









M. R. LANG.

We would like to have a few words with you in regard to Spring wearing apparel. We know that in a few days you will be looking around for your new clothes and a correct knowledge of where to find them will, we think, greatly assist you in making your selections. To the ladies we would say that our stock of Spring and Summer "DRESS GOODS" comprises everything stylish and seasonable in both imported and domestic makes. We have all the new shades in both plain and stripe effects. We also show an elegant line of embroidered ROBES in the newest colors. Our black goods department as usual has a complete line of staple and fancy effects from the costliest silk warp HENRIETTA and SEBASTIA POOL to the cheap cotton Twills. We have in various qualities Sheppard's plaid in Black and White which is proving to be one of the leading dress fabrics this season. Our stock of Black and White includes the most effective designs in fancy and plain Zephyrs and Ginghams. Our imported Scotch Zephyrs are marvels of beauty. Those combinations Zephyrs have been pronounced beautiful by all who have seen them. A word about white goods. The goods gathered by us are especially selected for fine trade and are the choice from one of the leading importing houses of the country and we do not hesitate to say that they far surpass any of those offered in our market. The styles were selected both as to display and durability to make a most handsome exhibit. Embroideries.—This is our hobby. For years we have had in this line of goods and this season our reputation will be sustained. The embroidery exhibited which we make comprises a full line of Skirting, Plungings, Abores, Edges, and Insertings in several different materials. We would like to call the attention of the ladies to a handsome line of Blouses now being shown on our counters. We have them in the light shades, also in the more subdued colors. In Shoes for Ladies, Misses, Gentlemen, Boys and Children we have our usual line of none but first class makes, which guarantee to our customers a reliable shoe, and which guarantee has been the means of increasing our shoe trade many fold in the past few years. In Clothing we show the most varied assortment of Spring Clothing for gentlemen. Youthful Boys and Children ever shown in our market. The prices are correct, the styles are the newest, the material honest. We would say right here in connection with the above that we do not carry any second hand clothing, and every article sold over our counters will be found just as represented. We have a stock of Gent's Furnishing Goods that will satisfy even the most fastidious. Our line of full dress and evening wear shirts are the latest productions of fashion in their line. We have every conceivable shape in Linen Collars, including the latest in style. In Neckties and Outing Shirts we show some fashionable designs. We have a line of Neckwear that includes the most stylish effects, both as to shape and colorings. The latest blocks and colors are shown by us in Gent's Buff Hats. In Mens and Boys' Hats we have a very desirable line. Our line of Straw Hats comprises the new styles just shown by the leading manufacturers. Your attention is particularly called to our line of Carpeting, Floor Oil Cloths, Mats, and Rugs, which show many attractive styles that will interest those in looking for purchases in that line. With our Housefurnishings are also a very attractive display of curtains, serin, and drapery nets.

THE EASTERN REFLECTOR, Greenville, N. C.

