how to treat their husbands.' 'You must be expert in the matter, the fourth time you have tried 'em.

Hollow in your back a trifle, as is natural to you—there—set's like a duck's but he was intelligent, loved boats, and think she told me to do?

'Shouldn't wonder, ma'am, seeing my patience has clean gone out of me. easiest manner possible.' This will be your fourth husband. Well, well, you must, begging your pardon, like men better'n I do. 'Moon upon the lake,' is mighty becoming to you, and very suitable for a widow.'

'Men are good creatures when women know how to manage them. They do seem to incline more to some women

more than others.' 'You never had a drinking husband, ma'am,' I suppose ? 'Bless you! no, never! I could not

be on her guard.' seems natural to some women-they spells he broke a blood vessel on the thrive and grow pretty upon it.

The widow laughed, saying,-'I never gave it a thought-but it about.' may be so.' 'Going to be married the fourth time! Not a chick nor child! not forty yet,

manage.' 'Oh, that's a secret.' Mrs. Fittem opened her eyes wide, must have been delightful.

and slowly repeated, -. 'A secret !'

and an ill-disguised horror on her face. | way styles; quotes:-

'Oh, I didn't kill my three husbands. They were dotingly fond of me to the last, and left me well provided for. 'Do tell me your secret, ma'am,' and an expectant, not to say painful hope, brightened her wan face.

it is a sccret, and its application has over Moore and Byron, feeling interbeen, as it were, disastrous in my case.

I am sure I never expected it.'

of fraud, for too much sentiment is I am sure I never expected it.' 'Dear me! you seem to own up to very tiresome.'

nething. Did they die suddenly, 'And he died like the rest?'

along as if loth to go.' Poor critters! I should have thought you would have felt bad.' 'I did, indeed;' and the pretty woman preparing to wed her fourth see that I am right in thinking you do

Do tell me all about it," persisted the other with a look not sympathetic. 'Yours tears haven't seemed to dim your handsome eves.'

'I don't know about that-I never to the world, ma'am. But I want than indifference.'

Our widow was a sort of widow Wad. different to all!' ey-easily beguiled to tears or smilesand she began to perce ve that the astute dressmaker had some latent de- while you, Mrs. Fittem, oppose, fret, astute dressmaker had some latent design in thus questioning her, which she scold, and not happy yourself, nor do did not object to gratify. Accordingly you make him any the better man she assumed the narrative form, while men are not easily turned about. the needle of her auditor clicked against her thimble in concert. her thimble in concert.

ution-box—never more or less. I knit him stockings and made him shirts; for my life guess what it is. always at house and lar bed at ten o'clock. He was agreeable in temper, and apt to drop to sleep. Slow, and automatic in movement. He had a way of looking into kettles and jars, as as if he expected to find things out of order; and he did so find them, sometimes—it was a comfort to him. He poked over my bureau drawers, and saw all my gloves and laces in such a mess—and in the mildest way reprimanded me. This was a comfort to him, also. He had not a rice; he had not an inordinate decision. Leviked he had, at the o'clock and tenned; but you don't know how to manage a husband. You must come the morning I am to be married and having employed a competent mu to take the morning I am to be married and having employed a competent mu to take the look and having employed a competent mu to take the morning I am to be married and having employed a competent mu to take the look and having employed a competent mu to take the loo not a vice; he had not an inordinate lake dress a somewhat vigorous kick desire. I wished he had.'

'I know it—I know it—I didn't three times a widow.' gone I saw it all, and almost cried my plating, lovey? Who is it?

eyes out. You see a man is a good

The dressmaker eyed him a mome thing about the house, to lock the doors scornfully, but the calling her fovey and look after things. When a woman did the business for him; with mingled is once used to having one around she | tears and smiles she patted his dast is sure to feel lonesome and out of sorts | shoulder, and replied, when he is gone. I learned to think a dull husband by no means undesirable widow has been telling me how—how I as a husband. Now the second husband. I wore my widow's weeds the conventional period, though several of the conventional period the conven conventional period, though several of business, I should think.' The idea AMEX and Tempteton. the most agreeable men were attentive had the effect to sober him. 'What TICULARS to me, but I shut my eyes. I managed did she want you to do, lovey f to prevent them from proposing, for I 'Well-it was dreadful!'

The dressmaker groaned. 'Oh, how could you? I am sure cheek of his poor wife, who quite broke such a husband must be beautiful.' down under this unwonted tenderness, 'That is true, Mrs. Fittem—and he and threw herself into his arms. thought me beautiful. But you must I will never do it, duckey, never. understand he was a model man, and he I am sure of it, I can trust you. did his best to make me a model wo- You are not lit to be a poor lone widow. man-but it was not in me. We women You need the protecting arm of some are naturally preverse, and apt to think husband. our way as good as a man s way.' Mrs. Fittem drew herself up a bit at

'So it is, only a good deal better,' this; there was rebellion in her look.

