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**ELEGRAMS: "Pulsator," Invercargill.

He did not ask again, he turned and walked into the vestry, merely observing to the vicar:

"You had better tell these people there will be no wedding."

It was a breakdown! People who had been laughing and smiling stood as though they were stunned.

Then the vicar stepped forward.

"I regret to say that the wedding ceremony will not take place," he said. "There is nothing for the congregation to stay for."

The good old gentleman hoped that it might take place, he would reason with the bride, but he had better get rid of these people. He hated anything like a scene or a scandal in his church.

They took her into the vestry, and there the vicar joined them. She put her hands in her forhead and looked around in a dazed way. What had she done? What awful thing was this? What scandal had she made? She looked at the man who was to have been her husbandhe was standing there cold and stern. She looked at the bridesmaids-they regarded her with mingled dismay and contempt. She looked at the friends-they stared at her as though she was some strange animal. She looked at her father -his face was pale with anger, he had torn off his gloves and was twisting them in his hands. What had she done?

"Now, my dear young lady," the vicar began; but she stopped him.

"Oh, I am sorry, I am so sorry!" she gasped. "I don't know what was the matter with me. Roger, forgive me, I—
There was no vielding on his part.

"I am afraid that your daughter is ill, sir," said the vicar to Walter Thobury. "Overwrought. Perhaps if she was to go home, tomorrow—

"To-morrow?" interrupted the bridegroom, "There will be no wedding tomorrow."

The vicar was really distressed. The bride had buried her face in her hands and was sobbing. What did it mean? What could it mean? No one there had any idea that she was an unwilling bride.—that Walter Thobury, the rich man, should give his daughter to someone to whom she was not willing to go was a thing they never dreamt of.

She went up to Armer.

"Roger, I am so sorry." No relaxing in that hard face of his "Won't you forgive me? Cannot you understand how terrible it is for me to say those words? But I will try to mean them. I will pray for strength to be faithful to that vow. I am sorry."

There was such a world of desperate entreaty in her tones, such a source for what had taken place, such self-abasement and yet he was unmoved.

"You have made an absurd exhibition of yourself," he retorted in equally low tones. "It is simply part of a formal service. Is this your revenge?"

"No, no!" she pleaded. "I did not think of such a thing. Cannot you see how sorry I am? Let us go back; let the service go on."

The vicar looked at the bridegroom; he shrugged his shoulders and walked back into the church—an empty church now—with not one of the smiling faces left.

Once more they stood there, brides maids indignant, friends angry or sneering, the unhappy bride realising the enormity of what she had done, and so the service was continued. How their voices seemed to echo! How hollow it sounded! To love, to honour, to obey. She lifted her eyes towards the window, she looked at the Way, the Truth, the Life, and so looking, she made that vow, and Doris Thobury became Doris Armer.

Something was wrong in the church. The crowd without pushed and tiptoed and stared when at last the doors were opened. Here they were. They were coming out now.

She trembled as she caught sight of that dense crowd, she held tightly to her husband's arm, feeling that otherwise she would fall. A nig crowd but a silent one; no laughter, no cheers, no showering confetti or rice, no good wishes uftered. A silent crowd through which she passed to the car, where the best man, trying hard to appear unconcerned, stood at the open door. Her husband handed her us in silence, in silence they drove off through the throng that stared so curious ly at her.

"Well, Doris,"—how coldly it was said—"I have to thank you for this humiltation. You have succeeded very well." And he smiled grimly—almost threatening. "Ah, well, you are mine now, and I am you master—a master you will soon learn to obey, or I'll know the reason why." He suddenly leaned out of the window and spoke to the chauffeur, and as he sat back again remarked: "After your exhibition, a reception would be a farce, and I've ordered the man to drive straight to our house. I've had enough of public ignominy for one day."

She shuddered at the cold merciless tone of his voice, and shrank back into her corner as far as she could. So they drove on in awful silence until the car turned in at a pair of big sombre iron gates.