Local Sparks

Ford & Lanier. Strawberry prospects are good. Buy your Shoes of C. T. Munford. Buy your Shirts of C. T. Munford. Teachers' Institute in session this week. Ford & Lanier does first-class work. Buy your Clothing of C. T. Munford. Ford & Lanier will give you bottom prices on marble. Sunday and Monday were as beautiful days as we ever saw. A nice line of childrens carriages at J. B. CHERRY & Co. Just received a large lot of country made chairs. J. B. Cherry & Co. The warm weather has brought out some of the boys in bare feet. Fresh Bess Biscuits for the well and sick at the Old Brick Store. Last week was nice for work and the farmers made good use of it. Christman's Ointment will cure any skin disease on man or beast. Point Lace Flour is always uniform in quality at the Old Brick Store. Last week shad became scarce and the price went out of our reach again. Will pay cash for Eggs and Furs and Hides at the Old Brick Store. After a week of beautiful weather it began raining again on Saturday. 250 bushels of Jersey Yellow Potatoes. Slips, for sale, apply to H. HARDING. The mail and passenger train has been promptly on time several evenings of late. 50 Bushels Jersey Sweet Potato Slips for planting at the Old Brick Store. Those who have made examination say the peaches are not killed. We hope they are correct. If your horse has weak eyes or scratches, try Christman's ointment. Next Sunday there will be communion services at Berea Church, conducted by Rev. T. J. Daily. Cheapest Bedsteads, Bureaus, Cradles and Mattresses at the Old Brick Store. The REFLECTOR office wants your orders for job printing. Plenty of material, good work, low prices. A nice line of Reed and Batten Rockers just received. J. B. CHERRY & Co. On Saturday Mr. H. F. Keel brought to the REFLECTOR office a tobacco plant containing nine leaves. J. B. Cherry & Co. have a nice stock of goods and sell low down for the hard pay cash. The REFLECTOR office is open to the teachers attending the Institute. They will be welcomed at all times. For sale 50 tons of cotton seed meal. Apply to Tarboro Oil Mills, Tarboro, N. C. Don't forget that one prime need of Greenville is tobacco warehouses. Talk this harder than anything else. One dollar buys or all leather Ladies Shoe, Laces or Button, at J. B. CHERRY & Co. Every teacher in Pitt county ought to be a regular reader of the REFLECTOR. The subscription price is only One Dollar, go to Congleton & Tyson's if you want a good smoke and get a Golden Seal Cigar. No outside talk yet about town politics. It is time ward meetings were held and candidates for Councilmen nominated. Congleton & Tyson keep a fine line of California fruits and other fine canned goods. The price of granulated sugar is considerably down now. This shows how prices rule when the tariff is taken off of our necessities. Try a Package Condensed Mince Meat and Heggins Cooked Rolled Oats at the Old Brick Store. Immediately after the news of Gov. Fowle's death became general in Greenville last Wednesday morning, the front entrance to the Court House was draped in mourning. Thurber, Whyland & Co's fine grade Celebrated Momaia Coffee kept by Congleton & Tyson. Give it a trial. Something is brewing that points decidedly to Greenville's future prosperity and materialization is early expected. We are not permitted to make full particulars public as yet. If you want something nice go to Congleton & Tyson's and get some of their New Spring Butter just arrived to-day. An old colored man went into Mr. Ryan's store on Saturday and seeing some fruit cake in the show case asked clerk Harding: "Say, boss man, how much you charge for dat cracklin' bread?" CABBAGE PLANTS FOR SALE.—We now have for sale 50,000 cabbage plants ready to be transplanted. Price 50c per 100, \$1.50 per 1000. Apply to ALLEN WARREN & SON, Greenville, N. C. Big reduction in prices of New Hope Sewing Machine. 3 drawer No. 14, \$26.00, 5 drawer No. 15, \$28.50, 7 drawer No. 16, \$29.00. These prices are delivered in Greenville, N. C. Any other Machines equally as low prices. B. F. SUGG, Ag't. Our columns are to crowded—this week we make special mention of the new advertisements that appear. Some articles had to be left out entirely. A new line of Cook Stoves are now for sale at Latham & Pender's, "The Olden Times." They are very heavy. No. 71 weighs 260 lbs, price \$16.50. No. 81 weighs 200 lbs, price \$20.00. They have just received a new lot of their Himo and Liberty cook.

