

MRS. HAROLD STAGG.

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CHAPTER I.

"There is only one thing to be done," said Mrs. Harold Stagg, as the outcome of some minutes of reverie, during which she sat tapping one of her feet nervously on the carpet and staring into space with a harassed expression in her dark blue eyes, "we must take them in."

"It is exceedingly kind of you to suggest it, Emma," replied her husband. The same idea had occurred to him, but he had refrained from putting it into words, for he realized that the burden of establishing three orphaned children in the house would fall almost entirely on his wife. The additional expense would be a very small consideration; the important factors in the case were the care, worry and responsibility necessary involved. He would doubtless have deemed it his duty to propose the plan himself after a time, had his wife not done so, but this spontaneous offer gratified him, and, moreover, confirmed him in the belief that Emma was one of the kindest and most unselfish women in the world.

"It is your duty, Harold," she said, with a somewhat tragic air. "And what is your duty is mine. There is no other way of looking at it. We must send for them at once."

"So it seems to me," he said, decidedly. "I'll start myself to-night. I shall scarcely be in time for the funeral, but there'll be a lot of things to be attended to afterward, and the children may have no one whom they can call upon. Then I can bring them East myself."

"It will be excessively inconvenient, of course," continued Mrs. Stagg, still staring into distance. "The two boys we can send to boarding school. I will write to Mr. Sampson to-morrow, to see if he has any vacancies for next term. I shall have to put them all in the blue suite. The bare idea, though, of having three pairs of muddy boots tramping all over the house on my new carpets and polished floors and destroying all the freshness of the chintzes and the furniture in my beloved blue suite, makes me feel positively ill. There's no help for it, though, that I can see, except to insist on their going up the back stairs." She spoke now rapidly and incisively. Having definitely settled that the children were to be taken in, she was bent upon formulating as soon as possible, the necessary arrangements. Her agile housekeeper's mind foresaw a thousand complications which her energy yearned to grapple with and solve.

"Why not put Eleanor into the spare room and the two boys into the play room, if you think they would injure the blue suite? You could easily make them comfortable there."

"And what would my own children do for a play room, I should like to know? No, no, I am not going to have little Harold and Postie's comfort interfered with, now that everything is working smoothly in my nursery. In the blue suite the three Baldwins will be by themselves in connecting rooms; and if they catch anything there will be some chance of getting them out of the house before the children are exposed. Parsons," she said to the servant who had answered the bell, "I wish you to send Nolan,"—referring to the chore man—"the first thing to-morrow morning to inquire why Hasnett & Haley have not sent the mattresses for the bedrooms in the blue suite, as they promised. Mr. Haley told me himself," she added to her husband, "that they should be in the house a week ago."

Harold Stagg was quite content, as well as used, to leave to his wife the settlement of all household details. He reserved the exercise of his own authority for serious emergencies, when it seemed to him that principles were involved.

The only part he took in the domestic affairs was to pay the bills with great promptness, which he could well afford to do, as he was wealthy, and had a live and flourishing business. It was a relief to him that Emma took such a vital interest in everything appertaining to the adornment and sanitary welfare of their home. Although they had recently moved into a large and magnificent establishment, the cares incident to refurbishing had not been allowed to harass him. Mrs. Stagg had strong convictions in regard to carpets and curtains and ceilings and dados, and the other crucial points in house decoration which are so apt to require a husband's judicial determination before a final choice is arrived at. She was, moreover, a rigid disciplinarian on the subject of plumbing, keenly apprehensive of sewer gas, and eloquent as to the importance of traps and other appliances for its interception.

None but finished servants were tolerated in her household, where everything was conducted with a view to elegance of effect, and her eagle eye was swift to detect the smallest infringement of her precise and elaborate domestic rules. In appearance, she was tall, slim and nervous, with fine dark eyes, vivacious, brisk manners, and a rapid utterance. She had been married later than many of her contemporaries, but she had been making up for it ever since by her display of social energy.

