By JACK CURTISS

Bramwell, the general manager of the Loftus corporation, stared with a white face at Lewis, the treasurer. In front of him was an open safe. "It's gone!" he said.

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Lewis was shaking as if stricken

with ague. "What-do you make of it?" he stammered. "I tell you what I make of it!" shout ed Bramwell. "The Neatfoot company has stolen the plans for our new en-

twelve million dollars. They've been bankruptey. Lewis closed the safe before answer-"After all, it's up to Feggis," he said. "He put the plans in the safe.

rope without leaving any address. He's the president, not you or I." "But how did it get out of the safe?" demanded Bramwell, when they were closeted together in the manager's of-"At least we'll trace the thief. Somebody knew the combination."

"Ever hear of the man who opens safes by catching the sound?" asked "Some fellow like that It's an easy trick, I understand. Some con-



You Make of It?" He Stammered.

federate in the office introduced the man-probably and him in the ladies' coatroom around five o'clock, where he had risen to the full the door opened ing dressed, and sometimes she would could hear the safe being opened. After | and John came hurrying in. that it was easy."

"Who works at niget besides I'e "Miss Graham."

aren't they?"

They stared at each other and then smiled. There was small hope of re covering the plans, but at least it seemed to them that they were on the

John Peters, President Feggia' sec retary, and Nancy Graham, his stenographer, had practically the run of the office during the president's absence The inquisition bad narrowed itself down to them. Nobody else could possibly have been guilty. Peters had entered the president's employ in his present capacity five years before

Miss Graham seven. She had worked up to her present position at thirty dollars a week, and there existed some feeling against her, not only on the part of the girls who were now her ubordinates, but among Bramwell and Lewis, who resented the fact that she and Peters occupied a practically independent position during the presi-

In spite of the heads' precautions the story of the theft leaked out. Insensibly the suspicion of the office force was directed toward the occu pants of the mahogany-furnished room where Peters and Nancy worked together. And insensibly Nancy felt that chilling suspicion enter her own

There was, in reality, little room for private talk between them, even if they had been so minded. The president's office, fitted with transparent windows that looked out directly upon the general office, allowed both occupants to be seen at all times. Often Nancy would look up from her work to ses a dozen pairs of eyes watching her.

They were to have been married that spring. The marriage had been postponed when the crisis compelled the cutting down of salaries. John was making only forty-five a week ow, a sum ample for their needs, only Nancy, with memories of a life of poverty behind her, did not intend to start life, giving up her position after her marriage, without a substantial bank account. And she would not work when she was married. She and John were old-fashioned people, and neither believed in that.

"Nancy," John had pleaded, "give up your work and marry me. I shall getting fifty again next year, and after that a substantial raise at some time. Don't let us spend our youth together here when we might be so

The girl had steadfastly refused. John had taken it hard at first. times she almost releated, but her elple kept her to her decision. He would be glad when the time came. he had once said to her,

"If I could get some money, several thousand dollars, would you marry me at once?" "How would you get it?" she par-

"I have an investment," John had

And his words came back to her to sat within the office, near John. co she raised her eyes and looked at him steadfastly. His own eyes had een fixed accutinizingly on hers. He

hing that amazed her. His invest ment had been of a little legacyfew hundred dollars only, but a tip from a broker had enabled him to real ize five thousand on it. He had the noney safe in the bank. Would she marry bim now?

And the girl's enger joy was damp ened by the sudden fearful suspicion that came to her. She thrust it aside -but it returned. John a thief? John whom she adored with all her mind constantly? She waited with a crushing hurden at her heart.

And day by day they felt the sus picion rise and hang over them like a dark cloud.

O'Day, the mail sorter, had been discharged the week before. The new man, Fallon, a surly, vindictive-looking fellow, had his post opposite the window facing Nancy's desk. Whenever she looked up she would see Fallon's eyes fixed on hers. He seemed to be watching her. And it was no long before she began to see Fallon lurking behind her when she went out gine. It means a difference of about to lunch, when she went home. The man was a spy. She was under susafter it for a year. And to us it means picion, then. Those wretched days in the office, when John, absorbed, hardly spoke to her, were breaking down the

John was guilty! The impression He went off on a sudden jaunt to Euhad grown into certainty. The story of the legacy was preposterous. In Nancy's brain an idea was born. Quietly and unostentationsly she went from her lunch one day into the office building of the Neatfoot company, emerging through the other door.

