

THE ENDOWMENTS OF YOUTH

(Original.)

Allan Douglas and Austin Brownell were devoted college chums. The intimacy was inexplicable to others. What Douglas, with his splendid physical and intellectual endowments, could find to bind him to Brownell, a reticent, cynical man, without an element of popularity in him, no one could discover. Douglas was the pet of the pot-icoats and invited everywhere. Brownell was considered very dull by the fair sex and seldom invited anywhere. If he had been invited he would not have accepted. However, there was one surprise concerning Brownell. Though he stood quite low in his class, when he was graduated one of his classmates, who was an "honour" man, said that he wished he had Brownell's mind.

The friends studied law and practiced in partnership. They were still young when the more showy endowments constitute prominence, and every one, at least in society, wondered how Douglas could have taken up with such an ordinary partner. Douglas was courted by the social world, every one striving to secure him for entertainments. He tried to drag Brownell out with him, but failed both on account of the disinclination of society for Brownell and Brownell's disinclination for society.

Douglas married a belle. She was a member of the smart set and a very smart member. There was nothing she would have considered more out of place than attention in public from her husband, and there was nothing she considered more in place than to have some prominent society man dancing attendance upon her. Finally a cotillion leader, Ernest Rackle, became so devoted to her that the intimacy became the town talk. As usual in such cases, no one talked of it to the husband.

One night Brownell went into a fashionable hotel restaurant where the smart set were used to taking supper after the opera. He had never been there before and went for a purpose. Presently a gay party sailed in like a fleet of yachts under a spanking breeze, among them Rackle and Mrs. Douglas. They passed directly by the table at which Brownell sat, and as Rackle passed Brownell put out his foot, and Rackle tripped. He didn't fall, but came very near it. Turning, he glared at the man who had tripped him, then went on. Brownell toyed with a wine glass and waited. Rackle as soon as seated gave him a threatening and contemptuous glance. Brownell took a bit of paper from his pocket, wrote something on it, folded it and gave it to a waiter to take to Rackle. Rackle opened it, glanced at it and put it in his vest pocket without any of the party having noticed anything unusual.

At 1 o'clock the two men met in the cafe. "Well, sir," said Rackle, "what do you want?" "To fight you." "For tripping me up?" "No; ostensibly for scowling at me; really for a matter which it concerns you and a certain lady to keep dark." "Who are you?" asked Rackle, nervously pulling his mustache. "Allan Douglas's law partner." "Indeed. I am surprised that you wish to bring trouble on him." "I don't. I wish to save him from trouble." "By a public altercation?" "No; by a private fight to the death." There was something so calm in Brownell's tone and eye, yet so determined, that Rackle paled. "When and where?" "Now, in an upper room of this hotel."

Rackle stood looking in different directions like a cornered rat seeking an outlet.

"What will obviate the necessity for this meeting?" "Your pledge never to communicate with Mrs. Douglas again." Rackle thought it over, still pulling his mustache. Finally he said: "To avoid bringing a lady's name into unpleasant notoriety I shall have to submit. I promise."

"Write it."

A paper was drawn and signed, which Brownell put in his pocketbook, and the two separated.

In less than a week Douglas came to his friend and announced that he must dissolve the partnership. Mrs. Douglas had taken an inconceivable dislike to Brownell and had made the dissolution a sine qua non. Brownell pressed his friend's hand fervently and assented.

Two years passed. Douglas' endowments had not gained him any prominence except in society, and though he did not know the cause, his wife's intimacy with Rackle had detracted from even this. Certain prominent judges said that Brownell possessed the finest legal mind at the bar, and if he had ambition he might be the foremost lawyer in the city. This got spread abroad, and there was a good deal of curiosity with reference to Brownell.

One day Douglas told his old friend that Mrs. Douglas had recovered from her prejudice and wished him to come to dinner. Brownell accepted. Then

Often The Kidneys Are Weakened by Over-Work.

Unhealthy Kidneys Make Impure Blood. It used to be considered that only urinary and bladder troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but now modern science proves that nearly all diseases have their beginning in the disorder of these most important organs.

The kidneys filter and purify the blood—that is their work.

