

A Widow's Hero

By JOHN P. ORTH

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When the widow Colville received a legacy of \$5,000 she sat down and did some serious thinking. She had been a widow for five years, but was one of the overlooked. That is, because she had been left in poor circumstances, she had not been sought by any of the numerous widowers as a wife. The time had now come when she would be.

Mrs. Colville had had plenty of time during her widowhood to store her mind. She had run to romance, instead of cook books and family almanacs.

The widow didn't say to herself that she wouldn't marry again, but she said that if she did it would be a hero. A hero might be slow in coming along, but she had plenty of time to wait.

It wasn't a fortnight after the news of that legacy got around that Deacon Hindman made an afternoon call on Mrs. Colville. He was all dressed up and had his boots greased. For five years he had simply nodded to her when they met. For three years he had been looking for a second wife—looking right over her head and beyond. And now he entered her house with a bland smile on his face, and he gave her hand a hearty squeeze, and without saying a word about the cash he complimented her on looking younger and many other things.

The deacon had a home, he said. It was now a desolate home, because there was no wife there. Let a bright star step in there to cook, sweep, bake, make the beds, put up the fall pickles and be a mother to the five children with unwashed faces, and his house would be a paradise on earth. Would the widow seize the golden opportunity? The deacon held out his arms, but the widow didn't see them. Instead she continued to sit on a cane-seat chair six feet away while she replied:

"Deacon, I feel that you have honored me, but I cannot give you my heart. If I marry again it must be to a hero."

"Do you mean the fellow who walks the tightrope at the circus?" he asked.

"Oh no. I mean a man who has done a brave and gallant action and has thereby won the praise of his fellow men. You have never saved a maiden from being carried away by a villain, have you?"

"Of course not. What chance have I ever had?"

"Have you ever rescued a child as it was about to be swept over the falls?"

"There's nothing in the way of falls around here."

"But have you led men in battle? Have you controlled a frenzied mob? Have you put your back to a rock and defended a pass? Have you dashed into the ranks of the enemy with your trusty sword and put a hundred men to flight?"

"Look here, widow," said the deacon as he rose up, "I'm a plain man. I raise wheat, corn and 'taters. I mind my business and let other folks eat the fool. Is it yes or no to what I asked you?"

"If you were only a hero, deacon."

"And the good man stamped out and slammed the door and the gate behind him. His tracks were hardly cold when the sewing machine agent came along. He was a man who had never married, because the girl he had been engaged to at twenty got lost in a huckleberry swamp and died of exhaustion. He vowed to be true to her memory, but when he heard of that legacy it occurred to him that the huckleberry girl, as an angel up above, would be only too glad to see him getting along in this world below. He therefore called on the widow. He had meant to call years before, but that vow had kept him from it. Would she be his?"

"Mr. Matthews, are you a hero?" was calmly asked in reply.

"No, I wouldn't go to say I was."

"Then it is useless to talk further on the subject. If I marry it must be a hero."

"But I'm selling more machines than any other man on the road."

"No sewing machine man can be a hero. This is my ironing day, and I am very busy."

Next day there came Mr. Griggs, the village grocer. He was red-faced, red-haired and fat, and he was a widower. He was a man of business. With that five thousand dollars he could enlarge his grocery and buy for cash. The widow Colville looked good to him as she opened the front door in response to his knock. He had left the grocery in charge of a clerk and must hasten back. He therefore led off almost at once with:

"Widow Colville? I am a widower."

"Yes?"

"I either want to get married again or I don't."

"I see."

"You are a widow, and you either want to get married again or don't."

"Exactly, Mr. Griggs."

"As for me, I want a wife. I am here to ask you to marry me. You know who I am. You know what my grocery is. You can realize the happiness of being able to send to the grocery for anything wanted in the house without having to pay cash down. Is it yes or no?"

"Mr. Griggs, you are an abrupt man," was the reply.

"I am, widow. When a farmer drives up to my grocery with potatoes to sell I call out the price I will pay. That settles it. He takes me or he leaves me."

"I undersell all other grocers in the county. I've got codfish down a cent a box below them all, and kerosene is to take another drop next week."

"Have you ever fought a duel with a villain?"

"No, ma'am, and I never shall. Groceries are my line, and I stick to 'em. Is it a hero you want?"

