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**A Proxy
Father-in-law**
By C. R. LEWIS

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erary Publishers, Inc.

It was reported on the Hon. John
Sharpe that he had put two fads where
other men might have obeyed orders
of railroad lines had a damn.
One of his fads was the P. and G.
road, in which he owned a controlling
interest. He knew every foot of its
roadbed and kept himself posted on all
developments.

His other fad was that his daughter
Edith, having finished her school days,
should instruct herself in the P. and G.
even as he had. If she had been cut
out for an old maid or a business wo-
man she might have obeyed orders im-
pulsively, but as it was she had to assume
an interest she did not feel.

When the civil engineer engaged in
building the bridge over Centipede
creek was called in and Miss Edith
felt that the Hon. John was in high
feather that day. He had secured a
small contract over a rival line and had
built for \$25,000 less than the estimated
expense. He stretched his courtesy to
invite the engineer to dinner and to
ask Miss Edith to play the piano after-
ward.

Then two or three things happened
that did not take cognizance of al-
though he was right a keen and an
observant man.
That he was night Miss Edith began to
take more interest in railroad matters,
especially in the department of bridge
building and Mr. Havens, the engineer,
sent in reports that seemed to neces-
sitate his visiting Chicago much oftener
than he had.

As punctually as the clock the Hon.
John Sharpe took a trip over his line
monthly. Miss Edith had accompanied
him twice before he sudden great in-
terest had come to the surface, and
her enthusiasm over the bridge ap-
proaching trip so pleased him that he
parted her golden hair and feebly
observed:

"You are your own father's daughter,
after all. You will come back better
posted on the end, and of course, at the
end of the summer he wrote to his
daughter, Dick Malloy, commanding his
consent to marry Barbara.
"You're going to marry Barbara,
aren't you?" asked Richard junior, bob-
bing up and down under the ham-
mock where the lovers were sitting
one evening at twilight.
"Or do I am?" exclaimed John,
catching him up successfully.
"What will I be then," queried the
pampered Richard, "your cousin or your
son?"
"Too? Why," said John, laughing,
"you'll be my best man, of course."

friends at college. I hoped to find him
here."
To his astonishment Barbara had
out laughter, revealing two very beau-
tiful dimples, for her growing cheeks.
She recovered herself with evident al-
fort.

of her young partner, Mr. Amidon.
There must be some mistake. You see
this is my only brother, and he said
she liked Richard junior of his first
and then let him down again with a
suddenness that evidently tickled that
young man's fancy.
"Well, it couldn't have been your
father," ventured Amidon.
"At the absurdity of the suggestion
Barbara and John both laughed heartily.
Then Barbara had an idea.
"Why, of course, you mean Cousin
Dick. Are you a Harvard man?"
John nodded. "Ninety-eight," he in-
formed her.

"How stupid of me not to have
thought of that at once!" Barbara ac-
cused herself. "But, you see, '98 is a
pretty long time ago and Dick has been
absolutely never since he left col-
lege."
It was all so clear a ridiculously mixed
up state of affairs—the idea that Cousin
Dick was married and that Richard
junior was his son—that Barbara was
Dick's sister—when in reality, as it
turned out, Dick had no sister; that
most of all, Barbara was
"about thirty"—well, what was she
to do but to laugh and laugh about it?
"But how," suddenly broke out Bar-
bara, "did you happen to find me here
in Mount Vernon? Dick's family live
in New York, you know."
"What part of New York?" asked
John.

"Washington square."
And then followed more explanations
and more laughter.
When Mrs. Malloy returned from
her trip at a luncheon time she found Bar-
bara and John in the midst of an ac-
tive tennis match.
"What's playing with Barbara?" she
questioned Richard junior after several
futile attempts to recognize the young
man.
"A man I brought from the station,"
Richard informed her boastfully.
"Richard, what are you talking about?
What's his name?"
"Barbara will tell you. She likes him
very well," laughing John.
The introduction, with its subsequent
explanations, at least over with Mrs.
Malloy's was all charming hospitality.
"Of course you'll come out and see
us while you're here, Mr. Amidon.
The city is so disagreeable in
winter weather, it's a great privilege
to be able to do anything but sit in
front of the fire."
We're all most fond of him, but
not be given us very little chance to
show it. You will make this your
headquarters, won't you?"
John Amidon had to hold on to his
self good and hard. He was happy
that he feared he would appear
wondering in accepting the invitation.

