A Subscriber's Lament. Oh, thou newspaper carrier boy It would give me abundance of joy For a minute or two or three. With the toe of my shoe Upon the seat of thy pants, what fun! If I but get the chance,

Last night and the night before, I have listened at the front door For no paper was seen, taint fair. For it never has been put there.

Now, young man, I just wish to say to day, That for my newspaper I pay, or may.

And I give you fair warning now, I catch you (I think I know how)
Biff! Your career will be o'er I fear, You will peddle papers no more down here. So take warning my lad and why, Because I am mad, -Brantford Expositor.

The story, as told by himself for the information of his children (who, as children ever do, came in time to have interests of those that were merely personal to their parents), was much more brief and bald than this, and the reading of it did not take many minutes. When he had finished it. packet of papers a third and smaller document, which he also proceeded to read aloud to those whom it concerned. This proved to be a certificate of the marriage of Kingscote Yelverton and Elizabeth Leigh, celebrated in an obscure London parish by a curate who had been the bridegroom's Eton and Oxford chum, and witnessed by a pair of humble posing their respective signatures, on the 25th of November, in the year 1849. And, finally, half-folded round the packet, there was a slip of paper, on which was written-' Not to be opened until my death."

"And it might never have been opened until you were all dead !" exclaimed the lawyer, holding up hie hands. "He must have meant to give it to you at the last, and did not reckon on being struck helpless in a moment when his time came."

"Oh, poor father!" sobbed Elizabeth. whose head lay on the table, crushed down in her handkerchief. And the other sisters rendezvous as lovers could desire. If only "I will trust you—I will trust you," she put their arms about her, Patty with a set Elizabeth would come quickly, he thought, went on, leaning towards him as he sat white face and Eleanor whimpering a little.

or otherwise "give way," under the exceppictured on the wall, he thought of Elizational strain upon their nervous systems. beth resting with him under green trees, dear," he said, gravely. "I believe in God Mr. Yelverton had the lion's share in the

said; and the tone of her voice silenced all world she had so longed to see—the world and love and trust each other. So do I his protests. The old man kissed them, for that he knew so well-would look hence- Elizabeth." There was nobody looking, and the first time in his life, uttering a few forth-if-if broken words of congratulation on the wonderful change in their fortunes; and Paul shook hands with great gravity and with- templation of a little picture of an Isle of out saying anything at all, even though Patty, looking up into his inscrutable face, mutely asked for his sympathy with her wistful, wet eyes. And they went away. Is it yes or no, Elizabeth

As they were letting themselves out of countenances of the Misses King's visitors to speak. The next instant, before our arrangements, mayn't we?" and perchance gather some enlightenment a word was said, he had her in therefrom, Patty, dry-eyed and excited, his arms, and her mouth met

precious, and I myself am simply naturally enough, to their late very importing that beset her and thinking of Patty's quently he did not notice how pale she had was accordingly made to understand, with frantic till I can tell Mrs. Duff- ant interview in the caves.

you wish, after that." The lawyer hesitated, suspicious of the day. Shall we?"
risdom of the delay, but not seeing how "We might tumble into one of those terwisdom of the delay, but not seeing how much harm could happen, seeing that he had all the precious documents in his own breast there again." pocket; then he reluctantly granted Patty's request, and the girl went upstairs again married we must not run any unncessary with feet not quite so light as those that had risks. We will live together as long as we carried her down. Upstairs, however, she possibly can, Elizabeth. subordinated her own interests to the con-

portentous solemnity, "this is a crisis for reader—it has the merit of appropriateness, "Do you mean that you will?" he exyou, and you must be bold and brave. It is which is more than you can say for the lilies claimed, the fierceness of his delight no time for shilly-shallying—you have and jewellery) between his two strong palms. tempered by a still evident incredulity. twenty-four hours before you, and you must How he did long for that dark cave !—for "I will." she said. "if—"

act. If you don't, you will see that he will just throw up everything, and be too proud He will lose all his hour. money and the influence for good that it gives him, and you will lose him. "How shall I act ?" asked Elizabeth,

leaning instinctively upon this more courageous spirit.

"How?" echoed Patty, looking at her sister with brilliant eyes.

