

A PRETTY COMPANION

By Louise Bedford.

CHAPTER I.

The gas was turned up to its full height and flared noisily in the front parlor of a lodging house in the suburbs of London. Just underneath it, so that the bright light illumined the varying shade of her auburn hair, sat a girl, with the advertisement sheet of the Daily Mail laid upon the table before her. One finger passed rapidly down the columns.

"I wish I were a cook, Neville. Here are cooks required of every size and shape, no limit to either age or sex, apparently. I could get a dozen situations tomorrow if I could cook a joint properly, and I could earn a fortune if I could do made dishes."

The brother that Janetta Howard addressed was a good-looking lad about 19 years old, with dark appealing eyes, and closely-cropped curly hair. The face was spoiled by the purposeless, weak mouth and the characterless chin. He reclined in an easy chair, and was smoking a pipe, with his hands thrust deep into his trouser pockets.

"What nonsense, Jennie! As if I should ever consent to your going out as a common servant! Besides, I don't believe you could do a red herring properly."

"Given a good fire and a toasting fork, I would evolve the way to do the herring," retorted Janetta merrily. "But that I dare not draw out our last penny of capital I would go in for a series of cooking lessons, come out at the top of the tree, and take a place as cook in a high family, I tell you. I would not adopt the title of 'lady help.' I'd be cook, and rule my kitchen with a rod of iron." And she clenched her hand, as if she really gripped the rod of which she spoke.

"And, failing this, what do you propose to do?" asked Neville lazily.

"Anything that offers," replied Janetta quickly, resuming her search through the paper. "It is quite clear that, if you are to accept this chance of a stool in an accountant's office, I must supplement your salary in some way; you can't live on it."

"I need not accept it; I can wait for something better."

"Wait until we come to our last penny, in fact!" cried Janetta impatiently. "No, Neville; you must take this clerkship, and I must get something and help you all I can. You know I'm ready enough to do it; but—with a little break in her voice—"you'll keep steady, dear, when I'm gone?"

Her tone implied that the boy's past had not been altogether blameless, and he started to his feet, as if stung by her words.

"I know I've been a beast, Jennie. I've wasted a lot of money; but if I hadn't had such bad luck I should have won it back on the last Derby."

"That's just it—you'd no right to risk it," replied Janetta despairingly; "but you'll leave it alone now—you must promise me to try and keep straight. I think it would break my heart if you turned into a drinking, betting man like father!"

The last words were brought out sadly and reluctantly, briefly telling the tale of the present low ebb in their fortunes.

"He's dead; you need not bring up his sins against him," said Neville, rather sulkily.

"And I would not, except that I love you so dearly that I must give you one word of warning. You've nobody else, you see," said Janetta, with a smile that was almost a caress.

"Let me see, where was I? Bent upon finding that wonderful situation that is to make both your fortune and mine," she continued, with an effort to regain her usual light-heartedness. "What do you say to this?"

"Wanted, immediately, a young lady as companion, good-looking and good-tempered. Photo must accompany every application. References required."

"Humbly!" ejaculated Neville, from the depths of his easy chair.

"Come and look for yourself, if you don't believe me," said Janetta, with laughter in her eyes.

He rose and peeped over his sister's shoulder. "Why, yes! It's there safe enough. It's a hoax, of course. You won't be green enough to answer it?"

"This very night," said Janetta brightly—"at least, if you honestly can assure me that I fulfill the requirements. I'm not old at two-and-twenty, am I?"

"I'm averagely good-tempered, and could attain perfect self-control if an occasional outburst meant a loss of situation. And—as she spoke she glanced at the common little mirror above the mantel shelf—"don't mind my feelings, tell me truly; am I good looking enough?"

"Oh, as to that, you'll do," replied Neville, with the bluntness of a brother.

The face that the mirror reflected was framed in a cloudy mass of hair, set like an aureole round the daintily-poised head. Hazel eyes, half veiled by the long lashes, looked wistfully from under level, clearly-defined eyebrows; a creamy complexion; and a smiling mouth, whose half-opened red lips disclosed the whiteness of the small, even teeth, completed the picture.

