

At the Crucial Moment

BY DOROTHY DOUGLAS

When Muriel Landis found that, by dint of much saving and burning of midnight oil, she had assured herself one term of vocal instruction with the great Poppini, a conscious pride glowed warm within her. The master had given her an appointment for the following Saturday.

At the appointed hour, Muriel approached the brown-stone house which served Poppini as a studio. Aside from an occasional tremor she seemed to be waited along on the wings of success.

The maid to whom Muriel handed her card led the way up one flight of stairs and the prospective pupil of Poppini found herself in a huge room, the tone of which was an appalling cold tan. Save for a few straight chairs and a grand piano of white mahogany the room was bare of furniture. The lone picture on the walls was a fine, brown carbon of the Beethoven Sonata, the one human touch in the strangely chilling environment.

Muriel's sensitive ear caught the sound of approaching footsteps and her heart thumped painfully when she realized that she was in the presence of the great music master.

A quick glance at his massive shoulders and leonine head told the girl that she would always slightly fear him; his aspect was so compelling and powerful. A closer study of his face revealed to Muriel that, dominant in the expression of his large, shaded eyes and in the cut of his lips, was a passion, deep and refined—his passion for music.

"Miss Landis," he acknowledged her inclination of the head and remained standing. "Let me hear your voice before we discuss the future."

His directness appealed to Muriel. She arose and stood beside him at the piano and, although she already felt his powerful influence, she was conscious also of her own individuality and personal strength. Her first tones, clear and resonant, vibrated through the room. Poppini turned to look at her and in his eyes and glance Muriel recognized his acknowledgment of her gift.

"You have the quality of a splendid voice," he said. "It will please me to bring out its full power." He arose. "Sing not another note until I give you your first lesson."

"Oh, but I must sing!" Muriel exclaimed. "I must sing in order that I may study. The church quartette position I hold is necessary to my maintenance."

Muriel stated her case frankly, but the wishfulness in her eyes told much to Poppini. His insight into human emotions was one of the secrets of his success. The skill with which he handled the artistic temperament was much to his credit.

"Tell me exactly what you will lose by giving up this church work. You must have further support, have you not? Are you in an office? If so, that must be stopped." He spoke almost brusquely, but his kind eyes looked steadily into hers while he waited for his answer.

Muriel laughed whimsically. "The choir work means my room and—anything I may need during the week. I live on that \$15."

"Yes," Poppini said abruptly. "What else do you do?"

The girl hesitated for a moment, but there was no avoiding the man's directness.

"I—I write fiction," she replied. "It is from that source that I have saved enough to make it possible for me to have at least one term with you. I have so wanted to study with you. Perhaps at the end of the term I may find that I have been successful enough to enable me to continue. I do not mind work."

"So I see," Poppini spoke in a different tone, almost as if he were communing with himself. "Writing," he said slowly, "is not tiring so long as the candle is snuffed out before it exhausts itself." He ran his hands through his hair while his thoughts took definite form.

"Miss Landis," said he, "you are in possession of a wonderful gift. Walk serenely past petty obstacles and refuse to let prejudices and jealousies hamper you in your study. Give up this choir position; it will retard your progress. In return for your compliance with my wishes I want you to accept a seat at my table and a room in my house."

Muriel cast a startled glance at him, but Poppini continued without allowing her to speak.

"My household is large. I have two women in charge and some pupils of mine, a Mr. Warren and his sister make their home with me. There, you can write practically undisturbed. Miss Warren's voice will be an inspiration rather than a hindrance."

An accountable twinge of jealousy stung Muriel. "You are very generous, Professor Poppini, but I could not do that. The very sense of my obligation would oppress me."

"Miss Landis, I am sure that you have the broad mind which is a glorious part of the musical temperament. Let your nature respond to its meaning and demonstrative that worldly misgivings have no part in your life. Accept this trifle from me."

Muriel was suddenly made conscious of the fact that this was a crisis in her life—a turning point.

Here was her opportunity. Should she take it or leave it? She faced him and looked squarely into his eyes.

"I will come," she said, "and I will try to make myself worthy of your generosity." She arose. "I shall have to find a substitute for tomorrow's service at the church."

