

News of Schools and Colleges



Rough-Hewn

By Dorothy Canfield

SYNOPSIS. (Continued From Yesterday.) Neale Crittenden, 16 years old, is a typical, red-blooded American boy, living with his parents in Union Hill, a village near New York city. Because of the number of foreigners in the village, his parents send him to a private school taught by Miss Vandewater. He is very fond of outdoor sports, plays second base on the Hammond baseball team and takes part in all of the boys' fun of the community. By saving pennies he has purchased a new shiny stick of which he is very proud.

He didn't see what happened. He ran. He flew. As he rounded second he caught a glimpse of the left fielder and shortstop falling over their feet, both trying to pick up the ball. As he turned the corner at third he saw the pitcher starting to run in to cover the plate and guessing that the catcher was chasing a fly thrown, Neale put his head down and sprinted for dear life. Fifteen feet from the plate he dove, and shot over in a cloud of dust.

Neale, the ball, and the pitcher all arrived there at the same moment, but a partial umpire called it "safe." Don Roberts fouled to the catcher. Fatty Schwartz fanned. But the game was won.

With his chest a couple of inches bigger than normal, Neale started for home, and there one the sidewalk watching him, stood his father, looking right at him, instead of over his head as Father was apt to do. Father patted him on the shoulder. "That was a good swat, Neale," he said. Neale wriggled. "Well, we had to have a hit," he explained, "and I know Don and Fatty wouldn't do much."

His father found no comment to make. Neale had said his say. Silent as Iroquois, they walked home to supper.

The next afternoon Father brought him a Louisville Slugger hit and Neale was in the seventh heaven.

CHAPTER V. The end of school always meant the beginning of the yearly romance, the beginning of the two months when Neale really lived all the time, not just after 4 o'clock, and on Saturdays. And yet it was not all made up of games! In fact there weren't any games at all. Queer!

Neale's life was largely made up of things that happened over and over the same way, and so did this. The last day of school he always went home and found the house smelling trunkly and Mother with piles of clothes folded on all the chairs, packing a Saratoga trunk. All the afternoon she would pack it, putting things in and taking things out to make room for other things, and when Father came home, things would be all unfinished. It happened just that way, always. When Father came home things were all unfinished and Father took out his watch, and said the expressman had said he'd come at 5:30, and Mother answered, "You know they're always two hours late."

Nevertheless she stopped taking things out, and there was a scramble and things put in any old way, with a good deal of laughing and fun from Father and Mother, finally with Mother and Neale sitting on the lid. Father in his shirt sleeves strapped and locked it. Then while they were eating supper, the expressman drove up only an hour late, no, not even quite an hour late. Neale thought, and took the trunk away, and now Neale felt they were gone.

He lay awake that night thinking of the coming adventure, his heart beating faster, and then it was morning, and Mother was shaking him and getting him into his clothes. A hurried breakfast on lukewarm oatmeal. They went outside and got into a coupe standing there. Father and

hands were black from the dried resin.

"There were other things to do at Grandfather Crittenden's, all the other boys do in the country, and Neale did them all. But none of them came up to the mill. Day in and day out it was around the mill that he spent his time, lying on the piles of fresh sawed boards in the sunlight, watching teamsters roll huge logs on the skidway with canthooks.

But after supper, when the mill was shut down, he used to saunter out to it, in the long soft twilight, and they tiptoed down into the cellar and lay uneasily in the sawdust, casting scared looks now and then at the shining semi-circles of the saw with its wicked hooked teeth just over his head.

One day, as he played thus about the mill, his destiny came and tapped him on the shoulder, and he knew not that day from any other day.

As he was watching Silas take up the slack in a belt, a strange man, an elderly, powerful, bent, old country man came into the mill, and asked, without salutations to any one, "Where's Joe?"

"Gone to town for feed," said Silas. He added with a grin, "Mr. Burton, make you acquainted with a relation of yours, Daniel's boy." He jerked his head at Neale.

The stranger looked hard at the boy, out of sharp eyes, and the harder he looked the sharper grew his eyes.

"What's he doin' here?" he asked Silas.

"Oh, he's always hangin' round. He knows the trade as well as some folks twice his size," said Silas.

"Well, what do think of the sawyer's trade?" asked the old man suddenly of Neale.

Beatrice Fairfax

Problems That Perplex

Georgia: You are asking me questions which you can look up yourself in books or obtain through and libraries. Write to the library commission at the state house in Lincoln and ask them to send you material on these subjects.

You can buy a copy of the Nebraska laws through the secretary of state at Lincoln. Some of the laws are published separately as pamphlets, so if it is one particular law you want, specify. Doubtless in your own town there is a lawyer. He would have a copy of the latest Nebraska statutes with the session laws passed since the statutes were compiled. Remember in looking up a law that a law may be changed every two years. So after you have found the statute you will have to check up with the laws of each subsequent session to make sure there has been no change. Unless you know how to look up a law, better consult an attorney.

The legislature has just recently adjourned. They meet every two years unless a special session is called. The next session, therefore, will be in 1925.

Congress convenes in the fall. You ask who is chief justice, but do not specify of which court. Our state chief justice is Andrew McFrissey. You can never earn the true affection of anyone worth while in that way.

Dear Miss Fairfax: Why do I make a big hit with other women but never have a man call on me a second time? I like men's society and my women friends really go out

state. Consult the state constitution for term and salaries of state officers.

Betty: Some people are just naturally more reserved than others. If they are reserved, quiet and stiff it is only natural to suppose they will not be as popular as their friends who meet people easily and who converse interestingly. But you know we can't make ourselves glib and clever and fascinating if we are not that way—can we? So what's the reserved girl going to do?

She should proceed in a neutral, sensible way, to overcome her handicap. She should get away from self-consciousness by interesting herself in other people. Being sincerely interested in others is bound to make you interesting. Read good literature and discuss it intelligently. Take up athletic sports, which will make you companionable to others.

It may take years to round yourself out into a broad minded, sympathetic person, but you will succeed. And you will find as you grow older that you will be interesting to fine people, people who think and people who count for something.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that you can change yourself overnight, or that loud talking and misconduct will make you interesting. You can never earn the true affection of anyone worth while in that way.

Dear Miss Fairfax: Why do I make a big hit with other women but never have a man call on me a second time? I like men's society and my women friends really go out

of their way to introduce me to any nice chaps they happen to know. But the result is always disappointing. I never make a hit. I always dress nicely, have a lovely home, and another always allows me to have a plate of sandwiches and some coffee when chaps call. But I never see them after the first call. I am not bashful or self-conscious or unexperienced socially. But he just never comes back. I saw your article on school teachers, so I thought I would

write. I am not a teacher but I am in the same fix.

"Interested." My dear girl, the fact that women like you proves that you are worth while. Women are excellent judges. You talk along for hours pleasantly but not feelingly—entertainingly even, but not personally. Therefore, the man's mind registers no personal impression of you. Take an interest in his affairs and above all be a good listener.

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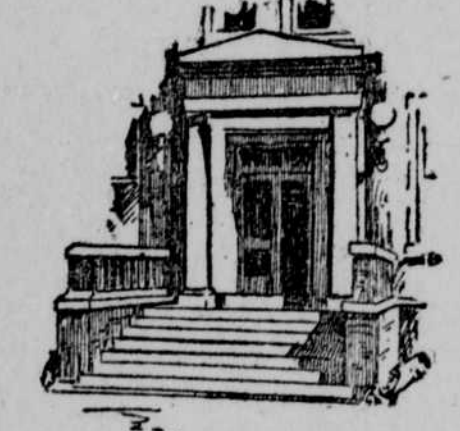
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