

AN OVERGROWN BOY

But a Foe of Great Resource, Determination, and Sinews of Warfare.

By ARTHUR W. PEACH.

When Miss Alice Romley entered the office of the head of the big manufacturing firm, she met Roy Hillard for the first time. That meeting served to make her interested in him and the interest grew from friendship into something else. She would not confess it was love for him but she was attracted by his cheery, happy-go-lucky personality, his willingness to do little services that a woman values.

It did not take her long to discover that he was of little use to Mr. Lake, the head of the firm, whose confidential clerk he was supposed to be. She learned, too, that Hillard had money in his own right—a considerable amount fact, but as it had been the wish of his father that he enter business with Lake he had done so. He was lazy, never on time, always putting off his work. She could see that Mr. Lake was exasperated at times, but managed to hold his temper. Therein, she discovered, too, that if Hillard were discharged, his position would be hers.

Hillard got into the habit of seeing her home; sometimes, she found him and his car waiting for her. Before long he was coming on Sundays and soon she was listening for his slow, good-natured voice asking the girl at the door if Miss Romley were in.

One starry night, when it seemed good to be alive, and good to be beside him, he proposed. She was startled, yet she had read it in his eyes days before. His first words thrilled her, the next angered her, for he was proposing as he did everything, carelessly, good-naturedly, as if it didn't amount to much anyway. Marriage involved giving up the business career for which she had fitted herself, and of which she had dreamed. It was not a matter to be talked of in other than a serious way. His manner angered her.

She told him, frankly, that she would not marry him, that he was still an overgrown boy, and hadn't a serious thought in the world, and that a girl liked to have the thought of marriage with her regarded as the biggest thing in the world.

His open, smiling face grew serious, for once, as she went on, and she found she could not scold when words of a scolding nature bounded off so easily. Before they had returned, she was smiling herself, but under her smiling exterior was her determination never to marry him. She told him so flatly.

The next day a small bomb burst in the office. Hillard appeared late, and making no effort to make up for lost time, he aroused Lake's long suffering wrath, with the result that the room full of stenographers heard the irate, bitter-tongued man turn on Hillard a stream of condemnation in which he ripped Hillard's character into shreds and showed it up before Hillard himself in its bare truth. Not stopping there he went on to discharge him, closing with the words, "You aren't half a man! Get out! Miss Romley, you take his work."

Hillard stood, white to the lips, his fair, good-natured face stiff under a new emotion, then he turned toward the cloak-room without a word.

Alice Romley had realized her ambition; she was the chosen clerk of the manufacturer, and she labored to show her value to him. He seemed pleased by her efforts, and she certainly was by the size of her pay check and his words.

Of Hillard, she heard nothing after his departure. She missed him keenly, and she began to believe it was all right, after all, to have a nature that sees only the sunny side of life, even if such a nature never gets one anywhere. No word came from him, and she did not write for she had no idea where he was.

The first inkling came through a note from one of their western managers, saying that the first of a crop of salesmen were intruding on his territory with an article similar to theirs, but better made and cheaper, and that his men were getting the worst of it right along.

Lake's face had looked worried after that. She knew they were making a large profit on their goods, and that he had been afraid of the advent of competitors.

The next report from the west was still more discouraging, and before she knew it a royal battle was on between two firms for existence. Dazed a bit by the wonder of it, she took her small part in it. She saw that they were fighting a foe of great resource and determination, and one equipped with the sinews of warfare—wealth and credit.

They could not learn who the power was in the opposing company, but she knew they were men of ability; some of them had been with Lake's firm in the old days.

Then came the afternoon she knew she would never forget. She sat in the room where the members of the firm sought to find a way out; she saw them desperately plan, and turn back, held at bay from every corner. One by one they left in despair, and only Lake remained. The telegram came offering no compromise, but stating that it would give a reasonable amount for their business. Beaten, and beaten badly, Lake assented.

When the representative of the other firm entered, she heard Lake gasp, and looking up, she gasped herself. It was Hillard, but a changed Hillard.

His face was firm and stern, his eyes had grown steeper, and his manner was slow but certain. On his face were the signs of the terrific struggle in which he had taken part.