"Miss Warren, my pupil, is ready for such practice—let me send her," suggested Poppini. "And now, waste no time. Make your arrangements to come to my house and begin your work at once."

Muriel extended her hand in grateful acknowledgment of his kindness and in that moment when his great hand closed over her she realized that here was a man whose magnetism she felt keenly.

Muriel was only half finished with her term of lessons when she was forced to acknowledge to herself that she was in love with her music master. Also, she was poignantly conscious of his indifference to her as anything but a pupil. Knowing this, she spent her energy on her literary work and as if in subtle reward acceptances literally poured upon her.

For a year she fought against the love which she had for him. At the end of that time a great success came to her. She sold her novelette for an unexpected sum. This made it possible for her to take a coveted trip abroad. With this in view she sought an interview with Poppini.

She found him in his studio literally crushing out a great volume of tone on the piano. When she entered he finished with a tremendous clamor and turned to face her.

Muriel went to him and stood close to the piano, calm and composed even in the face of her difficult mission.

"Professor Poppini," she began, "I sail for the continent at the end of the week."

Poppini turned his great, dark eyes upon her. Only for a moment did he show surprise. Save for a shade of white about his eyes and a feeling that he had suddenly donned a suit of armor, Muriel could detect no mark of the effect of her words.

"Will you study—over there?" he asked.

"I—don't know—as yet. I have not made up my mind." She met his eyes and the pain in his own brought a flush to her cheeks.

"Do you tell me that you are giving up your music?—you, with your wonderful voice?—you whom I know to be wholly wrapped up in it? I will not permit it. As my pupil I forbid you to go. Stay with me only six months more, if you like—but stay! Then all musical New York shall hear you and you may leave if you please." He arose. "Now, get on your things and go for a long walk to think it over."

The girl sought relief from the strain of her emotions in a peal of laughter—laughter that savored of hysteria. "There is no use in any one's trying to have a mind of her own in this house," she said.

"Not when that mind discloses flagrant weakness," Poppini turned to the open window and Muriel, once more defeated, left the room.

During the next six months it seemed to Muriel that the music master and Miss Warren were unecessarily friendly. The lesson hours when Miss Warren was the pupil seemed unusually long and Muriel was forced to fight her jealousy as well as her love. At the same time, she made wonderful strides in her music and she could not help but realize that a glorious future awaited her.

When, at last, the night of her debut arrived she had never been more beautiful. In her gown of white which she wore at the suggestion—nay, command—of Poppini, she was a lithesome figure penciled in the lines of creamy chiffon. Her great blue eyes and her dull gold hair and the confidence of youth in her manner all lent charm to the picture as she stood in the dimly lighted alcove off the stage.

At this moment she was thankful to Poppini for having, all unconsciously, carried her through the gamut of emotions; it would aid her in her power of expression. Also, she knew that fulfillment alone would set the seal on her name in the world. So long as she knew that he loved her, she could bear it; if he loved another—

At the sound of his footsteps she turned and a deep color surged to her temples for very fear that he had read the thoughts he interrupted.

Without preliminaries, Poppini took Muriel in his arms. "It has been thus from the beginning," he said. "Did you not realize it?"

Muriel looked up. She had never seen so great a light in the eyes of any man and all in that brief moment it came to her. For her sake—for her art, her future—he had suppressed his own love; he had kept from her the knowledge that he knew her secret. It was wonderful—the power this man had to realize what a perishable quality is ambition. Had he spoken of his love before, she would no longer have been his pupil; she would no longer have held her art firm. It would have taken a secondary place in her life and this great moment might never have been hers—this double triumph of love and achievement.

IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING SEEDS FREE FROM ALL WEEDS

Farmers Should Carefully Observe and Study Habits of All Noxious and Injurious Plants in Order to Fight Them to Best Advantage—Every Effort Should be Made to Get Rid of Them.



A. Wild Carrot. B. Ribgrass.

(By WALTER R. LEUTZ.) Weeds, weeds everywhere; they thrive in the cornfield, they choke wheat in the field, they annoy the gardener, they thrive in the meadow, they spring up by the roadside, they encroach on the swamp.