Glancing back as she passed out, put into a nice little bed, and she she saw Fallon waiting for her. There had a new dress and a stylish bonwas a look of satisfaction on his dark face. He followed her to the office almost openly.

Twice more Nancy performed this feat. Each time she saw Fallon behind her. And somehow, in the mysterious way of offices, that story got known too. Nancy read it in the faces of all the girls, in John's. He knew! And by now their intimacy had dwindled to a shadow of friendship. John no longer called for her, alleging the pressure of work in the office. He stayed there nightly, after Nancy had gone home.

"Mr. Bramwell wishes to see you, Miss Graham!"

With beating heart Nancy followed the boy into the general magnate's room. Lewis was there with Bram-

"Sit down, Miss Graham," said Bramwell. "You know Mr. Feggis will be back today and before he comeshis voice was soft as honey-"I think you had better confess that you stole net, and a number of little girls came that plan of the engine."

hawks "We've got the goods on you," shouted Lewis theatrically. "You'd better to herself. She did not feel old, and confess. You have been tracked to she knew !f her mother gave her the Neatfoot offices."

Yes, I confess," said Nancy calmly. was bribed to steal that engine

Before the triumph on their faces

"You can cut that out!" he shouted. "I "tole the engine plans, and I times she would be left in her car warn you that all the office is talking riage all night, and there she would about Miss Graham being implicated. sit, staring into the darkness, and "Whow!" said Bramwell. "Engaged, Well, it's a lie. I'm responsible."

> amazement. Then Lewis leaped for-You both stole them!" he shouted "I have suspected you from the be

ginning. This will be a jail sen-"Dear me, what will be a jail sen What is this trouble about?" tence?

demanded a pleasant-voiced old gentle man, entering the office, umbrella in hand. "Mr. Feggis!" exciaimed Bramwel

"Sir, the engine plans have been stolen, sold to the Neatfoot company and these persons are the guilty ones They took the plans from the safe What are you talking about?" de manded Feggis. "Didn't the messen-

on board the Aquitaine? Why, my emergency order from the French government, and couldn't wait to explain. Just got home with the contract." "But Miss Graham has confessed!

cried the bewildered Bramwell. "And Mr. Peters : Iso," said Lewis. Mr. Feggis turned and looked int the faces of the lovers.

"I think," he said with quiet empha sts, "that if you will intrust the matter to me I can obtain a very quick recantation from them' But instead of obtaining the recanta-

tion he quietly left the room with his rides.

"Oh, John!" sobbed Nancy, "I thought you-you- Can you ever forgive me?"

"But I thought you-" stuttered John. "Why, Nancy, what on earth sun,"
-didn't you believe in that legacy? girl. John. I tell you what, dear, we've both been overworked and got a little nerverorn. What do you say to starting

that honeymoon tomorrow?" "Tomorrow?" Nancy gasped. "Why, I can't possibly—that is, not till the day after, John."

A soldier correspondent of the London Dally Mirror writes to that paper of a recent incident: "I was returning from a deserted village near he writes, "when I saw leisurely strolling down the road a man absolutely naked. You can judge my as tonishment.

"When we met, after greetings he told me that he had become separated from his regiment, accidently walked into an enemy trench, and there had been stripped of all his clothing and put under guard. In the night he had | glad to be, for she was tired, and she managed to overpower the guard and | closed her eyes for a long sleep. make his escape, trusting to get some clothing on his way back. I gave him my waterproof and, after begging a cigar, he coolly continued his journey. I have since had my waterproof returned with a letter of thanks from the sender, a Canadian officer."

Unintentional Deference. "Mr. Wagglejor refuses to recognize the intellectual superiority of

"But he does recognize it," rejoined Miss Cayenne. "Yesterday he insist-ed on doing all the talking and letting



ARABELLA

Arabella was a beautiful wax doll, her day, and was given the best of care by her mother who was very fond of her, and when the mother was too old to play with dolls she wrapped Arabella in a soft cloth and put her in a drawer, where she remained for many years.

