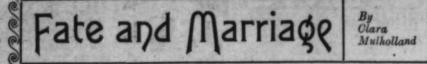
THE CATHOLIC REGISTER, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1903

verse and a contract of the second and the part of the

And he is so good-so affectionate.



She blushed divinely, and laid her away, I could not make him more so. hand in his. "No, John. Though, of And so-"

"But you cannot let it go on-cancourse," with a roguish look. "I not leave him happy in the thought knew you were doing that. But Hugo that you will marry him on his . reand Aunt Miriam and I have made a turn. That would be cruel, Beryl discovery that has filled us with joy needlessly cruel."

and excitement. We have found out, my dearest, that you are our cousin. Gerald, I have treated him badly. Oh, why did you not tell us so long And he is so good so ance to nate. All his thoughts are of me - and long ago?"

I-" Sobs checked her. John pressed the little hand that "Hush, love," he said gently. lay in his, then raising it to his lips, "Things will right themselves. But kissed it softly. "My beloved, there you must be brave, Beryl. I see your were reasons-grave reasons - why I difficulty, and know why you suffer. could not tell you or Hugo of our again?" "No. He wished to come this evrelationship. How have you heard of it now?"

"We found it out by your photo- it. And he seemed hurt," "Then he must suspect that somegraphs. And oh! John, I feel the thing is wrong. Write, Beryl-write easier for all." law is all wrong. You ought to have and tell him; for, oh! my love, I want succeeded your father as Lord Lin- you. To feel that you are mine, and mone only." ton."

"I am that, Gerald. I am that." He looked at her with grave, sad The studio door opened, and Rich-

eves. "There is nothing wrong with ardson, the Lintons' butler, came hurthe law, mine own. And I ought to rying in. His solemn dignity was have succeeded my father as Lord gone. He looked excitedly and an-Linton. I was and am his only son xiously round the room. and heir." "There has been a-a-terrible ac-

She raised her head, and her sweet cident," he said in a voice of horface had a look of bewildered per- ror. "Lord Linton was pitched on his plexity. "But my father says. you head in getting out of a cab, and is, along the corridor to her own room. "Beryl," he cried, looking with for yourself and your children." have no legal right to bear your fath- we fear, dying." er's name.

John's face grew livid. His eves John's face grew livid. His eyes burned, and he felt a perfect fury of he had come there with his sad news. met her eyes. rage rise up in his heart against this "Where is he?" asked Gerald, with insolent villain who had defrauded fading color, terrified lest he should him for so many years of his rights, hear that the injured man was at his was bandaged, his face livid. Round sooner. But as it was, Beryl, I-" and would even now blacken and de-door, and that they wanted to bring his lips was a purple rim, and his "I know; I understand. But I am stroy the fair fame and character of him in. the man whose name and possessions

"He is at home, sir. They brought he had usurped. He clenched his fists, and was about to burst forth into a who had just promised to be his wife. "My darling," he said, calmed at house without delay." John and spirits to go home to dress for dinner. The hansom in which he breaks my heart to think that I have and dearest."

once, "your father is mistaken-like a "I will go with you, Richardson. great many others. I will tell you the But Mr. Fane is not here. He has whole story, and you may judge for been gone some time." yourself." "I am sorry for that. His lordship

To the oft-repeated tale, but heard called loudly for him, then became now by her for the first time, Mar- unconscious, and her ladyship said I garet listened with the most in- was to come here and fetch him." tense interest. "Here is his address. I will go on

But we shall soon put everything Most important." right, John," she said, with quick "So her ladyship said, Sir Peter. decision. "You will soon be in your

I trust I may find him in time." proper place as Lord Linton." "But your father, Margaret? "So do I. Good-bye, Fairfax. This is a sad business. Good-bye." And Hugo?"

"Hugo," smiling brightly, "will be Sir Peter Goldsmid hurried away feet, he handed his fare to the driver she looked at him with indignation. overjoyed. You will love him always, with the solemn-faced butler.

outcasts." "No, no, we have friends-one friend"-her heart gave a great bound

of joy-"who will do everything, give us everything, we require." Her stepmother stared at her. "A

friend!" She laughed scornfully. 'There is not one friend whom I could trust, and you will find that too. Well-to-do people in a good position have friends ready to bow and to smirk and promise anything, but poor folk such as we shall be when

John Fane claims his own-" "Hush! Say no more"-Margaret's face dyed a bright crimson-"of this just now. Let me go to my father. You said he was suffering. He may

want me. Oh, do pray!" as her stepmother barred her passage, "let me pass." "He does not want you," she an-