muttered the other. 'I don't know about that. I am apt to think a man is wiser about many things than we are; but, any way, marupon the lake," and at the same time ried people will quarrel as a rule, your poor, devoted—' was of a different kind. He was bright, responded Mrs. Fittem, 'seeing this is dashing, high-spirited and witty. He

foot in the mud—can't be bettered, had a fine taste for music. He had a mean opinion of women in general, and you won't do it.' The widow eyed herself sharply, loving me. He declared he would be was sometimes furious at himself for turning from side to side, and smiling loving me. He declared no master in spite of me, which was quite 'Yes, that will do, Mrs. Fittem; but unnecessary, for I rather liked to have I am sure you don't treat your husband a master as saving trouble and responsibility. I hate disputes and fuss of mirth. any kind, and let matters slide in the

'I should think you might be a little lazy,' refurned ner auditor. 'Is that the name for it? Well, per haps I am. He would get into a fury about his buttons, and because a door creaked, or the coffee was poor, and take the risk.' The lady reddened, but she gave a storm about the house, and slam doors short laugh, also, as she answered in a and kick over chairs, at which I only way and manner to hide the sting under and kick over clinics, said, 'Softly, softly, dear,' which only

made him worse.' 'I believe you,' said the dressmaker 'He even called me a devil once, in a sort of tender fit, and quoted Shake-

" 'Perdition catch my soul, but I do love thee 'He said I would sit perfectly calm on a husband's coffin while he smotherabide the breath. A woman ought to ed beneath, for what is a woman to do, but be quiet, while a big, strong man is 'It seems so strange. Widowhood raging about nothing. In one of these brain, and an autopsy showed a disease of the head, which was pitiful to think

'I wonder he hadn't killed you,' was the response of Mrs. Fittem. 'My third husband was all senti and plump and pretty as ever! Upon ment and called me pet names, that my word, ma'am, I don't see how you | would have delighted Fanny Osgood, the poet. I took them all patiently. 'Patiently!' cried her hearer. "It

'Yes, when he called me pet, I had an excuse for being girlish, if birdie, I 'Yes, indeed; I have found it work might thrill my notes; queeny might be admirably with three husbands, and cold and proud, so he had it all his own doubt not it will work just as well with way. But your sentimental man wants a good deal of sentiment in return; Bless my heart !' exclaimed the must be indulged and coddled, and sees dressmaker, dropping the cord she was everything in a sweet Arcadian light; covering to put the flounce on with, wants his wife to dress in out-of-the-

"Give me a form, give me a face, That lends simplicity a grace. Robes loosely flowing, hair as free; Such sweet neglect more taketh me Than all the adulteries of art, That take mine eye but not my heart." 'I went about mindless of the cestus of Venus, and had an excuse for show 'It isn't much, Mrs. Fittem, and yet | ing my beautiful hair, and dawdled

'Y-e-s,' and the widow tapped a 'Quite the contrary'; they lingered anall boot upon the carpet musingly. 'It seems to me that your second husband understood you better than the others,' remarked the dressmaker.

husband wept at the memory of the three.

Mrs. Fittem.'

SUPERORITY AWARDED 'You have not told me your secret.'

'Do you not guess it?' 'It seems to me that you let them

have their own way.' 'To be sure I did. It is fatal to man thought about it-but, Mrs. Fittem, or to woman always to have their own first and last I have cried a great deal.' way. A little contention is the pass-'Perhaps you had a reason unknown port of love. Nothing is more fatal

dreadfully to know how you managed it.' 'And you married three men and in The widow reddened. 'Perhaps I am naturally of that kind,

'My first husband you must know, 'I would manage 'But how, ma'am? how?' 'I would manage just the same.' was well-to-do, but not rich. He was 'But how, ma and now 'Well, well,' muttered the widow 'Well, well,' muttered the widow what is called a model man. We went to church every Sunday, and dropped twenty-five cents each into the contributions and make annotations on them.'

he liked to see women industrious, and Dear Mrs. Fittem, you are an ad-I was industrious. We went to lectures, and no r and then to a social party—always at hous and had at ten with the mud; but you don't know how to

esire. I wished he had.'

'You wicked woman!' ejaculated the

'Sine's a devit—that's what she is, and

dressmaker. 'You didn't know when that's the way she has made herself I have selected a quantity of good

rather liked my freedom, and somehow Well, well, what was it ! I'll have three excellent men, who had known a warrant out and arrest her; I'll have my excellent husband, were not to my her shown up for what she is -the she mind. I am afraid I hated good men.' Harry Tudor—the she Blue Beard that she is,' and he went so far as to kiss the

'Yes, she told me her secret,' she 'What was it, lovey ? I am sure you would not hurt a hair of the head of

Here he broke down from some cause because each is bent upon his own way.

Now I never disputed a husband— or other, and staggered to one side. never, never opposed him. But, as I James, and how you spent my earnings. and how I get out of all patience and sometimes well nigh hate you.' This

> 'Never-you would not live a month. 'Do tell-do tell what it was.' 'She told me to let you have your own way-think of that!'

'That wasn't so bad, lovey.'
'Not so bad! why, you would drink yourself to death in a month or less, if I let you have your own way.' 'Oh, no; I would be cautious for your dear sake, so unfit to be a widow.

And she did-she followed the widow's advice. Under the circumstances, the reader can easily divine why Mrs. Fittem became a widow.

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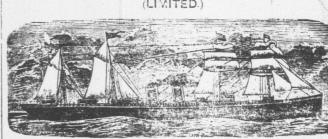
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