Lake could not believe his eyes, nor was he willing to make terms with his former clerk, but Hillard, smiling a grim smile, proved that he was the one. Lake, humbled by the evidence that Hillard had been the power behind the competition, surrendered. The terms were discussed and drawn up by Miss Romley. She wondered at the masterfulness of Hillard, at his sure grasp of the items, and his relentless hold on the vital points at stake.

When they were both through, and Lake's shaking hand was signing the agreement, Hillard leaned back, and his eyes went to hers, but hers dropped before the mute power in his, and she did not look up. He went on to tell Lake that the words he spoke had ripped the mask from his own life, and he had seen how useless it was. He offered Lake the position of eastern manager. Lake gulped a little, and asked for time to think it over. Hillard agreed, and his voice was kindly.

When Lake went out, she expected Hillard to go, too, but she heard his steps come back toward her desk. She was afraid of him now, she knew, and she did not lift her face; but she mastered her fears enough to say, "Well, Mr. Hillard, I suppose I am discharged, and must needs seek a new position." She said it as playfully as she could.

He did not answer, but she felt his hands come down, and lift her to her feet. She knew then by the touch what was coming. The suddenness of it made her tremble a little, and she thrust her face against his coat, as his strong arms drew her close to him.

"Yes, you are discharged, Alice, but I want to give you the highest position a man can offer a girl. I want you to be my partner in the business of building a home and happiness. Are you willing?"

Soothed by the quiet sense of power, the low thrill of emotion in his voice, she looked up into his eyes. In them, far back, was the gleam of the old good nature.

Her answer was not in words, but it sealed the agreement.

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RATHER GAVE MAMMA AWAY

To an Observing Mind There Would Appear to Have Been Some Point to Kitty's Questioning.

A new family had moved into the house next door to the Smiths, according to a story told by Postmaster General Hitchcock, and little Kitty Smith was on the back porch of her own home cultivating the acquaintance of the little girl on the opposite porch.

"What's your name?" she asked. "Florence," replied the newcomer. "What's yours?"

"Katherine," was the answer, "but they always call me Kitty. The name of the folks that used to live here before you came was Jones."

"Our name is Thompson," said the new girl. "We came all the way from Baltimore."

"Our name is Smith," returned Kitty. "Say, you never met the Joneses, did you?"

"Oh, no," rejoined the new girl. "Not your Joneses."

"They was just something awful for borrowing," volunteered Kitty. "They used to send over to our house three or four times a week to borrow coffee, sugar and things, and never paid it back. Say, you folks don't borrow like that, do you?"

"Oh, no," was the reassuring response of the new girl.

"She says they don't, mamma!" called out Kitty, turning around and facing the half-open door of the Smith home.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Grow Trees From Top Down.

A foreign railway company has solved the plan of getting good shade trees in a short time, thought they will give as much shade as trees in the ordinary way of setting out would give that are 15 or 20 years old. The company gets a small elm tree, preferably, digging this, roots and all, from the ground. The tree then is set, the top part being set into the ground and the roots are left in the air. The tree then grows, forms roots on what originally was the top of the tree, and the original roots that now take the place of the branches begin to leaf out and form a complete foliage very quickly. Beautiful specimens of such inverted trees are to be seen by the fountains in Kensington gardens, London.

Flattery.

"Oh, Miss Lightfoot," said Jolly after their third dance at the ball "you are a most wonderful dancer."

"Really, do you think so?" she replied.

"Yes, indeed. More wonderful than the damsel who danced before Herod and demanded the head of John the Baptist."

"Really. How so, pray?"

"Well, you see, when she danced one man was decapitated, but when you dance all men lose their heads."

Happy Family.

Mr. Scragginton—After all, only a very small percentage of men squander their money on chorus girls.

Mrs. Scragginton—That is because the percentage of chorus girls is very small compared with the number of men.—Exchange.

Simplicity and Smartness in Two Up-to-Date Garments



Velveteen Dress.

Walking Costume.

