How I Nearly Lost My Husband.

Narrated After Approved Fashion of Heart and Home Magazines

feel that I needed more air. Every and John had said all right, looked at John across the breakfast table. I felt as if I must

have more air, more space. I felt cramped and shut in. In spite of myself the question would arise in my mind whether John really understood my nature. He had a way of reading the newspaper, propped up against the sugar bowl, at breakfast, that somehow made me feel as if things had gone all wrong. It was bitter to realize that the time had come when John could prefer the newspaper to his wife's society.

But perhaps I had better go back and tell the whole miserable story from the beginning.

I shall never forget-I suppose no woman ever does-the evening when John first spoke out his love for me. I had felt for some time past that it was there. Again and again, he seemed about to speak. But somehow his words seemed to fail him. Twice I took him into the very heart of the little wood beside mother's house, but it was only a small wood and somehow he slipped out on the

Perfection, on a Garden Bench. "Oh John," I had said, "how lonely and still it seems in the wood with one here but ourselves. Do you think." I said, "that the birds have "I don't know," .John answered, "let's get out of this." I was sure that his emotion was too said, as we made our way among the underbrush. "I think we can get tel and steamship folders I could gave me a dreadful shock to realize

Then one evening in June after tea I led John down a path beside the house to a little corner behind the garden where there was a stone on one side and a high fence right in front of us, and thorn bushes on the other side. There was a little bench in the angle of the wall and the fence, and we sat down on

"Minnie." John said, "there's something I meant to say-"Oh, John," I cried, and flung my

arms round his neck. It all came with such a flood of surprise. "All I meant, Minn,-" John went

on, but I shecked him. "Oh, don't John, don't say anything more," I said "It's just too Then I rose and seized him by the wrist. "Come," I said, "come to mother," and I rushed him along the path.

We Cry Once Around

fairly pinned him against the wall. down there so long that I had to tried to speak but mother call to him to come up. wouldn't let him. "I saw it all John." she said. your love for Minn from the very change came. I began to realize that start. I don't know what I shall do John was neglecting me. I noticed without her, John, but she's yours it at first in small things. I don't now; take her to cry and I couldn't help crying, too. "Take him to father," mother said, and we each took one of John's wrists and took him to father on the

ought to say," he began, but mother stopped him. "Father," she said, "he wants to take our little girl away. He loves her very dearly, Alfred,' she said, "and I think it our duty to let her go, no matter how hard it and Oh! please Heaven, Alfred, the sugar bowl. he'll treat her well and not misuse sob again. Our Wedding Day.

Father got up and took John by the hand and shook it warmly. "Take

that for days and days before the yous and depressed; I think he was worrying, poor boy, as to whether he could really make me happy and whether he could fill my life as it should be filled. But I told him that he was not to worry because I few worthless fish. meant to be happy, and was determined just to make the best of every-

Father staved with John a good deal before the wedding day, and on one weeny kiss, to keep him happy the wedding morning he went and all day. So this day when he was getlooked just lovely. I had a beautiful gown of white organdy with tulle at the throat, and I carried a great bunch of white roses, and father led John up the aisle after me.

The First Oath. I remember that mother cried a good deal at the wedding and told John that he had stolen her darling or beat me. And I remember that if I tried all I could to make some and that he must never misuse me the clergyman spoke very severely thing out of John. I have always felt to John and told him he hoped he that every woman should make all realized the responsibility he was that she can out of her husband. friends were there and they all spoke shifted the style of collar he was wear-quite sharply to John and all the ing to a tighter kind that I liked bethad done, and I just kept up my spirits by sheer determination and told them that I had made up my mind to be happy and that I was wake him up. Mother came over to

So presently it was all over and we evenings we generally had a little mu-were driven to the station and got sic or a game of cards. the afternoon train for New York, and when we sat down in the compartment among all our bandboxes and flowers, John said. "Well, thank God, that's over." And I said, "Oh! John, an oath! on our wedding day, Minn, I didn't mean—" but I said, "Don't John, don't make it worse. Swear at me if you must, but don't make it harder to bear."

