

## A TIMELY GIFT.

By EVELYN LEE.

(Copyright, 1920, Western Newspaper Union.)

"Now, then, David, tomorrow is your birthday, and I have a present for you that I may as well give you now."

"Not neckties, or a sport shirt, or a sweater?" inquired David Woolson suspiciously.

"Not likely, seeing that you make knotted strings of ties in a week, never would wear anything but call-clo shirts and lost the pin I gave you the second day. No, David, I'm going to give you a watch."

"Why? you gave me one once."

"I did, on the anniversary of our silver wedding, and you let it drop on the floor and put it out of commission."

"No use burdening a man with jewelry who is too busy with farming to pay attention to fal-lals!" pronounced David.

"Well, a watch is something that every man should carry."

"I declare! It makes a fellow feel sort of dress'd up to carry a watch, eh, Martha? And you're a dear, whole-souled woman to think that much of a hard-headed, clumsy old fellow like myself!"

David delivered a resounding smack square on Martha's lips, and she flattered and flushed like some school-girl. She had to scold mildly and instruct in detail to get the watch placed in the right pocket and the chain bar in the correct button-hole.

Martha smiled an extra welcome when, on the stroke of six, David came into the house from the field, rather boyishly compared his watch with the kitchen clock, and announced:

"You've had a good time-keeper made of the old wreck of a watch, Martha. It's right to the minute."

Arthur Moore called that evening. He was keeping company with the eldest daughter, Hazel, and was a general favorite with the family. The smaller children had considerable fun repeatedly asking father what time it was, while Hazel declared the watch must be fast when her father observed that it was ten o'clock, which was the usual hour of departure of her lover.

It was two days later when David walked over to Brownsville on some business. The distance was only five miles, and he did not care about sparing a horse from harvest work. It was at Brownsville that young Moore lived with his stepfather, Hugh Griscom. Those two had not been very congenial, and Arthur had told Hazel that the sooner they were married, the better pleased he would be, as Griscom had grown into a gruff, unsocial companion. It seemed that the latter was a second husband of Arthur's mother, who had left quite an estate. The stepfather was to have a life income from the property, but after his death it was to revert to Arthur.

It was about three miles from Brownsville that David paused on the path lining the river, to gaze in astonishment at two persons conversing animatedly under some trees. One was a handsome young woman David had never seen before. The other was Arthur Moore.

The woman seemed under a strain of intense emotion. Her gestures were animated and her familiar manner with Arthur aroused a deep suspicion in David's mind. As she clung pleadingly to his arm David's face darkened. Why was this prospective son-in-law meeting a woman clandestinely? She acted as though she was pleading with Arthur as only a woman stirred by love or some kindred emotion was likely to do.

For over half an hour David watched the pair. He resolved to seek an explanation of the apparently recreant love. Finally the twain parted. The woman went away weeping. Arthur came up the river path, his face serious and troubled. He acted startled as David sternly confronted him.

"I have been here some time," spoke David. "What does this mean, your meeting a woman secretly?"

"If I tell you in confidence will you regard it as a pledged secret?" inquired Arthur.

"Yes."

"Very well; I came to meet that woman, the deserted wife of a close friend, to see if I cannot bring about a reconciliation."

"Oh! by the way, what is the time?" half-jocularly inquired Arthur as he turned where their paths parted.

"Half-past four," reported David.

"Coming over tonight?"

"Oh, surely!"

Arthur Moore did not go to the Woolson home that night. Before dusk a telephone message announced to the startled David that Arthur had been arrested, charged with the murder of his stepfather at three o'clock that afternoon—the motive the possession of his mother's estate.

At the hour stated a servant had heard a shot. She rushed to the living room of the house, to find Hugh Griscom lying dead on the floor, shot through the heart. She observed a scurrying figure in the garden resembling in build the stepson.

Back to Brownsville sped David. It took only a few moments to convince the marshal that his evidence would absolutely clear Arthur Moore. An empty, rifled drawer in a cabinet where Griscom kept his money indicated that some common burglar had committed the crime.

So Martha's birthday present had aided an innocent man; at least had saved him from serious trials and tribulations.

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### NEED OF SPECIAL TRAINING

Youth Starting in Life Must Remember That This is an Age of Specialists.

We are living today in the age of specialists in almost all lines and unless the young man who goes out to earn his own living is definitely trained in some one line, his chances of advancement are negligible. It is true that he can earn good wages at the outset and can hope for a few advancements, but unless he fits himself by training, experience and study for something bigger he will soon find he is in a blind alley job.

A boy does not always realize this: school life becomes humdrum to the lad bubbling over with fun and energy, and for him to sit on a bench with a book in his hands, studying what seems to be uninteresting facts, impresses him as a real hardship when he longs to be out in the world taking a place among comrades who have proved themselves independent.

This is the place where the guiding hand of the parent is necessary. The boy must be made to understand that the training he is receiving now is sharpening him for future opportunities. He is likely to be reasonable if his parents have retained his confidence, and if they can show him that in dollars and cents he will be the gainer by continuing in school.—Emma Gary Wallace, in Christian Herald.