VELVETEEN DRESS.—Very simple yet at the same time smart is the dress we show here; it is in tobacco brown velveteen. The skirt is plain; the bodice is Magyar, with cross-over fronts and plain basque; it fastens in front; the vest of tucked net being fixed at left side by press studs; a lace collar finishes the bodice, the elbow sleeves being edged with a band of fur. Hat of velvet to match the dress; it is trimmed with pale blue ostrich feathers. A large stole of black fox completes the costume.

Materials required for the dress: Seven yards velveteen twenty-four inches wide, one-half yard tuckered net, five-eighths yard fur.

Walking Costume.—This costume is in champagne-colored Venetian cloth. The skirt has a wrapped seam down the center of front, with the lower edges cut sharply off, leaving a "V" shaped opening, which is filled in with material on which are seven rows and rows of black satin ribbon; this also trims the coat on the revers and at the wrists. For the collar, black satin is used. Hat of black-satin, trimmed with a champagne-colored feather ruche.

Materials required: Four and one-half yards cloth forty-eight inches wide, about eight yards ribbon, one-quarter yard satin twenty inches wide, five yards silk or satin for lining coat.

WHITE EVENING GOWN



Evening gown of ivory brocade with draped skirt. The corsage is draped with black chiffon.

Linings. Green as a trimming, especially an eighteenth century shade of green, will be a feature, particularly as coat linings for velvet and fur. Yellow and orange are also popular for this purpose. Much can be expressed in a coat lining. Many of these linings are works of art in themselves, and a lining denotes proper appreciation of details which augurs well for the essential. A fascinating effect noticed in a tailor made coat of chestnut brown tweed was a lining of olive green satin with a piping all round inside of a natter blue shot ribbon.

Spring Jacket.

The spring jacket in the making is said to have a length of 27 inches, which is longer in the back than in the front. It will have long sleeves and will button high over the chest for the spring season, but it will probably be lowered as soon as the warm weather sets in.

WRISTBANDS BACK IN FAVOR

Old Style Revived, Though in Much Daintier Fashion Than Those of a Few Years Ago.

Hall the old-fashioned wristband! It's in again. Very much so and you're not strictly up-to-date if you don't possess at least one specimen. These bands, which take the place of bracelets, but are much daintier, consist of strips of inch-wide velvet ribbon long enough to go once about the wrist. On the upper side of the arm, the strip of velvet is secured by a pair of inch-square or inch-long oblong clasps of engraved gold, hammered silver or carved ivory. That is to say, the simpler sort of wristbands are thus clasped. The more expensive kind are made of platinum or of gold or silver thickly encrusted with tiny jewels or gems or set with a single large jewel or gem, surrounded by others of much smaller size. Frequently several kinds of jewels ornament a pair of wristband clasps and again a single diamond or pearl is imbedded in the center of a square of precious metal.

It is possible to have a pair of the large old-fashioned cameo or coral earrings made over into wristband clasps, and, although in former days a single bracelet band of this type was rarely worn, nowadays it is commonly seen. Many women who have inherited a collection of old-fashioned ornaments are having them made over into bracelet clasps and usually the task is neither difficult nor expensive.

Tall Trimmings on Millinery.

According to the Dry Goods Economist, tall trimmings continue the rage and in some of the imported models this idea is carried almost to the point of absurdity. Among the most effective models now being shown in which the tall trimming idea is employed is a black Milan sailor with the brim gently rolled at the left side. A tiny fringe of black gaura outlines the brim and from the edge of the brim at the left shoots upward a tall black gaura aigrette bent at the top in loop form. The tall trimming idea is also strongly emphasized in this market. Question marks of feathers, ribbons, cords, etc., long pointed sleeves, flat spear-like ornaments of velvet and of various fancy silks, aigrettes of small flowers closely packed together, and long spike-like jet ornaments are all utilized in this fashion.

Metal Coin Purse.

An attractive novelty in jewelry is the tiny coin purse of perforated metal which holds dimes and nickels. It is strung on a fine neck chain or worn at the end of a narrow black silk ribbon.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

LESSON FOR MARCH 2

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM

LESSON TEXT—Gen. 15:5-18. GOLDEN TEXT—"He is faithful that promised."—Heb. 10:23.

