

Three Wage Earners

By M. S. Baker.

Ever since a library for the village of Merton had been under discussion, Miss Martha Talley had fully resolved to be appointed librarian. True, there were other applicants, but she had been a successful teacher, had managed her business affairs with wonderful shrewdness and also had influential friends to "pull" for her.

"Yes, it will take just that to make me thoroughly independent," reasoned Miss Martha—10 years back it was Mattie. "Forty dollars is not a big salary but with my other revenues it will enable me to take a trip every summer. Perhaps in two or three years I may even go abroad," and she glanced around her comfortable room with an air of content.

Meanwhile, in different parts of the town, two other women were anxiously looking forward to the same thing. One of them had an invalid husband and five children dependent upon her, and the other, alas, was older, poorer, and alone in the world.

"Oh, Ben, please try to hope for it as I do," Mrs. Hartwell was urging. "School will be out by then so that Ethel can be here to take care of you and the house. Then by the time the fall term opens you will be well and strong again."

"You ask me a hard thing, Agnes," was the sad reply. "It has galled me unpeppably to have to lie here and see you wear yourself out at that sewing machine, but at least you were under the shelter of home. Besides, I mean to be well long before fall, then there must be rest for you, who have toiled so nobly. And you have been such a manager, too. Just to think that you have really made the last payment on the house in spite of the odds. I want you to take some rest on the strength of that. Everything else can wait."

And what of the third—the oldest, the poorest and the loneliest of the three?

For many years she had been "the music teacher" of the little village. Highly cultured and tenderly reared, poor little Miss Conway's ignorance of the practical things of life had gradually brought her to a state of actual need.

She sat in her scantily furnished room and with trembling fingers smoothed out a worn paper. It was the mortgage on her piano and in three weeks it would be due.

"Not that it matters so very much," she murmured brokenly. "People say my methods are antiquated and that I have lost the art of imparting knowledge to others."

"Oh, if I could only get it," was her unconscious prayer.

The town was small and the snug little library, which, as one enthusiastic supporter declared, "stood on its own legs without any Carnegie crutches," was the special pride of its inhabitants. It lacked just four weeks till the date of the appointment. Small wonder, then, that every man, woman and child became interested in the election. As soon as the names of the applicants became known partisanship waxed warm and strong, though, of course, no one expected the board to be influenced, oh, no indeed!

"I have got to give it up, Ben," said Mrs. Hartwell. "There are other things for me, but as far as I can see there is nothing else for poor little Miss Conway." Besides, I have you and the children and she has nobody.

"But what about Miss Talley? She has been grabbing things all her life, and it looks as if this plum was going to drop her way, too."

"I'm going to see her and if she doesn't fall in with my plan, then I will lay it before the committee," said plucky Mrs. Hartwell went.

At first Miss Talley refused to listen. She had set her heart on this particular post. Then, too, she was not used to giving up things for others, but finally Miss Talley gave in. Hers was not a nature to understand the gracious art of gracious giving, so she did not surrender as pleasantly as she might have done; still she surrendered.

It was one of Mrs. Hartwell's stipulations that the gossipy little town should never know the secret of the withdrawal of their applications. "We will lay no burden of gratitude on Miss Conway," she said. "Let her think she has won on her merit, as indeed, she might easily have done."

Nobody knew exactly how it came about, but presently the atmosphere became charged with a "Conway wave," so to speak, and when the grateful little music teacher was formally elected nobody seemed surprised.

The surprising part of the whole affair culminated a few days later in the Hartwell home, when Miss Conway appeared there and asked for board and lodging.

"I have been informed that your boys have gone to their uncles for the summer, and I would gladly use their room," she said timidly. "It is the only nice quiet place near enough to the library for me to walk. And now that I have been so fortunate I will be able to pay you well. I will try not to give you any trouble," she added shyly.

For answer Mrs. Hartwell took the shabby little figure in her arms and across the bowed shoulder turned to her husband a face that was all but glorified.

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EAT COLD MINCE.

This Delicacy Said to be a Favorite Luncheon Dish With Men.

A young woman who is in an office in which there are a number of men says that it is a constant surprise to her to see what these brain workers eat for luncheon. The firm she is with is one of those which was burned out, and so the lunch room which the clerks once frequented is burned also, these young fellows now patronize the basket which an itinerant colored man and his clean and portly wife bring to the new quarters.

