# Mrs. Nagg and Mr. — By Roy L. McCardell. Illustrated by GENE CARR.

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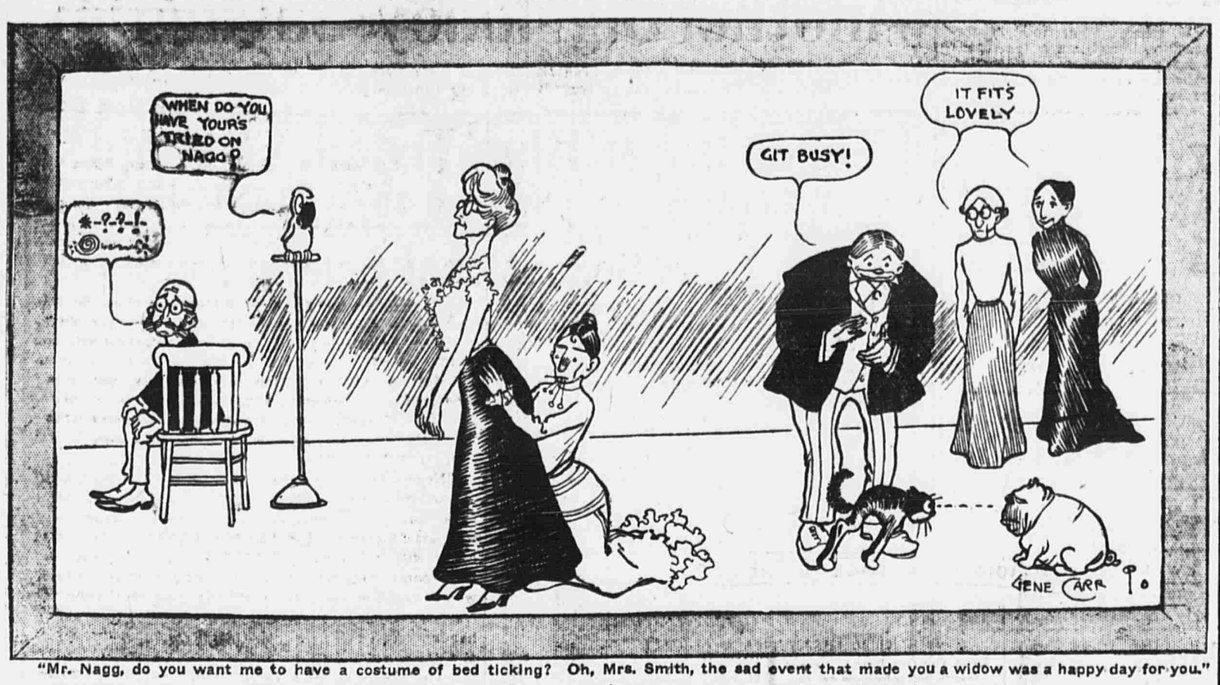
## It Wouldn't Be So Bad If He were Only Generous with Her. Of Course, He Doesn't Care What He Spends on Himself, but No Matter How Economical She Is He Finds Fault!




"Mr. Nagg, do you want me to have a costume of bed ticking? Oh, Mrs. Smith, the sad event that made you a widow was a happy day for you."

"DON'T start at me to-day, Mr. Nagg. You come home late from the office, where you haven't been doing anything but trying to make poor collections and keeping your affairs going, while I have had to worry over a thousand things.

"You take no interest in anything outside of your own sordid business life. But it is my duty to make others happy, and that is why I have been out with the Kind Deeds Society all day, because we are prosecuting the bookkeeper of the society, who embezzles $60 of the Entertainment Committee's funds, and we are not going to rest until we send him to the penitentiary.

"I know you would like me to resign from the Kind Deeds Society. It makes you angry to think of me scattering sunshine. And look at the good we do among the moral and deserving poor.

"Yet because I am getting a new dress, I know you are going to say something. All the ladies I know who are interested in charitable work or are doing things for the moral uplifting of the masses wear fine clothes. How could they make an impression upon the moral and deserving poor if they didn't dress well?

"Do you think working girls would listen to ethical-culture discourses if the ladies who read the essays were dressed like frumps?

"I can have any clothes I want, you say? Ah, but you have taken all the pleasure out of it now.

"Well, Mrs. Smith, my husband consents to let you make my dress for me. Oh, when will the day come when wives will have the right to say one word? As it is now they must suffer in silence.

"Be careful, Mrs. Smith; don't try to talk with your mouth full of pins. It is a fatal error. See how a woman must suffer, Mr. Nagg. They must keep silent and endure. I will hold the pins, Mrs. Smith; what is it you want to say?

"Oh, how will I have it made? Don't ask me; ask Mr. Nagg. He is master here. No one dare venture to dispute him. Let, him give commands as to what kind of clothes I must wear.

