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Tumble in some day!
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LONGING.
In city walls where duty bids me stay
I long for woodland paths, sweet breath of pine,
To see again the distant, smiling line
Of meadow, sandy shore, I know today
How fair must be the sea, far, far away
On whose broad breast the sun wrought sapphires
And sparkles in the wind that breathes of winter,
How shafts of gold and shifting shadows play
Beneath cool groves that sing a slumber song
And clear bird notes are tingling through and through
The peaceful heart of silence. Ah, I long
For friendly fires that brush against the blue
And each will light to watch the warrior Mars
Review the vast procession of stars!
—Herbert Rusford in East and West.

A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS.

How a Couple Obtained Consent to Their Marriage.
"What on earth are we to do?" cried pretty Lydia Darrell almost tearfully. "I won't marry old Fiebel-Jones—not if all the aunts in the world told me to."
"Marry me and defy the old cat!"
"Yes; that's just what I should like to do, but you must consider things."
"You mean money?"
"Yes; I mean money. You see, if Aunt Judith had any rational ground for objecting to our marriage, if she said you drank or were already married—of course I know you are not—but I am supposing a case."
"Don't you think you might suppose something a little less uncomplimentary?"
"No; certainly not. What does it matter in supposing? Well, then it would be different, and I should feel that, however wrong she might be, she really meant well. But when she can only say that you are one of the most arrogant opponents of all the noblest and purest aspirations of our sex—which means that she suspects you of laughing at her bloomers—why, then, I know that it is not me that she is thinking of but herself all the time. And she wants me to marry Fiebel-Jones because he flatters her to the top of her bent and calls her a pioneer and all that sort of nonsense."
"Do you think that punching his head would do any good?"
"No; I'm quite sure it wouldn't, or I should have told you to do it long ago. But, for all that, Aunt Judy can do what she likes with all my money until I come of age, and if I marry without her consent before I am 21 all my property goes into trust, with her as trustee, and she can allow me as much or as little as she likes. If Aunt Judith were an ordinary aunt, one might expect that she would come round when she found out what a dear you really are. But I know she would be only too delighted to get the money for her movements and societies, and I should never get a penny. So we must wait till I am 21."

"If I could only get round her in some way. If this was in a novel, there would be dozens of ways. I should drop on her in a railway accident and soothe her last moments with my brandy flask."
"You forget that she is a teetotaler."
"If you had met as many teetotalers as I have, you wouldn't bet. I know one who simply wolfed down a trifle that is stiff with brandy and vermouth, though he wouldn't touch either honestly out of a glass, or I might be in the way when her horses bolted."
"Oh, she doesn't keep any?"
"She would in a novel. And I should stop them at the risk of my life, and she would fall on my neck and call me her preserver."
"I should like to see that," cried Lydia, with a delicious trill of laughter.
"Lyddy, you have no imagination," said Bob Falk, with dignity. "I am sure the scene would be most dramatic, especially if Lady Judy happened to be in bloomers. And her remorse would be so great that she would give me her consent written on a visiting card, or perhaps my shirt cuff, to prevent mistakes."
"How can you talk such nonsense! But you have given me an idea. Couldn't you save her when she is out bicycling?"
"What from? And how am I to find her at the right moment?"
"Well, really I should have thought that a man could have arranged all that in a minute."
"Seems as if the best plan would be to arrange the accident. One might bribe a tramp to attack her and allow himself to be driven off by one, and then he would probably blackmail me for the rest of my life. Or one might get a generous friend to do the tramp part in disguise, only I can't at the present moment think of any man who would be such a jay. Besides, your Aunt Judy is just the kind of energetic female who would insist on seeing the villain safe in jail after her rescue. Then I should have to give myself up to save him. The plan is not so brilliant as it seemed at first."
"No; it isn't; very far from it. But listen to me. On Monday Aunt Judy starts on a bicycle ride to Scotland alone. She wishes to show that one woman in bloomers can go through the length of England without coming to grief. Now, my idea is that you should accompany her."
"Myra! Do you think she will catch on to the elopement?"
"Oh, she is not to know. I will find out the route she goes by, and you will follow at a distance and keep her in sight. Then if she gets into any difficulties—and I feel sure she will—you can rush to the rescue and earn her eternal gratitude."
"Supposing she sees me early in the faint and smokes the trick?"
"You must take care she doesn't. If you keep behind her all the time, she won't be able to see you."
Bob Falk was very much in love with pretty Lydia Darrell, and he would

have attempted anything that bore the smallest promise of advancing the date of their marriage. Besides, at that moment the young woman of the library, who, knowing them by sight and dining a love affair, had humanely left them alone in the back room for a few minutes, returned with an apologetic and at the same time decided expression.
For one of the results of Lady Judith's harsh policy in ordering that "not at home" was to be said to Mr. Falk and in exercising a strict censorship over the letters received by her niece was that Lydia had lit upon the idea of the library as a meeting place, and Bob put messages in the agony column when he wished to communicate with her. Lydia of course could write to him.