Beauty was the one possession left to Janetta, and tonight she prized it more than she had ever done before as a possible means to an end. What if the simple fact that she was pretty

should win for her the situation she so longed to obtain?

"I shall send her my prettiest photo, Neville," she said, after her brief self survey.

"You don't even know the sex of the advertiser. It may be a widower advertising darkly for number two," suggested her brother.

Janetta laid down her pen in some alarm.

"I don't care," she said; "I shall write and send my photo and references. The answer will tell us all about it. I think it's a very rich old maid, with a poodle and a parrot. I shall probably have to wash the poodle, and play pretty Poil with endless lumps of sugar, and get my fingers well packed in the process. There! my letter is at any rate short and to the point. Will it do?" she said, tossing it over to Neville.

"A man could not have put the thing better. Old maid or widower, I would close with you at once if I were the advertiser. You write a short note and a pretty hand."

"Very well, we'll go out and post it," said Janetta, stretching out her hand for her hat. "May good luck attend it!"

She received an answer by return of post. The pointed handwriting in which the letter was written was of the style prevalent about 40 years ago.

"An old maid! Look at the writing!" cried Janetta triumphantly, as she opened the envelope.

"There is a modern brevity about it," said Neville, peeping over her shoulder. "Read it out, there's a dear."

"Dear Madam: I think you seem likely to suit me. The salary I offer is £60 pounds a year; but I shall be willing to raise it at the end of the first quarter if we find we get on together. Will you come for a month and see how you like it, beginning on Monday?"

"Can you leave by the train which starts from Paddington at 2 o'clock? I shall be sending to Northcote Station meet a friend, and you could come by the same carriage. Wire reply."

"Believe me, faithfully yours,

"(Miss) Clarice Seymour."

Janetta and her brother burst into simultaneous laugh when she finished the letter.

"Either the woman is a lunatic or it's a hoax," said Neville.

"I'll go and see for myself. It's too good an opening to miss. Sixty pounds a year for doing nothing, apparently. No mention even of the poodle or the parrot. Anyhow, it's a genuine place; I've looked it out in the 'Gazetteer.'"

Thus it came to pass that, on the Monday following, Janetta and Neville paced up and down Paddington station together, both their hearts too full of the approaching separation to trust themselves to speak of it.

Instead, they talked of trivialities, watched the other passengers as they hurried down the platform to the train, commenting idly upon them.

"Look, Neville! what a handsome man that is getting into the first-class carriage not far from my humble third. If he were a girl, and applied for my situation, I should not have a chance, should I? He's so very good looking!"

The man in question turned, as if he had heard the remark, glancing at the brother and sister, who had come to a halt before the carriage in which Janetta had placed her rug.

The glance was but momentary. He signed to the porter, who followed him, to hand in his belongings, jumped into the carriage, and closed the door.

"I believe he heard you, Jennie," said Neville quickly.

"If he did it can't matter. We shall never meet again, and it can't be the first time that he's heard her good looking," said Janetta, with a little laugh.

"Oh, Neville, I must get in! I don't know how to say good-by. I will write tonight. Good-by, dear; good-by. Jump in a minute, I must kiss you; and you'll keep steady, for my sake!"

The last words were said in a whisper.

"All right, don't bother!" said Neville, horribly ashamed of the fact that there were tears in his eyes.

CHAPTER II.

In a few minutes more the train was puffing slowly from the station, and Janetta, who had craned her neck from the carriage to obtain a farewell smile from Neville, sank back into her corner, with plenty of time before her in which to consider her prospects and her fellow travelers.

The latter were singularly uninteresting, with the exception of a little girl not more than two years old, who sat just opposite Janetta, regarding her with thoughtful eyes.

"Pretty," she said presently, stretching out her arms to come to her. And Janetta, with a reassuring nod to the mother, stood the child by the window and talked to her for the first hour, only handing her back to her natural guardian when the little thing was tired out, and showed signs of dropping off to sleep.

A glance at her watch told her that she could not be many miles from her destination, and she looked out of the window to notice the sort of country through which they were traveling, fancying that in the fast-fading light of the February afternoon she could catch the shimmer of the sea in the distance.

