When Effle came down the stairs

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AND LOVE

A Lesson That Effie Admitted \$ She Needed.

> By OTHO B. SENGA. *****************

It was characteristic of Ross Brady that he laughed, although somewhat bitterly, as the gaudy autocar dashed by. He had received but the merest nod of recognition from Miss Danvers.

"Ross, my boy," he soliliquized, "you must have made a mistake in thinking you were invited to join this festive

He took a small envelope from his inner coat pocket and read portions of the note in a mumbling undertone, add-

"'My dear Ross.' M'm, dear Ross feels pretty cheap-about 23 cents' worth at the present moment! "There will be a small party of us at Wiers from the 16th to the 27th.' Well, I'm only two days in the rear-not bad for a laboring man! 'It would be very pleasant if you could be there at the same time.' M'm, pleasant! I wonder just where the pleasure comes in! Well here we are. Ross, brace up!" He furtively flicked the dust from his shoes and ran lightly up the broad terraces to the hotel plazza.

He had hoped that Effic would wait for him. She must have known that he was on his way to call upon her. The torturing minutes seemed hours after he had sent up his card, and he felt the scarlet blood mount to his forehead again and again as some laughing girl stole a second glance at

his handsome face and stalwart figure. HEALTH, STRENGTH, VIGOR, VITALITY.



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and are Unsuccessful she spoke with some asperity.
Should Read This Closely.
Should Read This Closely. here! He crimsoned under the reproof of

her voice and manner: then the square

shoulders were set back, and the heavy chin hardened. "You knew, Effie," gravely, "that I could not afford the rates here. I am at a farmhouse a mile away. I can be with you whenever you wish, Ettie,' pleadingly.

She seemed not to hear him. "And your call just now, Ross," fretfully, "is wholly without regard to etiquette. I only came down to tell you that you can come again tomorrow. and be sure to send up two cards, one for me and one for Mrs. Lyons, the chaperon of the party. He laughed shortly.

"Effie, the card I sent up is probably the last one I have. My vacation is necessarily a brief one, and"— "Oh, Ross," in an excited whisper.

"here comes Miss Van Vance! Do go! I mustn't be seen talking to you like this. She is from New York and awfully

Brady waited no longer. He bowed formally to Effie and turned sharply toward the door, meeting Miss Van Vance on the threshold. She looked squarely into his eyes as

they passed with an expression that he afterward recalled and wondered "She's a good deal older than Effic and those other girls," he mused. "I

wonder"— Then he shrugged his shoulders impatiently. "What difference does it make anyhow? I'll write Efficient a note. I was a donkey not to think about cards. I don't wonder she was annoyed. She wants to be correct about matters of etiquette, of course.' But Brady's honest heart was sore indeed on the following day when the messenger returned with no answer to

the pleading little note he sent to Effie. He put on a rough suit of flannel and started for a tramp, striding rapidly along the country road, his handsome face moody and forbidding. The sound of wheels roused him from

his unpleasant reflections. "It is country etiquette," said a clear voice, "for one who drives to ask one who walks to 'have a lift."

He turned quickly. It was Miss Van Vance, seated in a light Stannope, driving a high stepping bay. She smiled down into his astonished face, reined and turned the animal with a quick movement of her supple wrist, gianc-ing invitingly at the seat beside her.

Brady had never before been challenged in just such a way, and his blood rose. His usual diffidence vapished; he stepped promply into the vehicle and seated himself, saying easily, "Is it etiquette for the one who walks to introduce himself to the one who drives?"

Ross Brady. You were brought up on a farm in northern Vermont. You have studied all sorts of ologies and isms, and you are now taking the advanced course in metallurgy at the Harvard summer school."

