

THE WINNING OF MARGARET MERVIN

By CLIFFORD HOWARD

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Fitzgerald carried two notes in his pocket. One was from an acquaintance, a young lawyer of the city, asking him to call upon him on a matter of personal business. In response to this request he was walking briskly towards the lawyer's office. What it was Colton wanted to see him about he did not know. As a matter of fact, he did not care. His mind was too fully engaged with the emotions inspired by the contents of the other note.

This was a dainty epistle from Margaret Mervin, the girl who had bewitched his heart and turned his head after their first day's acquaintance at the seashore, five months before. As he hurried along his brain was awfully with troubled and exciting thoughts, for the missive he had received from her to-day was enough to upset the quantity of any lover:

My very dear friend: Your avowal has touched me most deeply. But what is a bit of helpless femininity to do when her heart is large enough for only one? Is it not better to remain friends with both? Then let me always be

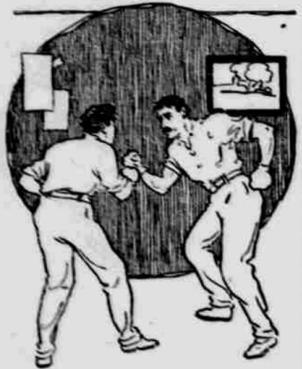
Your sincere friend,
MARGARET.

Fitzgerald was angry and humiliated; angry, because some other man had evidently come across the pathway of his heart's aspiration; and humiliated, because she had turned him off so airily; and this, too, after inflating his hopes by a ready acceptance of the many tokens of adoration he had bestowed upon her, including a weekly trip to Philadelphia that he might once in seven days hold her hand in his for a moment and spend a few brief hours in her enchanting presence.

He was still ruminating when he arrived at the lawyer's office. He opened the door hastily and walked in. Colton was alone. Stooping over his desk in the center of the room, he did not at once look up.

"How are you, Colton?" inquired Fitzgerald, tucking his cane under his arm and preparing to draw off his gloves. "I've dropped in in answer to your note. What can I do for you?"

Pushing back his chair, Colton rose and acknowledged the presence of his caller with a curt nod. "I thank you



This Was to Be a Fight, Pure and Simple.

for being so prompt," he said. Then stepping over to the door he turned the lock and thrust the key into his pocket.

"Now," he continued, turning to Fitzgerald, "you shall not leave this room until we have come to an understanding."

"Well, and what do you mean?" Fitzgerald struck a match and proceeded to light a cigarette.

"Simply this—I shall speak plainly and to the point: It has come to my knowledge that you are endeavoring to win the affections of the woman who—who—that is to say, the one to whose affections I consider I have certain right as an admirer—as her avowed suitor, to speak candidly. You are interfering with what I deem to be my just prerogatives, my prior rights, and I insist that you withdraw at once and for all time. Otherwise I demand satisfaction. Do I make myself clear?"

"I can't say that you do," answered Fitzgerald, directing a puff of smoke towards the ceiling. "So far as I am able to make out, you are barking up the wrong tree. If you think I am interfering with your love affairs, you are mightily mistaken. I have enough to do to attend to my own. And if this is all you have brought me here for, I think it is now in order for you to apologize and to open that door."

"Then you mean to say that you have relinquished your interest in Miss Mervin?"

"Miss Mervin? What has she to do with this?"

"Everything."

"Now, see here, Colton, what do you mean?"

"I have already told you: It is because of you—for fear of hurting your sensibilities—that she hesitates to favor me with her acceptance."

"Why, hang it, man! what in the name of common sense are you talking about?"

"Don't I make myself clear?"

"No! Do you mean that you have been paying your addresses to Miss Mervin?"

"Yes."

"Miss Margaret Mervin?"

"Yes."

"Of Philadelphia?"

"Yes; Miss Margaret Mervin of Philadelphia. There's no misunderstanding on that score."

"How long have you known her?"

"I don't know that that's any of your business; but the fact is, I met her in the Catskills last August."

"The devil! Then it's you who are at the bottom of this! You are the man who has come between her and me! I met her a whole month before you did, and you sit there and talk to me of your prerogatives and prior rights! Why, confound it all, if it were not for you she would consent to marry me! and you demand that I shall withdraw in your favor! Well, I'll be—"

"Then you will decide the matter as I have suggested?"

"What?"