Then one day she took her out, and Arabella heard her say to a little girl who stood beside her:

"This was my best doll when I was a little girl. Now I am going to give her to you. Her name is Arabella, and you must be very careful of her, for she is wax and cannot be dropped without breaking, as your other dolls. "But, mother," the little girl said, can't she be mended if I break her?"

spoil poor Arabella if you drop her, as her head is very soft." Arabella was very carefully handled for a few days. She was put in a pretty carriage and wheeled about; then she was undressed at night and

"No," said her mother, "it will



Poor Arabella's Face Was Changed.

to see her. Her new mother told them They waited, watching her face like that Arabella was very old and that her mother played with her when she was a little girl. But Arabella laughed good care she would always look young and feel young.

There came a day, however, when her new mother became tired of her, and she was left all day without be have to lie in bed for days at a time with her eyes closed. At other she would wish her new mother would The look of triumph turned to put her to bed so she could close her eyes.

One night Arabella was left in her carrings on the plazza all night. "Oh, dear!" thought Arabella.

will freeze out here in the night air." And a big dog came up to her car riage and sniffed at her.

"Oh, dear! oh, dear!" she cried "What will I do? I om so afraid!" Then the dog licked her cheek and ook off some of the red. Poor Arabella almost fainted, but she sat quite still and looked straight shead, and the dog walked away.

Arabella was glad when the day light came, but the sun came also, and her new mother did not move her ger deliver that note I sent you from carriage, for she was busy making mud ples on the shady side of the dear fellow, I took the plans. Had an house. By and by the sun crept up to Arabella's carriage and then to her feet, and finally all over her.

"Oh, dear," thought Arabella, "will no ogo save me? I shall melt. I afterwards found that no driver ever know I shall;" but her new mother was very bucy with her cooking. At lurch time the new mother ran

around to the front of the house to meet her father, and then she saw Arabella, and such an Arabella you nevar saw. Her new mother looked at her, and ran into the house for her mother to come quick and see what had happened to Arabella. Poor Arabella's face was changed, indeed; the wax had melted and run down her cheeks; she looked old and sad. "I told you not to leave her in the

sun," said the mother to the little

again?" asked the new mother. "No," said Arabella's first mother she is spoiled, and to think I played with her for years, and she was as good as new when I gave her to eye. you.

She took Arabelia out of the car "You poor old dolly," she said, and Arabella leaned lovingly against her. "The children nowadays do not love their dolls as I did when I was a little girl. I thought as much of you then as a mother does of her child. I'll put you back in the attic," she said, carrying Arabella into the house, "for I cannot put you in the ragbac. Even if your face is spoiled, you always will be Arabella to me,

no matter how you look." So Arabella went back to the soft cloth and the drawer, where she was you'll know when you get it!"

Polita Tommy Tommy's fether had been giving

him leasons in politeness. One day, hearing noise coming from the nurser; he investigated and found Tommy pounding his little brother. "I'm surprised, Tommy," said his

father, sternly, "that you should hurt your little brother. Don't you know that it is cowardly to strike one who amaller than yourself?"

Yes," replied the culprit, meekly but when you spanked me yesterday I was too palite to mention it."-Ladias' Home Jourgal

ing to Sister as Playmate-Observation of Child Life.

In the Woman's Home Companion Mary Heaton Vorse writes a story en-"The Independence of Sarah." It is full of wise observation of child life. In the following extract, Alice, the mother of a family, learns why her small son Robert does not want his sister Sarah as a playmate.

"Her sense of justice made Alice feel that Robert should let Sarah into his out-of-door games. She had a theory that little boys and girls play the same games if they are brought up naturally together. For the most part Sarah shared this opinion of her mother; she shared it strongly; she shared it vociferously. Robert differed.

"He put it this way: 'Fellows don't want a girl forever tagging around and always yelling.

"'I should think,' responded his mother, 'that you want your little sister to play with you."

Thus driven into a corner he said: "'I want her to play with me, all right; but if she's going to play, why don't she play? She always gets hurt with the least thing and comes home bawling.

"To this Alice responded: 'It's her feelings that get hurt." "'I don't care what part of her gets hurt,' said the downright Robert, 'if it gets hurt-and she yells, and the boys say to me: "Oh, gee! Here comes your sister again. Run!"'

"'I can run just as fast as lots of you,' said Sarah. 'I can run faster than Skinny Allen. I can run faster

than Mud Morse.' "I know you can,' responded her brother gloomily: 'that's what makes it so fierce. We'd get away lots oftener if you couldn't."

