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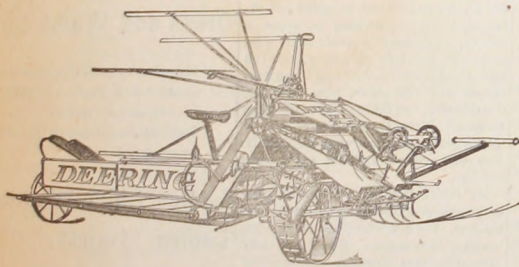
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"Dear Mrs. Marsden, now perfectly—kiss, kiss—delicious! Yes, this is the baby sister I've raved to you about. We go right on with the Doric; but I had to bring her out with me that you might have just one glance at her. Why! Mr. Prime! Why, what could be more charming than to find you here? And 'Gov' too—you wicked boy! What won't I do to you for never telling me you were in Manila? And Mildred!—kiss, kiss—despite a palpable dodge and heightened color on the part of the half-dazed recipient, "And you, too, Miss Lawrence?" Both hands, but no kiss—one hand calmly accepted, "Ah, then I know how happy you are, Mr. Willie Gray!" beaming arched smiles upon that flushed and flustered young officer. Then, turning again to twine a jeweled arm about the slim waist of their hostess, to whom she clung as though defying any effort to dislodge, yet pleading for protection. "Who on earth could have foretold that we of all people should have met out here—of all places? How long did you say you had been out here? A week? And of course, dear Mrs. Marsden has done everything to make it lovely for you. I should have died without her." And so the swift play of words went on, the rapid fire of her fluent tongue covering the movement of her allies and drowning all possibility of reply. It was an odd and trying moment. Mrs. Marsden, well knowing, as who in Honolulu did not, of Mrs. Frank's devotion to the young lieutenant, barely six months ago, was striving to welcome the shrinking little scare-faced thing that blindly and helplessly had drifted in the elder sister's wake. The introductions that followed, after the American fashion, were as perfunctory as well-bred women can permit. The greetings were almost solemn, smileless, and, on part of Nita, fluttering to the verge of a faint; and nothing but Witchee's plucky and persistent support, and the light flow of airy chat and laughter, carried her through the ordeal. The two young soldiers stood stiffly back, red-faced and black-browed; the father, pallid and cold, could hardly force himself to unbend, yet his lips mumbled the name "Mrs. Frost," as he bowed at presentation; Miss Prime stood erect and trembling; Miss Lawrence, with brave eyes but heightened color. To leave at once was impossible; to remain was more than embarrassment. Most gallantly did they battle, Mrs. Marsden and Mrs. Frank, to lift the wet blanket from the group and relieve the strain. Reward came to crown their efforts in strange, unlooked-for fashion. Hoofs, wheels and flashing lights were again at the entrance gate, even as Mrs. Frank, sparkling with animation, distributing her gay good humor over the silent sentinels, suddenly exclaimed: "Oh, if I only knew you were here, I could have provided the one thing to make our reunion complete! If I were not going on at daybreak I should do it yet." Then hoofs and wheels and lights had come to a stop at the front of the house, and in measured, martial tread a man's footsteps were heard upon the lanai. Then, all of a sudden, with a cry of joy, Witchee burst in again: "Should do it—I shall do it! Said I not I was the fairy queen? Behold me summon my subjects from the ends of the obedient earth!" And, waving her parasol as she would a wand, gaily pirouetting as she had that night in the tent at old Camp Merritt, she advanced forward: "Sound ye the trumpets, slaves! Hail to the chief! See the conquering hero comes! Enter Brevet Brig. Gen. Stanley Armstrong!—though his arm is anything but strong!"

Bowing gravely to the sprite in front of him, vaguely to the group in the shaded light at the edge of the lanai, and joyously to the little hostess, as almost hysterically she sprang forward and clasped his hands, the colonel of the Primeval Dudes stood revealed before them. "Col. Armstrong! How—when did you get here? What does this mean? Is your arm quite well again? Why didn't you let us know you were coming?" were the questions rained upon him by Mrs. Marsden, immediately followed by the somewhat illogical statement that she was actually breathless with surprise. "Shall I answer in their order?" said he, smiling down at her flushed and joyous face. "By the Sedgwick. This afternoon. That I wished to see you. Doing quite well. Because I didn't know myself until two days before we sailed." Then, as he stood peering beyond her, she would have turned him to her other guests had not Mrs. Garrison made instant and impulsive rush upon him. "As fairy queen or fairy godmother I claim first speech," she gaily cried. "What tidings of my lige lord, and where is hers, my fairy sisters?" she demanded, waving in front of him her filmy parasol and proucting with almost girlish grace. "Capt. Garrison was looking fairly well the day I sailed," he answered, briefly, "and Col. Frost left for Hong Kong only a few hours before we sailed, so we understand, of finding Mrs. Frost at Yokohama. Permit me," he added, with grave courtesy, "I have but little

time, as I transfer to the Doric tonight. A shade spread over the radiant face one instant, but was as quickly swept away. "And I have not met your guests," he finished, turning to Mrs. Marsden as he spoke and quietly passing Mrs. Garrison in so doing. The next moment he was shaking hands with the entire party, coming last of all to Amy Lawrence.

