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MABEL'S MISSION

Covington was cleaning up the desk. The upstairs girl, answering his ring for a larger waste basket, almost fell down the back stairs in her hurry to spread the news.

Covington had come to board at the Bradley's three years before, and since then no one could recall having seen the top of the desk. A little space in front, just large enough to write upon, was kept fairly clear, but for the rest, Covington seemed to take pride in the confusion he maintained and boasted that he could find anything he wanted at a moment's notice.

At the office his desk was scrupulously neat, but the roll-top in his sitting room, used for his personal correspondence, was piled high with papers and books.

It might have continued so far another three years, but Covington was restless. He found the evening papers dull, the theatrical advertisements made no appeal to him, and books were intolerable.

In his restless roaming around the room his attention was attracted by the desk, and sinking into the chair he began to clean up. Here, at least, was a novel occupation, and soon he was busily engaged in reading over old letters and discarding those of no further interest.

Mabel's letters, of course, he kept in a drawer, the top one with the Yale lock. Well, perhaps it would be well to clear those out, too. Romance was dead. He had written her the proposal he seemed unable to make in person, and had added, "I shall not write again until your answer comes." That had been a fortnight ago.

His eyes caught a line in an advertisement in a theatrical paper that formed part of the litter of his desk. "Consider silence a polite negative," it ran. That was what he was doing. Mabel had not even taken the trouble to answer.

He viciously thrust the paper into the basket and caught up a letter. It was that check for his tailor. He had been positive he had mailed that; the subsequent argument had resulted in a transfer of his patronage, yet here was the check still inside. He was rather glad that he had commenced the cleaning up process.

There was another envelope under the pile of consular reports. He drew it out and his face blanched. It was the letter to Mabel. In some fashion it had slipped into the tangle on the desk. He remembered he had written a number of other letters at the same time. When he had done he had snapped a rubber band about them and had given them to one of the fellows to take out.

What could she think of him? He had ceased his customary visits and had not even written. He slipped out of his house coat and into his dinner jacket. There was a telephone in the lower hall. Perhaps Mabel had not gone out.

It was her mother who answered, rather frigidly and with a certain note of disapproval in her voice. Mabel was in, but she was ill and had gone to her room. She did not think that she could see Mr. Covington.

But Covington was persistent and in the end he gained permission to call. He found her pale, with nervous lines in her face. She tried to laugh it off but he would not have it so.

"I have a special delivery letter for you," he announced. "It should not have been a letter at all, but I guess I'm a sort of moral coward."

"Anyhow, I was cleaning up my desk at the house tonight and I found this. I thought it had been sent two weeks ago."

"Letters often go astray," she commented as she stretched out her hand to receive it.

"It was my fault," he said humbly. "You see I've a desk up at the house and I've rather prided myself upon its confusion. Tonight I cleaned it up, just to have something to do, and I found this letter."

Something in his tones conveyed its import and she slowly broke the seal and glanced through the contents. At last she looked up.

"So that is the reason I have not heard from you lately," she said. "I wondered that you forgot the Apollo concert."

"That is only one count," he said humbly. "I did not bring the letter expecting that you would give the same answer I hoped for two weeks ago. I just wanted you to see that I was not quite as bad as you think I am."

"I did not give it great thought," she said, while the red, flooding her face, denied her words. "I thought that perhaps you were engrossed in some important deal."

"This is the most important deal in a man's life," he laughed a little bitterly. "And I have bungled it, badly."

"Fity is akin to love," she reminded, "and do you know, Frank, I think I have a mission."

"And that?" he asked hoarsely. "To keep that desk straight," she smiled.

He shouldn't have done it. The impassioned orator at the tramps' convention paused and wiped his perspiring brow. "Brothers," he said, "this is hard work." Then they expelled him.

WHY HE LIKES WATERMELONS

Colored Man Discourses Philosophically on Those Soothing, Cooling and Filling Fruits.

