

By ELIZABETH YORK MILLER When hearts command, From minds the sagest counsellings depart."

just the one man in the world who should have been kept out of Alice's way. It was the evening before their pro-posed excursion to Monte Nero that the doctor, with refreshing, old-fashioned courtesy, begged Mrs. Car-nay's permission to ask Alice to marry him. He told Jean all about himself with an anxiety which was almost boyish, and seemed to think that the optimistic wife could scarcely be con-sidered a treat for any girl, more especially for a girl like Alice. Mrs. Carnay, on her part, confessed their own poverty. "My husband was a major in the Indian Army," she and, "and we have very little besides my pension. Very little, indeed." Then, flushing becomingly, and in her pretty manner of nervousness punctuated with fluttering sniles and an occasional dab at her eyes with a wisp of a handkerchief, she went even privations, telling Philip Ardeyne that even this holiday was more or less of

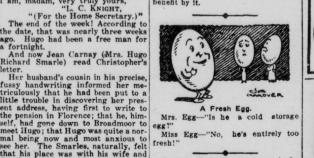
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change. She had only been eighteen or thereabouts when she lived at the y Villa Tatina as old Mme. Douste's s companion. What a wonderful night it was, a Riviera night for lovers such as she well remembered, with a silver-gold moon riding high, making a glittering pathway across the sea to Corsica; if with whispering among the leaves of the tall palm-trees; with the scent of oranges and lemons, lavender and tmimosa. This was Alice's hour. Mrs. Car-nay stepped out on to the balcony which led from the little sitting-room and breathed a fervent prayer for the tappiness of her daughter. With a 1 husband like Philip Ardeyne, Alice i would be safe. God keep her safe al-tways . . and happy. Surely this mis-takes of the mother should not shadow a girl's life. No-mo-nol It was all f dead and buried a thousand years ago. Hugo, too, was safe. Jean Car-tay shivered. The night air was cold. Lucky Dr. Ardeyne had thought of the scaught by a chill on the bal-cony, no love to warm the blood in her veins. So wiely she came in. When she switched on the table lamp she found a letter which had come by the last post, the sight of which caused her heart to skip a beat. Ht was from Christopher Smarle, her husband's cousin, the solicitor who looked after her affars. Christopher letters were few and far between, but they never failed to cause her a mo-mentary futter of aprehension. Chris-topher invariably mentioned Hugo. He perhaps conceived it his duty to remind her, if only by a brief bulletin on Hugo's health that the latter was Puzzled Jack. It was bedtime for four-year-old Jack, but the little fellow wanted to stay up later. His aunt, who tipped the scales at nearly two hundred pounds, said: "Why, Jack, think of me-I am ever so much older than you and I go to bed with the chickens!" Jack looked at her size, and said: "Well, I don't see how you ever get up on the roost!"

mentary flutter of apprehension. Chris-topher invariably mentioned Hugo. He perhaps conceived it his duty to remind her, if only by a brief bulletin on Hugo's health, that the latter was not quite so dead, not quite so deeply and irrevocably buried as the suppos-ed widow would like to believe. One could, if one chose, visit Hugo; Chris-topher Smarle took advantage of that sorry pleasure as often as it was per-mitted. There never was such a man for duty. Mrs. Carnay opened the rather

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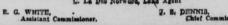
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