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THE QUEEN OF THE SEASON

"You are not willing to take my word for it," he said, good-humoredly. "Well, I cannot boast of being a practical man; but, if I am rightly informed, one of the men employed in putting it here expressed a similar opinion to my own." "That is true," she assented; "but the others pool-pooled the idea, and so do I. Nothing could look better than Hebe where she stands, and so I decline to have her meddled with." "But if, when the rooms vibrate with the dancing, Hebe be shaken from her pedestal?" "Then," retorted Vivien, sarcastically, "Sir Innis Hatherfield will have the unspeakable pleasure of knowing that he was right and I was wrong." "I am not so mean-spirited," he said, "as to exult over such petty victories. It would give me more satisfaction if the sister of my old friend could sometimes rise superior to the very family pleasure of thwarting her advisers." "Advice unsought and offered in a dictatorial tone, will never obtain with me," she cried, haughtily. "Nor do I see why the fact that I am Aymer Esseylyn's sister is adduced as a reason why I should imitate him in all things." "Neither do I," was the slightly hesitating response. "Those qualities we admire in a man do not, always please us in the softer sex; but excuse me, Lady Vivien, we are wandering into subjects on which it is plain that we shall never agree. Let me once more beg of you to let me remove that statue. I grant you that it is a pity to spoil so picturesque an effect as you have produced; but, if I am not at all inclined to have it spoiled," she interrupted, "Jones assured me that the bracket was strong enough, and I do not see why I should doubt him."

Sir Innis bowed, and moved towards the door, intending to seek Lord Esseylyn as soon as he entered the house, and refer the matter to him; but he had scarcely gone half a dozen steps when a faint cry from Lady Vivien was followed by a shrill scream from Cressida, who had been standing beside her, open-mouthed, during the dispute. These exclamations of evident terror made him turn quickly round; but the mischief was already beyond his power to avert. The statue was falling; the bracket, unequal to its weight, had easily given way at one side, and Vivien, regardless of her own danger, was so eager to preserve the graceful Hebe from destruction, that she sprang towards it, and, as soon as she saw that it was tottering over.

The whole affair was but the work of a moment. Cressida flung herself backward, and saved from any injury, except a few bruises on her elbows, which came in contact with a chair; but before Sir Innis could reach the spot or prevent the catastrophe, the statue was on the floor, minus the arms and head, while the Lady Vivien lay underneath it.

"I am not hurt," she protested, as the baronet raised her in his arms and held her there with tender solicitude. "Oh, pray be quiet, Cressy. You'll bring everyone in the house excited; if you scream in that way, and I do so hate a fuss! I tell you I am not hurt!"

But she was frightfully pale, and the handkerchief Sir Innis had pressed to her forehead was rapidly becoming moist. Let us have your handkerchief, mine is already useless. For it into a compress, please. You cannot? But you can touch the bell. Gently—gently! we do not want anyone in the house alarmed, nor Lady Vivien excited by a posse of people rushing in to pity her and tease her with questions. Thank goodness," he muttered, under his breath, "they are nearly all of them gone to their dressing-rooms. Now, my dear Miss Smith, you will meet the servant at the door and tell him to fetch the housekeeper here. Merely say Lady Vivien wishes to speak to her directly."

Impressed by his manner, Cressida overcame her terrors sufficiently to listen to and obey all his directions. Luckily her screams had not penetrated beyond the closed doors of the ante-room, and none of the ladies lounging over

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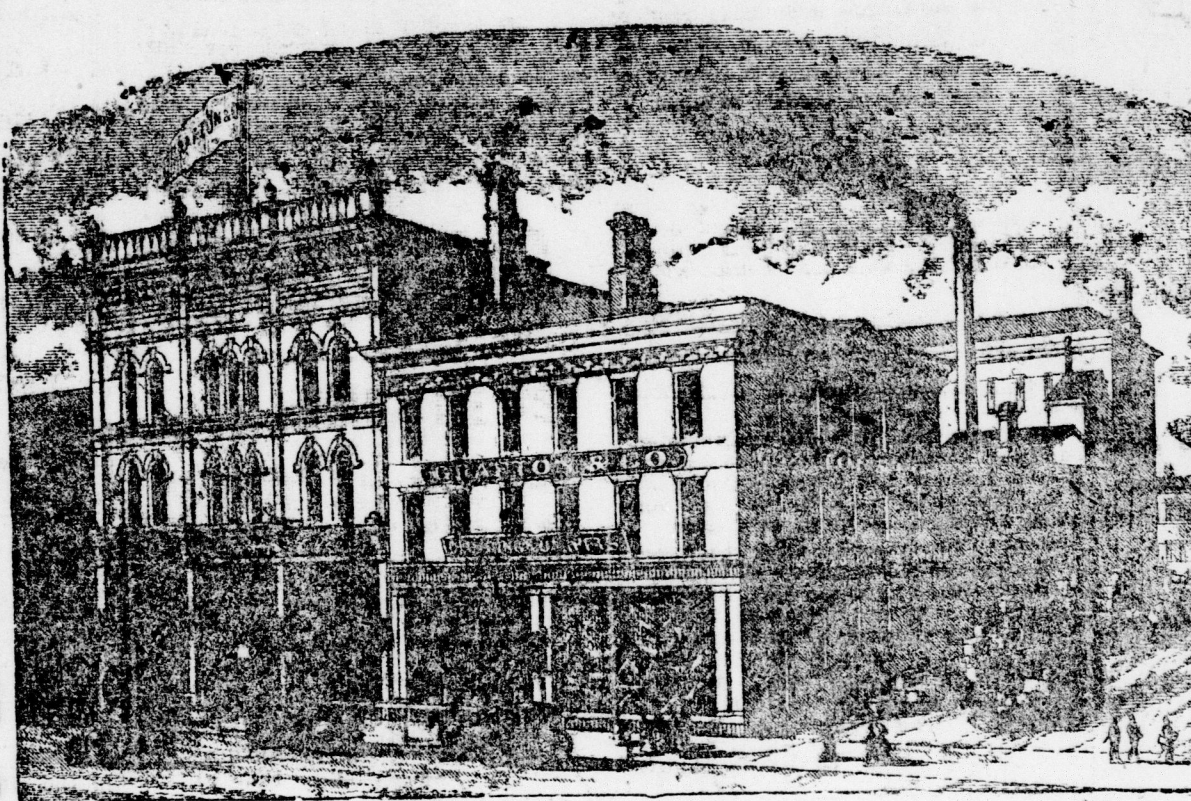
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Very fine Tweed Suits, nothing to equal them for fit and finish....	\$10
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their tea in the countess' boudoir before they began the important task of dressing for the ball, had any conception of what was occurring below. The injured girl was still in the arms of Sir Innis, who had been spared as much as possible—the accident having been concealed from her till the medical man arrived, and was able to assure her friends that Lady Vivien was in no actual danger. She considered herself the principal sufferer by it, and talked accordingly.

