Short Story of the Day

An Unexpected Reprieve.

She had been in failing health for some time, and the man who loved her had insisted that she see a physician. The affectionately dictatorial manner which he had as yet no right to assume was sweet to the girl, who was all alone in the world, save for the love in which he held her, so she had quietly obeyed him. Besides, she was a little anxious herself concerning the weakness and lassitude which made her days dreary and the cough which kept her awake most of the night. It was all so unlike the vigorous, unbroken health which she had always enjoyed until the last year. And now she was nervously waiting for the verdict of the great and famous specialist whom Tom had insisted that she consult.

The great man had seemed a trifle absent-minded and preoccupied throughout the interview, she fancied, careful and searching as had been his questions. He only seemed to wake up fully, as it seemed to her, when she timidly inquired if anything serious was the matter with her. He laughed then—for he had known her parents and other members of her family intimately in days gone by, and was well acquainted with the all but invulnerable hardiness of the Bentley constitution—and shook his head decidedly as he bowed her out of the private office and into the outer reception-room.

"Take the tonic this prescription calls for steadily for a month or two, be out of doors as much as you can, and don't worry," he directed. "If you'll follow my advice in these particulars you'll have forgotten that you were ever ailing long before it's time for your summer vacation."

But Margaret Bentley, still vaguely unsatisfied and anxious, as those who are seldom ill are apt to be at a verdict of this kind, heard him making a

different statement to the assistant doctor who worked with him, when she stepped back into the private office the next moment, bent upon asking a further question or two.

"Consumption," the great physician was saying, "and 'galloping consumption,' as we used to call it, at that. A strong constitution naturally, but all played out. Not the slightest hope in the world, although I didn't think it necessary to tell her so at this time. I only give her until September to live, at the latest."

September! And here it was June already. September. And she had though to be married a month later. No wonder she felt stunned as she slipped out of the private office silently, allowing the door to fall to behind her so gently that neither of the men in the private office, both of whom were facing in the opposite direction, knew that she had entered it at all. The stunned feeling stayed with her most of the day, and at night, when Tom made his appearance, all eagerness and anxiety to know what the doctor had said, she wondered, vaguely, whether or no she should tell him. She stood a moment or two in her room, mentally debating, after his card had been brought up to her. She finally decided, on her way down stairs, that she would not tell him—yet. She would only repeat to him that which the doctor had said to her, not that which she had unwittingly overheard. So Tom, although he recognized an indefinable change, almost an air of hopelessness about his sweetheart, attributing this change to the natural reaction from the excitement of visiting the doctor, urged her not to allow herself to become so greatly wearied again, and went home early. And all that night, and for many another one, poor Margaret Bentley cried. She didn't want to be selfish and cause poor Tom more suffering than he must inevitably endure, and yet it did seem so horrible, so ghastly, to have this miserable secret to keep away from him, to bear all alone. She had only lived in Chicago for a few months, and she had no friend, either in Chicago or elsewhere, in whom she could confide. She had been pitchforked by fate, as it were, straight from the untroubled seclusion of a convent boarding school into the thick of the workaday world and the stern necessity of earning her own bread and butter if she would have any, by the sudden financial disaster, with death following close upon its track, which had overtaken the guardian who had supplied the place of parents to her, two years before. In the sudden and startling transition into an altogether unknown and unaccustomed state of existence, she had foolishly lost sight of all her girlhood friends and rigorously endeavored to slip from their sight and knowledge—with an unfortunate degree of success. She was shy and sensitive, and she had had no time in which to form new friendships, so she had no friend in the world but Tom, Tom who had followed his lifelong friend and sweetheart to Chicago and who had refused to be estranged or put at a distance. So she ate out her heart in loneliness and misery by day and by night, and wore her nerves to pieces trying to be gay and cheerful during the evening hours which were spent with her lover. And she was undoubtedly and undisguisedly thankful, dearly as she loved him, and greatly as she longed to pass every possible remaining moment of life at his side, when an imperative business call took him away from Chicago for a couple of months, just when her distress was greatest and left her to face her misery and her desolation alone—alone, but free from the necessity of seeming glad, nightly, for his sake, or of making such strenuous efforts to retain her secret. But when Tom returned at the the end of the two months, to find her so changed and unhappy looking that he was shocked and startled, he surprised from her, somehow or other, the mournful story which she had intended to keep to herself still longer.

"Do you know, dearie," he told her when the first greetings were over, "that I am conceited enough to think that you will be better when we are married and I can take better care of you than I can do now."

Then, moved by a sudden, uncontrollable impulse, she told him all—that they would never be married, that she was doomed to death shortly, and was even now slipping out of existence with every hour. And Tom met the miserable announcement with an incredulity so utter and complete that it comforted even while it annoyed her.

"Why! Your cough has almost left you,darling," he told her (sure enough, it had, although she had been too nervous and preoccupied to notice this before), "and you don't look so much ill to me as worried and over-anxious. Then, too, the doctor didn't tell you all this directly; you only overheard him saying it. How do you know that he was not speaking of some one else?"

Which was just what the doctor, once they succeeded in obtaining an interview with him, was fain to admit that he must have done.

