much for her. She was afratl some one would address some remark to her which she felt too confused to answer, so she hurried away to re-
gain her self possession. Her quick woman's perception told her the whole story at once; and although she would not confess it even to herself, she felt that Paul had done all this to ing at the same time, and ended by dolng neither, but coming back agaln to the drawingroom looking as grave as a judge.
mond left the house return to the room Ray to allow herself the; and she was careful not the party in bidding him adieu; as something to her on a subject of which she had no with to hear anything from his lips.

## III.

## the race.

The next morning dawned brightly, and Paul, Who had retired early the night before, was up breakfast, he atrolled down to the boat house to see that his boat was all right. Finding everything in order lie returned to the inn, where he He had not aat long when he hearda familiar and in another minute Ralph Sedgeworth burst into his room.
"Oh you old deceiver," cried Ralph, as he
shook his friend's hand warmly. "I know all about it. You're a nice friend to keep this secret from me tor a whole year. Now you need'nt Whole thing; and all I say is to go in and win, there's a straight course open for you in both cases. "I dou't understand you $q$ "! said Paul, whose looks belied his words, for he had coloured up
to his temples.
" You dou't you're as re feises it all; now tell me my boy, is'nt love at the bottom of the whole thing? I saw it when You came down last year, and was sadiy disappointed when you left so hurriedly; but I tell you you have a clear course and ber brother's choose for a brother-in-law, and by Jove you'll be one, if you only mind your P's and Q's.
Paul said nothing, but pressed his friend's hand warmly, those cheering words seemed to give him hope and he determined to win the Ralph was bent upon
Ralph was bent upon having Paul return with the race; but Paul cou d not be induced. The morning passed very slowly to Paul, who though trying to appear calm, was nevertheless Two o'clock
Two o'clock came at last; the hour at which the regatta was to commence.
Kalph and Eva, with their father and Rayed their little craft beside the judge's yacht. The races soon commeneed, and Ralph began ho look round for his friend, expecting to see him come up to watch the race with them, event of the day was to take place last.
Paul however did not make his appearance. Though Eva generally took great interest in all The :utes, that day she saw very little of them.
She seemed more interested in watching the laces in the crowd who gathered to see the sport. Though she would not have acknowthing, and that sometbing was the non-appearance of Paul. Her brother noticed her abstrac. lion, and guessed pretty correctly the cause, but said nothing, being rather pleased that she
should show so evidently that Paul was of some should show so
interest to her.
During the first part of the regatta Paul had ble up the shore some distance, not being he olber races were going on; but as the hour approached for his race, he hurried down to his bat house and got himself ready for the struggle.
The race was called, and yery soon the conRaymond up to the scratch
tained Eva and her brother, with a smile of conidence on his face as he waved his hand to them, when there 'was a sudden movement near some of the bouls that haed the course track. He was ands outrigger shot into the trength; was a porfoct it rowe foll with ach stroke, being perfectly discernable through he thin white guernsey, which fitted over his ody like a glove. On his head be wore a blue ed with as he passed up the line be was greetand 't there's expressions as "go it stranger," certuinly did look a safe man to back. As he passed the boat where the brother and sister were sitting, Ralph called out to him and be looked up. His eyes met those of Eva, which Were looking at him with unfelgned admiration. spoke a ped and drew alongside their boat, and Eva a few words to Ralph, then turning to regatta. At that moment the volce of the he had to hurry calling out, "All ready," and look at Eva as he pulled away, and was rewarded by a smile that went to his breast so that he hardly knew what he was dolug, but got into his place mechanically.
oars st tring shot was fired, and four pairs of Raymond's boat at once shooting ahead of the rest. But where was Paul? The sound of the shot woke him from his trance in time to see Raymond's boat shgot past him, and to hear the Jeering tones of his voice, as he called to him,
"Is that stretcher all right?" That wan enough
for him; his arma seemed to tarn into iron and filt an almost flendish strength as wo stret. He down over his toes, and with a long steady stroke shot his boat close after the stern of his
ing
rivais.
Ralph quickly jumped upon the deok of the
judges' yacht from which he could obtain a better view of the race.
The distance to be rowed was three miles, with two turns, the course being a nille and a the centre of the course, so that the boals had to row down three quarters of a mile, turn the buoy, and return past the starting point, ap buny and return to the scratch.
Raymond quickly drew away from all the
compelitors with the exception of Panl ; and competitors with the exception of Paul; and
when the first buoy was reached they occupled when the first buoy was reached they occupled
the same relative positions which they held at the same relative posicions which they held a out of the race even at this earigg virtually they came down towards the starting point Paul put on a spurt, and began to close upon his rival, who seelng Paul's effort also Increaced his speed. Down they came, every muscle
strained, at a terrific pace; each straining to his utmost to pass the judges' yacht frrat.
The excitement was intense now, and as they came tearing through the line of boats, chee they passed the yacht it would have been dim cult to say which boat was ahead.
Paul's eyes involuntarily glauced towards the boat in which Eva sat, his glance met her's for an instant and he was away, but that one glance gave him strength ; he saw that her eyes were
riveted on him with an anxious look that told him he was the with an anxious look that tol Ralph slood on the deck looking through glass as the boats receded further and further away. "By Jove, Raymond's turning first,"
cried Ralph in a disappolnted tone. Eva said cried Ralph in a disappointed tone. Era said
nothing, but her beart gave a big throb that nothing, but her be
almost choked her.
On they came and a thousand eager eyes were strained up the glttering course, and a thousand speculations were hazarded as to who was ahead; and yet not one of the owners of any one of those palt of eyes felt one half the inter-
est in the result of the race, as did the owner of est in the result of the race, as did the owner of a certain pair of large soft blue eyes that never upon a very pretty shoe in the toe of which the fair owner seemed bound to wear a hole with her parasol handlo.
"Here they come, look Eva," cried Ralph, "ing the ghost if Pari, gou old, Pail is drawing ahead, go it Paul, you old cripple," he re

