## A MARIRATIVE OF METROPOLITAN LIFE BY CHARLES KLEIN ARTHUR HORNBLOW ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAY WALTERS

CHAPTER XVI.

"Now, my dear young woman," said Jedge Brewster, when the astonished bead clerk had withdrawn, "if we are geing to get your husband free we must get to work, and you must help

His visitor looked up eagerly. "I'll do anything in my power," she

said quickly. "What can I do?" "Well-first of all." said the lawyer with some hesitation, "I want you to see a certain lady and to be exeeedingly nice to her.'

"Lady?" echoed Annie, surprised. "What lady?"

"Mrs. Howard Jeffries, Sr.," he rephed slowly

"Howard's stepmother!" she ejacu-

"Show her in." Turning round of service to you. Now, you must to his son." conciliate her. She may be of great use to us."

"Perhaps so," she said, "but the called to see her.'

"That's nothing," answered the judge. "She probably knows nothing dow. Her face still averted she said: about it. In any case, please remember that she is my client-"

She bowed her head and murmured obediently:

"I'll remember."

The door of the office opened and Alicia entered. She stopped short on seeing who was there, and an awkward pause followed. Judge Brewster introduced them.

"Mrs. Jeffries, may I present Mrs. Howard, Jr.?"

Alicia bowed stiff and somewhat fight!" haughtily. Annie remained self-possessed and on the defensive. Addressing the banker's wife, the lawyer said: "I told Mrs. Howard that you wished to speak to her." After a pause

be added: "I think, perhaps, I'll leave you together. Excuse me." He left the office and there was an-

other embarrassing silence. Annie waited for Mrs. Jeffries to begin. Her attitude suggested that she expected comething unpleasant and was fully prepared for it. At last Alicia broke You may think it strange that I

have asked for this interview," she began, "but you know, Annie-" Interrupting herself, she asked: "You don't mind my calling you Annie, do

The young woman smiled.

"I don't see why I should. It's my name and we're relatives—by marriage." There was an ironical ring in her voice as she went on: "Relatives! It seems funny, doesn't it, but we don't pick and choose our relatives. We must take them as they

Alicia made an effort to appear conelliatory.

"As we are—what we are—let's try to make the best of it."

"Make the best of it?" echoed An-"God knows I'm willing, but I've mighty little encouragement, Mrs. Jeffries. When I called to see you the other day, to beg you to use your influence with Mr. Jeffries, 'not | him.' at home' was handed-to me by the liveried footman and the door was clammed in my face. Ten minutes later you walked out to your carriage and were driven away."

"I knew nothing of this-believe me," murmured Alicia apologetically. "It's what I got just the same," said the other dryly. Quickly she went on: "But I'm not complaining, understand -I'm not complaining. Only I did think that at such a time one woman might have held out a helping hand

40 another." Alicia held up her hand protest-

'How could I?" she exclaimed. Now, be reasonable. You are held responsible for Howard's present po-

"Yes-by the police," retorted Antie grimly, "and by a couple of yellow journals. I didn't think you'd believe all the gossip and scandal that's been printed about me. I didn't believe what was said about you."

Alicia started and changed color. "What do you mean?" she exclaimed really believe I'm the cause of his haughtlly. "What was said about

"Well, it has been said that you

married old Jeffries for his money and his social position." 'Old Jeffries!'" protested Alicia

indignantly. "Have you no respect for your husband's father?"

"Not a particle," answered the other coolly, "and I never will have till he acts like a father. I only had one interview with him and it finished him with me for all time. He ain't a father-he's a fish."

"A fish!" exclaimed Alicia, scandalfixed at such lese majeste.

Annie went on recklessly: "Yes-a cold-blooded-

"But surely," interrupted Alicia, "you respect his position-his-" "No, m'm; I respect a man because

he benaves like a man, not because he lives in a marble palace on River-

side drive.' Alicia looked pained. This girl was certainly impossible.

