

how fondly he looked down into the

die and Lewis were standing. "Why, much.

flowers are! You remember what Lord Maddie left them.

complimentary to himself.

all.'

by experience. They are like children; they must have their fingers burnt bething but pretty."

this calla lily, for it is like you-state- I determined that she should never ly; and this rose-bud and geranium have you, and I sent you that cruel leaf you shall have, Lewis, not be- note. Lewis, can you forgive me? cause you deserve the gift, but because I don't know what else to do with it," and Maddie looked at him with a

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saucy smile.

Lewis answered, "As I hope to be Lewis watched Madeline closely forgiven, I forgive you, Myrtle.' that evening. Was she a flirt? he "Lewis, grant my dying wish, do asked himself. He could not believe not tell Maddie of this till after I am it. If there was anything Lewis Stan-ley detested it was flirting. He de-termined to keep a close watch on Madeline, and to find out for himself whether she was a flirt or not. He do her no more harm: She has been a did keep a close watch; so close that true friend to me, and how I repaid the rest of the gentlemen declared that friendship! And now, Lewis, that they could never get a chance of good bye: I shall never see you in speaking to Maddie, for Lew Stanley this world again, but my earnest prayer was forever at her side, and the village is, that you and Maddie may be happy. gossips nodded their wise heads over Good-bye."

their teacups and thought that Maddie Lewis stcoped and imprinted a kiss had met her fate at last, and soon on the pale forehead and left Myrtle there would be a wedding at Squire Howard. That night she died. Vernon's.

How she hated Madeline for stealing the pale, peaceful face of the dead from her the only heart she ever covet-ed! On one thing she determined; had requested, the great wrong she had Madeline Vernon should never be done them both. "Oh, Lewis! surely Lewis Stanley's wife.

had wandered away from the rest of the party to a little summer-house hid-den by the honeysuckle. They did not know that Myrtle had seen them and had followed them with slow, cantious footsteps.

he asked Maddie to be his wife heard her answer "yes."

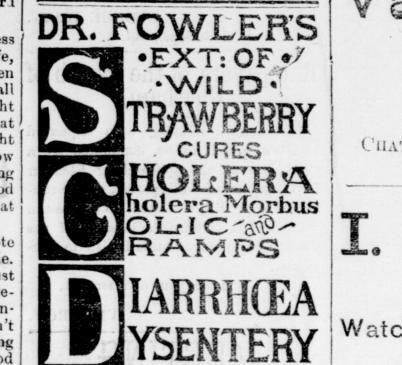
Myrtle laughed a low, mirthless laugh. "She" shall never be your wife, Lewis Stanley—never !" And then she crept away, leaving the lovers all unconscious that before forty-eight hours the troth they had plighted that night would be broken. All night Myrtle laid awake asking herself how she could but separate these two young hearts. Surely Myrtle Howard's good angel must have wept over her that night.

The next day Lewis received a note which he supposed came from Maddie. It read thus: "Mr. Stanley: I mast ask you to release me from the engagement which I made with you last evening. I said 'yes' just for fun. I won't carry the joke any farther. Hoping this will find you in your usual good health and spirits, I will say bon jour. Made'ine Vernon.'

"Good heavens !" Lewis exclaimed. "this cannot be from Madeline; and yet it is her writing, and who else knew of our engagement? Madeline, Madeline, it cannot be you that wrote this cruel note," he cried in tones of Agents' Wanted Immediately agony; "and yet they warned, and Myrtle told me I should never believe

Myrtle Howard heard all this. Two days after, Maddie and Lewis stood beside the open casket looking at I would have forgiven her; why did It was at a lawn-tennis party that she not let me tell her how freely I Lewis told Maddie of his love. They forgave her, before she died?"

Myrtle was laid "under the daisies." Lewis did not suspect that other They had a little girl, a sweet little ears than Madeline's listened that girl, who answers to the name of night to his tale of love; yet so it was. Myrtle. They never think of the dead Mrytle back in the shadows, heard Myrtle save with a pitying tenderness his passionate words of love, and when for her great sin and her early death.



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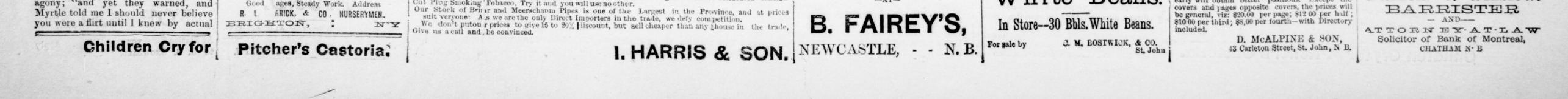
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