11-11-52-119.

CANADA BOILER WORKS,

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much for her. She was afraid some one would address some remark to her which she felt too confused to answer, so she hurried away to regain 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 win her favour. She felt like smiling and weeping at the same time, and ended by doing neither, but coming back again to the drawing-

room looking as grave as a judge. Shortly after Eva's return to the room Raymond left the house; and she was careful not to allow herself to be separated from the rest of the party in bidding him adieu; as something seemed to tell her that he would have spoken to her on a subject of which she had no wish 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 with the lark. After partaking of a hearty breakfast, he strolled down to the boat house to see that his boat was all right. Finding everything in order he returned to the inn, where he sat down to wait patiently the coming event.

He had not sat long when he hear is familiar voice downstairs inquiring for Mr. Wyndham ; 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 for a whole year. Now you need'nt commence to explain, for I see through the whole thing; and all I say is to go in and win, there's a straight course open for you in both Cases

"I don't understand you ?" said Paul, whose looks belied his words, for he had coloured up to his temples.

You don't, don't you? why you old sinner You're as red as a peony now, your face con-fesses 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 sadly disappointed when you left so hurriedly; but I tell you you have a clear course and her brother's best wishes; you're the only man I would 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 race cost what it might.

Ralph was bent upon having Paul return with him to the Oaks, and accompany the party to the race; but Paul cou d not be induced.

The morning passed very slowly to Paul, who though trying to appear calm, was nevertheless Very nervous

Two o'clock came at last; the hour at which

the regatia was to commence. Halph and Eva, with their father and Ray mond had rowed over to the course, and anchored their little craft beside the judge's yacht. The races soon commenced, and Ralph began to look round for his friend, expecting to see him come up to watch the race with them, until his race was called, which being the grand 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 races, that day she saw very little of them. She seemed more interested in watching the faces in the crowd who gathered to see the sport. Though she would not have acknow-ledged it, she was evidently anxious about something, and that something was the non-appear-ance of Paul. Her brother noticed her abstraction, and guessed pretty correctly the cause, but said nothing, being rather pleased that she should show so evidently that Paul was of some interest to her.

During the first part of the regatta Paul had strolled up the shore some distance, not being able to stand the excitement of waiting while the other races were going on; but as the hour approached for his race, he hurried down to his boat house and got himself ready for the struggle.

The race was called, and very soon the contestants came up to the scratch.

Raymond had just passed the boat which contained Eva and her brother, with a smile of confidence on his face as he waved his hand to them, when there was a sudden movement among some of the boats that lined the course bear theirs, and Paul's outrigger shot into the track. He was a perfect picture of manly strength; every muscle, as it rose and fell with each stroke, being perfectly discernable through the thin white guernsey, which fitted over his body like a glove. On his head he wore a blue cap, and as he passed up the line he was greet. ed with such expressions as "go it stranger," and "there's the man for my money." And he certainly did look a safe man to back. As he passed the boat where the brother and sister re sitting, Ralph called out to him and he looked up. His eyes met those of Eva, which were looking at him with unfeigned admiration. He stopped and drew alongside their boat, and spoke a few words to Ralph; then turning to Eva he asked her how she had enjoyed the regatta. At that moment the voice of the starter was heard calling out, "All ready," and he had to hurry to his place. He gave one look at Evaas he pulled away, and was reward-ed by a smile that went to his breast so that he hardly knew what he was doing, but got into his place mechanically.

The staring shot was fired, and four pairs of oars dipped like a flash into the calm water, 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 shoot past him, and to hear the jeering tones of his voice, as he called to him, ,' is that stretcher all right?" That was enough

for him : his arms seemed to turn into iron and his muscles into cords of steel at the words. He felt an almost flendish strength as he stretched down over his toes, and with a long steady stroke shot his boat close after the stern of his rivals.

Ralph quickly jumped upon the deck of the judges' yacht from which he could obtain a bet-ter view of the race. The distance to be rowed was three miles,

with two turns, the course being a mile and a half long. The judges' yacht was situated at the centre of the course, so that the boats had to the centre of the course, so that the boats had to row down three quarters of a mile, turn the buoy, and return past the starting point, up another three quarters of a mile, round another buoy and return to the scratch.

Raymond quickly drew away from all the competitors with the exception of Paul; and competitors with the exception of Faul; and when the first buoy was reached they occupied the same relative positions which they held at starting, the other contestants being virtually out of the race even at this early stage. As they came down towards the starting point, Paul put on a spurt, and began to close upon his rival, who seeing Paul's effort also increased bis speed." Down they came a cover much his speed." Down they came, every muscle strained, at a terrific pace; each straining to his utmost to pass the judges' yacht first.

The excitement was intense now, and as they dame tearing through the line of boats, cheer after cheer followed them on their course. An they passed the yacht it would have been difficult 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 favourite, with her at least.

Ralph stood on the deck looking through a glass as the boats receded further and further away. "By Jove, Raymond's turning first," cried Ralph in a disappointed tone. Eva said nothing, but her heart gave a big throb that almost choked her.

