TALES OF THE JURY ROOM

By Gerald Griffin THE JURY ROOM

It was during the assize week of an mportant city in the South of Ireland important city in the South of Ireland, that a grave looking gentleman dressed in a sober suit of brown and petersham topcoat, was observed riding with a somewhat inquisitive air through the dense crowds who thronged the open space before the city and county court-house. Everything in his appearance announced a person of good sense and prudence. His dress was neither too good for the road nor too mean for the wearer's rankroad nor too mean for the wearer's rank-as indicated by his demeanour; his hat was decent, but evidently not his best; a small spotted shawl folded cravat-wise, protected his throat and ears from the rather moist and chilly air of an the rather moist and only is of an early Irish spring. A pair of doeskin caps or overalls, buttoned on the knees, defended those essential hinges of the lower man from the danger of contracting any rheumatic rust in the open air; while gloves of the same material, and the best nearly fored, evinced in the top boots neatly foxed, evinced in the

top boots neatly foxed, evinced in the extremities or the wearer's person the same union of economy and just sufficient attention to appearances which was observable in all the rest of his attire. The countenance likewise was one which at the first glance attracted the respect and confidence of the beholder. It was marked by a certain air of goodwill and probity of character, with a due consciousness of the owner's position in life and an expression which seemed to life, and an expression which seemed to intimate that he would not be willingly deficient in what was due to others, nor readily forfeit any portion of what was lairly owing to himself.

As is usually the case when a stranger

As is usually the case when a stranger makes his appearance amid an idle crowd, all eyes were fixed upon him as he leisurely walked his horse toward a small hotel which stood at a little distance from the court-house. Giving the bridle to the hostler, with the easy air of one who seldom hurries about anything, and of the two feels less satisfaction in motion than rest he alighted. thing, and of the two feets less satisfac-tion in motion than rest, he alighted, and after desiring, in what seemed an English accent, that the horse should not be fed until he had leisure, himself, to visit the animal in the stall, he drew of his gloves, looked up and down the to visit the animal in the soal, he drew off his gloves, looked up and down the street, then up at the sky, where the clouds seemed just deliberating whether they would rain or no, took off his hat, inspected it all over, thrust his gloves inspected it all over, thrust his gloves into the pocket of his greatcost, and finally entered the conee-room. It may seem triting to mention all those motions of the traveller with so much precision, them was lost upon the but not lone of them was lost upon the but not lone of them was lost upon the intelligent observers in the street, who doubtless would not have employed a thing so valuable as time in watching the movements of an entire stranger, if there were not something very import-ant, though still a mystery to them, in

ant, though still a mystery to them, in every turn he took.

The coffee-room was at this instant the scene of a very animated discussion. It needed only a few minutes standing at the fire, and lending an ear occasionally to what went forward, to render the grave-looking gentleman somewhat curious to know more of the affair at issue. Some asked with sparkling eyes, "whether the penal code was to be re-enacted?" Others talked of the "enenacted?" Others taked the dive," and lightened age in which we live," and said very often that "the days were some by when the people could be gone by when the people could be trampled on with impunity." Others, emed of an opposite way of thinkwho seemed of an opposite way of think-ing, talked with equal vehemence of "the dark ages," of "the fires of Smith-field, and "the gunpowder plot," with sundry other allusions to by-gone mass-acres and conflagrations, and asked "if the Inquisition was about to be again established in all its terrible power?"

a neutral issee, of the dress an inquiry with some chance of his being listened to. His eyes at length alighted on that of a middle-aged quiet-looking person, who sat on one side of the fire with half-closed eyes, a newsthe fire with half-closed eyes, a news-paper in his hand, and an expression on his countenance as if he were rather amused than interested by what was going forward. On hearing the stranger's question, he civily laid aside the paper and turning his person toward the fire,

id with a smile:
"It appears you are but newly arrived,
, or you would have no necessity to

ask that question." ask that question.
"You are quite right; I never was in
the town before the last quarter of an

"That is evident by your knowing nothing of the affair which has kept the whole city and county likewise in a state of commotion during the last fortnight." Bless me ! - some conspiracy dis-

covered?"
"Not exactly." "Not exactly."

"Some appalling murder then? some clergyman shot on account of tithes?—or perhaps an affray between the peasantry and police?"

peasantry and police?"
"Why, sir," replied the quiet-looking
gentleman still smiling, "after all your
grand conjectures, I confess I am ashamed to tell you the exact truth, it must cut so paltry a figure in the comparison.