Perceiving that his wife was engrossed by domestic details, Harold Stagg began to make preparations for his journey. Only an hour before, he had received a telegram, announcing

the death of his brother-in-law, Silas Baldwin, the husband of his deceased sister Eleanor, who had died a dozen years before, at the time her young-cat child was born, leaving beside that baby boy, another son, and a daughter with the same name as her own. These children had continued to live in Illinois with their father, a civil engineer in the employ of a large manufacturing concern. Harold had not seen them since his sister's funeral, though he had never failed to remember his nephews and niece at Christmas time, and he had duly received in acknowledgement of his gifts—which were invariably liberal remittances—three carefully penned epistles, the handwriting of which had steadily improved from year to year. An attack of pneumonia had carried off Silas Baldwin; Harold had not known that he was ill until he received the telegram, which was signed by Eleanor, announcing that her father had died the day before.

Harold knew enough of his brother-in-law's affairs to feel confident that Silas had left very little if anything in the way of property. To begin with, Silas had been handicapped at the time of his marriage by certain debts contracted by his father, who had died suddenly, leaving his affairs in confusion, which debts he felt in honor bound to pay. Then, too, he had been in the habit of sinking whatever he could save from his salary in the development of various patents, for he was an inventor of diverse mechanical appliances, no one of which had proved profitable. Harold had on more than one occasion, both since and previous to his sister's death, advanced him money for this purpose. He liked and respected his brother-in-law, although they were but slightly acquainted, and there was little in common between them in point of tastes. But Harold's strict sense of rectitude had been early attracted by the resolute stand which Silas had taken as to the necessity of repaying what his father owed, and he had been willing to believe that some day his sister's husband would devise a machine that would be worth a mint of money. Harold had himself found it an easy matter to make money, or rather, his efforts to do so had been early crowned with success, which was chiefly due to his own sagacity and strict attention to business. In the year of his sister's marriage he had organized a banking house which to-day was one of the most prominent and prosperous firms in New York city.

By a little computation, he had figured that Eleanor must by this time be about eighteen, little Silas fourteen, and Harold, his namesake, twelve. No photographs of them had been received for several years so that they must have grown beyond recognition. His own two children were mere infants, and the introduction into his household of his nephews and niece would confront him with all sorts of educational problems that he had not expected to face for another decade. But Harold Stagg was not the sort of man to balk when a resolution had been taken, or to let himself be worried by apprehensions of future difficulties. Moreover, he knew that here again he would be able to rely upon his wife. She was sure to have decided views on the various questions that would present themselves. Already, in Mr. Simpson's boarding school, she had suggested a happy method of dealing with the boys; doubtless she would be able to settle other points as they arose, with equal facility.

Accordingly, he ensconced himself comfortably in the smoking compartment of the train, and lit his cigar with a tranquil mind, thinking with self-congratulatory fondness of his dear Emma, from whom he had not been parted more than half a dozen days in the seven years they had been married. What a fortunate fellow he was to have such a wife! She was so energetic, so kind, so wrapped up in him; and then so clever, too, and such a delightful hostess, sprightly, vivacious, amusing. When he had offered himself to her, although he admired her ability and believed her to be affectionate, he had not expected to become so happy. She was not exactly the style of woman he had pictured to himself his better-half would be in his more youthful days, ere he had made money, and when he was living in modest lodging a quiet and somewhat sentimentally disposed bachelor. He had been a great deal of a reader then—of poetry, especially—and interested in pictures and music, and it had delighted him to dream of a snug domestic hearth sanctified and cheered by the presence of one who would sympathize with and encourage him in artistic tastes. The memory of this, if he ever thought of it, did not disturb him; he was contentedly happy, his business ran smoothly and prosperously, he enjoyed his fine establishments and the consideration they gave him in the social world. If Emma's tastes were not precisely similar to his own, she certainly took to stand against them; on the contrary, she was perpetually surprising him on Christmas and his birthday with presents of rare illustrated editions in costly bindings, that she had selected with the aid of the bookseller, and she was prompt to applaud whatever he sent home in the picture line.

