

In the Bishop's Carriage

By MERRIAN NICHOLSON

And, Mag, you try—if you're me—to fit Tom Dorgan in here—Tom Dorgan in stripes and savage suits still—all these months—kept away from the world, even the world behind bars! Maggie, don't you wish Tom was a ventriloquist or—or an acrobat or—but this isn't what I had to tell you. Do you know what a society entertainer is, Miss Monahan? No? Well, look at me. Yes, I'm one. Miss Nance Olden, whose services are worth \$50 a night—at least, they were one night. Ginger brought me the note that made me a society entertainer. It was from a Mrs. Paul B. Gates, who had been "charmed by your clever impersonations, Miss Olden, and write to know if you have the leisure to entertain some friends at my house on Thursday of this week."

The shadow of a glass to me, and God Let's me be lost. I gave them Duse just to show them how well I was myself; which shows what a nippy I was. The thing the world loves is the opposite of what it is. The pat-pat-pat of their gloves came in to me when I got through. They were too polite to hiss. But it wasn't necessary. I was hissing myself. Inside of me there was a long, nasty hiss-as-s!

"I think you'd better go home, Mr. Ramsay," I said again, decidedly. "If you don't, I'll have to call the janitor to put you out." "Call, sweetheart. He'll put you out with me; for I'll tell him a thing or two about you, and we'll go and find a better place than this. Stock can't be quoted so high, after all, if this is the best prospectus your friend can put up. . . . Why don't you call?"

"I looked at him. I was thinking. "Well?" he demanded. "I've changed my mind." Oh, Mag, Mag, did you ever see the man—ugly as a cannibal he may be and old as the cannibal's great-grandfather—that couldn't be persuaded he was a lady-killer? His manner changed altogether. He plumped down on the lounge and patted the place beside him invitingly, giving me a wink that was deadly. "But, Mrs. Dowager!" I exclaimed, coquettishly. "Oh, that's all right, little one! She hasn't even missed me yet. When she's playing bridge she forgets even to be jealous."

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