"Here we are," said Roger grimly.
"Our home—yours and mine. But I'm its master, remember that. I'll soon teach you obedience once you are inside those walls."

What will happen to Doris now? To keep her wretched bargain, his home must be hers, but will he master her spirit? Next week's instalment answers this, and contains some startling revelations.

IRISH WIT AND HUMOUR.

The other day a little red-faced Irishman approached a post office which had three letter boxes outside. One was labelled "City," another "Domestic," and the third "Foreign." He looked at the three in turn and then, as a puzzled expression crossed his face, scratched his head.

"Faith," he was heard to mutter, "I don't know in which wan to put th' letter. Sume, Katie's a domestic, an' she lives in the city all right, an' she's a furriner, too; but, begobs, how can th' thing go in both of the three holes at wance?"

Pat—"Yez may say wot you please, gintlemen; it's not onywhere ye'll be foindin' braver men nor th' Irish."

Banter—"Come off, Pat; it was only the other day that I made five of them run."

Pat____"Was it ong catching ye they were?"

"Well, Misther McPhelim, how'd ye schlape last night?"

"Ah, bedad, Denny bhad! Unconscious a good dale of the toime."

McGuire---"How did he make all his money?"
Rafferty---"Smoking; he was the great-

est smoker in America."

McGuire—"Dry up, Rafferty, you can't

make money by smoking."
Rafferty—"He did; he smoked hams."

"Yes," said the dentist, "to insure painless extraction you'll have to take gas, and that's fifty cents extra."

"Oh!" said Casey, "I guess the old way'll be best; never mind no gas."
"You're a brave man."

"Oh! it ain't me that's got the tooth; it's my wife Bridget."

"What has became of your niece, Miss Murphy, Mrs O'Raherty?"

"Och, sure an' she's done well wid hersilf. She married a lord."

"Why, you don't tell me! An English lord?"

"No; I don't think he's an English lord. He's a landlord. He kapes a hotel out in Indiana."

When Paddy heard an Englishman speaking of the fine echo at the Lake of Killarney, which repeats the sound torty times, he very promptly observed:

"Faith, that's nothing at all to the echo in my father's garden in the county of Galway. If you say to it, 'How do you do, Paddy Blake?' it will answer, 'Pretty well thank you, sir.'

"Pat, if Mr Jones comes back before I return, tell him that I will meet him at two o'clock."

"Ay, ay, sir; but what will I tell him if he doesn't come?"

"Well, Pat, and how is that bull pup of yours doing?"

"Oh' he's dead! The illigant baste wint an' swallowed tape-measure!"

"Oh, I see! He died by inches, then?"
"No, begorra, he didn't! He wint
round to the back of the house an' died
by the yard!"

An Irishman on being told that the price of bread had fallen, exclaimed: "This is the first time I ever rejoiced at the fail of my best friend."

An Irishman wandering up Mith Avenue saw in the window of a photographer' shop a large photograph of Mephisto. He went inside, and after gazing about the walls, said to the proprietor.

prietor:
"I want to have a pictur taken av meself an' me bruther How much?"

The proprietor named the figure.

"All right," said Pat. "Will you take
to now!"

it now?"
"Where is your brother?" asked the photographer.

"He's in Ireland," was the reply.
"Well, my man," said the photographer, "we can't take his picture unless he is here."

"That's funny," said Pat. "Ye took the pictur av the divil, an' he's down below."

DIGGERS!

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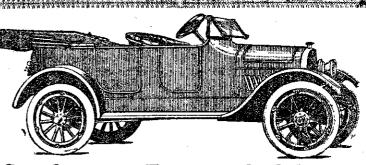
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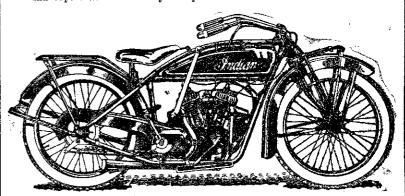
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