

A Twentieth Century Romance.

By EFFIE W. MERRIMAN.

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(Continued from last week.)

CHAPTER III.

When Harold's suit at last arrived, his first thought as he surveyed himself before the glass was that now he could go down into the dining room and have a good square meal. What that thought was to him can only be imagined by the hungry man to whom the delights of the table are supreme. Since Harold's waking he had been served with what he called broth, accompanied with nuts and fruit of different varieties. He supposed it was served according to the orders of a physician, who might imagine that it was necessary for his stomach to get used to work by degrees after so long a period of idleness. If that were so, the broth and fruit might seem reasonable enough as a diet, but how about the nuts?

"Mrs. Winthrop," he said, going down to the porch, where that lady was taking her morning exercise, "what is your dinner hour? And is the room that my mother selected still used for the dining room?"

"Dining room! What can you mean?" For a moment Mrs. Winthrop looked puzzled; then her brow suddenly cleared as she exclaimed: "Oh, I remember now! I was reading only the other day that people used to sit around large tables and watch one another eat all manner of queer stuff that they called food. They must have resembled pigs gathered around a trough."

"May I ask," said Harold, striving to control his wrath, "how you manage the matter of eating at the present time?"

"To be sure. You have been nourished since your awakening, have you not?"

"I have been given a little broth."

"Have you not felt sufficiently nourished?"

"I have not suffered with hunger," admitted Harold, who suddenly realized that he had not felt hunger at all, but was simply uneasy because he had not sat at a table and filled himself with food as he had done in the good old days which were to him but as yesterday. He began to have an awful fear that he had slept beyond the pleasures of eating at a loaded table in company with congenial friends. Mrs. Winthrop's next words confirmed this fear.

"In this day," she said, "no one thinks of supplying his system with necessary fuel in public. Each takes such nourishment as his system requires whenever it is most needed, but he would no more think of allowing his neighbor to see him take it than he would think of changing his linen in public."

"I fear I have much to learn," said Harold, "before I shall be able to live in this day—ahem, beautiful world."

"I am afraid you have, sir," replied Mrs. Winthrop severely. "There is an old woman living not far from here who might help you. It is said that she is nearly 100 years of age, and that she has a fine memory. She might be able to teach you the difference between your yesterday and our today and so save you and us a great deal of embarrassment."

Harold thought the idea a good one and decided to go to this old woman at once. It was barely possible that she had not given up the good old customs for the outrageous new ones, and that she might ask him to stay to dinner. In an incredibly short space of time he had placed himself before her.

"So you are the sleeper?" she exclaimed. "My, my, how young you look! It would be hard for any one to believe that you are 30 years older than I am."

Harold looked at the thin figure, the wrinkled face and the toothless mouth, then recalled the handsome young fellow he had seen in the glass only that morning and decided that it would be hard indeed.

"Well," she said when he had made known his errand, "what do you most want to know?"

"How do people manage to eat?" he asked. "I'm getting dazedly hungry. Don't you know of a nice place where a fellow can get roast beef, and mince pie, and cranberry jelly, and a good cup of coffee, and a few such trifles?" Harold's mouth watered as he asked the question. He felt that he had a great deal to do to make up for all the good things of life which he had lost while sleeping.

"My dear sir," exclaimed the old lady, placing a restraining hand on his arm, "I beg you will not mention such things again. It makes me quite faint. Remember that I am not so young as I once was."

"Are you hungry?" asked Harold kindly. He could think of no other reason why any one should become faint from hearing such things as roast beef and mince pie talked about. "Is there a restaurant near?"

"A restaurant!" The old lady burst into a peal of laughter. "Oh," she gasped, "you take me back to the days of my childhood! Oh, it is so funny! Mary, Mary, come here a moment!"

A young woman entered the room and stood beside the old lady's chair. She was fully 6 feet tall and must have weighed 200 pounds, yet she was not fleshy. Harold thought she must be a female prizefighter and wondered if the old lady had sent for her for protection.

