

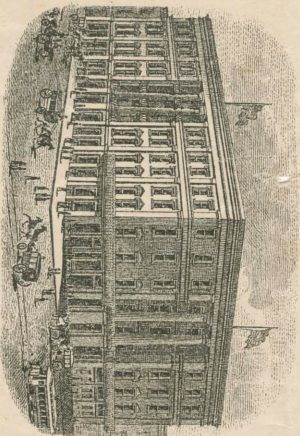
NELL

IN

EDITHA'S BURGLAR.

Thank heaven I am home at last. The reception was unusually dull without Herbert, Dear Herbert I suppose he is safe at his journey's end by this time. I wonder if Editha has returned from the children's party. I suppose so & that she is fast asleep by this time.

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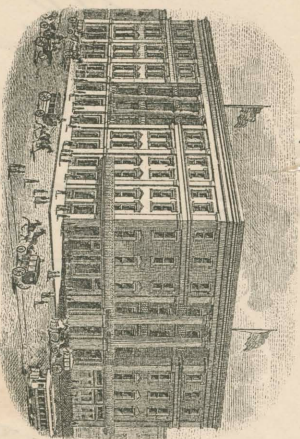
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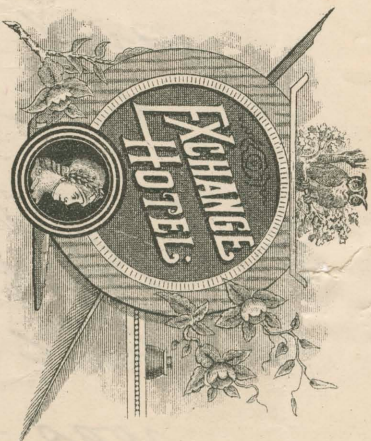
Montgomery Ala _____ 189__

1
Ah Editha! Editha my darling! Can I
ever reveal to her the history of her
shameful parentage? Who in this great
world of fashion, that pets and caresses
my darling Editha, would dream that
she is the daughter of Will Lewis, the
notorious thief and burglar, who was shot
and killed while attempting to escape
from prison. After his death I again met
my first sweetheart Herbert Winslow—
He who loved me since childhood. Ah
had I only known what a villain Lewis
was—I would never have laughed at

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(2)

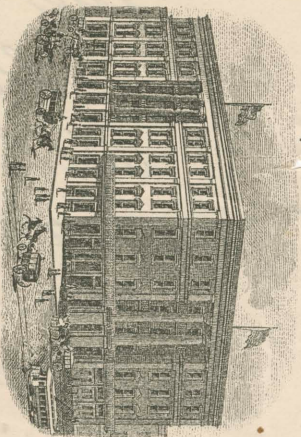
the love of the man who is now my
noble hearted husband. - Yet poor Will
with all his villainy loved our dear
little Editha. - Thank heaven all that
shame and misery is left behind, and only
the humiliation of sometime telling my
Editha that Herbert is not her father,
remains. - Editha!

Yes Mama.

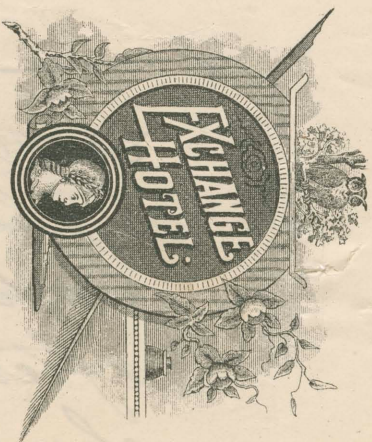
~~Cover yourself up well my dear, the
night is cold and stormy. - May Angels
keep thee from harm. - Ah perhaps
after all it will be best that the child
should never know. (Buc.)~~

Mama!

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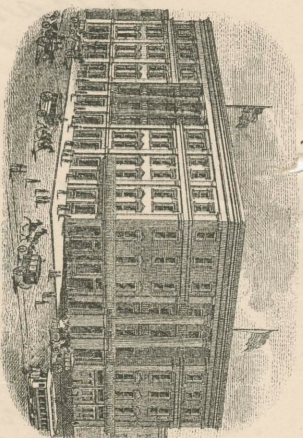
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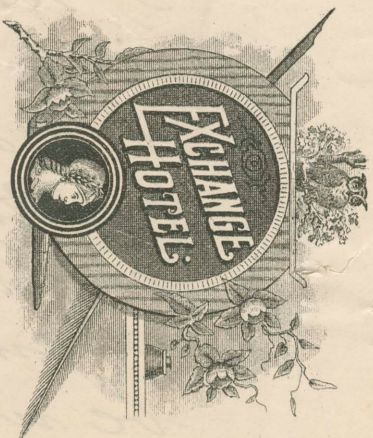
* What, Editha, my darling, not in bed yet?
I'm afraid these parties and late hours
are too much for you. Come, sit down
here ~~by the fire~~ while I cover you up
warm and cosy, and then scold myself
for neglect of duty. (bus.)

with you Mama.
I know that my darling, but I'm afraid
it is not good for your health. "Early to
bed and early to rise, makes a man
healthy, wealthy, and wise." You know those
are the cardinal virtues of the nursery
rhymes. But your governess will soon
be with you and take ^{part} this great respon-
sibility off my hands.

