ig to shadow eam?" Conere sweetly berts, would offering me a you say?"

pril, 1912.

lightly, then reshold lookd face which his intrusion. witnesses," Mrs. Roberts sked me to that you had

ou, dearie." instantly to ed out from was wonder-

nce declared, doesn't half ay I take it

their white slim white ith pins and every detail n which was work. She t her throat and saw the ess.

d diffidently. ed so maniit she gained look of unes and went

everything He was a e was never

Constance

it foolish t married?" imorously. e, evenly as

n a shining nt to happithat we are rth." The elf versed in bled human d confidence said, the

he couldn't meant well hums. He t the day's m bout the aughed and h nonsense. by the fire but I never he went to , the years

oroken only s mate and en Hester

hum either. per and she he house so eck of dust red about joined her

the air was tterings. ringlet inof roses in t, then she each faded

d bride-like like a shy d the door

e said gent-

entle, loverly forward Constance she listened tones the e away. Inshe seemed alked gray, g, long day.

the mists

transfigured

fect sunset. imrose path

Which now enabled them to clasp hands so trustingly? Would it permeate the domestic atmosphere of the home where Burke was master-or Albert? As the trembling voices spoke softly "till death us do part"—her curved lips straightened into a resolve. Rather absent-mindedly she uttered her words

straight into the glory of crimson and

With a start Constance came back to

realities. She looked speculatively at the couple standing before the altar.

What was the elusive element which

each had missed for forty empty years?

of congratulation and went down the parsonage steps. All that afternoon her | your remarks." face wore what Dicky termed its "scheming smile." There was a mischievous light in her eyes as she danced into Aunt Margaret's room that night, "not a word to a soul."

the goods will cost

you at your nearest

railway station.

The

Robert C

wearing a bewitchingly frilly kimona,

her brown hair rippling to her knees. "I learned things this afternoon," she declared. "I have a scheme for testing those two precious men. I am going to use your tinware for test tubes; put their characters therein, add a few choice precipitants—and you're going to help," she added, throwing both of her bare, dimpled arms about her aunt's plump shoulders.

"Mercy! Child," returned Aunt Margaret, "I'll do anything in reason. I've always spoiled you. Come and sit on this stool and tell me all about it. Try to get a glimmer of intelligence into

The two plotted for an hour. "Mind. now, Auntie," warned Contance as she kissed the older woman good-night,

Aunt Margaret assented laughingly and pushed her gently from the room.

"Get your beauty sleep, child," she warned, "or they will both withdraw and you'll have no one left in the lists

but our chore boy, Hezekiah. Three days passed uneventfully. 'On the fourth Constance drove up to the door with a handsome young man in irreproachable tweeds whom she introduc-

"Mr. Pearson. A rising young lawyer and an excellent tennis champion."

By the end of the week everyone had fallen a victim to Mr. Pearson's charming personality. He complimented Ann so skillfully that she excelled herself in the preparation of delectable country dainties. He captivated Aunt Mar-garet's heart by shouldering some of her responsibilities. He taught the young

men's class in Sunday school, and won Mr. Robert's eulogy of "an excellent and worthy young man." He played tennis with Constance, kept her supplied with her favorite magazines, took her for long rows on the river, and for drives through the shady country roads. That night he urged his suit out on the restful porch in the soft moonlight. The great star-filled sky arched above them. The sighing of the wind mingled with the soft sounds of the summer night in a silver melody. Albert's voice was tender with pleading and Constance almost yielded. The memories of Burke Wilson and of that hour in the parsonage came to her and she steeled her

Next morning Aunt Margaret was ill in her room. The maid had left and company was expected for tea.

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