

HAVEN'T GOT TIME.

Opportunity tapped at a door With a chance for the brother within; He rapped till his fingers were sore; And muttered, "Come on, let me in, Here is something I know you can do, Here's a bill that I know you can climb."

FREEDOM.

As she sat there, in her quiet room, with slim hands folded softly in the lap of her black silk frock, Elizabeth Murray felt a swift sense of let-down—a sense of being untrammelled, untied, free.

Her drawing board, just across the room, was mutely expressive, with its neatly-sorted papers, its accusing-clean brushes, its pile of waiting pens and pencils. Ordinarily, at this time in the afternoon, Elizabeth Murray would have been seated in front of it at work.

All her life—ever since she could remember, almost—Elizabeth Murray had taken care of people. Her father had been a helpless cripple—through no fault of his own he had been forced to rely, an invalid, upon his daughter's willing help.

And she had loved, too, caring for the great-aunt who had come to her suddenly, after her mother's death, from a little country village. A blithe woman with a gentle smile and a voice that fairly sang with radiant faith and sublime trust.

Her grave—of the three upon the green hillside—was the most recent. It was only a matter of days since she had gone to her rest there.

Yes, all her life Elizabeth Murray had cared for people. Working with a persistence, a rush, a dogged endurance so that she might care for them properly. Often she had thanked God for the talent with which he had blessed her—a talent that allowed her to earn a fairly large income.

in the lap of her black frock. And—all at once—her eyes began to dream. The word spelled out by her heart might have been release.

Oh, have I made you see her—Elizabeth Murray? Not glad of the word her heart was spelling! Not glad of her release from care, from responsibility; not reaching joyously toward her freedom.

Perhaps, had she been left free at twenty, her reactions might have been slightly different. But Elizabeth Murray was thirty now, and life had drained some of the thrill, the glory of rhythm, from her soul.

Oh, with any one of those loved, dependent people alive, Elizabeth Murray would not have thought of touching that savings account!

Of course, there were plans to be made, loose ends to be gathered up, to be tied safely together. One can not easily break the habits of a lifetime, the habits of work and of staying at home.

"New Orleans," she said softly. "Bordeaux, Paris, France, London, Algeria, Rome, Venice—Venice, with gondolas—Rio," she smiled, "Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, Seville, Perhaps Calcutta. Perhaps even—Bagdad!"

"Oh," she breathed, and her slender hands, in their old gloves, came together rapturously. "Oh, you're more than kind! I know that the rent you're asking is ridiculous. You could get much more surely. But—it seems as if staying in this place would be almost like giving my child a—a rare chance! He's never lived in a lovely home—not ever!"

"I must think to tell Auntie how bright the new silks are. . . . I wonder if I can make her see the gay color. . . ."

But, for all that, the plans began to crystallize. It wasn't very long before a pile of catalogues (illustrated, for the most part, with alluring photographs that had not even been retouched) cluttered the room in which Elizabeth Murray worked.

At first, she had to remind herself that it wasn't all a phantom—this vacation she was planning. She found it difficult to confide to the first art editor that she was not in the market for the handling of a certain new campaign—a campaign that would have thrilled her a few short months before.

"Not," he questioned with a heavy playfulness, "not planning to be married?"

Still more brightly Elizabeth Murray blushed. But she surprised even herself by her sudden brusque manner. "I should say not!" she answered. "I'm not thinking of anything so foolish. Quite the contrary! I'm free—alone—for the first time in my life. I'm going—"

When five o'clock came, she was waiting tensely for the telephone call. Waiting—and ready, if necessary, to cut the rent still further. So that Bobby—the four-year-old—might have his chance at lovelessness!

The call came, sooner than she had expected. It was only ten minutes after five when her telephone clanged its impatient summons. Elizabeth, answering it, told herself that the woman must live very close to her office. That it must have taken very little time to tell the small boy about the place. Perhaps—she took down the receiver—perhaps the woman had de-

clined not to move. Perhaps— But it was a man's voice, not the excited tone of the pathetic woman, that greeted her.

"This is Miss Murray?" questioned the voice. "I—I have some news for you that isn't very pleasant. I am a doctor, and a woman has just been brought into my office. She was run down by a truck, just in front of my house. Hurrying to get across the street, to the subway, I suppose, and—"

"To sublet," read the advertisement, "an apartment. Comfortably furnished. Sunny, quiet rooms. Very reasonable."