"Oh!" drawing

a long breath, and speaking with a yearning passion that it was beyond the power of good grammar to express—"oh, if it was only me!"

CHAPTER XXXIX.

AN ASSIGNATION.

That evening Mr. Yelverton was leisurely finishing his dinner at the club when a note dining. Then he went upstairs rather and, arrived at the reading-room, sat down at a table, took pen in hand and dashed off an immediate reply. "I will certainly be there," he wrote, in a hand more vigorous than elegant. "I will wait for you in the German picture gallery. Come as early as possible, while the place is quiet." And, having closed his missive and consigned it THE SISTERS having closed his missive and consigned it to the bag, he remained in a comfortable arm chair in the quiet room, all by himself, meditating. He felt he had a great deal to think about, and it indisposed him for convivialities. The week since his parting with Elizabeth, long as it had seemed to him, had not quite run out, and she had made an assignation which, though their own that transcended in importance it might have appeared unequivocal to the casual eye, was to him extremely perplexing. She had come back, and she wanted to see him, and she wanted to see him alone, and she asked him if he would meet her at in dead silence, the lawyer took from the the Exhibition in the morning. And she addressed him as her dearest friend, and signed herself affectionately his. He tried very hard, but he could not extract his expected comfort from such a communication, made under such circumstances. In the morning he was amongst the first

batch of breakfasters in the club coffee-

room, and amongst the first to represent the

public at the ticket-windows of the Carlton folk who had had great difficulty in com- Palace. When he entered the great building it was in the possession of officials and workmen, and echoed in a hollow manner to his solid foot-fall. Without a glance to right or left, he walked upstairs to the gallery and into that cosiest nook of the whole Exhibition, the German room, and there waited for his mistress. This restful room, with its carpeted floor and velvety settees (so grateful to the weary), its great Meissen vases in the middle, and casts of antique statues all "And you are going to trust me, my round, was quite empty of visitors, and love—me and yourself? You are not afraid looked as pleasant and convenient a place of now?" they might have the most delicious quiet But Mr. Brion and Paul were incensed with talk, sitting side by side on a semi-circular in the world than I had even thought of the dead man, and could not pity him at ottoman opposite to Lindenschmidt's until I knew you. It is I who will not be powering happiness takes away the appetite, present.

It was late before the two friendly advisers, summoned to dinner by their land-like going. It did not seem to them at all right that the three girls should be left alone.

We are taking him out for an airing," there he is!" she exclaimed. "And my but experience has taught me that it is not sisters are with him."

"Death of Adonis"—not regarding that up the mark—not you. But I will help but experience has taught me that it is not sisters are with him."

"We are taking him out for an airing," to give my life to helping you. And at least—at least—you believe in God," she sight of food, but the bliss of rest and concluded, yearning for some tangile and right that the three girls should be left alone as a picture. We are taking him out for an airing," concluded, yearning for some tangile and right that the three girls should be left alone as a picture. We are taking him out for an airing," concluded, yearning for some tangile and right that the three girls should be left alone. We are taking him out for an airing," concluded, yearning for some tangile and right that the three girls should be left alone. We are taking him out for an airing, and evidently in an effect. under present circumstances. Mr. Brion beloved, for whose light step he was listen- stood faith, wherewith to comfort her spiritually, if you are a healthy person. So wanted to summon Mrs. Duff-Scott, or even ing. If his bodily eyes were fixed conscientious soul. "We are together in I say that Elizabeth was unsentimentally Mrs. McIntyre, to bear them company and on the "Cloister Pond" or "Evening," that—the chief thing of all—are we not?" hungry, and enjoyed her sweetbreads. They see that they did not faint, or have hysterics, or any other of the tranquil landscapes He was a scrupulously truthful man, and chatted happily over their meal, like truant Then he wanted them to come next door for "far from the madding crowd's ignoble that dinner which he felt they must cer-tainly stand much in need of, and for which that (practically) held nobody but him and me and upholding me, which is Something row, and the lighter features of they did not seem to have adequate mate her. If he looked at autumnal rain slanting that even God seems a word too mean for. rials; or let him take them to the nearest fiercely across the canvas, he thought how I think," he added, "that God, to me, is not had so abruptly adopted. Elizabeth smiled hotel, or to Mrs. Duff-Scott's; or, at least, he would protect and shield her in all the what he has been taught to seem to you." to permit him to give them some brandy storms that might visit her life-" My and water; and he was genuinely distressed plainted to the angry airt, I'd shelter thee, because they refused to be nourished and comforted and appropriately cared for in morning in Thuringia, of a lake in the lieve you are sure to believe thoroughly, and of these ways. any of these ways.

