

HOLDING A HUSBAND

REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

CHAPTER 144

WHY ALFRED DECLARED HE WAS IN A "BLUE FUNK"

Dicky is in ways most punctilious in his courtesy to me before outsiders, always afraid when we have had a quarrel that some one will suspect all is not perfectly serene between us. Because of this, I could not tell whether he had really forgotten our unpleasant parting, or was only feigning to do so, when he followed Alfred Durkee up the walk, his face insouciant as if he hadn't a care in the world.

girl's flowerlike face, kissing her with blissful oblivion of our presence and that of the taxi driver, who was looking from the motor car at us with evident enjoyment. "Well, Madge!" Dicky pecked at my cheek carelessly. "Where's the rod? I know you've got one in pickle for me somewhere for attending that bachelor dinner without asking your permission, Lucky dog!" He apostrophized Alfred. "You probably won't even get a remonstrance or a reproachful look at this stage of the game. But just you wait till the little girl has worn her wedding ring for a spell—I'll bet you'll go through your catechism every night!" Alfred looked up absently. "What did you say?" he remarked blankly, then flushed boyishly at Dicky's shout of laughter. Leila, however, womanlike, had been able to give apparently undivided attention to Alfred's tender murmurs and yet hearing everything Dicky had been saying. "You're perfectly horrid, Dicky-bird!" she pouted. "I don't believe

ELIZABETH, THE NEW QUEEN OF GREECE.



The beautiful wife of George of Greece, shown above, shares with her husband the honors connected with the rulership.

that pours out from the processor, which is a steam jet that washes the fruit. All the defective fruit, the split, the broken, the skin-ruffled, is sorted. But an astonishingly small total of prunes has been found this year. Some prunes are stored in the plant, subject to the call of the market. The company desires only an accommodation, as the prunes are needed mostly for its own products. Some of the bins are on the second floor—some are on the ground floor—some are filled with bins of prunes, of which many have been packed for shipment, and many more will have to be shipped if the influx continues. Prunes are now being packed for export. One fine lot now being sent out is labeled with the name of good King Oscar for Scandinavian shipment. They go in boxes with two wire bands around each box, like the wire band on a bale of hay. The steamship companies will not accept them for ocean transport, without this extra protection. They go by water from Portland. An interesting fact in transportation is that it costs more to ship by rail from the company's other yet larger plant at Roseburg, to Portland, than for all the rest of the way to Europe by water. Perhaps not everybody realizes

just how big and how interesting an industry is the packing of prunes, or how excellent an establishment is located right here in Salem only a few blocks from the business center of the city. It would be worth a visit. The incorporators are E. M. Ellis, C. A. Boyle and Allison Moulton. Offices are in Portland, and the incorporators are J. E. Hammack, George M. Wilkes and E. J. Treese. SCOTT'S MILLS. The Scott's Mills school opened Monday, October 9, with a full crop of teachers. Attendance was small owing to the fact that all of the prunes crop is not gathered, but it is expected that all of the students will return next week. The Scott's Mills high school has received several new books for the library. The Scott's Mills prunes began operating last Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Scott are intending to make a business tour of the coast this winter. Several of the Royal Neighbors of Scott's Mills attended the play "Down on the Farm" given under the auspices of the Silverton Royal Neighbors. NEW CORPORATIONS. The E. M. Ellis company of Portland, capitalized at \$25,000 filed articles of incorporation Saturday. The incorporators are E. M. Ellis, C. A. Boyle and Allison Moulton. Offices are in Portland, and the incorporators are J. E. Hammack, George M. Wilkes and E. J. Treese.