"What is it, grandma?" she asked pleasantly.

"This young man wishes to be directed to a restaurant. Now, are you willing to believe that such things existed in my day?"

"Oh, sir," said Mary, turning to Harold, "did you ever eat before any one?"

"I did," replied Harold, "and I should like to do it again. I hoped I might at least get a cup of coffee here."

"I used to eat such things 70 or 80 years ago," said the old lady, "but I

shudder now to think of it. You will, too, when you become used to the new way."

"I shudder now to think of life without eating," replied Harold, with a feeble smile. "I think," he added, "that I shall not be successful in an attempt to live on air and water."

"You must go to a physician as soon as possible," said the old lady. "He will make an examination and tell you what chemical elements are necessary to keep your system in good working order. He will also tell you how much of each should be taken and how often. On every corner you will see shops where these foods are for sale. Every one prepares them for one's self, and no one thinks of taking his neighbor into his confidence as to his system's demands. Oh, Mary, think how folks would laugh to hear me make these explanations!"

The old lady burst into another peal of laughter, which Harold found extremely irritating. He did not smile. Neither did Mary, and for a moment he felt grateful to her, but only for a moment.

"I think such innocence is charming," he heard Mary say in an undertone to the old lady. "Such a beautiful boy should not be allowed to take care of himself. It isn't safe. I propose to take care of him. It isn't conventional, I know, but hang conventionalities!"

"She uses slang like a man," thought Harold. "What next, I wonder?"

Harold began to become somewhat alarmed. Did this amazon propose to send him to a lunatic asylum? He wondered if he could outrun her should she pursue him. Before he had decided as to what he had better do Mary came to his side and took his hand in hers.

"My dear," she said tenderly, "I know that what I am about to say may seem a little premature, but I am animated by thoughts of your welfare as well as my own gratification. Love is not measured by hours, but by heart throbs. Should I know you a hundred years I could not love you more sincerely. Will you be mine? I promise to care for you most tenderly."

"You promise to—good Lord, deliver us! What is the woman talking about?"

"I know this must seem sudden to you. You have not yet learned to know your heart, but you are so young and inexperienced—at least so inexperienced—



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enced. Don't you think it would be better for you to trust your happiness in my keeping? Don't mind grandma. Indeed her presence should assure you as to the purity of my motives."

"It's a proposal!" thought Harold. "As sure as I live it is a proposal."

He could with difficulty restrain his laughter, but he remembered that she was a woman, and although ridiculously eccentric not to be laughed at. He wished he might think of some easy way of putting her off, believing that one so weakminded would not long remember having mentioned such a subject.

"Madam," he said, "suppose you try to forget!"

"Does that mean you cannot accept my love?" asked Mary, who was quite infatuated with him.

"I am afraid it does," replied Harold, struggling with his mirth. In all his life he had never had so funny an experience.

"And you can laugh!" exclaimed Mary reproachfully. "You are heartless, absolutely heartless." She turned and left the room without another word, and Harold indulged in unrestrained laughter until suddenly made aware that the old lady was regarding him with great seriousness.

"It would have been better," she said, "if you had been a little more manly. You might at least have offered to be a brother to her. You have hurt a very warm heart and lost a good chance to marry. Mary could have relieved you of many vexations."

The old lady's seriousness irritated Harold. The idea of any one taking such a proposal seriously was too preposterous to be entertained for a moment. He concluded that his call had been quite long enough, and that he should take his departure as soon as he had made sure that she could tell him nothing more about dining.

"Did I understand you to say," he asked, "that no one eats anything but broth and—ah, air?"

"I said nothing about eating air. There are nuts and fruits. They are produced in great quantities, and growers vie with each other in starting new varieties. And, by the way, I must warn you not to present a basket of fruit to any one. I mention it, remembering that in your day it was done as a mark of friendship and even of love. How dreadfully coarse it was! In this day it would be considered as insulting as the presentation of a beef roast would have been a hundred years ago."

