

# Choosing a Stepmother

By Gerald Prime

(Copyright 1918, by Associated Literary Press.)

"I think we've found her, my boy." "Found what?" Bob Hunter asked. "The girl designed by Providence to become your wife." The younger man drew the oars into the boat, shifted his feet into a more comfortable position and took out his pipe. "Don't speak a word for three minutes—till I light up," he said, "and then I'll tell you what I think of you."

The other, sitting at the stern and trolling with the air of one who has no expectation, wound the boat end of the fishing tackle about his right leg and raised an umbrella. The promise of sport was too remote to counteract the immediate effect of the sun's ardor.

The boat went on drifting down the feeble current and the young man, with his pipe now in active service, did not resume his oars at once. He made sure that his pipeful of weed was properly alight and then proceeded to fulfill his threat.

"Dan Hunter," he began, removing his pipe from his mouth and pausing to convince himself that it was not about to trick him, "if you were not my father—the very giddiest parent a man of my years and discretion ever had—I should be tempted to call you an old humbug."

The older man smiled amiably and shifted the umbrella to the other shoulder. "Perhaps I am," he said. "Anyhow, Bob, I defer to your judgment."

"Perfectly right that you should," Bob went on severely. "I was wrong, though, in calling you old. You are the youngest person I ever saw for your age—forty-two last April. That is because you paint pictures for a living. With my twenty-one years and self-supporting position in the automobile business, I am your senior by a dozen years. I don't mind that. I don't mind that you are the howl-

ing beauty of the family. I don't mind that everybody looks at you twice before seeing me at all. I don't mind that strangers decline to believe that I am your son until they have to."

"All this because I undertook to interpret the design of Providence," said the father, with a sigh which was almost the real thing.

"Your attempts to interpret the designs of Providence are most dismal failures, Dan," his son declared, punctuating his speech with various unsuccessful dives into his pockets in search of a match. "You haven't any more idea of the real condition of things than—than this infernal pipe."

"I don't seem to follow you, my boy," said the father. "It's my opinion that you're in love with Hope Terriss yourself."

"Merciful heavens!" One sharp glance made it clear to Bob that the mention of Hope Terriss was not responsible for his usually placid father's outburst. Whatever it was, the excitement had passed off with the exclamation. With the utmost deliberation the fisherman lowered the umbrella and laid it carefully in the bottom of the boat.

"I wonder—something's pulling on my leg like mad." It was Bob's turn to show excitement, and he did. "Pull him in, Dan! Don't let him get away!" he fairly shouted, rising to his feet at the risk of overturning the boat.

"And I've been fishing every day for a week and haven't caught a thing," she added so pathetically that, all unseen in the dark, Bob kicked his father's foot to call his attention to it.

"Don't you get any bites?" asked the artist ingenuously. "I hardly know. Sometimes I have fancied that I was getting a queer little nibble, don't you know, but nothing comes of it."

"Remember the advice of the immortal Sir Isaac—Persevere and keep on persevering," counseled Bob wickedly.

"Perhaps I will follow Sir Isaac's advice," she said, rising. "In the meantime I am going to play a lot of Schumann for your father according to my promise of this morning. He's the only person in the camp whose musical taste soars above rag-time."

"I don't mind Schumann at all when—I'm in good health," Bob protested.

For an entire week the subject which had been brought to such a sudden interruption by the pickering was not resumed. Hope Terriss was the life of the camp, and even old Mrs. Vehton, who had ceased long ago to speak in unqualified praise of anybody or anything on the foot-stool, was greatly taken with her, and admitted it openly.

"That girl is of the right sort," she declared. "She's got more manner and more common sense than all the rest of us combined. She's the real thing. Don't you agree with me, Mr. Hunter?"

And Bob—who chanced to be the Mr. Hunter addressed, his father and Hope having gone for a stroll into the village—had the effrontery to reply, languidly:

"Miss Terriss—oh, yes, quite so—a trifle youngish, don't you think. Excellent society for father."

"Young jacksnipes!" the old woman muttered as Bob disappeared around the end of the veranda. "He's completely gone on the girl. Pity he hasn't some of his father's good looks and attractive manner."

That night as they lingered on the boat house veranda after the others had retired the artist and his son were discussing the latter's business prospects.

"To hear you talk, Dan," the young man laughed between vigorous draws of his pipe, which was not behaving its best, "one who did not know you might think that you were contemplating something serious."

"For instance, Bob?"

"Well, providing me with a brand new stepmother."

"Better stop that business, Bob," counseled his father seriously. "Suggestion plays strange tricks now and then."

