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CHAPTER VI.

The last stroke of eight drew from the old clock in the hall as Seaton Dyrast entered the drawing room. The extreme darkness and gloom of that melancholy apartment sinks into him as he moves rather disconcertedly, but with a man's unfeeling instinct, toward the hearth rug. It is not all gloom, however, as he proceeds to discover, in this dreary place. Some one rises languidly from a low chair—a girl, a lovely girl, as he instantly admits and advances about the eighth part of an ordinary foot toward him.

They are wonderfully alike, the father and son, and yet how wonderfully unlike. It seems impossible that with expressions so utterly at variance so strong a resemblance can exist, yet it is there. The one, the old face, mean, cringing, suspicious, wicked; the other, cold, honorable, earnest and beautiful. The girl, instantly acknowledged this last fact.

"I'm extremely sorry if I've kept you waiting for dinner," he says, advancing at a quicker pace, once he sees the pretty girl in white, and holding out his hand. "But the fact is I was dreadfully tired when I arrived, and I'm rather afraid I fell asleep."

"The day is warm," says she, coldly. The likeness to his father seems clearer to her as he speaks, and kills for her all the charm of his face.

"Very, but I don't fancy my absurd out of luckness arose from that. Rather from the fact that I haven't had a wink of sleep for the last two nights."

"Two nights?" says she with a faint accession of interest. "Toothache? Sick friend?"

"Oh, no. Ball-cards," returns he, coolly.

"Ah!" says she, this time rather short-ly. "You are Griselda, I suppose?" says he, pleasantly.

"Why should you suppose it?" asks she, with a faint smile.

"True. Why should I?" returns he, laughing. "Perhaps because," with a steady look at her, "I have been told that my cousin Griselda is a person possessed of a considerable amount of—of character."

"By that you mean that you have heard Griselda is self-willed," says she, calmly. "And as it is evident to me that I look the part also, I am afraid you must perceive I am not Griselda."

If she had fancied that this announcement would have put him out, she is undeceived in a moment.

"No!" says he, looking distinctly amused. "There is comfort in the thought that I cannot again fall into error, because you must be Vera."

"Yes, I am Vera," slowly.

"I fear you will find it very dull down here."

"Your father has been very good to us; more than kind," interrupts she, gently, but with decision. "He has given us a home."

"I should think he would be very glad to get you here," says he. At this moment Griselda enters the room. A charming Griselda, in white, like her sister, and with a flower in her sunny hair. She trips up to Seaton and gives him her hand and a frank smile, that has just the correct amount of coquettish shyness in it. A man, to Griselda, no matter out of what obnoxious tribe he may have sprung, is always a creature to be gently treated, smiled upon and encouraged.

"So you've come at last to this Castle of despair," says she, saucily. "I must say, you took time to look us up. But I don't blame you; life down here is too lively for most. It has quite done up Vera and me."

The dismal sound of a cracked old dining-gong breaks in at this instant on Griselda's speech. They all rise and cross the hall to the dining room, but just as she is about to take her seat, a momentary hesitation takes place. Dyrast going to the foot of the table, Vera stops short, as if in some surprise, to look at him, question in her eyes.

"You will take the head of the table, I hope," says he, in a low tone, divining her perplexity.

"But—" quickly, and then a pause.

"If you wish it, of course," she says, with a swift uplifting of the brows and an almost imperceptible shrug.

Her manner somehow irritates him.

"I wish it, certainly," says he, coldly. "But I wish still more to see you do only that which you like."

"I have few likes and dislikes," replies she, still in that utterly emotionless tone; and sweeping past him, she seats herself at the head of the table.

As for Griselda, the little jar, in the social atmosphere around her goes by unnoticed, so overcome is she by the unwonted magnificence of the sight before her, a decent dinner table at Greycourt. She looks round her and loses herself a little in the touch of fairylight the room presents. It is, as it were, an echo from the past, a glimpse into the old life when her father still lived, that she hardly knew was dear to her until she had lost it. The glitter of the silver, the glass, the intense perfume of the glowing flowers, the rich tint of the fruit, all seem part of a dream; a sweet one, too.