"We want to be quiet for a little, dear Engadine, and of Venice in four or five American aspects of sunlight and moonlight, suggested aspects of sunlight and moonlight and moonlight aspects of sunlight and moonlight and moonlight aspects of s ourselves—if you don't mind," Elizabeth his wedding journey and how beautiful the for us if we have faith in our own hearts,

> There was a step upon the corridor out-Wight sunrise to meet her as she came in.

Her embarassment melted away before the house, assisted by the ground-floor the look he bent upon her, as a morning Ours is going to be a real marriage. We domestic, who, scenting mystery in the air, mist before the sun. She lifted her eyes to shall be, not two, but one. Only for the a man to marry his first cousin and wicked politely volunteered to open the hall door his—those honest eyes that he could read in order that she might investigate the like a book—and her lips parted in an effort

came flying downstairs, and pounced upon his under the red moustache in a long, and close, and breathless kiss; and both of fine frame and his vigorous face a new should be in the way of preventing the then, with an airy and audacious cheerful-"Mr. Brion, Mr. Brion, Elizabeth says them knew that they were to part no more she hopes you will be sure not to divulge till their lives' end. While that brief cerewhat we have discovered to anybody," she mony of betrothal lasted, they might have around her, and made her heart beat more to say to that—they have nothing whatever mediately recalled to mind); "Mr. Brion Mrs. Duff Scott." panted breathlessly (at the same time been in the black grotto where they kissed strongly to the quicker pulse of his. "Very to say to the relations that are of no kin to glancing at her lover's back as he stood on each other first, so oblivious were they of well, then. Now tell me, Elizabeth—with- each other. Them's my sentiments, Miss the door-step). "It is of the utmost con- their surroundings; but they took in pre- out any formality, while you and I are King, if you particularly wish to know sequence to her to keep it quiet for a little sently the meaning of certain sounds in the here together—when shall we be married?" them." gallery on the other side of the curtain, and But, my dear, what object can Eliza- resumed their normal attitudes. "Come command about it, for though he knew how on her plate softly. It was a gesture if beth have in waiting now? Surely it is and sit down," said Mr. Yelverton, drawing pontaneous and straightforward she was, elaborate caution, meant to cover her con- and her new-found cousin. better to have it over at once, and settled. her into the room. "Come and let's have a her natural delicacy unspoiled by artificial scious agitation. "Then you would not— I thought of walking up to the club by-and-talk." And he set her down on the velvet sentiment, he yet prepared himself to en-"Of course it is better to have it over," cade her from an invasion of the public as this matter. But she answered him without on her behalf, and wondering if the straw-

Scott. So is Elizabeth. But there is "We will go back there," he said, ex- leave you to say when. something size must do first—I can't tell pressing his desire frankly. "When we will go to your mean you cousin, to begin with. And if I had I could that she was desired to take steps at once you the particulars—but she must have a are married, Elizabeth, we will go to your will really?" His deep-set eyes glowed, not possibly want to marry her, since I am whereby she might be made acquainted few hours' start—say till to morrow evening old home again together, before we set out and his voice had a thrilling tremor in it as going to marry you to-morrow, and a man with it. Much bewildered, but without -before you speak to Mr. Yelverton or take on longer travels, and you and I will have he made this incredulous inquiry. "Then is only allowed to have one wife at a time. relaxing her offended air for she conceived any steps. I am sure she will do whatever a picnic to the caves all alone by ourselves, I say we will be married soon—very soon— So my own case doesn't come in." in that little buggy that we drove the other

rible black holes," she replied, "if we went stood her ground. "If you wish," she that I had been of your blood—would you still daughters—she returned to her carriage, all

"True-we might. And when we are voice.