"May I ask," said Harold, smiling at the thought, "what young men do offer the ladies of their affections?"

"What do young men—oh, now I see why you laughed at Mary! No. In these days, my dear sir, young men offer

nothing. It would be considered a mark of immaturity. They do not seek ladies in marriage. It would be highly improper for them to show any affection until the lady has offered them some encouragement."

"Am I to understand that women now do the loving-kind?"

"Why, to be sure!"

"And the men wait to be courted?"

"How could there be marriages?" Harold stared at the old lady for fully five minutes before replying. Such a state of affairs was quite beyond his comprehension. It was too serious to be laughable.

"It used to be different, I know," added the old lady, "but it was no more satisfactory."

"Wasn't it, though?" exclaimed Harold. "Permit me to say that I do not agree with you. But let us not quarrel on that subject. At present I am more interested in the food question than in the fact that women have a corner on the business of love-making. Can you tell me why the change was made in regard to the habit of dining?"

"Because women could not use their precious time in cooking, setting tables, washing dishes, hemming table linen and doing the thousand and one other tasks which the old habit of dining made necessary."

"But how do women employ themselves?"

"Keep your eyes open for one week, my dear sir, and you will not need to ask. Although the character of the work has changed, there is still plenty to do, and, as you can see, men amount to little in these days. That is my opinion at least, and I think it will be yours, but women do not seem to agree with me. They consider me very odd for not attaching myself to one of these little specimens of humanity. Ah, they did not live in the days when there were men like you!"

"Why are all the men so small?" asked Harold hastily. He feared another proposal.

"It is a natural result of generations of dissipation. I have been told that in 1892 there were many miniature specimens of masculinity to be seen on the streets, but the people did not seem to realize or even to recognize the danger which they heralded. There was an occasional prophet who spoke of the dangers of cigarette smoking, for instance, but notwithstanding two-thirds of the boys smoked cigarettes and wondered why they did not grow to be as large as their fathers. Were you as large as your father?"

Harold admitted that he had not been, and that it had been a source of regret to him.

"Had you not gone to sleep," continued the old lady, "I presume you would not have been so good or so much of a man in any way as your father. Men indulged in all sorts of dissipations, which had their effect both mentally and morally. As they became less manly women became more so. Women took up all sorts of self culture and became man's superior in every way long before even they or the men recognized the fact. When the awakening came, there was a revolution. I think in your day there was considerable dissatisfaction among women, but I am not sure. Of late years I have been a little doubtful as to dates."

"I think you are right," replied Harold, who was very much interested in the old lady's talk. "We had the woman suffrage and an organization called the W. C. T. U. and several smaller organizations which were for the purpose of training men to know right from wrong."

"How did men regard them?"

"They laughed at first, I believe. Later they became more indulgent."

"But they never read the sign by the wayside even then. Well, these societies increased. Women became more and more self supporting and in every way independent. Men were gradually forced to the wall in the labor market. In 1925 no man dared to ask a woman to marry him unless he knew that she could help support the family, and no girl would have thought of marrying without having first learned a trade, for they placed no faith in man's ability to care for women. Indeed there were few marriages, for women did not respect men, and men felt under no obligations to stay with a wife when they thought they could live easier away from her. Women refused to be governed by those whom they considered inferior to themselves, and finally there came the war of the revolution between the sexes. Men should have seen from the first what must have been the result of that war. They had become weakened by generations of self indulgence. Women had grown more powerful, and theirs was not a difficult victory. After the war men found themselves obliged to see for woman's favor as women had once used for theirs. Women had little respect for them, and for a long time man's position was not much superior to that of slavery. They rapidly lost what little power of independent thought they had kept through their years of dissipation and soon became what you see them now—worse, in fact, for of late years there seems to be an uneasiness among a few of them, corresponding to the uneasiness shown by a few women in your day."

"Did you know Letty Mays?" asked Harold, who was reminded of his old love by the mention of the women of his day.