Mr. Dyrast is wondering why both girls should have taken so instantaneous a dislike to him. As a rule, women are civil enough; yet here were two to whom he was an utter stranger, and aggressive was the only word he could apply to their looks and words, though both were studiously polite.

"Do you stay long?" asks Griselda presently, looking at her cousin.

"I return to town the day after tomorrow—very early on that day. Whether I must or must not work for my living is a thing that does not concern me. I work as I will, but I actually seek after fame. I should like to get on in my profession; to be more than a mere trier."

"You are charming," says Griselda,

"I am going now. Good by," holding out his hand to her with a determination not to be changed. Griselda takes it and shakes it gently, nay, warmly. His humor is decidedly hostile, and if he acquiesces the old father of their inactivity—Anything that propitiates him, she tells herself, will be the correct thing, and she grows positively friendly toward him, and beams upon him with gentle outward kin in her eye.

"If you must go, do us one service first," she says. "Do you see that rose?"—a rather unkempt and straggling specimen of its kind that trails in unadorned disorder just outside the door. "It has baffled me many a time, but you are tall, oh, taller than most; will you lift these awkward tendrils, and press them back into shape?"

She is smiling divinely at him, a smile that Tom Peyton would have given several years of his life to possess; but Dyrast is dispassionately unmoved by it, and, refusing to return it, steps outside, and, with a decidedly unwilling air, proceeds to lift the drooping tendrils and reduce them to order.

Griselda, naturally a girl of great resource, seizes the opportunity she has herself provided. Catching Vera's arm, she draws her back out of sight.

"Now's your time!" she says. "Say something. Do something. It doesn't matter what, but for heaven's sake smooth him down one way or another. If you don't you'll have the old man down upon us like—"

"I can't," gasps Vera, fearfully.

"You must," insists Griselda, sternly. "It's impossible to know what sort of man he is. If he's a brute, he can play old Harry with us."

Without waiting to explain what particular case this may mean, or the full significance thereof, she steps lightly outside and gazes with undisguised rapture upon Dyrast's work.

Dyrast returns to the summer house with all the manner of one in mad haste to be gone. It is merely a part of an unpleasant whole, he tells himself, that he must first say a chillingly courteous word or two of farewell to the girl who has openly declared toward him such an undying animosity.

"I am afraid," says Vera, speaking with cold precision, as one delivering herself of an unloved lesson, "that you are going away thus abruptly because of what you heard me say this morning."

"You are right. That is why I am going," replies Dyrast, calmly.

"Yes!" in a chilling tone, and with faintly lifted brows. "I regret exceedingly that I should have so unfortunately offended you, but to go for that—it all sounds a little trivial, don't you think?"

"Not by going, I think. I don't see how I can do otherwise. Why should I make you uncomfortable? But you may call it trivial if you like, to talk of detesting a man you have only seen for an hour or two, and who in those hours—"

"He pauses. "Did I make myself so specially objectionable?" demands he, abruptly, turning to her with something that is surely anger, but as surely curbed, in his eyes.

"As I told you before, indifferently, 'one says foolish things now and then.' 'You have me believe you did not really mean what you said.' 'I would not have you believe anything,' returns she, haughtily. 'I only think it a pity that you should curtail your visit to your father because of a chance remark of mine that cannot possibly affect you in any way.'"

"Is that how you look at it?"

"Is there any other way? Why should you care whether or not I detest you—I, whom you saw for the first time yesterday?"

"Why, indeed?" He regards her absently, as if trying to work out in his own mind the answer to this question, and then, suddenly:

"Nevertheless, I do care," he says, with a touch of vehemence. "It is the injustice of it to which I object. You had evidently determined beforehand to show me no grace. I defy you to deny it. Come, can you?"

Miss Dyrast is silent. The very impetuosity of his accusation has deadened her power to reply, and besides, is there not truth in it? Had she not prejudged? By the bye, he says, "I am afraid you will have to put up with me for a few hours every week. I shall promise to make them as short as I possibly can. But my father likes to see me every seven days or so, and I like to see him. Do you think," a slight smile crossing his face, "you will be able to live through it?"

