

# The Odd Man.

It was Lady Feo's maid who opened the door. That is as it would be. I hate a woman I'm fond of to keep a man servant. You can never tell what sort of temper his mistress is in. This rule does not apply to bachelors. I was shown into Feo's boudoir. As you have heard me say before, I like pink boudoirs, they suit one's complexion. Sometimes they suit two people's complexion; sometimes people's complexions suit them. Anyway, it was pink, and perfection at that. Feo was lying on a sofa with her golden head buried in a swansdown cushion. This meant she did not intend to stir. She did not. She held out her little pink-palmed hand, and as I knew by her maid's face I was in for a wiggling, I kissed it. I would if I hadn't, though. She pulled her hand away and said languidly:

"So you have come at last?"

"Have you been long dressed?" I said.

This made her angry. I meant it should. I always like to fire the first shot.

"You don't think I dress for you, do you?"

"One can never tell. You might be going to the theater."

"I am sick of theaters," said Feo. "You get tired of everything but butter scotch," said I.

"And even that has tin foil!" said Feo, with a sigh that would have buried an empire.

"It keeps the fingers clean," I remarked, as if I thought it a profound truth.

"It doesn't," said Feo, "and it sticks in one's teeth."

I let that pass and tried to come to conclusions by starting a new hare.

"What did you send for me for?"

"About these theater parties."

"The next one had better be at the Lyceum."

"I shan't go," said Feo, with a toss of her head.

"How can it matter to you?"

"But it matters a great deal to George."

"George never goes."

"No, but you do."

"I think you're very rude," said Feo. "I know you do," said I. "You're in a temper."

She drew herself up and looked at me straight.

"I'm nothing of the kind!"

She had got the corner of her lace handkerchief between her teeth, so I thought it best to say nothing.

"Well," she said.

"If you say so, of course," said I, "of course. It is so; but why don't you go to the Lyceum?"

"Never again," said Feo, "so you can think of something else."

"I'm sorry I didn't go to your last theater party," said I, "but I forgot."

This was in a very repentant voice, which I flatter myself told.

"I'm glad that you at least speak the truth," said Feo.

"I never lie," said Feo.

"Not to George?"

"Husbands are different," said I; "I mean to women."

"I think you are the very rudest man!"

"Except Frank Hobson," I cut in.

"Well, perhaps, Capt. Hobson."

"And Aid. Murray," said I.

"Figh!" said Feo, with a shudder; "I mean among civilized people."

"Then I am civilized," said I.

The lace handkerchief had begun to tear.

"Well, you are educated, and therefore ought to know better."

"To say nothing of politeness," said Feo, with a pout which was delicious.

"I wasn't talking about rudeness, Mr. Mansell," said Feo, frigidly.

"I know you were," said I; "you always are, and I do try so hard."

"Yes, indeed," said Feo. "How can you say such a thing when you know it was entirely your fault?"

"But I forgot," said I.

"Don't you keep an engagement book?"

"No."

"Why not?"

"Because I never was engaged but once, and you—"

"I never was engaged to you, at least; but why try to change the subject?"

"I?"

"Yes, I was the subject and you my queen."

"Don't be a fool! You know what I mean by an engagement book—a diary. Do you keep one?" said Feo.

"Good Lord, no!" I replied with horror.

"Why not?"

"Well, I thought it might get me into trouble."

"Who with?"

"Your husband, George."

"You are an incorrigible boy; but seriously, you must keep your engagements."

"I like that from you," this reproachfully.

She took no notice, but passed on.

"You'll get into frightful trouble."

"George doesn't suspect, does he?" said I.

Feo took no notice.

"And get other people into terrible bother," said she.

"I shall deny everything."

"You can't deny you promised to come."

"Well, I admit that I forgot."

"How does that get me out of trouble?"

"Your trouble? What trouble?" said I, concernedly.

"Why, with Alice, of course."

"Why, what has she got to complain of?"

"Simply because you never came to the box."

"How is that her affair?"

