



AN EASTER ROMANCE.

(By Alice Chasemore.)

AUNT HETTY was only twenty-six when I came to live with her. There was only a difference of two years between us, but somehow she always seemed middle-aged to me, she was so quiet and serious and so different from my restless, excited self.

She was so sad at times that I could not help wondering if some time in her life she had not experienced some serious sorrow, for she had means and friends enough to make her life worth living, and should have been happy.

One day I found her weeping quietly with a little red book in her hand. I endeavored to calm her, to find out the reason for her sorrow, and then she told me this story:

"It happened when I was only eighteen. I was engaged to be married. My lover was four years older than myself; he was a mate of a ship, and a fine, dashing young fellow named Edward Blake. We had been engaged six months and were to be married a month later. The day was fixed, and Edward had arranged to give up the sea and take a situation on land. We were as happy as two young people could possibly be; but, unluckily, just a month before the time fixed for our wedding day, a picnic was gotten up by some of our friends, and Edward and I were of the party. There was a handsome young fellow there named Percy Sandys, the son of a neighboring clergyman. He was fresh from college, and full of fun and frolic. I chanced to be placed next to him at luncheon, and not knowing, as I afterward discovered, that I was engaged, he was specially attentive to me. I did not care for his attentions in the least, but I was in high spirits and only bent on the enjoyment of the moment, and I did not check him as, perhaps, I ought to have done. Presently, I caught sight of Edward's face, and saw that he was looking terribly cross and angry. Foolishly I thought, 'It rather good fun to make him jealous. And, on purpose to tease him, I pretended to take all the more notice of Mr. Sandys. When we finished luncheon the party scattered and strolled about the woods in various directions. I naturally expected Edward to accompany me, but he rather rudely, as I thought, held aloof, and, to punish him, I paired off with Mr. Sandys. When the party got together again Edward looked so savage that I thought it better not to provoke him any further.

"I shook off Mr. Sandys, and, walking away with Edward, began to scold him for his unreasonable jealousy. Of course, I did not think I myself was in fault; nobody ever does. A loving word would have made me penitent directly. Unfortunately, he was white with anger, and began to reproach me in a way that roused my temper, too, for I was quick enough to take offence in those days. Ruth, though I have learned better since, I can remember, as if it were yesterday, the nook in the woods where we stood, the sunshine glinting through the trees and lighting up Edward's flushed face and angry eyes. He reproached me bitterly—more bitterly, I think, than I deserved. He called me a heartless coquette, and I called him little-minded and told him he had made himself ridiculous by his unreasonable jealousy. We got hotter and hotter, and finally he declared that if I did not admit that I had been wrong, and promise to behave differently for the future, all must be over between us. I did not care a straw for Mr. Sandys, and would fifty times sooner have had Edward with me, but I would have died sooner than have told him so then. So I gave him a bitter answer, and we both grew angrier still. His last words, uttered with all the intensity of passion, ring still in my ears. I can tell you them word for word: 'Hetty, if you let me go now, understand clearly you will never see my face again.' I did not quite believe him. Perhaps if I had I should still have let him go. At any rate, I was far too angry to give way then. 'Go, by all means, if you wish it,' I said, and in another moment he was gone. I

from it to Aunt Hetty, as if trying to satisfy himself on some point. The sermon came to an end, and the benediction followed, but I fear the major had no part in it. He took advantage of the moment when all heads were bowed to do a very unmannerly thing. He slyly put up his eyeglasses and read the name inside auntie's book. It was quickly done, and might have escaped notice, but I watched him closely. I could even read the name myself. It was in a bold, manly hand: 'To Hester; June 28, 18--.' I was aghast at such an act of impertinence, and glanced at auntie to see if she would resent it; but she had probably not noticed it, for she made no sign.

The congregation began to disperse, and we went out, but we were scarcely in the street when the major spoke to auntie.

"Madam, I am going to ask you a very singular question, but let me assure you that I have a deep personal interest in asking it. Will you tell me how you came by that red prayer-book you use?"

I shall never forget auntie's quick-given answer, but I could tell of the faint flush on her usually pale face how deeply she was moved.

"You gave it to me, yourself, Major Blake, years ago."

Surprise, delight and incredulity struggled for the mastery in the major's face. He took off his hat and stood bare-headed, and that one little gesture told more plainly than the most passionate protestations could have done, that the old love had been kept a treasured and sacred thing. I think, from the smile on her mouth, as she looked at him, that the same thought came to auntie.

"And you are Hetty! Yes, I know you now," he said.

