WALITEE INFERIEURE



Sledge, pushing t.

standing.

"By the way, my coat," called the

"By the way, my coat," called the senator from the rear corridor.

The knob of the other door rattled.

"All right," grunted Sledge, closing them out in the draft just as Molly and Fern came in. "Hello, girls!" said Sledge. "Sit down. Excuse me a minute till I poke a guy's Benny out to him."

Sledge walked into Marley's office with his parlor smile, the recently out-lived one which belonged of right to the red rose he wore, and he sat down before he began to speak. His usual method was to deliver his messages

"We ought to figure a consolidation

"There ain't any," Sledge confessed.
"I want to protect you if everything's all right. Molly was just over."
"Yes; she said she was going to see you," replied Marley, clutching eagerly at the straw.

"I thought she'd get enough," stated Sledge, and he chuckled. "She's a

"We consolidate after the marriage,

anting to smile.
"Molly and Fern. Fern's a nice kid."

"Did Molly say so?" evaded Marley.

"No," Sledge hesitated. "Is it?"
"That's entirely Molly's affair."
"I believe you," coincided Sledge, and

again he chuckled as he arose to go.

"Is there any objection to giving hint of this consolidation?" as

Marley, with an instant thought that at the very least this new turn would enhance his price with the syndicate

which had proposed to buy him out.
"Hunh-uh!" assented Sledge. "You better see Davis about your mortgage.

"I'll go over right away," answered Marley, anxious to take advantage of

that offer also as quickly as possible.
"Wait till tomorrow," ordered Sledge and stalked out, having but very little

His way lay directly past the Grand Opera House, and he stopped at the

"Thanks!" grunted Sledge and stuffed the tickets in his pocket. "Don't mention it," returned the

treasurer as nonchalantly and walked back to the manager of the commany.

"What kind of a show is this?" asked

"Rotten!" the ticket man informed

im. "It's highbrow stuff, 'Hamlet.'"
"Hunh!" grunted Sledge. "Any mu-

"Orchestra. Ophelia sings, but you'd

think she was having her teeth fixed."
"Hunh!" observed Sledge again, and

Two blocks up the street, on his way to the Occident, he stopped at an auto-

"This working?" he inquired, point-

"All it needs is gasoline," replied the

ing to the shining big limousine occupied the center of the floor.

me a box for tonight," he

He won't extend, but he'll hold off.'

time to waste.

ticket window.

walked out.

obile salesroom.

"Give grunted.

"Hunt's resignation was in my mail this morning," stated Marley, with forced quietness. "He has taken a position as secretary with Sledge's company, and I suppose half my office force will follow him."

force will follow him."
"Two weeks," speculated Bert, then he added impatiently: "Confound it, Marley! I'm in a pretty pickle if we can't clear our skiris- of this thing! I borrowed the money to buy up Moodson's stock from some friends of mine, and on my unsupported note. To lose would mean the absolute end of my social standing, here or anywhere."

would mean the absorbe east of my social standing, here or anywhere." "We'll see that you get yours first," offered Marley, whose respect for his son-in-law to be was only superficial. "I didn't mean to urge my personal



"I don't see how unless Molly ma Sledge," suggested his father.

-or

claims above yours," Bert hedged, his impatience, however, only slightly modified. "The fundamental fact is that we must gain time." "I don't see how unless Molly mar-ries Sledge," suggested her father, with

a laugh.

Molly started to laugh also, but found
Bert looking at her speculatively.

"She doesn't need go that far," he

Molly looked at him in sharp incredu-ity for a moment; then, without a word, she turned to leave the room. "Where are you going?" asked her

"To see Sledge," she responded. think you told me that he is always at the bank between 11 and 12 in the morning,"
"Molly," commanded Bert sharply,
hy her bearing,

recalled to his senses by her bearing, "you musto't see him. I forbid it."
"I am taking your advice, but I refuse to take your orders," she calmly informed him, surprised to find in her

self an inclination to giggle over her use of that splendidly ringing remark, "Molly will shield you from all harm," she added, and she was snickering when she rejoined Fern.