Personal Mrs. S. M. Merritt, of South Carolina is visiting her sister, Mrs. S. B. Wilson. Miss Nannie Wilson returned home last week from a visit to her sister at Penny Hill. Mrs. Lab. Harper, of Snow Hill, spent part of the past week with relatives here. Dr. W. T. Paul has been visiting his sister, Mrs. L. W. Lawrence, the last few days. Mrs. Johnson, of Scotland Neck, is visiting the family of her brother, Mr. C. T. Munford. Rey. E. C. Glenn of Elm City spent last week in Greenville. We were glad to see him here. Mr. C. W. Fridy returned Saturday evening from his purchasing tour to the Northern cities. Mrs. R. O. Whitaker, of Kinston, has been visiting Mrs. Skinner, at Hotel Macon, part of the past week. The condition of Mr. Will Moore, who was shot at Pactolus by his brother, was reported yesterday as slowly improving. Dr. W. E. Warren returned home Saturday from Richmond, in which city he has been pursuing the study of his profession for several months past. Mrs. Clarissa Frizzle and Miss Nannie Lawrence, of Rountree's spent Saturday and Sunday in town visiting the family of Mr. L. W. Lawrence. Don't always turn to the inside pages of the REFLECTOR the first thing upon receiving your paper. The first page often contains as good reading as there is in it, and the fourth page has our excellent story. "Ten minutes to Twelve." A boy went to the Old Brick Store the other day, and tried to purchase some cigarettes. They were refused him, whereupon the archduke "snapped up and cried." He ought to be given a closer acquaintance with his mother's slipper. If you changed residence into a different ward from where you reside next year you will have to register anew in the ward in which you now live before being eligible to vote in the coming town election. Keep this matter before you. The REFLECTOR marks that one as a dull day upon which no new subscribers are added to our list. The large amount of good reading and low subscription price are "winning cards." There is no phenomenal growth but the gain is sure and steady. One morning last week John Ben Johnson, the champion celery grower, brought a bunch of celery to the REFLECTOR office. Of course it was small, yet very nice for the time of year. John says from now out he will have a crop of it ready for market every month this year. Mr. W. R. Horne, one of the prosperous farmers of Farmville township, told us Monday that he had tobacco plants large enough to set out and would begin transplanting this week. He says the tobacco average in his section will be double this year what it was last year. There was another shooting affair in Greenville last Wednesday night. While approaching a house of ill-repute near the river some one began firing a pistol at Messrs. W. B. James and H. D. Cherry. The latter was struck in the thigh, the ball fortunately making only a flesh wound. The Wilson Mirror has just had another birthday celebration. Up one side and down the other the Mirror is all right and can be depended upon every time. The Mirror and Henry Blount grow old together, and like another article that could be mentioned, "get better with age." One thing the REFLECTOR believes in telling the farmers every spring. They may not think it good advice, but we do, therefore repeat it again now: When you think you have enough corn planted go back and plant as much more if possible. If you cannot double the crop come as near it as you can. A gentleman who for several months had been a patient in the State Hospital at Raleigh spoke to us Saturday about the management of Dr. Wood at that institution. He said Dr. Wood was truly a most humane and kind-hearted gentleman, kind to every patient and exceedingly thoughtful of their welfare. Here is one of the ways advertising pays. Allen Warren & Son had a local of cabbage plants for sale in the REFLECTOR. The advertisement was read by a gentleman in Scotland Neck who immediately sent down an order for 300 plants. This led to other orders which came in nearly every day last week, Saturday's shipment alone amounting to 3,000 plants. Reveal The meeting at the Baptist Church continues this week. Circumstances were such that Rev. G. M. Duke who was assisting Rev. Mr. Hunter, the pastor, could not come last week, but he arrived on Monday evening's train and preached an excellent sermon that night. There is need for a great religious awakening in Greenville and the prayers of all christians should be to this end. Died It is with regret that we chronicle the death of Mr. C. L. Perkins, of Pactolus, which occurred last Friday night. On Wednesday night he was taken with a yellow chill which was so severe that he lived only two days. He was only about 32 years of age, was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church, and an honest, upright, useful young man. Married On last Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, at the residence of Mr. Warren Tucker, father of the bride, two miles from Greenville, Mr. J. H. Hester, of Granville county, was married to Miss Lucy Tucker, of Pitt. The ceremony was performed by Rev. A. D. Hunter. The couple came to Greenville and took the 6 o'clock train for Kinston, from which place they went to the home of the groom in Granville county.