"She says it was absurd to ask her to meet Lord Gourlay, and then not give her a chance."

"But why should she put it on me?"

"She doesn't, unfortunately; she puts the blame on my shoulders," said Feo, with an injured air.

"But why?"

"Because you didn't come."

"Good Lord; she doesn't want to book me, does she?"

"You never can tell with these girls,"

said Feo. "They think that everybody belongs to them."

"So, that's what the row is about, is it?" said I, catching her up.

"What do you mean?" said she, showing I was on the right track.

"Why, it's your fault and not mine, at all."

"Yes; but it's all your fault."

"My fault, indeed. I see it all now."

"Soe what?"

"You have been at your old games again, Feo, and you try to plant it on me."

"Plant what?" said Feo.

"Eve's apple tree—flirtation."

"I am sure I have not—how could I? It was an uneven party, owing to your not turning up. There was the general for Lady Gaudy, Tommy Lawless for Mrs. Lock and Lord Gourlay for Alice and you to play—"

"Be careful," said I.

"Propriety with me, of course."

"Ha! ha! And of course you could not play propriety alone by yourself, and so—poor Alice!"

"Poor Alice, indeed!" said Feo, with a sneer; "I suppose she has told you."

"She has told me nothing."

"Then how else could you know?"

"You let it out."

"Let out what?"

"Your heart on a repairing lease. Do you think I don't know you? Do you suppose for one instant that I imagine you could spend an evening without flirtation?"

"It was my turn to be indignant."

"I don't flirt," said Feo.

"Then why have you quarreled with Alice?"

"Oh! these girls get ideas into their heads if you only look at a man."

"I know that look."

"Frank, you know perfectly well—"

"That Lord Gourlay knows it, too."

"One has to entertain one's guests."

"What about poor Alice? Why did you not think of her?"

"I did. I asked Lord Gourlay to meet her."

"And then quietly appropriated him to yourself."

"I did not—I swear I did not. But these boys—"

"Oh! first it was my fault, and now it's Lord Gourlay's fault. There is nothing so confusing as a return to first principles."

"Just because I was sitting all alone with no one to talk to—"

"And letting him see how miserable you are when you have no one to flirt with," said I, imitating her injured tone of voice.

"He was bound to be commonly polite to his hostess."

"And leave Alice to twiddle her thumbs?"

"Why did she not keep him to herself? You know I hate boys."

"I know you hate girls."

"I rather liked Alice."

"So did Lord Gourlay."

"Till you spoiled it all."

"I?"

"Yes, you. If you had not forgotten—I say forgotten—you promised to come round to our box, I should never have quarreled with Alice."

"Or flirted with Lord Gourlay."

"And they might have been engaged now."

"Like you and I were?"

"Frank, you are a brute, and—and—"

"There, there, don't cry."

"Then, why—do—you—bully me?"

"I don't bully you."

"What was left of the little lace handkerchief rolled into the size of a racquet ball and squeezed into her left eye."

"When you see I am so miserable," pointed Feo.

"Because you have quarreled with Alice?"

"Because I treated you so badly."

"Feo is clever."

"If you make your eyes red your husband will think he has not been paying you sufficient attention."

"Yes; poor George," said Feo.

"And now, what about Alice?" said I, consoling her.

"That is what I want you to arrange."

"But how?" I had her hand in mine.

"Why, make love to her," said Feo, smiling feebly.

"To Alice? And this from you, Feo?"

"Yes; she will think it makes me jealous."

"And Lord Gourlay?"

"Oh! I will make him jealous, too."

"And then we shall all be friends again."

"There is nothing like rivalry to promote love," said Feo.

"I was once your husband's rival," said I, reproachfully.

"And now he is yours," said Feo, giving me a little squeeze to my hand.

"When I had promised not to make too violent love to Alice, I went away and took the shreds of a little lace handkerchief with me. I thought it was perhaps safer, and so did Feo. That's how I got it, anyway.—Pick-Me-Up.