A tiny, unsensational item. But it was to be the final snip of the shears that would cut the even fabric of Elizabeth Murray's life. For, when the apartment was sublet, she would be able at once to purchase her tickets. Free, even, of the small cares of a home, to start upon her pilgrimage!

"But I can't pay a great deal," hesitated the woman, "for I don't make a very large salary. I'm a private secretary in a big bond house. And I—I have a little boy to take care of. I—I see, I'm all alone in the world, except for him. I'm a widow. You"—all at once the small, pathetic face was touched with apprehension—"you don't object to children, do you? He's a very good little boy. He's just four. He was born a month after—" the woman stopped suddenly, and her hands clenched hard upon the scrap of a cambric handkerchief—"after his daddy died. He's not a destructive child—he won't scratch the chairs or hurt any of your pretties. He's always lived, you see, with things that belonged to other folks, in furnished rooms."

Elizabeth, looking at the woman, was moved to take her into strong, sympathetic arms. She stifled the impulse sternly—this woman was none of her affair! But the rent that she named was twenty dollars less than the figure that she had given to the last one who had come to inquire. And at sight of the woman's wistfully considering face she lowered it another ten dollars, lowered it quite voluntarily! She would lose money on the proposition—but her home was charming, and she wanted the woman to have it. Wanted the careful little boy, who had always lived in furnished rooms, to know the sunshine and pictures and flower-boxes that she herself had enjoyed. Silly? Of course! But—now she could afford to be silly!

"This is not my affair. They have no claim—no possible claim—upon me!"

"Do everything that you can to save her," she instructed swiftly. "And I'll be at your office as soon as a taxi can bring me there!"

The woman's broken body was lying on a couch in the doctor's spotless room. Her eyes were closed, but she still breathed with faint, terrible, little gasps. Somehow, at this time, her look was no longer pathetic. The great great thing that she was facing had lent her a certain majesty. A certain glow, almost. As Elizabeth knelt swiftly beside her, the tired eyes flew open. And, for one moment, the two women were alone in a space between worlds. For one moment Elizabeth found herself looking into a soul as hurt, as a gaping wound. And then, with an effort that must have been tremendous, the woman spoke. She said one word only. It was as if, ever since the accident, she had been saving her strength to ask a question with that word!

"Bobby?" she questioned, and that was all. Elizabeth Murray had knelt, before, at other death-beds. She had cried out, before, against the shadow of the Dark Angel. She knew that the woman had come to her silent hour. And she knew, too, that this going would affect her life as no other going had ever before been able to affect it. Even though this woman was a stranger—and those others had been of her own flesh and blood! With the knowledge torturing her heart and—curiously enough, lifting it on high—she made answer. And dared to smile gallantly as she spoke.

"Don't you worry about Bobby," she said swiftly, distinctly, and—thank God!—gladly—"I'll see to him!"

Into the other woman's eyes came a sudden radiance, an indescribable peace. And then the eyes closed, quite naturally. She might have drifted, at the moment, into a restful sleep. Made the gesture of the doctor's at the shuddering, uncontrollable of his white-lipped office assistant—Elizabeth arose to her feet. Stiffly, as though she had been kneeling in one position for hours, instead of minutes. Her lips were moving—one wonders if the doctor thought that they were moving in prayer? Perhaps, in a way, it was a prayer that Elizabeth said to herself—for her lips were silently forming words. A prayer of—shall we say—renunciation? For these were the words that her heart spoke:

"New Orleans," she was whispering (oh, the merest thread of a whisper, under her breath), "Bordeaux, Paris—Paris, France," London, Algiers, Rome, Venice—"Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, Seville. (Hot moonlight and castanets and bright shawls!) "Calcutta. . . . Bagdad. . . ."

"Five thousand dollars," she was saying, "nearly five thousand dollars. It will practically pay for his education. For college. There'll be his commencement day, at the end of college. . . . Maybe he'll play—football. I wonder if he'll cry for her, at first, in the night? Old-fashioned, she said he was, and quaint! Maybe, in time, he'll want to call me—" but she could not, in the presence of that still figure, say the name, even in her soul!—"I wonder if his eyes are brown—or blue? I wonder if he'll learn—to love me. . . ."