The thought had scarcely framed itself before she was conscious of a curious swaying to and fro in the carriage, then a shivering vibration ran along the train as if the brake had been applied with unwonted force; and, before she could do more than read the awful alarm that was written upon the faces of her fellow travelers, there came a crash and a total cessation of movement.

The earth itself seemed tottering under her, and she was thrown from her seat to the floor. She was too stunned for a few minutes to realize in the least what had happened; but when at last able to collect her senses, she knew that there must have been an accident, the nature and character of which she was incapable of guessing.

The air was alive with sounds more or less distressing—the hissing of the engine, the shrieks of women, and close to her, making itself heard above the din, the pitiful, frightened wail of a little child.

"Poor little dear! It must be the little child I was talking to," said Janetta, trying to raise herself on to her knees so as to see better what had happened to her fellow travelers, and much relieved to find that her own limbs were whole and sound.

The carriage was jerked off the rails and was pitched half over on its side, and the struggles of others to free themselves were beginning to be unpleasantly felt when, from her kneeling posture, Janetta caught a glimpse of the man whom she had seen getting into the first-class carriage a little beyond her own at Paddington.

"Hallo!" he said, with a pleasant smile. "You seem to want help here. Don't be frightened; I don't think there is much harm done, barring the smashing up of a carriage or so. No, no! don't struggle behind there! Ladies first, please. I must help you out through the window, as the door is jammed, and beware of broken glass."

"The child first," said Janetta, with quivering lips, who had laid hold of the little frightened heap that had been propelled right under the seat opposite to her own.

"Hand her out, please!" cried the man, depositing the child high up on the bank near by. "She's scared out of her wits, as well she may be. Now give me your hands, and place your feet on the handle of the door; I'll keep you steady as you climb through and lift you out."

Janetta obeyed every direction swiftly and deftly.

With her arm about the child, Janetta sat and watched the strange scene with dazed, bewildered eyes. The huge engine, which had run off the line, stood half embedded in the bank at the side, snorting and puffing as if indignant at finding himself in such an ignominious position.

Men with scared faces hurried hither and thither; women stood in groups along the line, sobbing in helpless terror.

The mother of her little charge lay stretched at full length on the grass close by, borne thither by the strong arms of her rescuer, who seemed almost the only man who kept full possession of his senses, except a fair-faced, fair-haired young doctor, who hastened forward towards the prostrate figure, kneeling by her and feeling her pulse with professional calm.

"Fainted, that's all," he said, looking up at the man by his side. Then a quick glance of recognition passed over his features. "Why, Mervale, you here!" he exclaimed. "On your way to the George, I suppose?"

From a certain hardening of the voice Janetta gathered that, for some reason unknown, the fair-haired doctor did not like the handsome stranger, whose fine physique and pleasant bearing seemed so attractive to herself.

(To be continued.)

"TELEPHONE EAR."

Operators Say Answering Calls Does Not Affect the Hearing.

Chicago girls who listen to the click in the telephone receiver for eight hours every day in the week laugh at the idea that their New York sister operators are getting a "telephone ear," or a deafness, from the constant snapping of the call signals, says the Chicago News. "A telephone ear," remarked one girl who has operated a board in the central office for three years, "is the most acute one in the world, and the more noise there is in the phone the more trained our ears become to detect what is being said."

"There are a great number of girls in this office," said the chief operator. "I sat at a board myself for several years, and I never heard a girl complain that the sound of the phone affected her hearing in the least. I know it never did mine." In speaking of the effect of the click on an operator's hearing, A. S. Hibbard, the general manager of company said:

"I do not care to say that the New York people are wrong in their contentions that they have had cases of deafness due to the sound made in connecting and disconnecting the telephones, but it sounds improbable to me. We have had the signal system in Chicago for about five years. Almost every phone in Chicago now calls the main board without twisting a crank, and yet I have never heard of a complaint."

Cat That Never Tasted Meat.

A kitten has been brought up on an exclusively vegetable diet by a family of vegetarians. The result is that it will not touch animal food and it pays no attention to rats or mice.

Almost any evil can be remedied if you face it fearlessly and honestly try to remove it.

MONEY OF THE WORLD

In Less Than a Single Generation Volume Has Grown Two-Fold.