Are you to see Lord Hampton swered, fiercely. "His one cry was for John Fane.' "John Fane?" Margaret fell back dently well pleased with herself and

ening; but I said no. I could not bear against the baluster with a little her future lord and master." sigh. "Oh! I am glad. If he will but

see, speak to, John, things will be "You are very sanguine. I have to Enid."

small hope. How can we-you and Ibe dependent on a strange man's Sir Henry understand each other betbounty?" "Strange man? Oh!" Margaret's you?"

eyes shone with a sudden light. "You | "Certainly, I think they will be tracted woman. "Her pride will sufdon't know John. I forgot. But I'll happy," and she clasped and unclasp- fer. but, thank God, nothing else. tell you more about him by-and-by. I ed her hands nervously as they lay Then aloud he said: "My dear lady, I must take off my hat, and then slip upon her lap.

and seornful exclamations, she fled chair by the young girl's side.

In great consternation everyone knees by her father's bedside, her can I say to comfort you? Oh, my gasp of surprise.

Tristram Fane lay still and uncon- that I might have saved you all this

teeth were tightly clenched.

after all," he told himself, admiring hands, she went bitterly.

gan's off to America-number two. all that they had cost the writer.

well worth the struggle." The hansom stopped before his house me." in Park Lane, and springing to his "Gerald!" Beryl's color rose, and able.

over the top of the cab and turned "How dare you say that?" he moved cle uickly to step out to the footpath. "Sweetheart,"

"For a time, sweet Beryl. But the change? Or-or is it all over?" war won't last for ever. Your devot-"There is no change, my lady. His ed lover will return. Enid made. a lordship is in the same state. Miss

good-looking bride, I admit. But Margaret is still by his side." you_" "A marvellously devoted daughter,' Beryl raised her hand quickly, her under her breath. "And yet all her white face grown whiter, and her lips life he showed her but little affection.

quivered. Well," to the maid, "what do you "You look ill, dear Beryl. What is want? You know I wish to be alone. wrong?" "Yes, your ladyship. But Sir Peter

"Nothing-oh! nothing." She sank Goldsmid asks if you will see him. He into a chair. "Go back to your guests is at the door. May I admit him?" and-and don't trouble about me." Lady Linton blushed to her eyes 'Yes; admit him, certainly.' "Very well, But I really done like-

Ah!" as her brother stepped out of The maid disappeared, and in a mo the French window, "here comes Germent Sir Peter Goldsmid entered the ald. Gerald," raising her voice, "here room and approached her in silence, is Beryl whimpering dismally. In the and taking her hand pressed it softabsence of a better man you must try ly, then sat down in a chair beside to console her." And she slipped past her.

him into the drawing-room. "I am deeply grieved," he said Gerald went towards Beryl, then, "and sympathize with you from my sighing, turned a little aside and heart." leant heavily against the iron railing. "Is-is my-husband dead?"

"Enid went off in the best of spir-"No. He may live for days, the doc its," he said presently. "She is evitors say." She groaned and put her hand to

her forehead. "Sir Petter," with a "She had a pretty wedding and sudden cry of despair, "our position looked her best," returned Beryl in a is an awful one. What is to become dull voice. "That means a good deal of me and the children? This man, John Fane, will now have everything "True; but I really think she and He will have no thought, no pity, for me or mine, and no one could won-

ter than they used to do. Don't der-no one could wonder." Sir Peter looked sadly at the dis

have come here to talk this matter

in and see how father is." And heed- Gerald walked restlessly up and over with you. John Fane, now Lord less of her stepmother's angry looks down the balcony, then sank into a Linton, wishes the to tell you that you shall have everything you require In a few moments she was on her eyes full of passionate longing, "what She looked up with a start and a

"He loves Hugo-is engaged to be you in such bitter woe, and to think married to Margaret."

"Engaged to Margaret?" She star scious amongst the pillows. His head suffering had I but known the truth ed at him in bewilderment. "This stranger?"

> "She has known him long as Mrs to blame, not you. I was madly fool- Danvers' steward."

