Passy.

BY MARY KYLE DALLAS. There never was a more proper person than Miss Martha Monckton. She had never done anything to shock people in all her life, and thought she never should; but man proposes, and the fates dispose; and little did Miss Monckton know what she should come to, as, on a Friday afternoon-Friday is an unlucky day-she sat at her window, working on a crochet scrap bag, and watching the movements of her opposite neighbor, or rather of her opposite neighbor's youngest daughter,

Miss Letitia Quirk. Miss Letitia, eighteen years old black-eyed, black-haired, rosy-cheeked. "a forward looking girl," Miss Martha Monckton pronounced her, sat at an upper window, habited in pale pink muslin, with pink shell pin and earrings, and a pale-blue bow in her hair. Below, in his garden, her excellent papa pottered about, with a large Panama hat on his bald head, expending all his energy of mind and body on two dozen tomatoes, a pair of pumpkins and other products of his amateur farming operations. In the dining-room window sat the young lady's mamma, counting napkins and cultivating a large wrinkle between the eyes, because napkins number twenty-one, two and three had been used at dinner instead of napkins twenty-four, five and six.

Behind her, in the open pantry, the jams and jellies, the potted beef and canned salmon, stood in rows. All that was eatable or drinkable, all that was made of glass, silver, china, or linen, was evidently well-ordered in that mansion. But that piece of pink and white prettiness, the daughter of the housewas it so with her?

Miss Monckton thought not. "I'd like to tell her ma," she said to herself, as she rubbed her glasses; "but I suppose I shouldn't be thanked for

Then she looked again, and felt sure that Miss Letitia was talking in pantomime, with some use of the finger alphabet, to an unseen young man. It might-since the person was un

seen-have been a young woman; but Miss Monckton felt sure it was not. "She's going through signs of put ting on her hat and cloak," said she to herself. "Now she's pointing down stairs and shaking her head. Sh means her pa and ma. How disrespectful! And I've had her in my Sundayschool class. Now she's saying something with her fingers. Now she's kissing her hand. If ever I see Letitia Quirk, again, I'll talk to her. She's

flirting with some one." Ah, if Miss Monckton had but known Flirtation is bad enough, but Letitia Quirk had gone still farther. Had that elderly lady's glasces been stronger, or had she understood the finger alphabet better, she would have known that at that moment Letitia was arranging an elopement for that evening. On the roof of his parents' residence, hidden behind a chimney, Humphrey Horton, only son of Dr. Giles Horton, the principal physician of Strawberrytown, was, at that instant, saying with his thumbs and fingers:

"I will be at the cross roads with a waggon at two o'clock to'night." It was certainly time that Letitia's parents left their cabbages and jam. pots to themselves for a while, and took

a little heed of their daughter. However, as we said, Miss Monckton did not guess the worst. She crotcheted her scrap-bag until it was time to put in a crimson row, and then laid it in her basket and went out into her garden to gather a saucer full of strawberries.

The table was already spread. Minty, the old black woman who "did Miss Monckton's housework," had baked four tea biscuits and four small cup cakes; the little china teapot held three cups of tea. It was all very pretty; no poverty, no pinching. The whole room was bright with fancy work and flower paintings, but it was lonely.

"I wish," said Miss Monckton, mildly, as she looked down into her te cup, "I wish that somebody had happened to stop in." I am not sure that seeing Miss

Monckton every day, watching her solitary spinster state, and half laughing at her, half pitying her for her tiny housekeeping arrangements, had not helped Letitia to the conclusion that she would marry, with permission of otherwise; and since Dr. Horton and old Mr. Quirk had quarrelled, would do without the parental blessing .-Everybody knew that Miss Monckton might have had the Squire twentyeight years before, if her mother had not hated him for no reason whatever.

Letitia at this moment was packing a small portmanteau and crying into itfor she was not naturally a bad sort of girl- and it would be a very bad sort of girl, indeed, who could leave her par ents' home in that way without a tear That solitary supper of Miss Martha

Monckton was soon dispatched, and she the twilight.