"I have lived through a good many things," says Vera, her dark eyes aflame. "That gives you a chance here; practice makes perfect. I am sorry to be obliged to inconvenience you so far, but if I stayed away, I am afraid my father might want to know why. He might even be so absurd as to miss me."

"Why should you take it for granted that I desire your absence?" cries Vera, her voice vibrating with anger. "Come, remain, or stay away forever—what is it to me?"

And it was thus that they parted.

(To be continued.)

Not to Be Balked.

A comparison made by an old carpenter twenty years ago may be applied in a much wider sense than he had in mind. He was speaking of two boys, brothers, who had been sent to him to learn the trade. They were bright boys, and their father, in telling the carpenter of his pleasure at their progress in their work, said he could not see but one hand had done just as well as the other.

"Um-hm," said the carpenter. "I presume to say their work looks about a piece, but I'll tell you the difference between those two boys. You give Ed just the right tools, and he'll do a real good job; but Cy, if he hasn't got what he needs, he'll make his own tools, and say nothing about it."

"If I was casted on a desert island and wanted a box opened, I should know there'd be no use asking Ed to do it, without I could point him out a hammer."

"But Cy?" added the old carpenter, with a snap of his fingers. "The lack of a hammer wouldn't stump that boy! He'd have something rigged up and that box opened. If there was any open to it! I expect Cy's going to march ahead of Ed all his life."

Twenty years have proved the truth of the words, for while the boy who "made his own tools" is rich, his brother is still an ordinary workman.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Presented in a Condensed Form Which is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

A severe snow storm is raging in Texas.

England will abandon her rights in Wei Hai Wei.

The senate has passed the urgency deficiency bill.

Fire at Albany, N. Y., destroyed \$50,000 worth of property.

President Roosevelt and wife are visiting the Charleston exposition.

European powers are still disputing over their attitude during the Spanish war.

Thirteen persons were killed and at least 100 injured by a gas explosion at Chicago.

The woolgrowers' convention placed itself on record in favor of oleomargarine.

Representative Newlands, of Nevada, introduced a resolution in the house for the annexation of Cuba.

Nine firemen were killed at a St. Louis fire.

The senate has passed the judicial salary bill.

A towboat at Pittsburgh blew up, injuring all of the crew.

Fire at Dwight, Ill., destroyed property valued at \$300,000.

Ice is still troublesome in the Columbia river and boats cannot be run.

The Pacific Northwest Woolgrowers' Association is in session at Helena.

England has positively declined the good offices of Holland to settle the Boer war.

During 1901 the total amount spent for new buildings and alteration of old ones in New York was \$150,072,657.

An American Express Company's wagon in New York loaded with \$15,000 worth of goods has been looted. No clue to the robbers.

The Knight Companion, an O. R. & N. Portland-Oriental liner, has been lost in Japanese waters. The passengers and crew were saved.

Scurvy is prevalent at Nome.

The gales on the Atlantic coast are abating.

The loss by the Waterbury, Conn., fire will exceed \$300,000.

Philippine tariff bill is causing some spirited debate in the senate.

A strong call has been made for airing the Nome judicial scandals.

The house committee on ways and means reports for repeal of war taxes.

Incendiarism is now suspected in connection with the great fire at Waterbury, Conn.

A plot to assassinate the dowager empress of China and the entire court has been discovered.

Trains are delayed and many telegraph wires down throughout the East as a result of severe storming.

The German emperor's new yacht is all ready to be launched as soon as Prince Henry arrives in this country.

Gales and storms in Europe have caused great loss of life.

Forty persons were drowned in shipwrecks on the Italian coast.

Eighty-five miners were killed by an explosion in a Mexican mine.

Waterbury, Conn., was damaged to the extent of \$2,000,000 by fire.

The murder of a San Francisco policeman has been captured in Portland.

Manila is intensely interested in proposed legislation by congress for the islands.

The dowager empress of China gave a remarkable reception to the minister's wives.

An indecisive naval engagement was fought in Colombian waters.

Chicago drainage canal contractors offer to build an isthmian canal.

The first meeting of the trustees of the Carnegie institution has been held.

A parliamentary commission is considering the question of depopulation of France.