Emerson said of weeds that they are "plants whose virtues have not yet been discovered." But a few benefits may be derived from weeds.

They are of some use in the world to induce more frequent and more thorough cultivation, which benefits crops; in occupying the soil after a crop has been removed they prevent the loss of fertility by shading the ground.

Weeds plowed under add some humus and fertility to the soil, though in a very much less degree than clover or cow peas; some weeds furnish food for birds in winter.

In justice to the weeds their advantages have been mentioned first, because the list of the disadvantages is a very long one—too long to enumerate. A few, however, may be given—enough to convince every one that every effort should be made to get rid of them.

Farmers should carefully observe and study the weeds and their habits, in order to fight them to the best advantage.

1. Weeds rob cultivated plants of nutriment.
2. They injure crops by crowding and shading.
3. They retard the work of harvesting grain by increasing the draft and by extra wear of machinery.
4. They retard the drying of grain and hay.
5. They increase the labor of

means of barbed awns. 9. Some of them injure wool and disfigure the tails of cattle, the manes and tails of horses.

10. A few make "hair balls" in the stomachs of horses.

11. Some injure the quality of dairy products.

12. Penny cress, and probably others, when eaten by animals, injure the taste of meat.

13. Poison hemlock, spotted cowbane and Jamestown weed are very poisonous.

14. Many weeds interfere with a rotation of crops.

15. All weeds damage the appearance of a farm and render it less valuable.

Four of the commonest weeds are the wild carrot, chicory, dodder, and ribgrass. Chicory has long been recognized as a troublesome weed. It is common in alfalfa growing sections of the country as well as the clover sections. The plant is easily recognized by the blue flowers and lower root leaves, which resemble those of the common dandelion. The upper leaves the more or less sticky and clasp the stem. The plant contains a milky juice. Chicory is not difficult to destroy where rotation of crops is practiced. Though a perennial, the roots are easily killed by successive cultivation. The blossoms of chicory are yellow and attractive. Chicory was introduced into this country from Europe.

Wild carrot has become more widely distributed with clover seed than any other weed in the country. It is an extremely common weed in the east where it has long been known as troublesome to crops. Wild carrot is



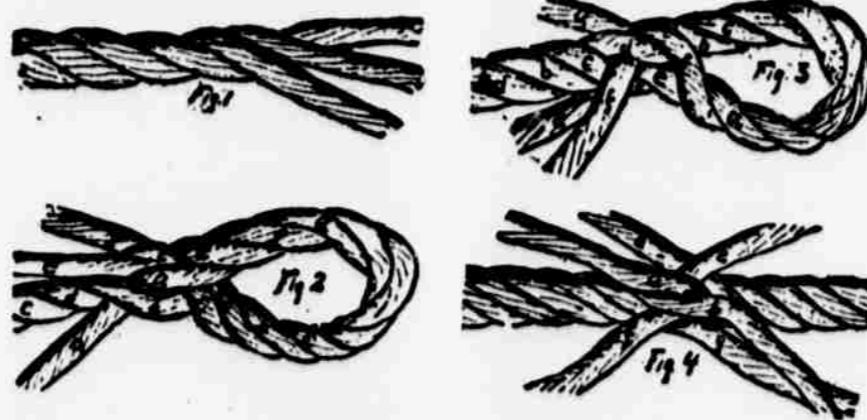
C. Field Dodder. D. Chickory.

threshing, and make cleaning of seed difficult.

6. They damage the quality of flour, sometimes making it nearly worthless.
7. Most of them are of little value as food for domestic animals.
8. Some weeds injure stock by

a biennial with bristly stem, finely divided leaves, and numerous white flowers in umbels. After flowering the flower stalks bend inward, becoming strongly concave. The seed is flattened with marginal bristles. In commercial seed these bristles are often broken off.

ONE WAY OF SPLICING ROPE



Whether you wish to splice a rope or make an eye, unravel the strands as shown in Fig. 1. For an eye bring the unraveled end back upon the rope to the desired size of loop and begin to work the strands into the rope as shown in Fig. 2. Strand a goes under b, over c, under d, etc. Strand e goes under c, over b, under d, etc. Strand f goes under d, over c, under b, etc., each strand being gradually reduced in size by cutting out a few fibers. This makes a nice, smooth job. Fig. 3 is the reverse side of Fig. 2.

