

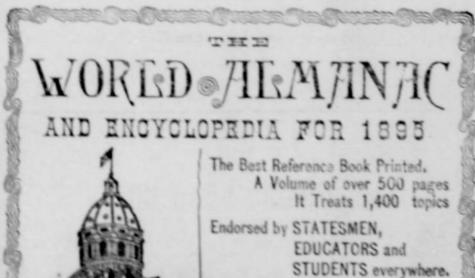
AT THE

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The Black-Edged Envelope.

From The Ladies' World.

CHAPTER II.

BY FRANCES A. SCHNEIDER.

And he'd got a very mad telegram asking him what he meant and he'd written back telling her she must envelope, and that it would be a great deal better for her to ack nowledge that she'd been inconsiderate, than to pretend she didn't understand-and then she wrote him the letter he'd got this morning. And Miss Waldron was as mad as she could be, and denied ever having used a mourning envelope in her life, and she said she never wanted when I heard all this, was a caution

And Mr. Johnson, he said:

"Why, Hilliard, it's nonsense for you two to quarrel. There's a mis take somewhere, depend on it Perhaps she got hold of that envelope by mistake and slipped her let ter into it without thinking " And he said he thought it was funny that a man who was as cool and clear headed as Mr. Hilliard, and who was as fond of a girl as he was of Miss Waldron, couldn't conduct his love affairs without getting all tangled. And then he slapped Mr. Hilliard on the shoulder an 1 s.il Brace up, old boy; run down and see her and set this litt'e matter straight."

"I can't do that," says Mr. Hilliard, and he shut his teeth together till his chin looked as square as a dry-goods box. "Come, Johnson, we'll drop it. Let's go to lunch.' and before I could get a chance to speak to him, they'd gone

Now, what I was going to do, I played that trick, it was going to pan out that way. My! but I felt awful. I went to the window and she said, "for she's particularly To every person send- looked down into the churchyard | engaged." ing us the amount o There were some people walking "Can't I wait till I can see her?" about chime time and wander about liness and I've come a long way listening to the chimes and looking So the girl said to come in, and 'at the grave stones. I saw a young she gave me a chair in the hall, the man and a girl standing before one prettiest hall I ever was in, with and laughing, and it's no wonder, rooms on each side of it. From for there are some of the queerest one room where the door was clos d. names and some of the queerest I could hear voices, but I touldn't verses on those tomb stones hear what was said. On the hat They're awful old, you know. And stard was a hat that reminded me I lolled out of that window and of Mr. Hilliard's, and there was a watched the sparrows hopping about cane, too, that looked like his in the grass, and felt so mean and nice little dog ran in from some unhappy I wished I was dead where and began jumping up on Once, I thought I'd write to M ss me. I was awful tired and hungry, Waldron and tell her all about it and wished that Miss Waldron and then I thought that wouldn't would see me and get done with it. do. She'd think the letter was all but I dreaded seeing her, too. Soon all a hoax. All of a sudden the the door of the room where I had idea came into my head to go and heard voices opened a little and I see her myself and explain the heard a man say: whole thing-and it grew and grew "So that's your final decision, till it seemed to I'd die if I didn't go Stella?"

> miles away, and I'd need money to the name go with, for I couldn't walk there | Then the door opened wide and As soon as I got home that night I and his eyes as black as coals. took the bank off the mantel in my "Good-bye, Stella," he said. room and broke it open. There "Good-bye, Mr. H lliord, she were four dol'ars and ninety-eight said. cents in it, and the railroad fare But before he'd stepped over the could walk part way nome.

Then I wrote a letter to Mr. business called me out of town," I said and wouldn't he please excuse me be back in the evening, so didn't mean?" seeing Miss Waldron.

man with a coat just like Mr | get mad at him for being mad, but Hilliard's, going up the platform. somehow you both did. And I've But I lost sight of him and when heard Mr. Hilliard talking to Mr. we got fairly off, there was so much Johnson', and I knew it was all my to see out of the windows, and so fault for playing that stupid trick many people inside of the car to on him. And I felt just awful about look at, that I never thought of the it, and mrde up my mind to come man who locked like Mr. Hilliard and tell you how it all happened."

