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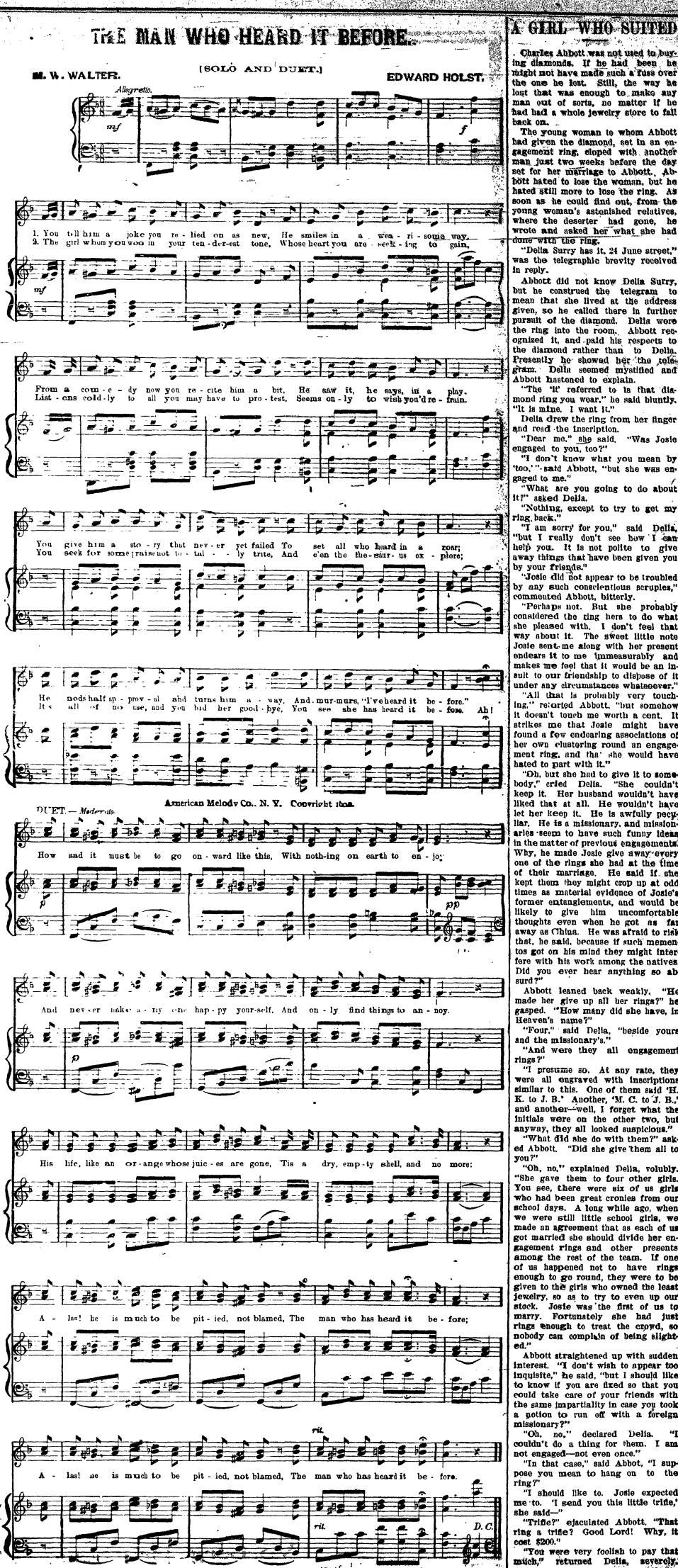
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Charles Abbott was not used to buying diamonds. If he had been he might not have made such a fuss over the one he lost. Still, the way he lost that was enough to make any man out of sorts, no matter if he had had a whole jewelry store to fall back on.

The young woman to whom Abbott had given the diamond, set in an ensagement ring, cloped with another man just two weeks before the day set for her marriage to Abbott, Abbott hated to lose the woman, but he hated still more to lose the ring. As soon as he could find out, from the young woman's astonished relatives, where the deserter had gone, he wrote and asked her what she had done with the ring.