Of course John Amidon had never
been in love with Barbara. Or could
he decided to spend the whole summer
at the end, and, of course, at the end
of the summer he wrote to his
daughter, Dick Malloy, commanding his
consent to marry Barbara.
"You're going to marry Barbara,
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"you'll be my best man, of course."

The Cruelty of Thoughtlessness.
Most of the cruelty of the world is
thoughtless cruelty. Very few people
would intentionally do to another's
good or make his burden in life heavier
or his pain deeper. Most of the great
heart wounds are inflicted by thought-
less thrusts, stung out often in a mo-
ment of anger, when perhaps we were
trying to help someone or to try to help
the grievous wounds we had made.
Can anything be more cruel than to
disregard a soul who is struggling to
do the best he can, to throw stumbling
blocks in the path of those who are
trying to get on in the world against
great odds?
No life is just the same after you
have once touched it. Will you leave
a ray of hope or one of despair, a flash
of light or a somber cloud across some
dark life each day? Will you by
thoughtless cruelty deepen the shadow
which hangs over the life, or will you
by kindness dispel it altogether? No
matter how you feel or what is dis-
turb your peace of mind, never al-
low yourself to send out a discourag-
ing, a cruel or an unkind word or
thought.—Success Magazine.

A Lost Dime.
A man one day called upon the first
John Jacob Astor with a business
proposal, which was a part of an in-
vestment of \$100,000 on his part. While
listening to the plan he kept groping
about on the floor for something
something he seemed to have dropped.
When the plan had been explained he
said readily: "All right. I'll furnish
the money." At that instant a man
entered to tell him that one of his
buildings had burned down.
"That happens nearly every day,"
he said, with the utmost unconcern,
and went on feeling about with great
care that that something on the carpet.
Finally the visitor was curious enough
to inquire what he had dropped.
"I dropped a dime here a moment
ago," he replied, "and I can't find it.
If a man's buildings burn down they
are gone, and he can't help it, but
man who deliberately throws away 10
cents because he won't take the trouble
to look for it is not to be forgiven.
The more you think over it the more
you will see the good sense in that
piece of philosophy."

About the U. S. Marine Corps.
CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE
Forrest H. Williams, who enlisted in
the "Marine Corps" service at "your
office, that I am a very much pleased
that he passed muster and I have told
him time after time that there was noth-
ing more exciting than for a young
man to serve his country. Please note
this, that before I was 15 years of age,
I enlisted in the U. S. volunteers in
the Civil War serving three years and
eight months; was wounded five times.
I have served the G. A. R. Post here
as Commander down to High Private."

Melbourne Topping, whose mother,
Mrs. Magdalena Topping, lives in
Barrington, was enlisted in the
Marine Corps last December, and is now
doing duty on board the U. S. S.
"Southey."

"The old him she must not see him
any more."
"What did he do?"
"Turned out the light!"

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weights, 25... 29c
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only... 25c
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250 Ladies' Waists and every one of
them a bargain. The lot consists
of special sample and stock gar-
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manufacturer. All single Waists
which we are clearing out. Buyers
will be in getting these at 40c, 60c,
75c, 80c and... \$1.98

**June Values in
Women's Wear**
White Duck Skirts—150 sample
garments, bought at about 50c on the
dollar. Newest styles and cuts at a
fraction. Spring in price. 50c, 50c,
60c and... \$1.50

**Ladies' Linen
Suits.**
Finely Tailored, White Duck Suits; Ja-
cquard Silk embroidery trimmed.
... \$4.98
Stylish Tan and Leather Colored
Linen Suits, very latest, in 57.50
makes we offer at... \$5.97
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for... \$2.98
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Dresses, now on sale at 1 our for-
mer prices. Antifur Dress for
50c, 60c, 75c, 80c and... \$1.00
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Dresses, now on sale at 1 our for-
mer prices. Antifur Dress for
50c, 60c, 75c, 80c and... \$1.00
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Silk and Vandy silk embroidered.
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\$4.50. These are light weight
suits, in greys and blacks. Sizes
34, 35, 37 and 39 only. Hame-
ber the price is... \$4.50
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want and our prices are 15 to 20 per cent lower.

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roll.

DRESS GOODS.
Our big purchase of dress goods has made it possible
to sell cotton goods at **5c, 6c, 7c, 8c** per yard.
Wool Dress Goods for this sale at **35c, 50c, 55c,**
60c per yard.

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For this sale—A special price on all Ladies' and
Childrens shoes.

Do you want a
Talking Machine
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that everybody ought to
have a talking machine
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