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Vale, Oregon.

**



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The Pastime Pool Hall T. G. Kelly, Prop.

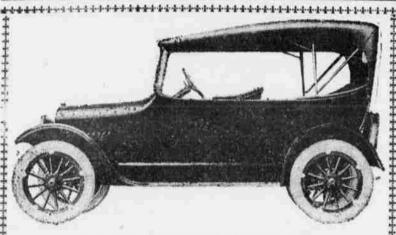
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and an easy chair before the fire with the family gathered round. That's an evening of solid contentment in the "Great American Home."

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The PostOffice News Stand

A. S. Hunt, Prop. }



(Continued).

He added something to this praise but to set forth from the capital on the long journey to his post. George train's being several minutes late.

had enough of your disposition, myself, be a "Stag hotel." at your age, to understand a little of | This was the last "walk home" he what cocksure youth has to go through was ever to take by the route he was



There Have Been Times When I Thought You Ought to Be Hanged."

of you, and now I like you! And just for a last word; there may be somebody else in this town who's always felt about you like that-fond of you. I mean, no matter how much it seemed you ought to be hanged. You might - Hello, I must run. I'll send back the money as fast as they pay me-so, good bye and God bless you,

seemed to him that the last fragment of his familiar world had disappeared, leaving him all alone forever,

He walked homeward slowly through what appeared to be the strange city, and, as a matter of fact, the city was strunge to him. He had seen little of it during his years in college, and then had followed the long absence and his tragic return. Since that he had been "scarcely outdoors at all" as Fanny complained, warning him that his health would suffer, and he had been downtown only in a closed carriage. He had not realized the

The streets were thunderous, a vast energy heaved under the universal coating of dinginess. George waiked through the begrimed crowds of hurhe remembered. Great numbers of remember ever to have seen; they were partly like the old type that types he knew abroad. He saw German eyes with American wrinkles at eyes, eyes of Lombardy, of Savoy. can look in them. He saw Jews who and nearly all seemed harried by something impending, though here and

adventure of the department store, or traffic of the streets-and not infreof his nephew on the day he left for quently a girl, or a free-and-easy Washington, He was not to return, young matron, found time to throw an encouraging look to George.

He took no note of these, and, lenvwent with him to the station, and ing the crowded sidewalks, turned their farewell was lengthened by the north into National avenue, and presently reached the quieter but no less "I may not see you again, Georgie," begrimed region of smaller shops and Amberson said, and his voice was a old-fashioned houses. Those latter had little husky as he set a kind hand on been the homes of his boyhood playthe young man's shoulder. "It's quite mates, old friends of his grandfather probable that from this time on we'll had lived here-in this alley he had only know each other by letter-until fought with two boys at the same you're notified as my next of kin that time, and whipped them; in that front there's an old vallse to be forwarded yard he had been successfully teased to you, and perhaps some dusty curios into temporary insanity by a Sunday from the consulate mantelpiece, Well, school class of pinky little girls. On It's an odd way for us to be saying | that sagging porch a laughing woman good bye; one wouldn't have thought had fed him and other boys with it, even a few years ago, but here we doughnuts and gingerbread; yonder he are, two gentlemen of elegant appear- saw the staggered relics of the iron ance in a state of bustitude. We can't picket fence he had made his white ever tell what will happen at all, can pony jump, on a dare, and in the we? Life and money both behave like shabby, stone-faced house behind the loose quicksliver in a nest of cracks. fence he had gone to children's par-And when they're gone we can't tell ties, and, when he was a little older where-or what the devil we did with he had danced there often, and fallen 'em! But I believe I'll say now-while in love with Mary Sharon, and kissed there isn't much time left for either her, apparently by force, under the of us to get embarrassed about it-I stairs in the hall. The double front believe I'll say that I've always been doors, of meaninglessly carved walnut, fond of you. We all spoiled you ter- once so glossily varnished, had been ribly when you were a little boy and painted smoke gray, but the smoke let you grow up en prince-and I grime showed repulsively, even on the must say you took to it! But you've smoke gray; and over the doors received a pretty heavy jolt, and I smoked sign proclaimed the place to

inside when it finds that it can make now following; up National avenue to terrible mistakes. Well, with my train Amberson addition and the two big coming into the shed, you'll forgive old houses at the foot of Amberson me for saying that there have been boulevard; for tonight would be the times when I thought you ought to be last night that he and Fanny were to spend in the house which the Major had forgotten to deed to Isabel. Tomorrow they were to "move out," and George was to begin his work in Bronon's office. He had not come to this collapse without a fierce struggle-but the struggle was inward, and the rolling world was not agitated by it, and rolled calmly on. For of all the ideals of life" which the world, in its rolling, inconsiderately flattens out to nothingness, the least likely to retain a profile is that ideal which depends upon inheriting money. George Amberson, in spite of his record of fallnres in business, had spoken shrewdly when he realized at last that money, like life, was "like quicksilver in a nest of cracks." And his nephew had the awakening experience of seeing the great Amberson estate vanishing into such a nest-in a twinkling; it seemed, now that it was indeed so ut-

terly vanished. On this last homeward walk of his when George reached the entrance to Amberson addition-that is, when he came to where the entrance had formerly been-he gave a little start, and halted for a moment to stare. This was the first time he had no ticed that the stone pillars, marking the entrance, had been removed. Then he rentized that for a long time he had been conscious of a queerness about this corner without being aware of what made the difference. National avenue met Amberson boulevard here hanged-but I've always been fond the pillars made the boulevard seem a cross street of no overpowering im-

> be a boulevard! George walked by the Mansion hurriedly, and came home to his mother's house for the last time.

