soft scarlet and white wool. Milton son? He feared she might have. He Etheredge sat watching her, pretending had seen her kiss a picture which he felt to read the Journal at the same time. morally sure was his. Would he like She was looking very charming in her his wife to kiss Leigh Richardson's picbuff muslin dress, with pink ribbon at ture? Would he like to think she had the throat and looping back her brown ever kissed it? Then he remembered

more, the knew how to attire herself in the Franklin Club, and for the want of just the manner most becoming to her. something better to de, he sauntered She was not so much prettier than doz- into their room. ens of other young ladies, but everything about her was in harmony, and people had fallen into the habit of calling her beautiful. She had a clear, wild rose complexion-tolerably regular features --- soft brown eyes, and brown hair that was struggling continually to break into curls and ringlets so natural to it.

Mi.ton Ed eredge -grave, silent, wise lawyer-wondered within himself how long he had love I this little Annie. He cou'd not remember. S'x years ago she had come to them -- the djing request of The good lady had been a mother to her part of a kind elder brother. Annie was eighteen when she came to Grayheadshe was now twenty-five. Yes, he was sure he had loved her for six years. She had made everything so different. Her that myself. Too confounded bad I didn't pretty ways of arranging curtains, and books, and knick knacks, had brightened up the stately old house wonderfully. Milton thought it was strange how he and his lady mother had ever managed to live without her.

So he sat and looked at her as she made the shining steel flash in and out the bright fleecy wool. Not that he her than he was now. His love was gray on the temples.

But there was something more to destroy the hope, if he had dared to indulge it. At one time, perhaps, he had it. I am an expert at that business, I times subdued and sad-so Etheredge

Annie and Leigh Richardson had men under somewhat romantic circumstances. He had saved her from drowning at Cape May, when she had ventured beto Graymead, he had followed her there and located himself in the practice of his profession-the law. He had been a constant visitor for two years. People began to speak of them as belonging to each other. and Mrs. Etheredge had, with a woman's peculiar delight, pegun to anticipate the wedding supper and the bridal trousseau. Etheredge had looked on with a dull pain at his heart, for which he felt half angry with himself. Surely he ought to rejoice that Annie would be so happy, for Richardson was every way estimable, and was rising rapidly in his profession.

Suddenly, however, about two years before the opening of our story, his visits ceased, and he began a vio lent flirtation with Nellie Seymour, the belle of the village. Annie did not die on account of it-she did not even mope, as girls generally do when crossed in love. Her manner was a little more subdued, her laugh less frequently, but she was not heart broken. She put aside the sympathy Mrs. Etheredge would have offered her, quietly, and gave her confidence to no one. Sometimes she met Richardson, but they exchanged no words -not even the ordinary ceremonious greetings of mere acquaintances; they were as completely separated as if an ocean rolled between them

This night, as Etheredge sat watching Annie, and thinking of all this, he noticed, with a thrill of pain, that she was a little paler, a little more quiet than usual. He remembered that she had met Richardson at the picture gallery

Some magnetic influence in the gaze of Etheredge made Annie look up. She flushed under the serene luster of those dark gray eyes, and her fingers forgot their cunning, and dropped the ball of zephyr she was unwinding. It rolled toward the fire-there was a genuine old ashioned wood fire upon the bearthand in stooping to recover it, her light sleeve dipped into the blaze. The flames leaped up-Milton sprang forward, caught her in his arms, and crushed out the fire.

She was frightened, weak and dizzy with remembering what she had escaped, and for a moment she stood circled on his arm, her head on his shoulder, her soft hair resting against his cheek. The touch thrilled him with startling power. He was hardly himself. All the love he had so long kept under foot rose up like an unbound tyrant. He pressed his lips passionately to hers-he would have told her then how dear she was to him. but something seemed to hold him back. He would wait a little until the excite- I am curious, but because I desire your ment of her recent peril would be over | good more than any earthly thing." -would wait, and think it over calmly. She looked up in wonderment, noticing All that night he sat up, thinking of his the strange unsteadiness of his Ivoice course. He loved her with all his soul; and the tremor of the hand laid on hers. he should never care for another wo-

condition of her heart. What if she had She was crocheting something out of still a lingering tenderness for Richardhow she blushed sometimes when he Prate as we may of the unimportance looked at her, and took courage. It of dress, it more or less influences the might be that the old dream could be destiny of us all. Venus herself would forgotten in the new. At any rate he be ugly in a tettered gown, and only would know before he slept, he said, imagine Apollo in a swallow tailed coat | with sudden resolution, and after breakwith bright buttons. Annie Huntly fast he went down town for a walk. He knew the value of dress-and, what is knew a few of the fellows belonging to

> There were only two or three present. smoking their cigars and idling over the papers. Their business hours had not commenced yet. As he entered he caught the name of Annie Huntley. Fred. Orme, a reckless, young date devil, was telling a story. E heredge reddened on hearing her name from Orme's lips, and was about s'riding forward and catling him to account for it, when Orme's next words arrested him and forced him to listen.

