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as Miss Foljambe herself. The table arrived in due course, and the next morning that lady sent for Bruce, who, presenting himself without delay, was shown into presence of the table and Miss Foljambe.

Bruce was a manly-looking fellow of thirty years old or thereabouts, and his eccentric employer had more than once wished to suddenly petrify or bronzify him, as an addition to her collection, but had never mentioned the idea to him-a somewhat singular reticence considering that frankness a l'outrance was one of Miss Foljambe's most noted eccentricities.

Upon the present occasion she said: "Mr. Bruce, you see this table. I want a new baize put upon the top, and the carvings cleansed and oiled. Some of the inlaid work is starting out, and

this leg is splitting off."

"A good shake would send the whole thing into pieces," said Bruce, medi-"Then don't shake it," replied Miss

Foljambe, with some asperity.

whatever you can to strengthen it, but nothing to alter it. Bruce nodded and pursed up his lips, as if he would like to whistle, as he stooped to take a reverse view of the

frame of the table. "I wish you to work here, if you please. I dare not trust it to be moved a great deal."

"It wouldn't be very safe before it is

fixed, without I brought a boy to hold on to each leg all the way to the shop," said Bruce, gravely.

"Very well," briefly replied Miss Foljambe, quick at detecting any slight

upon her new treasure.
"Have you your tools with you?"

"Yes, ma'am." "Bring them up, then, and go about it. I will send to your shop for some baize to recover the top. I suppose

you have it?"
"Yes, ma'am;" and Bruce, thrusting the blade of a thin knife beneath the old baize, began to tear it off. Miss Foljambe stopped him to give directions for the new cover, and went to send a man after it—persons with several fortunes at their command seldom like to wait for what they wish to have. When she came back the cover was off, and the top of the table also. Miss

Foljambe screamed.

"Why, Bruce! Is it broken?"

"No, ma'am. I took off the top so as to get at the frame inside better.

There's no harm done yet."

"I am glad of that." And Miss Folgambe scretch bereif to make here. jambe seated herself to watch Bruce, who was minutely examining the top

of the table, which he had placed across two chairs. "There's a drawer," said he, presently, looking up with rather an ex-

cited face. "A drawer" Where, pray?" asked Miss Foljambe, staring at the two boards hinged together into which the

table-top was now resolved

'In the thickness of the board. I don't see how to get it open, but I can see the end of it. I suppose there is a spring somewhere. Oh, here it is!"

And as Bruce pressed his finger upon the under side of the board a little click was heard, and he carefully drew

out a small drawer, perhaps half an inch in depth, and six or seven inches in length and width.

"Just room to hide a few cards, and know where to get them again," said the cabinet-maker, with a shrewd

"But those are not cards," said Miss Foljambe, extending her hand for the little packet Bruce was curiously turn-

ing over and over.
"No: they seem to be papers. Some one hid them, and now, most likely, the hider is hid underground," replied Bruce, examining the mechanism of the drawer, and paying very little attention to the papers, which Miss Fol-

jambe was eagerly examining.

Presently she got up and left the room without a word. Bruce went on with his work very contentedly, for now he might whistle to his heart's content, and did so.

Winifred, meantime, went to shut herself up in a little den called her dressing-room, probably because she did everything but dress there. At present she wished to consider, undisturbed and unwatched, the significance

of her discovery.

The packet, tied with a faded bit of red tape- for even red tape decays !

with time-consisted of two papers. and a miniature upon ivory representing a very handsome young woman, rather in the Amazonian style; but the picture bore no name, date, or other inscription, and if it had a story could not tell it.

The papers consisted of a certificate of marriage between Jonas Bascombe and Fanny Bellows, dated two-and-thirty years back, and a will carefully drawn and formally executed, by which Jonas Bascombe, in the same year, bequeathed his entire property of every description to Fanny, his beloved wife, and after her to her children by him, or, failing issue to their marriage, to her unconditionally. This will, duly signed and sealed, was witnessed by one Philip Waters and Betsey Andrews, neither of whom, to judge by their cramped and illegible autographs, were so much in the habit of penmanship as of handicraft.

Miss Foljambe read the whole of these documents with the most precise attention, took another good look at the handsome young woman, who might or might not have been Fanny Bascombe nee Bellows, and, then laying them all upon her lap, leaned back in the old brocade easy-chair, put her foot upon the castellated fender-both relics of Reubens-and applied herself to thought.

They must have been hidden from Fanny as well as the rest of the world, for no woman would be so careless of her marriage certificate as to sell it in an old table without remembering it. And the will? Miss Foljambe pursued and captured a floating idea that a will to be good for anything had to be proved, and after that was kept somewhere, not in the secret drawer of a card-table at any rate.

Yes, Jonas was clearly a crafty old fellow who chose to keep the reins in his own hands, and even while bequeathing his entire property to his handsome young wife concealed the instrument by which he did so, and very likely never informed her of its existence. The marriage certificate had been hidden also, as a choice rod in pickle, should Fanny prove unruly— perhaps even Jonas had denied the marriage, or at any rate kept it private. But if he had died without revealing his secret, what then? How had Fanny managed to prove her marriage and how had she secured her inheritance? Miss Foljambe wove romances innumerable, and imagined as many terminations to the whole affair as there were days in the year, but yet without coming within a hundred miles of the true one. At last she started up and clap-ped her hands together. "I have it! Varens!" exclaimed she,

and rushing to her secretary wrote a peremptory note summoning Varens to attend her at the earliest possible moment.

This proved to be late in the evening, and Varens himself proved to be a little, dry, withered old man, with eager gray eyes, thin lips shutting upon each other like the lips of a steel trap, and more wrinkles upon his face

than hairs upon his head. Varens called himself a lawyer, but if he had made it police detective, unattached he would have come nearer the mark. Miss Foljambe had employed him upon a former occasion to ferret out the whereabouts of a missing husband, who, when found and brought home to his weeping and lovable wife, revenged himself by knocking her down and kicking her; but then that was no fault of Varens or Miss Foljambe, and only resulted in the latter's employing the former at a round price to get the disappointing husband shut up in the penitentiary for five years a convenient device by which the wife was protected, and the husband re-

tained within easy reach should she desire to visit him.

"Ah, good-evening, Mr. Varens!" exclaimed Miss Foljambe, as the lawyer entered her presence in the stealthy and apologetic manner peculiar to him. You are the very person I most wish

Varens rubbed his dry hands together, with a little crackling noise as if they had been covered with parch-

ment, and smiled discreetly.

"A great many persons would be glad to have Miss Foljambe give them that assurance." said he.

"A great many persons are not as

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