Emptiness was there, too, and the closing of the door resounded through bare rooms; for downstairs there was no furniture in the house except a He passed through the gates, waved kitchen table in the dining room, which his hat cheerly from the other side Fanny had kept "for dinner," she said, of the iron screen, and was lost from though as she was to cook and serve sight in the hurrying crowd. And as that meal herself George had his he disappeared, an unexpected poign- doubts about her name for it. Upstairs, ant loneliness fell upon his nephew so she had remined her own furniture, heavily and so suddenly that he had and George had been living in his no energy to recoil from the shock. It mother's room, having sent everything from his own to the auction. Isabel's room was still as it had been, but the furniture would be moved with Fanny's to new quarters in the morn ing. Fanny had made plans for her nephew as well as herself; she had found a "three-room kitchenette apartment" in an apartment house where several old friends of hers had established themselvas-elderly widows of eltizens once "prominent" and other retired gentry. People used their own "kitchenettes" for breakfast and lunch, but there was a table-d'hote arrangement for dinner on the ground floor; and after dinner bridge was played all evening, an attraction powerful with Fanny. She had "made all the arrangements," she reported, and nervously appealed for approval, asking if she hadn't shown herself "pretty pracrying strangers and saw no face that theat" in such matters. George acquiesced absent mindedly, not thinking of faces were even of a kind he did not what she said and not realizing to

what it committed him. He began to realize it now, as he his boyhood knew, and partly like wendered about the dismantled house; he was far from sure that he was willing to live in a "three-room aparttheir corners; he saw Irish eyes and ment" with Fanny and cat breakfast Nespolitan eyes, Roman eyes, Tuscan and bunch with her (prepared by herself in the "kitchenette") and dinner Hungarian eyes, Balkan eyes, Scandint the table dinote in "such a pretty NO KNIFE AND LOSS OF BLOOD navian eyes-all with a queer Ameri- Colonial dining room" (so Fanny described it) at a little round table they were no onger German or Russian or would have all to themselves in the Polish Jews. All the people were soil- inhist of a degen little round tables ed by the smoke-mist through which which other relies of disrupted famthey hurried, under the heavy sky that | thes would have all to themselves. For hung close upon the new skyscrapers. the first time, now that the change was imminent. George began to develup before his mind's eye pictures of there a woman with bundles would be what he was in for; and they appalled laughing to a companion about some Lim. He decided that such a life verged upon the sheerly unbearable.

toat after all there were some left that he just couldn't stand. made up his mind to speak to t about it at "dinner," and tell her that he preferred to ask Bronson to let him put a sofa-bed, a trunk and a folding rubber bathtub behind a

screen in the dark rear room of the of-But at "dinner" Fanny was nervous, and so distressed about the fallure of her efforts with sweetbreads and macaroni; and she was so eager in her talk of how comfortable they would be "by this time tomorrow

night. After "dinner" he went upstairs, moving his hand slowly along the smooth walnut railing of the balus-Half way to the landing he trade. perhaps an escape from the charging stopped, turned, and stood looking down at the heavy doors masking the black emptiness that had been the library. Here he had stood on what he now knew was the worst day of his life; here he had stood when his mother passed through that doorway, handin-hand with her brother, to learn what

ber son had done. He went on more heavily, more slowly; and, more heavily and slowly still, cutered Isabel's room and shut the He did not come forth again, and bade Fanny good-night through the closed door when she stopped outside it later.

"I've put all the lights out, George, she said. "Everything's all right." "Very well," he called. "Good night,

Aunt Fanny." His voice had a strangled sound in spite of him; but she seemed not to notice it, and he heard her go to her own room and lock herself in with bolt and key against burglars. She had said the one thing she should not have said just then: "I'm sure your mother's watching over you, Georgie." She had meant to be kind, but it destroyed his last chance for sleep that night. He would have slept little if she had not said it, but since she had said it he did not sleep at all. For he knew that it was true-if it could be true-that his mother, if she still lived in spirit, would be weeping on the other side of the wall of silence, weeping and seeking for some gate to let her through so that she could come and "watch over him."

He felt that if there were such gates they were surely barred; they were like those awful library doors downstairs, which had shut her in to begin the suffering to which he had consigned her.

The room was still Isabel's. Nothing had been changed: even the photographs of George, of the Major and of "brother George" still stood on her dressing table, and in a drawer of her desk was an old picture of Eugene and Lucy, taken together, which George had found but had slowly closed away again from sight, not touching it. Tomorrow everything would be gone; and he had heard there was not long to wait before the house itself would be demolished. The very space which tonight was still Isabel's room would be cut into new shapes by new walls and floors and cellings; yet the room would always live, for it could not die out of George's memory. It would live as long as he did, and it would always be murmurous with a tragic, wistful

whispering. And if space itself can be haunted, as memory is haunted, then some time, 3 when the space that was Isabel's room came to be made into the small bedrooms and "kitchenettes" already designed as its destiny, that space might well be haunted and the new occupants come to feel that some seemingly causeless depression hung about it—a wraith of the passion that filled it wraith of the passion that filled it Minafer spent there.

Whatever remnants of the old high handed arrogance were still within



He Did Penance for His Deepest Sin That Night.

him, he did penance for his deepest sin that night-and it may be that to this day some impressionable, overworked woman in a "kitcheneite," after turning out the light, will seem to see a young man kneeling in the darkness, shaking convulsively, and, with arms outstretched through the wall, clutching at the covers of a shadowy bed. It may seem to her that she hears the faint cry, over and over: "Mother, forgive me! God, forgive

(To be Continued Next Week)

CANCER

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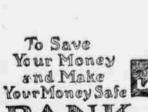
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