"Shall it be or denim, Mr. Nagg? Do you want me to have a costume of bed-ticking?

"Oh, Mrs. Smith, the sad event that made you a widow was a happy day for you.

"You have nobody to throw their money at you and say, 'Get a dress, then! Any kind you want!' like as if they were throwing a bone to a dog.

"Don't try to answer me, Mrs. Smith. I can see your mouth is full of pins.

"How would you like to have to make your living with your mouth full of pins, Mr. Nagg?

"You'd hold them in your hands, you say?

"Then how would you drape a skirt, ninny?

"There, Mrs. Smith, he has gone. Now I will hold the pins for you and help you adjust that flounce.

"Bloof—um, oom, um, bloof, um, bleff—there I had to take the pins out of my mouth, Mrs. Smith; I have been silent so long, I really must have a good long talk with somebody. No one can accuse me of being a gossip. As I said to the servant girl to-day, 'Do not come telling me tales about the people next door, for I can't stand gossip!'

"Did you hear that Mrs. Skippaway was seen at the races with a tall dark man? Of course I wouldn't like to say, but I am sure it was some other woman's husband.

"Don't try to answer, dear, with your mouth full of pins, but I know you mean 'yes.'"

*LAUGHABLE WONDER ROMANCE*

# The Tinted Venus — By F. Anstey

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTER.

Leander Tweddle, a London barber, puts a ring on the finger of a statue of Venus at a summer resort. The ring is one he has had altered to fit the hand of his fiancee, Matilda Colium. By placing it on the Venus's hand he has worked a charm which restores the statue to life. The statue comes to his barber shop, refuses to part with the ring and insists that he fly with her to the Venus grotto at Cyprus. He refuses, and the statue remains at his rooms, coming to life every evening.

The statue grows more pressing in her demands that he flee with her. One evening he eludes her and goes walking with Matilda. The statue pursues them with the intention of crushing her rival.

CHAPTER III.

A New Complication.

MATILDA and the goddess must not meet! There was no telling what horrible harm the Venus might not wreak on the girl, while a young lady of Matilda's strict principles could never be made to condone the fact that a statue wore the ring and claimed the love of Leander.

Briefly, almost brutally, he explained to Matilda that he was not well; that he was tired out; that he had a business appointment, and must ask her to excuse him from walking home with her.

The next moment, aware that he had offended her by his abruptness, he had bidden her good-night and turned back through the fog to meet the Statue.

"So here you are again!" he said.

"Why did you not wait for me?" answered the Statue. "I remained long for you: "you came not, and I followed."

Fortunately, at that time of night Bloomsbury square is not much frequented; the increasing fog prevented the apparition of a female in classical garments from attracting the notice to which it might otherwise have been exposed, and they reached the shop without any disagreeable encounter.

As they entered his sitting-room Leander asked angrily:

"How long are you going to follow me about in this ridiculous way?"

"At nightfall of each day I have power to revisit you. Truly, you are a sorry prize for such as I to stoop to win; yet I will it, nor shall you escape me. There will come a day when, forsaken by all you hold dear on earth, despised, ruined, distracted, you will pray eagerly for the haven of refuge to which I alone can guide you. Take heed, lest your conduct now be remembered then! I have spoken."

They were indeed her last words that evening, and they impressed the hairdresser, in spite of himself.

"I know this," he told himself, "if it once gets about that there's a hairdresser to be seen in Blomsbury chased about after dark by a classical statue, I shan't dare to show my face."

All at once he started to his feet. "I've got it!" he cried, and went downstairs to his laboratory, to reappear with some camel's-hair brushes, grease paints and a selection from his less important discoveries in the science of cosmetics; naemely, an "eyebrow accentuator," a vase of "Tweddle's Cream of Carnations" and "Blondinette Bloom," a china box of "Conserve of Coral," for the lips, and one of his most expensive wigs.

He painted the marble face, tinged the hollow eyes and crowned the head with the wig. Then he remembered the cloak Matilda had spoken of and the shop where she had said it was on sale. He rushed out, bought the garment and draped it about the Statue.

"There!" said he at last, surveying his work, "I flatter myself she looks more like a human being in case any one should meet her on the street," and he went to sleep with a lighter heart.

As he was awaiting customers in his shop next morning he was dumbfounded to see Matilda enter. She had never before paid him a visit. It was not like her. What could be amiss?"

"Leander," she began, "I have found you out." She said this with a strange significance.

"I know," he groaned, "I was a fool. Tillie; a fool! But I may get out of it yet," he added. "I can get her to let me off. I must—I will!"

"You dear old goose!" said Matilda, with an unusual effusiveness; "you sha'nt tease me like this! Do you think I've no eyes and no feelings? Any girl, I don't care how proud or offended, would come round, on such proof of devotedness as I've had this evening. When I saw it gone I felt I must come straight in and thank you, and tell you I shouldn't think any more of last night. I couldn't stop myself."