"Della Surry has it, 24 June street," was the telegraphic brevity received

in reply. Abbott did not know Della Surry. but he construed the telegram to mean that she lived at the address given, so he called there in further pursuit of the diamond. Delia wore the ring into the room. Abbott recognized it, and paid his respects to the diamond rather than to Delia. Presently he showed her the tele gram. Delia seemed mystified and Abbott hastened to explain.

"The 'it' referred to is that dismond ring you wear," he said bluntly, "It is mine. I want it."

Delia drew the ring from her finger and read the inscription.

"Dear me," she said, "Was Josie engaged to you, too?" "I don't know what you mean by

too," said Abbott, "but she was engaged to me." "What are you going to do about

it?" asked Delia. "Nothing, except to try to get my ing, back."

"I am sorry for you," said Delia. 'but I really don't see bow I can help you. It is not polite to give away things that have been given you by your friends."

"Josie did not appear to be troubled by any such conscientious scruples," commented Abbott, bitterly.

"Perhaps not. But she probably considered the ring hers to do what she pleased with. I don't feel that way about it. The sweet little note Josie sent me along with her present endears it to me immeasurably and makes me feel that it would be an insult to our friendship to dispose of it under any circumstances whatsoever." "All that is probably very touch-

ing," retorted Abbott, "but somehow it doesn't touch me worth a cent, It strikes me that Josie might have found a few endearing associations of her own clustering round an engagement ring, and that she would have me. It will take me only a little hated to part with it."

"Oh, but she had to give it to some-

ody," cried Delia. "She couldn" keep it. Her husband wouldn't have liked that at all. He wouldn't have let her keep it. He is awfully peculiar. He is a missionary, and missionarles seem to have such funny ideas in the matter of previous engagements. Why, he made Josie give away every one of the rings she had at the time of their marriage. He said if she kent them they might crop up at odd times as material evidence of Josie's former entanglements, and would be likely to give him uncomfortable thoughts even when he got as far away as China. He was afraid to risk that, he said, because if such mementos got on his mind they might interfere with his work among the natives, see the ring occasionally." Did you ever hear anything so ab-

Abbott leaned back weakly, "He made her give up all her rings?" he gasped. "How many did she have, in | of the ring on the following Wednes-Heaven's name?" "Four," said Delia, "beside yours

and the missionary's." "And were they all engagement

rings?"

"I presume so. At any rate, they were all engraved with inscriptions similar to this. One of them said 'H. K. to J. B. Another, M. C. to J. B., and another-well, I forget what the anyway, they all looked suspicious."

"What did she do with them?" asked Abbott. "Did she give them all to

"Oh. no." explained Delia, volubly. 'She gave them to four other girls. You see, there were six of us girls who had been great cronies from our school days. A long while ago, when we were still little school girls, we made an agreement that as each of us but I am head and ears in love with got married she should divide her engagement rings and other presents among the rest of the team. If one of us happened not to have rings enough to go round, they were to be given to the girls who owned the least jewelry, so as to try to even up our stock. Josie was the first of us to marry. Fortunately she had just rings enough to treat the crowd, so nobody can complain of being slight-

Abbott straightened up with sudden interest. "I don't wish to appear too inquisite," he said, "but I should like to know if you are fixed so that you could take care of your friends with the same impartiality in case you took a notion to run off with a foreign missionary?"

"Oh. no," declared Delia. couldn't do a thing for them. I am not engaged-not even once." "In that case." said Abbot, "I sup-

ring?" "I should like to. Josie expected me to. 'I send you this little trifle,'

she said--" "Trifie?" ejaculated Abbott, "That ring a trifle? Good Lord! Why. it

cost \$200." "You were very foolish to pay that

returned Delia, severely.