"To be sure. I had forgotten" How the accident had happened no ish, and have brought this sorrow entorrent of angry words, when he met sent me off at once to find you, Sir away from his club in good health Oh! Gerald, see"-she held a letter wishes to treat you and the children the troubled gaze of the noble girl Peter Goldsmid, and a Mr. John and spirits to go home to dress for towards him-"how noble he is. It as though you were his own nearest

> drove was a particularly nice one, made him suffer so much-sent him "That-is too much-too much." the horse a fresh little thoroughbred. away despairing to a distant land." "I'll get the best of this business, And covering her face with her you will, for the sake of your childthe mare's paces as she rattled Gerald took the letter, and opening "Yes-for the sake of my childthrough the streets. "Smith is dead. it eagerly, read the brave words it ren." And then, to Sir Peter's sur-

> He won't blackmail or worry me any contained with a throbbing heart, and prise, the proud woman bowed her more. That's gain number one. Gro- eyes that grew dim, as he realized head and burst into tears.

Meanwhile, in the sick-room, Mar-"I am sure—in fact, there can be no doubt that you have been kept out Richardson. It is important that his Richardson. It is important that his No doubt that you have been kept out Richardson. It is important that his Richardson. It So all chance of discovery is over. "Lord Hampton is a noble fellow," garet sat watching by her father's I'll defy and baffle John Fane, and he said after a long pause, as, fold- side, hoping and praying that before erty, everything-and when I'm gone young girls' knee. "And in every way consciousness, if only for a few brief Hugo will succeed. I played a daring he would have been a more suitable moments. But as time passed she game. But the stakes were great - husband for Lord Linton's daughter began to think that this was not than an insignificant nobody like likely, and gradually, and with a sad

heart, resigned herself to the inevit- Alational Assurance "Come away, love. 'Tis useless to stay here longer." John whispered.

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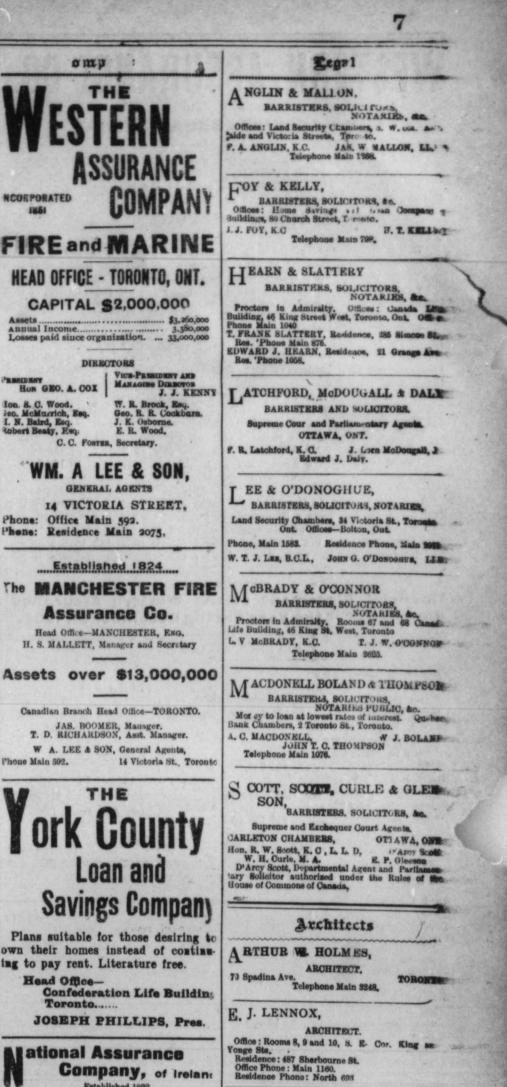
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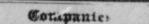
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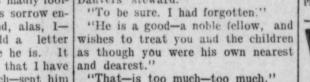
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"Not at all. Since he wishes .it. ren dear lady, accept all he offers."

John, and give him a home? "The best of hames-the warmest love, dear heart."

"And my father, though it cost him much, will do what is right. You will not," with a sob, "let him suffer,

dearest? You will forgive and forget?"

John bit his lips and breathed heav- expectedly. It was pliss to be side peared upon the threshold of the wealthy grandmother, who did not came in a low, hoarse voice from the ily. Then putting his arms round her by side, to look into each other's splendid mansion, asking what was approve of me.' once more, he drew her head down up- eyes, and feel that neither doubt nor wrong, and threatening to call the misgiving could vex or sadeen them police. on his breast.

"Yes; for your sake, dear love, will forgive and forget."

CHAPTER XLIII.

Gradually the visitors dropped away Then they walked along in silence, He was fully conscious, and suffer- Beryl?" from Gerald Fairfax's studio, and af- the exquisite silence of perfect sym- ing intense pain. ter a time only a few very intimate pathy, which to those who love each friends of the artist and his family other with a strong, deep passion is must see John Fane." remained in the studio. Enid and Sir untold bliss.

supremely happy.