Draw all the strands tight at one time after the tucking is done then cut off the protruding ends. For a smooth splice take the two ends unraveled as in Fig. 1 and put them together as shown in Fig. 4. No two strands should come together in the same space. They are tucked under and over as in making figures 2 and 3, gradually reducing size by cutting out fibers. Four tucks will hold all the rope can stand. Roll the splice under foot and make it fit smoothly together.

For Union Workers

Important Happenings in Industrial Circles in This Country and Europe

THE WORKING GIRLS' SONG.

(Dedicated by Miss Harriet Monroe, the well-known art critic and poet, to the Women's Trade Union League, at the time of the second Interstate Conference of the League, 1903.)

Sisters of the whirling wheel
Are we all day,
Builders of a house of steel
On Time's highway;
Giving bravely, hour by hour,
All we have of youth and power.

CHORUS:
Oh, lords of the loom we fear,
Hear us, hear!
Green are the fields in May-time,
Grant us our love-time, play-time,
Short in the day and dear.

Fingers fly and engines boom
The living day,
Through fair fields where roses bloom
The soft winds play.
Vast the work is—sound and true
Be the tower we build for you!

Ours the future is—we face
The whole world's needs,
In our hearts the coming race
For life's joy pleads
As you make us—slaves or free—
So the men unborn shall be.

Chicago.—"This year," says Secretary Duncan, of the Granite Cutters' association, "one-third of the branches in our organization gave notice of three and five year agreements, and while in some localities several weeks' suspension took place, there have been progressive settlements made, with practically a uniform increase of 25 cents per day. The Saturday half holiday is quite plentiful in those agreements now for summer months, but all agreements entered into this year carry a clause that, beginning with the spring time of 1913, there is to be a Saturday half holiday all the year around."

London, Eng.—The first year of the government labor exchange in Great Britain has closed with the system announced as successful. About 450,000 vacancies were reported by employers to the exchanges and 370,000 of the vacancies were filled. In order to enable workmen without money to reach distant places where they were in demand, the government exchanges provided transportation, the cost of which has been repaid out of the workingmen's wages. Perhaps the most surprising development has been the fact that more skilled than unskilled workmen have found employment through the exchanges.

Springfield, Ill.—Two states, California and Washington, hold the lead for the limitation of the working hours of women. These states provide eight hours as the maximum limit to be required of women workers in each day for nearly all trades. Illinois from the bottom of the list of industrial states has now advanced to the front rank in industrial legislation. From no limitation upon the number of hours that could be required of working women and girls this state now has a ten-hour limitation covering practically all women workers.

Wilmington, Del.—For the majority of wage earners employed in the manufacturing industries of Delaware the prevailing hours of labor range from fifty-four to sixty hours a week, or from nine to ten hours a day, only eight per cent of the total being employed in establishments working less than nine hours a day, four and five-tenths per cent being employed in establishments working more than ten hours a day.

New York.—The National Electric Light association adopted a report favoring profit-sharing with employes, old-age pensions, accident and life insurance, death benefits and employes' savings and investment funds, which is expected to advance the prosperity and personal welfare of tens of thousands of working men and women in the United States.

New York.—The "three-platoon" system of police duty, which has been the pleasantest hope of the New York force for many years, will soon be put into effect. Eight hours on post, eight hours on reserve (chiefly asleep), then eight hours off, with family or friends. That is the routine for which the uniformed men have been working and praying.

Buffalo, N. Y.—The United Trades and Labor council has determined to enter the competition for the convention of the American Federation of Labor in 1912. Back of the council, it is said, are a number of civic organizations. Active steps already have been taken to start the campaign.

New York.—The United Hatters of North America has decided to conduct its elections on the referendum plan instead of at the conventions. The plan will go into effect next January.

Washington.—An effective employes' liability law has a wholesome effect, even though it is seldom used. It impels the employer to provide for the safety of his employes lest it be used.