Eva did look now; g
of her shoe a chance fivg the unfortunate toe Yes, there they came and Paul was actually ahead. Oh I how her heart did beat, as she naw those drippling oars hash in the sunbeams. After turn.ng the last buoy, Paul again pulled last quarter of a mile, they had rowed neck and neck as it were. Here Paul made a final effort and his herculean atrength more than his science stood him in good stead. When within a hundred yards of the winning line he felt one of his oars crack, the never relaxed his stroke a dealh kis bost's noee touched the line he gave ond last vigourous stroke, the strained oar could
hold no loager, it saapped off, and over weat the victorious oarsman, boat and all, but still a length ahead!
As the one oar broke, the force with which the other was pulled, turned the boat into the
course taken by Raymond's boat. There was a scream from the boat in which Eva sat, but it came too late to stop the sharp bow of Ray. mond's outrigger from dolng its work; and Paul sank back senseless in the water, while
the blood from a great gash in his forehead dyed the rippling wares. Ralph's boat was alongside his riondickly ligted into it by strong and willing arms.
Mr. Sedgeworth. called to Eva to leave the boat, but she did not heed him ; and when they laid Paul down, she sat pale but rewolute, with bis head reBliog on her kee, while trom her beek silk scarf, whioh she had torn from her
Hgainst the wound to stop the fow of blood.
The boat house was soon reached and Paul's apparently lifeless form conveyed into it, while medical assistance was at once sent for. Ralph
would allow no one into the boat house but Eva ; who still renuained at her post, endeavouring to staunch the wound, while Mr. Sedgeworth went off to prepare the carriage to tate Panit
with them, should the doctor allow it. The people crowded round the door of the boat house, making kind inquiries after the stranger, whose sad acoident, in the moment of
Wendered him a sorl or hero to them. While Eva bent over Pani, smoothing back oyes for the first time, and naw her gentle anxious eyes looking down into his. She saw his lips move and bending low she canght the caught the whigpered word "Eva." Though
but a whisper, that tone conld not be mis-inter preted by her, and for the first time since the cheek.
The doctor soon arrived and dressed the prevent which although a serious cut, would no "Oaks" that evening. The three weeks that Paul remained at the Oaks, passed all too quickfor him, but belore he retarned home there ras an understanchem both happy
Ralph had told his father the
bis friend's love; and although Mr. Sedgeworth grumbled a litue, as any fond father does, at the prospect of losing his pel, yet be made up his mind to lose her with a good gra
father-in-law had to do before him.

When Panl came down to the Oaks after the fuir Eva college course, to ask the hand of somewhat of an oar in his day, had been hand in hia, and with a tiriskle took Paul's his eye, said. "Yes, take ber my boy, take her and make her happy, she's the best prize that was ever won by a lenglh.
THE END.

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