Monday, September 16, 1912.



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FISH BRAND.

dicted Mrs. Raymond, as she directed and was soon out of sight, hini to his room Mark Ellsworth was sure that he must detest Punderson the poet. As be that was not broken by any reference

know.

fore that gentleman's marriage and since then had been a frequent guest

of that most fascinating of homes.

The presence of Percy Ranier Pun- ted into the sea. Here were the derson at Windymere was significant. | charred and crumbled ruins of a once Mark had heard of him as a dreamy, | beautiful stone chapel. soulful individual, and he could not associate Mrs. Raymond's description of the Englishman with the drooping, "Windymere is beautiful, but if I had anaemic poet his imagination had confured.

Eunice gave him a cool little hand and a fleeting glimpse of sea blue eyes the highway," observed Eunice quietthat were hidden at once by thickly fringed white lids.

"We had about given you up," she said reproachfully. "You've promised to come down every Saturday for the for me?" She was looking at him past month and now, the first week in October, our expectations are at last realized!" The mock regret in her away at the glistening waves. He was tone quite hid something that Mark was too miserable to recognize, "I've been very busy," he said ab-

sently, "and in town the weeks do slip away. You have not been dull?" His eyes involuntarily turned toward Punderson's broad back. "Not at all?" she cried hastily. "Mr.

Punderson is quite as ardent a pedestrian as I am, and together we have tramped over every road in Mereton. coming home with the most appalling appetites."

Mark, speaking more wistfully than he knew.

"Of course," she replied quickly. "I know the loveliest place in the countryside. We will start tomorrow morning while the others are at church."

to himself for several hours put Mark quite hidden. in the best of spirits and during the course of the evening he came to like the big quiet blond giant who seemed a living representation of the heroes who marched through the pages of Eualce's stories.

As they struck into a long amber lighted wood road the next day Mark between tears and laughter, "bot those turned and looked at Eunice, she step- of us who are not sure, when we give ping easily beside him. She wore a our love first, we-we must dissemble, simple walking skirt of white serge such as describing our hero as a blond and a white knitted coat, with a white giant when as a matter of fact- Oh, felt hat perched on her golden hair. | Mark"- as he took her in his arms, She looked very young and very fair,

but he thought her voice lacked its peated, laughing down into her eyes. usual buoyancy. Then it occurred to him that Eunice might care for Pun-

"Shall we go on?" asked Eunice Their walk was resumed in a silence

against a nearby tree, Mr. Punderson

mire poets as we do women, you farewell that included Mark, leaning

"You will like Mr. Punderson," pre- tramped back over the fallen leaves

dressed for dinner his fine forehead to their interrupted conversation. A was creased with a dark frown as he grimness had settled around Mark's went over the months of his acquaint- lips, and his chin looked more square ance with Eunice Ward. He had been than ever. Eunice's fair brow was a bosom friend of Dick Raymond's be- puckered in a frown, and there was a troubled look in her eves

When Mark did open his lips once at Windymere. Eunice was Mrs. Ray- more it was to speak of the brilliant mond's cousin, and it was at Windy- autumn coloring or the scampering mere that Mark had met and fallen in- gray squirrels that crossed their path. love with her among the winding paths At last they emerged upon a cleared space crowning a high bluff that jut-

Mark removed his hat and drew a deep breath of the sweet pure air. my choice I'd build a home right here on this headland," he said thoughtfully.

"There is a good road that leads into ly as she seated herself on the stone steps of the rulned edifice. "I have bought this land, Mark. Don't you

think it will make a beautiful home through drooping lashes, "Yes," he returned dully, staring

thinking of the ideal life Eunice would lead with her poetic husband if she married Punderson. And he was sure

that she cared for the Englishman. "I want to tell you something about Mr. Punderson," went on Eunice. "I am sure you will understand that it is entirely confidential."

"Yes," he repeated grimly, "Well, Mr. Punderson is very much

In love with Alice Grenville, and she is flirting outrageously with every man she meets. Just at present it is Tom-"I hope you will walk with me," said my Lapham, whom no one takes seriously, yet poor Mr. Punderson is absurdly jealous. If he understood women he might see that Alice is in love with him and that she is afraid some-

body will discover that fact. Stupid, isn't he?" A pink flush wavered in The prospect of having Eunice all her cheeks, and her blue eyes were

Mark breathed quickly. He took a step toward her, a light in his dark eyes. "Eunice," he said hoarsely, "are all women like that-do they try to hide their love from the man who loves them?"

"Not all, Mark," she said in a tone

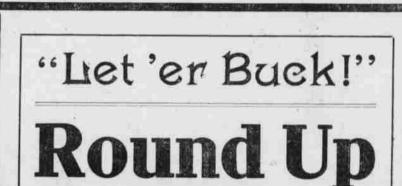
"When as a matter of fact"- he re-"He is like you," she whispered, her lips against his.

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