************* A CLERICAL ERROR.

How "Father Penburton" Assisted in a Race for a Wife, BY FRANCIS LYNDE.

(Copyright, 1997, the S. S. McClure Co.) why my colleagues in this far western dis-borses, and desisted. He was evidently go-cese cell me "the padre," coupling the in-ing to wait for the vehicle to come up. nuendo with an intimation that I should For the next few moments the suspense have been a pricet of the older faith rather was well nigh electrical. The crucial anx-

None the less, sincerity compets the an interest of the conductor jerked his thumb over his mission that in traveling I am not infre-shoulder in the direction of the chase, quently taken for a Romish priest, and that shoulder in the direction of the chase. "Some drummer got left at the union depot." even here in my own little parish of Car-bonoro the coal miners call me Father Pen-burton. It was this about misconception. on him."

"Some drummer got left at the union depot, I guess. Serve him right if we didn't wait on him." Reightened, possibly, by the fact that I was "Don't you fool yourself!"—the young reading a small black bound book which may man's manner of speech was distressingly the railway—an entagement which are some cost me many dequieting moments. Not that I hold myself in any way accountable or blameworthy be it understood; but merely because it has given my clerical associates a fresh occasion for other of their ill-chosen me?"

Onto before the gets here I'm a dead man, but before the gets h

had been on a visit to the bishop, and had boarded the train to return to my parheh. Having taken a seat in the Pullman.

I was reading the small, black-bound book—
which, I beg to protest, was not a breviary when two young persons entered the car and established themselves in the section next to my own. At their incoming I fancied they were the inevitable newly married couple whose presence seems nowadays to be a necessary complement to the passenger list of any public conveyance. The young man was a cle k of some sort, one would say; and his face was veguely familiar. clean-cut, smooth-shaven and of the alers clean-cut, smooth-chaven and of the aiert type which marks the younger men of busi-ness in this progress-ridden region. The young woman was petite and distinctively handsome. Her face was a most agrecule-study in youthful locatty, and her flashing brown eyes, alight with repressed excitement had a look in them which carried me swift; back to my-but pardon me; this is not the story of my own youthful follics.

I perceived at once that the two were labor under sime stress of emotion which took to be very natural embarrassment; and as they sat facing me I thought to relieve them in some measure by taking the oppoelte seat with my back toward them. I de-sire to emphasize this point because one of my collegence is uncharitable enough to in nuate that the change was made in ordthat their conversation might be the bette overheard, a charge which I wish to repel with proper scorn. That their talk was overheard is a matter of no moment, right-midded person will agree with me that motives and not incidents are the cosmic principles underlying any code of ethics. "Great Jehoash! You say he did not come home to dinner, after all?"

The epeaker was the young man, and there was a very emphatic note of uneasiness in Yes, he did," answered the young woman

"And that isn't all; I'm almost sure he sus-You are? Why? What makes you think The way he acted. He was as short as

piecrust all through dinner; and when I left and protest the table he asked if you had called; said he prants : had seen you in the carriage driving down Alameda street."

I tell you. Give lke the signal, quick, before it's too late. Miss Bostwick's mixed up in The young man groaned quite audibly.
"Of course be did! That idiotic driver turned

thing to be sorrowfully deprecated.
"Good! What did he say to that?"

he asked me if I could be ready to start for mals back upon their haunches by n Aunt Josephine's tomorrow."

or run. But I was thinking of something else. If he has his wits with him we shan't be safe till we pass the yard limits."
"The yard limits? I don't understand." "We have to stop to register at the limits. If he just misses us here he can take a carriage, run the legs off the horses."

and intercept us at the can be done. I've done it myself must than once with a belated passenger."

"Oh horrers' Alan, if you let me be taken back now I'll never speak to you sagain as long as I live!"

"You needn't threaten me. It won't be "You needn't threaten me. It won't be isn't hurt, I tell you; not at all. That was the driver you heard, yelling at his horses."

"Are you sure you're telling me the truth?"

"Are you sure you're telling me the truth?"