"You had forgotten the eight years, Major Blake. I knew you from the first."

"And would you really have let me go without a word?"

"Why not? How could I know you would wish to be reminded of old times?"

"Reminded! I have never forgotten. I tried my hardest to forget and couldn't. Although you preferred another—"

"Another! What other?"

"Didn't you marry young Sandys?"

ITS WORK COMPLETED

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION HAS ADJOURNED.

Closing Week of the Nebraska Legislature a Busy One—Many Important Measures Passed—Non-Partisan Report of the Proceedings of House and Senate.

The legislature closed its work Friday, but was unable to adjourn at noon, the time fixed for doing so, and the services of a janitor were called in requisition to keep the hands of the clocks from reaching 12. It remained in session pending the enrollment of the general appropriation bills and other measures. This work was completed Saturday morning and the members departed for their several homes.

While the records show that the legislature adjourned sine die Friday noon the business of the session was not finished till almost twenty-four hours later. The record for passing bills was broken by the legislature just adjourned. One hundred and thirty-three were passed, an average of one for each member. Eighty-two originated in the house and fifty-one in the senate.

THE SENATE.

Tuesday, April 6. The senate spent the day considering the current expense bill, providing for maintenance of state institutions. An attempt to cut off the soldiers' home at Milford had the support of only five senators. The senate showed its idea of economy by increasing the appropriations for nearly every institution.

The failure of the house to hold a night session tonight is said to have killed all bills now in the senate on third reading.

H. R. 611, introduced in response to the request of the governor in a special message, was read a third time and passed. It is a joint resolution setting forth the necessity for cheaper transportation on farm products to the Gulf of Mexico.

H. R. 342, relating to the management of the penitentiary, and H. R. 18, appropriating \$30,000 for a new wing to the Hastings asylum, were passed with the emergency clause.

Wednesday, April 7. The senate today transacted the following business:

Killed by a vote of 16 to 15 Senator Beal's S. F. 325, to legislate out of existence the Burlington relief department.

Passed S. F. 284, by Senator Graham, to regulate service of summons on foreign incorporated trotting or racing associations.

Killed by a vote of 22 to 7, S. F. 358, repealing a law which provides that not more than one ditch can be constructed across land without owner's consent when the first ditch can be made to answer the same purpose.

Passed S. F. 353, providing that assignment of mortgages shall be recorded.

Passed by unanimous consent concurrent resolution 23, providing for resubmission of constitutional amendment for two additional judges of supreme court at general election in 1898.

Next came the bill enlarging the powers of the state board of transportation, conferring upon them semi-judicial powers and suspending the present law of injunction. It reverses the order of procedure by placing the burden of proof on corporations which may be ordered by the board to perform any act. Under the present law the board has power to enforce orders through the courts. The bill reverses this and holds the board's orders final and conclusive, and the corporations are required to go into court, assume the burden of proof to show that orders of the board are unjust.

A warm fight was made against its passage and on roll call it was killed, Senator Grothman coming in and voting nay, making the vote a tie. After recess, however, on motion of Senator Grothman, a motion to reconsider carried, the vote demonstrating that the noon recess had been advantageously used by friends of the bill. The bill thus again came before the senate for passage or rejection.

Opponents of the bill declared it had not gone through the course prescribed by the constitution, and if passed would not be constitutional. Friends of the bill thought different, and said the record would show that the bill was legitimately before the senate.

The vote in detail on final passage was as follows:

YEAS—19. Beal, Graham, Lee, Osborn, Canaday, Grothman, McMann, Riethe, Conaway, Hays, Schell, Schell, Feltz, Jeffcott, Murray, Sykes, Gondring, Johnson, Mutz.

NAYS—11. Caldwell, Fritz, Hanson, Talbot, Conaway, Haller, Spencer, Welles, Dundas, Murphy, Steele.

RECORDED NOT VOTING—3. Dearing, Howell, Watson.

The current expense bill was further considered in committee of the whole and several items increased.

appropriating \$2,000 for relief of Mrs. Lawson, who was injured Charter day by a gun ward; 491, placing home for the friendless under control of board of public lands and buildings; 67, detaching chicken stealing as burglary; 124, withdrawing school lands from sale; 23, adding the word chicory to warehouse law; 333, authorizing the issuance of teachers certificates to university graduates; 241, defining a legal newspaper as one that has been published three months; 529, authorizing the purchase of land near Hastings asylum for use of asylum.

The senate adjourned at 11 p. m.