"But surely," she said, "you realized that when you married Howard you-you made a mistake-to say the

"Yes, that part of it has been made pretty plain. It was a mistake-his mistake-my mistake. But now it's done and it can't be undone. I don't see why you can't take it as it is and

She stopped short and Alicia completed the sentence for her: -and welcome you into our fam-

"Welcome me? No, ma'am. I'm not welcome and nothing you or your set could say would ever make me be-A clerk entered and handed his em- lieve that I was welcome. All I ask ployer a card. The lawyer nodded is that Howard's father do his duty by

"I do not think-pardon my saying again, he went on: "Yes-Howard's so," interrupted Alicia stiffly, "that stepmother. She's out there now. She you are quite in a position to judge wants to see you. She wishes to be of what constitutes Mr. Jeffries' duty

"Perhaps not. I only know what I would do-what my father would Annie's face expressed considerable have done-what any one would do if they had a spark of humanity in them, But they do say that after three gendoor was slammed in my face when I erations of society life red blood turns into blue."

Alicia turned to look out of the win-"What is there to do? Howard has acknowledged his guilt. What sacnces we may make will be thrown

away. Annie eved her companion with contempt. Her voice quivering with indignation, she burst out:

"What is there to do! Try and save him, of course. Must we sit and do nothing because things look black? to pay attention to the concluding Ah! I wasn't brought up that way. No, ma'am, I'm going to make a

"It's useless," murmured Alicia shaking her head. "Judge Brewster doesn't think so,"

replied the other calmly. The banker's wife gave a start of surprise. Quickly she demanded:

You mean that Judge Brewster has encouraged you to-to-"He's done more than encourage me

-God bless him!—he's going to take up the case,"

Alicia was so thunderstruck that for a moment she could find no answer. "What!" she exclaimed. consulting Mr. Jeffries?"

She put her handkerchief to her face to conceal her agitation. Could it be possible that the judge was going to act, after all, in defiance of her husband's wishes? If that were true, what would become of her? Concealment would be no longer possible. Discovery of her clandestine visit to Underwood's apartment that fatal night must come Howard might still be the murderer. Underwood might not have committed suicide, but her visit to his rooms at midnight would become known. Judge Brewster was not the man to be deterred by difficulties once he took up a case. He would see the importance of finding the mysterious woman who went secretly to Underwood's rooms that night of the tragedy.

"He consulted only his own feelings," went on Annie. "He believes in Howard, and he's going to defend

Alicia looked at her anxiously as if trying to read what might be in her

mind. Indifferently she went on: "The papers say there was a quar rel about you, that you and Mr. Underwood were too friendly. They implied that Howard was jealous. Is

this true?" "It's all talk," cried Annie indignantly-"nothing but scandal-lies! There's not a word of truth in it. Howard never had a jealous thought of me-and as for me-why-I've always worshiped the ground he walked on. Didn't he sacrifice everything for my sake? Didn't he quarrel with his father for me? Didn't he marry me? Didn't he try to educate and make a lady of me? My God!-do you suppose I'd give a man like that cause for jealousy? What do the newspapers care? They print cruel statements that cut into a woman's heart, without giving it a thought, without knowing or caring whether it's true or not, as long as it interests and amuses their readers. You-you don't

misfortunes, do you?" Alicia shook her head as she an-

swered kindly: "No, I don't. Believe me, I don't. You were right when you said that at such a time as this one woman should stand by another. I'm going to stand by you. Let me be your friend, let me help you." Extending her hand, she said: "Will you?"

Annie grasped the proffered hand. It was the first that had been held out to her in her present trouble. A lump rose in her throat. Much affected, she said:

"It's the first kind word that-" She stopped and looked closely for a moment at Alicia. Then she went on: "It's the queerest thing, Mrs. Jeffries, but it keeps coming into my perish in order to protect herself from

was at Underwood's that dreadful, night he thought he heard your voice It must have been a dream, of course, yet he thought he was sure of it. Your voice-that's queer, isn't it?

Alicin had grown deathly pale and staggered against a chair. Annie ran ber aid, thinking she was ill.

"It's nothing - nothing!" stammered Alicia, recovering herself. Fearing she had said something to burt her feelings, Annie said sympa-

"I haven't said anything-anything out of the way-bave I? If I have I'm sorry-awfully sorry. I'm afraid-1-I've been very rude and you've been so kind!"