"I say, then you are willing to fight, to determine which of us shall retire? The case is a simple one: Each of us stands in the other's way. With both in the field she will have neither of us. One of us has got to withdraw. Do you catch my meaning now?"

"Yes; and, by thunder, I accept your challenge! It shall be a fight, and a fight to the finish; and, what's more, we'll pull it off right here and now!"

"Precisely what I have arranged for. We can settle the matter in my back office without attracting attention. I have had the room cleared for the purpose."

Both men were well built and athletic. Each was accounted a good sparrer.

Fitzgerald followed his adversary into the adjoining room. Each drew off his coat and vest and neckwear with studied deliberation and placed them carefully on a chair.

Colton tossed upon the window-seat two or three pairs of light-weight gloves. "Take your choice," he said.

Fitzgerald quickly fitted a pair to his hands; Colton followed suit; and a moment later the two men faced each other in the attitude of battle, their arms bared and their chests expanded with deep breathing.

There was no handshake. All preliminary conventionalities were waived. This was to be a fight, pure and simple. Scarcely had each nodded his readiness ere the contest was on, and in vigorous earnest.

For fully 15 minutes the struggle continued. Then a loud knock at the door brought the performance to a sudden standstill. Both men were wet with perspiration and panting hard.

The interruption from without aroused the combatants to a sudden realization of the noise they had been making, and each involuntarily glared at the other and remained quiet for a moment. It was an intimation to the one on the outside to go away.

It proved to be only the postman, who, receiving no response after a short wait, discharged his errand by dropping a number of letters through the opening in the door.

The momentary truce had made both men aware of their exhausted condition. A few minutes' respite was eagerly craved by each of them to regain his breath. It was with a feeling of thankful relief, therefore, that Fitzgerald saw Colton stoop and pick up one of the letters from the floor.

To conceal any evidence of a desire to gain time by so doing, Colton endeavored by his manner to have it seem that his action was merely an instinctive response to habit. In reality he was more nearly exhausted than he cared to admit, and he felt it essential to resort to some subterfuge to delay the renewal of hostilities. With apparent absent-mindedness he mechanically tore open the envelope he held in his hand and passed his eyes vacantly over the contents.

Then, suddenly, without uttering a sound, he fell against the wall and sank slowly to the floor, where he remained motionless, his head drooping upon his chest.

Fitzgerald smiled grimly. He knew he had landed two blows over the heart, and he was not surprised. Mingled triumph and satisfaction added a rosier glow to his burning cheeks. With his handkerchief he calmly wiped the perspiration from his face and neck and sauntered over to one of the windows.

As he did so his eye lighted on the card that Colton had taken from the envelope. He picked it up with a hurried, impulsive movement, and holding it to the light he gazed upon it as one entranced. After a moment of breathless tension he sank limply upon the chair in the corner.

Colton raised his head and looked up. The two men stared at each other for the space of a full minute and then smiled foolishly. Actuated by a common impulse, they repeated together, in feeble duet, the words they had both read on the card:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mervin announce the marriage of their daughter, Margaret, to Mr. John Harry Smith, December tenth.

The two men rose and shook hands. "Get on your clothes and we'll go over to McBride's and have a drink," said Colton.

"I'm with you," answered Fitzgerald.

PAUL AT ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA

Sunday School Lesson for May 9, 1909
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Acts 13:13-52. Memory verses 28, 29.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"The word of the Lord was published throughout all the region."—Acts 13:49.

TIME.—Immediately after the last lesson; probably (according to Prof. Ramsay), in the summer of A. D. 46 or 47.

PLACE.—Perga the capital of Pamphylia, on the southern coast of Asia Minor, and Antioch, the capital of Pisidia, southern Galatia, about 100 miles north.

Suggestion and Practical Thought. Hitherto (see Acts 13:7, etc.) it had been "Barnabas and Saul;" now it is "Paul and Barnabas" (vs. 43, 46), or "Paul and his company," including Barnabas, John Mark, and perhaps others. Paul's ability as a leader has been proved at Cyprus, and was afterwards unquestioned.