"Ose hundred dellars is as non any man ought to pay for an event ment ring, no matter how money he has, and then, I the girl runs away with another man he won't be out such a tremendous amount. Josie evidently did not realize her suppose for may at the extravagant you had been, because her a maybody. Suma it will that is just what she said. I send you New York Times. this little trifle, she said, and hope you will treasure it and think of me lovingly.' And I am sure, Mr. Ab-

bott," added Della, tearfully, "that to Dipheneria Culture Die Masyou couldn't expect me to give up the ring after that It wouldn't be right. In the experience of Dr. It would be unkind of you to ask it. Gehrmann, of the Columbus i It is the only thing I have to remoreber the dear girl by."

going to remember her by?" "Ah, but you have your broken for Gedrinand was speaking of the

heart," said Delia, consolingly. "Quite true," assented Abbott, sav- any kind, and failing to recall one

very well with that." "Why shouldn't you?" said Della recalled where wherein a class in the "All the rest of the men are going to College of Physicians and Surgeon make that, do. At any rate, they an softhat ordinarily would be claused haven't asked for their rings. You as suicisal was made simply a sunt are the first man I ever knew who for laughter that the audient of raised such a row over a little matter might become the victim of an art of this kind,"

"Somebody has to establish a precedent," growled Abbott. "It may as pactular morning a specimen of diphwell be me as anybody. Besides, I therth was passed down the line in a need the ring. I'll be getting engaged oup with a small brush in it. In order again myself some day before long, that the sludents might put a touch and it will come in handy, \*\*

Men are very fickle," she said. "I particular student, who seemed to am glad I am not a man. I am athlice have been marked for an Arlsons. I should be as vaciliating as the rest graveyers, mistook the purpose of the of them, I am disappointed in you, jour and brush. When it was passed Somehow I had fancied you were toing to make yourself very unhappy the freatment of the disease, and deabout Josle for a long time. I am siring to feel the effect, he took the sorry you expect to engage rourself to some one else so soon."

"Out if it is my unhappiness you are working for, I may possibly salefy you by achieving more misery through the latter process than by burying myself in grief for faithless peated and ap horrible that the class Josie," Abbott-replied.

"But I don't want you to be unhappy." protested Delia. "That is one reason I don't want you to get engaged again. You will be sure to make a mess of it. I don't want you to do that. I take quite an interest in you and would like to see you do well the next time you make an attempt at matrimony. I want to help you, and in order that I may promote your general welfare I promise to give you back your ring on one condition. As soon as you find a young woman to whom you would like to engage yourself, please let me know, so that I may make a study of her and let you know what kind of a girl she is. I am a good judge of girls. They can't fool will not give you your firm you will either have to give up the

girl or buy another ring," Abbott combitted that suggestion with spirit; he really wanted his dismond and felt strongly, inclined to threaten Delia with the process of the law if she did not restore it peacembly. She, however, supported her point of view with many ingenious arguments, and he finally agreed to her propoli-

. "But I do not wish to lose sight of the ring pending my engagement. he stipulated. "Considering that it is to be mine again at no very remote date. I wish to keep track of it. I would like you to arrange matters so I could:

"We can fix that easily," said Dolla. "You may call here once a week and make sure that the ring is all right." examine it at lessening intervals,

told Delia at last. "Are—are you going to gaged?" she asked faintly.

"I hope so," said Abbott, "It won't del before it reaches the petient, be my fault if I don't. I am going to ask the girl to have me."

"Remember our agreement," initials were on the other two, but said. "You had better let me see her woulte the doors and attached to the first, so I can tell you, before you commit yourself, whether she is the right kind."

Abbott strutted across the room conceitedly. "I mean no disrespect to your wisdom," he said, "but I really think I can dispense with your advice. I know the girl well, and she suits me clear down to the ground. She is an awfully funny girl, it is true, her, just the same."

"Funny?" echoed Delia. "In what way is she funny?"

"Oh, she is so very independent, And then she has such queer notions as to what constitutes loyalty to one's friends. As an illustration of her peculiar ideas in that respect, I will tell you of one characteristic thing she did recently. Several months ago a girl friend of hers cloped and gave her as a keepsake a diamond ring which had been given the runaway by one young man out of the half dozen to whom she happened to be engaged at the time of the clopement. Now, that young man set considerable store by that ring and used his most persuasive arguments on the girl I am in love with, hoping to induce her to restore it to him, but she contended that by so doing she would be showing herself false to her friend, and refused to give it up, except on the most absurd conditions imaginable. But—oh, well, what's the use to assist his memory and assure prefinish the story? What do you think cision. In course of time it happened of a girl who would do that? Could that his sged father died. The you would like her?"

