Cynthia's Chauffeur

[By Louis Tracy.]

He raised his cap.

"The gorge is the finest thing in Cheddar, Miss Vanrenen," he said. "You ought to see it while the light is strong."

"We are going now," she answered coldly. "Monsieur Marigny will take me to Bristol, and you will follow with Mrs.

Devar."

Devar."

He did not flinch from her steadfast gaze, though those blue eyes of hers geemed definitely to forbid any expression of opinion. Yet there was a challenge in them, too, and he accepted it meekly.

"I was hoping that I might have the "I was hoping that I might have the pleasure of driving you this evening," he Baid. "The run through the pass is very interesting, and I know every inch of it."

He fancied that she was conscious of me mistake, and eager to atone if in the

She hestitated, yielded almost, but Mrs. Devar broke in angrily:
"We have decided differently, Fitzroy I have some few postcards to dispatch, and Count Marigny has kindly promised to run slowly up the hill until we over-

to run slowly up the hill until we overtake him."

"Yes, you ought to have waited in the yard of the inn for orders," said the eversmiling Marigny. "My car can hardly pass yours in this narrow road. Back a bit to one side, there's a good fellow, and, when we have gone pull up to the door. Come, Miss Vanrenen. I am fierce to show you the pace of a Du Vallon."

The concluding sentences were in French, but Count Edouard spoke idiomatic English fluently and with a rather fascinating accent.

fascinating accent.

Cynthia, slightly ruffled by her own singular lack of purpose, made no further demur. The three walked off down the hill, and Medenham could only obey in a chill rage, that, were Marigny able to gauge its intensity, might have given him "furiously to think."

In a few minutes the Du Vallon scur-In a few minutes the Du Vallon scurried by. Smith was driving, and there was a curious smirk on his red face as

the glanced at Medenham. Cynthia sat in the tonneau with the Frenchman, who drew her attention to the limestone cliffs in such wise that she did not even see the Mercury as she passed.

Medenham mattered counciling under Medenham muttered something under his breath, and reversed slowly back to the inn. He consulted his watch.

"I'll give the postcard writer ten min-utes—then I shall jar her nerves badly," he promised himself. Those minutes were slow-footed, but at last he closed the watch with a snap. He called to a waitress visible at the end of a long passage. The girl happened to be his friend of tea-time. "Would you like to earn another half-

crown?" he asked.
She had wit enough to grasp essentials, and it was abundantly clear that this man

was not her lawful quarry.
"Yes—sir," she said.
"Take it, then, and tell the elderly lady belonging to my party—she is somewhere inside—that Fitzroy says he cannot wait any longer. Use those exact words—and be quick!"

The girl vanished. An irate yet dig-nified Mrs. Devar came out. "Do I understand she began wrathfully.

"I hope so, madam. Unless you get in at once I intend going to Bristol, or elsewhere, without you." she gasped, though some of her high color fled under his cold glance.

glance. "Precisely. I do not intend to abandon Miss Vanrenen."
"How dare you speak to me in this manner, you vulgar person?"
For answer Medenham set the engine

"I said 'At once,' " he replied, and looked Mrs. Devar squarely in the eyes. She had her fair share of the wisdom of the serpent which is indispensable to evildoers, and had learnt early in life that whereas many men say they will do that which they really will not do if put to the test, other men, rare but dominant, can be trusted to make good their words, no natter what the cost. the unavoidable; quivering with indigna-

Drive me to the postoffice," she said. with as much of acid repose as she could muster to her aid. Medenham seemed to be suddenly af-flicted with deafness. After negotiating a line of vehicles, the Mercury leaped past the caves of Gough and Cox as though the drip of lime-laden water within those amazing depths were reeling off centuries in a frenzy of haste instead of measuring time so slowly that no appreciable change has been noted in the tiniest stalactite during fifty years. Mrs. Devar then grew genuinely alarmed, since even a designing woman may be a timid one. She bore with the pace until the car

seemed to be on the verge of rushing full tilt against a jutting rock. She could endure the strain no longer, but stood up And screamed.

Medenham slackened speed. When the curving road opened sufficiently to show a clear furlong ahead, he turned and spoke to the limp, shricking creature clinging to the back of his seat.

"You are not in the slightest danger," he assured her, "but if you wish it I will frop you here. The village is barely half a mile away. Otherwise should you de-

a mile away. Otherwise, should you de cide to remain, you must put up with rapid speed.' But why, why?" she almost wailed.