"You see Leigh Richardson was dead M:s. Etheredge's best valued friend. in love with her. Never saw a fellow any harder. Well, she is a charming ever since, and Milton had played the girl-dresses exquisitlely. Never saw a better fitting glove and boot than she gets on. Leigh is smart, but I never liked him since he won that silver cup at the boat race. I meant to have had

> "So it was," drawled Ed. Harrison; "how you sweat, didn't you Fred?"

"It was hotter than the tropics, and Leigh is one of the cool blooded ones. I said that I meant to be even with him. and I have kept my word. Don't mind telling you the story, fellows, since it is such an old affair. Pass that lemonade, thought of ever being anything more to Etheredge-you'll be interested in it, because I've heard it said that you're quiet yet-it had not reached that rather sweet in that quarter. Matters passionate stage when it will not be were going on swimmingly, two years subdued by any obstacles. He was old ago, between Leigh and Annie. They'd -thirty at least-and it would be have been married before now, if nobody childish for him to hope she would ever had interfered. But Dennis and I-you link her young fresh life with that of a know Dennis?- tiptop fellow! got up a man whose hair was already getting little plan between us, and it worked splendidly. Didn't we raise the deuce? I gained possession of some of Leigh's handwriting, and practiced writing like

indulged it, but certainly not now. Annie flatter myself; and in a few days I could Huntly had had her life romance as fairly beat Richardson with his own well ar other women. It had been weapons. So I wrote a letter to an sweet at first-painfully bitter at last. imaginary chum of his-giving a des-It had made her smile graver-her cription of Miss Annie, calling her a color more fleeting-her manner at soft little thing, telling him how sha adored the subscriber, and how the subscriber cared nothing at all for her, but was enjoying a glorious flirtation. Of ourse the subscriber was Leigh Richard

son. This note, which was a most insulting one to any woman, we contrived youd her depth; and, after her removal to have dropped where Miss Aunie would find it, and the result was even more jolly than I had anticipated. She mittened Richardson the next day, and refused to listen to any explanation he could make, Ha! ha! a good joke wasn't it? Paid him for getting that cup. Always intended to pay him off some way. He felt dreadfully about it! My sister Lucy boarded him at the time. and there was no sleep in the house for his tramping up and down his chamber all night. A little more lemonade, Ed., and I don't care if there is a drop of champegne 1a it. It's chilly this morn-

Etheredge waited to hear no more. In his present frame of mind he felt as if he could not bear it. He went home and shut himself up in his chamber. After all, Richardson had been true. How bitterly he had been wronged! Annie would repent, and love him more than ever, it she knew the injustice she had done him. That was a woman's nature. She atones for wrong by giving love. And what if an eclaircissement should be brought about? Etheredge felt faint and sick. The future shut down dark and blank. And only an hour before he had dared indulge such glowing visions. He saw his duty clearly enough, but it is not always easy to do one's duty. The was a little struggle between his heart and his conscience. A hundred times the temptation beset him to keep his knowledge to himself, and win Annie for his own She would never know that Richardson was blameless, and his great love might make her so happy! At last, he knelt down and prayed over it. He always prayed over those things which were too hard for him. After that, he rose grocer must go home, and on being acwest wind on his forehead-saw the pale wintry sunshine gild the long rows of buildings opposite. For him there was no more hesitation. If he could make Annie happy, what matter to him bow it was accomplished? He wen down to the sitting room about sunset. He knew he should find Annie there. Mrs. Etheredge was away at a society

Annie was sewing by a shaded lamp. She did not like the glare of the gas. There was a rich color on her cheek over which the loose hair drooped low. Milton Etheredge's heart leaped at sight of her, but he stilled it down and took a seat beside her.

"Annie," he said, "I am an oid friend. and I think you will not be offended if I ask you a few questions. Not because on-I am listening."

"Annie, you were once engaged to Leigh Richardson?"

Her head drooped lower; the crimson came and went in her cheeks.

"I was," she said, in a low voice. "You loved him and he loved youwas it not so, my child?"

"We called it love." "And you thought him talse?"

"As Satan himself!" "What if you knew that he was not false -- that he was true to you alwaysthat the contemptible letter which you read, purporting to have been written by him, was a vile forgery-what then?" She was looking at him in mute sur-

prise. She drew a long breath. "Was it a forgery?"

of it. An ill natured acquaintance of Richardson's, to gratify a petty revenge, wrote the letter and dropped it where you would be sure to find it. Leigh Richardson was real and true."