"Oh, yes. She was a middle aged woman when I was a little girl. I went with her several times to see you as you slept, and she told me a great deal about you. She did not marry until quite late in life. She left one son. His name was Harold Winthrop Everett. He married a young woman when he was past 60 years of age and left a daughter, whom he named Letty Mays after her grandmother. Letty lives alone in the house where you used to court her grandmother. She is 26 years old now and is considered rather peculiar, I believe. For my part, I like her."

"In what way does she show her peculiarity?" asked Harold.

"Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation and filled with the spirit of the grand generation which established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of 'the plain people,' with whom it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the national constitution: 'To form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.'"

"Oh, she doesn't like men very well. She never takes a man anywhere. She declares that she will not marry until she finds a man as smart as herself, and she talks so much about equality between the sexes that she is making many men quite uneasy. She has quite a following among the men whose wives do not treat them well. Once she said that she was waiting for Harold Winthrop to awaken that she might propose to him. Of course, sir, you will understand that she was joking, not believing that you would ever awaken."

"I understand," replied Harold, "but let me tell you this: When I marry, it will not be to a woman who makes love to me. I reserve the little pleasure of popping the question as my exclusive right."

"Oh, nonsense!" replied the old lady playfully. "I've heard young men talk before. When the right girl asks you to marry her, you'll assent without a word of protest."

Somewhat tired with his long conversation with the old lady, Harold decided to rest himself by calling on Miss Letty Mays Everett. He hoped that he might find a little pleasure such as he used to enjoy in getting up a mild flirtation with the granddaughter of his old love.

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(To be continued.)

Headache bad? Get Dr. Miller's Pain Pills.

OUR NATIONAL PLATFORM.

The People's Party Platform Adopted at Omaha July 6, 1892.

Assembled upon the 116th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their action the blessings of Almighty God, puts forth in the name and on behalf of the people of this country the following preamble and declaration of principles:

PREAMBLE.

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation. We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced; business prostrated; our homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages, a hireling standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind; and the possessors of these, in turn, despite the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders. A vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise and enslave industries. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once, it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggle for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon a suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious efforts to prevent or restrain them. Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff, so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, trusts, watered stock, the demonetization of silver and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation and filled with the spirit of the grand generation which established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of 'the plain people,' with whom it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the national constitution: 'To form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.'"

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations; that a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed two per cent. per annum, to be provided, asset forth in the subtreasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax.

We believe that the moneys of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government, for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people, and to facilitate exchange. Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system being a necessity for transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for settling only.

We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be planned together by bayonets; that the civil war is ever and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it, and that we must be in fact as we are in name, the united brotherhood of free men.

Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world; our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange; the results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings and the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that, if given power, we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation in accordance with the terms of our platform. We believe that the powers of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people and the teachings of experience shall justify, to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions, important as they are, as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution, and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depend; and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer, before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered. Believing that the forces of reform this day organized will never cease to move forward until every wrong is remedied, and equal rights and equal privileges securely established for all men and women of the country, therefore:

WE DECLARE

First—That the union of the labor forces of the United States, this day consummated, shall be permanent and perpetual. May its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who creates it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any will not work, neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies identical.

Third—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either own the people or the people own the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing any or all railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil service regulation of the most rigid character; so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

PLATFORM.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations; that a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed two per cent. per annum, to be provided, asset forth in the subtreasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

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WEEKLY REVIEW OF TRADE.

EFFECTS OF THE STRIKES HAVE NOT YET WORN OFF.

TARIFF UNCERTAINTIES ALSO BAD.

Therefore the Customary Tests of the Condition of Business Are Less Instructive Than Usual—Wheat Getting Down to a Very Low Price—Failures Decreasing—Bank Clearings.