A well-known lawyer, who is spending his vacation at home doing nothing, or, as he says, "loafing with all his might," tells of a talk he had recently with his colored hired man.

Going to the stable he found John with his face buried in a big piece of watermelon.

"Why is it, John, that colored people are so fond of watermelons?"

"I don't know," he replied, grinning, "less its jes' because dey's people. I knows a heap o' white folks 'at likes 'em, too. I likes 'em 'cause dey's soothin', an' coolin', an' fillin', an' I spose dey 'simulates dat a-way wid white folks. I reckon dey ain' much difference 'tween white folks and cullud folks' insides."

"Perhaps not. Do you consider the watermelon a fruit or a vegetable?"

"Well, now, it's jus' like this: Watermelons ain' no vegetable, 'cause dey won't stan' cookin' like cabbage nor cannin' like beans, nor dryin' like red peppers, an' dey ain' no fruit, 'cause dey doan grow on trees an' you can't put 'em in your pockets like apples and peaches. Looks to me like dey's jes' watermelons."

"How would it do to call it the fruit of a cucurbitaceous vine, distinguished for interior pulpiness and copiousness of watery juice?"

"Dat's it, 'zactly," said John; "dat's jus' what I was goin' to say."—Indianapolis News.

SEEMED TO FILL THE BILL

Young Suffragette Appeared to the Youth's Mother to Be Suitable as His Wife.

The young suffragette who had insisted on marrying the young man with whom she had fallen in love, approached the young man's mother in fear and trembling.

"Can you support my son," asked that lady sternly, "in the style to which he has been accustomed?"

"I cannot, madam. He will have to supply all the cash."

"Um. Are you able, in spite of your advanced views, to keep him badly in debt?"

"I am. That is my specialty."

"Do you know how to nurse him if he should fall ill?"

"Haven't the remotest idea. My childhood has been spent in attending caucuses."

"Ha! Will you guarantee to kiss him good-by every morning?"

"If I happen to remember it—but I can't guarantee anything."

"What time do you expect to come in at night?"

"O, anywhere from 12 to 3 in the morning."

"Do you rehearse your speeches at home?"

"Yes, as a rule."

The mother's face relaxed.

"We must be cautious in these matters," she said sweetly. "But, on the whole, I think you will do."—Life.

Then and Now.

Prior to the last 15 years, by the time people had attained their first quarter of a century, they considered themselves pretty much formed as to physical and mental characteristics.

If they were ambitious and energetic, they perhaps carried on some kind of exercise for their physical well-being, and guarded against mental deterioration as they advanced in years by occasionally taking up new studies or reviewing old ones; as a dear old lady of my acquaintance at the age of eighty-nine began to review her algebra to keep her mind active.

Now everything is changed. We cannot settle down comfortably in the routine of life which we may not be called upon to alter at a moment's notice. Most of us have found that few of our established habits are right and that unless we are willing to be left hopelessly behind our associates we must learn over again all that we acquired in infancy, and that has since become a matter of automatic action.—The Atlantic.

Shine With Every Drink.

There have been in the history of barber shops such plans as "A shave and a shine all for a dime," "A haircut and a shine free," but it was left for a negro barber shop at 18 Ivy street to give a free shoe shine when a drink was paid for. That is, it was a Sunday blind tiger in which Will Strong, a bootblack, sold liquor and then gave his customer a free shine.

The police had suspected the barber shop for some time and on last Sunday they made a raid and found a large lot of whisky in pint bottles. Will Strong was in charge and was running a bootblack stand. He claimed that another negro had brought the whisky in to the shop without his knowing it. The Recorder sent Will Strong to the chain gang for thirty days.—Atlanta Constitution.

Cooper's Plans.

W. N. Potter of Cooperstown, N. Y., has in his possession a piano which he values very highly and is fond of showing to his visitors. It was owned by James Fenimore Cooper.

