

THEIR MARRIED LIFE

By MABEL HERBERT URNER

THEY BUY A CHINA CLOSET AND HELEN ATTEMPTS TO RE-FINISH IT.

"Dear, the china closet has come and it's wonderful!... Yes, just now—the men just left. It fits in that—Oh, what is the matter with this phone!"

Helen promptly started on the china closet. As this polish was much higher she reasoned she would have to rub much harder.

"Be careful, ma'am, I wouldn't rub too hard," warned Nora.

"Oh, the pumice is so fine—it can't hurt it," reassuredly.

But this time when she wiped off the paste she was horrified to find that she had rubbed through both the varnish and stain to the bare, light wood.

Nora gave a little cry of dismay, and Helen stared at the bare spot with a sick beating of her heart.

"Go back to that paint store," excitedly, "we rubbed too hard and took off the varnish, and that we want some mahogany stain—or maybe he can suggest something better, quickly as you can."

Nora returned with a small can of mahogany paint, but when Helen brushed over the bare spot it stood out in a crude reddish shade very different from the rich, dark mahogany of the china closet.

"Oh, it's ruined, it's ruined," wailed Helen. "Right on the drawer where it shows the most! Oh, what will Warren say, what shall I do?"

In the next half hour Helen tried lead pencils, crayons, brown shoe polish, and other foolish futility experiments to darken that light spot.

At last, in desperation she decided to take out the drawer and send it by express to the dealer too whom she had telephoned last.

The drawers were small and so Nora could easily carry down both so very lightly she rubbed down the other one to the desired dull finish.

"Now, Nora, I want you to explain this very carefully. Tell me I'm going to rub down the whole piece like this, and that I want him to retain and do over the other drawer exactly this finish. Ask him what he'll charge—but whatever it is, you'll have to leave it, and say we must have it tomorrow."

When Nora had gone Helen went to work on the rest of the closet, and after an hour's very careful and very light rubbing the piece was transformed. But the joy she would have taken in this job was spoiled by the thought of the drawers.

What excuse could she give Warren for having sent them away? She could think of nothing better than to say she was having the locks fixed.

"If only she could tell him the truth! But since he had warned her to leave it alone, he would storm out at her and claim she had ruined it.

"What did he say?" eagerly, when Nora finally came back. "Cannot fix it!"

"He said he'd try, ma'am, but that he couldn't send it to you before Saturday. He has to put on three coats and give them time to dry."

"Saturday! The china closet would be disfigured until Saturday!"

She was positive that Warren's first question would be "Where's the drawers?" And she carefully rehearsed her answer.

But when a little after six she heard him come in, her heart beat gully.

"Well, how's the china closet?" was his greeting as he strode into the dining room.

"Oh, I think it's wonderful," trying to hide her nervousness. "Look how perfectly it fits in that corner! Don't you love that top? And the legs—oh, I'm wild about those legs! Wait, I'll show you a cut in that book of English furniture, almost exactly like it."

Helen ran into the library, and came back with the book, nervously turning the pages. Why didn't he ask about the drawers!

"There were no keys for the drawers, so I sent them down to have them fitted," she volunteered, disconcerted at his silence.

Theaters

AT THE ORPHEUM.

The new bill at the Orpheum which opened Monday has daily Winona Winter feature.

Nana, a Parisian dancer, assisted by M. Alexis, presents a varied program of dances all of which have the real French flavor.

The three Lyres present a varied musical act with considerable lively comedy interspersed.

Benjamin Disraeli is one of the most picturesque figures in modern English history, and in Louis N. Parker's brilliant comedy in which George Arliss will be seen at the Orpheum Wednesday evening, March 31, he shows the great statesman's effort to secure control of the Suez canal for England.

"Wildfire" Lillian Russell is appearing at the Auditorium today in a five reel picture of her successful play, "Wildfire".

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Redfeather Mezzo-Soprano Thelma Quartette

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does show the contrast between metropolitan life and existence under more normal conditions in the smaller centers of population.

The Majestic company are pleasing with the best musical comedy bill of their engagement.

Their Hour, a two reel subject featuring Cleo Madison and Wilfred Lucas is shown at the Surprise today.

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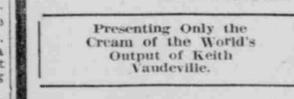
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LILLIAN RUSSELL



WINONA WINTER



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