"What's the joke?" asked that young lady. "I've been dying all morning to hear somebody giggle."
"You're to chaperon me while I go
over and make love to Sledge," Molly

gayly informed her. "You're not really," protested Fern.
"I am really," retorted Molly, he

eyes flashing a trifle more than a mere jest would seem to warrant. "I must, Fera. I plunged both father and Bert into this trouble, and Bert seems to think it's up to yours truly Molly to fool Sledge along until they have time to get out of it. Besides that, it's a ort of a game between Sledge and my-self, and I'm not going to have that big duffer win it."

"This is too delightful for anything," applauded Fern. "I'm perfectly mad about it, Molly. I hope Sledge is in." Sledge was in. He was closeted with

Senator Allerton and Governor Waver on a most important conference, one involving the welfare and prosperity of half the voters in the state; but, nevertheless, he promptly stifled his con-science and allowed the interests of the sovereign people to suffer when Davis whispered in his ear that Molly Marley wanted to see him.

"Bring ber right in," said Sledge "Men, you'll have to go. It's a lady," and he opened the rear door for them

"Just one moment," parleyed Gov-ernor Waver, his hand on the door-knob. "I'm returning to the capital this salesman.
"Put some red roses in that flower thing, and send it up," Sledge directed.
"About dinner time?" surmised the

afternoon, and"—
"I'll see you up there," interrupted

salesman. "Possibly I'd better send it up before, Mr. Sledge. It has some im-provements your man might want to look into."

"I'll send Billy down," decided

Sledge.

He turned to go when, in the adjoining window, he caught sight of a little, low, colonial coupe, with seating capacity for three. It was of an exquisitely beautiful shape, with small, latticed window panes and dainty lace curtains. He walked slowly toward this helitrally cold great ways helpful. it, his habitually cold gray eyes bright-ening, and as he stood before it he thrust his hands deep in his pockets and positively laughed aloud.

"That's our newest ladies' car," ex-plained the salesman, following him. "The women are crazy about them. Self starting, electric lights inside, shopping flaps everywhere, adjustable satin seat coverings and all the latest boudoir improvements." Sledge scarcely heard him. He was

still laughing. Nothing he had ever seen had struck him so humorously as the "cuteness" of this car.

"It's swell!" he chuckled. "Got a

id the gov-

"No, they're only made in black,"
the salesman told him. "The color effects are obtained by the cushion coverings and silk curtains."

"Put red ones in this. Got another "There's one just being set up in the shop," stated the overjoyed salesman.

"It's an order."
"Make that one blue."

"Do you want them this afternoon?" asked the clerk, figuring that it was worth while to put off the other cus-

"Sure!" said Sledge. "Right away."
"I'll get busy immediately," promised
the salesman, delirious with happiness. Where do they go?"

Marley considered that statement carefully. He was beginning to learn that he really needed caution in dealing with Sledge.

"One of us might be gobbled up," he sagely concluded. "As I understand it, was over 150 per cent of the new com-"Molly Marley gets the rec one. The blue one's for her friend Fern. Nix on who sent 'em."
"They'll want to know," the sales

an insisted. "Aw, tell 'em Frank Marley." Just across the street was the largest jewelry shop in town, and the display in its windows gave him an idea. He strode in, asked for the proprietor and

got him. "I want a rock that weighs about a

sagely concluded. "As I understand it, you own 75 per cent of the new company, while I only hold a bare majority of the old one. It would scarcely be possible that in a consolidation I would still have control."

"We'd have to pool our stock for either one to hold it," agreed Sledge.

