#### THE BARRIER.

The gate stood wide, and wide the door, As on a thousand nights before, And in their wonted threshold tryst The lamplight and the moonlight kissed. The room its welcoming graces wore, As on a thousand nights before; The soul of all that mansion bright Sent out a voice into the night. As on a thousand nights before.

What's this? Across the open door Some viewless threads, so silken fine, Do challenge every pass of mine; So silken fine, so airy light, Yet stanch with cruel magic might! There is no Arab cimiter Can part such clews of gossamer, Nor any storm can rend adrift, Nor fire devour with tongues most swift.

Such silken courses stronger are Then bolt on bolt, or forged bar, More fell than lance of hedging guard, Than dragon or the couchant pard.

For these at length a conqueror know, Or opiate draught or steely blow; Love can by might put these away, But Love no cunning weapon hath To cleave the gossamer's viewless path.

Wide open stands the gate—the door, As on a thousand nights before; Yet I there through may pass no more, A on a thousand nights before? -Edith M. Thomas in the Independent.

## WIDOW M'PHERSON.

"In short, say you've appointed yourself mentor over me at once and be done with

Lakely glared at his companion. Bristed, immovable. went on smoking. A silence, fraught with explosive possibilities, ensued. Finally Bristed arose. He was somewhat the elder of the two, and he was saturnine

"What are you going to do?" he demanded.

"If you think I'm going to say---" "Then you go to the dickens by the shortest cut you can find!" was Bristed's

The next day Mrs. Lakely tearfully pressed him into an interview. "I assure you I have done my best to

dissuade Hoarce," Bristed said. "Oh, it's too dreadful!" moaned Lakely's mother, wringing her hands. "You have always been such good friends-room mates and all—and young men will often listen to an older comrade's advice and remonstrance, when a mother's, a sister's, are quite thrown away. Do use your influence, my dear Mr. Bristed, with my poor, be-

one," murmured Bristed sympathetically.
"And it is horrible, too, that there should into the family where there is a young girl," continued Mrs. Lakely, putting her hand-kerchief to her faded, pretty, ladylike tace.

Mrs. Lakely telt that this allusion to her

daughter was a master stroke of diplomacy. "Certainly, I can appreciate your feelings here more than ever," cried Bristed,

over her that a man (of Hurlburt Bristed's "seriousness") never expressed himself so clearly unless he wished definite inferences to be drawn. Then her attention deflected from her daughter's interests to the more imminent perils of her son, and she sighed

Thus urged, Bristed returned to the

"In the name of heaven, Lakely, don't make such a fool of yourself," he began, in the tone of a more tolerant persuasiveness. ability to straighten matters out for us." "A fool of myself! By George! I think

I've a good deal of patience to stand what I've stood from you for the last month, Bristed! If a tellow didn't feel sore about throwing over an old friend, by George-"

"All right, I understand your point of view," said Bristed, placidly. "It isn't agreeable to have warnings dinned into your ears when you want to rush headlong into the biggest folly of your life. But it's the friend's part to sound the warning, all the same, whether it's agreeable or not. You might think of your mother and sister a little in this matter, too.'

to say anything against Mrs. McPherson, Bristed?" cried Lakely, starting up and confronting his friend, with his boyish features at lush and a kindling light in his blue eyes. "You say she's a little older

"Not a little; a good deal. She's older than I am—must be," interrupted Bristed. it? What are a few years one way or the

"A great deal when the few years are on the wrong side. But that isn't the worst feature. You needn't force me into saying things you wouldn't care to hear. But you know as well as I do that McPherson's widow has been talked about. Oh! unjustly, if you care to have it so! I'm not going into that question. But the old fellow didn't inspire the greatest respect himself, and, at all events, a good many things were of his pretty wife.

"You don't know her! You haven't even seen her," exclaimed Lakely, weakly. "I have never seen her, that's a fact. But I know her, all the same. One always knows a woman of that sort of caliber. They're very interesting to meet; very stimulating; very amusing; very fascinating. They have ten thousand arts. While their spell is on a man he thinks them anything wait, still with that unusual, that almost they choose to be thought. He believes they choose to be thought. He believes anything—everything. Afterwards he has anything—everything. Afterwards he has an awakening; and it is very well for him if he hasn't to discover that he has bound himself, hand and foot, while he was under the charm. Flirt with an adventuress—for really, you know, a McPherson can scarcely the called anything also flirt with an adventure. It is called anything also flirt with an adventure of the control of the presence, at once assured and unobher presence, which flattered all the senses.