## SILVER IS THE CURE

### TO REVIVE THE INDUSTRIES OF THIS REPUBLIC.

Do Not Be Deceived by Free Trade or Protection—Quantity of Money in Circulation Is the Real Question at Issue.

The question before the Club was, "Will the prosperity of the country be promoted by the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1?"

Prosperity depends upon the reward of production. If producers produced only those things which they consume, prosperity would depend upon production itself. But under our complex system everything is exchanged, through the medium of money—hence, prosperity depends upon the reward of production, or the value of products in exchange;—or, stated in its simplest form, upon the price of products.

The common reply to this is, that price is immaterial, as rising or falling prices are compensatory, and if the producer receives a lower price he can buy a correspondingly larger amount, and vice versa. While this statement is apparently true, there are two fallacies concealed in it which entirely destroy its value. Unfortunately our whole economic system is based upon credit. Debt is universal. Debts are nominally fixed in dollars. The value in exchange of dollars is determined by prices. While a certain number of legal tender dollars will always liquidate any debt expressed in that number, the amount of sacrifice and labor needed in exchange to obtain the dollars is increased by lower—and decreased by higher prices. So, in a country in which debt is the universal condition, prices, instead of being immaterial and compensatory, are really the vital factor in determining prosperity.

The second folly is found in the fact that low prices may wipe out the margin of profit in production. When this is the case—when what he produces costs the producer more in labor, sacrifice or money, than he can obtain for it in exchange—though he may buy at continually lower and lower prices, he must eventually go to the wall.

So it remains absolutely true that price is the vital factor that determines prosperity.

The law of supply and demand determines price. The old school of economists' this law consisting of only two factors, the product and the need for the product, assumed that where the need for the product existed the ability to obtain it also existed. The later economists have discovered that the law of supply and demand consists of three factors, and that the third is the controlling factor in fixing price, viz: the produce, which is the supply—the need for the product which is simply ineffective demand—and the ability to purchase the product, or money, which transforms ineffective into effective demand, though there may be never so great a need.

Money does not escape the controlling power of the law of supply and demand. Its value in exchange is determined by the law. Now, money, or some accepted substitute for money, enters into every commercial transaction—every exchange. Hence it will be seen that the demand for money is at all times equal to the demand for all other things. Hence, it must follow, by inexorable logic, that the total supply of money at any given time, be it great or small, must have a value in exchange equal to all other things. From this fact is evolved the law of the quantitative power of money. This law is an essential, integral part of the law of supply and demand. It inheres in it. It is its controlling factor in its power to determine price. Formulated, this law is—and it is simply the law of supply and demand applied to money—that if the mass of money is increased it will exchange for less products. In other words, the quantity of money in relation to products determines prices. This law is inherent, and is as immutable as the operation as the law of gravitation. It is also vitally important in considering the money question, and is the key to most of its intricacies and mysteries.

Money is the creation of law, and of law only. Its creation is a government monopoly. Law determines today, approximately, the amount of money that the people may have with which to effect their exchanges.

Briefly formulated then, my answers are as follows: Prosperity is determined by the reward of production, or price.

Price is determined by the law of supply and demand finding its expression in the relation of the volume of money to the volume of exchangeable products.

The volume of money is determined by law. Hence, price, or the reward of productions, is determined by law. Hence, prosperity is determined by law.

My conclusion, therefore, is, that prosperity has been destroyed by a contraction of the volume of money resulting from the demonetization of silver, and can be restored only by the restoration of silver to its former status.

## INCOMES AND FREE SILVER.

### All Who Labor Will Find Their Wages Cut in Half by the Silver Dollar.

"The Denver Chamber of Commerce, replying to the appeal for sound money issued by the New York Chamber of Commerce, says that resumption of free coinage of silver is objectionable to persons of fixed incomes."

This is true, but in a sense broader than its authors intended. Persons of fixed incomes are not merely millionaires, army, or navy officers. All who labor in this country, whether the pay be called salary or wages, are also persons of fixed incomes, and they decidedly object to having their incomes cut in half for the benefit of the silver mine owners.

