

SHE'LL MARRY ME.

As life looks very bright to me since I have heard her say, With sweet becoming modesty, She'll marry me some day.

MY FIANCEE.

I had been telegraphic operator at "B station" some six or eight months and had had communication of a purely business character only with the operator at "D" when there came a change.

set me wild. If you will not tell me where to find Nellie, I want on in desperation, "Will you please tell her this—I have been a bad, wicked girl, and—"

"No such person as Ned Clayborn!" My dear young lady, I must beg leave to differ with you. That is the name of the young man who in three short weeks is to marry Miss Merton.

Presently the laughter ceased. Then I heard uneasy movements in the chair occupied by my companion. Then he got up and paced about restlessly.

"You are a contemptible fellow!" I cried. He did not reply, but stood looking down at me from his superior height.

"Over a year ago you asked me to marry you, and I consented. I have come to ask: Will you come? Or shall I consider this a breach of promise?"

Very few young married men of this day would like to start in a profession at the age of 29 on a salary of \$3 a week, but young Hall thought he would be able to pick up outside work.

AS USUAL.

You shouldn't have stood in the doorway, dear. You look like a ghost.

MAGGIE'S GHOST.

The late Creed Haymond, chief counsel of the Southern Pacific, could hardly be called a dabbler in the occult or a believer in things supernatural, and yet, as he did believe implicitly that he had seen a ghost.

It was early in the fifties when Haymond, then a stranger in California, became an express rider. He used to make regular trips into the mountains, carrying in his big saddlebags letters, papers and such small articles as could be transported in this way.

On one of his first trips away up in the Sierra he came to an almost deserted camp, where a rich strike had been made and the pocket quickly exhausted.

Haymond made two trips more, and returned a third time, and then he was startled to find that the man had been killed.

Haymond was detained a week longer than he had expected, and when he started for the mountains again his friends told him he would never get through, but he persisted, and finally, after a long battle with the snowdrifts, he reached the last camp on his route.

Dusk came while he was still more than a mile from the cabin. He pressed on as fast as he dared, when suddenly his horse stopped short with a snort and stood quivering.

started forward with a snort, and as he did so Haymond saw Maggie Rodden on the trail, her hair hanging around her pale face, her hands stretched pleadingly toward him and an expression of mute agony upon her white face.

There was nothing to be done or said, for Mrs. Rodden had gone home a month before, and she could not have been roaming around in the snow, and as there was no other woman within miles of the camp he must have been mistaken.

Haymond sat silent for awhile, then, finding that the man did not intend to be silent, he concluded that the best thing he could do was to go to bed.

Haymond stepped at the first settlement and gave notice of the suicide at the deserted camp, but the snow was again falling, and no party could reach the place for weeks, if before spring.

By this time spring had come, and he was about to make his first trip to the mountain. He reached the town where he had given notice of the suicide in the lonely cabin.

The South African British colonies had in 1840 a population of 140,000. At present it is 1,800,000, with a business of £17,000,000 and 1,800 miles of railway.

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