[To be Continued.]

three lives for a button

A Texas Man's Joke Results in a Terrible Tragedy.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 2.—Edward Wilson, a young man of prominence in Hughes Springs, Cass county, in a spirit of fun, cut a button off Benjamin Boone's overcoat.

Boone had been drinking, and took offense at Wilson's act. He attempted to assault Wilson.

Constable James Driver and his son, David, and his son-in-law, Marcus O'Neal, attempted to quell the disturbance, and Boone opened fire on them.

Constable Driver and his son were shot dead. O'Neal, in return, shot Boone, who died in less than an hour.

A single lamp of coal weighing over 450 pounds, was recently shipped from the United States to Manchester.

A special derrick had to be rigged to get it from the railroad car into the steamer's hold.

IN THE PILLORY
IN THE SNOW

Offenders Covered With Blankets While Being Punished in New Castle, Del.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 2.—Two men stood in the pillory in the jail yard at Newcastle for one hour yesterday morning. They were placed on the pillory platform, six feet above the ground, at 10 o'clock, in the midst of a driving snowstorm. They were covered with blankets, and mittens were put on their hands. When taken down they were cold and stiff. These two victims were Cato J. H. Pennington, colored, who had been convicted of an attempt to commit a felonious assault upon a white woman, and Joseph H. Russell, who had entered a house with intent to commit robbery. Later Pennington received 30 lashes on his bare back, the cat-o-nine-tails being wielded by Sheriff Flinn. Pennington will also spend ten years in jail.

In quick succession five other men were placed against the post, their wrists being held by clamps on either side. These victims of the law's wrath were William Deaton, who stole some rope, ten lashes; John Foster, who committed robbery, twenty lashes; Alexander Williams, who stole a bicycle, ten lashes; Frank Pryor, who stole a watch, ten lashes; John Callahan, for theft of a bridge, five lashes. Callahan was the only white man whipped.

Snow fell heavily during the entire performance, yet a crowd of men and boys stood in the jail yard for two hours.

WAVING A KISS
HE FELL DEAD

Brooklyn Man Broke His Neck Just as He Was Saying "Good Morning."

Brooklyn, Dec. 2.—The snow was drifted high on the steps of C. O. Nelson's house, No. 1,331 St. Mark's avenue, Brooklyn, when he left home to go to work Sunday morning. Nelson was employed by a lightering company, and it is necessary for him to work on Sunday.

His wife and four children kissed him at the door.

His wife hurried to him and tried to raise him, but he fell back limp and insensible. She spoke to him, but he did not reply. While she stood by the prostrate body a policeman came along. At her request he called the ambulance from St. Mary's Hospital.

The surgeon in charge of it looked at the man lying in the snow-drift. "He's dead," was all he said. Nelson's neck

had been broken. That first step to ward his daily work had been his last in life.

NO MORE COAL AT LAKE PORTS.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 2.—Local coal shippers to the lakes have been notified that no more coal would be received at the lake ports this year. This closes the season and throws several thousand miners out of employment.

One of the strangest industries known is that of the preparation of the skin of the common eel for articles of commerce. The skin, when prepared, closely resembles leather, but is more pliable and gelatinous.

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MONGOLIAN, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.
NUMIDIAN, Dec. 31

PARISIAN, Dec. 21, 1 p.m.
LAURANTIAN, Dec. 21, 1 p.m.

STATE OF NEBRASKA, Dec. 14, 9 a.m.

RATES OF PASSAGE.
First cabin, Derry and Liverpool, \$32 50 and upwards; return, \$70 and upwards. Second cabin, Liverpool, Derry, London, \$34 return. Glasgow, Liverpool, Derry, Belfast, Glasgow, London, everything found, \$22 50.

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MAJESTIC, from New York Dec. 13, at noon, arriving at Queenstown Dec. 19. Liverpool Dec. 20.

CYMRIC, from New York, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.

Saloon rates by this steamer \$50 and upwards. No second cabin. Steerage \$25. Passengers by these steamers will be able to reach any part of Great Britain and Ireland in time for Christmas.

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