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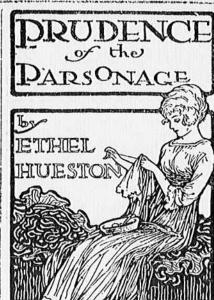
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"I may as well tell you, I supposeyou'll have to know it sooner or later. She-went out into Avery's orchard and stole some apples this afternoon, I was back in the alley seeing if Mrs. Moon could do the washing, and I saw her from the other side. She went from tree to tree, and when she got through the fence she ran. There's no mistake about it-she confessed." The twins looked up in agony, but Prudence's face reassured them. Constance had told no tales. "I have told her she must spend all of her time upstairs alone for a week, taking her meals there, too. She will go to school, of course, but that is all. I want her to see the awfulness of it. I told her I didn't think we wanted to eat with-



a thief-just yet! I said we must get used to the idea of it first. She is heartbroken, but-I must make her

That was the end of supper. No one attempted to eat another bite. After the older girls had gone into the sitting room, Carol and Lark went They asked if they might speak to Constance, but Prudence went in with | aren't you grown up enough : them to say good night to her. The twins broke down and cried as they saw the pitiful little figure with the wan and tear-stained face, They threw their arms around her passionately and kissed her many times. But they went to bed without saying anything. It was a sorry night for the twins,

The next morning they set off to school, with no chance for anything but a brief good morning with Connie —given in the presence of Prudence. Half-way down the parsonnge walk,

Carol said: "Oh, wait a minute, Lark. I left my notebook on the table." And Lark walked slowly while Carol went rushing back. She found Prudence in the kitchen, and whispered:

"Here-here's a note, Prudence, Don't read it until after I've gone to school- at ten o'clock you may read it. Will you promise?"

Prudence laughed a little, but she promised, and laid the note carefully away to wait the appointed hour for its perusal. As the clock struck ten she went to the mantle and took it down. This is what Carol had writ-

Oh, Prudence, do please forgive me, and don't punish Connie any more. You can punish me any way you like, and I'll be glad of it. It was all my fault. I made her go and get the apples for me, and I ate them. Connie didn't eat one of them. She said stolen apples would not taste yery good. It was all my fault and I'm. very good. It was all my fault, and I'm

As Prudence read this her face grew very stern. Carol's fault! At that moment Prudence heard someone running through the hall, and thrust the note hastly into her dress. It was Lark, and she flung herself wildly upon Prudence, sobbing bitterly.

"What is the matter, Lark?" she evied, really frightened. "Are you

"Heartsick, that's all," walled Lark. "I told the teacher I was sick so I could come home, but I'm not. Oh, Prudence, I know you'll despise and abominate me all the rest of your life, and everybody will, and I deserve it. For I stole those apples myself."

Prudence was surprised and puzzled. tobles is too does for these-theseblu drow the note from her pocket

and gave it to Lark, "Carol gave me these men in embryo." that before she went to school," she explained. "Read it, and tell me what Lark was quite restored to amiability you are driving at. I think you are by it. "In embryo" had been added to

Lark read Carol's note, and gasped, with such whole-souled admiration and-burst out laughing! The shame, that Lark's spirit soared among the the bitter weeping, and nervousness, clouds. She had scored!
had rendered her hysterical, and now "And what shall we serve them?"

In time, however, Lark was able to

thought of loyal little Connie, sobbing came to her eyes again. She went quickly to the telephone and called up the school building next door. parsonage.

portant. This is Prudence, her sis-And when Connie came to the trustee." telephone, she cried; "Oh, you blessed dear, sweet, good little darling, brishiv, that's what you are."

"Oh. Prudence!" That was all Connie said, but something in her voice made Prudence hang up the receiver quickly, and cry bitterly!

That neon Prudence pronounced judgment on the sinners, but her eyes twinkled, for Carol and Lark had scolded each other roundly for giving are, bleat, Daldioti, Italian aviator to

twins! In the first place, I right now fisht was two hours and thirty-two abolish the Skull and Crossbones for minutes, ever and ever. And you cannot play The Herrenant says be encountered in the barn again for a month. And the best of weather on the entire you must go over to the Averys this fight. At no time did be run into afternoon and tell them about it, and pay for the apples. And you massed all of your spending money for and steered an admost direct course the next month to that woman who is from New York to Langley field gathering up things for the bad little Baldfoll estimates that he graveled children in the reform school-that 136 miles. The other trailian flyer will help you remember what happens now at Mincoln are expected to reto boys and girls who get in the habit turn to Laugtey field Monday, of taking things on the spur of the mo-,

The twins accepted all of this graclously, except that which referred to confessing their sin to their neighbors.
That did hurt! The twins were so superior, and admirable! They couldn't account of our acts and doings as Experior, and admirable! They couldn't neon two shame-faced sorry girls day will apply for a final discharge crept meekly in at the Avery's door to from our trust as l'accurers. make their peace.