Teachers' Institute The Teachers' Institute for Pitt county was opened at 11 o'clock Monday morning by Maj. H. Harbin, County Superintendent of Public Instruction. The morning hour was taken up in enrolling the names of the teachers present and organizing. Only about thirty-five names were then enrolled but by yesterday at noon the number had increased to 47. The Institute is held in the Court room, which has been beautifully decorated for the occasion. Across the end of the room many portraits and specimens of art work have been arranged, with flowers enough here and there to make the scene charming. The decorations were the work of Miss Mollie Rouse and Mrs. Dr. Frank Moline. The works of art are by no means the most attractive feature, for just out in front of these is a bouquet of loveliness, composed of the beautiful daughters of Pitt, that far surpasses anything art has ever produced. Pitt county is famed for her beautiful women, and the gathering at the Institute will show the visitor a fair representation. One thing very noticeable about the Institute is the absence of male teachers, only four being present the first day. Prof. C. D. McIver, who is conducting the Institute, was delayed by an accident to the steamer on which he was coming to Greenville, and did not arrive until the afternoon. He was on hand at 2 o'clock and went promptly to work. He is a young man of remarkably pleasant address, a rapid speaker, a man of force, and possessed with the faculties for quickly and clearly impressing upon the hearer whatever he wishes to illustrate. And there is also enough wit about him to prevent his lectures becoming the least tiresome, and make it a pleasure to listen to him. He is a well equipped scholar, and admirably suited to the work assigned him. The first work of Prof. McIver was to explain how the Institutes came about, going back to the administration of Gov. Vance when the first State Normal was established at Chapel Hill and telling how succeeding Legislatures made changes for the better until the present system was adopted which gives an Institute to every county. He said many good things along the line of education and the Institute and school work to which we cannot allude to day for want of space. One thing he said, however, in reference to the Institute, was that as every teacher placed in each county of the State within easy access of every teacher, the law made it compulsory upon the teachers to attend continuously through the week of the Institute or they would not be permitted to teach in the public schools. He said there was no excuse for any teacher in Pitt county being absent for Greenville was kindly furnishing free entertainment for them. He complimented our people, saying this was one of the few towns "that made such arrangements for the teachers." The REFLECTOR wishes to say a word or two before leaving this subject of compelling teachers to attend the Institutes. Noticing a few teachers here we naturally inquired where they all went. One teacher told us he knew of several who are waiting to come Friday, as they said one day was enough for them to come. It is known that last year some who attended only one day or part of a day, were given certificates and permitted to teach in the public schools, as were also some who did not attend the Institute at all, and this may have led the absentees now to think that attending the Institute makes no difference about their being permitted to teach. We are of the opinion that the Superintendent should not make this distinction. If the laws compel teachers to attend the Institutes continually, the teachers who fail to do so should not be given equal privileges with those who obey the injunction. Monday night very interesting exercises were held. An address of welcome to the teachers was read by Miss Maggie Daniel. This was to have been responded to by Miss Lucy Knight but she was absent. Four little girls, Misses Betty Tyson, Bessie Harding, Sarah Hooker and Ludie Haddock recited, and Gov. Jarvis made an excellent speech, followed by some remarks from Prof. McIver. Friday is to be the special day of the Institute, when Prof. McIver would like to see all the teachers of the county present. The public are invited at all the sessions. Next week the REFLECTOR will give as full a synopsis as possible of the work of the Institute. Society Meeting The Athenian Society met Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock April 11, 1891. The House was called to order by the President. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. No further business they proceeded with the regular programme for the day. Music, Lodie Haddock; Reading, Lula White; Essay, Minnie Cooper; Reading, Carrie Latham; Essay, Myrtle Wilson; Recitation, Lillie Wilson; Reading, Millie Everett; Essay, Mary Smith; Reading, Jessie Joyner; Quotation, Bettie Tyson; Reading, Annie Barnhill; Biography of E. A. Poe, Mammie Duckett; Recitation, Ella Tucker; Story, Pattie Smith; Reading, Mittie Baker; Essay, Lina Sheppard; Reading, Gertrude Williams; Essay, Aymer Sagg; Recitation, Bessie Harding; Reading, Ella Taff; Essay, Emma Taff; Song, All the girls. Several of the girls were absent but some of them performed their duties very well. GRETCHER WILLIAMS, Reporter. Grifon Items. What lovely weather for the past several days! Mr. S. W. Brooks made a flying visit to Greenville last week. Mess. Stephen Quinerly and J. A. Matthews of Kinston were in town Tuesday. Quite a quantity of shad are caught daily at the different scenes near here, and the boys have shad stews real often. Miss Stella Meacham who has been visiting relatives here returned home Wednesday.

A fine lot of cattle was carried from this place to New Bern last Friday evening by Mr. Samuel Quinerly and sold at that market. Mrs. G. W. Webb and children of Kinston were visiting her parents, Mr. F. M. Pittman and wife, last week. Dr. H. Johnson and wife went to Kinston Wednesday to visit relatives. The Dr. returned Thursday and his wife Saturday. Dr. S. B. Woods left Friday for Durham to visit his daughter, Mrs. Carrie Luter. From there he is going to Baltimore to have a cataract removed from his eyes by the noted Dr. Chisholm. We truly hope it will be a successful operation for he is totally blind. Mr. F. Bizzell and wife of Goldsboro were in town Saturday viewing our town for the purpose of locating. Come, there is room for plenty more. Misses Dora and Ida Dawson of Pitt, Misses May and Dawson of Gravel and Misses Annie Brooks and Sallie Patrick of Centreville were in town last week visiting relatives and friends. There was a large crowd at Mrs. S. B. Bruton's military opening on the 10th and 11th. Quite a grand display of spring and summer hats. During the fine weather which we have had lately, we are glad to see the work progressing so rapidly on the new church. It is now raised and we hope to see it completed the first of the summer, as the community is sadly in need of more churches, and better schools than we now have. On Tuesday of the past week our town was visited by the following ever gentleman: Messrs. G. F. Dail and Tippi Cleves of New Bern; D. W. Patrick and A. P. Edwards, of Snow Hill; Will Carr of Gastonia; O. W. Dail of Tarboro; B. F. Sugg of Greenville and Abram Cox from near Ayden. TRIBUTE OF RESPECT. To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Greenville, Lodge 284, A. F. & A. M. Your committee appointed to draft resolutions of respect to the memory of our deceased brother, Allen Tucker, beg leave to report the following resolutions: WHEREAS, It has pleased the Supreme Architect of the universe to remove from our midst our late brother, Allen Tucker, the intimate relation long held by our deceased brother with the members of this Lodge render it proper that we should place on record our appreciation of his services as a Mason and his merits as a man. Therefore be it Resolved, That while we bow with humble submission to the will of the Most High we do not the less mourn for our brother who has been called from his labor to rest. Resolved, That in the death of Allen Tucker this Lodge loses a brother who was always active and zealous in his work as a Mason; ever ready to succor the needy and destitute of the fraternal unit, prompt to advance the interest of the Order; an honest and upright man whose virtues endeared him not only to his brethren of the Order, but to all his fellow citizens. Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this Lodge and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased and that a copy be forwarded to the Eastern REFLECTOR with the request to publish the same. Resolved, That the Lodge be draped in mourning thirty days and that brethren wear the usual badge of mourning. O. W. HARRINGTON, J. D. WILLIAMSON, W. M. KING, Committee. CASH HOUSE! JAMES L. LITTLE & CO., We are now prepared to show the trade a stock of DRY GOODS & NOTIONS entirely new and bright. Styles are pretty. Quality good. Nothing to equal them in price. HATS. We have an exceptional line of Hats, in Fur, Wool and Straw. Boys' and Men's Wool Hats at 25 cents. A nice line of Crush and Slouch Hats ranging from 50 cents to \$3.50. STRAW GOODS. We have the latest styles in both Black and White. SHOES. We call special attention to styles, quality and price. OUR LEADING WOMEN'S SHOES AT A BARGAIN. OUR LEADING MEN'S SHOES AT A BARGAIN. OUR LEADING CHILDREN'S SHOES AT A BARGAIN. OUR LEADING INFANTS' SHOES AT A BARGAIN. We are quite sure that we can save you money in—White Goods, Halls and Embroideries. Jas. L. Little & Co., GREENVILLE, N. C.