Manchester, N. H.—The Amoskeag Cotton mills, which were shut down for eight days, started in all departments. More than 25,000 operatives returned to work.

Providence, R. I.—After a shutdown of ten days, the Atlantic Worsted mills, of Olneyville, resumed operations with practically its full force of 8,600 employes.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Ohio's legislature passed no less than eighteen measures either endorsed or approved by the Ohio Federation of Labor. These include: Workingmen's compensation act, creating a state insurance fund for the benefit of injured employes. Limiting the work hours of women to 10 hours a day and to 54 hours a week. Providing for the election of judicial officers on a separate, non-partisan ballot. Imposing penalty for operating dangerous machinery in factories after condemnation by workshop inspectors. Compelling railroads to employ full crews on all switch engines. Prohibiting fraudulent use of the union label. Applying the initiative and referendum to legislation in municipalities. Providing for registration of marks of ownership on personal property. Compelling loan sharks to take out licenses, placing them under bond and regulating their business.

Indianapolis.—The executive board of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers has been engaged in negotiations with several manufacturers of films for moving pictures, with a view to suppressing the exhibition of pictures which, it is charged, show John J. McNamara as a dynamiter and train wrecker. In the Bridgemen's Magazine a call is issued to readers to enlist in the movement against these "outrages." It is said a certain firm produced these pictures, and that after the matter had been taken up with the company by President Ryan, the promise was made that the films would be recalled and no more put on exhibition. It is charged that this has not been done. President Ryan, it is said has taken up the matter with Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Berlin, Germany.—Old age pensions, accident and sickness pensions and other provisions for wage earners grow apace in Germany. In 1909, out of a population of about sixty-four million, nearly ten million men and nearly three and a half million women were insured against sickness; nearly fifteen million men and nine million women against accident. Disability insurance embraced about fifteen million, four hundred thousand persons. Employers paid about \$98,000,000 in premiums, employes about \$81,000,000 and state contributions were more than \$12,000,000.

Cambridge, Mass.—Governor Foss signed the union fines bill. The law is as follows: No fine or notice of intention to impose a fine by any union or any other association, incorporated or unincorporated, or any authorized representative thereof, upon any member thereof, according to the rules thereof to which such member has agreed to conform, shall be held to be unlawful or coercive as to such member or to any other person, provided such fine is reasonable in amount and is for a purpose which is legal.

San Jose, Cal.—Women employed in restaurants here formerly worked twelve hours a day at a uniform wage of \$8 a week. When the eight-hour law went into effect all members of the Hotel and Restaurant Men's association signed an agreement with the union whereby they were to pay \$6 a week for six days of eight hours, the eight hours to be at intervals during twelve. Last week they struck for \$7 a week.

Milwaukee.—The strike against the Milwaukee Brewers' association by the Building Trades council is over. The peace contract is a blanket agreement, including all of the building trades with the exception of the carpenters, who are not members of the Building Trades council. Machinists now get 42½ cents an hour; electrical workers, 42½ cents; helpers, 27½ cents; sheet metal workers, 42½ cents; painters, 50 cents; shellackers, 55 cents.

Springfield, Ill.—Governor Deneen signed the occupational disease bill. Employers must provide reasonable and approved devices for the prevention of diseases peculiar to occupations in which workmen come in contact with poisonous minerals, chemicals, gases and dust. Employers shall provide respirators, to be maintained without cost to the employe.

Chicago.—The president of the Order of Railway Conductors hereafter is to receive \$8,500 annually; the senior vice-president and the general secretary, \$5,000 each, and other vice-presidents will receive \$4,500.

Evansville, Ind.—A strike of the brewery workers was averted when the employers agreed to grant the demand of the workers for four big schooners of beer daily, instead of the two formerly allowed.

London, Eng.—Fearing a bicycle may be insisted on by employes as a necessary "tool," the Amalgamated Joiners and Carpenters of Britain have adopted a proposal not to use bicycles in working hours.

Cleveland, O.—Union labor will aid state officials in their campaign to compel manufacturers to report all accidents to workmen to the state factory inspector.

London, Eng.—The factory act of Great Britain contains a provision that women and girl employes must be allowed a certain and stipulated time for meals.