New York, July 23.—R. G. Dan & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "The effects of the two great strikes have not yet entirely worn off, and meanwhile disagreement between the two houses of congress has made tariff uncertainties more distinct and impressive. It follows that the customary tests of the condition of business are less instructive than usual. The financial situation is somewhat less feeble, because the exports of goods have been resumed and are \$3,300,000 for the week, but treasury receipts have been \$2,046,391 for customs, against \$2,951,574 last year, and \$7,474,553 internal revenue, against \$2,970,518 last year. The extraordinary payments to anticipate the increase of taxation on whisky are rapidly looking up a large amount of cash, and taking from the government part of the expected increase of revenue, which in the current loss in customs receipts is largely due to the postponement of imports, in expectation of lower duties hereafter. Thus, the treasury has been gaining in the balance at the expense of some loss in revenue hereafter."

Wheat has been skating on thin ice, with a chance of breaking through and making the lowest record ever known, and has declined 3 cents for the week. With railroads generally blockaded in the wheat belt it is a satisfying indication that the western receipts are about two-thirds of last year's, 2,271,514 bushels, against 4,028,379 a year ago, while the exports from Atlantic ports are insignificant, only 672,402 bushels, against 2,868,327 last year. The enormous visible supply has less actual weight in the market than the prevalent conviction that government estimates of yield are widely erroneous.

Corn has advanced a shade with no satisfactory reason for the prospect is excellent for a large yield. A great speculation in oats has begun to liquidate with the customary losses to the wise men who knew all about it. Cotton has declined a fraction and all indications still point to a material increase of yield.

The most hopeful sign noted this week is that failures continue comparatively few and not very important. The aggregate of liabilities for the twelve days ending July 12 was \$2,630,306, of which \$1,409,821 was of manufacturing, \$1,468,294 of trading concerns, which is decidedly below the average for the past half year. The failures this week have been 236 in the United States, against 467 last year and 44 in Canada, against 25 last year.

WILLARD MAY WITHDRAW.

Colonel Moore May Yet Receive the Populist Nomination for Congress.

FOUR SCOTT, Kas., July 23.—After the adjournment of the Democratic congressional convention here last week, Judge J. D. Hill, ex-chairman of the Democratic congressional committee; W. C. Jones, chairman of the Democratic state central committee; Frank Mapes of Wyandotte, Hon. S. A. Riggs of Lawrence, and other leading Democrats held several caucuses at the Huntington with Frank Willard, R. M. Chenault, Rod Gallo-way and J. Herrick, the chairman of the Populist county central committee. What was decided upon has not yet been given out, but those who are qualified to know say that Willard will be withdrawn and Moore endorsed by the Populists.

ARKANSAS POPULISTS.

In Convention at Little Rock, They Nominate a State Ticket.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 23.—The Populist state convention nominated the following ticket: Governor, D. E. Barker; secretary of state, H. M. Beam; auditor, A. J. Nichols; treasurer, T. J. Andrews; attorney general, Dr. J. A. Meek; state land commissioner, O. S. Jones; commissioner of agriculture, S. H. Nowlin; superintendent of public instruction, J. P. Carnahan.

The platform indorses the Omaha platform and demands the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the co-operation of any other government, and demands absolute restriction of undesirable immigration from every nation of the globe.

Big Fire in Alabama.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 23.—At a fire here this morning, Parry & Mason, wholesale shoe company, and Stowers, wholesale and retail furniture, were totally destroyed. Loss on building and stock \$250,000.

The Caldwell hotel, the handsomest building in the city, five stories high, and supposed to be fireproof, is also gone. It is valued, with furnishings, at \$350,000; insurance, \$150,000. It was owned by the Caldwell company.

Returning to Their Native Land.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, July 23.—The offices of the various ocean steamship companies in this city are besieged by large numbers of foreigners who are taking advantage of the present steamship war and consequent low rates to return to their native lands.

Emporia Strikers' Places Filled.

EMPORIA, Kan., July 23.—There are over 250 strikers out of employment in this city. The road, however, has all the hands it can use, and many applicants for work are turned away each day.