But if you be an Englishman as I supose, [the stranger bowed] and on a tour pleasure [the stranger shook his head] ot pleasure [the stranger shook his head] or business—[the stranger protruded his lips and lifted his eyebrows with a half-dissenting air]—or both perhaps united [the stranger nodded his head as if to say, "you have gone nearer the mark," and are desirous of carrying home with you some notion of the state of society in this country, [another nod of assent] the circumstance may be worth your hearing. You should know in the first hearing. You should know in the first place, that in every city, town, and village in Ireland, from the metropolis down to the pettiest municipality that is kept in order by a few police and a of petty sessions, there are two keep society in continual uproar. Now in such a state of things, if there be any in suon a state of things, if there be any disgrace in neutrality, I confess there are some few besides myself who make a principle of incurring it. It is not that principle of internal principles of the good or evil being to the country that gives me bread, but I hate both bigotry and balderdash, and the sems impossible to meddle in pub-

clear course between the one and the other with any chance of being attended to, I content myself with doing whatever little good I can in a quiet way, and feel ed rather to be amused by the nence of others than to be induced

"Since you are so moderate," said the stranger, "I will not fear wounding up and a speech I have heard since I arrived in Ireland."

" Ah, you know that the compliment to my personal vanity is sufficient to arises, that every mole-hill between the parties is imagnified into an Olympus. The local newspapers teem with rumours, with national misdeeds upon the one side, and ready contradictions the one side, and ready contradictions of the 'foul calumny' upon the other, for as you may have observed since you entered the room, seither party is deficient in vigour of language. Then there are meetings and counter meetings—letters from 'Veritas,' 'Eye-Witness,' 'Victor,' 'Fair-Play,' 'Lovers of Truth,' and 'Lovers of Justice,' the most of whom proye each other to desarve any characteristics. prove each other to deserve any character rather than that which their signs

ter rather than that which their signa-ture assumes. 'Veritas' is shown to be a hired official, whom nobody could trust; 'Eye-Witness' to have been 50 miles away at the time the occurrence took place! 'Victor,' to be a constant resident in the neighborhood he affects to have visited with the impartiality of a disin-terested traveller; 'Fair-Play,' to be a peressed traveller; 'Fair Play,' to be a notoriously one-sided partizan, and the whole bunch of lovers of truth, and lovers of justice to be remarkable amongst all their acquaintances for the total ab-sence of those qualities. I declare to you, though I love my country, and am not in the habit of carrying any senti-ment to an extreme; when I consider such a state of society, and the total abers of justice to be remarkable an sence of peace and happiness which it involves, I am often tempted to turn involves, I am often tempted to turn heretic to the 'enlightened opinions of the age,' and long for a good stout despotism, which would compel them all to hold their tongues. But what has all this to do with the question you asked me? you shall judge for yourself and probably you will see no great apparent connection when I tell you that all you have heard relates to a trial for breach of promise of marriage which has been of promise of marriage which has been this moment called on in our court house.

"Breach of promise !" exclaimed the "It is a fact, I assure you. The parties are unhappily of the opposite factions—not that I believe either the lady or gentleman care much whether they break their eggs at the big or little end, and indeed it is generally supposed that the affair would have been long since arranged in the happiest manner for both; were it left in their own hands. But the gentleman, against his better will, has been led to act unhandsomely by his friends of one party, and the lady, against her inclination also, has lady, against her inclination also, has been moved to commence law proceed ings by her friends who are of another side, and so the town has been all alive in expectation of the result, and the court-house is thronged with partizans who see a great deal more in the case than a mere suit at nisi prius. Challenging has run so high that counsel have been already compelled to pray a

Stimulated rather by a general feel-

ing of curiosity than moved by any par-ticular interest in the suit at issue, the atranger, after politely thanking the quiet gentlemen for his civility, put on his hat and walked out in the direction of the court-house. There was some-thing in his appearance which opened a way for him through the crowd, and the police and bailifs were seen to push aside all the country people with the butts of their carbines, the Inquisition was about to be again established in all its terrible power?"