"No, no!" interrupted Alicia quick-"You've said nothing-done nothing-you've had a great deal to bear -a great deal to bear. I understand that perfectly." Taking her companion's hand in hers, she went on: "Tell me, what do they say about the woman who went to see Robert Un-

derwood the night of the tragedy?" "The police can't find her-we don't know who she is." Confidently she went on: "But Judge Brewster will find her. We have a dozen detectives searching for her. Capt. Clinton accused me of being the woman-you know he doesn't like ma"

The banker's wife was far too busy



Believed Howard Guilty. Shouldn't 17"

employed to find the missing witness sentence. Anxiously she demanded: "Supposing the woman is found, what can she prove? What difference

will it make?" "All the difference in the world," replied Annie. "She is a most important witness." Firmly she went on: "She must be found. If she didn't shoot Robert Underwood, she knows who did."

"But how can she know?" argued "Howard confessed that he did it himself. If he had not confessed it would be different."

"He did not confess," replied the other calmly. "Mrs. Jeffries—he never confessed. If he did, he didu't know what he was saying."

Alicia was rapidly losing her self-

Alicia could contain herself ne tone er. Her nerves were on the point of giving way. She felt that if she could not confide her secret to some one she must go mad. Pacing the floor,

she cried: "What am I to do? What am I to do? I believed Howard guilty. Why shouldn't I? I had no reason to doubt his own confession! Every one believed it-his own father included. Why should I doubt it. But I see it all now! Underwood must have shot

himself as he said he would!" Annie started. What did Mrs. Jeffries mean? Did she realize the tremendous significance of the words she was uttering?

"As he said he would?" she repeated slowly.

"Yes," said Alicia weakly. Annie bounded forward and grasped her companion's arm. Her face flushed, almost unable to speak from

suppressed emotion, she cried: "Ah! I begin to understand. You knew Robert Underwood? Howard knows your voice-he heard you-talking to him- Oh, Mrs. Jeffries! Are you the woman who visited his apartments that night?"

The banker's wife bowed her head

and collapsed on a chair. "Yes," she murmured in a low tone. Annie looked at her in amazement. "Why didn't you come forward at once?" she cried. "Think of the pain which you might have spared us!" Alicia covered her face with her

"The disgrace-the disgrace!" she "Disgrace!" echoed Annie, stupe fled. Indignantly, she went on; "Dis-

handkerchief. She was crying now.

grace-to you? But what of me and "Can't you realize what it means to be associated with such a crime?" she

"Disgrace!" cried Annie contemptuously. "What is disgrace when a hu-

man life is at stake?" "It seemed so useless," moaned Al icia-"a useless sacrifice in the face of Howard's confession. Of course -if I'd known-if I'd suspected what you tell me-I'd have come forward and told everything-no matter at what cost." Tearfully she added:

"Surely you realize the position it puts me in?" A new light shone in Annie's eyes. What was this woman's misery to her? Her duty was to the poor fellow who was counting the hours until she could set him free. His stepmother deserved no mercy. Utterly selfish, devoid of a spark of humanity, she would have left them both to

AND DESCRIPTION

and determined as she said calmly

"It must be done now." "Yes," murmured Alicia in a low tone that sounded like a sob, "it must be done now! Oh, if I'd only done it before-if I'd only told Mr. Jeffries the whole truth! You speak of Howard's sufferings. If he didn't do it, he has at least the consciousness of his own innocence, but I-the constant fear of being found out is worse than any hell the imagination can confure up. I dreaded it-I dread it now -it means disgrace-social ostracism -my husband must know-the whole world will know."

Annie was not listening. Still bewildered, she gazed with the utmost astonishment at her companion. To think that this mysterious woman they had been seeking was Howard's stepmother.

'So you're the missing witness we have all been hunting for!" she said; 'I can't believe it even now. How did it happen?"