The Precious Honeymoon.

We spent our honeymoon in New York. At first I had thought of going somewhere to the great lonely woods, where I could have walked under the great trees, and felt the silence of nature, and where John should have been my Viking and captured me with his spear,

By STEPHEN LEACOCK. T was after we had been married | where I should be his and his alone began to come into my married life. about two years that I began to and no other man should share me; which I suppose I ought to have fore-

seen. I mean the attentions of other Or else I had planned to go away somewhere to the seashore where I gentlemen. I have always called forth could have watched the great waves a great deal of admiration in gentle-I seemed to feel as if I had no dashing themselves against the rocks. men, but I have always done my best lor and see mother for a few minutes room to expand. I had begun to ask myself whether I had been wise in his arms and carry me whither he innocent enough to suppose that this I felt sure when he came to play cribreally sufficient for my development. would. But I lookd over all the ho would end with married life, and it bage with John that it meant some



strong for him. "I never feel a bit lonesome where you are, John." I better, and brushed his hair backwards, which gave him a more alert look.

out down that little gully," he an- find and it seemed impossible to get that such was not the case. good accommodation, so we came to

I had a great deal of shopping to do for our new house, so I could not be much with John, but I felt it was not right to neglect him so 1 morning and called for him again in the Metropolitan museum, and another day I left him at the Zoo, and another day at the aquarium. John seemed very quiet and happy among

I Notice Some Little Things. So presently we came back home

and I spent many busy days in fixing and arranging our new house. I had the drawing room done in blue, and the dining room all in dark panelled wood, and a boudoir upstairs done in pink and white enamel to match my bedroom and my dressing room. There was a very nice little room in the basement next to the coal cellar that I turned into a "den" soon as mother saw us come for John, so that when he wanted in hand in hand in this way she to smoke he could go down there and guessed everything. She threw both do it. John seemed to appreciate his her arms round John's neck and den at once, and often would stay

When I look back on those days "Don't they seem very bright and happy. Don't say a word. I guessed But it was not very long before a know just how long it was after our marriage that John began to read the newspaper at breakfast. At first page. I tried not to be hurt at it. As soon as John saw father he tried to speak again—"I think I brightly as I could without seeming to notice anything. But presently be went on reading the inside part of the paper, and then one day he opened paper right back and leant it against

been. Was it cooling? I asked myself. pened. bench, that John's love was waning. sparate days and he bent his ear alone by herself might be simply per-So John and I were engaged and But I kept noticing different little in due time our wedding day came things. One day in the spring time and we were married. I remember I saw John getting out a lot of fishing tackle from a box and fitting wedding day. John seemed very ner- it together. I asked him what he was going to do, and he said that he was going to fish. I went to my room and had a good cry. It seemed dreadful that he could neglect his wife for a

So I decided to put John to the test. It had been my habit every morning after he put his coat on to go to the office to let John have one kiss, just one weeny kiss, to keep him happy fetched him to the church in a closed ting ready I bent my head over a big carriage and had him there all ready bowl of flowers and pretended not when we came. It was a beautiful to notice. I think John must have day in September, and the church been hurt as I heard him steal out

on tip toe. Well. I realized that things had come to a dreadful state, and so I sent over to mother and mother came and we had a good cry together. I made up my mind to force myself to face things and just to be as bright as ever I could. Mother and I both thought that things would be better

taking and that it was his duty to | So I did my best first of all to make me happy. A lot of our old straighten up John's appearance. I women kissed me and said they ter, and I brushed his hair straight hoped I would never regret what I backward instead of forward, which stay with me a good deal, and in the

About this time another difficulty

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way that I knew he must have fallen men. They say the Spanish temin love with me. Of course I told

Then there was Mr. McQueen, who came to the house several times to in the next few days I got all my play cribbage with John. He had arrangements made and my things been desperately in love with me packed. And when the last afternoon years before, at least I remember came I sat down and wrote John a his taking me home from a hockey long letter, to leave on my boudoi match once and what a struggle it table, telling him that I had gone to was for him not to come into the parthing. He was very discreet and honorable and never betrayed himself for a moment, and I acted my part as if there was nothing at all behind.