"I never said it about you, my dear Miss Bentley," he most emphatically declared, "for nothing of the kind was, or is, true. You were a little run down and nervous when you consulted me, that was all,and the cough which troubled you so sorely was but a lingering touch of the influenza which had prostrated you. Will you," to his assistant, "look up the date of Miss Margaret Bentley's visit, if you please? It occurred about three months ago. Let me see the book when you have found the entry."

"Ah! Here we have it," he exclaimed a little later. "Miss Julia Larsen was the visitor who preceded you, and it must have been of her that I was speaking when you stole a march upon me in more senses than one. And she, poor girl, slipped away just as I expected her to do, and in spite of all the efforts which were made in her behalf. She died," with a reverent gravity, "just a week ago tomorrow, and you," nodding encouragingly toward the thankful and trembling Margaret, "will live to laugh at your recent fears for many a year longer unless some disease, as powerful as unexpected, should succeed in putting you to rout."

They went out into the summer sunshine, the two lovers, hand in hand, and silent from sheer gratitude and happiness. And that night Margaret, who had never before believed in the efficacy or desirability of prayers for the dead—and who had found it almost impossible to pray at all while the sense of impending dissolution hung over her—passed half an hour upon her knees by her bedside, praying—praying for that other girl in relief of whose death sentence had come no blessed reprieve.—Chicago Tribune.

Author for Postmaster.

Senator Bacon has withdrawn his opposition to the confirmation of Harry Stillwell Edwards, the author, who was nominated for postmaster of Macon, Ga. His nomination has been hung up all winter at the instance of Senator Bacon, because, it is alleged, of a determination on the part of the southern democratic leader that no young man shall be rewarded for joining the republican party. Mr. Edwards, who is a man of brilliant intellect, aristocratic connections, abandoned the political faith of his fathers and joined the republicans during the last presidential campaign. President McKinley appointed him postmaster as a recognition of his independent spirit.—Indianapolis News.

Macon's Tree-Planting System.

Mayor Smith of Macon, Ga., has set in motion a bright plan for the systematic planting of trees in that city, the middle of whose streets are adorned with parks. The city sets a tree for every person who contributes 25 cents, and protects it with an iron box, on which is cast any name desired by the donor.

Watching the War.

Once a week the staff officers of the Russian army assemble, under the presidency of the Grand Duke Vladimer, to discuss the progress of the Boer war. The czar attends the meeting.

Hayward's Great Cricket Record.

Hayward, the professional cricketer of the Surrey Club, has succeeded in making over 1,000 runs in May, the first month of the cricketing season. The feat has been accomplished but once before, by Dr. W. G. Grace, in 1895. Hayward's score is 1,074 runs in thirteen innings, an average of 97.63.

Oranges as a Deodorizer.

Dried orange peel, allowed to smolder on a piece of redhot iron or an old shovel will kill any bad odor and leave a fragrant one behind.

TO WOMEN WHO DOUBT.

Every Suffering Woman Should Read this Letter and be Convinced that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Does Cure Female Weakness.

"I have been troubled with female weakness in its worst form for about ten years. I had leucorrhœa and was so weak that I could not do my housework. I also had falling of the womb and inflammation of the womb and ovaries and at menstrual periods I suffered terribly. At times my back would ache very hard. I could not lift anything or do any heavy work; was not able to stand on my feet. My husband spent hundreds of dollars for doctors but they did me no good. After a time I concluded to try your medicine and I can truly say it does all that you claim for it to do.

Ten bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and seven packages of Sanative Wash have made a new woman of me. I have had no womb trouble since taking the fifth bottle. I weigh more than I have in years; can do all my own housework, sleep well, have a good appetite and now feel that life is worth living. I owe all to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I feel that it has saved my life and would not be without it for anything. I am always glad to recommend your medicine to all my sex, for I know if they follow your directions, they will be cured."—MRS. ANNIE THOMPSON, South Hot Springs, Ark.

Young John in Wall Street.

John D. Rockefeller, jr., who is managing the great lake-shipping deal for his father, made his business debut in Wall street about one year ago in a deal in a Leather Trust stock. Young Mr. Rockefeller went into the market, took hold of the common stock of the trust when it was selling around 6, and worked the price up to 40 on the New York exchange. In this deal young Rocekfeller is supposed to have bought something like 200,000 shares. As the stock has since fallen back to its old price, it is not known positively whether this debut cost or made a fortune.

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There are times when it is cheaper to owen rent than to move.

Ladies Can Wear Shoes.

One size smaller after using Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder. It makes tight or new shoes easy. Cures swollen, hot, sweating, aching feet, ingrowing nails, corns and bunions. All druggists and shoe stores, 25c. Trial package FREE by mail. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N.Y.

It seems queer that the highest priced gowns are usually the lowest.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. SAMUEL, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

"I feel rather rocky this morning," remarked the infant in the cradle.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

No, Maud, dear, fortune tellers are not employed in banks.

Hall's Catarrh Cure

Is a constitutional cure. Price, 75c.

Even the fool sometimes boasts of being a self-made man.

Dr. Anna Stecksen's Distinction.