Marley looked at him wonderingly.
"I don't quite understand the advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage before I could consider the matter." pound," he stated.
"A diamond? Yes, Mr. Sledge, Something for an emblem?"

thing for an emblem?"
"Naw! Lady's ring—solltaire."
"We have some beauties," bragged
the jeweler, immediately aglow with
enthusiasm. "Here is a nice little three carat stone which is flawless and perfectly cut."
"Is this the best you got?" inquired

Sledge, looking into the case.

Sledge, looking into the case.

"We have some larger ones unset, but they are not usually mounted in ladies' rings," responded the jeweler, struggling between his artistic conscience and his commercialism.

"Let's see 'em."

Reverently the jeweler produced from "Yes; site is," assented Marley, won-dering just how much she had safd to make such a remarkable change in Sledge. The would proba-bly be a very sensible thing. It would

Reverently the jeweler produced from the a covered and locked tray, in which on white velvet reposed a dozen sparkling white stones.

Sledge poked a stuffy forefinger at the largest one.

"Is this one right?" he wanted to know

know.
"It's a very good stone," the jeweler

by be a very sensible thing. It would enable us to plan extensions, lines and loops which would increase our revenues tremendously, with no possibility of dividing the patronage. Moreover, a mere announcement of such a move would add immediately to the market value of the stock in both companies."

"We consolidate after the marriage." told him.
"The next one to it, however, though a trifle smaller, is of much finer qual mended Sledge. "We get all ready

ity. In fact, we have not one in the shop of any size which I consider so perfect as this one. It's worth \$500 more than the large one."
"That'll do." Sledge decided. "Put it "Any time you say," readily consent-ed Marley. "Til meet with you and ar-range the details tonight."
"Naw!" refused Sledge. "Theater to-"With Molly?" inquired Marley,

in a ring."
"Very well," agreed the jeweler, trying to be nonchalant as he consulted a slip of paper in the edge of the tray.
"This one weighs six and three-eighths carats, plus a sixteenth, Mr. Sledge.

"All right; tomorrow night, then," suggested Marley, his mind firmly fixed on the commercial opportunity. "Daytime," corrected Sledge. "I'm busy nights. Say, Marley, is that game between Molly and Bert called clear off?" Have you the size of the ring?"
"Naw!" he returned in disgust at his
own thoughtlessness. "I'll take it
loose." And he slipped the stone in his waistcoat pocket.

CHAPTER XIV.

Molly Insists on Protecting Bert. D the Marley gate and trod on the Marley porch and punched the Marley doorbell in a fine condition of manly indignation, and he demanded of the emaciated butler with the intellectual brow that Molly Mar-ley be brought into his presence at once. He waited in the library while the butler went upstairs with that hasty message, and it was no comfort to his soul whatsoever to hear the girls devoting painstaking attention to an

apparently endless job of giggling.

With scant consideration for the importance of the occasion. Molly, her face flushed and her eyes glistening with moisture from her recent earnest efforts, came down when she was ready, and she was still tittering, while ern, upstairs, could be heard in the

throes of frantic laughter. "Hello, Bert," laughed Molly, holding her hand to her jaw, and she sat down

"What's the mad rush" "What did you say to Sledge?" he sternly demanded.

(TO BE CONTINUED:)

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SCHOOL.

Lesson X .- Fourth Quarter, For Dec. 3, 1916.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Rev. i, 1-8, 17-20, Memory Verses, 4-6 — Golden Text, Rev. i, 17, 18-Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

It is certainly a rare privilege to have some studies in this last and in some respects best and most wonderful of att the sixty-six books of the Bible, the only one that has a special blessing pronounced upon those who read and hear and keep its precious words (i, 3). The correct title of the book is found in verse 1, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ," and it is the summing up and unfolding of all things concerning Him and His Kingdom. It tells of that which God gave Him to show unto us, and He sent it by His messenger unto His servant, John. It does seem most unkind to and rebellious against such a God and Father to turn away from such a book and refuse to read it or refer to it, as many, even among preachers, do. It was John's business, as it is ours, to bear record of the Word of God and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, even though we should be banished for it, as John was, or even killed, as others were (i, 2, 9; vi. 9; xii. 17).

vi, 9; xii, 17).