### Coastal Defense of China.

The government of Peking, it is said, has a complete coastal defense plan for China, according to which the whole Chinese coast will be divided into four sections, i. e., the Gulf of Chihli, the coast of Kiang-su and Che-kiang, the coast of Fukien and the coast of Kwantung. A coast defense commissioner will be appointed for each section, and he will be held responsible for the maintenance of peace and order in his own section. He will also control all ships entering his section.

The first, the second and the training squadrons will retain their present status, under the direct control of the navy department. The navy ministry contemplates appointing Admiral Li Ting-hsing as commissioner for the Gulf of Chihli, Admiral Lan Chien-shu for the Kiang-su and Che-kiang section and Admiral Liu Kuan-hsing for Fukien. As to Kwantung, the commissioner will be appointed after the north and south have been reunited.—East and West News.

### EUROPE TAKES TO 'TYPISTS'

Business Men There Are Gradually Laying Aside Steel Pen and Using Modern Methods.

Without a typewriter an American office would not be an office, but a relic of a past age. But Europe has been writing with pen and ink, and is just waking up to the typewriter, remarks the Golden Age. In France the courts are working on the problem whether a document such as a deed or a mortgage is legal if written on a typewriter.

The world war taught Europe many things, among others to value the typewriter. Prior to the conflict the proportion of the American writing machine output that was exported was 35 per cent to 40 per cent; now it is 50 per cent. The machines would be going over the water much faster if Europe could get the credits necessary to correct the unfavorable conditions of exchange. When the great loans that are expected have been made, the situation will be improved and a much greater volume of typewriter exports is looked for as a result of the credits.

Europe needs among other things modern office methods. She will be helped in effecting this improvement, because the prices of writing machines have not increased nearly as much as those of other products, partly perhaps because the prices were unduly high before the war. Improvement is the order of the day, and the tendency will become ever more marked as the golden age comes on.

### Birds Clever Nutcrackers.

There are certain kinds of birds that can crack nuts. The nutcrackers have a clever manner of cracking nuts. They first wedge the nuts in the crevices of the bark of a tree and then pick at them with their bills until the nuts are opened. Woodpeckers use their tails for support as they climb the trunk of a tree, but the nutcrackers usually climb with their tail pointed to the zenith.

When the nutcrackers call it sounds as if they were saying, "Yank, yank, yank," and this strange noise is heard from both the white-breasted and the red-breasted birds, says the American Forestry association of Washington.

### Naturally.

"I suppose accidents vary much on this icy hill, do they not?"

"Yes, there is no fixed number. They are on a sliding scale."

### PRIVATE SALE OF PROPERTY.

Having sold my farm, I will sell the following property: Black 7 year old Kentucky bred saddle mare weight 1050, gray mare 5 years old weight 1200, broke, span bay geldings smooth mouth weight 2400, 5 milch cows 4 of which are 2400 and coming fresh, 2 calves, 2-year-old red bull, 6 sows with pigs by side, 4 sows with pig, 50 head of shoats weight about 175 lbs., extra good 3 1/4 inch wide tire wagon, truck wagon, 5-horse power Hercules gas engine only been out a few months, good Challenge feed grinder, good 3 1/4 inch Concord harness, good single harness, extra good .38 pound saddle.

This property must be sold by May 1st, as I give possession at that time. ED. KIERIG, Owner. Phone 912. 400 East Third St.

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### Notice of Final Report.

Estate No. 1702 of David Day, deceased in the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska.

The State of Nebraska, to all persons interested in said Estate take notice that the Administrator has filed a final account and report of his administration and a petition for final settlement and discharge as such, which has been set for hearing before said court on May 7th, 1920, at 9 o'clock a. m., when you may appear and contest the same. Dated April 13, 1920. Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, County Judge.

A13-3wk

### Notice of Final Report.

Estate No. 1702 of Mary A. Simants, deceased in the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska.

The State of Nebraska, to all persons interested in said Estate take notice that the Administrator has filed a final account and report of his administration and a petition for final settlement and discharge as such, which has been set for hearing before said court on May 14, 1920, at 9 o'clock a. m., when you may appear and contest the same. Dated April 17, 1920. Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, County Judge.

A20-3wk

## PUBLIC SALE!

Owing to the lack of help I will sell at Public Auction at my place known as the Blankenburg Ranch 5 1/2 miles east of North Platte, 1/4 mile south of Gannett Switch, on Lincoln Highway, the following property, on

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1920

Commencing at One o'clock.

96 Head of Cattle

23 cows mostly three years old, several have calves by side, all bred to registered Hereford bulls. 33 heifers two years old, 17 yearling heifers, 14 steers two years old, 6 yearling steers, 3 registered Hereford bulls, one three year old, two are coming two years old. These cattle are 95 per cent whitefaces which have been bred up for years by the best registered bulls money could buy, all are young and healthy, have been hay fed for all winter and are in good condition for grass.

### Hogs

35 shoats averaging about 150 pounds

ONE SPAN OF GELDINGS, SMOOTH MOUTH

FREE LUNCH AT TWELVE O'CLOCK

TERMS OF SALE: \$25 and under cash, sums over \$25, 8 months time will be given on bankable paper bearing 10 per cent interest from date of sale. No property to be removed till settled for.

J. A. JACKSON

ED. KIERIG, Auctioneer.

RAY C. LANGFORD, Clerk.