These alarming expressions whetted the curiosity of the stranger, who looked vainly around for some time in search of a neutral face, to which he might ada swear their best in honour of the stranger with some chance of his sion, our traveller began to feel as if he had heard enough of it, and returning to the inward flagged hall, cast his eyes about, and seemed desirous to inspect the remainder of the building. Passing slong a somewhat lengthy hall which divided the civil from the criminal court, he ascended a short circular flight of stairs, which brought him to a landing place on which he could perceive several doors, leading in different directions. One of those by some unaccount. several doors, leading in unlerest three-tions. One of those by some unaccount-able neglect stood sjar at the present moment. It would appear that if the grave-looking stranger had a folble it was that for which the tender-hearted wife of Bluebeard was so near forfeiting her life. The silence of the place, the mystery of so many closed doors at a moment of so much bustle and confusion, and the tempting air of that which stood invitingly half open, provoked his curiosity with a degree of force which he had ity with a degree of force which he had not firmness to resist. He pushed in the door. All was silent inside. The room had a bare and scantilly furnished appearance. A painted deal table stood in the centre, on which were scattered in the centre, on which were scattered some paper, pens, and ink. Near it, irregularly placed, stood one or two wooden forms and a few chairs. On the side of the chamber opposite to the door by which he had entered, was a window dim with dust, which looked out upon the narrow and ill-paved back street of the city. A neglected though still tol-erable fire burned in the capacious grate. In one corner was a large pre or double cupboard inserted into the wall, the upper portion of which was locked. Not so the lower, in which the inquisitive stranger only observed a few acts of parliament in stitched covers barony books, and some torn law papers Near this stood so enormous basket filled

the fire.

It needed not now the sid of a conjuror to tell our traveller into what chamber of the building he had penetrated. It was the jury room. Struck by the natural reflections, which the place was calculated to excite in any mind, but more especially in one of a thoughtful and generous turn, such as that of the grave stranger, it was some time before he recollected the awkwardness of his own situation is the charges of his own situation is the ness of his own situation in the absorbness of his own situation in the absorbing reverie which seized upon him. The many feilow-beings on whom the fiat of life or death had been passed within that room, the families who had been consigned to misery, the many occasions

on which passion and interest had there demnation perhaps of the innocent, or the absolution of the guilty, all those and other circumstances furnished mat-ter which detained him in the mood of ter which detained him in the mood of thought for a considerable time. In-sensibly he passed to the institution of the much valued system, thence to the manifold schemes by which the "wisdom of age" has sought at various times to defend the pure administration of jus-tice from the intermeddling of human passion, and thence again, ascending

defend the pure administration of justice from the intermeddling of human passion, and thence again, ascending higher in abstraction as he continued his musing, to the corruption of society in general, and the misery of man, whom not even a device so beautiful as this great boast of the British constitution could protect against the evil of his own perverse and fallen nature.

By this time the night had already began to close. The din of the city was hushed into a low murmur in which might be distinguished the call of the atchman in the street, the occasional rattle of a passing vehicle, and the ringing of some of the chapel bells summoning the people to the evening prayers, usual in the time of Leut. The same evening silence had fallen within the circuit of the place of justice, and the voice of the presiding judge was heard distinctly, though faintly, in the act of delivering his concluding charge. Even this sound ceased at length, and nothing was heard except that general murmur which arises in a crowd when something occurs to relax the absorbing attention in which all have been enchained for a considerable time before.

" And wretches hang, that jurymen may

dine!"
exclaimed the stranger, awakening from his reverie, when he was startled by an alarming sound, which first brought to his mind the critical position in which he had placed himself. A door was heard to open and shut, and presently the clattering of a balliff's halberd and the tramp of many feet was heard upon the little flight of steps by which he had ascended. The jury were coming! What was to become of him? There was only one legitimate point of entrance or of exit, and that was the door through which he came, and which the importwhich he came, and which the important twelve were now approaching, brimful of law and evidence. The window was on the first floor and looked out upon an uninviting stone pavemen What should he do? The consequence of being detected were unknown to him. He had heard much of the crime of at-He had heard much of the crime of at-tempting to tamper with a jury. The cupboard behind the turf-basket! It was not a very dignified resource, but it was his only one, and being a time not for deliberation, but for action, he man-aged to secrete himself just as the bail-iff threw the door open, and ushered the jurymen into the chamber. Our traveller heard, with a feeling more easily imagined than described, the door shut fast again; and the key turned in the lock outside. turned in the lock outside.

turned in the lock outside.

