

ay, where the sound of Maria's voice
 the gravel outside the window, the
 who of the corresponding knock, the rattle
 of her contemplated rescue.
 And now there is a little quickness
 through the hall, a springing up the
 staircase, the rustle of silk skirts in
 the ante-room beyond, a voice that makes
 you start eagerly in her seat, and presen-
 tly Mrs. Peyton, looking surprised, and
 happy, and—there, charming,—flings
 herself into her sister's arms.
 "You mean to propose to me, don't you?"
 Mrs. Peyton, beaming on her from out
 of the masses of iron that she has so faintly
 done. "I have come here for you, to help
 you with a winter party that is to come
 off to-night; so come we find—Oh, being
 so close to you, I feel that I shall not
 be able to do so."

[illegible]

is published.

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"Well, I ain't saying you run after me, Melinda," replied the old man, "but that don't prove nothing now. I reckon the trap here runs after the mouse instead of some other way." "You're right in that," said the lady.

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