V. 18. "John (Mark) departing from them returned to Jerusalem," his home. 1. Perhaps he did not like to see Paul superseding his cousin Barnabas. 2. Perhaps his mother was sick. 3. Perhaps, as one brought up strictly in Jerusalem, he objected to Paul's free intercourse with the Gentiles. 4. Perhaps he dreaded the perils of travel in the wild, bandit-infested region that lay before them. 5. Perhaps he had been weakened by the fever and felt unable to go on. Paul was not satisfied with the reason, whatever it was (Acts 15:37-40), and separated from Barnabas when, later, he insisted on taking Mark along. But Mark was ready for the second missionary journey, and was afterwards restored to Paul's good opinion (see Inductive Study 2). "No man ever became great or good except through many and great mistakes,"—Gladstone. "The only people who make no mistakes are dead people. I saw a man last week who has not made a mistake for 4,000 years. He is a mummy in the Egyptian department of the British museum."—H. L. Wayland.

V. 24. "They went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day," as was their custom. Thus they wisely made their first appeal to the Jews.

The Sermon as a Whole. "The task before Paul was difficult. He had to win the confidence and hold the attention of an audience to which he was quite unknown. He had to keep the ground of Israel's peculiar history and hope, and yet to show that at the holy city itself the Messiah had been rejected and crucified. But St. Paul was the very man for an emergency."—Donald Fraser, D. D.

"They keynote of Paul's sole message, repeated on a hundred occasions, and with infinite variations of emphasis, is found in St. Luke's account of his visit to Athens, in the words, 'he preached Jesus and the resurrection.' This first of his sermons of which we possess any portion may perhaps be regarded as a type of the Pauline sermon."—Rev. George Francis Greene.

It was (1) tactful, taking his hearers on their own ground; (2) humble, leaving himself out and exalting Christ; (3) courageous and frank, not hesitating to state the truth though it would offend preconceived views; (4) Biblical, bound up with the Scripture throughout; (5) practical, coming to a personal application, ending, as Lyman Beecher said every section should end, with a "snapper."

Forgiveness, through Christ. That truth, as always in Paul's preaching, was the climax of this sermon. "Forgiveness," R. V., remission "of sins," is, literally, the putting or sending them away. It includes the removal of the penalty for sin, though not immediately all the consequences of sin. It includes the cleansing of the heart from sin and restoration to God's favor. These are wonderful and priceless gifts, and Christ offers them to us for the asking.

V. 45. "Envy (jealousy), when the Jews saw the multitudes" (of Gentiles). The Jewish leaders were angry (1) because others and strangers did what they could not do themselves; (2) because they differed from Paul's teaching, and especially his application of the Messianic hopes to the condemned and crucified Jesus; (3) because they themselves felt condemned by such warnings as those in vs. 40, 41; (4) because, though they would be pleased if the Gentiles would become Jewish proselytes by conformity to circumcision and other requirements, they objected strenuously to their admission on easier terms, such as Paul proposed.

Missionary Expulsions. This was the first of many similar expulsions suffered by Paul, and those were only the beginnings of such experiences endured by missionaries in all lands. Thus Judson and his comrades were driven from Calcutta. Thus Milne was driven from Canton, and compelled to begin missionary labors for China from the Malay Peninsula. Thus in 1835 all the missionaries were driven from Japan for two centuries. Thus John G. Paton, after a thousand perils, was driven from the island of Tanna. But in every case Christianity has returned, all the stronger for its experience of persecution.

What Is My Attitude Toward Truth? This question is of fundamental importance. The lesson illustrates four ways of answering it: (1) John Mark's way, following the truth while the road is easy, but deserting it when it becomes disagreeable and dangerous; (2) Paul's way, following the truth at all hazards, eagerly and joyously, wherever it leads; (3) the way of the Antioch Jewish leaders, opposing the truth when it offends their pride and self-esteem and prejudices; (4) the way of the Gentile converts, accepting the truth readily and humbly, and publishing it abroad.

May Time and Gay Time

The Merry Month of May—and of course you want that new spring suit now. Been putting it off—not the suit, but purchasing it—because the season was backward? Well, spring has sprung, hasn't it? Sure! So come in and buy that nobby spring suit right now. The "now" price at this store is the "bargain price" for spring suits at other stores along about the middle of summer. You get the bargain price now—also the suit.

This For Union Men

We know what you want—good, serviceable clothing—up to date in style, cut, color, fit—with the label of the United Garment Workers therein. We've got 'em. The label costs you nothing, and it helps your brother worker. Our labeled clothing is as fine a lot of garments as you would want to buy—"now" bargain prices, too.

