

The Trysting Place

By CECILLE LANGDON

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It was an odd trysting place, but it had been a favorite haunt for Ransom Wylie even before he had met Edna Deane. After the railroad had been built touching Orville, the town where both lived, and the telegraph line had paralleled, one towering pole fronted the lane that led to the home of the Deanes, which became a sort of waiting station for Ransom. Edna would join him there and they would stroll along the river bank or visit mutual young friends in the neighborhood.

A grassy rise curved gracefully about the deeply imbedded pole and some wild bushes encircled it.

It got to be so that Ransom was usually on the spot ahead of Edna. She came upon him one evening and learned the reason why, and her face grew thoughtful and serious, as was the dreamy expression of his eyes, far away and intense. On the occasion Edna found him with his ear close to the smooth surface of the pole.

"Resting, Ransom?" she intimated softly, as she sank to his side.

"Why, no," he answered, flushing slightly and acting like one startled from a deep reverie. "I was listening, Edna. Have you ever done so?" and his eyes brightened magically. "I come here very often, alone. Just think of it! Along those wires overhead there passes every hour the story of the great world—the business story; vast secrets in cypher, poor little trembling tales of longing, and broken hearts, happiness, misery, grief, sorrow, the chronicle of birth, deaths, good fortune and wretchedness. It overpowers me when I try to comprehend it all. And when there is a storm coming, the wires moan and seem freighted with tones that awe you, Oh, Edna! sometimes, when the hum and drone is soft and gentle, I can almost hear the tender words passing between sweethearts. I wonder, oh! I wonder—"

"You wonder what, Ransom?" asked Edna, wearily impressed with the look in his eyes.

"Of how some day, after I have gone into the busy, bustling life of the city, the message I send to you of triumph, of wealth, and always of love, will fill your soul with the glory of our great happiness."

"Don't, Ransom," pleaded Edna, as if the suggestion of parting wrenched her heart cruelly. "Oh, must it be that you will go away and we can meet here no more?" and she clung to his arm shelteringly, but shuddered, and there was the echo of a half suppressed sob.

Ransom expressed and comforted the girl he so loved, painting a fair picture of the prospects that were opening up to him, Edna was thoroughly unselfish and sacrificing, and she felt that she had no right to hold him back from testing his business ability.

An old man of sixty had succeeded the former telegraph operator at Orville and passing the cherished tryst-

ing place on his way to his work, had noticed Edna. It came about that they grew into quite intimate acquaintanceships, and occasionally Edna would stop for a few minutes at the little depot. It pleased her to be in close touch with one who could tell her all about the great city to which she was a stranger, which held her heart's dearest treasure.

One evening Edna dropped into the depot and was conversing with the operator, when the latter bent his ear quickly towards the clicking instrument. It had become his wont when Edna was there to emphasize any important happening that came his way.

"Big fire in the city," he called. "Plant of Driscoll & Co. totally destroyed," and Edna's cheek blanched, for that was the name of the house with which Ransom was connected. "Several lives lost, John Driscoll and his secretary escaped to roof; ladder, sent to their rescue, burns midway. Both engulfed in the flames. Hello!" for Edna had fallen to the floor insensible.

The operator ran to the water-pail, but it was empty. He seized it and started for the well. When he returned Edna was gone. He was a slow thinking man, but it suddenly occurred to him that the business house named in the telegram might be the one where her fiancé was employed. His face brightened as he caught a later wire.

"Where can she have gone? I must find her," he soliloquized excitedly, and an instinctive impulse caused him to hasten to the trysting place telegraph pole.

Yes, there was Edna, frantic, incoherent, clasping the pole, pressing her ear to it wildly, pleading for further word from the tanging wire!

"Oh, Miss Deane!" shouted the operator, "there's a later wire. Man and secretary escaped."

It was the next day that Ransom Wylie put in an appearance. Meantime the details of the fire were generally known. A rescuing ladder had, indeed, caught fire, and its lower half had fallen to the ground. Its upper half Ransom had drawn up to the roof, gained that of an adjoining building and he and his employer had gained safety.

It was at the old trysting place that Ransom Wylie resumed his love vows with Edna Deane, telling her that his signal service in behalf of his grateful employer had led to advancement and a reward that would enable them soon to become man and wife.

Helpfulness of Criticism. It is natural to resent criticism. We dislike anything that shakes our self-complacency or compels us to think. Here and there a man has learned the real service of criticism and usually he is a man who has attained to more than average success in life. We are all more or less like the proverbial ostrich. We like to convince ourselves that our faults are really our virtues, in that we are doing good work in the world when in truth we are lagging far behind our actual capacity and drifting along rather than really living.—William E. Towne.

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OLD HOUSE TO BE MUSEUM

Movement for Preservation of Structure Identified With Early Days of Southern California.

A movement is on at Riverside, Cal., for the preservation of a number of the old landmarks of the vicinity, buildings and spots intimately connected with the early-day period of southern California. The plan is being fostered by the local chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution and the Pioneer society.

The first project to be undertaken is the restoration of the old Rabidouz house, an adobe structure, which was built by Indian labor three-quarters of a century ago. The Rabidouz family was one of the most prominent of the early Spanish residents, and the house was a social center for the interior section. Many of the notable events of history of the period just previous to the forty-niners are more or less intimately connected with this old building which in recent years has been abandoned and has begun to crumble away.

After the work of restoration is completed, the building will serve as a nucleus for a pioneer museum for the housing of many relics of the early days.

Mediterranean Air Base.

