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LAW AND THE LADY By MARTHA

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**************** "Whut ails Billy Epperson? Looks like he's a-laughin' all over, from his hat crown to the sole of his boots.' one asked another on the streets of the county town. It was court day, and five hundred odd horse trades had been made in the public square since 9 o'clock. Squire Ricks, king of the traders, stood a little at one side.

traders, stood a little at one side.

Billy crept upon the squire with a crafty yet sheepish grin. "Don't know as you mightn't find yerself perusin' round the crossroads 'long erbout this time termorrow?" he said interrogatively. The squire pretended not to hear. Billy had spoken in a loud, sibilant whisper. In the same key he went on, "Twould be wuth some little more"n the law allows and that's a more'n the law allows, and that's a matter o' r'isin' \$2, ef any squire in



WHY DON'T YOU ASK WHO'S GOT MR?

EVERY SATURDAY good standin' did happen round thar then, with a license ter marry folks snug in his pocket." to purchase horses. The highest cash

snug in his pocket."
"Hey, there! You, Billy! Who's goin' ter run off with you?" the squire
demanded, his eyes twinkling. Billy's bashfulness was a proverb all through the countryside. The squire was amazed to see him turn beet color and put up imploring hands, whispering louder than ever, "Lordy, squire, will you be shore ter tell her I never took and told you?"

"I'll give you ten ter tell me who she is," the squire retorted, chuckling. "I'll even make it a yoke o' young steers, Billy; got 'em in a trade terday and hain't got no other earthly use fer

"That's temptin', but she's done swere me not ter tell," Billy returned, mopping his face. Then, after a glance over himself, he giggled and asked:
"Ain't these clothes pretty noisy, squire? I told the clerk up at Free-way's ter gimme the loudest."
"Why, what fer?" the squire asked,

letting his bewildered eyes run over a green and red cross barred suit, pink' shirt, blue dotted scarf and straw hat banded with red, yellow and black. "Seems ter me you want things on the dead quiet. As it is—well, everybody 'l

think there's a cyclone comin'." "Jest so. And git out o' the way fer it," Billy retorted, chuckling more than ever. "Thar's bound ter be some ever. "Thar's bound ter be some stompin' and whoopin' and roarin' and chargin', in short, and I wanted a suit that would harden me ter anything. Ef you think these is rale tarrifyin', I'm as proud as a June bug that has

jest cut wings."
They had been standing apart. The crowd surged up around them, sending Billy off as fast as his long legs could carry him. Looking after him, the squire whistled, saying in the privacy of his beard, "Son, I'll be on hand all right."

. . . . A big spring burst out beside the crossroads, thus helping it to mark the intersection of district, state and county lines. Now it is plain why the squire's jurisdiction extended over but one of the four corners. A frog pond innocent of shade took up the most part of his territory, but he stuck to it gallantly until he saw a cloud of dust, visible a mile away, resolve itself into a light buggy drawn by a span of

a light buggy drawn by a span of panting horses,
Opposite the state boundary post the buggy stopped short. Instantly the squire gave a shout: "You, Billy, drive on down in the pond! I won't be shore o' my authority until you're where the water's belly deep ter your horses."
"Hush-sh!" a voice from the buggy said—Billy's voice, smothered and sepulchral. "Sh-sh-sh! Cain't you understand, squire, I ain't doin' none o' this?"
"Then who in thunder—oh, I see!"

this?"

"Then who in thunder—oh, I see!"
the squire said, with a long whistle.
The buggy was moving obedient to his
orders. Thus he saw inside its hooded
depths. Billy sat there, glorious in his
noisy new raiment, the pattern of fettered bliss. He was bureheaded and
had one hand tied fast by an embroidered handkerchief to a rib in the bugsty top. The other was handcured
with a silk bandanna to the wrist of a
very pretty girl, who sat beside him,

reins in hand, her cheeks twin damask reins in hand, her cheeks twin damask roses, her eyes dancing with mischief.

"Who have you got there?" the squire demanded, restrained from explosive laughter by the elfin innocence of the girl's face. Billy groaned.

