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#### Violets on the Left Shoulder

By F. A. MITCHEL

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In New England are two colleges in dose proximity. In one young men are educated, in the other young girls. One day Edwin Langdon, a senior in the man's college, was strolling on a road not far from the women's institution when be saw a black spot above him. He watched it sink gradually till it appeared as a paper balloon rocking in the air and fell not a hundred yards from him. Going to where it my, be took it up and noticed that to the crosswires holding a sponge that had been saturated with alcohol hung a piece of pasteboard on which was written in

a feminine hand: I contain a secret.

"Yes," said Langdon to himself, "and judging by your handwriting the seret is not to be kept. Some undergraduate of the women's college has sent you off for the purpose of telling her secret."

The student carefully examined the balloon in every part, but the secret under the pasted seams, he took it to

"I have it." he exclaimed sudden "Some girl has written the secret with a fluid that requires a chemical the laboratory and apply tests." He did so and succeeded. By soaking the paper successively in several different acids he at last found one that brought out letters containing a message.

The writing stopped abruptly. "Oho?" said Langdon inwardly. "So I'm warm, am 1? That means that I'm on the right track. And a kiss is to be my reward if I get your secret Only you didn't like to call kissing Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits

you a reward. Any man who wouldn't under such circumstances exercise all his wits to reach the goal is no man Ned Langdon tried all the chemical agents he could think of to bring out another message, but they failed. He puzzled over the matter for a week.

then temporarily gave it up-that is. as to investigation. He continued to think about it pretty much all the One evening he was holding the baltoon close to a gas jet examining the

paper with a magnifying glass, turning successively different parts to the let, when on the paper, very near the flame, out came brown letters. They were too faint to be read, but Langdon knew he had got the secret-that is, if there was no more of the problem to be solved. Heat was the element required to bring out the writing. Holding the paper very close to the burning gas, a message in deep brown letters appeared:

Junior prom. Violets on left shoulder. "Well, upon my word!" exclaimed Ned. "That's a round about way of making the acquaintance of a stranger. And to think that I didn't get on to the heat explanation. That message was probably written in common lemon juice. But the "junior prom." comes off next week. In four days more I would have been too late."

That ended Langdon's studies till the "junior prom." had taken place. He had no thought but for the girl who. had sent the paper balloon. So she would be known at the function by viclets on her left shoulder!

And what must have been the feelings of that girl as the evening in question approached? There were few chances of the balloon falling into the hands of one she would care to meet And if it did, would be have the ingenuity to extract the secret? "I'll bother that girl," mused Lang-

don, "by pretending not to recognize the token."

He entered the hall inte purposely and stood in the background till he saw a girl pass with a bunch of violets on her shoulder. She was as pretty as a peach. He was enraptured.

Langdon showed himself in the company of different girls for half an hour, then secured an introduction to the girl of the secret, pretending not to notice her violets. He made himset agreeable, however-indeed, paid her marked attention. After having been with her for some time be gallantly asked for a souvenir, looking wistfully at the violets. The girl did not take the hint.

There was a gallery at one end of the ball, used during religious services for the choir. Langdon invited the girl to go up there with him. She accepted, and they sat back where they would not be seen. Beneath them was that mingling of voices common at social gatherings resembling the running

Suddenly every voice stopped at the sound of a muffled shrick. Fortunately sound has no direction for the ear. "Some girl has been kissed," remarked numerous undergraduates. The professors looked shocked.

The hero and heroine of this story have long been married, and their sons and daughters are now firring for college. The mother dreads to send her daughters where she cannot overlook them. When she talks this way her husband replies;

"Will you kindly tell me, my dear, what avail it is to watch a girl? They say that 'love laughs at locksmiths,' but I once knew a girl who got a husband by sending up a paper balloon with a secret in it so concealed that"-"Oh, heavens! Shall I never hear

the last of that freak?"

Excursion

1911

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Boston \$110.00 Many other points in proportion. Clatsop Beach on the Pacific, Round Trip Madras \$12.15, Metolius \$12.30, Culver \$12.45, Opal City \$12.75. Tickets sold daily from June 1st,

good returning all summer. Stop-overs at Astoria. Trains leaves - Opal City daily 9:00 a. m., Culver 9:15 a. m., Metohus 9:30 a. m., Madras 9:45 a. m., arriving Portland 7:45 p. m.

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