C. T. MUNFORD, For Wide Awake Bargains! Here is your chance, read carefully: If you want to save for the people in the way of Clothing, Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, (Shoes a specialty), Boots, Trunks, Valises, Umbrellas, &c., at reduced prices. Clothing Department—Men's Suits from \$2.75 up; Youth's Suits from \$2.50 up; Children's suits 90c up; Men's Working Pants 50c up. A large line of all qualities at the lowest prices. Dry Goods Department—A complete stock at very low figures. Shoe Department—A full line at low down, rock bottom prices. Men's Shoes from 79c up; Ladies Shoes from 77c; Children's Shoes from 26c up; Men's Fur Hat from 29c up; Men's Straw Hats from 5c up. Just give us a trial and we know we can please you. When you call on us for bargains and low prices you will go away happy. With thanks for past patronage, we are, Yours truly, C. T. MUNFORD. In front Old Brick Store. EDMUND ALEXANDER, DECATUR MORGAN, L. P. HORNTHAL, Washington, N. C., Norfolk, Va., Plymouth, N. C. —SHIP YOUR PRODUCE TO— ALEXANDER, MORGAN & CO., COTTON FACTORS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, NORFOLK, VA. And receive highest market prices, full weight and measure. SPECIALTIES: COTTON, GRAIN, PEANUTS AND TRUCK. Will advance 1/2 value of any shipment, charging 6% interest, for persons wishing to hold. Owners can receive in cash on day of shipping, 1/2 to 1/3 value of crop from any local banker, by attaching bill of lading to draft or check on us. Reference: Norfolk National Bank. THE FARMERS REJOICE! And my reduced prices on Standard Fertilizers is what causes it. It goes without saying that last year I handled the very best brands of Fertilizers for COTTON - AND - TOBACCO that were sold in Pitt county. I have now just perfected arrangements with the manufacturers whereby I can make a big saying to the farmers on every ton purchased from me. I can now sell you Ober's Special Tobacco Compound \$4.00 per ton less than it cost you last year. The Ober's have had over thirty year's experience in the manufacture of this Guano and say that no brand of equal merit can be made for less money. It has been used in North Carolina for twenty-five years and those farmers who have had long experience in its use can be prevailed on to use no other. It bears thousands of the best testimonials. Its analysis shows it to be exactly proportioned with the old fashioned Peruvian Guano. Game Guano. This Guano made a better showing under cotton last year than any other brands sold in the country. To know what this Guano will do you only have to ask Messrs B. F. Patrick, A. C. Nobles, J. T. W. Nobles, J. J. Tripp, or any other farmer who has used it. Pine Island Guano. This brand has been used in Pitt county for years and never fails to give satisfaction. It is a fine Tobacco Fertilizer, and is sold cheap enough to be used under cotton. PATAPSOO GUANO So much of this Guano has been sold here that every farmer knows what it will do. I can say nothing to add to its popularity except that it is the same old Patapsoo brand. Owl Brand Guano This is a cheap Guano, and has given such satisfaction in surrounding counties that I have decided to handle it this year. I also have Kainit, Phosphates and Lime. It will be to your interest to give me a call before making any purchase. I am always grateful for patronage. G. E. HARRIS GREENVILLE, N. C. J. L. SUGG. LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE AGENT, GREENVILLE, N. C. OFFICE SUGG & JAMES OLD STAND! All kinds of Risks in strictly FIRST-CLASS COMPANIES At lowest current rates. AM AGENT FOR A FIRST-CLASS FIRE PROOF SAFE. Congleton & Tyson, DEALERS IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE, Call attention to their large and well selected stock now on hand. We have a fresh supply of Groceries, Fruits, and Confections. We carry as usual a line of nice Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Hats and Caps. Our motto will be to sell all goods Low Down for Cash.