"Are you sure you're telling me the truth?" and intercept us at the yard station. It can be done. I've done it myself more Angain as long as I live!"
"You needn't threaten me. It won't be

Then silence supervened, and I had leisure to construct the accusation. It was a wedding party, indeed, but a priori--an clopement, in short. This sweet-faced young woman with the remindful eyes was taking her future in her hand to give to over into the keeping of a young man whose consent to such a proceeding was taking her future in ber hand to give to very into the keeping of a young man whose consent to such a proceeding was his sufficient condemonation. I pictured to he stops us now. He can't get to Lavarock ahead of us, and fifteen minutes after we wishes had been so unfilially disregarded. She went silent at that, as what modest which is simply turious. The amount of the proceeding was held do something desperate yet."

Thank you, I do not smoke," I replied, as severely as might be.

No? But you won't mind my smoking, whill you?"

Will you?"

Thank you, I do not smoke," I replied, as severely as might be.

No? But you won't mind my smoking, will you?"

To procume I should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than to make a most undignifed attempt to should have known better than the should have known better than the should have known bett

good judgment and common sense. belated passengers, bridged the gap in my memory, and I was able to place the intendmemory, and I was able to place the intention of the property of the was a young man employed by the ratiway company in some capacity—I know not what—in the booking office; he it was who had precured for memory of the was with the county of the was and the way with while the passengers. that time I had thought him a very pleas-ant young fellow; but it must be admitted ant young fellow; but it must be admitted Number Five."

Number Five." light of the present episode my point of view coincided immediately with that of the aggrieved father. It was not my affair, to be sure, but my sympathics were so strongly enlisted on the side of parental authority that I could with difficulty hold my peace. Indeed, it was borne in upon me so forcibly

Was uplifted and the speed began to slacken.

I looked out and up the road leading down of from the city. Far away among the last each tering houses of the suburb a carriage drawn by fast galloping horses came in sight. At the same moment I heard the young man I couldn't be'n either the one or the state of the suburb as the same moment I heard the young man I couldn't be'n either the one or the knowledge and belief.

"But how could be do that"

"I give it up. There is nothing on recoved spainst me. I believe except that I've had the audacity to fail in love with you after be had quarrised with my father. But I answered it to the host of my the same moment I heard the young man I couldn't be'n either the one or the knowledge and belief.

"I know of no rule forbidding it. Why do

This sun is fearfully hot, don't you think Presently the train came to a stand with

the forward end of the Fullman immediately

Alan! You didn't tell

"Read and ing the message into my hand." If you gidn't tell

"Read that," he said tragically, thrusting the message into my hand. "If you gidn't tell

"Alan! You didn't tell

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"Alan! You didn't tell

"Alan! You didn't tell

"Read that," he said tragically, thrusting the message into my hand. "If you could."

"Alan! You didn't tell

"Alan! You didn't te so Eleator? Let me close your window."
The lang of the sash and the whirr of the shad followed quickly and I divined his intention. He too, had seen the carriage.

****** ing station. From my window I saw the By way or prologue, let me say that I ductor come out and raise his hand to give the signal for departure. In the very act he espied the carriage with the galloping

than a poor elergyman of our own. In my cwn looking glass—and which of us is ever to the other occupants of the car, and we all Youch afed a peep into that of another?—I sat breathless under the weight of a silence two.

Ind nothing to justify the inference. The which was surcharged with suppressed expand quicksilver images the figure of a middle-locate described by the first of with the student's lamp have begun to ac- he left his seat; and I craned my neck from centuate the stoop in a rather ungainly pair the window in time to see him join the conof shoulders; whose attire is not, and has ductor on the platform.

of shoulders: whose attire is not, and has ductor on the partorn.

never been I trust, more than decently ecclesiastical in out and ensemble.

None the less, sincertly compels the adbold by the occasion.

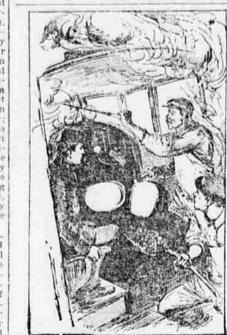
The conductor jerked his thumb over his

"Don't you fool yourself!"---the young

have been mistaken for a breviary, that led idiomatic, not to say vague, at times—to my entanglement in a romantic affair on the rallway—an entaglement which has since out before he gets here I'm a dead man.

and meaninglow gibes.