"I-I'm afraid not," said Delia, "I think she must be horrida: . . "She is," said Abbott: "perfectly so I assure you, Nevertheless I want

are bound to make no mateur whom you it

PRECISTINED TO BULLE

to let letero in been at lease. man under his observation who "That is more I than I've got," said to die ber a builet. he been immune Abbott. "What do you suppose | and to the germ of diphtheria under most

eggravated discumstances infrequency of inhoratory infection of agely. "I suppose I ought to get along instance of such intection where had occurred in laboratory work. roug bullet several years later.

Before a class in the school on that of the matter upon slides for micro-Della looked at him reproachfully, scople examination of the germs. This to blue thinking it was a wash in brush opened his mouth wide and swabbed his throat vigorously.

We sot him out in a minute and divorted thin selected the touch rost said Dr. Gebruahn. "The whole performance had been so unext was glampeded for a moment. As for the student he was a big husky for low, and no was loss concerned them most of use. Well, the infectious matfor didn't (save him. There were no consequences following it, and the boy went the even and uneven temor of soloni -life to the point of stadustion. Then he took to the even and uneven tenor of life in Arlsons, and in a mix-up with a native a law months later he was shot and killed.

"It doesn't prove anything, of course," midmis the ductor. "It leaves he will accomplish we as sinals pand been guessing, over the question and the possibilities of predectination. But at Tout this example that I bave. moken of it made the stronger from the fact that the man excaped diplewhile to find out whether she is suit therisand ded by a bullet. To secape ed to you or not. If I think she is a bullet mild die by diputheria would not have seemed half so significant." -Chicago Tribune.

AIR MADE TO ORDER.

Science Able to Adapt It to the Particular Hequirements.
In view of the increasing attention phic to the treatment of communities the realisation of the ravages of the "white death" and the success for lowing the experiments in the "open r's ourse-it is of interest to note that where it is impossible to remove the patient to the mountains mount thin air can be brought to the cities. There is an London an institution called the Oxygen Hospital, which has appoint arrangements for the cure of tiabergualogie, ulcors, lubus, wounds. etc. Oubledes are constructed, six and one-half feet long, four feet wide and mix feet high and elevated on blocks Abbott began his joint guardianship about a foot above the floor, and in these compartments consumptives day. For six months he continued to may sleep and spend the greater part of their time in an atmosphere arti-"I think I shall need my ring," he I doubly admited to their necessition. The cubicles are provided with a solentific mechanism by which the sir is dried, Blered, osoulsed and rare-The valls of the compartments are

of wood and plate glass and the doors she are air tight; closing with a foint. Onwood is the small chamber where the all is treated. The outer air, when drawn by a ventilating shaft into the chamber, is filtered through layers of cotton wool to remove all impurities; it is then dried by being passed through perforated trays charged with chloride of calcium and finally ozonized by means of an Andriolis tube. which is called into action for Ive minutes in each quarter of an hour by automatic clockwork. Above the doors is a square chamber containing the exhaust isn and there is a ventilating shaft leading therefrom through the roof of the hospital. As the out-Dut is regulated so as to exceed the inlet, the atmospheric pressure with in the cubicle is somewhat reduced and the sir is rarefled.

The patient spends some sixteen out of every twenty-four hours in his cubicle, and it is said that inmend of being cramped by his narrow surroundings he is unwilling to leave them, as he finds it much easier to breathe there and correspondingly difficult outside. The cubicle after the initial expense of construction has been co vered at the London ourgen hospital, for instance, cost about twenty-five cents a day each in chem cals.—Inventive Age.

Slave to Method A medical specialist was very much in the habit of using a notebook b you recommend her? Do you think thy doctor axiended the observice as chief mourner with due so At the close he was observed a last oral life indexessor and taperelly to see any life in the last of the last of