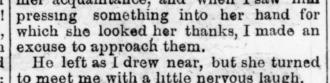


myself wondering whether the glass, which seemed almost a fixture, was worn to hide in a measure a failing of which he was himself conscious.

All this I had time to observe, and then cousin Douglas crossed the room and claimed me; and 1 forgot all about the diamond owner in the pleasure of renewing my acquaintance and conversing with the only man upon whom I had ever bestowed a second thought.

myself, bitterly.

What did we talk about? Who can say? The scenery possibly, the company pent his choice. probably, the weather certainly. But I was happy, happy with a new-found happiness, interrupted all too soon by my governess, who desired to present me to her old friend Mr. Reginald Canning. If I had not been favourably impressed with his personal appearance, still less was I so with his manner. He was not what men in those days used to call "good form," and there was a confidence a self-assertion in his speech which to me was singularly unpleasant; and I was not grateful to him even when he paid me the first actual full-blown compliments I had ever received in my life.



My cheeks were dyed with the crimson has given me.' of shame, and I clenched my hands till She displayed a diamond bracelet as the nails made deep indentations in the she spoke, endeavouring at the same time palms. What was it likely he could see to conceal a piece of paper which she held in "the Haughton Towers girl?" I asked in her hand, but my eyes were sharp, and

saw it. It was a cheque, and in Regin-I looked at the wreck of Lydia Trevor, ald Canning's handwriting. I could not I looked at the wreck of Lydia Trevor, ald Canning's handwriting. I could not the yellow-skinned, little haired, sharp-boned woman, and then at my own re-figures. boned woman, and then at my own re- figures.

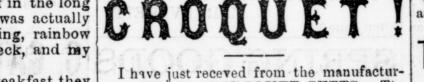
flection in the glass, and thought that Well, well! I thought nothing more of cousin Douglas see us under existing cir- it at the time. The breakfast dragged te cumstances, he might find reason to re- its conclusion, the usual toasts were drunk the customary cake was cut, and then he "I shall go to bed," I cried, abruptly, -my husband-and I left in a carriage

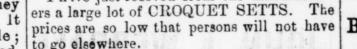
for I could not bear to prolong the con- and four, amidst a shower of rice and versation; and I trusted that sleep would slippers, for the railway station en route come to my aid, to banish thought, and for Paris, where we were to spend our drive away that dull aching pain which honeymoon.

seemed to press upon my heart and al- Why was it that at that little country most stop my breath. junction I, a bride of an hour, with wealth "Do, dear," said Lydia, yawning. at my command, a devoted husband at Good night! If you want to be up my side, and a life of never-ending pleasure before me, should think of nothing 36 Boxes of the Howe Scales! early," I retorted, pettishly. "Oh! then you have altered your mind. but of cousin Douglas?

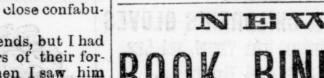
thought you said something about a I felt it was disloyal to the man whom I walk at eight o'clock." had sworn to love, honor, and obey, and 1 I started. How could she have known strove to drive the remembrance from

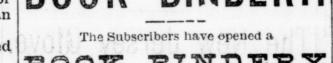
anything about this unless Douglas him- me; but on my wedding morning, start-

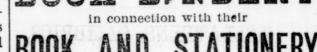


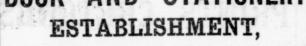








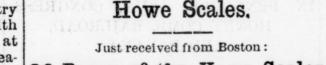




given them in that line.

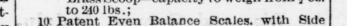
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