The ways and means committee will frame a bill for reduction of the war revenue taxes.

GAS MAINS BLOW UP.

Thirteen Lives Are Lost in a Chicago Explosion—About a Hundred Injured.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—Thirteen lives were lost, many persons slightly injured, two buildings were wrecked and \$50,000 damage done by an explosion of gas to-night at the intersection of Twenty-second street and Archer avenue.

The cause of the explosion is unknown and it has not yet been determined whether it was sewer gas or illuminating gas. Mains filled with the latter were instantly ablaze after the explosion and a succession of explosions followed, the flames shooting up through the manholes in the street. It will be difficult to ascertain whether illuminating gas exploded or whether the mains were broken by an explosion of sewer gas.

Many people living in the vicinity believe that the first explosion was in a main at Twenty-second street and Archer avenue. Then the manhole, half a block south on Archer avenue, was thrown into the air by a loud explosion. Flames leaped and roared from the hole. The fire spread rapidly and three other manholes were blown into the air.

The flames from the first gas main shot high into the air and reached, with the aid of the wind, to a three story frame structure, and it had been weakened and nearly wrecked by the shock. It is supposed that the occupants of the buildings were knocked unconscious or were too panic stricken to rush from the place. The flames caught the weather worn timbers. The dry and rotting wood was food for the fire, and in an instant the flames had enveloped the structure. With a roar the building collapsed, and the occupants, with one exception, were carried with it to the basement.

The adjoining building, a two story structure, flared up, the next building was wrapped in flames, and then another structure caught fire. It seemed that the whole block would be wiped out before the firemen could bring the blaze under control. A fireball of a brick building at Archer avenue and Twenty-second street held the fire in that direction. On the west of the burning buildings were two small one story cottages. They were a few feet from the burning buildings, and that gave the firemen an opportunity of heading off the flames.

The windows throughout the neighborhood were broken, and bottles and glassware in the dwellings and stores were thrown down and broken. Many persons in buildings near the explosions were knocked down. Scores of men and women, many of them carrying children, rushed to the streets. They were greeted by the glare of the fire from the manholes. Fearing further explosions, the people rushed down the street, many of the women screaming with fright.

On several street cars near the place the windows were smashed, and the passengers were severely shaken up. When the people in the cars saw the flames gush from the ground all hands rushed for the doors. A number of persons were bruised and knocked down in the excitement. One car filled with passengers was thrown from the tracks.

CUBAN ANNEXATION.

Republic Invited to Become a Part of the United States.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Representative Newlands, of Nevada, of the ways and means committee, who was the author of the resolution annexing Hawaii, today introduced a resolution inviting the republic of Cuba to become a part of the United States, first as a territory and then as a state of the union, to be called the state of Cuba; and also authorizing a 25 percent reduction of duty on the present crop of Cuban sugar, in consideration of Cuba's granting preferential rates to the United States. The resolution confines the 25 percent reduction of duties to the period prior to January 1, 1903. Newlands, in explanation of his resolution, said:

"All those who have appeared to voice Cuba's needs and requirements have indicated that an invitation to Cuba of annexation would be accepted. Annexation by force would not be justifiable. It must be accomplished, if at all, by the free act of the Cuban people. At present there is no machinery in Cuba by which the popular will can be tested, but the Cuban constitution has been adopted. The Cuban congress will meet in February, a Cuban government will be organized, and the United States will then leave the government and control of the island to the people. Cuba then will be in a position to express her will."

Day's Work in French Mines.

Paris, Feb. 7.—The chamber of deputies today accepted a bill regulating the period of daily work in the mines. This bill provides that a nine hour day shall be instituted at the coal pits at the end of six months from the day the measure is adopted. At the end of two years, a day's work shall be reduced to eight and one-half hours, and at the end of another two years it shall be reduced to eight hours.

Libertador Not Sunk.

Willemstad, Island of Curacao, Feb. 7.—According to trustworthy information received here today, the Venezuelan revolutionist steamer Libertador was at Sabanailla January 31, and was to have left there February 1, in order to renew her operations against the forces of the government. These reports seem to contradict the previous rumors that the Libertador was sunk at Porto Colombia recently while undergoing repairs.