After a few moments of deliberative silence, the discussion commenced, and was not long in reaching a height which did not forbode a speedy unanimity of opinion on the case in hand. What amused the stranger, notwithstanding his awkward situation, was to hear how little they dwelt upon the nature of the evidence that had been brought before them or on the points of law laid down them, or on the points of law laid down by the judge in his charge. The chief points of contention soon became restricted to questions of theology and history, between which the guilt or innecesses of the defendant one translation. nistory, between which the guilt or innocence of the defendant our traveller would have found it hard to trace any connection, were it not for the hints previously thrown out by the quiet gentleman at the hotel. The allusions made, if not so broad as in the coffeeroom, were fully as much to the point, and as remarkable for their severity and lucid vigour. The lash was admin sides, and the deeds of buried Popes and kings were insignated into the discussion, evidently more in aid of the immediate purpose than with any un-kindly or vindictive feeling toward the ashes of the long mouldering delinashes of the long mo quents. Hits, however, were dealt liberally against the living and the dead.
St. Gregory VII. and Harry VIII. and Anna Boylen and Catherine de Medicia, same in for their share, and if the opcament for their sure, and the op-psing parties were not always success-ful in the defence they set up for their friends, they seldom failed to make up for the dediciency by a well-aimed thrust at some cherished name upon the

nemy's side.

Perceiving that it was not likely they could agree, the foreman knocked at the door, and bade the bailiff call the County High Sheriff. When that per-sonage arrived, the foreman in the name of the jury requested him to in-form the judge that they had not been form the judge that they had not been able to agree upon their verdict, nor was it likely they should do for a con-siderable time. He departed and they awaited his return in almost unbroken

In a short time his footstep was heard

ascending the small staircase.
"Gentlemen," said he, "his lordship desires me to tell you, that, such being the case, you must only make up your minds to remain in until you can agree upon what verdict you are to give. His lordship does not think proper to de-tain the court any longer at so late an

Then we are to remain here all night, I suppose !" exclaimed the fore-

"If you should agree upon your ver-dict long before morning," continued the sheriff in the same sedate tone, the snerin in the same sector with a every accent of which was drunk with a thristy stillness by all ears in the jury room, not excepting the pair in the cup-board, "his lordship is pleased to say that you can send word to his lodgings

What a prospect for all in the room,

but more than all, for our friend in the cupboard, who had not tasted food since morning, and was moreover in a position far from being the easiest in the world. There was however no help for it. Whatever difficulty he might have feit in revealing himself in the first instance, was increased a hundred fold by the suspicious mode of concealment which he had since adopted, and the dire fact of his having wilfully over-heard a portion of the private delibera-tions of the jury. There was there-fore no other resource than hope

and patience. The sheriff decended the starcase, the jurymen separated murmuring, into different corners eral and animated. It was at length inof the room. The regulations of the court were too well understood to allow them to hope that they could be successful in any attempt to obtain refreshments from the officials in attendance. ments from the omeials in attendance, and they only deliberated, each within his own mind, in what manner they should pass the long winter night without either sleep or food. Sighing deeply, though inaudibly, our traveller resigned himself to his fate, without troubling blues lines blues for the spent deviation ments. ling himself further about devising means of escaping it. The discontented jurymen sought comfort as they could, some occupying the few chairs that atood near the fire, while some tying silk handkerchiefs about their heads, and

turning the collar of their coat over their ears, stretched themselves at full length on the wooden forms, and court-ed slumber with indifferent success. ed slumber with indifferent success.

It was now approaching midnight, and an universal stillness had fallen upon the city, interrupted at intervals by the louder footfall of some elated passenger, or the merry converse of a group returning homeward from some evening party. On a sudden a rough sonorous voice was heard in the narrow street already described, which passed beneath the window of the jury room.

"Oyst—e-rs! Oysters! Fine Bur-

"Oyst—e-rs! Oysters! Fine Bur ren oysters! Choice Burren oysters! ren oysters! Choice Burren oysters!"
There was a general movement amongst the gentlemen of the jury. The foreman raised his head from the form on which he had laid his aching joints, and advanced towards the window. After a moment's consultation with some of his fellow prisoners, he threw up the sash, and leaning forward said in a low but distinct tone, which could not fail to reach the sars for which it not fail to reach the ears for which it

'I say, oysters !"
'Who's that? Who calls oysters?'

"Who's that? Who calls oysters?"
"Oysters!" repeated the foreman.
"Oh, I beg your honour's pardon
Weuld you want any oysters sir
They're as fresh as daisies, your hon "Come hither. Do you think if we

come inter. Do you think it we took your cysters you could get us something to eat with them?"