Stockholm university has granted the first degree of doctor of medicine given to a woman in Sweden to a Fraulein Anna Stecksen.

A vigorous growth and the original color given to the hair by PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM.

HINDERCORNS, the best cure for corns. 15cts.

Weather vain—The successful prognosticator.

Never Renominated.

The republican national convention of 1900 is the twelfth to be held by that party, which has an unbroken record of never renominating a vice president for a second term.

Speaker Myers Historic Home.

Speaker James J. Myers, of the Massachusetts legislature, still lives in the quarters he occupied while a student of Harvard. These are a suite of rooms in Wadsworth house, near the old gate. In the building have lived many Harvard presidents, and Mr. Myers' study was once Washington's reception room.

When a man is his own worst enemy he should be excused for kicking himself.

Your clothes will not crack if you use Magnetic Starch.

The old maid doesn't believe in new wrinkles.

In the July Atlantic James W. Alexander, president of the famous Equitable Assurance Company, effectively disposes of many prejudices about life assurance, and in doing so indirectly lows down the true principles upon which sound life companies are and should be operated, statements which coming from so authoritative a source carry with them more than usual weight and interest.

Music hath charms, etc., but what about the practicing amateur?

The longest way around is the shortest way home.

With the coming of the new woman we may look for the father-in-law jokes.

There is a Class of People

Who are injured by the use of coffee. Recently there has been placed in all the grocery stores a new preparation called GRAIN-O, made of pure grains, that takes the place of coffee. The most delicate stomach receives it without distress, and but few can tell it from coffee. It does not cost over one-fourth as much. Children may drink it with great benefit. 15 cents and 25 cents per package. Try it. Ask for GRAIN-O.

Even chiropodists may mount the pinnacle of fame, but they are forced to begin at the foot.

$18 PER WEEK.

A salary of $18 per week and expenses will be paid to man with one or two horse rig to introduce our Poultry Compound and Lice Killer among Farmers. Address with stamp, ACME MFG. CO., Des Moines, Iowa.

On the 110 square miles of London's area, it is said, 1,100 tons of soot settle yearly.

Muggins—He's a lone widower. Buggins—Yes; he struck me for a loan yesterday.

Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

In Use For Over 30 Years.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

It isn't the man who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth who makes the most stir.

Depew Repeated His Speech.

Senator Depew in making a speech in Washington over the telephone to members of the Transportation club, of which he is president, at dinner in New York, appears to have broken the record. The distance is about 225 miles. As there were only sixty receivers and about 120 diners the Senator was obliging enough to make the speech twice. It was full of jokes.

The best cure for remorse is never to look back.

Ignorant men are a good while in finding out what ails them.

Are You Using Allen's Foot-Ease?

It is the only cure for Swollen, Smarting, Burning, Sweating Feet, Corns and Bunions. Ask for Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder to be shaken into the shoes. At all Druggists and Shoe Stores, 25c. Sample sent FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

Most men who are "jewels" are solitaires, and, like diamonds, are often cut.

Drugs have their use, but don't store them in your stomach. Beeman's Pepsin Gum aids the natural forces to perform their functions.

The smokeless cigarette would be an improvement.

A Pretty Shirt Waist,

properly laundered with "Faultless Starch" is a constant delight. At grocers—10c.

The average woman when she signs a check is as nervous as a young man about to propose.

A Book of Choice Recipes

Sent free by Walter Baker & Co. Ltd., Dorchester, Mass. Mention this paper.

There are 100 cents to a dollar, and there are also many dollars without sense.

Honors for Sir Julian.

Columbia and Harvard universities do their best to honor Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, by conferring at this commencement season the degree of LL. D., upon him.

Deaf mutes are always married on the quiet.

Why does a man always prefer to see same other fellow's sister pictured in her gymnasium costume?

My son is my son till he takes a wife; but my daughter is my daughter all the days of her life.

What a difference there is between a sportsman and a sport.

If you have not tried Magnetic Starch try it now. You will then use no other.

Pleasant Duck and Blush Pigg are two Missouri gentlemen.

Use Magnetic Starch—it has no equal.

Some people fish for compliments with bated breath.

CARBIDE.

We are the Nebraska selling agents for the Union Carbide Co., manufacturers of Calcium Carbide for making *Acetylene Gas*. Order your supplies from us. Pacific Storage and Warehouse Co., 912-914 Jones St., Omaha, Neb.

There are many laws that are ignored, but the greatest is the law of consideration.

No Man Likes to Be Bald,

The best way to prevent it is to use Coke Dandruff Cure. All druggists at $1.00.

Some people sharpen their wits in the nick of time.

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CURES Colic, Cholera Morbus, Diarrhœa, Dysentery and Bowel Complaints—NEVER FAILS. In the market since 1841. Recommended by leading Physicians. Used by our Army and Navy. Sold by all Druggists. J. & C. MAGUIRE MEDICINE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

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	Round Trip.
Dennison, Sherman, Gainsville, Wichita Falls	$10.00
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Waco	13.00
Temple, Belton, Taylor	14.00
Houston, Galveston	15.00

Tickets good until July 30th returning. Good for ten days going and stopover in Texas.

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