With such gratifying thoughts of his home as companions, Harold dined satisfyingly in spite of his

mournful errand, and, having finished the half bottle of champagne he had ordered, and smoked another cigar, he turned in and slept soundly. In thirty-four hours from the time of starting, he alighted from the train in the small manufacturing town where his sister's family lived, which was on a branch line. It was a place of some five or six thousand inhabitants, and seemed bustling. He noticed, as he drove along from the station, what he took to be a town-hall and a public library, an academy of music, and a soldiers' monument. There was water power, and on favorable sites appeared a row of factories. There were in the newer portion of the town, and around them clustered a half-dozen lanes of tenement houses. Beyond, where there was more suggestion of country in the surroundings, were the residences, most of them old-fashioned farm houses, though here and there "Queen Anne" or "Old Colonial" edifices had taken the place of the ancient order of things. Here had evidently been the town or village before manufactures had invaded it, and the commingling of old and new had produced the effect of transition. But the gardens and stretches of landscape were not yet blotted out and the air was full of the perfume of the spring blossoms.

In response to Harold's request to be driven to Mr. Baldwin's house, the Jank individual whose vehicle he had engaged eyed him with an air of condoling curiosity, and said, under his breath, as though the corpse might still be within hearing:

"The funeral was yesterday."

"Yes, I supposed so."

It was decidedly a relief to Harold that, without any fault on his own part, he had escaped the ceremony. He had telegraphed his niece that he should start at once.

"Might you be related to the professor?" inquired his conductor, encouraged by the promptness of the reply.

For an instant Harold was puzzled; then he remembered that his brother-in-law had been connected with the faculty of one of the Western colleges for a few years as an instructor in physics and mechanics; hence, doubtless, the prefix to his name.

"Yes, he married my sister," he answered.

"I want to know!" said the man. "I want to know!" he repeated, giving a flick to the raw-boned animal he was driving, which, in point of many years and anatomy, was quite in keeping with himself. "Pity, now, they couldn't have waited for you. The professor is planted yonder," he added, pointing with his whip across the fields, "to the other side of the river. May be you'd like to drive round that way," he said, reining in his horse with a sudden jerk. "Tain't more than a mile off your beat."

"No; I'm in a hurry to see the living. You can't do much for a man after he's in the ground," he added philosophically.

"I don't know but what you're right, mister. I never was a great hand at visiting graveyards myself. Tidy place, though, ours. Git up, Sandy; the gentlemen's in a hurry. I suppose in this hot weather 'tain't easy to keep 'em," he continued, wishing, apparently, to find a satisfactory explanation for what would have seemed to him a breach of courtesy, in the absence of extenuating circumstances. (To be continued.)

AS INTERPRETED BY JACOB.

Little Student Gives Original Definition of the Word "Stile."

She was a conscientious young woman, and in obedience to the new education she had begun her day's work by teaching the class a memory "gem." Her next step was to dissect the gem afresh, and discover just how much of its hidden meaning had been absorbed by her young hopefuls. The poem under discussion was not one filled with lofty purpose, being merely a vivid little couplet that dealt with a certain little man—"Who walked a crooked mile, And found a crooked sixpence Close by a crooked stile."

"I wonder," said the teacher, "if any of my little boys can tell me what a 'sixpence' is?"

Apparently the class was a unit in the matter of not knowing sixpences when they met them—all but Jacob.

"I can tell you, teacher, what a sixpence is," he said. "It is nine little Indian clubs, and you roll a ball at them, and they all fall down."

The teacher helped Jacob discriminate between ninepins and sixpence, and continued the analysis.

"And what does 'stille' mean?" she asked. Again there was a silence that could be felt, and again Jacob came to the rescue.

"Stile," he announced, "is a Fedora hat, an' tan shoes, an' white pants. My big brother Gus has it for Sundays."

Whose Wife?
Richard—Hello, Bob, get back from your vacation? Had a good time this summer? Robert—I should say I had, I suppose you haven't heard I found a nice little wife up in the mountains. Richard—Did you find out who lost her?—Boston Transcript.

Amusing Announcement.
The decision of the directors of the theater at Halle, in Germany, to distinguish by means of red and white advertising posters between plays that are fit for young persons to witness and those that are not, is causing some amusement.

Women are more ambitious in love than men; not only do they wed the heart, but they must share the thoughts as well.

NEBRASKA IN GENERAL

THE VOTE BY COUNTIES.

What is Shown by Completed Returns From Eighty-Three of Them.