"Then I wish suggestion would get busy. Only let me choose her and everything will be well."

On the morning of the day appointed for the breaking up of the camp Bob and Miss Terriss were in earnest conversation in a secluded corner of the veranda.

"It's come to a climax," croaked Mrs. Vehton to herself and to any one else who happened to be within hearing.

"Do you recognize this hand?" Hope asked serenely, holding an envelope before Bob's eyes.

"I ought to," he returned promptly. "Dad must have helped himself to my stationery."

"It contains a proposition to become your stepmother," she continued, without looking at him and entirely without embarrassment.

"Noble old Dan!" he cried rapturously. "He's the salt of the earth!" "What would you advise me to do?"

"Accept unconditionally."

"I shall impose one condition," she said with a flush that made her charming. "You are to leave off calling him Dan. It isn't respectful."

As an earnest of his intention to comply with her terms he kissed her. "What did I tell you?" demanded Mrs. Vehton, who accepted what she saw as a confirmation of her wisdom in such matters.

**Burn Adulterated Stuff.** Many hundreds of dollars' worth of adulterated or misbranded drugs and allied foods were recently burned in Washington by the officials of the department of agriculture. The drugs had been purchased in the open market by agents of the department of agriculture and turned over to the bureau of chemistry to ascertain whether in their ingredients or in the statements on the labels they violated the pure food laws. Reports were made out in each case, and the manufacturers taken to task by officials of the department. After the contents of the bottles or boxes were no longer needed for experimentation or evidence against the manufacturers, they were condemned and burned.

**To Reduce Flesh.** A famous doctor has been heard to say that anyone who will make skimmed or boiled milk her principal diet will lose half a pound of fat daily without injury to her health. Why not try this diet for a short time and lose some of those hated pounds of flesh?

**Will Receive One Million Immigrants.** Records of the port of New York since the beginning of the year show that the nation will receive one million immigrants before 1911 comes.

There may be wisdom without knowledge and knowledge without wisdom; but it is he who possesses both who is the true philosopher.—Robert Southey.

# TRIFLES OF THE WARDROBE

## DESIGNED FOR TUB

COMFORT KEYNOTE IN CLOTHES FOR CHILDREN.

Finer Raiment Largely Set Aside for Garments in Which Youngsters May Romp—Illustration Shows the Idea.

The small child's finer summer raiment is set aside for the moment, the chief thought now being for the little one's comfort. In the country and at the seashore the tiny frocks and suits worn by baby lads and lasses are all of a tub sort and every style permits as much bare skin being seen as is possible. Girls' dresses and boys'



Slip Dress of White Linen, Trimmed With Apple Green and White.

rompers are cut square necked and short sleeved, skirts and little trousers are very short and socks and slippers or sandals take the place of high shoes and long stockings.

In the way of combinations of materials these ready-made garments give many ideas to inexperienced sewers, for the most daring mixtures are made. For instance, a little frock in a pale blue cotton will be trimmed perhaps with black and white—this in a check, stripe or dot.

On white frocks every species of flowered or otherwise patterned goods will be used, and with the exception

## DELICATE POINT AT ISSUE

Whether Guest or Hostess Should Make First Move for Retiring for the Night.

Until the end of time it will probably be a mooted question whether guest or hostess should make the first move for retiring for the night. When staying in a house for the first time this is one of the most difficult points for a guest to decide, and it takes a great deal of tact and discernment to arrive at a correct conclusion.

In the summer house at country or seashore the chances are, if the host goes to town for business every day, that the whole household is up early. The hostess is certainly, as a rule, if her husband is a business man. In that case it is almost essential that they go to bed early. Logical as this conclusion may seem, a guest fears to suggest going too early to her own room, lest she should seem to be bored during the evening, and thus it is, when both really would like to turn in at a reasonable hour, they and others are kept up by a desperate attempt to be polite.

If any rule of procedure may be laid down for a stranger in the house it is to find out, as soon as possible, at what time breakfast is served and when the host goes to town. It is a safe method, if he goes early, and especially if breakfast is served for all at an early hour, to suggest retiring by ten o'clock at the latest, and in more than one household in the summer the same people who turn night into day in the winter go to their rooms by nine o'clock in the evening. It is better for guests to err on the side of going too soon than too late, for nothing will make strangers more unpopular than to overturn the comfortable habits of the household. Host and hostess are not required to go to their own rooms because guests may have retired to theirs, but they are obliged to stay up if the stranger makes no move to retire.