"He and I were once engaged. broke it off when I found him out. After I married Mr. Jeffries I met Underwood again. Foolishly, I allowed the old intimacy to be renewed. He took advantage and preyed on my friends. I forbade him my house. He wrote me a letter in which he threatened to kill himself. I was afraid he meant it-I wanted to prevent him. I went to his rooms that night. I-didn't tell Mr. Jeffries. When the truth is known and I ac knowledge that I visited this mancan you see what it means?-what a fuss there'll be. Everybody will put the worst construction on it-"

"Trust them for that!" said Annie grimly. She was sorry for the woman's distress, yet, being only human, she felt a certain sense of satisfaction in seeing her suffer a little of what she had been made to suffer,

"They'll say that I-God knows what they'll say!" went on Alicia distractedly. "My husband will be dragged through the mire of another public scandal-his social prestige will -oh, I dare not think of it-I knowmy duty is to that unfortunate boy. I mustn't think of myself."

"Have you the letter that Mr. Upderwood wrote you?" demanded her companion

"Yes-I've never been able to destroy it. I don't know why I kept it, but thank God I have it!" Moaning, she went on:

"The disgrace!-the disgrace!-it's ruin-degradation! It's the end of everything! - the end of everything!" Annie regarded with contempt this poor, weak, wailing creature who lacked the moral courage to do what was merely right. Her voice was not unkind as she said:

"I don't want to disgrace you-or ruin you. But what am I to do-tell me, what am I to do?"

"I don't know," moaned her com panion helplessly, "Howard must be saved."

Will you tell Judge Brewster or

shall 1?" "Judge Brewster! Why should he composedly and as if resigned to the inevitable, she went on: "Yes, I suppose he must know sooner or later,

but, I-" She broke down again and burst into tears. Annie watched her in si-

lence. "It's tough-isn't it?" she said sympathetically.

"Yes," sobbed Alicia through her tears, "It's-it's tough!" Rising, she dried her eyes and said hastily: "Don't say anything now. Give me a few bours. Then I can think what is best GREAT THINGS IN STORE to be done"

Annie was about to reply when the office door suddenly opened and Judge Brewster entered. Addressing Alicia,

"Pardon me, Mrs. Jeffries, I hope I haven't kept you waiting." Noticing her agitation and traces of tears, he looked surprised. He made no comment but turned to Annie:

"I have been talking to Dr. Bernstein over the 'phone." Annie approached him softly and

said in a whisper: "I've told Mrs. Jeffries that you have undertaken Howard's defense."

Judge Brewster smiled at his wealthy client, almost apologetically, Annie thought. Then addressing her, he said: "Yes, I've been quite busy since I

saw you. I have put three of the best detectives we have on the trail of the woman who visited Underwood that night. I don't think the police have been trying very hard to find her. They're satisfied with Howard's confession. But we want her and we'll

"Oh!" gasped Alicia.
The judge was proceeding to tell of other steps he had taken when the door opened and the head clerk entered, followed by Mr. Jeffries. "I told Mr. Jeffries that Mrs. Jef-

fries was here," said the clerk. "You might have told him that there were two Mrs. Jeffries here," laughed

The clerk retired and the banker, completely ignoring the presence of his daughter-in-law, turned to his wife and said:

"I regret, my dear, that you should e subjected to these family annoy-Judge Brewster came forward and

cleared his throat as if preliminary to something important he had to say Addressing the banker, he said bold-"Mr. Jeffries, I have decided to un-

dertake Howard's defense."

His aristocratic client was taken completely by surprise. For a moment he could say nothing, but simply stared at the lawyer as if unable to believe his ears. With an effort, he at last exclaimed:

"Indeed!-then you will please con mind. Howard told me that while he shame and ridicule. Her face was act sider our business relations to have



### A Boy's Knickerbocker Suit for

Before you take the train for Omaha or mail that letter to a catalogue house, just stop in and look at this boy's suit bargain right here at home. You can look it all over and try it on the boy without expense and if you should buy it and conclude next day

you wanted something different, you can exchange it without expense. No so with out of town goods. Then again if you buy it and any time feel you did not get your money's worth, come and get your money back. That's fair enough, isn't it. These suits come in blue serge, Buster Brown ages 3 to 7 and gray and brown mix D. B. coats in ages 8 to 15. They're handsome little suits and only \$2.95 cash. What do you say?