"To be sure I could, your honour. But what good was that for me, when I have no means o' getting them up there?"

This difficulty was speedily removed.

This difficulty was speedily removed. A number of cravats and pocket-hand-kerchiefs were tied together, so as to form a line long enough to reach the street. A whip was now raised for defraying the expenses of the projected entertainment, and the amount as soon as collected was made fast in the corner of a silk handkerchief, which formed
one extreme of the line. The whole
apparatus was then carefully lowered
from the window until it reached the hands of the expectant vender of shell

Like Iris' bow down darts the painted line Starr'd, stripped, and spotted, yellow red and blue, Old calico, torn silk, and muslin new.

Having extracted the treasure from the handkerchief the oysterman disap-peared, and during the succeeding quarter of an hour, the silence of an anxious suspense possessed all tongues with the exception of one or two, which gave expression to an ungenerous doubt as to whether they were likely ever again to see either their money or the again to see either their money or the value. At the end, however, of that space of time, those unworthy murnurers were put to shame by the return of the well-principled object of those suspicions. Admiring his integrity, the foreman drew up the basket which he had carefully fastened at the end of the line of handkerchiefs. The feelings of our fasting tourist in the curboard may our fasting tourist in the cupboard may his lurking place, such exclamations as

authentic tone : " What beautiful oysters !" thoughtful fellow. What's that in the

ottles ?"
" Montmellick ale and cider !" said "And here's a knife!" cried one juryman.

And pepper l" exclaimed another. "And a napkin, and oyster-knife, and two glasses!" exclaimed several voices

in succession.

"And the remaining change!" cried
the foreman holding up a small brown
paper parcel, in which a few shillings and some copper money had been car

fully wrapped up.

This final circumstance completed the admiration of the jury, and it was proposed by the foreman and carried by acclamation that the surplus should be acclamation that the surplus should be handed to the oyster-man as a testimony of their esteem for his punctuality and disinterestedness. Accordingly the line of handkerchiefs with the basket and money were lowered from the window, and the grateful ovatermen denoted and the grateful cystermen departed, after telling them that he would return in the course of the night to take away the lempty bottles and the rest of the table equipage, when they should be no longer needed. In a few minutes his sonorous voice was heard resounding through the deserted streets to the cusomary burthen of "Oysters !-fine Bur-

Supper now proceeded merrily, all party differences being forgotten in the flow of social glee which was set in motion by the good cheer which was so un-expectedly acquired. Often in the meantime did the unfortunate traveller call to mind the story of the highway-man and the first of the three beggars, and more than once was tempted to wish that the whole jury had been sharers in that the whole jury had been sharers in their infirmity, in order that he might have an opportunity of partaking in the feast without detection. He had, how-ever, a touch of the philosopher about him, which prevented his yielding to any useless repinings, and he contented himself with the opening of one of the doors of his retreat just so far as to enable him to see what was going forward, and to hear with more distinctness all

and to hear with more distinctness all that was said amongst the company outside.

Having done sufficient justice to the oysterman's feast, a glow of genial good humor succeeded in the breasts of all, to the snxiety and discontent which before had kept them silent and apart.

More fuel was heaped upon the fire, the

round it, and conversation become general and animated. It was at length interrupted by the foreman, who, after requesting the attention of his fellowipurors for some moments, addressed them as follows:

them as follows:

"Gentlemen, although we have already fared so much better than we had expected, it remains for us to consider in what way the long interval is to be spent which we must pass between this and daybreak. The forms and the this and daybreak. The forms and the few chairs which we possess offer little inducement in the way of sleep, and I do not see the advantage of reviving any discussion on the case which has been submitted to our judgment, being always unfriendly to the introduction of party questions in mixed company where it can possibly be avoided. I therefore propose that we leave the question of the defendant's guilt or inherefore propose that we leave the question of the defendant's guilt or in-ocence between himself," his con-cience, and his Maker, and turn our at-

This address was received with general applause, which having subsided after a little time, the foreman was per-

mitted to resume:

"I have heard it remarked, gentlemen, by learned men, that the word Erin (which as you are all aware is the poetical name for Ireland) forms likepoetical name for Ireland) forms like-wise the accusative case of a Greek noun, signifying strife or discord. Whatever analogy the present state of our country may enable a satirical mind to imagine between the word and its Greek meaning, I am sure there is no one in this room but will agree with me in hoping that the time may yet arrive when no handle shall be found for such invidious sallies, when the rocks and when no handle shall be found for such invidious sallies, when the rocks and shoals of party feeling which at present wreck the passe and happiness of society shall be covered by the advancing tide of good-will and brotherly affection, and when Irishmen, instead of maintaining a salfah atmeste for party and the strength of the party of the strength maintaining a seldsh struggle for par-tial or individual interests, shall labor heart and hand for the peace and wel-

heart and hand for the peace and welfare of the whole."