INCREASE IS NEARLY ALL IN COIN

Paper Currency Now Forms Hardly More Than One Quarter of the Entire Circulation, According to the Report of Mint Director Roberts.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—An increase of more than 100 per cent in the money of the world, in less than a generation, will be one of the exhibitions of the annual reports of the director of the mint. Nearly all of this increase is in metallic money and much the larger proportion is in gold. The total stock reported in 1873 was about \$4,600,000,000, of which more than half was in paper money, not fully covered by metallic reserves. The situation at the beginning of 1900 showed a total monetary stock of about \$11,600,000,000, of which only a little more than one-fourth was in uncovered paper money.

Director Roberts finds that while the total money supply of the world has increased about \$7,000,000,000, the increase in gold money since 1873 has been about \$3,600,000,000, in silver about \$2,250,000,000 and in uncovered paper money only about \$500,000,000.

A large proportion of the increase in gold has taken place within the short space of seven years, while the quantity of silver money, which was at its maximum of about \$4,250,000,000 at the beginning of 1896, has since been somewhat reduced by the sale of silver by Germany and its retirement in other countries.

The conditions of 1893 showed a total monetary supply of about \$10,300,000,000, which has since been increased by about \$1,100,000,000. About \$940,000,000 of this increase has been in gold money. The great outbursts of activity in the mining of gold, which followed the suspension of the coinage of silver in India and the United States involving the rapid development of the mines of South Africa and the Klondike region with the increased output of Australia and California, it will be stated, has resulted further in supplying nearly the entire monetary needs of the world, without any material increase in the supply of paper money in circulation.

AS TO TRANSMISSOURI RATES.

Investigation May Be Made as to Whether There is a Combination.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Senator Harris today introduced a resolution in the senate directing the Interstate Commerce commission to investigate whether there now exists any association or associations of railroads formed for the purpose of restraining competition in transportation rates of traffic over lines from points between the Mississippi river and the Rocky mountains, which operate similarly to the association known as the Trans-Missouri Railway association, that was declared by the supreme court of the United States to be an unlawful combination and in violation of the anti-trust law. The committee is to report to the senate.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

New Office Whose Head Should Be a Member of the Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Senator Hansbrough today introduced a bill creating a department of education and giving the head of the department a place in the president's cabinet. Speaking of the object of the bill Senator Hansbrough said that the educational interests of the country are constantly increasing and that with the addition of the new territory comprised in Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines this interest would grow rapidly in scope and importance in the future. On this account, he said, he thought the head of the proposed department should be a member of the president's official household.

Cheyenne Short on Coal.

CHEYENNE, Jan. 4.—If the present cold weather continues for another week Cheyenne will have to submit to the inconveniences and hardships of a coal famine. The lack of coal is due to the inability of the operators to fill orders, notwithstanding the fact that they have increased their forces, installed new machinery, opened new mines, etc. The order of the government for over 100,000 carloads of coal to be delivered on the Pacific coast, which was placed with the Rock Springs mines last June, is now taxing the facilities of at least two mines at Rock Springs.

Bishop Nende Found Dead.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 4.—Bishop W. X. Nende, aged 68 years, of the Methodist Episcopal church, was found dead in his bed at his home here today. It is thought the cause of death was heart trouble. He attended a funeral yesterday and caught a cold. The deceased had been a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church since 1884 and was known throughout the United States. Prior to his election as a bishop he was pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal church here, and was at one time a missionary in India.

Iowa Duck Really Golden.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Shot gold amounting in value to nearly \$25 has been found in the crop of a tame duck which was offered for sale on South Water street. Hurried efforts to discover the point from which the gold-bearing fowl was shipped to Chicago have narrowed it down to either Monticello, Ia., or Larke Zurich, Ill., and farmers in the vicinity of those places have been notified to examine the feeding grounds of their fowls. The gold is of fine quality.

STRONG APPEAL FOR PEACE.