The beginning of it was in this wise. I offered to give anything, but he ignored the



THE CLERGYMAN IN THE FLYING LOCOMOTIVE.

inquiry and burst out: "Facts, by Jove! Cold facts! I tell you my blood will be on cur head if you wait till that carriage gets "Pshaw! d'ye mean it, honest? What you been doing to the master mechanic? 'Nother

e of your fool pranks. I bet you. The chase was in plain view by this time and it presented the unusual spectacle of a square-shoulde ed gentleman with a ficree military moustache and a very red face. leaning far out of the carriage window and gesticulating violently. The young man saw. winced, and made answer of mingled plea

"Pranks nothing! It's business this time It. and-"

The conductor's hand shot above his head out for a furniture van just as we were and hung there fluttering like a mischappen meeting him and drove up to the very curb. flag. There was an answering clanger from ards? I confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and this was certain the confess of the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and this was certain the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and this was certain the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and this was certain the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and this was certain the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and this was certain the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the confess I have little regard for intermedience in any sort, and the couldn't help seeing me. What did you tell wheels began to revolve. The young scape "I said. Why poppa—Mr. Roderick!
"After young man chuckled as if the sisful equivocation were applausive rather than a driver. He lashed his horses down the steep

slope, and for a palpitant second a colli with the moving train seemed inevitable "He was angry—as he always is when It was happly averted at the critical instant your same is mentioned; he said you were by the madeap con of Nimshi, who stood up unscrupulous enough to do anything. Then in his place and dragged the plunging ani-"And you told him you could?"
"And you told him you could?"
"I did, just that; but I didn't tell him I iron lever which operates the switching mechanism, blocking the doors as effectually mechanism, bad been placed with ould. O, why doesn't the train start;

I heard the click of the young man's satch case.

"Chiefly because it isn't time. We have we minutes yet."

I had a brief glimpse of the square-shouldered gentleman raging back and forth between the doors, thrusting "Oh!"—the exclamation was almost a gob. "If he catches the 1 o'clock car down town he can overtake us here, cant' he?"

The watch case clicked again.

"He might, but it's unlikely. The car "When I sank back into my seat with a sigh of mingled regret and relief the young

the might, but it's unlikely. The car sigh of mingled regret and relief the young man had rejoined his companion, who, thanks to the drawn shade and relief the young man had rejoined his companion, who, thanks to the drawn shade and relief the young man had rejoined his companion. aught of the exciting episode.

"Are we safe, Alan?" she queried, her
voice a-tremble with trepidation.

"Safe as a church. Didn't you see him?"
"I saw nothing, but I thought I heard some one shouting." Then, with a gasp of sudden and dismayful realization—"O, it's my father, and he's hurt—I know he is!

"Are you sure you're telling me the truth?"
"Of course I am; didn't I see it? The fellow drove down between the switch stand and a coal car and your father couldn't get either door open. He wasn't hurt an atom, in he noted as if he was a good deal disappointed."
"Di appointed! You may depend upon it

she went silent at that, as what modest young woman would not, but after a little absolve you of your weightler offenses."

"Meaning?"—his eyebrows went up in well-

young woman would not, but after a little she plucked up courage to ask about the grant and common sense.

Young woman would not, but after a little she plucked up courage to ask about the details. Her companion explained.

After I left you at the house I went down town and wired Hardwicke, the agent at Lavarock, tellang him there would be a course on the proprieties in eloping with that aweet young reckless defiance of the proprieties in eloping with that aweet young reckless defiance of the proprieties in eloping with that aweet young at Lavarock, tellang him there would be a course on this train to be married in the breathless and altogether unhopeful chase the station agent was smilling broadly. Then he took a second look at proprieties in eloping with that aweet young at Lavarock, tellang him there would be a course on this train to be married in the hotel parlor on arrival. He is to arrange with the county clerk to keep his office open so that I can get a license, and to have the first was rather a little she plucked up courage to ask about the details. Her companion explained.

"Meaning?"—his eyebrows went up in well
"Meaning?"—his eyebr have it all over with while the passengers but it's too late to repent of that now."

Since at supper and be ready to go west on "Too late? How? What do you mean?"

Why, it's a matter of history, so to speak. "That's easier said than done, your rev-

"It's very dreadful, Alan," she murmured. So pitifully different from one's ideal wed-

speak, suddenly across their Rubleon.

Having thus lost the opportunity for hopeful interference, I may confess that I awaited the turn of events with no inconsiderable degree of curiosity. Would the injured father have his "wits with him," as the young man so irreverently phrased it, and drive post haste to intercept the train at drive post haste to intercept the train at the registering station?