The blacksmith who makes \$15 a week, the carpenter at \$3 per day, the salesman at \$1,000 a year, the agricultural laborer at \$1.50 a day, the teacher at \$10 a week, are all persons of fixed incomes. They find their incomes now too large for their necessities. Why should they not object to a slump to silver, free and unlimited, for the benefit of those who own silver, but at a loss of 50 per cent in their fixed incomes?

It is the labor of the country that most determinedly demands the gold basis; that demands stability in the currency; that objects most positively to a loss of half its fixed income.

Silver mine owners and agents must reckon with this element, and it is a mighty element at the ballot box. Let platform writers note this fact as well as silver mine capitalists.—Chicago Times-Herald.

It is almost a waste of time to comment upon anything that appears in the Chicago Times-Herald with reference to the silver question. If there is a statement against silver so wild, so incongruous, so absurd and so utterly false as not to find a place in the editorial columns of that paper, it can only be because the financial editor has not happened to think of it. If somebody should suggest to him that the free coinage of silver would convert the seventeen year locusts into an annual pest, or interfere with the orderly precision of the equinoxes, we may be sure that the idea would speedily appear in the columns of that paper, with all the gorgeous coloring that a lurid imagination could supply.

Still there is now and then a person who may possibly be misled by the very boldness of the Times-Herald statements.

Doubtless this is the theory of the Sound Currency Committee of the Reform Club, for the above article appears in one of its "sound money" supplements, which are being scattered broadcast over the country.

The idea sought to be conveyed is that all wage workers have "fixed incomes."

That is, no matter how greatly the prices of houses and everything else in which the carpenter work is done may fall, the carpenter is still going to get the same pay. No matter how much or how little the employer gets for shoeing horses or making wagons, the blacksmith's pay will remain unchanged, though the merchant's profits may be destroyed and he be forced into bankruptcy by the fall in the prices of his goods, the salesman will still draw his \$1,000 a year.

If the farmer's wheat drops to 25 cents, his corn to 12½, his oats to 8, and his potatoes to nothing at all, the farm hand is still going to receive his monthly pay undiminished.

Such is the philosophy of the Times-Herald, and by adoption, of the "Sound Money" Committee.

It is hard to say whether we should smile at the absurdity, or become indignant at the bare-faced fraud. Perhaps it would be as well to treat it with silent contempt, for there is not an intelligent workman in the country who can be deceived by anything so flimsy and false.

The average workman knows perfectly well that his employer's ability to pay him his wages depends upon the price obtained for the product of his labor. He knows that the statement that his pay is "fixed" is absolutely false. Every day some great establishment either limits production or cuts wages because of the low prices of products.

He knows that prices are lower than ever before, and that there is more idleness, poverty and suffering extant than at any previous period in our country's history.

If there is a workman in the country who honestly believes in the gold standard, the character of the arguments (?) by which it is defended should quickly convince him of his error.

The statement that the incomes of the blacksmith, the carpenter, the salesman and the agricultural laborer are fixed is an insult to the intelligence of 20,000,000 of American workmen.

There is another idea involved that is equally preposterous and equally false.

It is that under free coinage the workman would get no more dollars than he does now, and each dollar would only be worth fifty cents.

That is impossible. The only way free coinage can make dollars cheaper is by making them more plentiful. If they become more abundant, then the workmen will certainly get more of them.

If they be not more plentiful, then they cannot possibly be any cheaper.

If under free coinage "dollars" become cheaper, as they certainly will, it means that prices will rise—that a dollar will not buy so much.

The economic history of the world proves that the condition of the wage earner always advances with rising prices. From 1860 to 1873 prices steadily rose. According to Professor Sauerbeck, the rise was about 11 or 12 per cent.—National Bimetallist.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

### LESSON VII, MAY 17—PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.

Golden Text: "He That Is Faithful In That Which Is Least Is Faithful Also In Much; and He That Is Unjust In Little Is Unjust In Much"—Luke xvi, 10.