Lord Kitchener Represents to the Boer the Folly of Further Fighting.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The censorship has just permitted news of the following peace tentatives to emanate from Pretoria:

About the middle of December a number of prominent burghers who had submitted and were living in the Pretoria district formed a peace committee. Mr. Vans Rensburg, a former member of the first Volksraad of the Transvaal, was elected president of the committee, which included other prominent former members of the Volksraad. The committee resolved to attempt negotiation and in response to a suggestion Lord Kitchener attended a meeting and addressed the committee. He said he was glad to meet a committee desirous of bringing the war to a speedy conclusion and he assured them that they could rely upon his assistance in every way calculated to further that object. He proceeded to point out the folly of a continuance of guerrilla warfare, since the British government would never permit the re-establishment of the Boer government. Mr. Chamberlain's statements in Parliament Lord Kitchener contended, clearly showed that there was no wish to oppress the burghers. On the contrary, the British proposals foreshadowed an enlightened government, in which the burghers would have a prominent share, insuring the rights of property and the ancient laws and customs of the burghers.

Lord Kitchener urged that it was useless to continue the present inhuman struggle, pointing out that the powers had refused Mr. Kruger's pleadings for intervention. The Boers, he said, had fought a good fight, but had been overpowered, and there was no dishonor in the leaders recognizing that fact. He reminded them that there were hosts of Boer prisoners waiting to be restored to their families.

KITCHENER RETURNS THANKS.

Advises Cape Colony to Organize Force of Mounted Men to Assist.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 4.—General Kitchener has sent a dispatch to General Forester-Walker, in command of the British forces at Capetown, saying:

I am glad to hear of the ministers' action. Give them all the assistance in your power. Use trains to get these colonists south of the enemy. Ask the premier to inform me if I can help in any way. Inform him that the enemy are few, but very mobile. Well mounted men are most required to surround them or drive them north.

The action of the ministers of Cape Colony referred to by General Kitchener is the calling on the loyalists to assist the military by the formation of a paid defense force.

A station master of the Frazerburg road has seized a number of cases marked "condensed milk," addressed to Frazerburg, which contained 3,000 split bullets, 500 detonators and 150 pounds of dynamite.

Wells' Ranch Sold for \$20,000.

ONAWA, Ia., Jan. 5.—The Wells ranch, in Lincoln township, near the Missouri river, was sold to J. Mulhall of Sioux City for \$20,000. There are over 600 acres of land, which was formerly in timber. Many of the ties originally used in the construction of the Union Pacific railroad were cut on this land by Robert Moore and rafted to Omaha, and at one time there was a thriving burg there, called The Town.

For a Private Cable.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—At the regular monthly meeting of the chamber of commerce today Gustave H. Schwab introduced a resolution, which was adopted, committing the chamber to favor the establishment of an American trans-Pacific cable by private enterprise, and to the approval of the general principles embodied in the bill issued in the house of representatives by Mr. Sherman.

Armour Buys Salt Abroad.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 3.—Twenty-five thousand tons of common salt purchased in Lisbon, Portugal, have been contracted for by the Armour Packing company of this city. "We found that prices have gone steadily up on account of the salt trust," said the company's purchasing agent today, "and so we went outside this country for our salt."

Amnesty for Veterans.

MARSHALLTOWN, Jan. 2.—Commandant Horton, of the Soldiers' Home, has issued an order remitting all penalties for infraction of the rules of the home prior to Christmas day. The commandant desires that all the inmates should have an opportunity to begin the new year with clear records, bank hunting for old depositors.

Von Waldseeck May Be Dead.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—La Journal reports the death of Count von Waldseeck, the report being that he was killed by an officer of the allied troops, the circumstances not being related. It is said the rumor is current in Berlin, where it is not confirmed.

Bryan at Pensacola.

PENSACOLA, Fla., Jan. 4.—William J. Bryan is here tonight, en route to Tallahassee to witness the inauguration of his cousin, William S. Jennings, as governor of Florida next Tuesday.

Warships in a Storm.

BERMUDA, Jan. 4.—The United States warships Annapolis, Frolic, Wompatuck and Piscataqua, anchored in St. George's harbor shortly after 9 o'clock this morning. They left Norfolk, Va., at noon on Sunday last on their way to Manila, had very stormy weather that day and Monday, during which the Frolic lost her fore-top mast. During Tuesday and Wednesday the warships had fine weather. They will stay here four or five days as they have to coal and take on some fresh provisions.