The minor transgression ble, I was soont to attack the major, when the turn of events with no injured time. And that isn't all. After I had my little scance with him this morning—when I asked him ouright if we mightn't be worked on the carpet had a brokeman came in and handed the young man as irreverently phrased it, and drive to the general manager and have me discharged, though he didn't mention upon what grounds he grounds the grounds the grounds the grounds the grounds of though he didn't mention upon what grounds he grounds the grounds the grounds of the grounds of the grounds of the grounds and the grounds the grounds the grounds of the gro The day was warm and the car windows were open. When the shriek of the airbrakes was uplifted and the speed began to slacken.

We would demand it."

"First bow could be do that." But how could be do that"

So indred! But I hope you didn't quar-

rel with him."
"Didn't 17 I fold him to so shead and write his letter, if he wanted to; that I write his letter, if he publicity if he

"Oh, yes, you would." "Why would 1?"

"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 eachewed all thoughts of domestic Joys, and I betook myself with my book to the deserted smokcompartment. Here I was left in peace until after the

train has passed the first telegraph station; ut it was no sooner under way again than the conductor entered, followed closely by my young scapegrace. They sat down in e opposite seat, ignoring my presence as I had been something more or less than human being. "What is it, Tom?" demanded the young man anxiously.

"O, you're in for it up to your necks, you to. I have orders to dishonor your passes d put you both off at the next station." Rederick nodded appreciatively. "I thought that would be the first thing he would do; that's why I bought regular tickets. We're patrons of the company, just

like other people, and I dare you to put us The big conductor's laugh shook the win-"That's what I wired 'em." he said. "But that ain t the worst of it. Your don-want-to-be father-in-law's out with a wild engine

chasing us, and he's got special orders to while he tried to frame the crucial questive him right-of-way over everything north | tion and south

It was a striking and instructive study in "By jove, Tom, that's a horse of another oler! He'll overhaul us as sure as far.

"No; that's the dickens of it—that's what we're runting away for. We've got to get out of the state. Miss Bostwick lacks just three months of being of legal age."
To ho! I see. That makes it bad. What's affair. the old man got against you, anyway, Nothing against me; it's my father.

Three or four years ago, when father was running the 291 they had a pretty spiteful tiff and father quit and went over to the East & West. Since that time the master mechanic has had no use for any of us." 'Who was to blame?" "I never knew. They're both rather peppery, and I guess it was six of one and a half-dezen of the other. But that doesn't help me out of my bucket of hot water.

The conductor opened his watch, and appeared to be making a reflective computa-

'I've got a scheme, but I don't know as ing well. You'll forgive us then." it's worth much. He registered out forty-five minutes behind us. It he doubles our schedule-which he'll hardly dare to do on own pastor might, but all to no purpose this light iron-he can't catch us before we She would say no word against her father make Brownville, can he?"

"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 meet the way freight, and Jack enson's running it. Happen to know "I ought to; for he was father's fireman.

"Just so. Now, if I was you, which its mighty lucky for me I ain't, and a good friend o' mine was running that way freight, bet you big money something would hapen down at this end of the Brownville yard hat'd hold that there wild engine another forty-five minutes or so. What! "Tom, you're a trump! Jack will do it, it costs him his job. You'll give me time

at Brownsville to get a word with him?" Penburton?" she pleaded, laying her hand on my arm. "You can't refuse now, I am to see you talking to him—it's got to be a sure." traight-out accident, you know, with nobody to blame.' a nod of intelligence; "trust me for that.

Hello! this is La Vaca. Let's go see what the wires have to say." They went out together, leaving me with n new responsibility. Here was a bold con-spiracy to obstruct the railway company's business; possibly to involve an innocent person, or perhaps more than one, in trouble. Was it not my duty to interfere at all haztermediers in any sort, and this was termediers in the sort of hould reach Brownsville, and in the eddy

"Perhaps I mightn't have consented if minister. He is out at Reservation. Have sent cow puncher after him on best broncho in town, but am afraid he can't reach be-fore 7 o clock. Shall I get justice peace?