## C. E. Wescott's Sons

THE HOME OF SATISFACTION

ceased from this moment

The lawyer bowed. "As you please," he said suavely. The banker turned to his wife.

"Alicia-come." He offered his arm and turned toward the door. Alicia, in distress, looked back at Annie, who nodded reassuringly to her. Judge Brewster rose and, going to the door, opened it. The banker bowed siffly and said: "Pray don't trouble. Good morning.

As Alicia followed her busband out, she turned and whispered to Annie: When she had disappeared

judge came back into the room and at down at his desk. with a sigh of relief. Rummaging for a moment among his papers, he looked up and said with an encoura-

ging smile: Now, if you please, we will go over

(Continued Next Issue.)

that evidence-bit by bit."

FOR THE MISSOURI PACIFIC New President Promises to Make It a Model and Standard

for Other Roads.

morning and went to work at the soon as possible. road's headquarters. "I intend to make the Missouri Pacific a model and standard for other roads." Mr. Bush said.

he desires to do.

Mr. Bush has made a record soil is inexhaustible. with one run down and bankrupt Gould property. He took it when it was in bad physicial condition may not paralyze a home so comand built it up until it became a paying property.

Missouri Pacific men would west many Missouri Pacific men them. 25c at F. G. Fricke & Co. hoped that he had resigned to take charge of the Missouri Pacific. It is probable that both men

as' Eclectic Oil. Cures toothache, days ago and feeling very much earache, sore throat. Heals cuts, better, although his foot is quite bruises, scalds. Stops any pain. painful yet.

# WILL WE HAVE

It Is About Time Some Movement Was Being Made in That Direction.

The great natal day is not far distant, and if Plattsmouth is going to have a big celebration it is time we were donning our hustling clothes. The Journal "Well, that's done!" he exclaimed believes that the Commercial club should take hold of the matter and push the same to a successful end .. Everybody knows that the club is composed of the business men of the city, and that they generally make a success of everything they undertake.

Everyone can work in harmony and a celebration had that would be equal to or surpass anything of the kind ever held in Plattsmouth. Such celebrations are a big advertisement for the city, and when the people know that the Commercial club has the management of the affair they will come here to celebrate from a A special from St. Louis, under radias of at least ten miles east, date of May 1, says: Benjamin F. west, north and south. The Jour-Bush, president of the Missouri nal hopes the Commercial club Pacific railway, arrived here this will act on the matter just as

### Cass County Soil Fertile.

The Cass county soil is fertile for many feet downward is evident by the rank growth of fall wheat The Railway Age Gazette, in a on the lot of J. E. McDaniel, adrecent issue, said that if Mr. joining the M. E. church property Bush is given a free rein and fur- on the west. The soil on the lot nished a sufficient amount of is pure clay and in its natural money he will make a good rail- strata lay twenty feet below the road and a big money-earner out black loam which was removed in of the Missouri Pacific. This bringing the lot to grade. Last same authority, however, express- fall Mr. McDaniel sowed wheat on ed the feeling that with the the lot to prevent it from wash-Goulds still in control of the ing, and at this time it has made property, Bush will not be given such a heavy growth that it is a free hand and that he will not falling down. There is little be permitted to accomplish what wonder that Cass county farms are selling at a good figure, the

### A Burglar's Awful Deed

pletely as a mother's long illness. But Dr. King New Life Pills are a splendid remedy for women. have been better pleased had the "They gave me wonderful benefit offer made to Howard Elliott have in constipation and female been accepted. When John F. trouble," wrote Mrs. M. C. Dunlap, Stevens quit the Hill roads in the of Leadhill, Tenn. If ailing, try

Mr. J. P. Shroeder of Cedar foresaw the continuance of Gould Creek, foreman of the Newell gravel pit, was in the city yesterday and called on Judge Newell, finding the judge recovering from Everybody's friend-Dr. Thom- the effects of the accident of a few