

The Story of Ninette

By RUDY M. AYRES.
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(Continued From Yesterday.)

SYNOPSIS.
NINETTE, whose birth costs the life of her mother, is adopted by JOSE WHEELER, struggling from the Journal living at the same time. Ninette is in London. When Ninette is 17, Wheeler is stricken by pneumonia. They made a pact and the girl, hoping to earn some money, writes an article under Wheeler's name and sends it to the newspaper to which her father had been contributing. Her mother visits the newspaper office later.

PETER NOTHARD, publisher, brands the article as "rubbish," infuriating the girl. That evening, through an incredible coincidence, Ninette enters a wealthy home during the owner's absence and is asked to attend a watch to which Wheeler, who owns the residence, returns. Throwing her with street clothes, Nothard accompanies the girl home with food and supplies for Wheeler. But Wheeler is dead when they reach the lodging house. Ninette faints and Nothard, taking pity on the grief-stricken girl, carries her to a tavern and there starts for his home, accompanied by the landlady's husband. Now go on with the story—

Nothard sat frowning before him. What the devil was he going to do with the girl, and why had he yielded to this impulse to bring her with him?

His housekeeper would be home by now certainly, but she would probably be horribly scandalized; he wondered how on earth he would be able to explain things to her.

The man opposite him spoke. "Nice gentleman, Mr. Wheeler was, sir. I'm sure we always did our best for him, me and my missus; but we are poor ourselves."

Nothard made no answer; he wondered if he would ever forget that dark, cheerless bedroom, with the flickering candle light falling on a dead man's face. He had known Wheeler for years as a vague, quiet figure, fitting in and out of the office, always willing to do any job that might be going, never asking for an increase in pay; getting older and shabbier year by year; and he wished now from the bottom of his soul that he had done something for him before it was too late.

There must be many such cases as this in the world he knew, but until today the fact had not seemed to touch his own life; it was as if a rude hand had roughly torn from his eyes a soothing curtain that carefully screened from his vision all the ugly spots of the world.

Ninette stirred faintly beside him and moved her hand. It touched his, recoiled, then sought it again timidly. "Josh!"

Nothard's hand closed about her fingers. "It's all right," he said as gently as he could. "We shall soon be home."

She seemed content; she was only half-conscious and he breathed a sigh of thankfulness when the drive was ended.

He let himself into the house and sought his housekeeper; she was one of the old-fashioned, very prim, and thoroughly trustworthy sort.

She listened to his stumbling explanation calmly enough—nothing disturbed her serenity greatly—and when he had finished she said: "You with the young lady to stay here, sir? Very well, I will get a bedroom ready."

Nothard was utterly relieved; he went back to the cab, lifted Ninette in his arms and took her into the library, from which he had departed but an hour ago so full of hope.

He put her down in the big chair, made up the fire and went out into the hall, where the man with the loud laugh waited.

He was not laughing now; he stood nervously twiddling his cap and staring about him.

Nothard gave him three pounds and promised to call around again in the morning.

"I will bear all expenses," he said. "You need not be afraid."

He hustled the man out of the house, cutting short his profuse gratitude; then he went back to Ninette. She looked at him as he entered the room and tried to rise to her feet.

"What are you going to do with me?" she asked.

There was a queer mixture of fear and indifference in her voice, but she was still shaking from head to foot.

Nothard answered gently. "You are going to stay here; my housekeeper will look after you. Tomorrow—tomorrow we will see what can be done."

She looked away from him into the heart of the fire. "We were too late," she said slowly, and the depths of misery in her voice cut Nothard to the heart. "All his life Josh has never had anything—anything! I hope now he has gone to heaven, that God will treat him more fairly!"

There was a tragic silence; Nothard did not know what to say or do; he had never been in such a predicament in his life, and although he would have given anything to have the power to have comforted her, he felt tongue-tied and stupid.

He stammered out at last that it was all for the best—that death was always harder for those who were left behind—useless platitudes, which have been spoken hundreds of times to stony ears.

Ninette looked at him again. "He would never have died, if only you had helped me this afternoon," she said steadily. "You've got so much—you're so rich; it wouldn't have hurt you to spare a little for us."

She covered her face with her hands, but no tears came and a long silence followed.

Chapter IX—"What Are You Going to Do With Me?"

Nothard looked at his reflection in the glass above the mantelshelf and was surprised at his pallor. The man Wheeler had been nothing to him, but his death nevertheless had come as a great shock. He knew that Ninette's words were true, too.

to provide for this girl; surely he, with all his money—

"She will stay here, of course," he said. "And I wish her to have every attention."

