy, his manner self-asserting, yet the grace to spare their pride, which | ill at ease, his voice loud and unmodhe never wounded under any circum- ulated, all bespoke his place in the lower stratum of Bel Pointer's admir-

After winning his way into their ers, but, to a keen and sensitive obhearts and gaining an expression of server, he was not a rival to be despistheir feelings. he invariably so con- ed, nor a lover to be dismissed with a trivd it that a quarrel should present- frown. Theirs had evidently not been ly ensue, in which the girl always the most pleasant of interviews, and took the initiative, and which ended the girl had risen from the bench in his ignominious dismissal from the where he had sat at her side and stood engagement. But. singular to relate, leaning against the rude lattice among the never lost their favor, and there the vines. was scarcely a girl in the whole coun- The picture she made, with the try thereabouts who did not say to dark leaves and brilliant blossoms herself sometimes: "Poor Charley! I might have married him had I chos-lated to fix the eye of even an indifferen," though few were shrewd enough to realize that they would still do so very readily would he but say the very readily would he but say the word. Whether Bel feared to subject How is it that women of dark rich herself to the usual fate of his lady loves does not appear, but certain it is the suc yield him nothing to his colors, while blondes seem to have no sense of what is fitting, but select

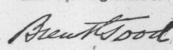
In vain he tried upon her his old a garment for its intrinsic beauty and formerly successful arts. She laughed at his pathos, she scorned his passion, until he began to think that Pointer had arisen and placed herself new he really felt he could inspire no feeling in return. All this but added new fire to his eagerness, and with pose of posing for the admiration of unwavering determination again and her rustic lover, but she certainly did, as usual, what best became her,

again he rallied to the siege. Aithough his slaves, with the exception of a few too old or too faithful of intensest admiration and anger. to make new ties, were all freed and gone, the work on the place went on Do you think you can keep a man acquived wealth had made no difference in his habits, and he still "overseed" the hired hands of the younger this time, but you seem to think all Marshall. So poor Charley was left men were made just for your amuse entirely at the morey of that bad personage, who, it is said, finds mischief you. I don't give all and ask for for idle hands, and right energetically did he second the endeavors of that I ask you, will you marry me? Yes or did he second the endeavors of that arch enemy of our kind, though I no, plain and square, and no beating would not have it understood that it about the bush, for I won't stand that was the devil who prompted him to any longer, by gracious!"

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An Alle

Miss Bel Pointer," with scornful emhasis, "that this great young gentleand beg, and plead until you give in, lownright earnest, he ain't apt to go so far. But do you suppose he ever the fight? And more than all that,"

daughter?" He opened his mouth to speak further, but suddenly on the soft air broke a voice singing:

"Oh, canst thou doubt my heart, Love, canst thou bid me go!

Love, canst thou grieve me so? Thy heart and mine cry no, Genevieve. The young man, Leonard Harris, frowned darkly, and made a movement as if to go, but with a sudden, defiant gesture stepped back and seatlooked straight at him with unmoved and scornful eyes. Her foot had be-

oak floor and her long, slender fingers were pulilng and tearing the tender flowers among which she stood. The voice ceased singing, the gate opened and shut, and a light step came up the walk to the portico. "Good day, Len," cried Charley Marshall's cheery tones. 'Where is

She stepped forth from the shadow "Here I am," she said, chillingly. 'May I ask what your business with me?" "Heigho!" he exclaimed, looki

from one gloomy face to the other, 'what is the matter here?" Len looked equally puzzled, but his sombre visage brightened visibly. in what have I offended?"

"I can tell you," said the snubbed Harris; "you have called her Bel." "What else should I call her? Surely | imagine, except to those who carried not Belinda?" queried the other, in

But Bel's face had grown stormy. as long as I live! Nor yours, either, the musician's stand, and all around Lem Harris!" turning fiercely upon the outer edges were rude benches that worthy. "I hate you! I hate improvised for the occasion and upon glance she fled into the house, leaving The ground beneath was thickly the two men looking blankly in each strewn with sawdust through which and his eyes followed her with a gaze

she mean?" asked the last comer. At convenient points near by were "Darned if I know! The devil him- stalls devoted to the sale of candy, self couldn't know!" ejaculated the lemonade and sometimes more ardent and jerking his hat from the bench, large space inclosed by ropes wherein you honest and true, and told you so angrily down the walk. After waiting awhile, in hopes that elders had seen fit to provide.

the girl might return, young Marshall | If there was meat to be barbecued, also went away.