He is and was and will be ever the same Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity; who in the fullness of time came as God man-ifest in the flesh, the Word made flesh, and is coming again to set up His kingdom on this earth (verses 4, 8; Mic. v, 2, margin; Gal. iv, 4; I Tim. iil, 16; John i, 14). The message concerning Him is always to every sinner the grace that saves and the peace which He has purchased by His own blood (verse 4; chapter xxii, 21; Eph. ii 13: Col 1 20): The Spirit loves to bear witness to Him, and the seven Spirits suggest the perfect fullness of the power and testimony of the Spirit

the power and testimony of the spirit (verse 4; chapters iii, 1; iv, 5; v, 6). He is the faithful witness, called Faithful and True, and all His words are true and faithful (verse 5; chapter iii, 14; xix, 11; xxi, 5; xxii, 6). He is the first begotten of the dead, Christ the first fruits (verse 5; Col. i, 18; I Cor. xv, 23). Because of His resurrection others have risen and others will rise they that are Christ's at His coming. He is the Prince of the kings of the earth, King of kings and Lord of lords, and all kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him (verse 5; chapter xvii, 14; xix, 16; I rease 5; chapter xvii, 14; xix, 16; 1
Tim. vi. 15: Pa ixxii 111. How glorious He is and will per book pour
heart cry out, "Yea, He is altogether
lovely; this is my Beloved, and this is
my Friend?" (Song v, 16.)
As John thinks upon these things he
by the Spirit breaks forth with the
ascription, "Unto Him that loveth us
and washed us from our sins in His
own blood," reminding us of much we
have so recently written in the lesson

have so recently written in the lesson notes concerning all believers being washed, sanctified, justified (I Cor. In John xiii, 10, He said, vi. 11). that is washed is clean every." It is our standing in Him which is perfect because of His come-liness (Ezek, xvi, 14). Then, as to our future, see the wonders of His grace and glory in making us kings and priests unto God to reign in His king-dom (verse 6; chapters v, 9, 10; xx, 6). "Behold, He cometh with clouds" (verse 7). This is His coming in glory (verse 7). This is His coming in glory with His saints, as the Sun of Right-eousness, of which Enoch prophesied before the deluge; His coming to judge the nations, when they shall wail and be angry because of Him, when Israel shall look on Him whom they pierced ceive Him as their Messiah (Jude 14; Zech. xiv, 5, l. c.; Mal. iv, 2; Zeph. 8: Zech. xii. 10: xiv. 1-3: Rev. xi. 18: vi, 15-17). He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last (verses 8, 11; chapters iii, 14; xxi, 6; xxii, 13; Isa. xli, 4; xliv, 6; xlviii, 12). Not all His titles can tell of Him as

He should be known, and it will always be true of Him, at least while we stay here, that the half has not been told. John, being in the Spirit, heard behind him a great voice as of a trumpet, and, turning to see the voice, he saw seven golden candle-sticks, which, he was told, represented seven churches, of which we shall hear e in our next lesson (verses 10-12, In the midst of the candlesticks he saw Him on whose bosom he had leaned when He was on earth, but he had never seen Him like this, not even when He was transfigured, and he was so overcome that he fell at His feet as dead (verses 13-17), but the same right hand was laid upon him, and the same voice said so kindly, "Fear not; I was dead, but I am alive for-

In studying this book I have always used the following outline: Chapter I.— Christ in the midst of the churches. II and III.—His last messages to the II and III.—His last messages to the churches. IV and V.—The church gone from the earth. VI to XVIII.—Between the rapture and the return. XIX.—The marriage and the return. XX.—The thousand years. XXI and XXII.—The New Earth. I would urge all to memorize the description of Him in verses 13-16 until you can close your eyes and see Him somewhat as John saw Him. Memorize also the description of Him as given in xix: 11-16, for then we shall be coming 11-16, for then we shall be coming with Him in His glory.