Therefore, when your kidneys are weak or out of order, you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected and how every organ seems to fail to do its duty.

If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking the great kidney remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, because as soon as your kidneys are well they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince anyone.

If you are sick you can make no mistake by first doctoring your kidneys. The mild and extraordinary effect of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases, and is sold on its merits by all druggists in fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles. You may have a sample bottle of Swamp-Root, by mail free, also a pamphlet telling you how to find out if you have kidney or bladder trouble. Mention this paper when writing to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

Mrs. Douglas went and sat by her guest and whispered in his ear: "You were just in time to save me. I was a fool. From this time I as well as Allan will be devoted to you."

Another ten years have passed. The attentions of Rackle to Mrs. Douglas are forgotten in society, and Mrs. Douglas is a model wife and mother. Among his friends Douglas is regarded as prosy, but on Saturday nights he gets a select few old fellows of vigorous minds at his house, the central figure of whom is Judge Brownell, and in this way the host retains his reputation for an intellectual man.

F. A. MITCHELL.

A JAPANESE BABY.

Its Place is Strapped to the Back of an Older Baby.

The babies of all except the richest Japanese are carried about on the back of an elder sister or brother from the time they are a few months old. The poorer the parents the sooner the baby is fastened on to the back of some elder member of the family, and it is not uncommon in the poorer quarters of a Japanese city to see a group of children six or eight years old playing in the streets, each of whom bears a tiny baby sister or brother fastened with a few straps to its back.

These straps are just sufficient to prevent the baby from falling to the ground, leaving the comfort of its posture entirely to its own exertions. As a result the Japanese baby early gains a surprising control of its muscles, and it is almost impossible to drop even a tiny child from your arms, so firmly does it cling on with both arms and legs.

The dressing of a Japanese baby is a simple matter. It wears nothing but miniature kimonos, the number varying with the condition of the weather. These garments are fitted one inside the other before they are put on. Then they are laid down on the floor, and

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Eight cents a pound is what a young woman paid for twelve pounds of flesh.

She was thin and weak and paid one dollar for a bottle of Scott's Emulsion, and by taking regular doses had gained twelve pounds in weight before the bottle was finished.

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baby is laid into them. They are long enough to cover the baby's feet, and the sleeves are also long enough to cover the hands. Practically there is only one garment, and the process of dressing a Japanese baby takes but two or three minutes of its mother's time.—Chicago Tribune.

AN INTERRUPTED SERMON.

Preaching Under Difficulties in an English Church.

In "A Preacher's Story of his Work," Dr. Rainsford tells of some strange interruptions he encountered while preaching one of his earliest sermons in the English cathedral town of Norwich.

Dr. Rainsford was in the middle of his sermon when he chanced to look down from the high pulpit to where the members of the choir were seated in a large boxlike pew, screened from the congregation by a curtain. Much to the preacher's surprise, one of the men in the choir put his arm around a girl, drew her head down on his shoulder and then looked up at Dr. Rainsford and winked.

The preacher stopped his sermon, walked down out of the pulpit and told the rector the members of the choir were acting outrageously. The rector walked up to the pew, drew down the curtain with a jerk and exposed the spooning couple to the view of the congregation.

Then Dr. Rainsford resumed his sermon. A minute later he chanced to look down the main aisle, and there, walking in solemn procession, were a hen and a dozen chicks. To crown it all, when the sexton tried to drive them out he was so drunk he fell right on top of the hen. And then from his place the old rector cried out:

"Let her alone, John; she is doing no harm!"

A Matter of Business. Pigment—I saw you at the art exhibition last evening. I suppose you are very fond of paintings? Gamboge—Oh, dear, no; I hate them. I'm an art critic, you know.—Boston Transcript.

Public Spirited.

Little James (who has an inquiring mind)—Father, what do they mean when they call a man public spirited? Professor Broadley—Why, it usually means that he is very liberal in endeavoring to persuade other people to spend their money bountifully for the public good.

Women Are Sharp-eyed Guests. Will any truthful woman pretend that she ever stayed in the house of a friend for a couple of days without being keenly conscious of gross mismanagement on the part of her hostess?—Liverpool Post.

Borrowing is not much better than begging.—Lansing.

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