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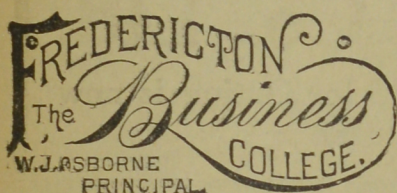
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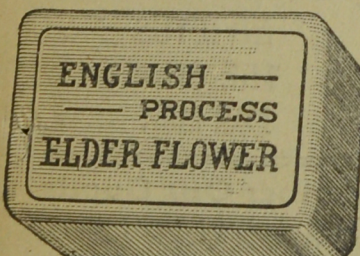
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"Oh, it is so quaint and delightful,"
Carroll exhaled slowly, "this dear old
house with its low ceilings and its old



"Oh, it is so quaint and delightful,"
pictures and queer, unexpected things
that take your breath away."

"It is one of the oldest houses in
town," said Orde, "and I suppose it is
picturesque. But, you see, I was
brought up here, so I'm used to it."

"Wait until you leave it," said she.
"Then all these things will come back
to you to make your heart ache for them."

After the company had gone Orde
stood long by the front gate looking
up into the infinite spaces. Somehow,
and vaguely, he felt the night to be
akin to her elusive spirit. Farther and
farther his soul penetrated into its
depths, and yet other depths lay be-
yond, other mysteries, other unguessed
realms. And yet its beauty was the
simplicity of space and dark and the
stars.

The next time he saw her was at
the house of the friend she visited.
Orde was lucky enough to find the
girls home and alone. Jane made an
excuse and went out. They talked
with a considerable approach toward
intimacy. Not until nearly time to go
did Orde stumble upon the vital point
of the evening. He had said some-
thing about a plan for the week fol-
lowing.

"But you forget that by that time I
shall be gone," said she.

"Gone!" he echoed blankly. "Where?"

"Home," said she. "Don't you re-
member I am to go Sunday morning?"

"I thought you were going to stay a
month."

"I was, but I—certain things came
up that made it necessary for me to
leave sooner."

"Will you write me occasionally?"
he begged.

"As to that"—she began—"I'm a very
poor correspondent. I do not make it
a custom to write to young men."

"Oh!" he cried, believing himself en-
lightened. "Will you answer if I write
you?"

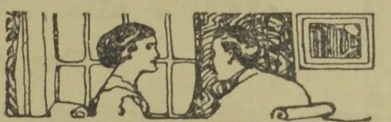
She began gently to laugh, quite to
herself, as though enjoying a joke en-
tirely within her own personal privi-
lege.

"What is your address in New
York?" demanded Orde.

She sank into a chair near by with a
pretty uplifted gesture of despair.

"I surrender!" she cried, and then
she laughed until the tears started
from her eyes. "Oh, you are deli-
cious!" she said at last. "Well, listen.
I live at 12 West Ninth street. Can
you remember that?" Orde nodded.

Two days later Orde saw the train
carry her away.



Chapter 15

THE new firm plunged busily into
pressing activities. Orde con-
stantly interviewed men of all
kinds—rivermen, mill men, con-
tractors, boat builders, hardware deal-
ers, pile driver captains, builders,
wholesale grocery men, cooks, axmen,
chore boys—all a little world in itself.

Downstream eight miles, below the
mills, and just beyond where the draw-
bridge crossed over to Monrovia, Dun-
can McLeod's shipyards steamed and
bent and bolted away at two tugboats.

The spring burst into leaf and set-
tled into summer. Orde was constant-
ly on the move. As soon as low wa-
ter came with midsummer he departed
for Redding. Here he joined a crew
which Tom North had collected and
went to the head of the river. Far
back on the headwaters he built a
dam. The gate operated simply and
could be raised to let loose an entire
flood. And, indeed, this was the whole
purpose of the dam. It created a res-
ervoir from which could be freed new
supplies of water to eke out the drop-
ping spring freshets.

The crew next moved down ten miles
to where the river dropped over a
rapids full of bowlders. Here were
built a row of stone filled log cribs in
a double row downstream to define
the channel and to hold the drive in
it and away from the shallows. At the
falls twenty-five miles below Orde
purchased his most elaborate bit of rough

The Riverman

By
Stewart
Edward White

engineering. The mill, only about
fifteen feet high, fell straight to a bed
of sheer rock. This had been eaten by
the eddies into potholes and crannies
until a jagged irregular scoop hollow
had formed immediately underneath
the fall.

In flood time the water roared
through this obstruction in a torrent.
The logs plunged end on into the
scoop hollow, hit with a crash and
were spewed out below more or less
battered. Sometimes, when the drive
brought down a hundred logs together,
they failed to shoot over the barrier
of the ledge. Then followed a jam, a
bad jam, difficult and dangerous to
break.

This condition of affairs Orde had
determined, if possible, to obviate.

"If," said he to North, "we could
carry an apron on a slant from just
under the crest and over the potholes
it would shoot both the water and the
logs off a better angle."

"Sure," agreed North, "but you'll
have fun placing your apron with all
that water running through. Why, it
would drown us!"

"I've got a notion on that," said
Orde.

Into the forest went the axmen.
The straightest trees they felled,
trimmed and dragged down travoy
trails they constructed, on sleds they
built for the purpose, to the banks of
the river. Here they bored the two
holes through either end to receive the
bolts when later they should be locked
together side by side in their places.
As fast as they were prepared men
with canthooks rolled them down the
slope to a flat below the falls.

After the trees had been cut in suf-
ficient number Orde led the way back
upstream a half mile to a shallows,
where he commanded the construction
of a number of exaggerated sawhorses
with very widespread slanting legs.
When the sawhorses were completed
Orde directed the picks and shovels
to be brought up.

Orde set his men to digging a chan-
nel through the bank. It was no slight

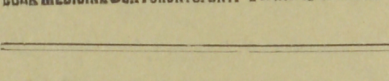
job, as the slope down into a swamp
began only at a point forty or fifty feet
inland; but, on the other hand, the
earth was soft and free from rocks.
When completed the channel gave pas-
sage to a rather feeble streamlet from
the outer fringe of the river.

Next Orde assigned two men to each
of the queer shaped sawhorses and in-
structed them to place the horses in a
row across the shallowest part of the
river and broadside to the stream.
This was done. The men, halfway to
their knees in the swift water, bore

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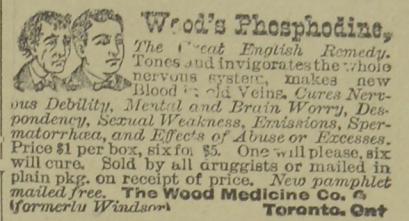
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