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DRAGER PLANT IS IMPOSING AFFAIR

Madge ever says a word to you, although she ought to thrash you soundly about every other day. Leila Feels Self-Reproach "Oh, say not so, gracious lady! Prithee, make it only once a week. Do you hear, Alf, how these women do together stink? You didn't think you were getting such a ferocious female, did you? Better break off the match. There's time yet, you know." Leila's eyes met mine for a shame-faced instant, and I knew she was thinking how nearly Dicky's jesting words had come to be truth. "I'm not afraid," Alfred smiled fatuously at Leila. "But if I were in your place, Mrs. Madge, I wouldn't stand for any such aspersions as the Dicky-bird is handing out. But then, of course, you probably do have to trim him up a bit now and then. Now I'm going to be the one and only model husband—never need a bit of discipline."

"Leila'd better keep you in a glass cage and charge admittance for a look at you after next Tuesday" I retorted, with the suspicion of an edge to my laugh. I had been so absolutely magnanimous in my mental attitude toward the bachelor dinner that it irritated me absurdly enough to have Dicky pretend that I meant to call him to account for attending it. Another Crisis Passed "Tuesday!" Dicky ejaculated. "That's right! You do hop over the broomstick next Tuesday. Your time is short, old man. I only hope you don't get in the blue funk I did. It came over me all of a sudden that I was leaving my free, gay life behind, and I dropped the ring and nearly swooned away. Madge had to slap my hands to bring me to enough to go on with the ceremony."

"Probably if she could have seen into the future she'd have let you die," Alfred drawled. "You see, she wasn't drawing the matrimonial prize Leila is. But honestly, folks, there is something I'm in a blue funk over, but it isn't the wedding. It's that family dinner tomorrow night, when all the cousins and the aunts look me over to see if I'm worthy to be let into the family. You're coming, of course. If I don't have some practical northern Yankees to back me up I'm going to be smothered, I know I am, by the mere weight of the family tree represented there."

I looked quickly at Leila, wondering if she would be offended by his laughing reference. But her face was untroubled, and I saw with relief that she had adopted a sensible attitude toward Alfred's propensity to tease. "You'd better not let Aunt Dora hear you mention the word 'Yankee' if you want to marry me, sir," she laughed. "She's the dearest, most unreconstructed old rebel you ever saw. You stand very high with her, for some incomprehensible reason"—she glanced at him with pretty coquetry—"but her liking would never stand that test."

"You're too saucy altogether," Alfred announced abruptly. "I'm going to take you home and discipline you. You'll surely be there tomorrow night," he called over his shoulder as he whisked Leila unceremoniously and laughingly down the path. "With our ears pinned back and our hair in a braid!" Dicky called after them, then turned to me and slipped his arm under mine. "If you'll get down on your bonded knees, I'll forgive you" he said quizzically, and with the old familiar joking formula I knew that once more a quarrel between us had been patched up. (To be continued)

About the most unwelcome guest of which we wot is the woman who keeps the doors open a half an hour saying good-by and letting the flies into the best room in the house.—Exchange.

DRAGER PLANT IS IMPOSING AFFAIR

Prune Handling is Business Volume of Which is Not Generally Known

The Drager Fruit company plant on South Church street is working 50 employees, receiving, grading and packing prunes. The fruits come in by the truck load from the dryers. When a Statesman representative visited the plant Friday there were four trucks waiting to unload. A truckload of prunes isn't especially imposing in appearance. A sack of prunes weighing 100 pounds isn't big, but they pack down heavily into a very small space, and a three-ton load looks only like a little jag. The Drager factory is really a model business enterprise. The prunes are weighed as they come into the plant, and then they are followed by a lead-penciled sleuth, literally or figuratively, up to the time they are packed and shunted out of the door to the freight platform. They follow a schedule like a postman's calls with much the same efficiency. Prunes are not as large this year as some other seasons. The 20's that have miraculously gotten into the bins for 1922 are negligible. The 30 flats also, are scarce, but the next grading, the 30-40's, is taking a considerable portion of the crop and the grading yet above that, the 40-50's, absorbs practically the whole crop. The company is hardly getting enough of the 60's to pay to list them as such. Forret-eyed inspectors watch over all the cataract of prunes



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