Renewed applause interrupted the current of the foreman's discourse, and it was only after a few minutes that he was permitted to proceed.

"At all events, gentlemen, there is nothing to hinder us from trying the experiment, and setting our countrymen an example, for one night at least, of the triumph of social feeling over prejudice and opinion. My proposal is, therefore, that we draw closer around the fire, and each in succession either pay a fine of one shilling sterling or relate some amusing and characteristic tale, such as he may have gathered in the course of reading or experience, and conclude by singing a song for the entertainment of the company; and, in order that this may proceed with all freedom, I move that no one shall take offence at what may be said, but that every one be at liberty to tell his story after his own fashion, with a carte blanche for the full utterance of everything that may come into his mind, excepting of course questions of mere controversy, for which this is not the time cepting of course questions of mere controversy, for which this is not the time nor the place, and for the introduction of which a fine of one shilling is to be imposed. I say this, not that I hold a man's opinions to be a matter of indifference, but merely that no feeling of ference, but merely that no feeling of restraint or awkwardness should embarrass the chain of the narrative, and con-sequently diminish the amusement of

s integrity, the basket which he at the end of the the cupboard may imagined than overheard from exclamations as in an eager and tters!"

A fresh burst of applause announced the unanimous assent of all present to this proposal, and proparations were immediately made for carrying it into effect. A fresh supply of turf was heaped upon the fire, the chairs were arranged in semicircular fashion around the hearth, and the foreman was placed in the only arm-chair in the room, with the additional dignity of president, and full authority to decide all points of order which might arise. It being decided that the entertainment should commence with the president, a general A fresh burst of applause announced with the president,

commence with the president, a general silence fell upon the circle, while he spoke as follows:

"Having lately, gentlemen, in the library of a learned friend of mine, fallen upon an unpublished manuscript containing a very curious and interest-ing story, which I presume will be en-tirely new to you, I shall endeavor to relate it as accurately as my memory

TO BE CONTINUED

THE BLUE SHIRT

By Francis A. Ludwig in Red Book

The last tormented strain of Schubert's seronade had been done to death by the red haired O'Shaughnessy twin; the black-haired O'Shaughnessy twin, black-haired O'Shaughnessy on the platform, was declaiming the ancient formula "I'm mad! I'm mad!" —her gestures fully sustaining her assertion; "Dancing," the last word on the programme, had been reached — and still there was no sign of Billy O'Farrell.

Marie Elizabeth, all in white, her Marie Elizabeth, all in white, her head propped up at a torturing angle by a whale-boned, orange coloured stock, was in her element. She was seated between two young men, each of whom dimity, was conspicuous by the absence

of any cavalier.

In spite of Miss Cartwright's haughty and unconscious air, it was evident from the deepening pink of her cheeks that she was fully mindful of the humiliation of her neglected state! and a certain gleam in her eyes boded ill for the offending Billy when once he should

appear.

There was a final clapping of hands--most parently signifying relief; then everybody rose and expressed polite surprise and pleasure at meeting everybody else. Little groups gathered; chairs were whished to the walls.

Isabel stood hesitating, undecided whether to risk trespassing upon Marie

"I've been outside with a bunch of fellows." Billy spoke with a careless confidence that was not quite assured. "I was late getting away from the store and I didn't want to come in while they were doing their acts. What do you think of Mary Liz's neckpiece? Lucky it ain't St. Patrick's day—there'd be a

He need not think by any light per siflage to escape the grilling so richl due him. As if anticipating it, Billy too her eldow, and steered her toward corner with such speed that she sat down, breathless. As he faced her, ste received her first full view of him.

received her first full view of him.

