

reasons for disliking young Smith as a prospective son-in-law. Chief among them was the fact that he believed young Smith to be that most loathsome of all objects, a dyed-in-the-wool Grit. Believed him to be, I say, because if he had asked Mr. Smith out and out what his political inclinations were, Mr. Smith would have told him that he was a free-All young men are freethinkers.

But Mr. Potter had not asked Mr. Smith out and out. He had "sounded" him, when he first came to Dayton. As leader of the Conservative faction in the town-ringleader the other side called him-he felt it his duty to sound all newcomers.

The sounding consisted of a series of artfully contrived questions, the answers to which were supposed to give an indication of the victim's political prejudices. Mr. Smith, who saw no significance in the conversation, answered almost at random; and was repaid for this carelessness by being branded as mentioned above. That settled it. He might as well have tried to marry into the family of the Czar of Russia as into the Potter family, after that—as far as paternal consent was concerned.

The very afternoon that Mrs. Potter went away, Mr. Potter dropped into Miller & Richards' and invited young Smith up to supper. Effie, at her father's suggestion, had baked a pan of biscuits. The wily old fox knew that biscuits

Mr. Potter had been watching the game know what Mr. Smith would do if she from the side lines, but he too had his were to die. Mr. Smith said he would take poison-he was intending to do this, anyway-but that was not what Effic wanted. She wanted to die herself-not permanently of course, only for a week or ten days-but she wanted Mr. Smith to keep on living so she could hang around and watch him. She wanted to learn how much he really cared for her. She said something seemed to tell her that her days were numbered. Mr. Smith, who began to find the conversation depressing, and wished to lighten it up with a joke, said that that was all right if the numbers only ran high enough. Mind you! Joking at a time like that. Of course if he had ceased to care for her, Effie said, she had nothing more to live

> Mr. Smith took immediate steps to prove that he had not ceased to care for her, and they carried on like that until Effie was crying dismally and Mr. Smith was cursing himself for a cruel selfish brute. Altogether they had a dreary time of it.

> Mr. Smith left early. He thought it better to do this; he was getting seasick. When he was gone Effie called her father in from the back porch to ask if he didn't think Mr. Smith looked kind of peaked at supper time, she thought he looked as if he had something weighing on his

> "Yes," the old man chuckled, "I reckon that's about the size of it. I reckon he was weighted down considerable.'

Effie went to bed to toss miserably



Extensive articles have appeared recently in the Paris papers on Madame Pellequer, a young woman of whom France is proud. Before the war she was schoolmistress at Mancourt, Oise, and her husband was schoolmaster at Baugie, the two are twin villages. When the Boches invaded France, M. Pellequer hastened to the colors and in time became a lieutenant. His wife could not abandon her pupils. She remained to face the invaders, even hiding wounded French soldiers in the cellar of her home at the risk of her life. She gathered both her own and her husband's pupils in her little school and remained at her post for thirty months.

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Effie was just debating with herself the advisability of throwing the biscuits away on the dog, or rather throwing the dog away on the biscuits, when her fond parent hove in sight with the young man in tow. She left the biscuits on the kitchen table and fled upstairs to change her dress.

When she came down in a simple white frock, with her hair freshly combed and a dab of powder here and there, she was the sweetest, demurest young thing imaginable, so Mr. Smith thought. Mr. Potter asked after the biscuits.

Effie drooped. She had forgotten the biscuits. Now that the subject was to the fore, Mr. Smith declared that biscuits were his favorite nutriment, and there was nothing for Effie to do but bring

Mr. Smith ate as many of the biscuits as he could, to show that he liked them, and afterward sat on the verandah in the moonlight, with Effie, and wished that he had eaten one or two less. Mr. Potter left them alone on the verandah; he did it on purpose.

were a chancy thing at best and that about, telling herself over and over again with Effic they almost invariably went that she was the happiest girl in the world, and proving it by crying until her pillow was sopping wet and she caught

a cold in her head from the dampness. Mr. Smith was tossing, too-tossing and ruminating. Every few minutes he would lean out over the edge of the bed and ruminate violently. At times he fancied that he must have been living on nothing but biscuits for years. In the morning he was pale and weak, but his expetite was good, and his love for Effic remained undimmed. He said, if a cook was all a man wanted, he could hire one; what he was looking for in the girl of his choice was a companion. Even if Effic couldn't cook, she was an ideal companion, always so sweet and gentle and sympathetic. What were biscuits and such gross material things compared to that?

Things went wrong in the Potter household next morning. There was noparticular thing that you could lay your hand on and grow abusive over and so work the venom out of your system; it was just things in general. Effie's temper crept slowly up to summer heat, hung there a moment, then went steadily The hearts of the young couple were on up to boiling point. Mr. Potter, who strangely stirred as they sat there to- was taking down stove-pipes and scattergether in the moonlight: that was the ing soot and ashes freely over the furnibiscuits. Effic had only eaten enough to ture, waited until his daughter's steam make her melancholy. She wanted to was just beginning to lift the safety

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