

losin' money at that, gen'l'men. Remember, I is the one got to live with her all my nachel life."

Elijah sighed ponderously. "Bein' a married man, March, I know sumthin' bouten what that means. S'far's I is concerned at, the th'ee hund'ed is satisfactory." He tentatively produced his checkbook. "You is shuah she is gwine marry you?"

"Soht of."

"Soon as the 'gagement is publicly announce', March, you gits the th'ee hund'ed. We'll write the cheks an' hol'n 'em ontill then."

"Tha's easy," grinned March. "I is bettin' I c'n cash in by t'night."

And he did! Immediately on the heels of the announcement Brutus was received once again into the arms of the adoring Mayola — thoroughly contrite now for the manner in which she had treated him. As for Lustisha, she actually beamed upon her husband across their dinner table and just before his departure after the evening meal, she implanted a warm, moist kiss upon his unwilling lips.

The wedding, which occurred three weeks later, marked a social epoch. Even Lustisha Atcherson, who could not have been kept away by a team of wild horses, admitted that the bride presented a thoroughly entrancing picture. Mayola Kye, intoxicated by the festive atmosphere, unbent so far as to kiss the bride.

A large portion of unalloyed bliss had settled upon the shoulders of each of the guests. Supreme hilarity held sway and raucous humour ran rampant. Professor Alec Champagne's string-and-reed orchestra furnished an amplitude of raggy,