It is by no means difficult, even for a person making a first visit, to suggest retiring. She may say that she is tired from having been so much out of doors, or that the heat is rather trying, or any other such simple excuse as may come into her mind, and declare that she would like to retire. She makes her good-nights then at once, and the host and hostess are at liberty to follow their usual customs.

of the floral trimmings the combinations are used for both sexes. But if the boy is at all big—4 years old or over—his masculinity requires the banding on his little wash suit or rompers to be in a plain color—a blue striping on white, or white on blue or brown. The colors that give most refreshment to the eye are chosen over others, and this hint of coolness tan, white, blue and apple-blossom pink admirably supply.

Linon canvas crash, which is a very cool material, is much used for the smartest of the boys' suits, these made often in cunning sailor styles, with or without shields as the mother likes. For everyday play suits the dark blue cottons, such as chambray and galatea, are much used, these responding very satisfactorily to white trimmings.

A girl's play frocks and aprons may be in the same serviceable materials, but for afternoon dimity, handkerchief linen and white lawn are employed with suitable trimming, even if the model is the same as that used for the play frock. In fact, as far as the summer child's get-up is concerned, it is almost entirely a matter of material, for the least little change in a model will make it suitable for all textures.

The little slip dress illustrated may be worn belted or loose, and it is another model that can be turned into an apron by merely opening it down the full length of the back. The little frock is one of the paper doll styles—as the models with sleeves cut in one are sometimes called—and it is suited to either boys or girls of the baby ages.

Here the attractive little get-up is of coarse white linen with a banding in pale apple green and white, but it may be made of the simplest cotton and self-trimmed. If it is to be for rough wear, where it is to be a finer garment, something, say, needed for a very hot afternoon in town, try making it of pale tan or white rajah or pongee. In this shape, with stitched bands of the same, and bloomers and underbody matching, there could be nothing cooler for the child who frets with the heat.

The 2-year-old would need two yards of pongee or rajah in the usual width.

## Latest in Petticoats.

Dress underskirts are of fine muslin or batiste. Lace is more used in trimming than embroidery, all trimmings being neat rather than elaborate. Allover embroidery, cambric cluny, torchon and honiton edgings and insertions are best.

Under wash dresses, colored lawn, chambray and batiste petticoats are most popular. These are embroidered in white, with white lace insertions and colored ribbon beadings.

Among novelties are white muslin petticoats with a founce, reaching to the knees, embroidered in color and finished with a beading run with ribbon of the same shade.

## TEA GOWN



This is quite simple, and is made up in silk spotted nun's veiling. A ribbon taken just above the waist gives an Empire effect; this draws the fulness in, which then falls straight to the end of the slight train, long ends of ribbon are taken from under the waist ribbon at sides, they are then tied in a big bow at the right hand corner at back; lace-edged ribbon is carried over the shoulders; the sleeves are also finished with lace.

Materials required: 6 yards voile 42 inches wide, 6 1/2 yards ribbon, 4 1/2 yards lace.

**Are Long Skirts to Come?** Not yet has the long skirt come to be accepted for other than dressy wear, yet the makers of fashion recommend it for more constant use and the American women are adopting it slowly.

## The National Hotel

MILLENHIM, PA. J. A. SHAWYER, Prop. Best class accommodations for the traveler. Good table board and sleeping a paragon. The choicest liquors at the bar. Stable accommodations for horses in the best in the city. Bus to and from all trains on the Reading and Tyrone Railroad, at Coburn.

## Jno. F. Gray & Son

(Successors to GRANT HOOVER) Control Sixteen of the Largest Fire and Life Insurance Companies in the World. THE BEST IS THE CHEAPEST. No Mutuals No Assessments.

Before insuring your life see the contract of THIS HOME which in case of death between the tenth and twentieth years returns all premiums paid in addition to the face of the policy.

Money to Loan on First Mortgage Office in Crider's Stone Building BELLEFONTE, PA. Telephone Connection

## A Toast to Happiness.

Here's to happiness, the fountain of life, the builder of tissue; it never fails to dispel the blues; for it's the antidote to vapors of melancholia; it's the sun's rays piercing the cloud of darkness, the message of love of life, health and contentment; in its absence nothing can thrive; it's the soul-mate, the symbol, of a clear conscience.

## The Cost of a Soul.

A recent query sent out as to the cost of saving a soul in Chicago brought some interesting answers. It was found that the Mormons figured on spending \$1,500 for every person converted, whereas the Volunteers of America set the cost as low as \$5. These were the highest and lowest prices named.

## Peculiar Rose in English Garden.

Mr. William Tweddle of Stanhope, England, has growing in his garden a novelty in the shape of a bell-trope moss rose. Gardeners declare that they have never before seen or heard of a moss rose of that color. The bush, which stands four feet high, contains about a dozen buds, besides two or three roses in full bloom.

