

"A Soul Above Potatoes"

By PAUL HAMILTON

"You'll stay in Clifton, won't you, Harney?"

Mrs. Ross looked all motherly anxiety as she addressed her son. With them on the garden seat was Harney's sweetheart, Alma Reeves, whose bright, pretty face reflected the solitude of the older woman.

The son and lover affected quite a lordly air. A week previous his uncle, Mark Leaton, dying, had bequeathed him a neat sum in money and a grocery store he owned in the village. "Tell you," pronounced the young man, almost grandly, "I've got a soul above potatoes."

"But, Harney, dear," intervened Alma, "you know how pleased you were at first with the idea of being your own master and running a business for yourself."

"That's all right," acknowledged the ambitious favorite of fortune, "but I've met my old chum since then. You know Ned Dallas came down to see me when he learned of my big luck. Well, he's a clerk in a broker's office and he says that with his experience of the money market, if I will supply the capital, he will go into partnership with me and will make a regular Napoleon of finance of me."

Before leaving Harney made an arrangement with Warren Doane, an old clerk in a local store, to place him in charge of the one he had inherited on a basis of equal division of profits. The day after Harney's departure Mr. Doane called at the Ross home.

"I am going to surprise Harney," he told Mrs. Ross, who was an old friend. "He has agreed to let me have full swing with advertising and specialty wrinkles and I am going to build up a grand trade. Alma, I shall need some one to take charge of the cashier's desk. Can I count on you?" and Alma acquiesced in the arrangement and the enterprise started out under most promising auspices.

The young adventurer across the sheets of finance wrote almost daily the first month of his absence. He was all anticipation, ambition, enthusiasm. Then he became less effusive in his epistles and during the second month of his absence only two brief letters reached home.

"We must not expect too much attention from the poor boy, immersed as he is in business cares," Mrs. Ross told Alma, who, in her faith and innocence, pictured "the poor boy" handling the monetary destinies of nations. The meager "All well—love to all," about compressed the substance of subsequent letters from Harney. Meanwhile, Alma and Mr. Doane begrudged no thought or care that would tend to place the despised grocery business upon a firm and growing basis and keep it there. The idea that she was doing something that benefited the business interests of her lover kept Alma animated and glad. How she worked, and planned, and hoped! She had, however, received an inkling from something she overheard between two local business men that Harney "was cutting a wide swath in the city," making daring speculative investments and going beyond his depth.

It was one Saturday night and Mr. Doane had closed the store an hour earlier than usual on account of a rain storm, and Alma had decided to remain for an hour or so and balance the books and was engrossed at her task when the knob of the store door rattled, and then there was a quick, sharp tapping on its glass panel. Alma could make out the visitor against the glare of the street lamp. It was Harney Ross and she uttered a cry of joy as, unlocking the door, she led him into her shelter and clung to his arm, uttering fervent words of welcome. Then as he came within the radius of the desk lamp her heart smote her.

"I've tramped it from the trolley, Alma," he said. "I ran out of money and I'm about famished. You've got a neat and inviting layout here," and he went over to a counter which held a tempting array of cheeses, dried beef, boiled ham and some pickle relishes, on the way drawing a liberal handful from the cracker box, and set about eating with an enjoyment that both gratified and saddened Alma, for this returning lover of hers dreadfully suggested the penitent prodigal.

"This is sure a land of plenty," said Harney, with a sigh of satisfaction as he completed a lunch sufficient for two men. "Alma, I've come back with nothing but a hard, costly lesson learned. Those city sharks took my money away from me so easy, I wonder how they did it. I'm through as a financial Napoleon. I'm glad to creep home, humble and glad to come back to the store, and mother—and you."

"And, oh! Harney," jubilated Alma, "such a business the store has done! You poor boy, indeed! How welcome you are!"

"I had a soul above potatoes, you know?" observed Harney with mournful retrospection. "Well, if the flat upstairs is still vacant—"

"Yes, it is, Harney," nodded Alma. "Then it's a quiet wedding as soon as you can get ready. And, after what I've gone through, it will be paradise to settle down in the cozy, modest little home."

"Even if it is right over the potatoes!" laughed Alma, bestowing a kiss that to Harney Ross was more precious than all the money he had lost.

LIBRARIANS JOIN FIGHT ON UNREST

American Library Association inaugurates Nation-wide "Books for Everybody!" Movement.

WILL AID FOREIGN BORN.

Social Problems Can Be Solved by Teaching American Ideals and Traditions.

The spirit of unrest that has been sweeping the country indicates that the foreign born, who have flocked to the United States from every corner of the globe have not been given the proper help and encouragement, in the opinion of the 4,000 librarians who make up the American Library Association and who are now enlisted in a "Books for Everybody" movement. The effort is a concerted movement to carry out the Enlarged Program which the association has adopted.

There are approximately fifteen millions of foreign born in the United States and of this number six millions do not read or speak the English language. One phase of the Enlarged Program will be to bring the publisher and translator together with the view of furnishing the proper books in sufficient numbers to carry the message of American ideals and traditions to this vast army of unformed people. They have been largely dependent upon the foreign press for their written messages. Many men who live with their fingers on the pulse of current events are firmly convinced that a sound foundation in Americanism can be easily built among the foreign born if the proper literature is placed within their reach in a language they can understand.