# TEN MINUTES TO TWELVE

By M. G. McLELLAND

## CHAPTER VII.

Royal had about completed his arrangements for leaving the hotel in which he was staying, when a chance remark caused his own position in this affair of his namesake to assume proportions and a complexity which well nigh overwhelmed him. He was standing in the hotel office, near the clerk's desk, on which lay the open register. The young doctor stood on his elbow, the same to whose lodging John Royal had been committed. They had been speaking of the case and of the untoward ending, and had gone into details of interest and importance to no mortal soul save members of the profession. Suddenly the young fellow put a question:

"The young lady is his cousin and next of kin, is she not?"

"Were you brothers? Because my name is the same for both on the register," laying his hand on the book. "They've put the same initials, too. But that's a mistake, I reckon."

No, Royal explained, there was no mistake. The names were the same and they were kinsmen, but not brothers. He cast his eye on the register, as he spoke, and read beneath the name of Mrs. Walter Hart that of Mrs. John Hart Royal. It surprised him, for he had no recollection whatever of having placed it there. Then he remembered that in the excitement and hurry of the arrival he had neglected to register the ladies at all. It was probable that the clerk had supplied the omission from information obtained at the fountain head.

"His wife, I suppose," the young physician hazarded.

In the second which elapsed before he replied Hart Royal's mind seemed to work over the whole case, from start to finish, like an electric flash. He appeared suddenly confronted by a point of view the instantaneous absorption of which by his consciousness made it seem something which he had known all along, only failed to give it due prominence. The pause ere he spoke was so slight that it passed unheeded by the bystanders, but during it Royal's whole mental position, and a good part of his external circumstances, had been shifted.

## CHAPTER VIII.

"Oh! it's tremendously funny, I dare say!"

"Poor child! Poor Phyllis!"

Mrs. Hart's face wore a compassionate expression, and her voice had tender, commiserating inflections. She stood by the window, looking out into the street with eyes which conveyed to her mind no image of that on which she gazed.

Royal passed in his restless talk and silently gazed at her. Her tone made him winced like the touch of a nettle. He was too much oppressed by the result of his own precipitation not to be sore and irritable. Involuntarily he resented the implied depreciation.

"I am not a bad man, as you mean go," he remonstrated. "A blundering fool, if you will, but no villain. Your tone implies that I have been both."

Mrs. Hunt turned toward him. As she did so she caught an expression on the young man's face which reminded her of a man whom she had once known, softened and a smile came to her lips. She had seen the look before during the days that they had been together, and always with mute, wistful acknowledgment of the tie between them. After all, he was Phil Royal's son and of their own people, which meant that the lady's mind, considerably ameliorated the situation. What would have been her attitude toward Royal if, instead of being a member of the family with blood right of interference, he had turned out simply a blundering stranger, whose tender nature had been revealed to her by an astute effect, it is difficult to imagine.

Fortunately for Royal she was not put to the test. A kinsman, like the shape of a nose, can be accepted and endured with the pleasing consciousness that, externally, the worst is known of him, while the introduction of a stranger into one's life may be attended with as great risks as those incident to the French notary's experiment.

Mrs. Hart loved romance with a southern woman's love, and moreover she was gifted with a subtle sense of humor. Interviewed with the tragic and pathetic elements of the affair, there was comedy as well, for those sufficiently disengaged to appreciate it. And, for the life of her, Mrs. Hart could not forbear imaginative pictures of the self-complacent soul of her kinswoman, assertively comporting itself in the infinite, suddenly confronted with a view of the situation as it now stood. Even a disembodied spirit, in such case, could not escape recognition of limitations and acknowledgment of the futility of all arrangements for pulling stroke in the lifeboat of other people after this mortal shall have put on immortality. The pithy old Scotch proverb occurred again

and again to Mrs. Hart's secretary inverted mind with a relaxing sense of its applicability.