County	Thompson	Die	Poynter
Adams	1524	1629	1814
Antelope	1143	1257	1278
Banner	91	95	157
Blaine	75	62	96
Boone	1254	1127	1425
Boyd	826	665	733
Brown	406	280	453
Buffalo	1696	1420	1975
Butler	1254	1127	1425
Cass	2120	1783	2773
Chase	1197	1235	1215
Cherry	694	522	794
Cheyenne	524	408	656
Coffey	1692	1371	1738
Cuming	1106	1289	1310
Custer	1907	1668	1960
Dakota	641	876	990
Dawes	521	421	492
Dawson	1069	1076	1243
Dixon	1083	894	1176
Dodge	1666	2326	2411
Douglas	1459	1145	1573
Dundy	280	230	287
Fillmore	1644	1573	1778
Franklin	855	916	967
Frontier	638	518	579
Furnas	1126	973	1275
Gage	3194	2033	3660
Garfield	327	319	321
Gosper	329	457	458
Grant	69	64	132
Hamilton	1958	1835	1921
Harlan	1282	1256	1454
Harold	777	820	854
Hays	266	214	302
Hitchcock	344	421	430
Holt	1232	1244	1458
Hooker	41	48	32
Howard	1320	1099	967
Jefferson	1533	1074	1789
Johnson	1282	1256	1454
Kearney	911	851	989
Keith	296	195	217
Kimball	896	806	921
Knox	1470	1214	1502
Lancaster	5677	3576	7027
Lincoln	151	133	137
Lindsay	1448	1280	1587
Madison	870	881	1156
Merriam	888	670	979
Nance	1540	1235	1615
Nemaha	1280	1192	1523
Nuckolls	1930	1912	2514
Otoe	616	421	1564
Perkins	121	112	152
Phelps	1002	855	1073
Pierce	787	737	829
Platte	988	1736	1510
Polk	324	1232	920
Red Willow	998	689	1112
Richardson	2132	1960	2284
Ritchie	137	127	426
Saline	1686	1268	1723
Sarpy	663	850	782
Saunders	1961	2075	2106
Scotts Bluff	354	321	373
Seward	1962	1962	1760
Sheridan	498	489	593
Sherman	487	556	651
Stanton	327	419	375
Thayer	148	126	1723
Thomas	47	72	57
Thurston	694	467	725
Valley	710	580	725
Washington	1440	1156	1479
Wayne	872	756	1149
Webster	1161	1044	1296
Wheeler	123	150	193
York	2063	1905	2898

Totals..... 93664 87104 108893 109764

*One precinct missing. *Plurality.

ROLL OF STATE LEGISLATURE.

Senate
1. Charles I. Norris, Table Rock.....Rep.
2. J. L. Youngs, Tecumseh.....Rep.
3. Charles Marshall, Douglas.....Rep.
4. George Sheldon, Schuyler.....Rep.
5. George Meredith, Ashland.....Fus.
6. Matthew A. Hall, Omaha.....Rep.
7. Wm. P. Dyer, Omaha.....Rep.
8. J. H. Harrison, Grand Island.....Rep.
9. B. W. Reynolds, Fremont.....Rep.
10. J. M. Alden, Pierce.....Rep.
11. W. R. Way, Columbus.....Fus.
12. C. J. Coffey, Auburn.....Rep.
13. W. C. Brown, Springview.....Rep.
14. M. L. Fries, Arcadia.....Rep.
15. Aaron Wall, Camp City.....Rep.
16. W. H. Harrison, Grand Island.....Rep.
17. J. H. Umstead, Fullerton.....Rep.
18. Shelby Hastings, David City.....Rep.
19. Richard O'Neil, Lincoln.....Rep.
20. P. Bechtel, Bennett.....Rep.
21. L. M. Pemberton, Beatrice.....Rep.
22. C. E. Anderson, Crete.....Rep.
23. W. T. Nelson, Omaha.....Rep.
24. Robert J. Sloan, Geneva.....Rep.
25. J. M. Cox, Hampton.....Rep.
26. George L. Day, Superior.....Rep.
27. H. C. Hastings, Hastings.....Rep.
28. Frank Dean, Holdrege.....Rep.
29. D. H. Hasty, Arapahoe.....Rep.
30. W. D. Giffin, Gothenburg.....Rep.

House.