Friday, April 9. Passage of bills was the only business transacted by the senate today. Among the twenty or more bills rushed through were the following house rolls: 578, allowing Douglas county to bond itself to aid the exposition; 630, miscellaneous claims bills; salary appropriation bill; 575, allowing board of purchase and supplies to make contracts for one year for supplies not of a perishable nature; 10 and 12, for non-partisan election boards; 463, for blanket ballot; 456, declaring elevator trusts unlawful; 263, regulating charges of live stock commission men; 631, miscellaneous claims bill; 571, permitting state printing board to let contracts on each article or piece of work separately.

The guarantee bond bills introduced in the house by Mr. Rich of Douglas, eleven in number, were then put on final passage. Two of the bills were defeated. H. R. 353, providing for the payment by counties of the premium on the bonds of county treasurers, the premium not to exceed one-half of one per cent, and H. R. 320, containing general provisions relating to official bonds. The bill giving county officers the right to give guarantee bonds, the counties to pay for the same, was one of the most important in the list.

H. R. 549, to provide for testing gasoline, passed.

The transfer switch bill was defeated. The municipal referendum bill was passed.

The usual resolutions and motions incident to the winding up of business followed.

The sum of \$1,300 was allowed for preparing the senate journal.

At 11 o'clock the senate was informally dismissed.

Saturday, April 10. In the senate today, during the wait for committee on engrossed and enrolled bills to report, the senate made an effort to revive the legal newspaper bill. It was re-referred and sent to the governor under circumstances that may cause its legality to be questioned.

An effort was also made to have inserted in the salary bill an item for salary of deputy state superintendent. It failed. The salary was intended for Mrs. Jackson, who is assisting her husband.

A committee was appointed to notify the house that the senate was ready to adjourn.

Speeches were made by members and the best of feeling prevailed.

The lieutenant governor said the past few months would ever be precious to him. His closing remarks touched tender chords.

The gavel fell for the last time at 11:25. Members of the senate shook hands warmly with each other and left the capitol for their homes.

IN THE HOUSE.

Monday, April 5.

Consideration of H. R. 578, to allow Douglas county to bond itself in aid of the exposition, was resumed in committee of the whole this morning, the motion before the committee being to indefinitely postpone. The motion failed to carry and the bill was recommended for passage.

H. R. 32, the anti-cigarette bill was advanced to a third reading.

Standing committees reported on several bills.

S. F. 320, Senator Gondring's anti-trust bill was ordered to third reading. In committee of the whole H. R. 263, regulating commissions for selling live stock was reported for passage.

Among the bills passed were the following house rolls: 341, defining a legal newspaper; 73, providing for collection of taxes in irrigation districts; 345, requiring commission merchants to act as agent of shippers, and prohibiting them depositing money received for such in banks in their own name; 575, allowing board of purchase and supplies to contract coal for one year; 529, for purchase of land for use of Hastings asylum; 333, providing that when normal schools have same course of study as state normal school, graduates of same may have state certificates; 491, placing home for friendless in control of state; 571, providing for letting state printing in small lots; 456, prohibiting combinations among grain elevator men; 625, to prevent hog cholera.

Tuesday, April 6.

The following went through: H. R. 377, for establishment of free employment bureaus; H. R. 602, repealing the law allowing a bounty for the destruction of wolves, coyotes and wild cats; H. R. 255, providing for the holding of property in trust for theological purposes.

S. F. 251, placing express, telegraph and telephone companies under control of board of transportation, was reported to be postponed. A lengthy discussion was had on the report, after which the house ordered it to third reading.

S. F. 371, taxing express companies, was reported for postponement by a majority and for third reading by a minority. A motion to adopt the minority report led to a lengthy debate. On call for previous question the motion was lost.

On S. F. 575, a bill taxing telephone companies, there was also a minority report, the adoption of which was lost by a vote of 38 to 39. The majority report was adopted, placing the bill on general file, where it will remain unless resurrected by a two-thirds vote.

vote was 46 to 36 and the bill was disposed of.

The house killed a bill on final passage by Mr. Hull of Harlan, repealing the law providing for supreme court commissioners. The vote on this bill was taken immediately after the joint session, when the recount of the amendments had been announced.

The joint conference committee recommended that final adjournment be had Friday noon and that no bills be passed by either house after Thursday.

Wednesday, April 7.

The house today refused to fix a time to adjourn, claiming the senate is frittering away its time in order to kill house bills.

H. R. 385, raising the salary of adjutant-general from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and 584, permitting Douglas county to bond itself for the exposition, were passed.

The bills to discourage sale of adulterated beer and for a beer inspector were postponed.

