d interrupted me and said only $85."

"Was that so terrible, I'd like to know?" wife asked, not in the best humor, for, e many others, she didn't like to dis- ss her faults.

"It was nothing terrible," returned Jo- h, "but very annoying to me. When I d my wheel cost $90, I meant it, for at was its price, and your remark was called for. The moment you spoke a ile passed around the company, and I t as though they regarded me a common aster.

"Then, again, during the evening you rrected me when there was no occasion It was when I was telling Mrs. Dan- s about my horse running away. I said ran nearly a mile before I could stop m, but you instantly assured the com- ny that it wasn't over half a mile."

"Indeed I cannot see anything so bad out it, anyway," she answered. "You e forever accusing me of my faults."

"Now, Marian, dear," he said, drawing s chair close to her and fondly caressing r golden head, "will you promise to ver again correct me in company and ound my feelings as you have tonight?"

Mrs. Hodges made no decided promise, t she resolved to do the best she could, d here the matter rested for the present.

One night two weeks later Mr. Hodges ve a party at his own house. After sup- r the company gathered around the fire discuss the topics of the day.

The American-Spanish war had just ded, and, owing to its duration, the untry was in a deplorable condition and siness depression was great.

"Hodges," said one of the visitors, a ted silk dealer named Edmunds, "how es Thomas get along now?"

"Oh, fine!" returned Hodges. "He is ining money now."

This Thomas was Mrs. Hodges' brother d one whom she loved dearly.

"Glad of that," said Edmunds. "I ared he would have trouble getting paid r those goods he sent out west."

"No, there's no fear of Jim Thomas sing money," returned Hodges.

"Why, Joseph," interrupted his wife, don't you remember he told us the other ight"—here Hodges cast a quick glance t his wife, but she would not notice it, r she must correct her husband's mis- ke—"he said he feared he wouldn't get is pay for the goods sent to Thurston & o., and, oh, dear, I hope he won't lose all hat, for it would ruin him!"

"Oh, Marian, you don't understand this natter," said her husband. "Jim stands ll right with the western firm."

"Well, I guess I know," quickly retort- d his wife, "for I heard him tell about , and if I was Jim I'd have no more to o with such people."

Joseph Hodges could say no more. His ace showed his feelings as he cast mean- ng glances toward his wife.

About 10 o'clock the following evening s Mr. and Mrs. Hodges were thinking of etiring the door opened and Jim Thomas ntered.

"For heaven's sake, Jim, what's the natter?" cried Mrs. Hodges, perceiving is deathlike countenance.

"I am ruined," he said; "yes, a ruined

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