It was signed "Hardwicke," and there was a footnote in brackets evidently a bit of extraneous information added by the receiving operator at Jornada: "Bosty is overhauling you right. He passed Ormsbee five minutes ago, running like the Wild Irish-man. He'd beat you fifteen minutes in Lavarock if he could get by you."
"What have I to do with this?" said I,

indicating the message.
"Why, I thought—that is, I didn't know but you'd-well, you see, Father Penburton, but you d-well, you see, Father Fendurion, we've got to have a minister of some sort, some way, It's no use of talking about a justice of the peace to Eleaner—she won't isten a n.inute to that; but she might consent to be married by a Catholic priest. She is what we call pretty high church, you

"Still I do not understand. I am not a justice of the peace, nor yet a priest of the Romanish profession." "You're not? Why, Graffo said you were; nd your-er- ' he broke down and finished

rather tamely-"I thought you looked like 'Which one?" I demanded, trying to be as severe as the occasion demanded, "the magistrate, or the pricet?"

"Don't hit me when I'm down," eaded. "I meant the priest, of course."
"Ah, I supposes. I should be flattered, but I am not." He cat twirling his watch chain nervously

Then may I ask-would you mind telling I could not deny myself a glance at the me what kind of a-a minister you are?" he young man's face over a top of my book. stammered, finally. "I am a clergyman of the church of which

what am I going to do?"

The big man shrugged. "Can't you drop off at Alcaniro or Syracuse and have it done before Besty catches up?"

"No: that's the dishes."

sparingly. "Not by any manner of means; quite the contrary, I shall do everything in my power to prevent the consummation of this unhappy (My colleague before referred to in sists that my indignation was merely an outburst of pique at being again mistaken for a Romanist, but the charge is too trivial to refute.) "I shall go at once to the young lady to try if I may dissuade her while it is vit time to withdraw."

He dropped my hand and sat down again, It was a coup de gras, but he was manly chough to hide the wound.

"Do it." he said, hardily, "Go and try it if you like, and I'll give you a clear field. But you are the most mistaken person on What am I going to do?—that's what I'd this train, Mr. Penburten, if you'll allow me like to krow?' pics in an exceptional case. I do hope you may have the pleasure of meeting Miss Bostwick's father some time when he isn't feel

I went at once to the young woman, in-troduced myself, and labored with her as her but she was quite unapproachable on the

"Please don't say any more, Mr. Penburton," she said, finally. "We are not school children, and we know quite well what we are about. I am sorry it had to be, but there was no other way." "But don't you see, Miss Bostwick, your plans have failed already? The clergyman

who was to have met you at Lavarock is out "How do you know that?" she overled with rising emotion. "Your—a your companion has just re-coived a telegram to that effect," said I. "Merciful heaven! What shall we do! But

you will help us, will you not, dear Mr. Penburton?" she pleaded, laying her hand on I confess frankly that the necessity was o blame." most trying, but I could not do otherwise "I know," replied the young rascal, with and be blameless. "You are very hard; I hope you won't be for it some day," she murmured; and

> fain to beat a somewhat hasty retreat to the moking department. My young scapegrace was still awaiting me, puffing tranquilly at a fresh cigar. "No go?" he said, nonchalantly.

it the sight of the upspringing tears I was

"I regret to say that my counsels were rejected," I replied, with more severity in my manner than was in my heart.
"I thought they would be. And now I

The train was slowing into a desolate litof that determination resumed my book and the interrupted train of thought.

Now, it is a student's weakness to be unconscious of the lapse of time, and, after what seemed to me a very short interval.

The train was slowing into a desolate little prairie station, and he dashed out uncorremoniously. I followed presently to get a breath of fresh air and to otretch my legs on the wind-swept platform. I saw young Roderick in excited converse with the conindeed, my young Romeo entered the smok- ductor and the station agent, and was di-



"OH, PAPA, I CAN'T DO IT!"

ing room alone. Here, thought I, is my rected by their gestures to look back over chance to reprehend the young knave, and I was about to do so when he forestalled southward. Far away on the horizon I made This is Father Penburton, I believe," he the smoke from the pursuing engine.

ehabby trick to play on the old gentleman.

We managed among us to delay him nearly an hour at Brownsville, but he is after us again now, at the cate of a mile a minute." "Do you mean to tell me that we have al- unreasonably enough, I confess; but I was ready passed Brownsville" I demanded, un- thinking only of getting back to my par-"That's so"—cheerfully—"there isn't any idealty to spare, for a fact. But we can't help that. If we hadn't made the dash your father would have packed you off to Ohio between two days wouldn't he?"

"Hat be to believe that my abstraction had been so profound.

"Rather better than on hour ago. This is able to believe that my abstraction had been ich.

so profound.