It was nearly noon when we got puzzled, and she said; to B- -. My! but it's a pretty I knew Miss Waldron lived on St. nearer. Paul's Street, but didn't know the me her house was 'our or five blocks fool him and were very mean." farther up the street. So I walked up and came to a house standing laugh. away back from the sidewalk, with lots of beautiful trees around it and of harm you've done," said she, and flowers, and vines all over the piazza. she, and covered her face up with I rang the bell and asked if Miss her hands. Waldron was in.

funny and said "Yes." she was didn't know. I never thought when in, and what did I want. I said I my boy?" wanted to : ee her.

"Well, you can't see her now,"

And Miss Stella said, awful low: Miss Waldron lived a hundred "Yes, Mr. - " I didn't eatch

And then I thought I'd break my I saw a beautiful young lady dress d crockery bank where I kept the in white, standing in the middle of money I'd been saving up for a the room, and there, with the door bievele, and that must have four handle in his hand, stood Mr. Hilldollars in it at least. I'd been sav- lard as pale as a ghost, with that ing up ever since I was a little kid. dry goods box shape on his face

would only be three. Twasn't threshold of the door, I made a enough to take me both ways, but I jump and was hanging on to his

"Wait a minute, Mr. Hilliard. Hilliard, saying that "Important Miss Waldron don't mean it."

And he said, "Jack, where did for a little while. I was sure I'd you come from and what do you

say a word to mother when I went | Then I said, "Miss Waldron, you away next morning. When I'd didn't send that black-edged envelbought my ticket, I found I had a ope at all, it was me." She was know that he meant the mourning dollar and ninety eight cents left, sitting on the sofa, looking awful enough to carry me a good part of white, and holding on to the arm the way back Anyway, all I very tight. "I did it to play a joke thought of was getting there and on Mr Hilliard," I said. "I don't know how he came to get mad at As I got on the train, I saw a you about it, nor how you came to

Miss Waldron looked awfully

"I don't understand. Will you place, all hills and trees and beauti- come and tell me what you mean?" ful houses and wide, shady streets, and she motioned me to come

"I mean," I said. "that it was number of her house. It was a me who put black edges on the enlong time before I found the street, velope you sent your letter in to Mr and then I had to go along ringing Hilliard. I did it with India mk door bells and enquiring if "Miss one morning before he came down, Waldron lived here." At last, so he thought something awful had when I was about tired out, I rang happened to his mother; and when the bell of a house where the people | ho found that nothing had happened knew Miss Waldron, and they told to her, he thought you meant to

Miss Waldron gave a queer little

"Oh! you don't know what a deal

"Jack." said Mr. Hilliard, putting The girl looked at me kind of his hand on my shoulder, "go and wait for me in the hall; will you,

> "But will you forgive me, Mr. Hilliard?"

He only patted me on the shoulder and pushed me gently through the doorway. I heard the door close and then went and sat on the chair, where I'd waited so

Ii was a long time before Mrtilliaru came to me. When he did come, he looked very handsome and kind, and he said:

"Miss Waldron wants to see you. Jack .. And when we went into the room Miss Waldron came up to me and she .ook both my hands and gave me a kiss, which I didn't deserve at all, for It was all my fault there'd been any trouble. And she and Mr. Hilliard were awfully good to me and took me in to see old Mrs. Hilliard; and I had a splendid dinner, and Mr. Hilliard telegraphed to my mother that I'd be home on a late train, and not to worry about me, and I liked it all, but felt awfal ashamed to think I should be made so much ol, when I'd behaved so badly, but some people never get their deserts.

And now Mr. Hilliard and Miss Waldron are away on their wedding