She had drawn off her right glove, and sideration of her sister's more pressing now slipped her hand into his. He grasped it fervently, and kneaded it like a lump of am." she exclaimed, drawing her hand from nothing short of your having been my own together. The lawyer was very grave, and "Elizabeth," she said, with fervid and stiff dough (excuse the homely simile, dear his

any nook or corner that would have hidden him and her from sight for the next half

"Why couldn't you have told me a week ago?" he demanded, with a thrill in his deep voice. "You must have known you wou would take me then, or you would not have come to me like this to-day. Why night-" didn't you give yourself to me at first? Then we should have been together all this Mr. Brion? Settlements? time—all these precious days that we have wasted-and we should have been by the about me-about my family-something sea at this moment, sitting under those big that you must know before we can be marrocks, or wandering away into the bush, ried. where nobody could interfere with us."

into the court, and he leaned back upon his cushioned seat to wait until they were gone to matter, is it?" again. They looked at the pictures, with before, and put it into his pocket until he be there if they chose; and then, too uncould politely detach himself from three comfortably conscious of being de trop, desemi-hosts, semi-guests, with whom he was parted. After which the lovers were alone again for a little while. Mr. Yelverton rejuickly, tearing open his letter as he went, sumed possession of Elizabeth's hand, and repeated his rather cruel question.

"Didn't you know all along that it must come to this?

"A week ago I did not know what I know now," she replied. "Ah, my dear, you knew it in your

heart, but you would not listen to your heart. " Mr. Yelverton-"

She was beginning to speak seriously, but he stopped her. "No," he said, "I am not going to be called Mr. Yelverton by Never again, remember. My name is Kingscote, if you wish to know. My people at home, when I had any people, called me King. I think you might as well call me King; it will keep your dear name alive in the family when you no longer answer to it yourself. Now "-as she paused, and was looking at him rather strangely-" what were you going to say?"

"I was going to say that I have not wasted this week since you went away. A great deal has happened—a great many changes-and I was helped by something

outside myself to make up my mind."
"I don't believe it—I don't believe it Elizabeth. You know you love me, and you know that, whatever your religious sentiments may be, you would not do vio lence to them for anything less than that. You are taking me because you love me too well to give me up-for any consideration whatever. So don't say you are not."

She touched his shoulder for a moment with her cheek. "Oh, I do love you, I do love you!" she murmured, drawing a long, sighing breath. He knew it well, and he did not know how to bear to sit there, unable to respond

to her touching confession. He could only knead her hand between his palms.

beside her. "You are doing more good

-that is to say, I feel him-I lean my little-conversation, and talked with distracting

"Never mind," she said, in a low voice, Bavarian mountains, of a glacier in the if you believe in God, your God must be a

he put his arm round her shoulder for a thing. No, I don't know that I object side, and he turned sharply from his con- ligious controversy closed then? We need not trouble ourselves about that any more? "Well, my love," he murmured eagerly, think we ought to talk of all our thoughts-"what is it? Don't keep me in suspense. and especially those that trouble us—to each other?

"I do-I do, indeed. And so we shall. present we may put this topic aside, as beand indecent to marry his sister-in-law—or ing no longer an obstruction in the way of his aunt-in-law for the matter of that—or

himself together at this point, and into his ters can ever be necessary or justifiable, it

The question had a tone of masterful "I know your time is far as possible. His thoughts turned, delay or hesitation, impelled by the terrors berries and cream would be fresh. Conseawful warnings and prophesyings-"I will grown, all of a sudden.

so as not to lose a day more than we can

help. Will you agree to that ?" She looked a little frightened, but she whispered, all the tone shaken out of her have had me?"

"If I wish!" A palpitating silence held indeed, a home question. them for a moment. Then "What do you say to to-morrow?" he suggested.

She looked up at him, blushing violently. s "Do you mean that you will?" he ex-

"Hush-hush! Don't let there be any ifs, Elizabeth !" "Yes-Listen. If Mrs. Duff-Scott will freely consent and approve-

"You may consider that settled, anyhow. I know she will." "And if you will see Mr. Brion to-

"Mr. Brion? What do we want with "No. But he has something to tell you

"What is it? Can't you tell me what it As he spoke, a party of ladies strolled is?" He looked surprised and uneasy. "Don't frighten me, Elizabeth-it is noth-

"I don't know. I hope not. I cannot ing to see you."