He had on a blue shirt! Not a pale, sesthetic, delicately tinted azure, but a blue a little lighter than indigo, a deep, rich, solid color, slightly tinged with green, a blue that would have harmonized perfectly with a coal wagon or a plumbing shop, but not—oh, 'not' with a quarterly "affair" of the G.C.C.'s. He had managed by a lavish arrange-ment of a white tie, to conceal a portion of his bosom; but Billy was broad as well as tall, and on either side of the strait of the emerged, brezenly, the

lebian hue.
Isabel felt stunned. For a minute it seemed it her that every eye in the room was riveted on that unspeakable shirt. She turned her head away and the color flooded her face to her

Even the pink dimity that had given her so much pleasure now added to her discomfiture; she realized that her own discomfiure; she realized that her own prettiness would only serve to call attention to the shocking disregard of conventionality shown by her companion. Stealthily she searched the room with her eyes—there was no hope. Though the great majority of the gentlemen present appeared in business suits, the linen of all, with the exception of Billy was of white.

Billy, was of white.

The lecture she had intended to bestow upon him for his tardiness passed out of her mind, erased by this greater humiliation. Then she observed that Billy's face was redder than usual, and that he looked uncomfortable even awkward. With an effort so great that it nearly strangled her she choked back her first caustic comment regarding his choice of an essential garment. It came to her suddenly that this was a matter to her suddenly that this was a matter that could not be lightly disposed of, for the present, she must appear obliv-ious to it. As the courtship between herself and Billy had reached the stage when she picked lint from his clothes, regulated the angle at which he wore her forbearance was something akin to

Strange it is that by captious criticism does a woman evidence her criticism does a woman evidence her tenderest love; stranger yet is a man's sheepish, but instant and delighted acceptance; and strangest of all is the Heaven-born instinct that warns him not to return the attention in But perhaps the woman's part of it is identical with the impulse that makes her fasten up a little sagging stocking, or tie back with a ribbon her baby's tumbled curls.

But when it comes to vital things,

things that may affect her destiny, then, and then only, is a woman dumb. There are no words will make or mar her life -it must be understood. And so simple thing as the presence of a blue shirt on Billy O'Farrell roused in Isabel's on Billy Orargeli roused in issues a mind an acutely distressing train of thought, and caused her heart to ache in a way that seemed all out of proportion to the event.

In order to get an insight into the girl's jumbled emotions, it will be necessary to dig a little beneath the surface, disregard light dialogue, and stick to plain narrative for a while.

Perhaps in no other modern institution is there so great and so intimate a

tion is there so great and so intimate a mingling of people drawn from different classes of society as in a mammoth de-partment store. Its employees meet on may have been as far apart as the two the steerage, may win the heart of a blue-eyed boy whose great, great, great grandfather signed the Declaration of Independence. The son of a European pessant may possess qualities that appeal to a girl of the keenest sensibility, whose active mind is a century ahead of his—and she may work nine hours a day within three feet of him. Amsigamation is inevitable. The re-Amaigamation is inevitable. The results are problemical—and whether they are harmonious depends entirely upon the individual.

Isabel did not know that certain

standards were inherent in her. She never had had a chance to learn what an inherent standard was—her be and-butter problem had prevented. as the danced through the evening, her

trouble grew.

If Billy O'Farrell hadn't any more sense of the eternal fitness of things than to wear such a shirt to such a place, would she not, from this time on, live in constant fear of his committing live in constant fear of his committing some fairly criminal breach of etiquette? Could she endure having to blush for him again? Could she be proud of him at the end of twenty years to come? Could he, would he, perhaps, go unshaved and collarless? Could she love him, if he did? She hear the love him, if he did? She began to

doubt and wonder.

Might it not be that she had made he, and he alone, was the recipient of her interest. But Isabel, dainty in pink at her heart at the thought of losing at her heart at the thought of tosing him? She must be honest with her-self: did she, even now, relish the thought of introducing him to her college-ored cousins and her finical great-aunt Julia, whose arrival on their yearly shopping expedition, was daily expected? Undoubtedly, Isabel was supersensitive and imaginative; but she had chanced to stumble over some rocks

It was a relief when Billy left her to Eddie Bingham and promenaded away with Marie Elizabeth. Mr. Bingham held a position of some responsibility at Barnhardt and Son's; he was acquainted with the intricacles of their foreign invoices. He was a gentleman of the highest character; he neither then was at all times as innocuous as as antisptic dressing. Isabel detested him—she was just at that perfectly innocent, perfectly ignorant, perfectly natural period of her existence when she loathed a "good" young man. You normal young woman wants no callow

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