She sit very still before him, not a line of her face changing. He waited for he to speak, but she did not seem disposed to do so.

"Annie, my dear child, shall I speak to Mr. Richardson about this mistake? "If you please. I would like him to know that he is clear in my eyes. think he would be glad to know it. Tell him just how it was, and ask him to forgive me if I was harsh with him."

"Is that all?" "That is all."

"Annie!"

"Mr. Etheredge!"

but, if you still care for him you will want to speak yourself." "But I do not "You do not?

She blushed a edge put the blu had seen her ki "Is it because you love another."

"Yes," she said, quietly, "it is because "And that other?"

She rose abruptly, and flung off the detaining hand he laid on her arm. "You have no right to ask me that!" she said hoarsely. "Let me go! You

"Torture you, Annie, I?" What possessed him he did not know-perhaps, something her eyes said to him made him bold. He put his arm around her and

drew her to his side. "Annie, if you love another, I must give you to him. Your happiness shall be secured, though mine be shipwrecked. I did not mean to tell you, darling; but I love you so, it almost kills me to think of losing you. O, Annie! my little, lost Annie!"

Her face grew rosy as the morning. She put her arm around his neck. "Not lost, but found," she said, soft-

"Annie," he cried, breathlessly, "do not deceive me! What of the picture I saw you kissing?"

She laughed a little, and crimson with confusion drew the locket from her bosom, and held it up to him. He saw his

"Forgive me, Milton. I got it of the artist, and have worn it these two years. Leigh Richardson is nothing to me-you

The Next German War.

The other day a simple minded German called on a grocer to pay a nill, giving him a \$10 note. The grocer examined it closely, and said: "Hullo, where did you get this note?" "Vot is de reasons mit dis note?" replied the honest Teuton; "don't she vash good, hein!" "Good?" answered the grocer; "why, you're a lucky man—that note is worth \$10.50" "Ish dot so? Why for?" "You see the signature over here, don't you?" "Dose things like a corkscrew mit de worms? Yah." "Well, that's Spinner's signature." "Vell." "Well, Mr. New is now Treasurer of the United States.' "You don't tole me so. Vell." "Well. and notes signed by Spinner are getting scarce, and people pay five per cent more for them than for the new issue." "By shiminy, ish dot so?" "Yes. Lemme see your bills. Why, every one of them is a Spinner! Man alive, your fortune is made." In pursuance of the grocer's advice, Mr. Schneider called at the Sub-Treasury, Saturday afternoon, to get the premium on his bills. What success he had it is impossible to state, but he was seen later in the evening lurking round the street by which the conversation took place: "Der peebles von Sharmany fights well, hein?" yes; the Germans are unquestionably a military nation of the first class." "Some big fights, bein? Leipsic?" "Yes." "Und Sadowa?" "Yes." "Und Koniggratz?" "Certainly." "Und Worth, und Mars-la Tour, und Gravelotte, und Sedan?" "Of course, of course." "Dose was all big battles, und der Deutsch licked?" "Yes." "Vell, you joost waits till dat grocery store shuts himself, und you saw a Deutsch victory vot makes you forgot all dem little ones."-Chicago

An investigation into the failure of U. B. Dodge & Co., of Fort Madison, shows their liabilities to be \$135,000, and their assets \$70,00. Gf the liabilities, \$40,000 is secured by mortages. The largest creditors are Geo. S. Fales, Pawtucket, R. I., \$70,000, unsecured; J. H. Oakley, of Walker, Oakley & Co., the strange unsteadiness of his voice and the tremor of the hand laid on hers.
"Offended—with you, Mr. Etheredge!"

Chicago, \$25,000, secured for \$17,000; WANTED AGENTS—C nvassers should secure territory at once for The Life and Publisher, B. B.

Chicago, \$25,000, secured for \$10,000.

man. But he was not quite sure of the she said reproachfully; "never that. Go prudent management have a pittance left at the close of each year. CYRUS C. CARPENTER.

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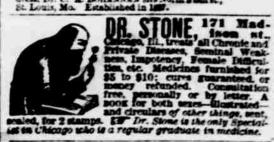
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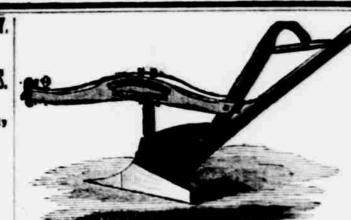
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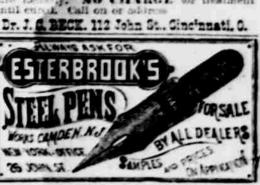
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