The Quirk dinner-bell did not ring for half an hour; and as she saw the lights in the window the spinster thought how nice it was to have a family about one. Pussy was all she had to love her; and where was Pussy?-"Here, Puss, Puss, Puss," she called; but Pussy did not, as usual, spring into her lap with a purr and rub her head against lady's chin.

"I hope nothing has happened to Pussy," said Miss Monckton, in a fright; and rising, went around the house to the kitchen end to ask Minty whether Pussy was there. But Minty had not seen the cat, nor heard the little bell it wore tied by a pink ribbon about its gray neck, and for two hours at least Miss Monckton searched house and grounds, and even the gardens of the elopement had actually been her her next-door neighbors, for the lost own. But she called on Mrs. Quirk pet. People were interested. After it next day, and the interview ended was dark they came out with candles happily for the lovers-either because or lanterns and looked in all sorts of of the tale of her own life that she told,

Monckton's Pussy. At last the search was given up. Miss Monckton decided that her treasure was either stolen or dead, and to," she said to Mrs. Quirk, "and if went home to cry about it. She sat up you will let Letitia have Humphrey, seconds, handy for ironing, baking or preparing unusually late that night, hoping against I'll make my will in their favor to-mor- Just the thing for Hotels and Restaurants. hope, but Pussy did not return, and at | row.' last she went to bed. She did not clock struck two she started awake with attended, "that Humphrey Horton

cat's familiar voice uttering a long-

drawn, plaintive moan. Jumping to her feet, Miss Monckton threw up her window and thrust out her night-cap, and saw, by the light of the moon, which was gliding through a sky of curds and whey, a gray streak, which she knew to be the form of Pussy, scud across the white road.

"Poor thing," said Miss Monckton. some wicked boy has scared her. I'll go down and get her in."

Now, the facts of the case were these. Pussy was not the martyr her mistres, believed her. On the contrary, she was a culprit who had been fitly pun-

True to her nature she was fond of fish, and seeing some set to warm on the stone hearth in Mrs. McMahon's kitchen, had helped herself. Mrs. Mc-Mahon, detecting her in the act, and furious at the loss of her supper, had flogged her well and shut her up in a wash-boiler, from which she had just liberated her.

The unwonted usage had suggested to Pussy that the world had turned against her, and consequently when her mistress, hastily attired in slippers and wrapper, appeared at the door, she refused to obey her voice, and instead of 'coming," as she was requested, ran

been tying a kettle to her tail, or some thing," said Miss Monckton. "I must catch her." And catching up a large water-proof from the hall rack, she threw it over her head, and ran down the village street. A cat chase is, as you will acknow-

ledge, a very exciting sort of thing. Puss led Miss Monckton a long one. Just when she thought she had her, the creature doubled and fled. When she actually caught her, she slipped through her fingers. At last, coming o that corner which was called by th Strawberryites "the cross-roads," be hold a carriage, apparently empty, and the door open, and into this open door rushes Pussy, flying from her best friend with the wilfulness and inconsis-

tency of her kind. But Miss Monckton was faithful. She saw the opportunity of capturing her poor demented favorite, and, rush- CONVEYANCER, &c., &c. ing to the carriage, thrust in her arms. Instantly they were caught by a man's strong hands, she was dragged in, the door shut, and, before she could utter a cry, the carriage was driven away at a

As I said, it was a sky of curds and whey, and this was a dark moment for the world. Miss Monckton could not see who held her, but she had no doubt that the purpose of the individual was murder. She tried to pray, but could only thing of the first questions in the catechism, and said these to herself in default of better; but in a moment or so, as no dagger was thrust into her heart, no pistol put to her head, she regained a little composure. As yet she could not speak, but she tried to see her captor, who still held her hand. Horrors of horrors! what was he doing Light Driving to the Heaviest

now? Hugging her. "Don't be frightened, my love," he said. "Don't tremble so, my darling, I will make you very happy.'

"Gracious goodness!" said Miss Monckton to herself, "have I lived to be fifty years old to be eloped with !" And now she found her voice.