TOKENS OF HIGH CHARACTER

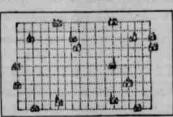
Good Manners Recommend, Prepare and Draw People Together-Make Fortune of Ambitious Youth.

We are told much of utilities, but 'tis our manners that associate us. In hours of business we go to him who knows, or has, or does this or that which we want, and we do not let our taste or feeling stand in the way. But, this activity over, we return to the indolent state, and wish for those we can be at ease with; those who will go where we go, whose manners do not offend us, whose social tone chimes ours. When we reflect upon their persuasive and cheerful force; how they recommend, prepare and draw people together; how, in all clubs, manners make the members; how manners make the fortune of the ambitious youth; that, for the most part, he marries manners; when we think what keys they are, and to what secrets; what high lessons and inspiring tokens of character they convey, and what this fine telegraph—we see what range the subject has, and what relations to convenience, power and beauty.-

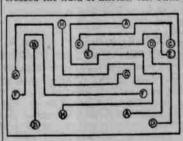
PUZZLE FOR THE MOTORISTS

Fight Drivers Went to Different Churches One Morning and None

Eight motorists drove to church one morning. Their respective houses and churches, together with the only roads available (the dotted lines), are shown. One went from his house, A



louse, B, to his church, B; another from C to C, and so on; but it was crossed the track of another car. Take



Answer to Puzzle

our pencil and try to trace out their various routes

The routes taken by the eight drivers are shown in the illustration, where the dotted line roads are mitted to make the paths clear to the

Gertie is only four, but she can keep a secret very well indeed. The other day she almost told about a nice surprise, but remembered in time not to mention it. It happened like this: Gertie was writing a letter all by herself and was hard at work upon it when mother came in. Why, what a beautiful letter!

said mother. "Who is it for?" "Oh, I can't tell you," the little maiden answered hastily, "because it's scorn more eloquent than words," said a secret and a surprise, but-but-

"Sure thing, if it's once for all."

City Star.

Charlie and Nancy had quarreled. After their supper mother tried to reestablish friendly relations. She told them of the Bible verse, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath."
"Now, Charlie," she pleaded, "are you going to let the sun go down on your wrath?" Charlie squirmed a little. Then:

"Well, how can I stop it?"-Kansas the plan a trial. Undernourished Children Would Take Her Up. "Now, Earlie, once for all, will you wash your face and hands?"

GIRLS ALWAYS GETTING HURT CAUSE OF HAY FEVER

Pollen of Ragweed Is Blamed by Physicians.

Irritating Principle of Plant Has Long Been Known-Stioma That Rested on the Goldenrod Has Been Removed.

The chief cause of fall hay fever is the pollen of the two varieties of ragweed. The generic name of the two ragweeds is ambrosia. The common or wormweed variety is called 'artemisiifolia" on account of its leaves resembling those of the wormwood (artemisia.) It is an annual, with leaves much cut and thin, opposite and alternate, as shown in the illustration. It has spikes of green flowers at the end of the branches. It resembles the common wormwood, which, however, bears small insignificant white flowers.

The great ragweed is called "trifidia" on account of its large threelobed leaves. It is the tallest member of the group, and frequently grows to a height of 12 feet. It is common in moist soil in the lowlands near the gulf coast. The irritating principle of both rag-

weeds is formed in the spikelike flower, being yellowish in color and almost as light as smoke. It is so abundant that during the stage of pollination it will stain one's clothes yellow while passing through such a field. It is so extremely light that it is almost impossible to collect any amount of it without its being blown away.

Laboratory investigators have isolated a large number of plants whose pollen will produce the characteristic reaction of hay fever. The goldenrod, for instance, has been accused of being responsible for 50 per cent of all cases of hay fever. The committee on original research of the American Hay Fever Prevention association has demonstrated the fact, however, that the goldenrod belongs to a group of only 15 per cent of cases that do not owe their origin to the rag-

weed. An obvious reason for the goldenrod not being responsible for a large number of cases is that its pollen is not wind-blown, but heavy and tenacious so that the majority of patients are affected only in the event that the nostrils are placed in close proximity to the flower.