The young woman says that one of the most capable of the firm's employees lunches thoughtfully on a cold mince pie and tea water, while he sorts his mail. She says he complains of headache ever and anon, but he never thinks of attributing it to his diet; instead, he says he thinks he is getting what one estimable old lady used to call "the la grippe."

The other men, the girl says, are partial to hot gingerbread, and when they can't get that will take a cheese sandwich reluctantly. The colored man has a can of hot coffee with him, but in this building, it has no patrons, for the clerks agree that "hot coffee is a bad fellow," even while they drink freely at the water cooler and nibble at piping-hot gingerbread.

"I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes," said the girl to a friend. "I always thought men lunched off of porterhouse beefsteak and sweetbreads and macaroni and sensible things, and as I ate my modest beef sandwich and drank my cup of chocolate I would picture to myself my friends of the opposite sex living on the fat of the land. If I had known about the cold mince pie and the hot gingerbread I wouldn't have been astonished that some of our men are thin and some are despondent. Such a diet is enough to give the strongest person the polly-wobbles forevermore. And then they say women eat silly things!"

A Thieving Nurse.

In Paris, where all things are possible, even the simple avocations of the nurse girl have been adapted to the purposes of robbery on the higher grade. The ingenious person who has accomplished this feat is a woman named Goffe, who at 25 years of age is described as an accomplished thief. She had forged herself a number of testimonials by means of which she secured a succession of posts as nurse in well-to-do houses. Her conduct was irreproachable and her attention to duty exemplary—until she had familiarized herself with the spots where the family valuables were kept. Then she decamped with as many as she could secure. She has just been arrested with nine robberies to her charge, involving \$1,200 in money, \$700 in jewels and \$4,000 in art objects.—London Globe.

Reflections of a Spinster.

If a girl believes a man when he tells her she's the only woman he ever loved, he is always sure she will make a good wife and believe any sick friend story, no matter how old, when he is late coming home at night.

The majority of men are much easier to manage through their vanity than through their affections.

The man who is quickest to criticize a woman's taste in dress, thinks it all right to wear cuffs with black stripes with a pink checked shirt.

If a woman can only make a man believe that she cares for him she can put a box of paint on her face and he would never think that her color wasn't natural.—Baltimore American.

PACKING FRUIT IN PEAT.

Important Discovery Made by Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture is much interested in a highly important change that has just been made in the matter of the shipment of fruits. It is believed that a solution has finally been found of the problem of transporting delicate tropical fruits long distances.

The experiments have been made by a French company, under the auspices of the French Government. The shipments have been made from Guiana and the island of Guadeloupe, in the Lesser Antilles, to France, and the outcome is declared most satisfactory.

The success of the new system means much for certain sections of this country.

The secret of the new process is the envelopment of the fruit in a particular kind of peat or turf, that, namely, which is known as yellow Dutch peat. Pineapples, bananas, mangoes, sapotas, and other delicate fruits have been taken when in perfectly ripe condition enveloped in the fibrous substance and after several weeks spent in transportation have arrived at their destination in a perfectly fresh and sound condition.

Peat, as is commonly known, is vegetable matter more or less decomposed, which passes by insensible degrees into lignite. The less perfectly decomposed peat is generally of a brown color, that which is perfectly decomposed is often black. Now, moist peat, it has for some time been known, possesses a decided and powerful antiseptic property. This is ascribed to the presence of gallic acid and tannin.

It is manifested not only in the perfect preservation of ancient trees and of leaves, fruits, and the like, but sometimes even of animal bodies. Thus, in some instances, human bodies have been found perfectly preserved in peat, after the lapse of centuries.

What Happens in a Forest Fire.

The tragedies of the wild are brought home to the human beings of this world when the fires occur in forests that extend close to settlements. Many little farm shacks located in clearings of the Western woods, are completely wiped out by these fires, and many are the tales of heroisms told by frontiersmen whose fellows have fought for their homes and sometimes for the lives of themselves and their families. The approach of a forest fire is usually heralded by great flocks of birds that fly overhead going with the wind and away from the fire. Soon after a migration of crawling and creeping and running things is noticed, and this is followed by a smell of smoke. The atmosphere seems to become saturated with the odor of burned wood and grass, and sometimes when the fire is still a mile away the air becomes heated as from a furnace. If the frontiersman has a large enough clearing surrounding his home he is frequently able, by the use of switches and wet blankets, to stop the fire and let it burn around his home without destroying it. If the clearing is small, however, the cinders and flames carried by the wind, leap the clearing space and lick up the buildings, the cattle, and the people themselves.