But it was as the doctor had said, a long time before Ninette was able to lift her head from the pillow; and remember what had happened; and poor Josh had been in his last resting place for several weeks, and the cheerless room where he had died relet, and the world was going on its heedless way again.

"The doctor says she'll be able to come down for a little while next week," Mrs. Gray told Nothard one morning. "Poor dear, she looks so frail—as if a puff of wind could blow her away."

Nothard shifted uneasily. "Does she—has she said anything about the past?" he asked, with an effort. Mrs. Gray shook her head.

"No sir, not a word; all she said was just as I was coming out of the room: 'What is Mr. Nothard going to do with me now?'"

Nothard ran his fingers distractedly through his hair; that was the question he was always asking himself: "What was he to do with Ninette?"

Peter Nothard never forgot his first meeting with Ninette after her illness, when, in reply to his deprecating knock on her door, she said in the ungracious voice which was his most vivid memory of her: "Ch, come in!"

She was sitting by the window in a basket armchair, a white shawl, which seemed to increase her pallor and frailty, folded about her shoulders, her dark hair drawn loosely back and tied with a bow.

She looked across the room at Nothard for a moment without speaking, then she made an effort to rise.

"I didn't think it was you," she said, and a painful streak of color crept into her cheeks.

Nothard came quickly forward. "Please don't get up, I want to have a little talk with you. Oh, sit down!" There was a touch of impatience in his voice.

Ninette obeyed then, drawing the white shawl more closely about her as if she were cold, though there was a bright fire in the grate.

"There was a little silence. 'I hope you are better,' Nothard said awkwardly.

"I hope I am," was Ninette's answer. "I'm tired of being ill. You must have been sorry I did not die, and put an end to it all."

He smiled. "Have I been such a bear as all that?" he asked.

Her dark eyes searched his face suspiciously. "You've done a good deal more than you know how to do," she answered. "I know that. Your house-

keeper keeps on telling me all day long how much I owe you, and how grateful I ought to be. But I'm not, though I know it's wicked; I'm not grateful at all. I'd much rather have died."

"That's absurd. No one wants to die before they're needed," Nothard said sharply. "You'll soon be quite well and strong again."

"Shall I?" The dark eyes sought his disconcertingly once more. "And then what's to become of me?" she asked bitterly. "I haven't money or any friends."

"I intend to look after that. I promise you that I will do everything in my power for you."

A little bitter smile curved her pale lips. "I don't want you to do anything for me. I wish I didn't owe you all this now. I shall never be happy till I've paid you back for it all."

(Continued in The Bee Monday.)

Extra! Water Well Burns as Firemen, Across Street, Dance

Ogallala, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—Here's a new one.

A water well in Ogallala caught fire and burned up.

Ogallala firemen were having their annual ball just across the street from the fire, the siren whistle screamed loud and long, yet not a fireman in the hall heard it and responded to the call.

An old well adjoining the office building of the Welpton Lumber company was used for an ash dump. The well was lined with lumber, which ignited, setting the platform and the side of the building on fire. A few strokes of the pump over the well extinguished the fire.

"Reed for Governor Club" Formed in Hamilton County

Aurora, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—"A Reed for Governor Club" has been formed in Hamilton county and it already has a large membership.

Senator Perry Reed is being urged to announce his candidacy for the nomination as governor on the republican ticket. He has received much encouragement from other counties.

Pawnee City High School Holds Tryout Debates

Pawnee City, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—The tryout for the high school debating team for this season was held in the school chapel. Six students participated. The three winners, listed according to their rating are: Maynard Arnot, Len McIntyre and Donald Becker. Fourth man will be alternate. He is Harold Bosley. Robert Foley acted as chairman of the contest.

New Co-Operative Body Is Launched by Livestock Men

Producers, Packers, Commission Men and Retailers Adopt Proposal at Colorado Springs Meeting.

Colorado Springs, Jan. 13.—A proposal to create a national livestock and meat board, a co-operative organization made up of all producers, packers, commission men and retailers, to remedy conditions in all branches of the livestock industry and increase the consumers' demand for meat products, was unanimously adopted by the American National Livestock association convention in session here this afternoon.