1. W. H. Hogreve, Stella.....Rep.
2. C. J. Johnson, Rulo.....Rep.
3. H. Beiden, Dawson.....Rep.
4. W. H. Wilson, Table Rock.....Rep.
5. J. M. Grayson, Armour.....Rep.
6. W. T. Kerns, Auburn.....Rep.
7. G. S. Curstey, Johnson.....Rep.
8. C. C. Reed, Vista.....Rep.
9. Fred. Perry, Nebraska City.....Rep.
10. Job Cassell, Nebraska City.....Rep.
11. R. W. Jones, Dunbar.....Rep.
12. M. L. Fredericks, Cedar Creek.....Rep.
13. W. D. Decker, Denver, Elmwood.....Rep.
14. George M. Spurlock, Plattsmouth.....Rep.
15. J. M. Martin, Papillion.....Fus.
16. D. W. Gilbert, Omaha.....Rep.
17. W. T. Nelson, Omaha.....Rep.
18. John Wallace, Omaha.....Rep.
19. W. B. Ten Eyck, Omaha.....Rep.
20. Thomas C. Shelby, Omaha.....Rep.
21. E. C. Kennedy, Omaha.....Rep.
22. Peter Mangold, Bennington.....Rep.
23. J. H. Riggs, Waterloo.....Rep.
24. A. C. Kennedy, Omaha.....Rep.
25. Frank Jahnke, Kennard.....Rep.
26. William G. Sears, Tekamah.....Rep.
27. W. G. Harrison, Blair.....Rep.
28. Joseph R. Stinson, Western.....Rep.
29. George Loomis, Fremont.....Fus.
30. Chris Shilstock, West Point.....Fus.
31. C. J. Webster, Pender.....Rep.
32. F. M. Greg.....Rep.
33. S. P. Mikesell, Ponca.....Fus.
34. N. M. Nelson, Plainview.....Rep.
35. F. E. Anderson, Wauson.....Rep.
36. Peter Egganburg, Strang.....Fus.
37. Frank Jouvant, Petersburg.....Rep.
38. T. F. Meminger, Madison.....Fus.
39. D. O. Becher, Columbus.....Fus.
40. George A. Scott, Fullerton.....Rep.
41. J. G. Dobry, Schuyler.....Rep.
42. W. J. Harman, Fremont.....Rep.
43. J. V. Mack, Prague.....Fus.
44. C. C. Geiwick, Brainard.....Rep.
45. John Kaveny, Linwood.....Fus.
46. S. S. Atwood, Beaver Crossing.....Rep.
47. John McClain, Seward.....Rep.
48. John Mockett, Lincoln.....Rep.
49. J. H. McClay, Lincoln.....Rep.
50. H. C. Kennedy, Omaha.....Rep.
51. J. J. Warner, Waverly.....Rep.
52. J. G. Hollett, Havelock.....Rep.
53. Curtis W. Ribble, Dewitt.....Rep.
54. Deber Stinson, Western.....Rep.
55. W. E. Robbin, Cortland.....Rep.
56. J. H. Ramsey, Piley.....Rep.
57. E. S. Spicer, Odell.....Rep.
58. H. B. Smith, Tolson.....Rep.
59. J. E. Mentenhall, Fairbury.....Rep.
60. Harvey Ford, Hubbell.....Rep.
61. D. B. Cropper, Fairbury.....Rep.
62. Peter Egganburg, Strang.....Fus.
63. I. N. Trank, Geneva.....Fus.
64. H. M. Dietrick, York.....Rep.
65. Wm. M. Smith, York.....Rep.
66. C. H. Hoy, Silver Creek.....Fus.
67. W. T. Thompson, Central City.....Rep.
68. A. F. Cunningham, Gillette.....Rep.
69. Joseph Anderson, Phillips.....Rep.
70. George F. Fishback, Harvard.....Rep.
71. P. A. Caldwell, Edgar.....Rep.
72. John Musick, Edgar.....Rep.
73. Charles Hunter, Inavale.....Rep.
74. W. G. Sadler, Hastings.....Rep.
75. F. A. Sweeney, Blue Hill.....Rep.
76. J. C. Anderson, Adams.....Rep.
77. H. G. Ferrar, Grand Island.....Rep.
78. E. H. M. Fries.....Rep.

THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Latest Quotations from South Omaha and Kansas City.

SOUTH OMAHA.