"Who told you?" rashly. "No one. I simply put two and two together. The sum is seven! I wasn't sure, but your question proves it." "I am easily trapped," admitted

Bradv. He felt a sudden sense of ease and confidence and of comradeship with this stately looking girl, and almost pefore he knew it he was pouring forth the whole story of his aims and ambitions, his plans and hopes, even to his love for little Effle Danvers and

his chagrin at her cool reception. Miss Van Vance listened interesting

ly, smiling half sadly. "Mr. Brady," she said slowly, "I am older than you, and I have had, perhaps, wider opportunities for observing human nature. And I am like Samanthy Allen—I know women just like a book because I've been one quite a spell. It is a woman's nature to want a man to beat down all barriers. even those she herself has erected. Is the hint sufficient, Mr. Brady?"

"I think so," quietly, "and I thank you, Miss Van Vance." He resolved to act upon the sug-

gestion, yet it was two days before he summoned courage to go again to the hotel.

"Miss Danvers is not here just now," said the talkative beliboy. "That whole party is out on the lake—that is, they're gettin' ready to go. You'll find them, I guess, if you go down," pocketing a dime with accustomed celerity. "They're goin' in a launch."

For an instant Brady was tempted to go away. Then he thought of Miss Van Vance and ran quickly down the steps to the boat landing. Miss Van Vance, standing on the

float, greeted him delightedly.
"I am so glad you happened along. Can you spare the time to go around the lake with us?" Brady surprised himself with the ready ease of his acceptance.

gowned in white she seemed to the embarrassed young fellow the embar-Failed to Cure Rheumatism ment of coolness and self possession. Her greeting was bardly courteou

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Miss Van Vance introduced him with an air of proprietorship. "My friend, Mr. Brady," adding as she presented him to Miss Danvers, "The fact that you are both Vermonters ought to be m immediate bond between you two." Poor little Effie colored and faltered. She dared not say they were old time friends in the face of Brady's somewhat formal acknowledgment of the

introduction. With delicate tact Miss Van Vance drew out Brady's gift for narrative, and he was soon in the midst of an absorbing story of a wild fox hunt.

The other two young men of the party were seated in the bow of the launch, smoking.
Suddenly a sheet of flame shot high

into the air. A lighted match had ignited the gasoline in the escape basin. and an explosion of the main tank seemed inevitable. The young fellow. employed to run the launch was paralyzed with fear. The girls shrieked in terror, and two

or three sprang upon the seat to leap into the water.

"Sit down!" shouted Brady sternly. He plunged his hand into the fire and turned the valve, thus stopping the flow of oil from the main tank. Then he threw himself against the flame wherever they appeared, beating them out with his coat and bare hands.

The other men, recovering from their momentary panic, wet their caps and assisted him.

Then some one screamed again, and Miss Danvers' clothing was seen to be on fire in the back. Brady instantly threw his arms around her, smother ing the flames against his own body. No one was more than slightly in jured, except Brady. His arms and hands were quite badly burned, and the physician looked grave as he

dressed them. "I hope you will pardon the manner in which I embraced you, Miss Danvers," said Brady nonchalantly. "I fear it was hardly according to eti-quette," glancing humorously at Miss

Van Vance. "You are a splendid hero!" cried Mrs. Lyons hysterically. "Effie should be proud to be embraced by such a

"Even if he is an utter stranger." added Miss Van Vance significantly. Effie threw back her girlish head de-

fiantly and stepped to Brady's side. "He is not a stranger!" she ex-claimed, putting her hand caressingly on his shoulder. "Ross and I have been engaged ever since we were chil-

dren. Only I-I"-"Never mind, Effie," interrupted Ross tenderly; "you needn't try to explain."
"I congratulate you both," said Miss Van Vance cordially, "only," teasingly, as she held Effie's hand warmly in her own-"only, Miss Danvers, your man-

ner of announcing your engagement is

ner of announcing your engagement is so wholly without regard to"—
Effie smiled brightly through her tears. "I know, Miss Van Vance, and I deserve a lesson. You have been a good friend to me."

"Better than you know, little Effie," murmured Miss Van Vance to herself as she turned away, "and the temptation was greater than you can possibly understand."

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