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— her very much.

I am really getting jealous of her, do you love her better than me?

— in all the world.

My darling.

— such nice stories.

What kind of stories?

— and - and burglars.

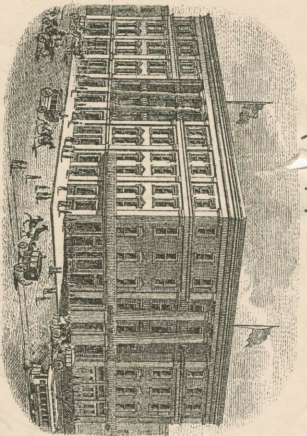
Burglars! That is rather a strange subject to choose from to tell such a little girl.

— any good burglars?

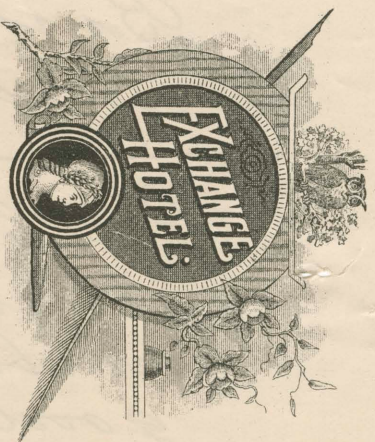
Well my dear, my acquaintance with them is rather limited, but I don't think they are overburdened with any great amount of goodness.

— would you do?

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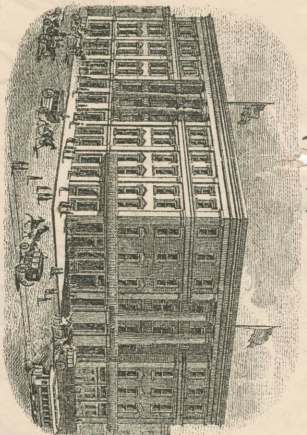
* I would remain very quiet and do nothing
that would disturb him. But you need
never fear, ^{for they won't harm little girls now here} for burglars never come where
they see lights, or where there are watch
dogs, and old Ponto is a very faithful
animal, but come let us dismiss this
gloomy subject, and you run off to bed.

I'm afraid. ^{me and my to bed}
Afraid of what my dear?

of burglars.—

Why my dear burglars don't harm little
girls, besides, no respectable burglar would
be caught out a night like this. And
now my darling, a good night kiss and my
little girl must go to bed. (bur.) Strange

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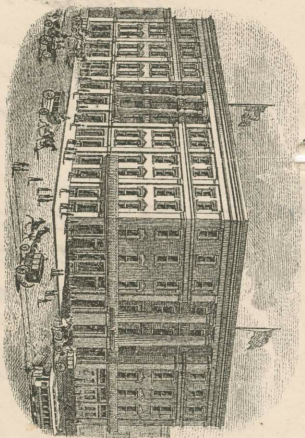
this mood of mine tonight. I have (6)
been thinking of Will Lewis all day - strange
that she, his child should speak of burglars,
and on this very night too, the anniversary
of his death. Pshaw, what is there to fear?
Should anything happen to me, Herbert
loves the child so dearly, that she would
be safe enough - safe enough. (bus & exit.)

will not tell her.
(enter & call) Editha - (bus.) Go to your
room Editha, go at once (bus) You see, sir
I am ~~unarmed~~. Well sir (Returns)
~~Tell Lewis!~~

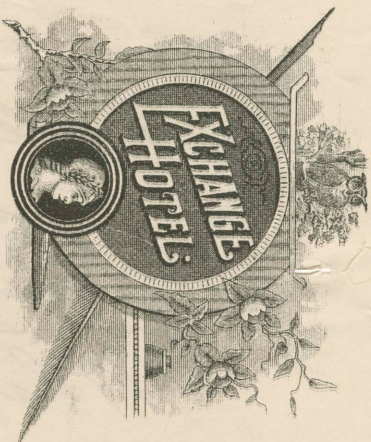
What! Will Lewis alive!

yes alive.

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My God, what have I done to deserve this⁽⁺⁾
punishment?

— do you mean?

Is it no punishment to find all my hopes
of happiness here and hereafter blasted.

But God knows, had I not thought you were
dead, I would never have married again.