On they came, and a thousand eager eyes were strained up the glittering course, and a thousand speculations were hazarded as to who was ahead; and yet not one of the owners of any ahead; and yet not one of the owners of any one of those pair of eyes felt one half the inter-est in the result of the race, as did the owner of a certain pair of large soft blue eyes that never looked up the course at all; but seemed intent upon a very pretty shoe in the toe of which the fair owner seemed bound to wear a hole with her parasol handle.

"Here they come, look Eva," cried Ralph, "by the ghost of suffering Cæsar, Paul is draw-ing ahead, go it Paul, you old cripple," he re-peated half to himself.

Eva did look now; giving the unfortunate toe of her shoe a chance for a longer existence. Yes, there they came and Paul was actually ahead. Oh how her heart did beat, as he saw those dripping oars flash in the subsams.

After turning the last buoy, Paul again pulled up even with his opponent, and down to the last quarter of a mile, they had rowed neck and neck as it were. Here Paul made a final effort and his herculean strength more than his science stood him in good stead. When within a hun-dred yards of the winning line he felt one of his coars crack, the sound was almost like a death knell, but he never relaxed his stroke; and as his boat's nose touched the line he gave one last vigourous stroke, the strained oar could hold no loager, it snapped off, and over went the victorious carsman, boat and all, butstill 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 doing its work; and Paul sank back senseless in the water, while the blood from a great gash in his forehead dyed the rippling waves. Raiph's boat was alongside his friend in a moment, and Paul's inanimate form quickly lifted into it by strong and willing arms.

Mr. Sedgeworth called to Eva to leave the boat mr. Sedgewith tailed to have the over, but she did not heed him; and when they laid Paul down, she sat pale but resolute, with his head resting on her knee, while she held a blue silk scarf, which she had torn from her neck, against the wound to stop the flow of blood. The boat house was soon reached and Paul's

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 remained at her post, endeavouring to staunch the wound, while Mr. Sedgeworth went off to prepare the carriage to take Paul home 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 accident, in the moment of victory, had while Eva bent over Paul, smoothing back

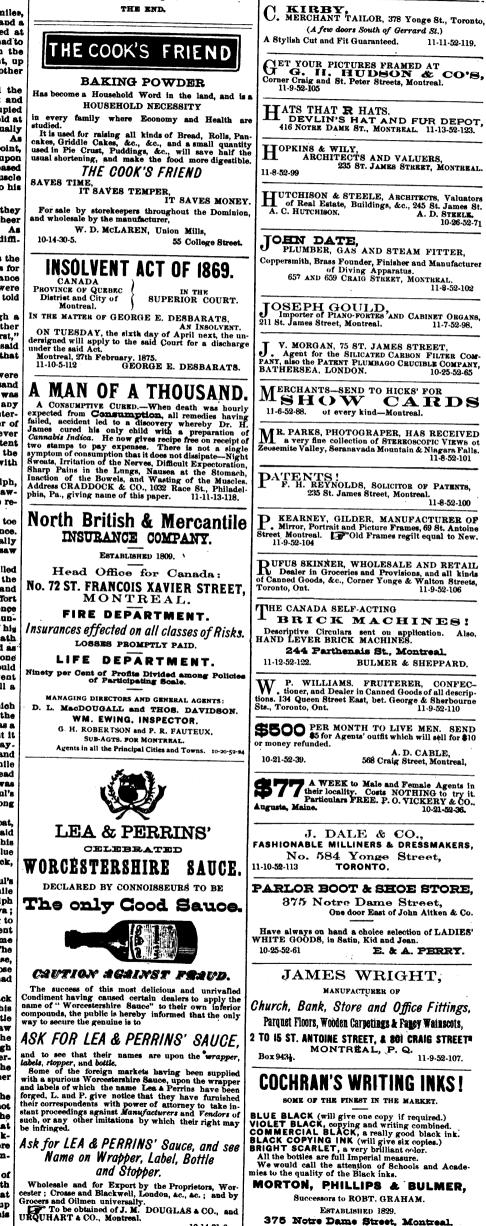
the wet locks from his forehead, he opened his eyes for the first time, and saw her gentle axious eves looking down into his. She his lips move and bending low she caught the caught the whispered word "Eva." Though but a whisper, that tone could not be mis-interpreted by her, and for the first time since the accident, a tinge of colour passed over her cheek.

The doctor soon arrived and dressed the wound, which although a serious cut, would not "Oaks" that evening. The three weeks that Paul remained at the Oaks. passed all too quickly for him, but before he returned home

was an understanding between Eva and him-self which made them both happy. Ralph had told his father the whole story of his friend's love; and although Mr. Sedgeworth grumbled a little, as any fond father does, at the prospect of losing his pel, yet he made up his mind to lose her with a good grace, as his father-in-law had to do before him.

When Paul came down to the Oaks after finishing his college course, to ask the hand of the fair Eva, Mr. Sedgeworth who had been somewhat of an oar in his day, took Paul's band in his, and with a twinkle and a tear in his eye, said. "Yes, take her my boy, take her and make her happy, she's the best prize that was ever won by a length."

THE END.



10.14.31.6

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