Henry sat in deep conversation in a At the Grosvenor Gate they parted, limb, his wife staggered in and stood remote corner, absorbed in them- and Margaret tripped across the road by his bedside, telling him that she selves. Round the tea-table Marion with a light; happy heart, and ran had sent for the doctors, and that and sorrow; but please God, our love Madeline's house I began to doubt and two or three young girls made quickly up the steps to her father's soon they would be there. merry with Sir Peter Goldsmid, who house.

amused them immensely with his As the door opened she turned and gazing at her with wild eyes. "I must has given you up generously. I hope their dead mistress," the dying man droll stories, and delighted them by blew a kiss to John from the tips see John Fane," And he fainted and trust my great love may make continued; "and next morning when I of her fingers, then turned away smil- away. his many and varied compliments.

Before the picture of Madeline, ing and ran into the hall. Beryl and Gerald stood alone. Beryl Tripping up the broad staircase, Lady Linton sent Richardson in all "I have lost nothing. I have every- she was not your wife. Then you were was looking white, heavy-eyed, and she came suddenly face to face with haste to Gerald Fairfax's studio. weary. Gerald watched every expres- her stepmother. Lady Linton was sion of her face with anxious looks white as death. There were black Sir Peter Goldsmid," she said. face upon his breast. rims round her eyes, and their ex- "Bring them both her, at once." and considerable emotion.

Gerald could not understand John's pression was one of horror. reluctance to claim the title until She looked at Margaret in a lazed, had lost no time in doing her bid-Beryl told him with a soft blush that bewildered way. she thought he loved Margaret and "You!" she said, in a low, awed he found the men he sought, Sir whisper. "I am glad you have come. Peter at the studio and John stephis love was unreturned.

"Poor fellow! I deeply sympathize Did my telegram alarm you?" with him, I know," his voice grew "Telegram? What telegram?" Marhusky, "all the anguish of uncertain- garet cried, startled by Lady Linty and doubt. To love without hope, ton's strange manner and words. "Oh! To be sure!" She put her could say that he would ever return Beryl, is an agony of despair." Beryl crimsoned, and moved a little hands to her head. "I only sent it a to consciousness again. nearer the picture. Her heart throb- few moments ago, Then how comes bed painfully, her eyes were dim and it you are in town? I believed you misty, her lips quivered. were in Riversdale.'

"I came up this afternoon on busi-"I-I don't wonder you loved your sister," she remarked suddenly, feel- ness with my father," Margaret said ing the silence unbearable. "She looks hurriedly. "Aunt Miriam allowed me very lovable." to come.

darling. Till I met you, Beryl," he listen to you now. You have heard crowded drawing-room again. "Don't him know all that has happened." thing is now slipping away. I see my only love. The thought of her - of his accident, of course. The ser- stay here alone. Now that the bride And so she sat on, waiting and hop- what wrong I have done, and long to her memory inspired and helped me vant at the door-"

in everything I did. But once I sawsteadied herself by the bannisters. spoke to you-"Oh! Gerald, hush! I am in sad "Accident? What accident? I have street?"

not heard. The servant told me notrouble. I know not what to do. I,"

love-my darling! Oh! Beryl, surely mother cried, as though she had been "ion." you have told him that all must be stung. "I have been cheated, defraud- Marion kissed her tenderly. "Poor at an end? Surely you have broken ed, betrayed. This man, whom we all little girl! Were you envious to-day? tented herself with a bulletin from towards John, and laid her hand in

at an end? Surely you have broken off your engagement? It would be worse than folly—" "Gerald, I could not do it." She raised her beautiful eyes, all swim-ming in tears, to his face. "He was so miserable—so—so unhappy going of the future—my delicate Hugo—my poor to miserable—so—so unhappy going of the future—my delicate Hugo—my poor to miserable." at an end? Surely you have broken off your engagement? It would be worse than folly—" "Gerald, I could not do it." She so miserable—so—so unhappy going of the distribution of the future state state of the future state state of the future state future state s

But suddenly the horse plunged vio- her side, "it is true. As Lady Hamp- with pitiful eyes at the dying man. lently, amd losing his balance, he was, ton you would have had a splendid "He will remain like this till the flung forward, and pitched upon his position-wealth, diamonds, every- end, and-" CHAPTER XLIV.

head on the pavement. thing the world most values." Margaret and John lingered long to- A crowd gathered; the hall-door bell "And for which I care nothing. And fixed his glassy, staring eyes upon gether in the cool, secluded corner of was pulled vigorously by eager hands, then, you know, he is dependent more the park where they had met so un- and, much alarmed, Richardson ap- or less upon the good pleasure of his

difficulties might even separate them form upon the flags was enough. He for a time; but their love, strong, recognized his master, and calling to and will never have. I am sorry, very it was true." His words became inardent, and true, would carry them the two footmen to help him, he ran sorry, for having made Lord Hamp- audible, and Margaret bent down through everything. They had no fear, quickly out into the street. Without ton suffer. But for nothing else."