"Have you gone mad, to drive like that?" "Again I pledge my word that there is no risk. I mean to overtake Miss Van-renen before the light fails—that is all."
"Your conduct" is positively outrageous!" she gasped.

"Please yourself, madam. Do you go, She collapsed into the comfortable upholstery with a gesture of impotent de-epair. Medenham was sure she would not dare to leave him. What wretched pro-lect she and Marigny had concocted he knew not, but its successful outcome evidently depended on Mrs. Devar's safe arrival in Bristol. Moreover, it was a paramount condition that he should be delayed at Cheddar, and his chief interest lay in defeating that part of the pro-gramme. Without another word he released the brakes, and the car sped on-

ward.

Now they were plunging into a magnificent defile shadowed by sheer cliffs that on the eastern side rose to a height of five hundred feet. Fluttering rock pigeons circled far up in the azure rib-and that spanned the opposing precipices From many a towering pinnacle, carved by the ages into fantastic imageries of a castle, a pulpit, a liqu, or a lance, came the loud, clear calling of innumerable the loud, clear calling of innumerable ackdaws. It was dark and gloomy, most errifying to Mrs. Devar, down there on the twining road where the car boomed ever on like some relentless monster rushng from its lair. But the Cheddar gorge though majestic and awe-inspiring, is not of great extent. Soon t e valley widened, the road took longer sweeps to round each frowning buttress, and at last merged, with a quality of inanimate breathlessness, on to the bleak and deso-

ate fableland of the Mendips. At this point, had Cynthia been there, Medenham would have stopped for a while, so that she might admire the farflung panorama of the "island valley of Avallon" that stretched below the ravine. Out of the green pastures in the middle distance rose the ruined towers of Glasnbury. The purple and gold of Sedge-oor, relieved by the soft outlines of the Polden Hills, the grim summits of Taun-ton Dean and the Blackdown range, the wooded Quantocks dipping to the Severn, giant mass of Exmoor bounding he far horizon—these great splashes of



We Introduce Tomorrow the Rarest of All Periodical Bargain Events, Coming But Once in Four Years

It isn't often that we're given the opportunity to make so many proposals, but Leap Year, which occurs but one year out of every four, sanctions our cause. This sale will continue till next Saturday, and every proposal we make to you means an actual cash saving for you---and the more savings you accept the better off you are, for there's no one who will prosecute you for bigamy.

As you see below, we are making proposals of all kinds---proposals which mean savings for you. There are many proposals below that you'll be glad to accept---many for which you have long been waiting, and if the proposal you are looking for isn't mentioned below, you'll probably find it in our store, for, of course, we cannot give below a complete list of all the bargains we propose to offer during this Leap Year Sale.

Our First Proposal To You

Is that you should during this and following years, give us the opportunity of showing you our goods. This year we are carrying a more complete stock in all lines than ever before, and are prepared to fill your every need. Every department. contains a complete assortment of up-to-date, stylish goods, in all the latest shades and patterns, and everything has been chosen with great care and with full knowledge of the coming styles. Visit us tomorrow.

An Engaging Underwear Proposal Annual Sale of Manufacturers' Samples of Women's Summer Underwear

This is the largest and most inclusive collection of samples we have ever been able to secure, consisting of Cotton, Lisle, Balbriggan and Zimmer-Knit, in a number of popular styles.

Selling at Less Than Wholesale Prices

Politing on Flory with As motoporto was no
LADIES' SUMMER VESTS, sleeveless and short sleeves. Regulation 15c, at
LADIES' VESTS, fancy yokes, fine quality. Regular 25c, at1
LADIES' SUMMER VESTS, very fine weaves, some with lisle three Regular 30c, for
ALL FINER LINES IN VESTS, Zimmer-Knit, Balbriggan, etc., a
A number of SUMMER COMBINATIONS, very fine qualities; replan 75c, for

The Cry of the New Dress Goods Is Insistent

Won't You Have Us? Ask the Dress Fabrics

BLUES. GRAYS AND BROWNS.

These three shades promise to be the biggest selling colors for the coming season. Serges and Whipcords are the favored materials. All our goods are chosen along the lines of the coming styles.