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Dyspepticure will be sent by mail to those who delicate toilet, there emanated an aroma, as it were, which flattered all the senses.

"I believe you are Horace Lakely's great friend," said this gracious creature in a friend," said this gracious creature in a there are presented and unobher presence, at once assured and unoble trusive, animated and reposeful, from her delicate toilet, there emanated an aroma, as it were, which flattered all the senses.

"I believe you are Horace Lakely's great friend," said this gracious creature in a therefore the presence, at once assured and unoble trusive, animated and reposeful, from her delicate toilet, there emanated an aroma, as it were, which flattered all the senses.

"I believe you are Horace Lakely's great friend," said this gracious creature in a therefore the presence, at once assured and unoble trusive, animated and reposeful, from her delicate toilet, there emanated an aroma, as it were, which flattered all the senses.

"I believe you are Horace Lakely's great the presence of the presenc be called anything else-flirt with an ad- well modulated voice. If the modulations venturess as much as you like, my dear were somewhat artificial, if it were possible boy, if you feel sure enough of yourselt; to surmise that the natural tones of the but be very careful to stop-a long way off of matrimony. That's what a wise man does, my boy.'

Poor Lakely, with his elbows on his tation of noticing everything) did not knees and his hands supporting his head, observe the fact. sat staring at the figures of the carpet.

When the hair shows signs of failing, begin at hair, and renders it soft, pliant, and glossy .- Advt. Advt.

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## Manchester, Robertson & Allison.

"Confound it! you always had wisdom enough to fit out an army, Bristed," he growled. "It's no effort for you to keep out of scrapes. You couldn't get into one if you tried. You're so deucedly cold

When it dawned upon Mrs. Lakely that her son might unexpectedly be on the point of listening to reason, the poor lady's joy burst forth in touching gratitude to Horace's friend. But it was short lived joy. At the end of a fortnight she came to Bristed, pale with agitation, and communicated the dire intelligence that Mrs. Mc-Pherson had appeared in person on the scene; that she was following Horace up.

"I suppose she teels that the boy has been slipping from her-odious person!" exclaimed Mrs. Lakely, waxing bitter in her righteous indignation. "It is too shocking, the vulgar forwardness of such people. nighted boy! Oh, it is too shocking that he should be thinking for one instant even I do not fancy that she really cares for of such a marriage!"

"I appreciate your position, you may be sure, my dear madam. It is a very trying one?" murmured Bristed sympathetically the boy has just come into his grandfather's property. And she is poor; they say, hough she lives with an appearance of be a question of bringing such a person into the family where there is a young girl," Her husband, it would seem, left her nothing whatever."

"I imagine there is no doubt about that,"

said Bristed. And then Mrs. Lakely came to her point.
Would Mr. Bristed go to this "person"
and try to convince her that the family warmly.

And a ray of comfort pierced through
Mrs. Lakely's dolorous mists as it came

Mrs. Lakely's dolorous mists as it came

to bring it to naught? Would he try to persuade her to give Horace up, to relinquish her hold of a young tellow—a mere boy-much her junior, who ought not to be thinking as yet of matrimony under any circumstances? Would he appeal to her good feelings, if she had any? Would

"My dear Mrs. Lakely, anything to oblige you, but I don't know-

"Oh, don't say so," interrupted the poor lady. "I have such confidence in your A day or two later this conversation resulted in a visit from Bristed to the hotel where Mrs. McPherson was temporarily

registered. It was not in this young man's nature to look torward with much relish to the interview. He telt that he had before him something extremely distasteful. It is even possible that he was inclined to take some credit to himself when he reflected upon the trouble he was at to oblige his friend's family and to keep the boy himself from a piece of folly he should spend the rest of ittle in this matter, too."

"What the deuce have they, or have he accounted himself repaid for anything he accounted himself repaid for anything you, or has any one, for the matter of that, he might do, even before it was done. For to say anything against Mrs. McPherson, nothing could be sweeter or fairer or more charming than Cecilia Lakely, Horace's

young sister. She was a mere school girl, to be sure, but Hurlburt Bristed admired the type. An ingenuous young girl was to him the most delightful thing in nature. And he smiled often, as he took himself to Mrs. "Well, and even if she were. What of What are a few years one way or the ther?"

What are a few years one way or the from those dove like eyes these latter times since he had been exerting himself so

much in her brother's behalt. He was still thinking of Cecilia as he sat waiting for Mrs. McPherson to appear. He was, indeed, so much engrossed in his reveries that he looked up only when the lady he had come to see stood close in front

It was the perfection of a smile. It was brilliant, it was appealing, it was arch, it was even a little sad.

