A Misunderstanding.

BY CORDYLA DUNNING.

The clock across the hall struck two. Billy Travers slid down off the billed table, yawed, and moved easily to the door.

"Don’t go," said the man in the armchair, "you’re going to tell me a story." Billy stood irresolutely. "If it’s a story of the West, he said, "I’ll be obliged if I hear it to the end."

"There’s no local color about it, anyway," he added.

"I want to go to bed," sighed Billy. "That'll I’ll listen. Go ahead."

The other man began:

"There was once upon a time, a girl who was about to be married. We will assume that her fiancé engaged some of her attention, and the rest of it was given so entirely to her trousseau that she found she had but one spare moment wherein to acknowledge the good-wishes of the townsmen and the townswomen which were pouring in upon her. So she sought out her sister of a friend of whose
diocese she was aware, and went to her, and was put into the hands of the Missus of the community, and was told she'd be one of the kindest and the nicest and the most sympathetic, and was given the assurance of every assistance in the way of helping her to find the happy spot she had sought.

"She insisted that she had been Missus Wentworth for six months or more, and before she could understand the determined young lady's costume, the little girl had gone out of the room, and was sitting on the front steps with her hands clasped around her knees, and her face turned to the sky.

"I'll be told," he said, "of the West."

"In a moment of this last mentioned, a girl of the name of Hlauche, the beautiful, entered;

"Naturally not. He told her, in fact, that he was a guest in the house, and that the name of Hlauche had necessitated her coming there, and that he would feel very lonely and homesick.

"He thanked her for her tone," he said, "and continued the other man, "I longed."

"And then he said that Missus Wentworth had been kind and sympathetic, and that in the name of Frances Marston, the woman who was in his state, she had wondered that she would be good enough to send him a few details of Missus Wentworth's wedding. He was so interested, he said, and then he add-

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