"MONA:

The Irish Bride of an English bendieman.

Could find me mine? I fancy Defit it in the morning room."

I am sure I could," says Nolly, be stowing upon her a grateful glance, after which her own chair, a little black-and-gold wicker thing, gaudily cushioned.

When the same are a new note.

"How old Nolly is at times!" says.

one of her loveliest smiles that she has in hand." one of her loveliest smiles that she has
"such a delicious color, dearest! just
like a wee bit of fresh apple blossom!"
Apple blossoms suggest the orchard,
Apple blossoms suggest the orchard,

"You have not tired yourself, dear, I

"You have not tired yourself, dear, I hope. The day has been so oppressively warm, more like July than May. Wouldy you like your tea now, Vlolet? We can have it half an hour earlier if you wish."

All these evidences of affection Vlolet inotices in a dreamy, far-off fashiori: she is the happier because of them; yet she only appreciates them languidly, being filled with one absorbing thought, that dulls all others. She accepts the chair, the compliment, and the tea with grace, but with somewhat vague gratitude.

To Jack his brothers are behaving with the utmost bonkomie. They have called him "old fellow" twice and once (Geoffrey has slapped him on the back with a heartiness well meant, and no doubt encouraging, but trying.

with a heartiness well meant, and no doubt encouraging, but trying.

And Jack is greatly pleased with them, and, seeing everything just now through a rose colored veil, tells himself he is specially blessed in his own people, and that Geoffrey and old Nick are two of the decentest old men alive. Yet he too is a little distrait, being lost in an endeavor to catch Violet's eyes,—which eyes refuse persistently to be so caught.

Nolly alone of 'all the group stands aloof, joining not all in the unspoken congratulations, and feeling indeed like nothing but the guilty culprit that he is.

"How you were all laughing when we came in "s asy Volet, presently: "we could hear you all along the corridor.

could hear you all along the corridor.
What was it about?"

Everybody at this smiles involuntarily,
—everybody, that is, except Nolly, who
feels faint again, and turns a rich and
lively crimson.

"Mature description of the closer to him.

"Mother, Violet has promised to marry
me," he says, abruptly. "Haven't you,
lively crimson.

"Yes, do, Nolly," says Violet.
"Go on, Noll." exclaims Dorothy, in her most encouraging tone. "Let Violet

perhaps Violet heard it before!" "Well, really, do you know, I think she did!" says Mona, so demurely that they all smile again.
"Well, really, do you know, I think she did!" says Mona, so demurely that they all smile again. they all smile again.

"You all gave your oaths to animation.

"Well, I do like a good story," says the family, as a rule.

Rut Violet is conte iolet, carelessly.

"Then Nolly's last will suit you down to"

"It is like a fairy tale, and

from his reverie, having found it impos-sible to compal Violet's eyes to meet almost similar.

"It is really nothing," says Nony, feverishly. "You have all heard it become "Everything has its ron verishly. "You have all heard it begrimace.

"Everything has its romantic side,"
"I said so," murmurs Mona, meekly.

"I said so," murmurs Mona, meekly.

"Says Geoffrey: "even an Irish member, is finished that the others will thank it a very warm bowl of milk that I have. This PWDEK

'old, old story,' says Geoffrey, innocent-ly, smiling mildly at the leg of a distant

Mona, with a laugh, yet really with a kindly view to rescuing him from his present dilemma. "Do you think you could find me mine? I fancy I left it in

suspicious alacrity.
"How odd Nolly is at times!" says wicker thing, gaudily cushioned.

"Yes, sit there," she says, a new note of tender sympathy in her tone, keeping her hand on Vlolet's shoulder as the latter makes some faint polite effort to rise again. "You must indeed. It is such a dear, cozy, comfortable little chair."

Why it has become suddenly necessary that Vlolet should be made cozy and comfortable she omits to explain.

Then Dorothy, going up to the newcomer, removes her hat from her head and pats her cheeks, and tells her with one of her loveliest smiles that she has

Apple blossoms suggest the orchard, whereon Violet reddens perceptibly, and Nolly grows cold with fright, and feels a little more will make him faint. little more will make him faint.

Lastly, Lady Rodney comes to the rront with—
"You have not tired vourself, dear, I" shouldn't care about i'."

Speaker—and—er—other things."
"If it was a political quip," says Violet, "I shouldn't care about i'."

This is fortunate. Every one feels

Passing his arm round her, he draw

"It was some joke, of course?" goes on And Violet says, "Yes," obediently; and

"It was some joke, of course?" goes on Violet, not having received any answer to her first question.

"It was," says Nicholas, feeling a reply can no longer be shirked. Then he says, "Ahem!" and turns his glance confidingly upon the carpet.

But Geoffrey, to whom the situation of the stays A. LIMERICK & CO has its charm, takes up the broken thread.

"It was one or Nolly's good things," this auspicious instant with the fan and

> have happened," says Dorothy, enthu-"Now Mona and you and I will be rea

here it. She will understand it."
"I would, of course, with pleasure," stammers the unfortunate Nolly,—"only frey, hypocritically. "Yes, isn't it?" says Dorothy, quite in

"I call this beastly mean," says Mr.
Darling to Geoffrey in an indignant tone
"Yes, long ago," says Geoffrey, with

secrecy before I began, and now you are determined to betray me. I call it right down shabby. And I shan't forget it to any of you, let me tell you that."

"Oh! hardly!" says Violet, with a soft laugh and another blush. "How could you?"
"A little bird whispered it to us,"

down shabby. And I shan't forget it to any of you, let me tell you that."

"My dear fellow you can't have forgotten it so soon," says Geoffrey, pretending to misunderstand this vehement whisper.

"Don't be shy! or shall I refresh your memory? It was, you remember, about—"

"Oh, yes—yes—I know; it doesn't matter; I'll pay you out for this," says Nolly, savagely, in an aside.

"Well, I do like a good story," says worth and the family, as a rule.

"A little bird whispered it to us," "A little bird whispered it to us," "A little bird whispered it to us," and little bird whispered it to us," and little bird whispered it to us," and little bird whispered it to us," "A little bird whispered it to us," and little bird whispered it to us," and little bird whispered it to us," "A little bird whispered it to us," "A little bird whispered it to us," "A little bird whispered it to us," and little bird whispered it to us," and little bird whispered it to us," "A little bird whispered it to us," and the "bird whispered it to us," a little bird whispered it us, a litt CONDITION POWDERS

the ground," says Nicholas. "Besides its wit, it possesses the rare quality of being safe to turn out an inveterate match-strictly true. It really occurred, it is maker when a few more years have founded on fact. He himself vouches rolled over her sunny head.

"Or like Nolly's story that he decline "Oh, go on; do," says Mr. Darling, in telling me," says Violet, with a laugh. a second aside, who is by this time a brilliant purple from fear and indignation.

"Well, really, now you say it," says deoffrey, as though suddenly struck with a satisfactory idea, "it is uncommonly like Noily's tale: when you come to Worm.

"Well, really, now you say it," says deoffrey, as though suddenly struck with real that the satisfactory idea, "it is uncommonly like Noily's tale: when you come to Worm.

"It is really nothing," says Nolly, an Irish member?" asks she, with a little in

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he says, genially. "And you know what he is capable of when he likes! It was funny to the last degree, - calculate! to nagain, Nolly. It bears repeating. Ask him to tell it to you, Violet."

"Yes of Nolly "sew Violet."

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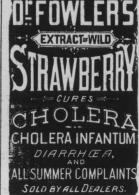
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