My man looked up at the plume

Say, Father Penburton, can a pricat of

"I know of no rule forb dding it. Why do you ask" "Read that." he said tragically, thrust-

out a small black cloud, which I took to be began affably, producing a cigar case. "Will moment of abstraction I walked to the end of the platform to get a better view. It was of the platform to get a better view. It was "Thank you, I do not amoke," I replied, a most foolish thing to do, and I had speedy

I presume I should have known better than to make a most undignified attempt to overtake it, but I did not; and when I re-

"Never mind that." I said, shortly, am I going to get to Lavarock? I

TOW. "Nevertheless, I must go." I repeated.

rashlings that I was about to do so when the "He said he would; and I'm afraid he frain moved out and carried them, so to speak, suddenly across their Rubicon."

My man looked up at the plume of "Rather better than an hour ago. This is bave it." he said, suddenly stapping his the station at which the train was then pausing. The plume of "Rather better than an hour ago. This is bave it." he said, suddenly, stapping his the station at which the train was then pausing. The plume of "Rather better than an hour ago. This is bave it." he said, suddenly, stapping his the station at which the train was then pausing. The plume of "Rather better than an hour ago. This is bave it." he said, suddenly, stapping his the station at which the train was then pausing. The plume of "Rather better than an hour ago. This is bave it." he said, suddenly stapping his the station at which the train was then pausing. The plume of "Rather better than an hour ago. This is bave it." he said, suddenly, stapping his the station at which the train was then pausing. The plume of "Rather better than an hour ago. This is bave it." he said, suddenly stapping his the station at which the train was then pausing.

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The plume of "Rather better than an hour ago. This is bave it." he said, suddenly stapping his the station at which the train was then pausing. the red arm of the semaphore swung ou over the track with a faint clatter as fro

subterranean machinery. Five minutes later the pursuing documetive thundered up-with a shrick and a roar and stopped palpitant under the outstretched signal. short thick-set man, contless, bitless, and begrimed with test dust and oil until he was scarcely recognizable sprang to the platform and rushed violently at my friend, the station agent.

What in --- are you stopping me for u --- y' I omit here and clsewhere the shocking expletives with which his every schedule expectives with which his every sentence was garnished.

My man stood his ground bravely, "General orders, Mr. Bestwick, d' ye see. The time cird say the minutes between thrains, and you're less than that behind No. 7 this

bitssed second."
The man of wrath consigned the time without end!"

I read:

"To Alan Roderick, on train No. 7:

"Everything O. K. as ordered except the tion, with a horrifying accompaniment of consent, and I say it yet—I've come 120

profanity. But my good friend, the young Irishman, was still undaunted.
"Beg pardon, sorr, but now you're stopped, here's his reverence the holy father goin to Lavarock and was wan minute too late for

Number Seven. If you wouldn't mind-it's purgatory that'll be yawnin' for the best of to, and some day maybe ye'll be wantin' oath between his beeth, but he swallowed it in what I took to be some small measure of

leference for the cloth-the Roman Catholic 'Oh, you're one of the Paulist fathers, 1 suppose. Well, climb aboard, and I'll get you to Lavarock; a priest more or less won't make any difference."

It was ungracious enough and most hu-miliating to be obliged to sail under talse colors. But there was no alternative. I obeyed, not with trepidation, since the adventure promised to be most temerarious, and took my seat on the side where there seemed to be the least amount of machinsisted at a shout from his superior.

Johnnie, hand me down that oil can, lively, new! The article in demand was quickly forthcoming, and I leaned out of the window to see what was to be done. There was no one on my side of the huge machine, but even as I looked the station agent ran around from the rear, lifted the lid of an iron box projecting beyond one of the wheels, poured a handful of sand into the receptacle, and disappeared as quickly as he had come. It struck me at the time as being a singular proceeding, but which I was still speculating upon its probable utility the great locomtive plunged forward, and the chase recom-

For the first mile the onrush of the huge before many minutes had passed I began to wish myself, first in my cozy study, and a little later anywhere in the universe so I might be safely out of the mass of abricking machinery hurled onward faster and faster and ever faster by the sont-begrimed maniac, who seemed bent on accomplishing not only his own destruction, but that of the unfortunate fireman and myself as well. It was a hideous experience, and I never think back upon it without being devoutly thankful that the lines of my calling have fallen in less

strenuous encompassments. When the uproar was most deafening, and the promise of speedy deliverance by death seemed each instant about to be fulfilled, I chanced to look outward and backward and my horror was increased tenfold by the appalling sight of flames bursting, ap-parently from one of the fast-flying wheels. At the imminent risk of my life I got upon my feet and crept across to the side of the

" said I, shouting at the top of my voice, "we are about to be consumed. This

comotive is sire!" Thrusting me aside he craned his neck out of the window, which had lately been mine, sprzing back with an oath, which rescunded above the din of the machinery. and brought the shuddering monster to a stand. Then he leaped to the ground, y-iling frantic orders to the fireman.