I See Love Dwindling. Then presently a new trouble came. I began to suspect that John was finished the letter to John that I was ment that he was drunk, or that he just then the maid came up to my was openly cruel to me. But I think room with a telegram. It was for he was drinking bevo by himself, too. John, but I thought it my duty to though I could never be sure of it. open it and read it for him before I At any rate he often seemed queer left. And I nearly fainted when I and restless in the evenings, and in- eaw that it was from a lawyer in stead of staying in his den he would Bermuda-of all places-and it said wander all over the house. Once we that a legacy of \$200,000 had been heard him-I mean mother and I and left to John by an uncle of his who two lady friends who were with us had died there, and asking for instructhat evening-quite late (after 10 tions about the disposition of it. o'clock) apparently moving about in A great wave seemed to sweep over the rantry. "John," I called, "is that me, and all the wicked thoughts that quietly enough, I admit. "What are that they were wicked-were driven you doing there?" I asked. "Look- clean away. I thought how coming for something to eat," he said. pletely lost poor John would feel if "John," I said, "you are forgetting all this money came to him and he what is due to me as your wife. You didn't have to work any more and were fed at 6. Go back."

He went. But yet I felt more and guide him in using it. more that his love must be dwindling to make him act as he did. I thought thing I should to hold my husband's things (my own were packed already, etiquet books. Formal dinners have love. I had kept him in at nights. I as I said.) Then presently John had cut down his smoking. I had came in and I broke the news to him been eaten and theater box parties are in and I broke the news to him attended as unentailed as a Manx re was there that I could do?

I Decide on the Great Step.

me that I must go away. I felt that trains and the Bermuda steamer and inquiring ears. The first one I noticed was a young man who came to the house, at and I must get away somewhere and had everything all packed and ready hour when John was out, for the pur-the gas meter. He looked at me in John, "John, I think I'd like to go ning and after we had been to Ber-sellin drove him somewhere in a taxi each just the boldest way and asked me to off somewhere for a little time, just muda and arranged about a suitable show him the way to the cellar. I to be by myself, dear, and I don't monument for John's uncle and colthe evening. One day I took him to don't know whether it was a pretext want you to ask to come with me lected the money we sailed for Euor not, but I just summoned all the or to follow me, but just let me go."



We each grasped one of John's wrists and took him to father.

up the financial page and folded the head of the cellar stairs. When he are you going to start? came up he professed to have read | The cold brutality of it cut me to the meter and he left the house quite the heart, and I went upstairs and I could not but wonder whether quietly. But I thought it wiser to had a good cry and looked over her or beat her," and she began to John's love for me was what it had say nothing to John of what had hap steamship and railroad folders. I

And what was cooling it? It hardly There were others, too. There was cause the pictures of the harbor and seemed possible when I looked back a young man with large, brown eyes the castle and the queer Spanish to the wild passion with which he who came and said he had ben sent streets looked so attractive, but then her, boy," he said. "She's all yours had proposed to me on the garden to tune the plano. He came on three I was afraid that at Havana a woman

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courage I had and showed him to the | John said, "All right, Minn. When

thought of Havana for a while, b

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over the keys in such a mournful secuted by attentions from gentleperament is something fearful. So I decided on Bermuda instead.

Telegram for John. I said nothing more to John, but be months, or it might be years, and

I hoped that he would try to be as Well it was just about that moment that one of those strange coincidences happen, little things in themselves, hammer at weddings; that's all. It was at a formal ball held not the sheepishly.

but which seem to alter the whole course of a person's life. I had nearly I don't mean for a mo- to leave on the writing desk, when

first of every month.

"Yes, Minn," he answered, had been in my mind-for I saw now had no one at his side to help and

Love Triumphs.