The pollen of the ragweed, however, is easily detached in clouds and is distributed by the wind over a large territory

The usual attacks of fall hav fever sufferers are coincident with the pollination of the ragweed, while the goldenrod frequently blooms weeks after the attacks have subsided. The most active stage of the rag weed is in the month of September

and every effort should be made at that time to destroy these noxious The object of the American Hay Fever Prevention association is the dissemination of general knowledge of benefit to sufferers from hay fever, the



With the Great Ragweed, for 85 Per Cent of Fall Hay Fever-More Common in the Middle and Northern

disease, and the use of its influence and co-operation toward the eradica-

Malarial fever, in recent years, has een enormously diminished by preventive methods, such as draining swamps; typhoid fever has been dereased through the care taken in the water supply, and the destruction of infected material; tuberculosis and other diseases have found their advo-

cates for preventive methods. The American Hay Fever Preven tion association has instituted, directly and through its affiliated state associations, a campaign of education regarding the hay fever producing weeds, which it is hoped will in a few years destroy the cause of this wide-spread disease.-W. Scheppegrell, President American Hay Fever Prevention Association.

Working From a Model.

the actor. to get that?" "Come with me to dinner. then we'll watch his face."

system in its public schools. This is the plan devised by William Wirt of Gary, Ind., the essence of which is the full use of school plants. Cleveland, O., has also been considering giving

Statistics show that in six of the nation's largest cities from 12 to 20 per cent of the child population is noticeably underfed or ill nourished.

BELGIAN CONGO



ET out your atlas, turn to the | the colony have fallen off to such an down the west coast of the continent that Livingstone and Stanley made famous until you have crossed the equator and reach the Congo river, direct your course up that majestic stream and in due sea-

right kind of atlas. Boma doesn't cut much of a figure on the map. It is the capital of Belgian Congo and Americans have been | them into bits and using these for bulcontent for the most part to let it go at that. But since the war broke out food supplies have been curtailed, and now the people of Belgian Congo are having a chance to sample American

Boma-that is, provided you have the

Credit for the opening of this new field is due to a Detroit man, Harry A. McBride, American consul at Boma. "That portion of Africa with which

products.

am familiar offers unlimited possidilities for American prospectors and nanufacturers," said Mr. McBride, when last at home on vacation. "Belgian Congo, for example, is one-third is large as the United States. It has),000,000 natives and only 5,000 whites. One thousand miles up the Congo river from the coast-and that is quite 1 way, you know-are diamond and gold concessions held by Americans anything living that they strike. hat are said to be among the best in the world and only need developing. There are about thirty American pros pectors in the district now, nearly all be more before there are less, for once movement of that nature gets started it spreads rapidly.

Natives Kill Prospectors. "In spite of what commerce and the missionaries have done, prospecteducation of the public regarding the ing is still fraught with great danger weeds that are known to produce this in many localities, for the natives harbor intense hatred for the whites and tating an ear by way of emphasis, an-

> "It might seem that controlling these savages would be a simple thing. As a matter of fact, they know all the time what is taking place, and no matter how remote the village no white and a new score started." man can enter it in such a way as to ing for you every time. One reason for this lies in the splendid system of wireless communication they main- tention. tain. A log is hollowed out, usually a good-sized one. Over the ends of forming a head, and when a native pounds on this log there follows a for miles through the forest. They seem to have a generally recognized astonishing rapidity.

"There is another time when thes crude drums come into play. This is when the tax collector makes his ounds. All the natives are supposed to pay an annual head tax, ranging heavily. from \$1 to \$2.40, according to their employment and income. Naturally, the collector is unpopular. Consequently, as he makes his rounds the dull boom of drums reverberates through the jungle, and when he reaches a village he is liable to find only the chief and a handful of subjects. Where are the others of the that a plague swept over them and receipts suffer very materially. In cab rates are not exorbitant. fact, since a cessation of the atrocl-

map of Africa, run your finger extent that it requires careful work to make ends meet sometimes. Rubber and ivory are still exported in large quantities, and cocoanuts cultivated along the coast.

"Firearms are not supposed to be sold to the natives any more. Howson you will come to the town of ever, they are at liberty to buy gunpowder for those still in their possession, although bullets are barred. They get around this by taking steel nails, wire and various things, cutting lets. You can imagine what happens when a human or an animal gets a charge of chopped steel nails in his hide.

