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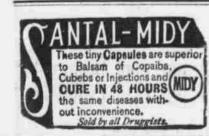
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TWO BUTTERFLIES

By LOWELL O. REESE

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A saint would have been driven frantic by the girl. I threw up my hands, figuratively, groaned literally and with an expletive not at all in harmony with the best ethics of polite society declared to my tortured soul that she had the sphinx beaten a mile.

The same not being an elegant thing to do, I excuse it only on the ground that I was worried to the point of irresponsibility. I swore by all the gods, from the little mud god of the Digger Indian to the war god Thor, never to have anything more to say to her. Fifteen minutes later I was back on the hotel veranda watching that tantalizing, inscrutable glint in her eye. For I was human, and she was very dear to me.

And the worst of it was she knew it. Once let a girl know you love her and you are lost.

"And you don't wish me to go out with Mr. Blakeslee?" she said with provoking mildness. "And why, please?" "First," I broke out, "because you're going to marry me, and that in itself ought"-

"Indeed! And will you kindly tell me just when I promised to marry you, Mr. Jack Weston?" She wasn't angry. I had not even

gry and in love. 'You-well, you know it's as good as settled." I began, but she interrupted

that satisfaction. But I was both an-

"As-good-as-settled!" she murmured dreamily.. "Watch me now!" she said. She lifted her hand toward a brilliant butterfly which had alighted upon a rose at the edge of the porch. Her fingers opened. "See!" she said breathlessly. "I reach my hand-my fingers nearly touch him. Have I got him, though? It seems all I have to do is to close my fingers so-ah!" The gaudy creature eluded her just as her fingers brushed his striped wings. "I didn't get him?" she sighed. "And I was so sure of him!"

She jumped up, gave me a teasing smile and ran down the steps. Presently I saw her with Blakeslee going toward the boat landing. A little later they were moving briskly up the river, and then I saw-

It made my heart stop. Blakeslee palpably was the rawest dub in a canoe, and a canoe with an unskillful



MISS MILWOOD, STRANGELY QUIET, HUD-DLED IN THE BOTTOM OF THE CANOR. and on the paddle is about as dangerous as a powder mill with a live

coal knocking about in it. I started involuntarily toward the boat landing where my own canoe lay. Then I turned on my heel and stamped back. Not to save a thousand lives-my own included-would I be seen following them. They and all the rest of the world would at-

tribute it to jealousy, and-And deep down in my poor, aching, bedeviled heart I knew it would be the

I dug up my pipe and polluted the sweet summer air for rods around. I determined to be a pessimist and a cynic and spend the rest of my life sneering at everything I used to like. I jeered at the idea of human felicity o and wished I'd never been born. I had what is technically known as the

Suddenly a great light broke over me, and I saw where I had been playing the fool instead of the wise general. I had been giving her all the advantage, and as I reviewed my case I grew ut-self. The spectacle of a great six foot grownup man toddling around, beseeching a small girl to love him! How could she, when I was so devoid of stamina as that?

And then I determined that, come what might, I would do so no more. It might break my heart, but I was determined. Then, too, my heart was all crushed to frazzles anyway, so a little more breaking would be a mere inci-

dent not worth considering. A mutter of thunder in the west, and I glanced up in apprehension. A black cloud was rolling up through the pines, and already the wind was beginning to sway the tree tops. I rose and looked

up the river. No cance was in sight. Filled with alarm I climbed into my canoe, a tiny thing, and paddled turiously up the stream ahead of the rising

Half a mile up the river, and no sign of the canocists. The wind swept down and almost instantly the water was beaten into whitecaps, and the little shell bobbed like a cork, but I held it straight ahead and watched it with the instinct of one trained to the paddle. And then the rain came!

As I rounded a bend in the channel saw them. They were huddled under a heavy pine near the water's edge. The waves were trying to drag the canoe away from the bank, and Blakeslee, the picture of woe, was struggling to get it ashore.

I ran my canoe close in and sprang upon the bank before they saw me. It was growing dark, what with the storm and the lateness of the hour. Miss Milwood turned and gave a glad "Oh, Jack," she said piteously, "I'm

so glad! We've been unable to get home! Our canoe was beaten back by the storm, and it upset and we were thrown into the water, and it was a mercy it was near the shore, else we'd have drowned!" "How did you escape?" I asked

stiffiy. "We-we waded! And I'm chilling to death. Jack!" Her lips were blue with cold, and she shivered miserably. Poor

Blakeslee was in no better plight.