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FISHED WITH A GANDER.

And Now the Poor Fowl Shows a Dis-tinct Aversion to Water.

A gander was so upset by experi-ments made upon and through him by a mischievous boy that for a long time

he would not go into the water.

The gander's determination to abstain from water as a means of bathing grew out of the following circum

ing line to the gander's leg and with a hook properly baited turn the bird out into the water. The bait was a frog.

The gander went into the mill pond where he swam around for half an hour, turning "flipflaps" and diving for food. Suddenly he felt a pull at his leg and looked as surprised as the "lone fisherman" when he caught a whale.

The gander thought there was some thing the matter, and he looked to as-certain the cause. The pickerel on the hook gave several jerks, whereupon the gander decided be wanted to go

He at once started for the shore, but the pickerel on the hook wanted to go the other way. The gander seemed frightened at first. Then he evidenced

frightened at first. Then he evidenced signs of anger and tried to fly to shore, but the pickerel pulled him back.

After half an hour of the hardest work he had ever done the gander came ashore, dragging a six pound pickerel up the bank.

The boy took off the pickerel and baited the hook with another frog. He tried to induce the gander to go in for another swim, but no amount of persuasion could get the bird to do so. He suasion could get the bird to do so. He suasion could get the bird to do so. He simply would not be driven in. For many weeks the gander would not go into the water. He would proceed with the rest of the flock to the water's edge, but there he would stop. He would seem to be arguing with them with reference to the danger they were counting. They have a Times to the danger they were

EXTRAVAGANT EUGENIE

The Empress Boasted That She Neve Wore a Gown Twice.

It is true that the cost of w dress has so increased that it is not given to the many to be as truly elegant as their grandmothers were able to be at comparatively small cost. But, then, those were the days when an elaborate ball gown consisted of yards of flounces of tarlatan or some other light and uncestly material.

other light and uncostly material.

Empress Eugenie, it is said, declared she never wore the same gown twice. She it was, by the way, Worth, the renowned Paris couturier, famous. The great luxury in those days was to wear several ball gowns during the course of a single ball. Dressing rooms were provided, and the ladies retired to reappear resplendent and as fresh as at the beginning of the evening. The gowns of the day, which were flimsy of train and spread by crinolines, suffered much from an evening's wear: hence these wasteful

There is a tale of the lovely Empre Elizabeth of Austria which recounts her appearing at a function in a white tulle gown, flounced and ample, deco-rated with garlands of real camellias, and changing both gown and camellias every now and then to preserve the impression of absolute and uncrumpled

Near Enough.
"When I was a young girl," mused
Mrs. Lapsling, "a poet once sent me
some verses. I read the first letters of the lines downward and found they spelled the words 'I adore you.' You know, they call that sort of poem an agnostic."—Chicago Tribune.

A German scientific journal published in 1897 a story to the effect that a golden eagle shot in that year at Eszeg, Slavonia, was found to have a ring about its neck engraved on which were the arms of a Slavonian family

and the date 1646.

In 1793 the Gentleman's Magazine told about a hawk, captured when fig-ing in the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope and taken by an Indian ship to England, which wore a gold collar in-

England, which wore a gold collar inscribed:
"This goodlie hawk doth belong ta his Most Excellent Majesty James, King of England, A. D., 1610."
If this bird really escaped from England in the reign of James 183 years elapsed between its escape and its recapture, and it had flown a distance of 6500 miles away from its formes. 6,500 miles away from its formes

Enjey it New.

As to whether the nebular theory applies to this earth or not doesn't matter much now. The main thing is telliply it while we're living on it—
Florida Times-Union.

Nature has placed nothing so high that virtue cannot reach it—Quintus Surtius Rufus.

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