Any Price You Want to Pay

By that we mean we have union-made garments at prices ranging from \$12.50 per suit up. Worth more money, too. Others are asking more and will come along in a couple of months with "bargain-sale prices" that will be about what our regular prices are now.

Other Union-Made Goods

We've got other goods than clothing that bear the "little joker." Linen collars, for instance. Only clothing store in town that carries them in stock. And shoes! Best makes, and with union stamp on 'em. And hats! Say, our line of union-made hats is a "peach." When you ask for union-made goods at this store, our gentlemanly clerks do not try to poke off "something just as good" on you. You get what you ask for. We want the trade of union men to the extent that we are anxious to supply their demands. And we can outfit the union man from head to foot—hat, collar, shirt suit, shoes. Give this fact due consideration.

On
The
Corner

SPEIER & SIMON

CORNER TENTH AND O STREETS

On
The
Square

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

A Few of Its Declarations Upon Which It Appeals to All Working People To Organize, Unite, Federate, and Cement the Bonds of Fraternity.

1. The Abolition of all Forms of Involuntary Servitude, except as a punishment for crime.
2. Free Schools, Free Text-Books, and Compulsory education.
3. Unrelenting Protest Against the Issuance and Abuse of Injunction Process in Labor Disputes.
4. A workday of not more than Eight Hours in the twenty-four hour day.
5. A strict recognition of not over Eight Hours per day on all Federal State or Municipal Work and at not less than the prevailing Per Diem Wage Rate of the class of employment in the vicinity where the work is performed.
6. Release from employment One Year for the Abolition of the Contract System on Public Work.
7. The Abolition of the Sweat Shop System.
8. The Abolition of the Sweat Shop System.
9. Sanitary Inspection of Factory, Workshop, Mine, and Home.
10. Liability of Employers, for Injury to body or loss of life.
11. The Nationalization of Telegraph and Telephone.
12. The passage of Anti-Child Labor Laws in States where they do not exist and rigid defense of them where they have been enacted into law.
13. Woman Suffrage coequal with Man Suffrage.
14. The Initiative and Referendum.

and the Imperative Mandate and Right of Recall.

16. Suitable and Plentiful Playgrounds for Children in all cities.

17. Continued agitation for the Public Bath System in all cities.

18. Qualifications in permits to build Day in Seven.

of all cities and towns that there shall be Bathrooms and Bathroom Attachments in all houses or compartments used for habitation.

19. We favor a system of finance whereby money shall be issued exclusively by the Government, with such regulations and restrictions as will protect it from manipulation by the banking interests for their own private gains.

The above is a partial statement of the demands which organized labor, in the interest of the workers—aye, of all the people of our country—makes upon modern society.

Higher wages, shorter workday, better and safer workshops, factories, mills, and mines. In a word, a better, higher, and nobler life.

Conscious of the justice, wisdom and nobility of our cause, the American Federation of Labor appeals to all men and women of labor to join with us in the great movement for its achievement.

More than two million wage-earners who have reaped the advantages of organization and federation appeal to their brothers and sisters of toil to participate in the glorious movement with its attendant benefits.

There are affiliated to the American Federation of Labor 113 International Trades Unions with their 27,

600 Local Unions; 36 State Federations; 537 City Central Bodies and 1,650 Local Trade and Federal Labor Unions having no International.

We have nearly 1,000 volunteer and special organizers as well as the officers of the unions and of the American Federation of Labor itself always willing and anxious to aid their fellow workmen to organize and in every other way better their conditions.

For information all are invited to write to the American Federation of Labor headquarters at Washington, D. C.

WHAT THE LABEL MEANS TO UNIONISM.

The label is the life of unionism. If these manufacturers, who may be behind the hatters in this strike, think that they can wipe out the labels without a fight, they are wrong.

To fight for the labels is to fight for the basis of unionism.

A label is a guaranty. It is a guide to prove that the ware on which it is found is of union manufacture.

The label is the very opposite of the boycott. The boycott says, "Don't buy." The label says, "Buy, and support this union."

We can't print our boycott lists any more. It would even be wrong, I suppose, to display the old list.

But no one can stop me or anybody else from telling his friend that this or that article of manufacture is unfair.

I'm going to use my speech in this way, just as I please. We must fight for our sixty-four union labels to the last ditch.—Ex.