"Bucket o' water! Quick, you imp of hades! That's it; more—more yet. Now get your tools and pack this box. Lively! Get a move! Here, give me that book! then; more water; more oll-more

The conflagration was stayed at length, and once more the terrible race was resumed. Five miles further on the flaming wheel stopped us again; and when this had occurred a third and fourth time I began to suspect that the handful of sand was in ome mander accountable for it. dared not for my life so much as suggest this to the infuriated blackamoor, whose wrath mounted higher and grew more un governable with each fresh hindrance More than once we came in eight of train ahead; but as often as we did so the smoking machinery brought us to a stand, evoking new and more dreadful maledic tions from the madman, cursings measured only by the comparative meagreness of his

vocabulary.
Fortunately for my sanity, which was fas apsing in the struggle for outward calm, he end came at length, and I stepped down rom the hissing monster at the Lavarock platform, thankful to my finger tips that was yet in the land of the living. We ar rived but a few minutes behind the train and I caught a glimpse of my young scrape in earnest consultation with the agen Hardwicke, as I passed the cab stand. I walked to the hotel waiting room, mean-

ing to go to supper with the other passengers, but I was not to escape so easily. It seems that Hardwicke, whether from malice or misunderstanding. I have never been able to learn, made haste to tell the angry father that I was the clergyman who was to marry the runaways. If I had known this at the time I might have been more charitable. Truly, it must have been little less than maddening to reflect that he had unwittingly furthered the plans of the young fugitives by bringing me to Lavarock. But of this I knew nothing at the time, and when he shouldered through the throng in the wait ing room and graoped my arm roughly I

was pardonably annoyed.
"So you're the helper of this job, are you?" he shouted, and all and sundry gaped to look and Isten. "Nice business for a man of your age, and a minister of the gospel-marrying runaway children! Worked. man of your age, and a minister of the gos-pel-marrying runaway children! Wocked me by setting up for a Catholic pricst, too, didn't you? By Gad, sir, if I'd known it I'd have pitched you out of the cab window neck and heels, minister or no minister!"

"You are the most unreasonable person
I have ever had the misfortune to meet, sir." had I, looking him fairly in the eyes, "I had no intention of deceiving you-"Intentions be hauged!" he blustered. "What the devil do you suppose I care about your intentions! I say they shan't be maraid I, looking him fairly in the eyes. "I

your intentions.

ried without my consent, and by gad, sir, I'd like to see 'em do it!" like to see 'em do it!"

It was more than was meet, and I gave him his answer hotly and in kind.

"One moment, sir, if you please"—he was turning away—"I was on the train with these young people, and I not only refused to aid them, but said what I might to turn them from their purpose. But since I have had the very questionable pleasure of meeting you, I will say frankly, sir, that I shall be glad to assist them if they still desire it."

For an instent I though he was going be glad to assist them if they still desire it."

For an instant I though he was going to strike me, but if he had any such intention he abandoned it when the crowd parted to admit the two young rebels to the little circle in which we were standing. They were in the last ditch, and knowing this had the courage of despair; but of the twain I fancied the young woman was the more self-pos-

"I'll take you at your word, Mr. Penburton," said the young man, prompily, handing me a folded paper and ignoring the angry blackamoor as best be might.

"You wish me to marry you and this young oman?" said I, glancing at the license.

"Here and now?" He looked over his shoulder at the throng of curious onlookers as one who would have purchased privacy at a price, but he did

not hesitate.
"Yes, here and now, if fou please; we sha'nt lack witnesses, enyway."
"It shall be as you desire." I said, gravely; and when I had found my book I began: "Dearly beloved"
The men in the crowd uncovered rever-

The men in the crowd uncovered reverently, and even the man of wrath stepped
nack and bowed his head. As the exhortation proceeded, however, he looked up again
with a malicious twinkle in his eyes.