> him up to his room. "For a little love? No. For" -

"I-I am dying," he gasped. "I deal-ves. Then, white and trembling in every

"Send for John Fane," he cried,

When at last the doctors arrived thing I want." "There you will find Mr. Fane and

And, as we have seen, Richardson ding. But when, after some delay,

ping with light heart and eyes shining with happiness up Piccadilly, Tristram Fane's mind was a blank,

his power of speech gone, and no one

sick-room.

CHAPTER XLV.

"You look as white as your dress, remonstrated with her and urged her frauded-cheated of his birthright. Beryl dear," Marion whispered, com- to rest. "And I am the person to But I cared not. I was the winner. "And so she was, poor misguided "You are late. Your father will not ing out on to the balcony from the hear what he has to tell, to let And then something happened. Every-

> and bridegroom are far away out of ing, filling everyone with admiration meet John-and crave his forgiveness low, threw his arms above his head Margaret's color faded, and she sight, what is the use of looking by her calm courage and resolute de- -and mercy-mercy not for myself- with a cry as of pain, then gave a

longingly after them down the termination.

"I like to be here. It is quiet," the ly into the room, glancing anxiously ones. Oh, God! do not punish them wringing her hands, "am not free—" thing. Is he badly hurt, Lady Lin-He looked at her with eyes full of ton?" for their father's great sin!" John bent over him. "I forgive you passionate love and reproach. "My "Don't call me that!" her step- have so much to think about, Mar- going silently away. Lady Linton re- from my heart. Your children shall get all this misery. Henceforth our mained in her own apartments. She be well taken care of."

did not enter the sick-room, and con- Margaret turned her bloodless face ness.

CHAPTER XLVI.

parched and swollen lips, "and never "As simple Beryl Fane, no. But as dreamed you had left heirs. It all"-Lord Linton's daughter, yes. She wearily-"seemed so easy-and no I again. Troubles would come; certain But one glance at the prostrate would have loaded you with favors." one seemed to mind. When I wrote "Which I"-pouting-"do not want, you that Madeline lived-I thought

John's face.

over him. and, as they sat hand in hand, were delay they raised him and carried "And you are willing to renounce "Father, do you know me?" she everything for a little love, my whispered, and moistened his lips with a little brandy and water. "Yes, my poor child." He moved smiling through her tears-"a great his head restlessly. "But I must tell Archibald everything."

The sick man turned, and suddenly

"I was drawn into it, Archibald."

"My darling!" He caught her in his "He thinks I am my father," John arms and pressed his lips to hers. whispered. "Let him think so." "Our engagement has begun in tears "That night when we met outside

will triumph over everything, and all to think I was mistaken-and so happiness will be ours. Lord Hampton pressed the servants to let you see up to you for all you have lost." myself was admitted, and gazed upon She placed her fingers on his lips. the beautiful young woman, I saw killed. No one came forward. No one Then, blushing brightly, she hid her knew you had left children. I circulated the sensational stories that filled the newspapers, and they were believed. So I stepped in and took pos-

session of everything as your heir But soon, having made inquiries to allay suspicions roused by letters For two long days and nights Tris- that I had found in your pockets, I tram Tane lay unconscious, and Mar- learned that you had a son and a garet scarcely left him for a moment. daughter living. But I took no heed, Skilled nurses and some of the best and went on securely, recognized as physicians in London watched and Lord Linton. Then Fane, really tended him; but come who would, the Smith, the second Madeline's husgirl was never long absent from the band, came to England, and my life became miserable. He dogged my foot-"He may return to life and wish steps-harassed and worried me. And

to speak. There is souch he must say, -and then I saw him dead, and glor-much he must know, if possible, be- ied in my freedom-knowing that your ALEX. fore he dies," she said, when people son was near me all the time, de-

but for those I leave-my wife - my little gasp, and all was over. Tris-

John raised Margaret very gently and led her into the adjoining room. "My darling," he whispered, "forlives shall be full of joy and happi-

"I know, I know; I have no fears "My love, my wife!" he cried tri-

She was sitting bemoaning her hard "I think so. But, dearest, the end umphantly, and folding her in his arms, he kissed her tear-stained

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