The plan for a board consisting of 17 members, 11 of them representing the producing end of the industry, was first drafted in Chicago, December 2, in response to the widespread realization of the necessity for co-operation in an educational marketing program. E. L. Burke of the American National Livestock association was chairman and the other members of the committee were W. J. Carmichael, secretary of the National Swine Growers' association; A. Sykes of the Corn Belt Meat Producers' association; A. C. Williams of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' association; and Thomas E. Wilson and F. Edson White of the American Institute of Meat Packers.

Mr. Burke presented the proposition to the meeting today, Mr. Wilson, president of the American Institute of Meat Packers and a member of the committee, also was present at today's session and spoke favorably of the plan, urging the necessity for adopting it.

"LECTURES BY NOTED THEOSOPHIST"

Claud L. Watson, Nat'l Vice President National Lecturer Theosophical Society, in THEOSOPHICAL HALL

215 Leffing Blvd., 16th and Capitol Ave. January 18, 19, 20, inclusive, at 8:15 P. M.

Sun. Eve., Jan. 15—"Man, a Body, Soul and Spirit."
Mon. Eve., Jan. 16—"Birth, a New Chance."
Tues. Eve., Jan. 17—"Why Poverty? Disease and Death?"
Wed. Eve., Jan. 18—"Healing, Physical, Mental and Spiritual."
Thurs. Eve., Jan. 19—"In the Shadow of the Cross."

The Lectures Are Free—The Public Is Invited

Cheyenne County Builds Rural School "Teachery"

Ludpole, Neb., Jan. 13.—(Special.)—School district No. 76 has the distinction of having the only "teachery" in Cheyenne county, and one of the very few in western Nebraska. It is a neat little bungalow, and furnishes a cozy home for Miss Hattie Everman and Miss Anna Sheridan, the teachers.

Reports from Spain indicate that dissatisfaction is becoming general among employes in the important industries in that country, due largely to wage reductions and the marked increase in the cost of living.

Get what you ask for

It cleans antiseptically

Protect Your Home and Family by using KITCHEN KLENZER

Makes the Clothes Snowy White

AUTOMATIC SOAP FLAKES

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ADVERTISEMENTS

A FRIEND IN NEED A FRIEND INDEED

Writes Mrs. Hardee Regarding Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Los Angeles, Calif.—"I must tell you that I am a true friend to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I have taken it off and on for twenty years and it has helped me change from a delicate girl to a stout, healthy woman. When I was married I was sick all the time until I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I was in bed much of my time with pains and had to have the doctor every month. One day I found a little book in my yard in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and read it through and got the medicine. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—and took eight bottles and used the Sensitive Wash. I at once began to get stronger. I have got many women to take it just by telling them what has done for me. I have a young sister whom it has helped in the same way it helped me. I want you to know that I am a friend indeed, for you were a friend in need."—GEO. H. HANSEN, 1043 Byron St., Los Angeles, California.

Hotel Rome Dancing SATURDAY NIGHT

INFORMAL ROME MILLER

ECZEMA 1 YEAR CUTICURA HEALS

In Pimples All Over Body. Itched and Burned.

"Eczema broke out in pimples all over my body. It itched and burned all the time and I scratched and irritated the parts until they bled. My clothing aggravated the breaking out and I could not rest day or night. The trouble lasted about a year before I began using Cuticura Soap and Ointment and after using three boxes of Ointment with the Cuticura Soap I was healed in six weeks." (Signed) Mrs. Earl Baker, Coates, Ohio.

Basement Department

2.00 2-quart Pyrex Casserole 1.60
1.00 8-inch Pyrex Pie Plate80c
1.25 8-inch Pyrex Pudding Dish 1.00
50c Pyrex Oval Baker44c
50c Pyrex Au Gratin Dish40c
7.50 9-cup Universal Percolator 4.95
8.50 9-cup Universal Percolator 4.95
5.50 7-cup Rochester French Drip Coffee Pot 3.75
6.00 7-cup Rochester Percolator 3.75
6.00 4-cup Rochester Percolator 3.75

Tables of articles at 25c, 50c and 75c.

Trunks

The celebrated Hartmann Wardrobe Trunk—tremendous reductions for January selling:

One lot of high grade Hartmann Trunks that sell regularly at 105.00, 115.00, 125.00 and 137.00. Your choice, at 75.00

Gift Shop

Still more reductions on gifts in our Gift Shop. Novelties, potteries, candles, lamps, and shades, smoking articles, smoking stands, china, porcelain, and glass, all of these are marked from 20% to 60% lower than the regular price. All the prices are on the individual pieces.

Candles

20c, now 15c
15c, now 11c
All shapes and colors are included.