No Drive to Be Held.
In order to carry out the Enlarged Program two million dollars will be required. This money will not be sought through the medium of a campaign or an intensive drive, but will be obtained through the individual efforts of the librarians, library trustees and friends of libraries. The American Library Association will bend every effort to bring about the nation-wide adoption of each of the cardinal points in the Program, which includes the extension of the county library system and the establishment of more industrial and business libraries. It now has in operation book service to the United States Merchant Marine, Coast Guard, Lighthouse Service and hospitals of the United States Public Health Service. The needs of the 75,000 blind persons in the United States will be cared for. At present the number of books available is woefully inadequate. This will be remedied and the joys of good literature will be brought into lives that are darkened by a veil which will never be raised by any other method.

Not all the work of Americanization lies in the great centers of population. Great sections of the country where industry is carried on by foreign workers do not know public library service. There are important mining states where less than a score of libraries exist. One mining state has but two public libraries.

MORE BOOKS FOR BLIND.
American Library Association Behind Movement to Bring Good Literature to Those Who Walk in the Dark.

There are between 75,000 and 80,000 blind people in the United States. The supply of books in the recently adopted uniform Braille type for their use is inadequate, there being less than 100 titles existing in that print. The American Library Association has included in the project of its Enlarged Program the resolve to aid in printing and distributing additional volumes. It has already succeeded in inducing several well-known authors to Braille the leading of one or more of their books. In inaugurating its "Books for Everybody!" movement a fund of \$2,000,000 will be raised to carry out the provisions of the Program, the money to be obtained not by a campaign or drive, but through the efforts of the librarians, library trustees and friends of libraries.

GOOD BOOKS AT ALL CROSSROADS

American Library Association Urges Adoption of County Library System.

IDEA PROVES SUCCESSFUL.

California, the Pioneer—Other States Adopting the Plan.

The American Library Association, in announcing its "Books for Everybody" movement, which is to be nation wide in its scope, advises and urges the extension of the county library system as a solution of the problem of supplying good literature to the rural districts. Its intention is to persist in advocating the nation-wide adoption of the idea as successfully applied in California, Ohio and Maryland until every one of the 2,904 counties in the nation have adopted the system and regular shipments of good books are being made from the central point in the county to the designated outposts. California stands out as the high point in the successful application of the idea. Of the 58 counties in the state 42 have adopted and are supporting the system at a trifling cost. This it urges as a part of its enlarged program which aims to promote a better citizenship and to combat the social and industrial unrest through the teaching of American ideals and traditions to the foreign born.

The book needs of the sixty million or more Americans who live outside of the big cities will be called to the attention of those in a position to serve them.

County Libraries Urged.
The county library system provides for establishing one central library at the county seat or in the largest town in every county. This does not mean necessarily the erecting of a library building and the stocking of its shelves. In many cases the tools already exist. From this central station books will be loaned to designated outpost stations. The books will be delivered by trucks, parcel post or whatever method may be adopted in any given county to the country stores, tollgates, post offices, schoolhouses and private homes. When one shipment has been circulated and returned another will be sent out. Also, in communities of any size in the county, branch libraries will be maintained.

The American Library Association, with its 4,000 active librarian members and its 40 years of practical functioning, is in a position to know the needs of the country and in the fight for wider knowledge is a force to be reckoned with.

The Enlarged Program calls for an expenditure of \$2,000,000. There will be no drive or intensive campaign. The money will be raised by the librarians, library trustees and friends of libraries. The movement for better citizens and a well read population is on and the slogan is "Books for Everybody."

"BOOKS FOR EVERYBODY!"
Four Thousand Librarian Members of the American Library Association in Nation-Wide Movement.

Since the advent of peace the American Library Association has turned its efforts from war work into other channels. With the benefit of its forty years of experience and the co-operation of its membership of 4,000 active librarians in all parts of the United States, in addition to continuing certain war activities not taken over by the government, it proposes to promote the development of the library system throughout the country and to encourage the reading habit in all ways possible. The A. L. A. supplied over 7,000,000 volumes to our fighting men here and overseas and on board vessels, and it has the confidence and the admiration of the nation back of it in inaugurating its "Books for Everybody!" movement. The money to carry out the provisions of the campaign will not be raised through an intensive drive, but will be obtained by the librarians, library trustees and friends of libraries, who have enthusiastically pledged their co-operation in obtaining the necessary \$2,000,000.

NEIGHBORS

By ANNIE A. CURTIS.

"Can you be satisfied here, Maud?" asked Mr. Burrowes.

"Well, I don't know. It's pretty hard to tell," replied his wife. "It isn't the city I shall miss, it's the people. They will all be different, of course."

"Yes, I suppose so. I remember how dissatisfied Ruth was when she and George went out West."

Joe's sister, Ruth, was frankly disliked by her sister-in-law. Maud had come nearer quarreling with her than any other member of her husband's family. The clashing of her sister-in-law's case with her own raised a spirit of opposition within her.