"But about the Skull and Crossbones, it's mostly punishment for me, Prue," than on that date: and all persons said Comie regretfully, "for the twins having claims against said estate will have been in it ever since we came to Mount Mark, and I never got in at all! And I wanted them to call me Lady Mugdalena Featheringale." And Connie sighed.

CHAPTER V.

Lessons in Etiquette.

near the register. The twins were sit- and Liver Confe. Confe ting on the floor near her, hearing each Blue Plag Took, that's other conjugate Latin verbs. And Prudence, with her darning basket, was table aromatic table. armestly trying to get three pairs of wearable stockings out of eleven hosiery remnants. So Fairy found them is she came in, radiant and glowing.

"Glorious day," she said, glancing impartially at her sisters. "Just gloabout their work with stricken faces. Flows! Connie, you should be out of doors this minute, by all means, Twins, chairs, or won't your footies reach the floor?- Babbie, Eugene Babler, you -is coming to spend the evening.

The whole family came to attention at this.

"Oh. goody!" cried Connie. "Let's make taffy."

"Yes," agreed Carol with enthusiasm-Carol was always enthusiastic on the subject of something to eat. Yes, and what else shall we have?"

"You will likely have pleasant freams, Carol," was the cool retort. You twins and Connie will not put in appearance at all. Prue will serve the refreshments, and will eat with us. Babble and I shall spend the evening in the front room."

"The front room?" echoed Prudence, "This room is much cheerier, and more homelike."

"Well, Babbie isn't a member of the family, you know," said Fairy, "You are doing your best," sniffed Carol.

"Now you girls must understand right off that things are different here from what they were at Exminster. The proper thing is to receive callers privately, without the family en masse sitting by and superintending. That's etiquette, you know. And one must always serve refreshments. More etiquette. Men are such greedy animals, they do not care to go places where the eats aren't forthcoming."

"Men! Are you referring to this Babbling creature now?" interposed Carol.

"Ouch!" said Lark.

"But won't it be rather-poky-just sitting in the front room by yourselves all evening?" asked Prudence doubtfully, ignoring the offended twins.

"Oh, I dare say it will. But it's the proper thing to do," said Fairy "Wouldnt' it be more fun to have

the girls in for a little while?" per-

sisted Prudence. "Oh, it might-but it wouldn't be the proper thing at all. College men do not care to be entertained by bables," "No," scapped Lark, "the wisdom of

This was so exquisitely said that both crazy. Or maybe you are just her vocabulary that very day in the trying to shield poor Connie." biology class. And Carol said "Ouch!" that Lark's spirit soared among the

she laughed and cried until Prudence urged Prudence. "I suppose it would was alarmed again. urged Prudence. "I suppose it would hardly do to—pop corn, would it?"

"Ne, indeed. This is the first time explain. "We both did it," she gasped, and we must do something extra. Bab-"the Skull and Crossbo.es. And we both told the truth about it."

Prudence laughed. But when she I have cut everybody else out."

he school building next door to the fun. He's always joking and never has a sensible thought, and hates "May I speak to Constance Starr, study. The only reason he came here Mr. Imes?" she asked, "It is very im- instead of going to a big college in the East is because his father is a

"Well, we'll serve oyster stew then, little child, why didn't you tell me? Now, will you twins run downtown Will you forgive me, Connie? You're for the oysters?" asked Prudence

"Who? Us?" demanded Lark, indig nantly and ungranematically. "Do you To be Centinued.

TWO MILES A MINUTE

MADE BY AVIATOR a little better taan two miles a min-"Connie should have refused to obey you." she said gently, holding Connie in her arms, "But she has been pun." day in a Pomillo markine reached Landley ayiallou field near Hampton at 2:58 o'clock this afternoon, Baldleif shed more than enough. But you announced that his official time on the

bear to ruin their reputations. But coators of the estate of William P. Prudence stood firm in sails of their Pasterson, deceased, in the office of Prudence stood firm, in spite of their the Judge of Probate of Laurens coun-weeping and wailing. And that after ty, at 11 o'cleck, a. m. and on the same

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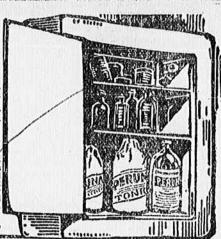
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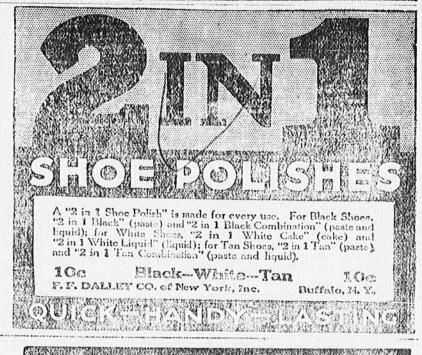
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