"Why don't you ask who's got me?" he said. "I'm jest a-dyin' ter tell you her name's Anne Blajr, and—and she wants you ter marry me ter her 'fore

wants you ter marry me ter her 'fore ever her pappy can ketch her." "And be quick! Thar's pap, a-whoop-

in' now-up at top o' the red hill,"
Anne supplemented. The squire fished
out the license, scribbled furiously for ten seconds, cleared his throat and went through the marriage ceremony without drawing breath. There was need of haste—the whoops came louder, shriller, more savage. At the "pronounce you man and wife" Billy let out a whoop on his own account.

"You'll b'ar witness—I was ketched and tied—won't you, squire?" he asked joyously, snatching himself loose and tumbling out of the buggy to hug his

bride.

Somewhat mystified, the squire scowled hard at Billy. "I always liked your bashfulness, young man," he said severely, "but this is carryin' it a little too far. No gentleman ever permits it to be said that his bride marries him whether or no." whether or no."
"Lord knows I was willin' and anx-

ious," Billy protested. "But you see the ole man hated the looks o' me." "Shut up! Thar he comes!" Anne said half tremulously. With a great rush and roar old man Blair and three more hard riders swooped down upon them. The old man made to seize Anne and swing her up before him. Billy stood valiantly forward, caught the swooping arm and said sturdily: "Too late, Mr. Blair! I cain't spar' my wife not even ter you."

"Wife! Ef you've dared ter marry my girl, I'll send you ter the penitentiary fer abduction. It's twenty years, ain't it, squire, fer runnin' off with a girl under eighteen?" the furious father de-

A great light dawned on the squire. He nodded emphatically, but said, with a dry laugh: "That's the law, but ef I was you, Joe Blair, I wouldn't try ter make out a case. Billy Epperson is o' full age—free, white and twenty-one. Nobody cain't be teched fer runnin' away with him, and I'm bound ter swear, ef you put me on the stand, that he's the one abducted. Better shake hands all round and come on ter my house. I'm bound ter give an infare fer the prettiest and the grittiest little gal in the county."

The Problem Solved.

When the man with the penchant for mathematics boarded a Twenty-third street cross town car, he was inclined to be controversial. He had something on his mind, and he wanted to unburden himself.

"If a man is on a car going north or south and he strikes a sudden curve going east or west, which way does he go?" he asked.

The men on the back platform to

whom the question was addressed didn't want to commit themselves. One little dried up man who had charge of a laundry basket full of clothes sug-gested that the passenger would go northeast er southwest. "That's because you don't know any-

thing about tangents," interrupted the mathematician. "Now, if a man is on a car going east or west and he strikes

Just then the cross town car gave a sudden jerk and swept out of the tracks of the Lexington avenue line near Broadway. The mathematical man bumped against the conductor, carom-ed off the rear railing and landed in the basket of clothes. When he was assisted to his feet, he said with the air of a man who suffered to make a

discovery for science:
"I guess I was wrong. He hits all

No Gentleman Is Impolite It is a good thing to remember in these days of hurry and bustle, of competition and business excitement, that politeness, which costs nothing, may often result in substantial benefits. It never pays to be rude, no matter whether the rudeness is to a man of whether the rudeness is to a man or influence or to a pauper. In the one case the rudeness may be followed by unpleasant material consequences; in the other one must feel a loss of self respect, and self respect is a valuable

There are plenty of opportunities for politeness in this whirling city of affairs. In the street car, at the theater, in crowded office buildings, in the streets themselves, you demonstrate several times a day whether you are a gentleman or a boor. And it is quite beside the mark to say that one has no time to bow and scrape to do this little thing and that little thing. One always has time or ought always to have time for at least a pleasant look, a kindly word, a friendly action. No gentleman ever forgets his good manners.-New York Press.

The Genesis of the Cravat Cravats date from the incursion of the Croats into French territory during the Thirty Years' war. The French termed these invaders "Ora-vates," and a freak of fashion made their somewhat clumsy neck gear popular about 1636.

popular about 1636.

The fancy must have spread very rapidly, for we find lace cravats with broad ends hanging in front replacing the wide collars of the cavaliers during the earlier stages of the civil war in England. Charles II. made white cravats a part of the uniform of his Life and Dragoon guards.

The palmy period of the cravat was early in the eighteenth century, when these articles were made of the very finest lace and were se expensive that even the richest of fashionable young men could not afford to have more than two of them in their wardrobes.

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