A FIGHT FOR PRIORITY

One of Two Measures That the House Will Probably Take Up.

THE WORK AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

Senate Probably Devote First Few Days to Discussion of Army Reorganization, but May Take Up Ship Subsidy Measure Later On.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The house probably will dispose of the reapportionment bill this week, although Chairman Burton of the river and harbor committee is inclined to contest the right of way with the census committee. The reapportionment bill, carrying as it does a constitutional requirement, is a matter of higher privilege than an appropriation bill, and if Chairman Hopkins insists, it probably will be given priority. Mr. Hopkins, however, may yield if he finds that any large proportion of the members will not return from their holiday vacation in time to vote on the measure this week. A determined fight will be made against his bill by members from states which lose representatives under it, and Mr. Hopkins desires a full house when the vote is taken. He is confident that his measure will carry with it a full attendance. In any event, neither Mr. Hopkins nor Mr. Burton desires to proceed tomorrow, so that the session tomorrow probably will be brief and unimportant. On Friday either the river and harbor or the reapportionment bill will be taken up. If it should be the latter the expectation is that its consideration will be completed on Saturday. If the former, the length of time to be consumed is problematical.

The general expectation among senators is that the first few days of the time of the senate after reconvening tomorrow will be devoted to consideration of the army appropriation bill, but there is some disposition to make an arrangement for a division of time that will permit of the continued presentation of the ship subsidy bill during a part of each day.

When the committee on order of business, representing the republican side of the senate, made the subsidy bill the regular order of business at the beginning of the present session there was an understanding that when the army bill should be presented for consideration the other measure should be laid aside temporarily if considered necessary in order to secure the prompt passage of the army bill. There is apparently a disposition on the part of some senators partially to disregard this agreement, and the friends of the subsidy bill, most of whom are also supporters of the army bill, are trying to secure an understanding for confinement of the discussion of the army bill to the morning hour of the senate's daily proceedings, giving the time each day after 2 o'clock to the subsidy bill.

A meeting of the committee on military affairs has been called for tomorrow, when the matter of procedure probably will be discussed and a decision reached as to whether the committee shall ask for all the time of the senate until its bill is disposed of, or for only part of it. Some members of the committee are opposed to divide time with the subsidy bill for the present, but all senators, regardless of politics, consider the army bill of pressing importance, because of the fact that the time for which the volunteer soldiers in the Philippines were enlisted has almost expired. Hence it is probable that some arrangement will be reached guarding against any protracted delay on the military measure. While comparatively few of the opposition senators will vote for that bill, none of them appear willing to make any objection to its early consideration.

There has been a general surmise that Senator Cockrell would offer a substitute for the army bill, but he stated today that he had no such intention, at the same time expressing his conviction that the bill should be pressed to early disposition, because of the condition of the Philippines.

Cudahy Gets Other Letters.

OMAHA, Jan. 3.—E. A. Cudahy, sr., received Wednesday two threatening letters, evidently written by two cranks. Both were sent through the mails and both were printed with lead pencil in an obvious attempt to imitate the letters written by the kidnappers. Both also refer to the reward, and seek to have it withdrawn. One says that if it is not withdrawn at once the entire Cudahy family will be wiped out and that poison will be the expunging agent.

Coinage Statement for the Year.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The yearly coinage statement of the director of the mint shows that the total coinage of the mints of the United States was \$137,599,401, as follows: Gold, \$99,572,942; silver, \$36,295,821; minor coins, \$2,931,138.

Of the silver coined \$24,980,912 was in standard dollars. The December coinage amounted to \$7,758,580, of which \$4,536,697 was gold and \$2,880,555 silver and \$301,328 minor coins.

Kruger Confined to His Bed.

THE HAGUE, Jan. 3.—Mr. Kruger is suffering from a slight attack of bronchitis. While there is no anxiety as to his condition, he is obliged to keep to his bed.

Doctors Heynars, Van Khuyzen and Coert, during the day, issued the following bulletin: "Mr. Kruger has for some days been suffering from a recurrence of bronchitis, which, in view of his age and the effects of the climate, make it necessary for him to be more than ordinarily careful."