What as gently and as tenderly as I could attended as unentailed as a Manx about his uncle having left him the cat, But when coats were worn bobbed at a formal ball it became money and having died. I told him So at last the conviction came to that I had found out all about the

All through the happy time that has followed, I like to think that through all our trials and difficulties affliction brought us safely together at

(Copyright, 1923.)

ruby in the world was recently received in London. The stone is oval in shape, weighs 22 carats and is val

Passing of the Clawhammer

It Has Gone the Way of the Prince Albert and the Tile Hat-Read This and You'll Find | Ku Klux Klan Makes Out Why it Is.

Is the clawhammer coat fading out | tight. The dinner jacket, or Tuxedo, Bermuda. I told him that I wanted. Is the clawhammer coat fading out tight. The dinner lacket, or Tuxedo, ing to C. F. Ridgeway, organizer of the be alone: I said that I couldn't tell of the picture? No, if a already faded. Is more comfortable. And then I think most men have a sneaking when I would be back—that it might As far as Omaha is concerned the hunch that they look silly in a claw. As far as Omaha is concerned the hunch that they look silly in a clawclawhammer is enagged in a neck hammer, as though their wives made and neck race with the Prince Albert 'em dress up. And then again I think tirely, and to send me money on the and the file hat to see which first men have an idea they don't look said, "and they have formed themreaches the shadows where the has bad at all in a dinner jacket, sort of beens creep. The Prince Albert and 'sheikish' you know."

"Ah, then it's not entirely a question to join the organization look said, "and they have formed them below into a flying column, even intimidating other farmers to force them to join the organization look." stone layings and funerals, the claw- tion of comfort; it's vanity too?"

The manager grinned, albeit a lit- them to take a reduction in wages.



sounded. Wedding receptions have supplanting the formal dress which ian swimming meet in Honolulu hartime for the curious to prick up

To the manager of one of Omaha's leading stores for men went an ap-

selling any full dress suits for men?"
He stared as though he had been asked for Tutenkhamun's tlephone "Do you mean clawhammers-" he

"Yes, clawhammers, swallowtails, moonshine fronts, whatever you call

He smiled indulgently. "No. No one ever asks for them any more. We hardly keep a line in "What seems to be the main dif-

"Well, I think partly it's the dancing. Clawhammers fit rather snug.

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come and gone and the dinner jacket not so long ago was considered an bor next month, has just been for-I tore up the wicked letter I had has disported itself jauntly thereat absolute requirement. The style warded by George (Dad) Center, presiit all over wearily enough and asked written and hurried as fast as I with a bravado which snapped its everywhere now is to look like a dent of the local Amateur Athletic myself whether I had done every could to pack up a valise with John's fingers at Rule No. 628 in the waiter in a small Atlantic City hotel. union. Kahanamoku is asked to take Omaha is not alone in its desertion part in the sprint events.

Arrival in Ireland

a good guess."

Dublin, Fcb. 24.-The Ku Klux Klan has arrived in Ireland, according to C. F. Ridgeway, organizer of union in Ireland.

of the clawhammer. Tuxedoes are

worn almost entirely in New York,

it is reported, and even in Washing-

ton the dinner jacket has made its

inroads into diplomatic circles and is

"All the farmers are now in dispute with their men." Ridgeway out the farm hands and compel

"In one case that I know of the so long ago that the death knell of "Well, that's just my own opin- Ku Klux Klan farmers imposed a fine of \$45 upon a farmer who re fused to discharge his laborers. The marauders searched the farmer's home and, when he tendered a check in *payment of the fine, refused to take it, demanding money

"Since this Ku Klux Klan has been formed fires have been frequent among the farmers' buildings, and the workers are being blamed for the work of the marau-

Duke Kahanamoku Invited

to Enter Swimming Meet Honolulu, Feb. 24.-An invitation to Duke Kahanamoku, Hawali's great-

est aquatic star, to come to the islands from Los Angeles, where he has been clawhammer was indubitably | ion," he admitted. "But I think it's residing for the last nine months, in

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