Until within recent years it was frequently asserted that Abram's battle as recorded in Gen. 14, "had not one whit of proof," yet the archaeologists have not only reconciled the apparent discrepancies but have proven beyond a question the accuracy of the record. Abram's victory over the four confederate kings is a story rich with typical suggestions.

I. "After These Things." vv. 1-7. God's word (v. 1) came to Abram not only as a counsel but for assurance as well. So, too, our assurance is his word, I John 5:13. In the midst of the uncertainty and the strife, for we must remember Abram never possessed the land, God appeared to him in a vision and said, "Fear not." See Isa. 41:10. There in the midst of foes (Jas. 2:23) God promised to be to Abram a shield and an exceeding great reward. A "shield" for there is to the Christian life a militant side. Eph. 6:13, 14. I Tim. 6:12. A "reward" which was far more rich than any given by man. See 14:21, Prov. 10:22.

Abram Was Human.

But Abram was, after all, human, and we read in verse 2 his question about descendants, he being as yet childless. Even so, however, Abram was willing to count the child of his steward as fulfilling the promise of God. (Not so with God for the promise (12:3) was to include Sarah also. God very clearly makes this plain in verse 4, the heir was to be Abram's indeed and not the child of another. But not only is Abram to have an heir but the land in which he was sojourning as a pilgrim was to be his and his seed to be as the stars for multitude.

"And he believed." The great test to this faith came later. Heb. 11:19, but here in this first distinct scriptural history of faith we find set forth those principles that have governed through all time. (1) The acceptance of the word of God, e. g., to have our trust built upon or supported by the word of Jehovah, see Isa. 30:21; (2) to act upon that faith so that our course in life manifests the belief of the heart.

God's covenant, 12:14, is confirmed in seven ways, 1. Posterity, (a) natural, "earth," (b) spiritual, "heaven," (c) also through Ishmael, Gen. 17:18-20; 2. Blessing, both temporal and spiritual; 3. great name; 4. Be a blessing, Gal. 3:13, 14; 5. "I will bless them that bless thee;" 6. "and curses them that curse thee;" 7. the families of the earth blessed through Abram, e. g., through Christ, Gal. 3:16.

"And he believed in the Lord" (v. 6). Abram built upon the naked word of God, he simply looked at that and that alone, Rom. 4:20, R. V. All God asks of us is for us to take him at his word. So it is that as we take his word about Jesus, he reckons that faith to us as righteousness; no matter how unrighteous we may have been, see Rom. 4:3-6; Gal. 3:6-7. The one thing that God demands is that we believe him and his word.

II. "Whereby Shall I Know." vv. 8-18. The weakness of human faith indicated by Abram's question (v. 8) is answered by God giving to him directions for the preparation of a sacrifice. Abram did not really doubt God's word (v. 6), but he did desire a confirming sign. Many today are looking for assuring signs from God when his bare word should be enough. Asking for signs is not always safe. Luke 1:18-20, but as in Abram's case God does give us a pledge a sign of our inheritance, 2 Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:14. God gave Abram, after he had explicitly followed his directions, a symbolic vision of himself. Someone has suggested that the vile birds of prey (v. 11) are symbolic of Satan and Abram, driving them away, a symbol of one victory over evil, Jas. 4:7. God is always nearer to man and best reveals himself when we are in the midst of sacrifice. God tells Abram of those days of servitude on the part of his descendants while they are to be brought upon that land and of their ultimate deliverance.

Symbols of God.

Every detail of these predictions and promises was fulfilled. In verse 15 there is presented the great thought of the need of preparation in youth for the future days of "good old age"—also in this verse a suggestion of the life beyond the grave.

The smoking furnace and the flaming torch were symbols of God himself. Four centuries of opportunity were to be allowed the powerful Amorites who now possessed the land before the land came into bona-fide possession in accordance with the promise, for God's judgment was conditioned upon the "measure of their iniquity being full." In the midst of this horror of darkness came God's final assurance to Abram in the symbolic "flaming torch" which passed between the pieces of the slain animals typical of the two parties to the contract.

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