CATTLE—There was a fairly liberal run of cattle and the market was in rather bad shape. The rain and snow during the night and early morning made the cattle appear in bad form, so that the natural tendency was to pound prices. There were not enough corned steers offered to tell anything about the condition of the market. The cow market took another drop, as a good proportion of the offerings consisted of cow stuff, and the demand was limited. Trading was slow and generally 50c lower. Bulls were also slow and weak, but not much change was noticeable in real calves and steers. There were only a few stockers and feeders on sale, so that although trading was very dull, the better grades did not seem to be much if any lower. Speculators carried over a good many cattle, which was another reason for their being cautious. There were comparatively few western range steers on sale, and the market could be quoted just as about steady on anything at all desirable. The common kinds were extremely slow sale. Range cows were about 50c lower, or 25c lower for the week. Stockers and feeders were slow sale.

HOGS—There was not a very heavy run of hogs, and as the demand on the part of packers continued of quite liberal proportions, the market opened fairly active and 50c higher than yesterday's average. The bulk of the hogs sold from \$6.25 to \$6.30 and the choicer loads sold mostly from \$6.30 to \$6.35. Practically everything that was offered on the morning market was disposed of in good season, but there were several late trains.

SHEEP—Quotations: Good to choice yearlings, \$3.00-3.75; fair to good, \$2.50-3.50; good to choice wethers, \$3.40-3.50; fair to good wethers, \$3.10-3.40; choice wethers, \$2.75-3.00; fair to good ewes, \$2.50-2.75; good to choice lambs, \$4.00-4.75; fair to good lambs, \$4.00-4.50; choice native lambs, \$5.00-5.25; feeder wethers, \$2.75-3.15; feeder yearlings, \$2.90-3.25; feeder lambs, \$3.00-3.40; cull lambs, \$1.50-2.00; feeder ewes, \$1.50-2.25; cull ewes, 75c-1.25; stock ewes, \$2.50-3.25.

KANSAS CITY.

CATTLE—Corn cattle and quarantine steady; native cows dull; choice export and dressed beef steers, \$6.00-6.75; fair to good, \$3.80-5.55; stockers and feeders, \$2.25-6.45; western-fed steers, \$3.75-5.60; Texas and Indian steers, \$2.90-4.00; Texas cows, \$2.50-3.00; native cows, \$1.75-2.45; native heifers, \$2.50-3.75; canners, \$1.00-3.00; bulls, \$2.10-3.50; calves, \$2.00-3.75.

HOGS—Market 50c higher; top, \$6.40; HOGS—Market 50c higher; top, \$6.40; bulk of sales, \$6.25-6.40; heavy, \$6.20-6.30; mixed packers, \$4.25-6.40; light, \$3.20-6.30; yorkers, \$6.25-6.30; pigs, \$1.60-6.20.

SAYS AMERICANS STEAL LAND.

United States Accused of Appropriating British Territory.

VICTORIA, B. C.—The Province of Friday says: In the quietest possible manner, and with every precaution, United States surveyors have encroached upon Canadian territory to the northwest of Cape Fox and appropriated thousands of square miles of land lying within the boundaries of British Columbia to the westward of Portland canal.

The line from Portland canal runs northwesterly for a short distance, then turns and runs nearly due west, and finally connects with the Yukon river at the confluence with Strike river. At that point there is to be found an old post supposed to have been erected by the Hudson Bay company and by the running line to that post it is apparently the claim of the American government that the post in question was placed in position by the Russians, although the survey line is distinctly marked by squared and cut granite monuments.

ANOTHER TRUST IS BORN.

St. Joseph Grocers, Butchers and Bakers Form a Merger.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—The grocers, butchers and bakers of St. Joseph have formed a merger for the purpose of mutual protection. The body is affiliated with the retail merchants' association of Missouri and will present a garnishes bill at the next legislature. They say under the present law it is impossible to collect bills from persons owing them, even if they are able to pay.

Growth of the Grange.

LANSING, Mich.—At the first session of the National Grange the reports of the secretary and treasurer, which showed the order to be in a flourishing condition were received. Last year 256 new granges were organized in several states, Michigan leading with ninety-six. A number of resolutions were introduced and referred to the resolutions committee.

Illinois Now Ships Zinc.