"Tell me this much, at any rate," said to-morrow, is it?"

you won't." "Very well. We will go and have our lunch then. We'll join the table d'hote of the Exhibition, Elizabeth—that will give us added, impulsively. a foretaste of our continental travels. Tomorrow we shall have lunch—where? At it doesn't matter the least bit. Mrs. Duff-Scott's, I suppose—it would be keep me long, do you suppose?" too hard upon her to leave her literally at "I think, very likely, he will." too hard upon her to leave her literally at the church door. Yes, we shall have lunch at Mrs. Duff-Scott's, and I suppose the champagne, and making us a pretty speech. nome, Elizabeth, and you and I will dine tete-a-tete, without even a single parlormaid to stand behind our chairs. I don't quite know yet where I shall discover those blessed four walls that we shall dine in, nor

CHAPTER XL. MRS. DUFF-SCOTT HAS TO BE RECKONED

what sort of dinner it will be-but I will

find out before I sleep to-night."

Prosaic as were itheir surroundings and their occupation—sitting at a long table, he at the end and she at the corner on his left hand, amongst a scattered crowd of hungry folk, in the refreshment room of the exhibition, eating sweetbreads and drinking champagne and soda water—it was like a dream to Elizabeth, this foretaste of continental travels. In the background of her lover had drawn out; but the thoughts and Brion. fancies floating on the surface of her mind were too absorbing for the present to building-passing that noble group of listenleave room for serious reflections. Dreaming as she was, she not only enjoyed the homely charm of sitting at meat with him in this informal, independent manner, but she enjoyed her lunch as well, after her rather exhausting emotions. It is commonly supposed, I know, that overstupendous scheme that they and blushed and listened, venturing occasionally upon a gentle repartee. Presently,

"Dear child, I don't object to anything to-day," he replied. "As long as I am "You feel that things will all come right allowed to marry you, I am quite willing to let other men please themselves."

"But tell me seriously—do you?" Well, let me " Must I be serious? moment. "And we may consider our re- there is so very little that I object to, you see, in the way of things that people want to do—but I think, perhaps, that, all things Duff-Scott's right to know what we know.

'I would not say 'closed.' Don't you being equal, a man would not choose to And Mr. Velverton's too." marry so near a blood relation." "You do think it wrong, then ?"

"I think it not only wrong but utterly preposterous and indefensible," he said, that it should be lawful and virtuous for our arrangements, mayn't we?"

any free woman who has no connection with the Yes," she said. And the die was cast. him except through other people's mar-"Very well, then." He seemed to pull riages. If a legal restriction in such mat-

Elizabeth put her knife and fork together

"But if I had been your cousin?" she

full sister could have saved you."

brightness, and was able to enjoy the early a necessary but disagreeable duty to perstrawberries and cream—which did happen form.

They did not hurry themselves over the unch, and when they left the refreshm coom they went and sat down on two hairs by the Brinsmead pianos and listened to a little music (in that worst place that ever was for hearing it). Then Mr. Yelver-

ton took his fiancee to get a cup of Indian tea. Then he looked at his watch gravely. "Do you know," he said, "I really have an immense deal of business to get through before night if we are to be married to morrow morning."

"There is no reason why we should be married to-morrow morning," was her im-mediate comment. "Indeed_indeed, it is far too soon.

"It may be soon, Elizabeth, but I deny that it is too soon, reluctant as I am to contradict you. And, whether or no, the date was brought to him. He thought he knew one eye on him, dawdled up and down for the writing, though he had never seen it before, and put it into his pocket until he be there if they chose; and then, too ungraph arrangements. "Am I obliged to see Mr. Brion to-day?" he asked abruptly. Mr. Yelverton, anxiously; "it is no just "Can't I put him off till another time? cause or impediment to our being married Because, you know, he may say just whatever he likes, and it won't make the smallest " No. At least, I don't think so. I hope particle of difference."