"They told me of your being here," he said, looking straight into her clear, beautiful eyes, "and I thought I might find you at Mrs. Marsden's. She was our best friend when we were in Honolulu. They told me, too, that you desired to go by the Doric, but feared she would be crowded," he continued, turning to Mr. Prime. "There is one vacant stateroom now. Its occupants have decided to stay over and visit the islands. There will be, I think, another." And drawing a letter from an inner pocket he calmly turned to Nita, now shrinking almost fearfully behind her sister. "The colonel gave this to me to hand to you, Mrs. Frost, on the chance of your being here. He will arrive by next week's steamer, and, pardon me, it is something I think you should see at once, as a change in your plans may be necessary."

It was vain for Margaret to interpose. The letter was safely lodged in her sister's hands, and with so significant a message that it had to be opened and read without delay. Gayly excusing herself, and with a low reverence and comprehensive smile to the assembled party, she ushered her sister into the long parlor, and the curtain fell behind them. There followed a few minutes of brisk conference upon the lanai, the Marsdens pleading against, the father and daughter for, immediate return to the hotel, there to claim the vacated rooms aboard the steamer. In the eager discussion, pro and con, both young soldiers joined, both saying "go," and promising to follow by the Sedgwick. In this family council, despite the vivid interest Armstrong felt in the result, neither Amy Lawrence nor himself took any part. Side by side at the snowy railing over the breaking sea they stood almost silent listeners. Suddenly there came from the front again the sound of hoofs and wheels, loud and distinct at the start, then rapidly dying away with the increasing distance. Miss Lawrence turned and looked inquiringly into the eyes she well knew were fixed upon her. Mrs. Marsden hesitated one moment, then stepped across the lanai, peered into the parlor and entered. It was a minute before she returned, and in that minute the decisive vote was cast, the carriage ordered. "Oh, I ought to have known how it would be if I left you a moment!" she cried, despairingly, on her reappearance, a little folded paper in her hand. "But at least you must stay half an hour. We can telephone direct to the dock and secure the staterooms, if you must go on the Doric. Yes," she continued, lowering her voice, "they are not going farther until Col. Frost comes. Mrs. Garrison explains that her sister was really too ill and too weak to come out here, but she thought the drive might do her good. She thought best to slip quietly away with her, and bid me say good night to you all."

So, when next day the Doric sailed, four new names appeared upon the passenger list, and the last men down the stage, already "trembling on the rise," were two young fellows in white uniform, who turned as they sprang to the dock and waved their jaunty caps. "Join you in ten days at 'Prisco!" shouted the shorter of the two, gazing upward and backward at the quartette on the promenade deck. "Oh! beg a thousand pardons," he added, hastily, as he bumped against some slender object, and, wheeling about to pick up a flimsy white fan, he found himself face to face with Witchee Garrison, kerchief waving, beaming, smiling, throwing kisses innumerable to the party he had so lately left. The hot blood rushed to his forehead, an angry light to his eyes, as she nodded, blithely, forgivingly, at him. "Dear boy," she cried, in her clear, penetrating treble, "how could you be expected to see anyone after leaving—her?" But Gov's arm was linked in his at the very instant and led him glowering away, leaving her close to the edge of the crowded deck, smiling sweetness, blessing and bliss upon a silent and unresponsive group, and waving kerchief and kisses to them until, far from shore, the Doric headed out to sea.

They were nearing home again. Day and night for nearly a week the good ship had borne them steadily onward over a sea of deepest blue, calm and unruffled as the light that shone in Amy's eyes. Hours of each twenty-four Armstrong had been the constant companion, at first of the trio, then of the two—for Mr. Prime had found a kindred spirit in a veteran merchant homeward bound from China—then of one alone; for Miss Prime had found another interest and favor in the eyes of a young tourist paying his first visit to one. There, and so it happened that before the voyage, all too brief, was half over Amy Lawrence and Armstrong walked the spacious deck for hours alone or sat in shel-

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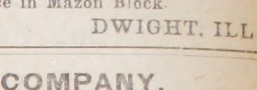
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## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE INDIANA, ILLINOIS & IOWA RAILROAD COMPANY.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad Company, for the purpose of considering, voting and deciding whether the stockholders will consent to and will authorize the creation of a bonded debt by the issue at such times and in such amounts as from time to time the Board of Directors of the Company may determine of bonds payable to gold coin of the United States of America of the present standard of weight and fineness and not exceeding the aggregate principal sum of the said bonds in dollars (\$2,000,000) maturing July 1, 1950, and bearing interest at such rate of interest as may be determined by the Board of Directors of the Company may from time to time determine, payable semi-annually in like gold coin, and the execution of a mortgage or deed of trust to secure the said bonds, as provided in the Charter of the Company, and to be dated July 1, 1900, to secure all such bonds, and will consent to and approve of such mortgage or deed of trust, and deciding whether the said bonds shall be submitted to the said meeting; and for the further purpose of considering, voting and deciding whether the stockholders will authorize, consent to and ratify the purchase by the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad Company of the remaining interests, property and franchises of the St. Louis and Clinton Railroad Company. By order of the Board of Directors, T. P. SHONTS, President. (July 24)

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