"Open the carriage door," she cried : 'let me out this instant! I don't know who you are; but you never could make me happy-never. Let me out!" "Good Lord deliver us!" ejaculated

the still unseen gentleman. "Who is At this instant the moon rushed out from under a cloud and lay in perfect

silver glory in a sea of blue. Miss Monckton saw her captor's face.

"It's Humphrey Horton !" she cried. "I believe it is Miss Monckton!" said Humphrey.

"What did you drag me into this 10 Packages Woodenware. carriage for ?" asked the lady. "Why did you get in?" asked the young gentleman.

"I was trying to catch Pussy," said WOOD BOWLS, Miss Monckton; and suddenly she felt the truth borne in upon her. "You wicked young man!" she ex-

claimed. "You were here to elope with Letitia Quirk. I saw her signals to-day, but I did not understand them until now. Are you not ashamed of

"Miss Monckton, when two people love each other, they want to get married," said poor Humphrey, who was only twenty-one.

It was a simple plea, but it touched the poor spinster's heart, full as it was of memories of her own past, set topsyturvy by other people's ill temper.

do, Humphrey," she said, with rural caution of expression. "But they ought to marry properly, not like this. Carrying a girl off in the middle of the night isn't the way."

"Not if you were not bothered and badgered and tormented," sighed Humtook her knitting out upon the porch in | phrey. "Poor Letitia! I wonder where she is! We must go back."

"Of course," said Miss Monckton. "And you must go away. Humphrey don't coax that girl to do wrong. I'll 55 speak to Mrs. Quirk. I'll get her to agree to your marriage. There's nothing against you as I know of. Now, be sensible, and you shall have her yet, and I'll come to the wedding."

They drove back. There was no sign of Letitia on the road, though lights were shining in the house, and the disappointed lover shrewdly suspected the truth-namely, that Letitia had been caught by her indignant father in the very act of leaving the house. Miss Martha slipped out of the car-

riage with Pussy in her arms, praying that Minty might not awake and see her, and feeling as terrified as though possible and impossible places for Miss | the revelation of their daughter's indiscretion, or a certain little promise that No more ashes, smoke, dust or

she made. "I've nobody to leave my property

"Kinder singlar," said the Widow sleep well, however, and just as the Williams at the next tea drinking she a vivid impression that she heard the and young Mrs. Horton should hev

gone to live with Miss Monckton. She an't no kin of theirn.

But, nevertheless, there they werea very happy little family, too; and little Miss Monckton was never lonely again. Letitia's children sat on her knee, and called her aunty, and played with gray old Pussy, who lay upon the rug for many years.

"It's all Pussy's doing," Miss Monckton used to say. "If she had not run away, you would not be here." But naturally the caildren did not understand.

Zaw.

JNO. J. HARRINGTON.

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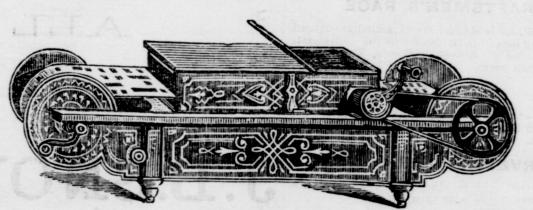
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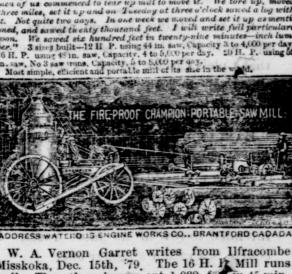
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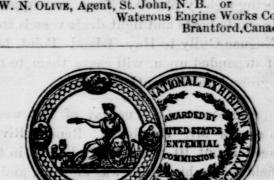
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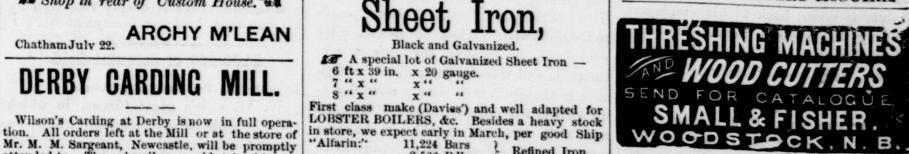
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