"What did the lawyers say?" she questioned, coming toward him, and tacitly ignoring her own disconcerting exclamation and his impatient reception of it.

Royal pushed a chair toward her, but declined one for himself. In his nervously excited condition it pleased him better to tramp about the room. They had been in Alexander's week, coming directly home with Mrs. Hart after John Royal's funeral, and during that time the dead man's substitute had devoted himself to discovering what might be his legal status in the affair. Of his case in equity he had no shadow of doubt.

"There hasn't been time enough for anything like research yet, and a lawyer is nothing without precedent," he answered. "I've seen a couple of fellows here, and stated the case hypothetically, and I've talked to a man or two in Washington besides. Of course I've only got my own opinions as yet. Nobody I've seen has ever gone into a thing like this. One fellow told me plainly that he didn't believe such a case had ever even been imagined before."

"But the general impression was—that?"

Royal paused beside her chair, and stood looking thoughtfully down at her. "As far as John Royal is concerned the case has but one point of view. They all agree on that. The proxy marriage was no marriage. Under the circumstances it couldn't be. A man in articles of matrimony, as John Royal was at the time of the ceremony, cannot enter into a contract; the law wouldn't recognize such an act as conscious and voluntary. Even if he had lived it is doubtful whether the proxy marriage would have stood. It would have given us what we wanted, though—a fighting chance for a divorce. Marriages by proxy are so unusual that the law don't provide for differentiations of them."

"And the money?"

Royal's thought consigned the money to the halls of Eblis with emphasis and dispatch; his speech was more circum-spect:

"The money has done harm enough. It has been the active agent in the imbroglio. We'll let that part of the business mellow for a while. John Royal's legacy is of vastly more importance than his aunt's."

The expression of Mrs. Hart's face as she quitted the room was like spring weather, a conflict between sunshine and shower. She managed, however, to east a just look at him over her shoulder:

"In the division there'll perhaps be enough to buy a ring for Phyllis—by putting two parts together. My own share shall be devoted to defraying the expenses for making my will according to the Royal prerogative."

pression for her sympathetic comprehension.

"Something more satisfactory than endless palimony or aerial progression, I hope," she smiled. "Mocking at those in sore straits and grievously tormented I hold to be my mission. Seriously, though, I am sorry for you—truly sorry. But after all, John, it isn't you that matters so much. The situation is and will be much harder on Phyllis. You did it, you know. When there is a smash up the man who holds the reins and does the breaking gets the most comfort out of the affair."

The mention of his cousin's name caused Royal's face to soften, and he let the blood relation frankness of his companion's speech pass. His intercourse with Phyllis, restricted as it had necessarily been, had awakened within him a tender, chivalrous devotion, touched and materialized by admiration and a sense of personal possession. Her acceptance of absolute trust in him, her sweet, patient, and courage, won on him day by day. His professional instinct prevented him from feeling any of that intangible, egotistic shrinking from affliction inherent in so many men, and to present no bar to her attraction. Then, too, it is probable that the consciousness that she was his wife—no matter how she had become so—stirred and influenced his emotions more deeply than he was himself aware.

"He was very considerate and gentle with her, having always in mind that time of disclosure which must surely come. He had taken no advantage of the situation, and he intended to take none. Probably his unconscious manliness explained the readiness with which Mrs. Hart had constituted herself his ally. Her own instincts in regard to her sex were tender and protective."

"What are you going to do?"

She had risen, for from the room across the hall there came to her ear the sound of soft music. The blip girl had found her way to the piano, and was cherishing her dulceness in the manner she loved best. They had left her long enough alone.

Royal squared himself.

"It would make a pretty case," he observed impersonally. "The lawyers told me so. That ten minutes to twelve of the death and the ceremony would admit of considerable argument. The 'shake-up' fellows would flock to it like hogs to the call of corn. But I'm going to give them the go-by, divorce courts and all. I shall stand by my marriage."

"And the money?"

Royal's thought consigned the money to the halls of Eblis with emphasis and dispatch; his speech was more circum-spect:

"The money has done harm enough. It has been the active agent in the imbroglio. We'll let that part of the business mellow for a while. John Royal's legacy is of vastly more importance than his aunt's."