CHAPTER IV.

ing, and that the time when these were of interest. events occurred was a few years after the war. Also that the various strata Now this, it must be confessed, was of society there, though, perhaps, not not an answer calculated to cool the quite so clearly defined as in some of anger of an ill-used lover, but Belnever made attempts either to anger tinetness to found as many fends and or placate. She simply went on her heart busnings as in the oldest. There felt in a kindly mood, or much the country, a few families who, being other way if anything had occurred to possessed of superior wealth, refinevex her. Her favors were by no ment, or education, generally took the means awarded to deserts, but more lead in marten social, political or wice and were eagerly but into occasions. The personage here ad-

> imge , gatie divate, the ell' a.

And just let me tell you right here, borhood, had given her certain advantages even beyond the mere educational ones bestowed by the late Mr. nan of yours may not be as sure a Marshall and his daughter. She had hing for you as an honester and com- always had free access to their libnoner man. He's fooled many a poor rary, and had naturally acquired tastes girl in his day, dang him! many a far above her ignoble origin. She girl that's ranked you, Miss Bel was born pretty, willful and passion-Pointer, by a long way. You needn't are, and with a true love for the beauthink because you are so proud and so tiful. Miss Connie and other memandsome that you'll fare different hers of the family had given her some from the rest. He'll bow, and scrape, other graces which her ready nature ad soon made her own. Thus she and then he'll be off after some other was to some extent without a place in ool. Oh! I beg pardon, Miss Pointer; the rather illy-defined circle of her suppose I ought to be more choice in neighborhood. By some of the better my titles, but when a man's in dead, families she was received with cordipick and choose his words. If you none of them ever made the smallest throw me over for Marshall's soft advances to Jim Pointer, her father. speeches, you'll rue the day you did And as he, ignorant, ill-bred, yet totit. Can you think of a single passa- ally unassuming, was not a desirable ble girl in this neighborhood that he host, it was impossible for the ladies hasn't made love to? And what has of her acquaintance ever to meet her become of it all? No broken hearts, upon equal grounds. Nor is it to be omalous position. But she was young, really loved one of those girls, or high spirited and gay, and took to gods had provided" her. She never accepted invitations to visit at the "do you suppose Charley Marshall ouses of her neighbors, and led orwould ever marry his overseer's dinarily a very solitary life for one so young and so beautiful; but there were some occasions when she could indulge her natural gayety without expense to her pride. Such were the picnics and other entertainments of a Genevieve? semi-public character where it was imposible that any slight should be put upon her. At such times, even, she held little conversation with women of any sphere, but always of admirers of the other sex. As might readily be supposed, her beauty, the admiration it excited, and her utter aloneness, as far as women were concerned, were not calculated ed himself again upon the bench. Bel to make her many friends among did not move. During the tirade of them, and some few there were who her angry lover her face had lost a shade of its bright color, but she still was so peculiar. But these detractors found little encouragement even in their own circle, and Bel Pointer gun a restless tatoo upon the rough went on her way a proud, wayward. but singularly pure hearted woman.

It happened then as usual that her appearance on the picnic ground was the signal for a certain but gradual assemblage of her rustic court. At the word picnic the reader has doubtless in his mind a free, informal little group of friends, intent upon amusement of the simplest character-of rambles through the leafy woods. of eager, noisy voices in the confusion of laughter and song, of a feast laid with mirth and jollity. But such M. S. N. Company was by no means the picnic of that

time and country. The large sprinkling of Germans in the State had made itself felt in many "Come, Bel," continued Charely, of the habits and amusements of the people, and the entertainment where Bel met her two ill-advised admirers was a formal affair and rather dull, I their own fund of pleasure with them. A huge arbor had been built by planting many posts and surmount-"Call me nothing! never utter my ing them with poles laid lengthwise name again!" she cried, passionately. and across, the whole thickly covered 'Never let me look on your face again with green boughs. In the center was everybody!" and without a backward which sat the observers of the dance.

the dancers plodded as gracefully as "What is the matter? What does | the nature of the case would admit. disappointed and discomfited Harris, refreshments, and further off was a he jammed it over his eyes and strode stood long, rude tables covered with rain. such solid edibles as the far-seeing

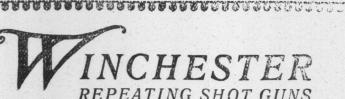
deep trenches were dug, in which fires were built long before day, and over which when the wood had burned down sufficiently, were suspended But Bel's little fury was not of huge quarters of beef, mutton and great duration, for the next time she pork. Over these brobd guagian kitmet the two young men, which was chens presided old negro men, whose a few days after at a picnic, she was long experience in such labors made all smiles and graciousness, complete- them able to tell to a moment when, ly ignoring the last scene upon the after long roasting and repeated bastings with salted and peppered vin-Perhaps it would be well just here to inform the reader that the scene of this little story law in one of the control of the savory messes were ready to those past the little story law in one of the control of the co this little story lay in one of the lighter enjoyments of youth, how-Western States formerly slave-hold- ever, to whom these homely details return, any afternoon, 15 cents

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