"When you saw what gone?" cried the hairdresser, rubbing up his hair.

"The cloak," said Matilda; and then, as she saw his expression, her own changed. "Leander Tweddle," she asked in a dry, hard voice, "have I been making a wretched fool of myself? Didn't you buy that cloak?" So she was referring to the cloak he had bought at Miss Twilling's for the statue. He remembered now, and Matilda supposed it had been bought for her.

He had only to accept the position; and he did. "I'm glad you're pleased," he said, "I intended it as a surprise."

"It's so cold this morning! Suppose I wear the cloak home?"

He ran upstairs and tried to tear the garment from the statue's shoulders. He could not budge it.

"It's—it's a little torn," he explained as he returned empty handed to Matilda. "I'll get it fixed and send it to you as soon as possible."

"Bring it Sunday," urged Matilda. "Remember Miss Tweddle expects you to dine with us Sunday and meet my mother. Bring both the cloak and the ring, dear."

He tottered for a moment. The ring! Yes, there was that to be got off too besides the cloak.

"Haven't you got the ring from Vidler's yet?" she said. "He's had it such a time."

Here a customer came in, and Matilda slipped away with a hurried good-by.

"I've got till Sunday to get straight," the hairdresser thought as he attended on the new-comer; "the best part of the week. Surely I can talk that Venus over by that time."

When he was alone he went up to see her without losing a moment. He must have left the door unlocked in his haste, for she was standing before the low chimney glass regarding herself intently. As he came in she turned.

"Who has done all this?" she demanded. "Tell me, was it you?"

"I did take the liberty, mum," he faltered guiltily.

"You have done well," she said graciously. "With reverent and loving care have you imparted hues as of life to these cheeks and decked my image in robes of costly skins."

"You'll find it will wear very comfortable," said Leander; "but that cloak, now I come to see it on, it really is most unworthy of you, a very inferior piece of goods, and if you'll allow me I'll change it," and he gently extended his hand to draw it off.

"Touch it not," said the goddess, "for, having once been placed upon my effigy, it is consecrated to my service."

"For mercy's sake, let me get another one—one with more style about it!" he entreated; "my credit hangs on it."

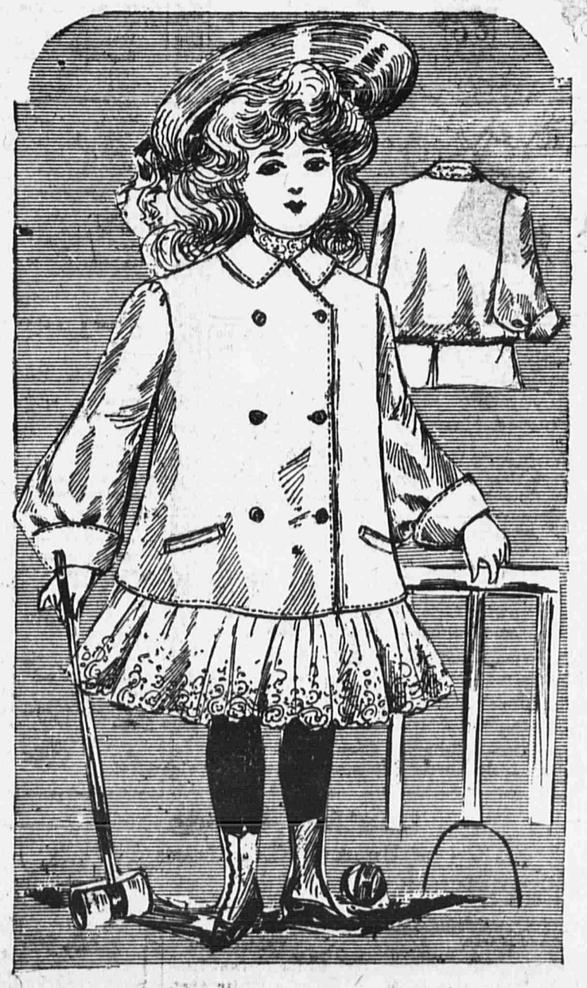
"I am content," she said, "more than content. No more words—I retain it."

"That settles it!" groaned Leander. "There's no escape anywhere!"

(To Be Continued.)

## Evening World Fashion Hints.

*Patterns by May Manton.*



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Full length Lawn Kimonos—white with colored figures and rings—Hemstitch White Lawn bands—elsewhere at $1.49..... .98
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Silk, Cashmere and Albatross—Light Blue, Gray, Heliotrope, Red, White and Black—newest Spring styles—Some full length accordion-pleated with deep collar or shoulder capes, lace and ribbon trim; or Yoke of lace and ribbon—Empire and other styles—plain or trim'd Skirts, full or flowing sleeves, with tucks, lace and ribbon—3.98 to 14.98
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