He-e are a few of our new arrivals:

WHIPCORDS, SERGES AND WORSTEDS, all pure wool, of the famous Kharanta Brand, in black, navy, brown and gray, at from 50¢ to \$1.50

SERGE SPECIAL in two shades of navy and black. Splendid weight,

TWEED SUITINGS-As popular as ever. We have a splendid range for smart, dressy effects, at per yard 50¢

FINE GRAY WORSTED SUITINGS, in very pretty grays, with hairline and Pekin stripes, and dainty pepper and salt patterns and materials that will tailor well, at from, yard 75¢ to \$2.50

Staples Pop the **Question Loudly**

Regular 10c line of good Crash Towel-

PILLOW CASES. Plain and hemstitched, fine quality, at a

DRESS GINGHAMS. Our annual sale of Ginghams, in stripes,

Your Affinity You'll find your affinity among these

FINE LINGERIE WAISTS, in all sizes, set-in sleeve, lace trimmed; very special. Regular \$1.50, for 98¢ LADIES' TAILORED WAISTS, in four different styles, tucked or plain front,

These Silks Seek Admission Into Your Home

shirt sleeves, in vesting and linon \$1

Hair-Line Paillette Silks for a stylish waist or dress, give excellent wear in the following shades: Navy, with green stripe, navy with white stripe, brown, cadet, paddy green and reseda green with white stripe, at yard 50¢ FOULARD SILKS-Special range of new patterns, at.....50¢ and 75¢

On Corsets Profit Has Been Divorced From Cost

One of the newest and most fashionable designs. Made of best English coutil, finished with lace and satin ribbon. Well adapted to all medium and full figures. Regular \$1.25. Special. . 89¢

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That you use the Ladies' Home Journal patterns. The best in the land. Our Free March Style Book is now in.

Whitewear Proposal That Needs No Translation

Lovely white fabrics of every description offer themselves to you at notably low prices.

NIGHT DRESSES-Ladies' Fine Cotton Nightgowns, in slip-over or open front, finished with edge of fine lace or yoke made of tucks and embroidery insertion; all sizes. Special at 75¢ and 85¢ Ladies' Fine Cambric Night Gowns, lace or eyelet embroidered yoke, finished with beading and ribbon, short sleeves; sizes 56, 58 and 60.

med, in several styles; made of fine Lonsdale, at \$1.25, \$1.50 UNDERSKIRTS-Ladies' White Lonsdale Underskirts, close gored with 12-inch flounce of tucks and insertion, lace or embroidery trim-

Ladies' Underskirts, made of fine Lonsdale with deep flounce of tucks and insertion, at...... \$1.00 and \$1.50 CORSET COVERS-Ladies' Corset Covers, made of cambric, in six different styles, lace and embroidery trimmed, finished with ribbon,

PRINCESS SLIPS, in fine cambric, close fitting skirt, trimmed with 12-inch frill of tucks and finished with lace, at \$1.00 OTHER ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS.

You'll Be Susceptible to These Fabrics

NEWS OF THE NEW GOODS IN THE WASH GOODS SECTION DAINTY NEW BORDERED FRENCH BATISTE, in shadow effect, crossbar with rose and paisley borders in a splendid range of color-

PLAIN COLORED COTTON VOILES, also some shades with silk stripe among the season's choicest materials, in gray, tan, pale COTTON VOILES, with self-colored hair-line stripe; a very dainty

material, in navy, gray, rose, pink and black, at yard 40¢ COTTON VOILES WITH FLORAL BORDER; some with delicate shaded grounds of mauve, blue and pink, with small, dainty floral

COTTON FOULARDS, in the largest range of colors and patterns we have ever carried, at per yard 25¢ and 35¢ BORDERED MUSLINS-Large asortment, at per yard. 15¢, 20¢ PLAIN WHITE COTTON MARQUISETTES, always a very sty-

COTTON BEDFORD SUITINGS-The very newest materials for wash suits, in stripe effects, in blue and white and gray and white,

GRAY'S Gray & Parker GRAY'S

He had, as it were, jealously guarded this vista all day, said not a word of it, even when Cynthia and he discussed the route, so that it might come at last in one supreme moment of revelation. And now that it was here, Cynthia was hidden somewhere in the gray distance and somewhere in the gray distance, and Medenham was frowning at a flying strip of white road, with his every faculty inof white road, with his every faculty intent on exacting the last ounce of power from the superb machine he controlled.