WE HAVE for our lesson today verses 11 to 27 in the sixth chapter of Luke.

Thus far we have studied the three great ministries of Jesus, as designated by the regions in which they were exercised—the Judean, the Galilean, and the Perea. These are now complete, and there remains only the Last Great Week. The lesson today, although it is located in Jericho, really belongs to the Perea ministry, and is its fitting close.

Compare this parable with the parable of the talents (Matt. xxv) spoken the following Tuesday in the temple, taking up another aspect of the faithful use of what God has entrusted to us, and with a somewhat different object. It will be well to keep both in view all the time, in order to note the differences and the similarities, and by both means to enforce the truths that are taught. "Taken together they represent the sum of human accountability," and they preserve us from any false applications.

Jericho was so situated on the great road which led from the countries east of the Jordan to Judea and Egypt that it must have been one of the principal custom houses on the route. "Zaccheus was probably at the head of this office."

Time—The last of March, A. D. 30. Probably just after the healing of Bartimeus. Just a week before the crucifixion.

Place—A street in Jericho and the house of Zaccheus.

The full text of today's lesson is as follows:

11. And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

12. He said, therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

14. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

15. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant, because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

20. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin.

21. For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man; thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

22. And he said unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow?

23. Wherefore then gavest not thou my money unto the bank, that with usury I might have required mine own with usury?

24. And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

25. And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.

26. For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

27. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

Some explanations are as follows:

11. "As they heard these things," which Jesus had been saying in the house of Zaccheus, where he was a guest. He had been saying that the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost. But this method of doing it was so contrary to their expectations that they needed further instructions. "He . . . spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem," 15 to 18 miles. Jerusalem was the capital where they expected their Messiah to appear, and where his reign would begin and center, in David's city and on David's throne. "And because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear," Jesus had repeatedly of late given the impression that the kingdom was coming.

12. "For I feared thee," lest I could not satisfy thee and thy claims, and might lose what thou didst entrust to me, and then how could I look in thy face? "Because thou art an austere man," severe in modes of judging or acting. The sense is obvious: "I know thee, and when it was impossible to serve satisfactorily, one whom nothing would please." Thus do men secretly think of God as a hard master, and virtually throw on him the blame of their fruitlessness.—J. F. and B. "Thou takest up," etc. You expected me to do the work, while you had all the gains.

22. "Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee." Your own statements condemn you. "Thou knewest," etc. "To be read interrogatively."—Vincent. Even if it were true, this unfair description of me. For that it was false was shown by his great rewards to the servants.

23. "Wherefore then." You had an easy course before you. You had no right to prevent my money from making its natural gains. Usury here means simple interest for the use of the money.

24. "Take from him the pound." He had proved himself wholly unworthy of doing business with the money entrusted to him. His punishment was like his sin. The sin of omission led to the omitting from his life of the good things his Lord had bestowed upon him, and the many more he would have liked to bestow.

25. "Unto every one which hath." He only has true possession of a thing who uses its powers and forces. He does not really "have" anything which he does not make a stepping-stone to something better. "Even thou," that is, the man who has the money, is to be judged by the opportunities pass away, the abilities diminish, the powers wane. So it will be in the spiritual world.

27. "But those mine enemies," who not only neglected duty, but refused to be subject to his law. "Slay them before me." There was a fulfillment of this at the destruction of Jerusalem, 40 years later, when not a Christian perished.

## Cripple Made Well

The iron grasp of scrofula has no mercy upon its victims. This demon of the blood is often not satisfied with causing dreadful sores, but racks the body with the pains of rheumatism until Hood's Sarsaparilla cures.

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STATISTICS OF THE RACE.

The birth rates of the seven principal European nations have declined notably since 1880. The decline in death rates has been still greater, so the surplus of births over deaths has risen steadily.

Although marriage rates have decreased the number of children to a marriage has increased in every country except Belgium. Moreover the natural increase of population the world over has proceeded with greater rapidity since 1880 than before.