Excel American Indians.

"As archers the African natives excel the American Indian at his best. a thing that surprised me, while as metal workers there is no comparison. The Africans still use great numbers of bows and arrows. The latter are three feet long, very heavy, and fitted with the most wicked-looking barbs of giant proportions that I ever saw. If one of those barbs entered a human, and he survived, it would be necessary to cut him pretty well to pieces in order to get the arrows out of his anatomy. They also use poison-tipped arrows, which are fatal to

"Some of the finest examples of metal working I ever saw are produced by these natives in their crude forges and with the primitive tools from California. There will probably they make for themselves. Their battleaxes are positive works of art. heavy, but carefully wrought and skillfully finished. Their knives are the finest steel. They have a strange way of keeping score with these same axes. Whenever an ax has done its deadly work he it taking a human life or merely lopping off a finger or ampu-And when all the available space has been given over to these ghastly reminders of bloodshed the ax is cast aside, another is brought into play

Antelope, hippopotamus, crocodile surprise the natives. They are look- and other tropical denizens inhabit the rivers and the forests, and leopards are so common as to attract little at-

Boma is 46 miles up the Congo river from the coast. Matadi, 25 miles this are stretched dried leopard skins, further, is the principal scaport. From here inbound cargoes are transferred armed with a heavy club or a hammer | to a railroad running to Stanley Pool, 240 miles distant, beyond the rapids penetrating boom that can be heard that prevent navigation. Here the freight is placed aboard river steamers for distribution along the 9,000 code of signals, and the coming of miles of navigable waterways that exstrangers is passed along the line with | tend into the interior. That short stretch of railway happens to be one of the most remunerative enterprises in Africa in good times. Every pound passing over the rails-and there is no other way to travel-is assessed

There are about 170 white residents in Boma, most of them Belgian officials. It is not exactly the place one would select as a health resort. Live stock cannot exist there, because it contracts the sleeping sickness. sailing vessels, killed as wanted, and when the stock is exhausted others tribe? Ah! With much weeping and | are imported, but no attempt is made many protestations the chief asserts at breeding cattle. There being no horses, carriages have no place. they are all dead excepting the faith- stead there is a single-wheeled chair, ful few. The lie is palpable, but as called a push-push, with a native in there is no way of determining the front to pull and another at the back number of those liable to taxation the to maintain the equilibrium. Taxipossible to obtain a push-push and two ties credited to King Leopold and his natives for six dollars a month, or agents was forced the revenues of thereabouts.

A monkey exhibited at a museum established at Tacubaya, Mex., was condemned to be shot under judicial shot. Luckily, the manager of the tific American. museum brought influence to bear and refuse to give the waiter a tip and succeeded in obtaining a change of the sentence to perpetual imprisonment. The monkey is now enduring To Try the Wirt System.

Newark, N. J., is to try the Wirt the bars of an iron cage at the nuseum.

> other resources, and in past times sup- much about." ported a large population. But it should be understood that to restore it

tive land of Egypt, their destination was described as a land flowing with milk and honey. This statement is most interesting in the light of facts sentence. It seems that the animal concerning the production of honey bit a man, who died from the results here. It is well known to botanists of the bite. The family of the de- that Palestine is the meeting place of ceased brought complaint before a flora of three different continents, and The stage manager says I must ceased brought complaint before a flora of three different continents, and assume an expression of haughty judge, who was foolish enough to in this circumstance combined with the stitute criminal procedings against varied altitudes produces a condition "I wonder how I'm going the monkey and sentenced him to be most favorable to bee culture.—Scien-

The Stranger in Town

"Now, Uncle fi," said young Spriggins, showing the old gentleman the sights, "shall we take a ride in a taxi, an omnibus or a sight-seeing coach?" "Wa-al, Jimmie," said Uncle Si, "ef ye're goin' to th' expense of a waggin to show me around, I kind Palestine is essentially an agricul- o' think I'd like to take a spin in one ural country, as it has absolutely no o' them cabarets I've heerin tell so

All She Wanted to Know. to its former prosperity would require considerable capital and a radical re-form of government. Though the is reputed to spend \$50,000 a year. "But what is his reputation? That

teraclites came out of the very produc. That's good enough for me!"-Judge