NEWS OF THE STATE

TERMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

The flax mill at Salem is now an assured fact.

The receipts of The Dalles land office for January were nearly \$10,000.

Dr. W. D. Jeffries, for 40 years a practicing physician of Salem, is dead.

Placer miners of Southern Oregon gladly hail the rains of the past few days.

The Willamette river at Albany is lower than for many years at this time of the year.

Steps have been taken by the business men of Roseburg to organize a board of trade.

A representative of the English government is around Elgin buying horses for South Africa.

President Eliot, of Harvard university, will visit the state university at Eugene next month.

So far in Linn county there have been 600 registrations for the June election, out of a probable total of 5,500.

Miners in Southern Oregon have long been throwing away what was supposed to be lead ore, but which has proven to be rich silver ore.

The report of the commissioner of patents for the past fiscal year shows that there were 125 patents issued to Oregon inventors.

A chair factory is the latest of Albany's manufacturing industries.

A proposition has been made to the citizens of Salem to put in a flax mill. The Brown-Lucas Lumber company has been organized at Falls City, with \$60,000 capital.

Burglars entered a Drain merchandise store and secured \$100 worth of goods. No clue has been found.

There will be 33 graduates from the Salem public schools at the February commencement and 40 more in June.

A very successful rabbit drive was held near Pendleton the first of the week. Several thousand of the pests were killed.

John Diamond, an Oregon pioneer of 1847, after whom Diamond Peak was named, is dead at his home in Coburg, aged 98 years.

Crystal Spring Mining company, with headquarters at Grants Pass, has filed articles of incorporation. Capital, \$200,000.

The snow in Eastern Oregon comes as a blessing to the farmers, who had begun to fear their fall and winter wheat would be seriously injured.

Fruitgrowers of the Willamette valley are pleased with the cold snap, as it will set the fruit trees back. In some cases the buds were far advanced for the season.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Quiet. Walla Walla, 63¢; 64¢; bluestem, 64¢; 64¢; Valley, 63¢.

Barley—Feed, \$19@20; brewing, \$20@21 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.10@1.25; gray, \$1.05@1.15.

Flour—Best grades, \$2.80@3.40 per barrel; Graham, \$2.50@2.80.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$18 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$20.50; chop, \$17.

Hay—Timothy, \$11@12; clover, \$7@7.50; Oregon wild hay, \$5@6 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 90¢@1.25 per cental; ordinary, 70¢@85¢ per cental; growers' prices; sweets, \$1.75@2 per cental.

Butter—Creamery, 25¢@27¢; dairy, 18¢@20¢; store, 11¢@13¢.

Eggs—20¢@21¢ for fresh Oregon.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12¢@13¢; Young America, 14¢@15¢; factory prices, 12¢@13¢ less.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 23¢@25¢; hens, 24¢@25¢ per dozen, 9¢@10¢ per pound; springs, 10¢ per pound, 53¢@55¢ per dozen; ducks, \$6.50@7.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11¢@12¢; dressed, 14¢@15¢ per pound.

Mutton—Gross, 4¢ per pound; dressed, 7¢@7½¢ per pound.

Hogs—Gross, 5¢; dressed, 6¼¢@7¢ per pound.

Veal—8¼¢@9¢ per pound, dressed.

Beef—Gross, cows, 3¼¢@4¢; steers, 4¢@4½¢; dressed, 6¼¢@7¼¢ per pound.

Hops—11¢@12½¢ per pound.

Wool—Nominal. Valley, 13¢@15¢; eastern Oregon, 8¢@12½¢; mohair, 21¢@21½¢ per pound.

The largest towboat ever made for American waters will soon be launched for use on the Mississippi. Over 1,200 tons of steel will be used and 4,800 horse power will be furnished. The boat is 275 feet long and 63 feet wide.

Great Britain loses more than 10,000,000 pounds worth of property annually by fire.

Hazing has been made a criminal offense by the Illinois legislature, and offenders may be fined \$500 and sent to jail for six months.

The development of dry goods companies with large capital is one of the latest features in the great dry goods distributing centers. The smaller wholesalers are being driven out.