## Hereditary Instinct.

When baby turns away from the amiable visitor who is trying to make friends, and rushes to mother and buries his face in her skirts, he is doing exactly what it was wise for children to do in the ancient forest, when stranger and danger were the same thing, and not just rhymes as they are now.

## Bull Terriers as Mourners.

Three bull terriers followed a hearse conveying the body of an old dog fancier named George Lacey of Smith street, Kennington, as far as Tooting cemetery the other day. They wore crape bows and on their cloth coats was written: "Following our master to his last resting place."—London Evening Standard.

## Worse Still.

"My wife is getting to be very tiresome," complained Groucher; "she does not seem to know her own mind from one minute to the next." "My wife," said Kratchett, "is the same way. She's as uncertain as the weather." "Huh! Mine's as uncertain as the weather forecaster."

## Divorce Statistics.

In England and Wales, to every 100,000 of population, there are annually granted two divorces; in Ireland, less than one; in Italy, three; in Scotland, four; in Germany, fifteen; in France, twenty-three; and in the United States, seventy-three.

## The Dyspeptic's Kick.

"Alice, you're a good little wife, I know, and you can cook to beat the band; but you don't get the kind of dyspepsia tablets my mother used to buy."—Judge.

## This is Rather Neat.

An English critic of American social conditions says that men in this country are too much inclined to put women on pedestals. The only answer to such criticism is pity for the nation that has not such a beautifully decorative use for pedestals.

## His Consolation.

There is no denying that an invalid gets a good deal of consolation in telling of the great things he would do if he were well.—Acheson (Kan.) Globe.

## Ancient Petroleum Well.

A petroleum well has been known in Zante, one of the Ionian islands, for nearly 3,000 years. It is mentioned by Herodotus, who was born 484 years before the Christian era.

## Novel Tool Chest.

For use in manual training schools a Wisconsin man has patented a tool chest which may be converted into a work bench by clamping it to the top of two desks.

## ATTORNEYS.

D. P. FORTNEY ATTORNEY-AT-LAW BELLEFONTE, PA. Office North of Court House.

W. HARRISON WALKER ATTORNEY-AT-LAW BELLEFONTE, PA. No. 19 W. High Street. All professional business promptly attended to.

A. D. GENTIS Jno. J. Bowen W. D. ZERRB C. ETTIG, BOWER & ZERRY ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW BELLEFONTE, PA. Successors to ORVIA, BOWEN & ORVIA Consultation in English and German.

CLEMENT DALE ATTORNEY-AT-LAW BELLEFONTE, PA. Office N. W. corner Diamond, two doors from First National Bank. 1798

W. G. RUNKLE ATTORNEY-AT-LAW BELLEFONTE, PA. All kinds of legal business attended to promptly. Special attention given to collections. Office, 26 South Crider's Exchange. 1796

H. B. SPANGLER ATTORNEY-AT-LAW BELLEFONTE, PA. Practices in all the courts. Consultation in English and German. Office, Crider's Exchange Building. 1796

## Old Fort Hotel

EDWARD BOYER, Proprietor. Location: One mile South of Centre Hall. Accommodations first-class. Good bars. Parties wishing to enjoy an evening given special attention. Meals for such occasions prepared on short notice. Always prepared for the transient trade. RATES: \$1.00 PER DAY.

## LIVERY

Special Effort made to Accommodate Commercial Travelers.... D. A. BOOZER Centre Hall, Pa. Penn's R. R.

## 50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

## PATENTS

TRADE MARKS DESIGNS COPYRIGHTS & C. Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Handbook on Patents sent free. Oldest agency for securing patents. Patents taken through Munn & Co. secured by special notice, without charge, in the Scientific American. A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms: \$3 a year; four months, \$1. Sold by all newsdealers. MUNN & Co., 361 Broadway, New York. Branch: 1110 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

## Penn's Valley Banking Company

CENTRE HALL, PA. W. B. MINBLE, Cashier. Receives Deposits... Discounts Notes...

## MARBLE AND GRANITE MONUMENTS.



## H. G. STROHMEIER,

CENTRE HALL, PA. Manufacturer of and Dealer in HIGH GRADE...

## MONUMENTAL WORK

In all kinds of Marble and Granite. Don't fail to get my price.

## LARGEST INSURANCE

Agency IN CENTRE COUNTY

## H. E. FENLON

Agent Bellefonte, Penn'a.

The Largest and Best Accident Ins. Companies

Bonds of Every Description. Plate Glass Insurance at low rates.