The miles rolled beneath, yet there was no token of the Du Vallon that was to "run slowly up the hill" until overtaken by the industrious writer of postcards. At the utmost, the French car was given some twelve or thirteen minutes' start, which meant seven or eight miles to a high-powered automobile urged forward with the determination Medenham himself was displaying. Marigny's chauffeur,

color, softened and blended by belts of the softened and the blue smoke of clustering hamlets, formed a picture that not england's storehouse of natural the smoke of clustering hamlets, formed a picture that not england's storehouse of natural utterly incompatible with his employer's beauty can match to estar the the express purpose of reading it. Meden-ham was sure that the Mercury would ham was sure that the Mercury would catch the Du Valion long before Bristol was reached, but when the last ample fold was reached, but when the last ample fold of the bleak plateau spread itself in front, 25c. bottles, sold by druggists.

that toyous cackle, the result of sev-eral rewly-laid eggs.

"I have 24 hens—6 White Wyan-friends." Putnam's Corn Extractor in doites, 6 Columbian Wyandottes, 6 before assuming command.

eyes of those who love a charming land- and his hunter's eyes could discern no deape.

Cloud of dust lingering in the still air where the road dipped over the horizon, postulation from Mrs. Devar. Like the majority of nervous people, she was quelled by the need of placing complete trust in one who understood his work. While Medenham was still searching the skyline for signs of the vanished car, she did show some interest in his quest. He felt, since he could not see, that she half rose and looked over his head, bent low bend looked over his head, bent low bend looked over his head, bent low bend looked.

> HOW DAYTON LADIES CURE THEIR CORN-PINCHED TOES.

SOME CLASSY HENS

Mr. H. F. Kennedy Writes of Some Lately-Performed Feats. Mr. H. F. Kennedy, of Lyons, Ont.

has been greatly interested in the eggaying abilities of some of the city's industrious hens, as published in The Advertiser's egg-laying contest. Mr. Kennedy is also interested hens and eggs, and he possesses

number of hens that are no slouches when it comes down to producing eggs. Mr. Kennedy writes as follows: "I have been reading with great interest about the great egg-producers, as reported from time to time in your paper. It is quite evident that the city of London and adjoining country

conas. I have divided them into sep-AT LYONS, ONTARIO arate pens, and they are all of the standard-bred type and are in healthy condition. "For nearly 18 months there has not

> four or five eggs, and since Nov. 1 last they have averaged about three eggs per pen per day. While the Wyandottes are very good layers, I find the Anconas are shelling out the greatest number of eggs, the kinds keeping about equal pace. "One thing I have learned is that with proper care, food and conditions, one can have fresh-laid eggs seven days in every week throughout the

been a day that I did not get at least

SON OF THUNDER.

Brunswick, Me., Feb. 8 .- Shiloh, the Titanic cleft in the finite his employer's with partial course of natural course it would be an easy matter for Marigny to enlist itching, Bleeding or protructing in priles. No eurgical operation required, in priles. No eurgical operation required be invisible unless she leaned forward for the express purpose of reading it. Medentia, the world, but they certainly have being site on the coldest day, when loosely buttoned shoe. I applied Putter on the coldest day, when loosely buttoned shoe. I applied Putter on the coldest day, when loosely buttoned shoe. I applied Putter on the coldest day, when loosely buttoned shoe. I applied Putter on the coldest day, when loosely buttoned shoe. I applied Putter on the coldest day, when loosely buttoned shoe in a miracular of the thermometer registered 22 degrees held with th "Holy Ghost and Us" colony, has not

REBUILD ON OLD SITE

the Equitable Life Assurance Society

have decided to rebuild on the old

Equitable Life Company to Put Up Thirty Story Edifice. [Canadian Press.] New York, Feb. 8.-The officers of

site of their headquarters in the financial district, according to a statement published here today. The ruins of the old building will be cleared away at once, and work on the new structure will be under way within three months. The building will be more than two years under construction. It will probably thirty stories in height, the plans for a fifty-five story structure having met

with opposition.

BLOWN TO ATOMS. Meriden, Conn., Feb. 8. — Adam J. Angelhead was blown to atoms, and the main building of the Meriden auto station, which was owned by him and located on West Main street, near the centre of the city, was wrecked this morning by an explosion of gasoline. Windows in nearby buildings were shattered and the shock was felt for

half a mile around. Several persons were in another

part of the establishment, but escaped practically unhurt. Firemen found Angelhead's body in sections scattered through the ruins. He was 42 years of age and married.

BIG CHICAGO FIRE.

Chicago, Feb. 8. - One fireman was seriously injured, and a loss of \$300,000 was caused early today, when fire destroyed a three-story house of the Chicago Railway Company on West End avenue. The origin of the fire is unknown.

The Woman Alive

to her own best interests, - as soon as there is need, will help her whole system with the tonic action of

BEECHAMS

All women should read the special