TRADE OUTLOOK IN ORIENT.

Agent of Agricultural Department Writes to Secretary Wilson.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Secretary Wilson has received a report from David G. Fairchild, the expert of the department of agriculture, who, with Mr. Lathrop, a wealthy New Yorker, is exploring the world for new plants for introduction into this country.

The report is dated at Colombo, Ceylon, and discusses general conditions in China. He says the missionaries, frightened out by the recent troubles, are returning to their posts and that foreign merchants claim that the outlook for trade improvements is very favorable in the region of Shanghai. American trade, he says, is more than holding its own against that of other countries, but adds: "Japan's trade has greatly increased in China of late and she is not only active, but may become a dangerous competitor."

Mr. Fairchild went to Canton in search of South Chinese peaches and plums, scions and trees of which he announces he has shipped here, together with some promising leeches, bamboos and persimmons for California and Florida. He says producers and shippers in China and Japan are much interested in the final outcome of the experiments of this government in the home production of tea, but apparently are skeptical and believe the cost of picking is too great for the industry to succeed here.

The American occupation of Manila has led to a remarkable increase in price of labor, hotel accommodations and food products in China. Coolies' wages have greatly increased in Hong Kong since the Spanish-American war and important new enterprises complain of a scarcity of labor. Hotel prices are 50 per cent higher than before the war and residents claim that the general cost of living has doubled in the last five years. The Chinese government, to pay its war indemnity, has levied a tax of 5 cents, American, a year on each ratifier of every house in the country. Foreigners already pay about 4 per cent ad valorem on practically everything imported. The victory in Canton is already having great difficulty in collecting the taxes and white people living there say this tax on the natives is arousing a great deal of animosity toward foreigners.

"The growth of our agricultural, as well as other exports to China," Mr. Fairchild predicts, "will be a phenomenal one, and include many classes of canned and dried goods from our orchards and preserved meats and dairy products from our farms and ranches."

Mr. Fairchild says a British army officer assures him that the Chinese arsenal at Tien Tsin is manufacturing cannon and small arms which fall very little short of being as good as those of the Europeans and Americans.

The awakening of China is going on with a rapidity that will soon astonish those Westerners who refuse to recognize the course things are taking.

A Great Terminal Station.

New York, Feb. 6.—A great terminal station for New York and New Jersey street railways will be built west of Sixth avenue, on the blocks between Christopher and Leroy streets. The purchase of property has already begun. The new tunnel company will lease the use of its tracks to the traction companies. The tracks will rise from the tunnel at the Manhattan end to the surface of the street, on a gentle incline. This will be constructed on two blocks to be bought for the terminals.

Nitro-Glycerine Exploded.

Washington, Feb. 6.—A premature explosion of nitro-glycerine carelessly handled by an operative at the Carnegie Manufacturing Company's plant, at Ardwick, Md., nine miles from here, early today, killed one man and slightly injured two others. The building was slightly damaged, but eight tons of material of high explosive strength stored close to the scene of the accident was not disturbed.

Revenue Cutter Service Bill.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The bill "to promote the efficiency of the revenue cutter service" was acted upon favorably today by the house committee on commerce. It establishes the rank of officers in the service, that of captain being the same as major in the army and lieutenant commander in the navy. Retirement at the age of 64 years, with three-fourths pay, is provided for.

Loss by Fire.

San Francisco, Feb. 6.—At an early hour this morning the tug Walter Hackett, lying in Oakland harbor, was discovered to be on fire. The flames are now reported to be under control, but the loss on the vessel, which is valued at \$20,000, will be considerable.

Kitchener's Weekly Report.

London, Feb. 6.—In his weekly report to the war office, Lord Kitchener states that for the week ended February 1, 29 Boers were killed, six wounded, 142 taken prisoners and 48 surrendered.

Murdered by Apaches.

Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 6.—The charred remains of A. T. Vail, a well known pioneer rancher, were found in the ruins of his house at Aravaipa Canyon, 85 miles from Tucson. The supposition is that the house was burned down by Apache Indians, who room around that section. It is believed that the Indians killed Vail, looted the house and burned it. The Indians are much dissatisfied on account of the government cutting off their rations.