"Into this holy estate these two persons
come now to be joined. If any man can
show just cause why they may not lawfully
be joined together, let him now speak, or
else hereafter forever hold his peace."

"My daughter is not of age; I forbid it,"
said the father, with unnecessary vehemence.
A murmur of protest ran through the A murmur of protest ran through the crowd, and I rebuked him promptly.

"Your objection, sir, is as ill-timed as it is ineffectual. You know the law of this particular commonwealth, and you will ablige me by not availed by the statement of the particular commonwealth, and you will ablige me by not availed by the statement.

oblige me by not again interrupting this Then came a diversion wholly unexpected and most embarrassing. The young woman bit her lip, burst into tears and flung her self suddenly into her father's arms.

"O, poppa-I c-can't do it" she sobled, hiding her face on his shoulder. "I-I thought I could, but I can't, Please take me away-quick!" It was most embarrassing as I have said: Gen-and my young Romeo blushed like a girl and made a hollow pretense of trying to ains. this dock as if it was a part of the program. The father grinned triumphantly and ad-dressed himself to me. miles on a wild engine to be in time to say it. Now then, if you're entirely satisfied in your own mind that I am master in my household, you may go ahead with your job and finish it-and I'll give the

bride away."
If the cacophonous blast from one of the locamotives outside which punctuated the sentence had been an explosion of dynamite the effect of this declaration could scarcely have been more startling. Two or three cowboys on the butekirts of the throng were moved to cheer lustily, but of those most nearly concerned the young man was the first to recover his presence of mind. I Tak ing Miss Bostwick's hand he looked up at me and said, very modestly:

"I think, maybe we're safe to go on now—that is, if you can make out to find the place again."

place again.

I take no shame in saying that I had to fight a sharp battle for equanimity but, having won it. I went on with the ceremony with what shards and fragments of took my the least amount of machined to be the least amount of machined moment. At the proper question the bride moment at the proper question the bride moment at the proper question the bride at a single though to his superficial unfitted at a shout from his superior.

At the proper question the bride at the proper question the proper in spite of themselves, and I could see that my young scapegrace was grinding his teeth to keep down the unscemly desire to laugh outright at hie father-in-law's personal appearance.

When the ceremony was concluded the of machinery took matters in hand

with hearty brusquerie.
"Now, Hardwicke, you tell Tony to get up a nice little hot supper for four-no, make it six, and go get your wife and join us. You two"-to the young rebels-"can tak Dr. Penburton upstairs with you while wash up. Between you you've managed give me a (qualified) hard afternoon For the first mile the onrush of the huge but you didn't get much the best of the old iron monster was pleasantly exhibiting, but man after all. Now then clear out, and I'll go rinse a little of this gudgeon greas

> The waiting room was clearing for the de parture of the westbound train, and I began to make my excuses, "No, you don't," said the blackamoor good naturedly. to Carbonoro tonight I'll send you over a special engine; but you've got to stay and grace this marriage feast, whether or You owe me that much for getting you her

alive. I yielded, not altogether reluctantly, must be confessed; but I declined the spec cogine. I had had quite enough of tha species of journeying to last me a lifetime On the stairs I overtook the runaways and Roderick was saying:

"Well, all'o well that ends that way, suppose; but I'll have to admit I feel a bit aged, dont you, Elle? When you threw up your hands and went over to the enemy I wanted to drop through the floor. What ever made you go back on me at the last moment that way?" She smiled archly and slipped her arm two

liches farther in his. "You're not partieu-larly acute this evening, are you, Alan, dear?" she said, lightly. "You mustn't for-get that I know your father-in-law a great Roderick stopped short and put his hands on her shoulders. "Look me in the eye and say that again," he commanded. "To you mean to tell me—but I don't believe it. If I deal better than you do."

DES MOINES. did, I'd go into politics tomorrow and mak you a Mrs. Ambascador—that's what I'd do But to this day I believe he is not qui Moses Jacobs, Rock Island Depot. J. J. Wellman, Fifth and Walnut Sts. HOT SPRINGS, S. D. Emil Hargens. George Sibson.

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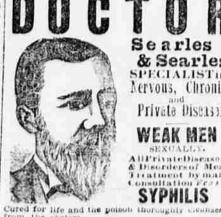
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