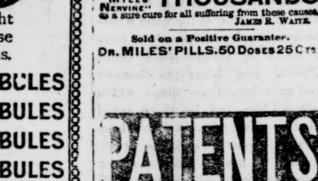


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A Committee Of One.

From The Family Story Paper. CHAPTER II.

Her John Smith was the only man in the world to her

She had had sense enough not to "wear her heart upon her sheve for daws to peck at," to dress well and preserve her good looks, but she had never been happy.

She was one of the women who give affection its right value in life, and there was now no one in the world to love and caress her. Str. was, she said to herself, "an . ald maid of thirty." Youth was over. even if she had not faded very much, and she carried this thought with her up the elevator to the door of the office, at which she final ly rapped with the handle of her pretty sun umbrella.

"Come in," cried a voice; and she pushed the door open and enter ed

"Well, you've been a deuce of a time getting bere." said a gentle man who sat at a desk, and was becomingly stout and rather bald. 'The next time-"

Here he wheeled about upon his chair and shook his finger violent ly at Miss Fred ica.

Then, blushing scarlet, sprung it his feet.

"I leg your pardon, ma'am!" he cried. . I fancied that it was my office boy who entered. I an eally mortified beyond expression rav take a seat "

And he offered her a chair, int bich F. edrica sunk at once What had come over her? U-ual

, though shy, she was collected renough; but now she faltered out:

I-1-1 came-1 was sent-Our 'Happy Chernha' have not had an outing this summer. If we might take them to the 'Pines' on Thursday-such an obligation-a de-d of charity-that's what I cime to ask "

As for the gentleman, he seemed as much confused as she.

"My dear madam." be stammer, ed, 'you might have known that I should be delighted if you and your-your 'Happy Cherub's would honor my grounds any day." Then, with a "Thank you, Mr. Smith," Fredrica fled.

In the elevator she turned so faint that the attendant asked ber if she would have a glass of water. And she arrived in the committee room as pale as death, to announce that Mr. Smith had given his consent. And, oh. in her own room at be me-if a boarding-house is ever home to a woman-how she wept! For this John Smith was her John Smith, and she had once more seen and spoken to him.

"And he aid not know me," she kept saying to herself. "Oh! he did not know me "

All night long she kept turning about upon her pillow.

"How stout he has grown," she said at one moment. Then: "And all his pretty curls." Again: "But he has such an air of elegance-so inproved." Then she would cry i little more. Ah, she was so miserable!

Thursday cause. The "Happy Cherubs" were awakened before davlight, and gotten on board of Captain Copper's boat at the proper hour Provision baskets were placed in order; two or three young nen from the blind asylum had been per-uaded to play the violir. ind accordion.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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