"If he thinks I'm like Ruth he'll find I'm not."

She quickly thought of the reasons for moving to the quiet country place. They had been such sound reasons, too. Several times the doctor had advised fresh country air for her.

"And just because I saw a woman in a funny sunbonnet while I was out there I am stopping it all. I won't be so foolish. I'll make the best of it anyway."

Joe still stood absently tapping the window pane. Maud touched him on the arm saying, "I'm going to like it, Joe. I'll get acquainted with every neighbor and I'll make them like me."

His face grew lighter as he looked at her. "Good for you, Maud. When we take the car out it will be better for you."

"Oh, yes, I'll take you down to work every morning and call for you every night. I'll give everyone round a spin."

"We'll have parties and invite all of our old friends out," said Joe.

"And don't forget the new ones. They'll have to come to our parties."

In due time the car arrived. Joe had fixed a part of the barn for a garage. Every morning Maud took him to work.

"Why don't you go for a ride mornings, Maud?" he asked.

"I'm afraid I'll miss someone who calls to see me."

"I never thought of that. Hasn't anyone called yet?"

"No one yet," she said.

He tried to console her by saying that everyone was busy at that time of year. But the busy time passed and no one called. Maud Burrowes lost her pink cheeks and the wistful look was always in her eyes. Mr. Burrowes asked their family doctor to come down to spend the day. "Just look her over without her getting suspicious Doc," said Joe.

"I thought the country would agree with her. There's lots of company round here isn't there?"

"That is the trouble. She likes company and has always had lots of it. I can't understand why people don't call."

Summer was nearly gone when Joe again thought of the doctor.

"I'll get him down to see if she's improved, and if she hasn't we'll go straight back to the city. She was happy there."

The doctor called again. Maud was very pleased to see him, but did not go from place to place, bidding him to follow her.

"This will never do," the doctor said to himself. "She's lost interest and lost her courage."

"I'm going to give up this place and go back to the city," cried Joe excitedly.

"I don't think that will do," replied the doctor.

"Why, why not?" inquired Joe.

"Because Maud is not strong enough. You must make her take an interest in things."

"How can I? If people won't be friendly I can't make them," replied Joe, very much puzzled.

"Well, do something. You must think of something, boy," said the doctor, as he boarded the train.

A day later Joe complained of not feeling well. "Oh, I hate to go to work, but I suppose I must," he said. An hour later he came back home. Maud cried out at sight of him. His face was swollen and red. "Oh, what is the matter, Joe?"

"I'm sick. I guess I'll lie down for a while."

"I'll get a doctor," said Maud. "There is one at the village."

"I won't see him. If you get anyone call our old doctor. There's a telephone at the next house."

Maud dreaded to go to those people who had never called on her. She tapped at the door and a woman appeared. "May I use your telephone?"

"Surely."

"Is this Dr. Jones? Come right out to the house. Joe is sick. Oh, can't you come before night? I'm all alone."

When she finished talking with the doctor the woman touched her arm, saying, "You are all alone. I'll go right back with you."

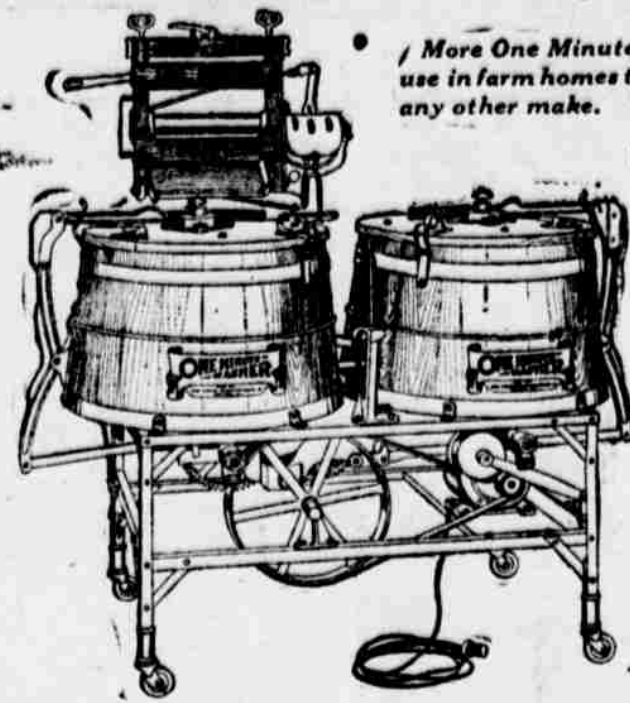
Maud told her the story of her loneliness. "We thought you did not want us to call. Then we—hesitated. One of the neighbors heard you make fun of Miss Field's sunbonnet and she is the dearest woman in the world."

"I'm so sorry, but it's all right now. Isn't it?" sobbed Maud.

Joe wished to see the doctor alone. "What's up Joe?" asked the doctor.

Joe answered in a whisper, "I put poison ivy on my face. I knew they would come in sickness and it worked. They have been coming all day. But fix me up, Doc, I must go back to work."

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