The doctor was clearing his throat. He was preparing to speak. Elizabeth Murray forestalled him with a slim, lifted hand. "You must manage the details for

me," she said. "I'll see you later in the evening. I'll settle with you about bills," and other matters, then. Just now—" her voice held a note of supreme wonderment, "just now I've got an errand to do. An important errand. I've got to call for a little boy—" her eyes were suddenly swept with light, "and take him—home—"

By Margaret Sangster in Good Housekeeping.

United States Population 200,000,000 in 75 Years.

Some of the babies today will live to see the United States a nation of 200,000,000 people if David F. Houston, secretary of agriculture in President Wilson's cabinet, reads the future aright. He predicts that that will be the population of the country within seventy-five years.

The United States is too rich for that. As Mr. Houston points out, we have great copper and iron resources, immense agricultural riches, and far more than our proportionate share of the world's railroads, telephones and automobiles. If we are prudent our descendants, for many generations, will enjoy as high a standard of living as we. But there will have to be a great deal of vigilance if the wolf is to be kept from the door.

There will be an acute timber shortage in fifty years, foresters tell us, if we do not put a stop to forest fires. Agricultural economists state that food production is not keeping pace with increase of population. While we are increasing the average yield per acre, the per capita output is falling off, and the time can be foreseen when we will have to import far more food than we now get from abroad.

With increase of population the rate at which oil, natural gas and other exhaustible resources are used will be accelerated. In short, the best brains of the country will have to be called upon to see that the needs of those 200,000,000 Americans are satisfied.

The certainty, under normal conditions, that the population will thus increase in a comparatively short period, as time goes, urges us to reasonable conservation and progress in development of good government.—The Pittsburgh Post.

Express Packages by Airplane on a Regular Schedule.

The airplane is soon to carry express packages on regular schedule just as it now carries U. S. mail. The American Railway Express Company announces that, beginning April 15, 1927, it will establish two air express routes. One will extend from New York to Chicago and the other from Chicago to Dallas, Texas, with deliveries to intermediate cities. From this beginning the company plans to develop a transcontinental air express service, with branch lines extending to all parts of the country.

Robert E. M. Cowie, president of the American Railway Express Company, says: "Sensing the demand of American commerce for the quickest possible transportation service at all times, express officials have been watching the progress of commercial aviation and awaiting the time when it could be put to practical use as an auxiliary to the express service of the country. Between the rail and the air branches of the express service there will be fast co-operation. A Chicago shipper, for instance, may have his goods flown speedily to Hadley Field, near Brunswick, N. J., which is the eastern airplane terminal. From there the shipments will be taken by rail without a moment's delay and turned over to the consignees by special delivery as quickly as a special delivery letter is delivered by the Post Office Department."

London and New York Banks Use Phone.

New York—Wall Street lost little time in testing out the new radio telephone service just opened between New York and London.

Several unusually large transactions in foreign exchange, involving \$6,000,000 and five different currencies were consummated over the radio telephone between two prominent international banking institutions, the International Acceptance Bank of New York and the Midland Bank Ltd., Overseas Branch, London. The International Acceptance Bank was among the earliest to call London by telephone and the transactions were the first to be completed by radio phone in the foreign exchange market.

One transaction, a purchase of \$1,000,000 in American money, was arranged between the foreign exchange department of the International Acceptance Bank, Inc., and the overseas branch of the Midland Bank. A short time later the Midland Bank called the International Bank and several large exchange transactions were consummated in five continental currencies.

Great hopes were expressed regarding the possibilities of this means of communication between the two largest financial centers in the world, particularly when the new service is further perfected.

The hen remarked to the mooley cow, As she cackled her daily lay (That is, the hen cackled, "It's funny how I'm good for an egg a day. I'm a fool to do it for what do I get? My food and my lodging. My! But the poodel gets that—he's the house-hold pet. And he never has laid a single egg yet—Not even when eggs are high.")

—Spring is coming and it won't be long until we can drive out into the country and view the beautiful greens and reds and yellows of the new summer sign boards.

Impressions of Parliament.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

By Rev. L. M. Colfelt D. D.