I hastened to right the other canoe with Blakeslee's help. Then I put the luckless boatman aboard, paddled him across to the mainland and bade him sprint for the hotel and get a roaring fire ready. I then recrossed the river, lifted the terrified girl into the large cance, tied the other behind and set out in the teeth of the storm. Doggedly and steadily, keeping as much as possible in the lea of the shore, we crept down the angry sheet of water. Miss Milwood, strangely quiet, huddled in the bottom of the canoe and said not a word. But I could hear her teeth chattering and I felt love and pity struggling hard with my new resolution to be grimly firm and uncompromising.

My muscles were aching and my heart throbbing as though it would burst when at last we drew into the shelter of the boathouse. I fastened the canoes and lifted the wet figure ashore.

"Oh, Jack," she quavered, "I should have died if you hadn't"-

"I beg you won't mention it, Miss Milwood," I said with exaggerated politeness. It was a mean thing to say. I realized it at the time, but it was necessary if I was to crush the flerce longing to take her in my arms.

I hurried her up to the botel. From To to time she pushed back her wet a and gazed at me with a pathetic safulness which I affected not to see. I's storm had blown swiftly away. and the big white moon was sailing

through the sky dotted with scudding cloud drift. I resigned her to the care of the solicitous Mrs. Kerens, who was all sympathy and bustling motherliness Blakeslee was there in an agony of contrition. I went away, changed my wet clothing and sat down within the half

lighted library, gloomly watching the pine logs in the wide fireplace. After about an hour a timid hand parted the curtains, and I knew without turning my head who it was. She came in slowly

"Jack," she said tremulously. I sprang to my feet and offered her s chair. She refused to notice it. She held out her hands. I in turn refused to notice them. "Jack," she whispered, "are you an-

"Not at all, Miss Milwood!" I rejoin ed, still excessively polite and proper "I am merely going to reform." She knew

For a moment she stood silent with her head bent down. I stood gazing over her head with eyes which dared not look for a moment at hers, else all were lost. Then I heard her sob. "It was a bad day for butterfiles," I

muttered huskily. She glanced up, and I saw her eyes filled with tears. "This butterfly is

tired, Jack-dear Jack!" she whispered. "It doesn't want to fly!" "Never-for always?"

"Never-for always!"

It was good-all that wretchedness and anxiety of long months, when she lay tight against my breast and I kissed the perverse red lips-meek now and sweetly submissive. Perverse no more for the butterfly was caught!

A Once Famous City.

Caerleon of Roman times and of the days of King Arthur still exists. The famous city that was once the garrison of the Second Augustan legion,

the capital of South Wales and the seat of an archbishopric is now a sleepy little town lying between the industrial centers of Pontypool and Newport, but is far enough away from both to have maintained the dignity and pathos of its isolation. Here are to be seen the ruins of a Roman amphitheater, a great oval bank of earth called Arthur's Round Table and an enormous mound once fortified by the Romans. The officers and men of the crack Roman regiment and their wives and families left many remains of their occupation - tombstones, fragments of household utensils, needles and fibulae, remains of villas and baths, lamps, glass and enamel ornaments, carvings, rings, seals and the like, to be gazed upon in the cases o the local museum. The whole place, with its combination of hill and winding river, with low lying houses nestling in abundant trees, forms a picture which many a painter has sought to portray on canvas.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE, PORTland, Ore., December 30, 1904. Sealed proposals will be received here for stone for extension of jetty at mouth of Columbia river, Oregon and Washington, until 11 a. m., January 31, 1905, and then publicly opened. Information on application. W. C. Langfitt, Maj.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the co-partnership of Hop Hing Lung & Co., doing business as merchants and contractors for Chinese labor at No. 376 Bond street, Astoria, Oregon, is this day dissolved by the retirement of Yen Jin Song, Womg Hond, Lee York. The business will hereafter be conducted by the remaining members of the company. Chew Gong, manager, left will embark for China. He will return next year. His partners, Eng Fook and Johg Hop, will manage the business

during his absence. HOP HING LUNG & CO. AH DOCK, Chairman.

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