Smoking Stands

5.55, now 3.50
5.50, now 3.25
25.00, now 9.50

Orchard & Wilhelm Co.

SIXTEENTH AND HOWARD STREETS

January Sale

Dress up the home with New Furnishings while you can secure such unusual values as this sale offers in all departments. Thousands of articles of New Furniture, Rugs, Draperies, and Gifts priced at Tremendous Reductions.

This ad offers but few suggestions. We want you to feel free to come in, look, and compare with no obligation to buy.

68.00 Queen Anne Twin Beds in brown mahogany, each 39.00

45.00 Queen Anne American Walnut Dressing Table 29.50

45.00 Brown Mahogany Chiffonier 29.50

110.00 Brown Mahogany Dresser with 28x34-inch French plate mirror 69.00

45.00 Bird's-Eye Maple Dressing Table with triple mirror 23.50

145.00 Old Ivory Vanity Dresser Louis XVI type 79.00

110.00 Old Ivory Dresser with 24x34-inch plate mirror 69.50

69.00 Old Ivory Dresser with 26x24-inch plate mirror 45.00

65.00 Adam Bed, full size, in American walnut 39.00

66.00 American Walnut Chiffonier, Post Colonial type 45.00

98.00 American Walnut Dresser, Post Colonial type 69.50

58.00 American Walnut Bed, full size to match 39.50

45.00 Adam Dresser, in American walnut 29.50

90.00 Post Colonial Dresser, 26x32-inch mirror 50.00

85.00 Chiffonier to match, with mirror 45.00

110.00 Post Colonial Bow Foot Bed, extra quality 69.50

98.00 Chiffonier to match 68.00

54.00 Brown Mahogany Poster Bed, full size 35.00

62.00 Fluted Poster Colonial Beds, twin size, each 45.00

72.00 Old Ivory Dresser 59.50

118.00 American Walnut or Old Ivory Vanity Dresser with large triple mirror 79.50

56.00 Chiffonier in American walnut, ivory or mahogany 38.00

68.00 Dresser in American walnut, ivory or mahogany 45.00

69.00 Bowfoot Bed to match in walnut or mahogany 45.00

65.00 American Walnut Bed in full or twin sizes 39.50

45.00 Bed in American Walnut or brown mahogany 29.50

35.00 Ostermoor Mattresses 15.00

Rugs

January special sale. Our regular stocks, including large purchases of drops and seconds from all the well-known mills. Big reductions, rugs of all kinds, all sizes.

234.00 11-3x15 Seamless Highland Rug in rose 187.50

115.00 11-3x12 Whittall Teprac Wilton Rug, dropped 95.00

135.00 9x15 Lakewood Rug in taupe and blue 107.50

125.00 9x13-4 Green Wilton Stock Rug 75.00

60.00 9x12 Heavy Seamless Axminster Rug, dropped 49.50

47.50 9x12 Roxbury Electras and Bussorahs, seconds 39.50

37.50 9x12 Axminsters, some seamless and blue 32.50

43.50 8-3x10-6 Roxbury Electra Carlton Rugs 36.50

28.50 6x9 Roxbury Electra Carlton Rugs 23.50

19.50 36x63 Finest Wiltons, drop patterns 15.75

13.50 27x54 Finest Wiltons, drop patterns 9.95

25c values, per yard 18c
45c values, per yard 25c
75c and 85c values, yard, 38c

1.00 values, per yard 68c
1.50 values, per yard 95c
2.00 values, per yard 1.25
2.25 values, per yard 1.50

1.00 values, per yard 68c-50c
1.50 values, per yard 75c
1.75 values, per yard 1.00

Curtain Nets

2.50 values, per yard 1.65
1.50 values, per yard 1.85
3.25 to 4.00 values, yard, 1.60
4.75 values, per yard 2.25

Overdrapery Materials

Madras, Poplin, Silk, Damask, and Sunfasts.

36-inch width Madras in rose, blue, mulberry, gold and brown, 1.25 per yard now 75c
45 and 50-inch materials in almost any desirable drapery color in big variety. 1.50, 1.65 and 2.00 per yard, now 1.00

Some 2.00 values, per yard 75c
2.50 and 3.00 values, per yard 1.50
4.25 values for 1.95 and 2.00
5.25 and 7.50 values for 2.85

Colored Voiles and Marquisesettes

25c values, per yard 18c
50c values, per yard 25c
60c values, per yard 38c
85c values, per yard 50c
1.00 values, per yard 60c

Basement Department

2.00 2-quart Pyrex Casserole 1.60
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