"Oh," she replied earnestly, "you must see him. I can't marry you till he has told you everything. I wish I could !" she

"Well, if I must I must—though I know

"Then, my darling, we must go. Give me your ring-you shall have it back tomajor will insist on drinking our healths in night. Go and pack your portmanteau this afternoon, so that you have a little spare Never mind, we will have our dinner in time for Mrs. Duff Scott. She will be sure peace. To-morrow evening we shall be at to want you in the evening. You need not take much, you know-just enough for a week or two. She will be only too delighted to look after your clothes while you are away, and"-with a smile-" we'll buy the trousseau in Paris on our way home. I am credibly informed that Paris is the proper place to go to for the trousseau of a lady of quality.

"Trousseaus are nonsense," said Elizabeth, who perfectly understood his motives for this proposition, "in these days of rapidly changing fashions, unless the bride cannot trust her husband to give her enough

pocket money." "Precisely. That is just what I think. And I don't want to be deprived of the pleasure of dressing you. But for a week or two, Elizabeth, we are going out of the world just as far as we can get, where you nental travels. In the background of her won't want much dressing. Take only consciousness she had a sense of having what is necessary for comfort, dear, enough acted madly if not absurdly, in committing for a fortnight—or say three weeks. That herself to the programme that her audacious will do. And tell me where I shall find Mr.

They were passing out of the Exhibition ing hounds and huntsman that stood be tween the front entrance and the gate-and Elizabeth was wondering how she should find Mr. Brion at once and make sure of that evening interview, when she caught sight of the old lawyer himself coming into the flowery enclosure from the street. "Why, there he is !" she exclaimed. "And my

too busy to attend to him, and he had nobody but us, poor man! So we are going to show him round. Would you believe that he has never seen the exhibition, Elizabeth?

They had scarcely exchanged greetings with each other when, out of an open carriage at the gate, stepped Mrs. Duff-Scott, on her way to that extensive kettledrum which was held in the exhibition at this hour. When she saw her girls, their festive raiment and their cavaliers, the fairy godmother's face was a study.
"What!" she exclaimed, with heart-

rending reproach, "you are back in Melbourne! You are walking about withwith your friends"-hooking on her eye-glass the better to wither poor Mr. Brion, who wasted upon her a bow that would have done credit to Lord Chesterfield-"and I am not told !"

Patty came forward, radiant with suppressed excitement. "She must be told," exclaimed the girl, breathlessly. "Elizabeth, we are all here now. And it is Mrs.

"You may tell them now," said Elizabeth, who was as white as the muslin round her chin. "Take them all to Mrs. Duff-Scott's house, and explain everything, and get it over-while I go home.'

CHAPTER XLL

MR. YELVERTON STATES HIS INTENTIONS.

"I don't think you know Mr. Brion," said Mr. Yelverton, first lifting his hat and shaking hands with Mrs. Duff-Scott, and -Mrs. Duff-Scott."

The fairy godmother bowed frigidly, nearly shutting her eyes as she did so, and for a moment the little group kept an embarrassed silence, while a sort of electric current of intelligence passed between Patty

"Will you come?" said Patty to him, bye, with the papers, and having a word with Mr. Yelverton."

trying not to look too conscious of the sex are a pause, in a very small and forward with an arm on his knee to barri tance to mark a ma trying not to look too conscious of the

"I agree with you," he replied. "And I will come with pleasure." Mrs. Duff-Scott some difficulty, that the mystery which "Well," he said, "you see I have no puzzled her had a deep significence, and will you really? Do you mean you cousin, to begin with. And if I had I could that she was desired to take steps at once that no explanation would make any difference in the central fact that Mr. Yelverton urged breathlessly, but with her eyes on her and Mr. Brion had taken precedence of her plate. "Supposing, for the sake of argument, in the confidence of her own adopted the little party following meekly at her "Ah," he said, laughing, "that is, heels. The girls were put in first-even Elizabeth, who, insisting upon detatching "Would you?" she persisted.

"Would I?" he echoed, putting a hand under the table to touch hers. "I really and the two men, lifting their hats to the "Ah, you are thinking how forward I think I would, Elizabeth. I'm afraid that departing vehicle, were left on the footpath slightly nervous and embarrassed. To his After that she regained her color and companion he had all the air of a man with

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