"In consequence of information received," as the police officer, Bob Falk started in pursuit of Lydia, partly disguised in a set of very old clothes and a peculiarly villainous cheap hat.
By the time the quarry had passed the one hundredth milestone from London Bob was unable to resist an involuntary feeling of admiration for her pluck. She rode hills which most of her sex would have walked. She took no heed of the chaff which from time to time floated round the unaccustomed spectacle of her bloomers. She kept up a steady pace and stuck to her arranged route with an accuracy that materially helped the pursuer.
At the close of the third day, during which she had beaten her previous record, Lady Judith stopped at a wayside hostelry. Hitherto Bob had avoided the hotels which she favored with her patronage, but now there was no help for it. He must either put up in the same town, or ride on five miles to the next town.
He thought that if he avoided the front of the house and effaced himself among the people in the bar parlor she would never notice him. After all, if she did she was scarcely likely to suppose that he was there on her account.
He loitered about for some little while in order to give her time to settle down in her place and then walked into the bar. The next minute he emerged again with singular alacrity.
"What the devil am I to do? I suppose they won't have her in the best rooms in that get up, and she's too tired to go on. If I interfere, it is 10 to 1 that I do no good and 40 to 1 that she only hates me all the more for seeing her. It seems brutal to do nothing or at least not to try, but no woman could forgive a man who had seen her in such a plight. By Jove, if there were only some evidence! Ah! fair in love, especially in a case like this."
He prowled disconsolately to the back of the building, cursing his luck and wondering what he should do. There he hit upon an individual who evidently combined cycling with photography.
A brilliant idea sprang up in his brain. He engaged the amateur photographer in conversation and explained his desire. The kodak changed hands, and so did a gleaming yellow coin. There was some shuffling of his snappers. Then Bob Falk took hasty snapshots of the back and front of the building in order to divert suspicion from his real purpose. After that he conveyed the kodak to the bar.
Some little time after her return from Scotland, Lady Judith received a very singular letter. It ran:

Dear Lady Judith—I have a dozen of the enclosed. What would you recommend me to do with them? Yours truly,
ROBERT FALK.
The inclosure was a photograph. She removed the silver paper hastily and saw. Well, you see, when the landlady of that hotel positively refused to admit her to any of the rooms used by ladies on the ground that her costume would do harm to the establishment she had consented to take her meal in the barroom and put up with an attic rather than proceed farther in her exhausted state. She had regretted this weakness ever since. She only hoped that no knowledge of the insult which she had allowed to be heaped upon the cause would come to the ears of her strong-minded sisters.
Now she saw before her eyes a visible presentment of the scene—herself in her semimilitary garments seated at a small table to the right discussing provisions, to the left a knot of common men and the apparatus of the bar. It was bad enough to be expelled from her proper place. There was the worse thought that by her presence in the bar she had given tacit encouragement to the course of drink.
Bob Falk married Lydia Darrell with her aunt's consent, and no one could ever make out why Lady Judith changed her mind so suddenly, least of all Professor Fiebel-Jones, who thought himself aggrieved.
Aunt and niece did not see much of each other after matrimony.—Madame.

Card Playing in Church.
Frequent cases of card playing occurred in churches in olden days in the high or curtained family pews that were to be found in several parts of this country. A case of card playing was mentioned by the poet Crabbe as having occurred in one of those pews in Trowbridge parish church. Mr. Beresford Hope stated that card playing was not uncommon in churches having curtained pews, where those occupying them were screened from the observation of the rest of the congregation, and that one of the Georges is credited with taking part at a game of whist in the church he attended. The church at Little Stanmore, in Middlesex, has a luxurious room pew which is approached by a special door and staircase. The old St. Paul's cathedral before the great fire of London was used by business men as a sort of exchange, and the portico was let out to hucksters, and in those days gambling and cards are both said to have been indulged in without let or hindrance within the cathedral—London Standard.

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