With some curiosity to hear Canon Farrar, I betook myself to Westminster Chapel where this noted preacher was conducting night services. With Henry Melville, at St. Paul's, he at that time, enjoyed the greatest popularity among the Cathedral attendants. He was a Rector of the first order, his attraction consisting in the ornate finish of his style and a clear, mellifluous voice. He was not characterized by the massiveness and compactness of thought or the natural eloquence of Melville but was a pleasing speaker withal. At that time he awakened a considerable theological storm because of his expression of too liberal views upon the doctrine of Retribution and the translation of the Greek word, Aiwonas. A discussion was started that ran through all the sects on both sides of the Atlantic. Apart from the merits of the question it is note-worthy that from that time forward, there has been a sensible decline in all churches in the use of Hell-fire and the menace of the Judgment in the pulpit as suasion to a Christian life, the love element of the New Testament, so long left in abeyance, receiving more of its due emphasis.

Next among the famous preachers of London that attracted us was Monsignor Capel, the celebrated Jesuit, who figured in Disraeli's novels as the most successful propagandist of Catholicism of that day amongst English speaking people and who was successful in converting many families of gentry to that faith. That day, in the Catholic Cathedral, he took for his theme, "The Infallibility Dogma," which had but late been affirmed by the Plenary Council of Rome and which led to an ineffective schism by the new Catholics, Dollinger at their head. He impressed me as an exceedingly able and acute reasoner, who might have been a constitutional lawyer, addressing a Supreme Court, speaking in a level, comparatively low, conversational tone without any of the qualities of eloquence depending for his impression alone upon the clear, white light of reason. In my Seminary days, the theologians of my denomination depended for their argument to invalidate prelatial succession upon the act that some of the successors of St. Peter, such as the Medician Popes were men of unsavory private character, in fact very fallible men. What was my astonishment in hearing Monsignore Capel meeting this very charge fairly and squarely with an intellectual honesty that was refreshing. "Let it be granted! Be it so for argument sake but what does the charge amount to when analyzed to the bottom. Mind ye not that Balaam, the Prophet accepted a bribe of the Philistines to curse Israel but when he spake as God's prophet he was obliged to testify a blessing and once but thrice—this because as the appointed of God, speaking as his ambassador, whatever his simony he could not err. Call also to mind the even clearer case of Caiaphas, who in personal character was a Deicide, giving his voice as chief of the Sanhedrim for the execution of Christ. He did so in the remarkable language "Know ye not that it is expedient that one man should die for the people and the whole nation perish not." He spake thus because he was High Priest that year. Thus he gave expression unconsciously to the central truth of Christianity, the necessity, the moral obligatoriness of a vicarious redemption, being guarded from error and rendered infallible not because of any good or evil in himself but because as head of the divinely appointed Jewish Church not as yet done away with and in which the Spirit of God substantially dwelt, he was speaking not as a fallible man but ex cathedra as an infallible organ of the most High God. The argument of Monsignore Capel burnt itself into my consciousness and from that day to this I have not known how a Protestant holding to the Scriptures as the infallible rule of faith and practice can meet and overthrow the cogency of its implication. It left no doubt on my part that Monsignore Capel's capacity to give a reason for the faith that was in him and his fame as a proselytizer was well deserved.

On the following Sunday morning, I made my way to the Metropolitan Tabernacle to hear Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the Baptist divine, who was celebrated all over the world. He had very little of the appearance of a clergyman, was heavily built and rugged of face. He never claimed to be and certainly was not an intellectual preacher, having little education and commencing his ministry at a very early age. He was rather an interesting and perhaps unrivaled expositor, well adapted to the average intelligence. One of the last of the Puritan preachers in England, he spent his whole life in devotion to a Renaissance of Puritan Theology and Puritan method of preaching. His "soundness" of doctrine was unquestioned and he was first, last and all the time, an Evangelist. In his early and mid career he, no doubt, was impassioned and displayed eloquence of a high order but when I heard him he was suffering from gout and preached with his bent knee supported by a cushioned chair. No doubt it was far from a fair specimen of his pulpit power but throughout he interested his vast audience of 5000 persons in a voice that never varied in tone and was singularly clear, carrying his message with ease to every part of the great auditorium. It was his voice, of sound timbre, methinks which he handled without the slightest strain or effort that constituted his remarkable vogue. Coupled with the fact that, confining himself to the exposition of the most novel book in the world, he was always fresh and interesting. Preachers who substitute for the sacred Scriptures, topical themes drawn from phases of science, politics and passing events are really substituting the novel and inspiring for the stale. Mr. Spurgeon, however, was more than sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. (Continued on page 3, Col. 1.)