A far-reaching program of aviation in Africa has been drawn up by the commission on aerial transports at Tunis, Algeria, which recommends that a great aerial transport center be established, with Tunis as its base, in order to centralize aerial traffic over the Mediterranean sea. Inasmuch as Tunis occupies an advantageous position, at the junction of French and international colonial possessions, a regular aerial service, it is urged, between Tunis and outlying districts would benefit the French protectorate. Already a line of airplanes is in operation between Gabes, an Algerian seaport, and the frontier of Tripoli; and this, in the expectation of colonial officials, will be extended to Tunis. So the "unchanging East" is fast becoming a by-word only of times past.

Flax in the War.

With restoration of the industry on a peace-time basis cotton once again goes ahead of linen in the world's favor. The exigencies of the recent conflict raised flax to the position as leader among fabrics, a rank which it had held for centuries but lost almost simultaneously with the advent of the cotton gin.

With realization of the importance of cotton in the making of munitions, there came a speedy reversion to linen for the more commonplace usages—waistcoats, sails for ships, even "wings" for airplanes having lately consisted of linen. But flax has reached the end of its days of monopoly. King Cotton now rises to the fore in ordinary pursuits, and linen once again becomes the aristocrat in this field of supply.

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PALACE A TOWN IN ITSELF

More Than Fourteen Hundred Rooms in Vienna Home of Ex-Emperor of Austria.

There are 1,440 rooms in the city palace formerly occupied by the emperor of Austria, in Vienna. It is also equipped with 100 kitchens and the courtyard covers 25,000 meters. The massive doric columns at the outside entrance were constructed by Peter von Hobilie in 1821-24. Through these one enters the "Palace of Heroes," outside the castle ward. A new wing was added here in 1887-94. The inner walls are of the Renaissance style, by Gilmann and Baumann, and were completed in 1917. Further on, toward the eastern side of the ground, is the Heldenplatz, where stand two exquisite monuments, the largest in the capital. The one on the left is that of Prince Eugene, while that on the right is of the Archduke Charles, who defeated Napoleon at Aspern.

A Roman ruin of ancient date is seen in the castle grounds. It is characteristic of the Roman conquerors, but is so dilapidated that but two or three of the portals remain, the others being nothing but crumbled stone. A tall arch is the best preserved part of the ruin.

Near the Roman ruin is a great obelisk, resembling a needle more than most monuments of the kind. The top is finished in gilt. The sides bear hieroglyphics of the history of Austria. Near it is the glorious Neptune fountain, and from Schene Brunner (beautiful fountain) the castle grounds derived their name, Schonbrunn.

RED TAPE FINALLY UNWOUND

For a Time It Had Sergt. Hayes Tied Up, But He Came Out a Lieutenant.

Once upon a time there was a man who "fired" his employees that he might have the pleasure of hiring them over again. That would seem to be somewhat like the way with the marine corps. It "fired" its men that the government may do them special honor.

Sergt. Edgar Hayes, a red-blooded patriot of the marine corps, overheard an aspersion upon the uniform of his service. Sergeant Hayes promptly hit the speaker in the nose. The marine corps sat upon his case in solemn court-martial, and after much deliberation dismissed Sergeant Hayes from the service, thus creating civil disabilities. The case later was reviewed by the president, who pardoned Hayes and restored him to citizenship. Hayes has now been restored to the service and created a first lieutenant, an act of congress having empowered the president to make the appointment.

It is a roundabout way of doing a man honor. And it shows something wrong with the system. We wonder what the dignified gentlemen of the court-martial would have done if it had been proved that Sergeant Hayes, now Lieutenant Hayes, having overheard an aspersion upon his honorable service, had condoned it by inaction.—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Lumber Cut of 1918.

The lumber cut of the United States in 1918 was 29,322,020,000 feet, as reported to the forest service up to June 15 by 14,753 mills. The complete total cut is 31,890,454,000 feet, based on the assumed operations of 22,546 mills. The computed cut in 1918 is 11 per cent smaller than the computed production in 1917.

A comparison of the computed cut of several of the larger general producing regions in 1918 with the figures for the preceding year shows a smaller output by approximately 20 per cent in the yellow-pine group of states, a decrease of 19 per cent in the North Carolina pine group and of 9 per cent in the Lake states. An increased cut of 2 per cent is noted for Oregon and Washington.

Concert by Telephone.

hour's concert over the telephone. Paing department store, wishing to call attention to his music machine records, is increasing sales by giving an hour's concert over the telephone. Patrons wishing to enjoy the new record series called the store's music department at the appointed time and "listened in."

Historic Strasbourg.

In establishing the administration of the restored provinces of Alsace-Lorraine in the city of Strasbourg, the people of France have regained a richly historic ground, says the Boston Transcript. Its cathedral, whose building engaged the services of famous architects and decorators for the period of four centuries before reaching the completion in which it stands today, is one of the marvels of the world. Its great university has a library of a million volumes and before the war its students numbered more than 2,000.

These are the recent glories, but a universal fame has been gained by the products of its more intimate talent. Thus, Alsatian wine has had world-wide recognition since the middle ages; Strasbourg beer was known before America was discovered, and for that delicacy so prized by the fastidious taste of gourmards, the pate de foie gras, the name of Strasbourg is the certificate of extreme excellence.

Placing Himself.

Luther Burbank, like Thomas A. Edison, has had his brain incorporated and capitalized. He has done many wonderful things, one of the biggest being the perfecting of the spineless cactus, which is a great cattle food staple. Also to his credit are the Shasta daisy, the seedless prune and the seedless grape. His patience is wonderful and they say that at one time he raised 50,000,000 lilies to get a single half-dozen that were perfect. "No wonder they call you the 'wizard' of California," remarked a Los Angeles reporter once. Burbank laughed, and replied: "They might better call me the gizzard of California."

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