C. D. Pease of Cooperstown made the piano and the great novelist bought it. Afterward he sold it to Judge Stewart, and, after passing through the hands of B. F. Jacobs of Milford and his daughter, it came into those of Mr. Potter. It is of six octaves, and is in a solid mahogany frame of plain design.

Overland

30 Horse-power Five-Passenger Fore-Door Touring Car

This car is now ready for demonstration. Come and see it. To fully understand the exceptional value of this car you have but to compare it with what the entire market has to offer for 1912. Study the specifications below carefully. In what other car will you find such value at such a price? What machine under \$1250 can you line up against this and item for item see so much for so little money? When you stop to consider the fine thorough construction—the heavy drop forgings—the pressed steel frame—the selective transmission fitted with F. & S. annular bearings (which the most expensive cars in the world use)—the 30 horse-power motor, the big wheel base, the fore-door body with door handles and all levers inside the car, you can better realize what an actual advanced manufacturing step this new car is.

SPECIFICATIONS OF MODEL 59

Wheel base, 106 inches; body, five-passenger fore-door touring; motor, 4 x 4 1-2; horse-power, 30; transmission, selective, three speeds and reverse; F. & S. ball bearing wheels, artillery wood, 12-1 1-2 inch spokes, 12 bolts each wheel; tires, 32 x 3 1-2 inches Q. D.

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Ordinary Cathartics and Pills and Harsh Physic Cause Distressing Complaints

You cannot be over-careful in the selection of medicine for children. Only the very gentlest bowel medicine should ever be given, except in emergency cases. Ordinary pills, cathartics and purgatives are apt to do more harm than good. They may cause griping, nausea and other distressing after-effects that are frequently health-destroying.

We personally recommend and guarantee Rexall Orderlies as the safest and most dependable remedy, which we know, for constipation and associate bowel disorders. We have such absolute faith in the virtues of this remedy that we sell it on our guarantee of money back in every instance where it fails to give entire satisfaction, and we urge all in need of such medicine to try it at our risk.

Rexall Orderlies are eaten just like candy, are particularly prompt and agreeable in action, may be taken at any time, day or night; do not cause diarrhoea, nausea, griping, excessive looseness, or other undesirable effects. They have a very mild but positive action upon the organs with which they come in contact, apparently acting as a regulative tonic upon the relaxed muscular coat of the bowel, thus over-coming weakness, and aiding to restore the bowels to more vigorous and healthy activity.

Rexall Orderlies commonly completely relieve constipation, except of course when of a surgical character. They also tend to overcome the necessity of constantly taking laxatives to keep the bowels in normal condition. Three sizes of packages, 10 cents, 25 cents, and 50 cents. Remember, you can obtain Rexall Remedies in Red Cloud only at our store,—The Rexall Store. The H. E. Grice Drug Co.

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Widow's Pension.
The recent act of April 19th, 1909 gives to all soldiers' widows a pension of \$12 per month. Fred Maurer, the attorney, has all necessary blanks.

A Mail Carrier's Load
Seems heavier when he has a weak back and kidney trouble. Fred Dueson, mail carrier at Atchison, Kas., says: "I have been bothered with kidney and bladder trouble and had a severe pain across my back. Whenever I carried a heavy load of mail, my kidney trouble increased. Some time ago, I started taking Foley kidney pills and since taking them I have gotten entirely rid of all my kidney trouble and am as sound now as ever." For sale at Dr. Cook's drug store.

NEW BAKERY
I have opened a bakery in Red Cloud and solicit a share of your patronage.
Fresh Bread, Pies and Cakes
always in stock. Phone me your wants (Ind. phone 188.)
Retail store opposite Postoffice, in Diederich building.
CURT HATFIELD, Prop.

J. F. Parker, 3021 No. 10th St., Ft. Smith, Ark., says that he had taken many kinds of kidney medicine, but did not get better until he took Foley Kidney Pills. No matter how long you have had kidney trouble, you will find quick and permanent benefit by the use of Foley Kidney Pills. Start taking them now. Sold at Dr. Cook's drug store.

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