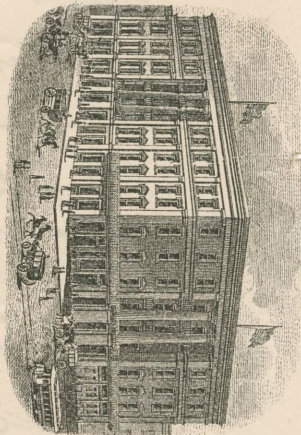
— married?

You could never believe, knowing me as
you do, that I should be in this house,
other than as the wife of Herbert Winslow?

— Winslow's wife!

And now, not content with the first
miseries you have made me endure, you
come here to rob me of my darling Editha
and take her from all she loves.

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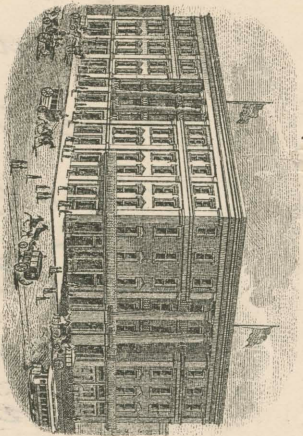


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— were friends once.

Yes we were friends. More - I loved you once, loved you with all the depth of a woman's heart. I gave you all a woman could give Truth, love, and honor; and what did you give me in return? Deceit, abuse, and degradation. Deserted me and our child, left me to starve in the streets, peniless, alone and dying. It was thus Herbert Winslow found me, placed me with kind friends who nursed me back to life and hope. Is it any wonder that I learned to love the true and noble hand that had saved me, had saved my darling child from a pauper's grave? Is it any

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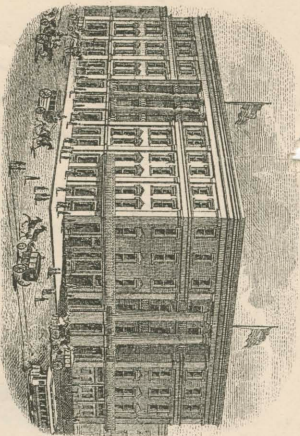
wonder that, when we all believed you^(I)
had been killed in trying to escape from
prison, that I married him? — And now
you come, not only bringing shame upon
me and making me a criminal in the
sight of man, ~~though God knows I am~~
~~innocent~~, but trying to steal away my
darling baby!

————— as that Nell —
Then you will not ^{try} take her from me?

————— am your father.
Then you have not told her?

————— be the wiser —
Oh Will, forgive me for having doubted
you. Had you always been as noble as
your heart dictated, how different all

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might have been. If you would only ¹⁰ reform.

_____ a thief.
Oh Will! Will!

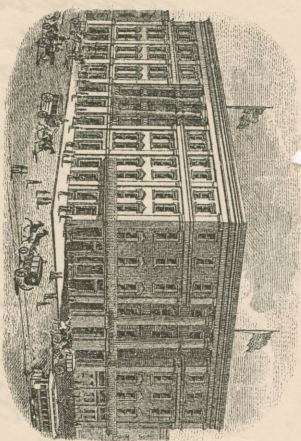
_____ may I see her?
Yes you shall see her, but what proof
have I against treachery?

_____ (bus.)
You shall see her. (calls) Editha! Editha!

_____ yes mamma.
Editha this gentleman wishes to speak
to you. He is an old friend of Mamas.

_____ after all?
Only that he wished to steal a part of
your heart Editha, which I am sure he is

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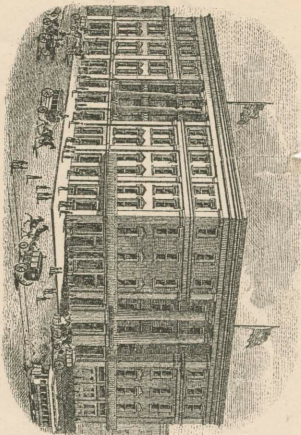
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welcome to darling —

(bus. till Burtani)

(11)

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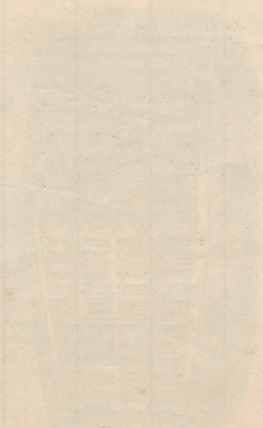


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*Admission to building -
(from till entrance)*

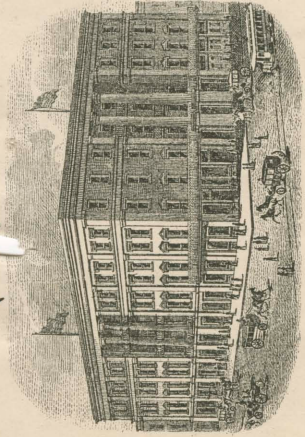


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