The young widow—it was impossible not to think of her as younger than she was stood there an instant and then sank in a him to resume his seat. She seemed to cases of Chronic Dyspepsia. harmonious smile, for him to begin. From

voice did not always betray the same refinement of culture, it so happened that Hurlburt Bristed (albeit he had the repu-

"Not all is gold that glitters" is a true saying; it is equally true that not all is sarsaparilla that is so When the hair shows signs of failing, begin at once to use Ayer's Hair Vigor. This preparation strengthens the scalp, promotes the growth of new hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair. Health is too precious to be trifled with.—

Webb, and Simson Bros. & Co., Halifax; Kerry, Watson & Co., Montreal.

The next day Mrs. Lakely awaited Bristed's promised visit with eager impatience. Cecilia, looking very lovely in a white dress (Bristed had once remarked that she should always wear white—it was becoming to her), was sitting with her mother, and shot an expressive glance at

the door when it opened.
"Well, Mr. Bristed, well," demanded Mrs. Lakely, "have you good news for me? Will she go away and leave my boy in

Cecilia, who had risen and remained standing, in a certain hesitancy, left the room. "I don't know that I can tell you anything very definite, my dear madam," ob-

served Bristed somewhat slowly.
"Oh, what do you mean? I hope the wretched person does not refuse to loosen her hold of Horace?" cried Mrs. Lakely. "No, no. It is not that—not at all.
Reassure yourself. Only—" Bristed interrupted himself. He began again: "I imagine she will, as you express it, loosen her hold of Horace. Yes—but—I wished to ask you-ahem?"

If it had been possible to fancy such a thing of the self-assured, graceful, lofty Bristed, Mrs. Lakely would have fancied that he looked embarrassed. She stared

at him when he continued: "Have you any definite reason for sup-posing that Mrs. McPherson really in-

tended to marry Horace?" "Really intended to marry him?" echoed Mrs. Lakely. "Why, nothing could be more evident! I thought we were agreed on that point, Mr. Bristed."

"On Horace's being most anxious to marry Mrs. McPherson-yes," amended Bristed. "But I do not-I am not

"Do you mean," interjected the poor lady, holding herself very straight, her mein, in its outraged maternal pride, becoming almost majestic, "that Mrs. Mc-Pherson is playing fast and loose with my son? That she would reject him at the last moment?"

That Horace Lakely should marry such a person as McPherson's widow was horrible enough. But, that being so inclined, Mrs. Lakely's darling, her eldest born, her handsome privileged son, should be subjected to the indignity of a refusal from such a source, surely that was more ter-

"Oh, my dear Mrs. Lakely, please do not imagine I would insinuate such a thing," exclaimed Bristed rather lamely. He was tugging at his mustache, and Mrs. Lakely was obliged to acknowledge

that he was certainly ill at ease.

'I hope you will let me know what progress you make," she insisted, feeling vaguely helpless. "I will, of course," said Bristed, getting

He seemed relieved in some way that the interview should be at an end. He depended with so much precipitancy that the interview should be at an end. He departed with so much precipitancy that he forgot to leave his respects for Cecilia.

Altogether, Mrs. Lakely could not make it out. She sighed, and concluded that men were very queer. She heard indirectly once or twice during the ensuing few weeks that Hurlburt Bristed had been seen with Mrs. McPherson, who still re-

According to the combined entreaties of the entire family, Horace Lakely had finally consented to flee the temptress who had pursued him, and he was away from home. "If I ever live down this feeling," the young man wrote at about this time to his triend, "I shall have you, I suppose, to thank for having urged me back into the path of wisdom. But I can tell you it is hard—desperately hard—staying away and listening to advice. I can't forget her, Bristed! You're such a cool, reasonable fellow yourself that you won't be able to understand that my whole life seems to have bound itself about this woman."

There was a tone throughout the letter which testified that Horace Lakely was still a good deal of a boy. It was somewhat of a consolation for Hurlburt Bristed to think that it was so. At least it made it some-what easier for him to write, in answer to that letter, a short time later:

"I think it right, without further delay, to convey to you a piece of news which may probably surprise you. I don't know that any explanation would simplify matters.

Mrs. McPherson and I are to be married next month."-Chicago News.



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lady he had come to see stood close in Honor of him. She had entered softly by a door at the side of him. As he rose a little confusedly, she covered him suddenly with a fusedly, she covered him suddenly with a Cuticura Anti-Pain Plaster. 30c.

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