H. R. 450, creating a municipal court in metropolitan cities; 32, anti-cigarette bill; 263, regulating rates of live stock commission men; 197, giving county commissioners right to regulate charges for water by irrigation companies; 275, establishing a free employment bureau; 200, changing number of degress necessary in testing illuminating oils; 593, providing for manner of payment of the interest and principal of real estate mortgages, all were passed.

S. F. 2, Senator Haller's anti-compact bill, was the first senate file on third reading. It provides that insurance men in the state shall not combine on insurance rates. The bill received only 57 votes, with the emergency clause. It passed without the emergency clause by a vote of 59 to 24.

Thursday, April 8.

The house today passed senate files 144, authorizing county judges in counties having over 25,000 to designate one of their clerks as county clerk; 199, providing for the disposition of dismembered school districts; 318, compelling real estate agents and owners of real estate to make written contracts; 330, the anti-trust bill; 264, the pure food bill; 117, granting certificates to graduates of state university; 305, providing for condemnation of land for irrigation purposes; 94, authorizing county treasurers to invest not to exceed 75 per cent of the sinking fund in the respective counties in registered warrants; 6, giving district judges right to specify date for jurors to appear; 105, for protection of game, and preventing transportation of same out of the state; 41, authorizing cities and villages to acquire ground for park purposes; 136, providing that bonds may be voted at special elections for erection of public buildings; 208, raising aggregate school tax allowable in cities of the first class to 25 mills; 61, placing government of Milford industrial home in state control; 269, putting power to appoint superintendent of Heatrice institute in the hands of the governor; 270, with similar provision concerning the girls' industrial school at Geneva.

The most important measure passed was senate file 251, which places the regulation of telegraph, telephone and express companies under control of the state board of transportation. It was about the only bill over which a fight occurred, and in order to secure its passage Representative Cronk, who was in bed sick with the measles, was brought in. The vote on the bill in detail was as follows:

YEAS—32. Alderney, Holland, Shull, Bingham, Hornor, Snyder of Rich, Bowler, Hull, Snyder of J'n'a, Campbell, Hyatt, Soderman, Clark of Rich, Jones of Nem's, Straub, Cole, Leman, Taylor of Fill, Easton, Loomis, Wheeler, Eager, McCreary, Van Horn, Erskine, McCracken, Welch, Ferriss, Marshall, Wright, Gaylord, Morrison, Winslow, Gerdes, Phelps, Young, Grandstaff, Pollard, Yoder, Grimms, Robertson, Zimmerman, Grovesnor, Severe, Mitchell, Hill, Spiesker.

NAYS—43. Alderman, Henderson, Prince, Baldwin, Holbrook, Rich, Beal, Jenkins, Roberts, Blake, Jones of Gage, Hodge, Burkett, Jones of Wayne, Cline, Byram, Kapp, Smith of D'gise, Casner, Kridler, Saiton, Rittenberg, Liddell, Taylor of D'gise, Clark of L'n'e'r, Metcalf, White, Curtis, McLaughlin, McLaughlin, Felker, Mann, Wimberly, Foulke, Mills, Woodward, Givans, Mitchell, Wooster.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING—5. Dobson, Grell, Yoder of Sh'a, Eighmy, Seabitt, Webb.

Before adjourning the house refused to concur in the senate amendments to house roll No. 614, the current expense appropriation bill. This means that the bill will go to conference today.

The house then adjourned.

Friday, April 9.

The house commenced its last day by donating the flag over representative hall to the soldiers home at Milford.

S. F. 271, placing appointment of superintendent of Kearney industrial school in hands of governor, failed to pass; 74, defining cruelty to children, passed; 250, allowing school board of Omaha to fix levy, passed; 238, providing that boys and girls under 18 years may not be sent to penitentiary, passed.

The sum of \$1,500 was allowed for preparing the house journal, to be divided equally between Clerks F. D. Eager, J. W. Barnhart and U. E. Foster.

The balance of the time was then passed by the members in presenting resolutions and motions of thanks and recommendations.

At 11 o'clock the members departed leaving the speaker and a janitor present to watch the clock, as some necessary work had to be done Saturday morning.

Saturday, April 10.

In the house today very little business was transacted. While waiting for the committee on enrolled and engrossed bills to report that all bills had been presented to the governor the members enjoyed a social session.

At 11:10 the senate announced that it was ready to adjourn. Chairman Severe reported all bills as enrolled and presented to the governor. The opening sentence in the journal was read and approved and on motion of Mr. Shelton, the house adjourned without day.