

A CLERICAL ERROR.

How "Father Penburton" Assisted in a Race for a Wife.

BY FRANCIS LYNDY.

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By way of prologue, let me say that I have never been quite able to understand why my colleagues in this far western diocese call me "the padre," coupling the in-

ing station. From my window I saw the conductor come out and raise his hand to give the signal for departure. In the very act he espied the carriage with the galloping horse, and he evidently got into a state of confusion.



THE CLERGYMAN IN THE FLYING LOCOMOTIVE.

"Perhaps I mightn't have consented if you had," he said. "Oh, yes, you would." "Why would I?" "Because you love me."

"In good truth I could not obtain my own consent to listen any longer. Moreover, the notes of the wood dove, feathered or human, are not particularly edifying in the ears of one who has long eschewed all thoughts of domestic joys, and I betook myself with my book to the deserted smoking compartment."

"What is it, Tom?" demanded the young man anxiously. "If you're up for it up to your necks, you two. I have orders to dismount your pass and put you both off at the next station."

"That's what I wired 'em," he said. "But that ain't no law of mine. Your don-want-to-be-gether-in-law-out-with-a-wild-engine chasing us, and he's got special orders to give him right-of-way over everything north and south."

"I had not noticed that the young man had offered to give anything, but he ignored the inquiry and burst out with one of those half-dezen of the other. But that doesn't help me out of my bucket of hot water. What am I going to do?—that's what I'd like to know."

"I never knew. They're both rather peppery, and I guess it was of one or the other. But you're the most mistaken person on my track. You're not a minister, you're a cleric in an exceptional case. I do hope you may have the pleasure of meeting Miss Bostwick's father some time when he isn't feeling well. You'll forgive us then."

"I should say not; but what of that?" "Just go a little mite easy; I'm coming to the scheme pretty quick now. At Brownsville we met the way freight, and Jack Benson's running it. Happen to know Jack?"

"I ought to; for I was father's freeman," he said. "I just so. Now, if I was you, which of my mightly legs for me I ain't, and a good friend of mine was running that way freight. I bet you big money something would happen down at this end of the Brownville yard that'd hold that there wild engine another forty-five minutes or so. What?"

"I know," replied the young man, with a nod of intelligence; "trust me for that. Hello! this is La Yaca. Let's go see what the wires have to say."

"I confess frankly that the necessity was most trying, but I could not do otherwise than to try it. I'm not a minister, you're a cleric in an exceptional case. I do hope you may have the pleasure of meeting Miss Bostwick's father some time when he isn't feeling well. You'll forgive us then."

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WHEN TRAVELING READ THE BEE

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