The expression of Mrs. Hart's face as she quitted the room was like spring weather, a conflict between sunshine and shower. She managed, however, to east a just look at him over her shoulder:

"In the division there'll perhaps be enough to buy a ring for Phyllis—by putting two parts together. My own share shall be devoted to defraying the expenses for making my will according to the Royal prerogative."

"You see how it is," the poor fellow fumed. "I'm caught in the trap by both legs. If I hold to my marriage, I'll be foisting on a woman a husband she doesn't love and don't want, and that, too, when she thinks she's married to somebody else in short, in the position of a man who will say, that I get it because I can't get hold of the money. Nobody had a hint of the proxy business at the time, and nobody is going to believe in it now. I wouldn't myself if I were outside of it all. People will swear the whole thing was a sham, and that I'm shaking the bag because I've got found out. There never was such a confounded mess since the world began."

He actually stamped on the floor in his impotence and bewilderment. Mrs. Hart's face was turned from him, but a glance toward her and the movement of her shoulders attracted his attention and changed the current of his thought.

"Oh, it's tremendously funny, I dare say!" he growled. "I don't see the joke myself, but to an outsider I suppose it's exquisite. 'Tisn't often one has the chance of joking over a man who is wiggling in a dilemma like a worm in a woodpecker's hole. I'd laugh outright, though, if I were you. It's more decent than sniggering in corners."

A handsome face, in which amusement struggled with contrition, was turned toward him, and two hands were cordially extended.

"Forgive me, John, and I don't care! I'm going to help you, I am indeed, with wit and will which. Only I couldn't forbear a quiet chuckle. You looked so preternaturally concerned and solemn—and caught."

Royal laid a divorce over a man who resist the charm of Mrs. Hart's manner; it was invigorating and comforting, like sunshine. Catching her eye he experienced a sudden and delicious revelation of feeling, like that produced by a bit of champagne in an abstruse volume. He hit toward her, smiling.

"Nina," he rebuked, "the way you are taking this affair is positively subversive of morals. Instead of howling at me with indignation, and honing on the populace with rail and feathers, you are acting as though the situation wasn't past mending. And I believe in your soul you are enjoying—yes, actually enjoying it with the flippancy of a gamin. What do you suppose is going to become of you in the other country if you don't fetch his folly home to the fool in this?"

His words were light, but they overlaid a considerable emotion. He was grateful to her with a gratitude beyond ex-

Among the pitfalls in our way. The rest of us walk blindly. Oh! man be wary watch and pray. And judge your neighbor kindly. Help back his feet if they have slid. And count him still your neighbor. Perhaps the wrong he did has made yourself the better.

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WILMINGTON & WELDON R. R. and Branches—Condensed Schedule

BRANCHES GOING SOUTH.	
April 6th '91.	No 23, No 27, No 41.
April 10th '91.	No 25, No 29, No 43.
April 14th '91.	No 27, No 31, No 45.
April 18th '91.	No 29, No 33, No 47.
April 22nd '91.	No 31, No 35, No 49.
April 26th '91.	No 33, No 37, No 51.
April 30th '91.	No 35, No 39, No 53.

Trains Going North.

NO 14, NO 78, NO 40	
April 11th '91.	No 14, No 78, No 40.
April 15th '91.	No 16, No 80, No 42.
April 19th '91.	No 18, No 82, No 44.
April 23rd '91.	No 20, No 84, No 46.
April 27th '91.	No 22, No 86, No 48.
April 31st '91.	No 24, No 88, No 50.

Train on Scotland Neck Branch Road leaves Halifax 8:32 P. M., arrives Scotland Neck at 4:18 P. M., Greenville 6:02 P. M., Kingston 7:10 P. M., returning leaves Spring Hope 10:40 A. M., Greenville 10:45 A. M., Halifax 10:45 A. M., Weldon 10:55 A. M., daily except Sunday.

Train on Midland N. C. Branch Road leaves Goldsboro daily except Sunday, 7:00 A. M., arriving Smithfield, N. C. at 8:30 P. M., returning leaves Smithfield, N. C. at 9:00 A. M., arriving Goldsboro, N. C. at 10:30 A. M.

Train on Nashville Branch Road leaves Rocky Mount at 8:00 P. M., arriving Nashville 3:40 P. M., Spring Hope 4:15 P. M., returning leaves Spring Hope 10:40 A. M., Nashville 10:45 A. M., arrives Rocky Mount 11:15 A. M., daily, except Sunday.

Train on Clinton Branch Road leaves Weldon for Clinton daily, except Sunday, at 6:00 P. M. and 11:15 A. M. Returning leave Clinton at 8:20 A. M. and 3:10 P. M., connecting at Weldon with No. 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 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