Forest fires are sometimes started by hunters, who are careless in throwing away matches after they have lighted their pipes, by woodchoppers, who leave fires after cooking their meals, by the sparks from stacks of locomotives, and by hundreds of other ways.—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

Solitude in Chunks.

Here is an extract from the prospectus of a hotel in Switzerland: "Weissbach is the favorite place of resort for those who are fond of solitude. Persons in search of solitude are, in fact, constantly flocking here from the four quarters of the globe."

Her Little Affair.

Mr. Flatdwell—Look here sir! You must have made a mistake; that's my flat and I didn't buy a piano.

Delivery Man—Piano nothing! That's yer wife's new hat!—Puck.

The Optimist.

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Columbia & Montour El. Ry. TIME TABLE IN EFFECT June 1 1904, and until further notice. Cars leave Bloom for Esby, Almedia, Lim a Ridge, Berwick and intermediate points as follows: A. M. 5:00, 5:40, 6:20, 7:00, 7:40, 8:20, 9:00, 9:40, 10:20, 11:00, 11:40. P. M. 12:20, 1:00, 1:40, 2:20, 3:00, 3:40, 4:20, 5:00, 5:40, 6:20, 7:00, 7:40, 8:20, 9:00 (9:40) 10:20 (11:00). Leaving depart from Berwick one hour from time as given above, commencing at 6:00 a. m. Leave Bloom for Catawissa A. M. 5:00, 6:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00. P. M. 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:20, (11:00). Cars returning depart from Catawissa 20 minutes from time as given above. First car leaves Market Square for Berwick on Sundays at 7:00 a. m. First car for Catawissa Sundays 7:00 a. m. First car from Berwick for Bloom Sundays leaves at 8:00 a. m. First car leaves Catawissa Sundays at 7:30 a. m. From Power House. Saturday night only. P. R. R. Connection. WM. TERWILLIGER, Superintendent.

Bloomsburg & Sullivan Railroad. Taking Effect Feb'y 1st, 1905, 12:05 a. m. NORTHWARD. A. M. P. M. P. M. A. M. Bloomsburg D. L. & W. 5:00 8:05 6:15 6:00 Bloomsburg P. R. 9:02 2:39 6:17 11:45 Paper Mill 9:14 2:52 6:29 6:50 Light Street 9:18 2:55 6:34 6:25 Orangeville 9:26 3:03 6:43 6:50 Forks 9:36 3:13 6:53 7:05 Zanders 9:40 3:17 6:57 7:15 Stillwater 9:48 3:25 7:05 7:40 Benton 9:56 3:33 7:13 8:10 Edsons 10:00 3:37 7:17 8:10 Colon Creek 10:08 3:45 7:25 8:10 Lambeth 10:16 3:53 7:33 8:10 Grass Mere Park 10:20 3:57 7:37 8:10 Central 10:24 4:01 7:41 8:10 Jamison City 10:28 4:05 7:45 8:10 SOUTHWARD. A. M. P. M. P. M. A. M. Jamison City 5:50 10:48 4:35 7:00 11:30 Central 5:54 10:51 4:38 7:03 11:45 Grass Mere Park 6:01 11:00 4:45 7:12 11:58 Orangeville 6:08 11:07 4:52 7:19 12:05 Colon Creek 6:12 11:06 4:53 7:22 12:05 Edsons 6:18 11:09 4:56 7:24 12:10 Benton 6:19 11:10 4:57 7:26 12:15 Stillwater 6:28 11:21 5:08 7:35 12:45 Zanders 6:30 11:23 5:10 7:37 12:48 Forks 6:39 11:32 5:19 7:46 1:00 Light Street 6:50 11:42 5:31 8:00 1:30 Paper Mill 7:00 11:50 5:39 8:10 1:45 Bloomsburg P. R. 7:08 11:58 5:42 8:13 2:00 Bloomsburg D. L. & W. 7:30 12:10 6:00 8:30 2:15 Trains No. 21 and 22 mixed, second class. Daily except Sunday. Daily 1 Sunday only. Flag stop. W. C. SNYDER, Supt.

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