"It is."

"Then our little deal is off, and I bid you good-day. Remember the cash-down grocery when you have an order to give."

The next caller was a wire fence man, who had a job of fencing for a farmer two miles outside the village. He heard the widow Colville and he occurred to him that Providence was at last backing him for a good thing. He attended church of a Sunday to get a good look at her. No fault could be found with her looks. In the afternoon he called to see her. She divined his errand, and when he began to preface his remarks with words of praise for the way she joined in the morning hymn of "The Sweet Bye and Bye," she interrupted him with:

"You probably have matrimony in view?"

"Yes. I am a man who—"

"But are you a hero?"

"I—I hardly know what you mean."

"Have you done anything brave-gallant-great?"

"Why, I licked an autolot who almost ran me down."

"That is a mere nothing, sir. Have you handled sword and lance?"

"Not that I know of."

"Have you rescued any one? Have you taken a motto and upheld it with battle-ax? Have you, sir—have you—"

But the wire fence man had faded away. He wasn't the last by five or six. A fair-looking widow with \$5,000 in the bank can't sink out of sight like a stone thrown into a pond. But there came a slack at last, and the widow was asked if she didn't despair of finding her hero.

"But I have found him," she replied. "It is Mr. Graham, the shoemaker. We shall be married in two months."

"But what great thing has he ever done?"

"Made me a pair of shoes that took away a corn that had bothered me for five years!"

Stole Employer's Trousers.
George F. Golgano was arraigned in the Yorkville court yesterday morning charged with stealing a pair of trousers from his employer, Gustave A. Bickert, a tailor of 54 Bond street. Said garment was valued at \$8. The prisoner denied stealing the trousers, and said he merely took them home to try on with the intention of paying for them if they suited his fancy.

"You're as bad as the man arraigned before me a few days ago for stealing a baby carriage from in front of a store," said Magistrate House.

"His excuse was that he expected to be married in a month and wanted to see how the perambulator worked. If it met expectations he was intending to buy it. I'll hold you in \$500 bail for trial."—New York Times.

A Change for the Better.
A 9-year-old boy of a Baltimore family, who is compelled by his parents to practice daily upon the piano, may not be a clever performer, but he has a pretty shrewd notion of the worth of an instrument, as well as a rather mature wit, as is evidenced by an incident in the household not long since.

His father, upon returning home from a week's absence, heard the lad plugging away at the piano.

"When did you learn that new piece, son?" asked the parent.

"It isn't a new piece, dad," answered the boy. "The piano has been tuned."—Lippincott's.

REBELS CAPTURE A BORDER TOWN

Mexicali is Surprised and Many Joining Revolt.

JAILER THE ONLY MAN KILLED

The Captured Town Just Across From Calexico, Cal.—The First Move of the Revolutionists on the Western Coast of Mexico—Firearms Successfully Smuggled Across the Border—Prisoners Are Set Free.

Mexicali, Mex.—(Special)—Mexicali, the first border town in Mexico to be captured by rebels, was taken with little resistance early Sunday. The only man killed was the jailer when he refused to surrender his prisoners. The customs house was seized. Reinforcements are said to be flocking to the rebel standard from the surrounding country.

The capture of the town is the first sign of activity of the rebels on the west coast of Mexico. The move was a complete surprise. Mexicali is a small town, inhabited chiefly by natives of Mexico. It is just across the border from the American city of Calexico, Cal. It is situated on the Imperial Valley branch line of the Southern Railway, 41 miles south of Imperial Junction.

Two were in command of the invading army. Lerva appeared to be chief in command. His aid was Simon Barthold, a socialist agitator from California, known in Los Angeles and various coast cities. Barthold and a party of eight men arrived from Holtville, Cal., Saturday night and successfully smuggled a considerable amount of firearms across the border. They were joined during the night by the insurgents from Mexicali and vicinity, and at daylight marched to the jail, where seven prisoners were confined.

These prisoners were insurgents, who had been arrested on order of the Mexican government. A demand was made on the jailer for the release of the prisoners. When he hesitated, a rifle in the hands of one of the rebels was thrust through the window and a shot rang out. The jailer fell dead. The keys to the cells were then taken and the prisoners were liberated.

Barthold and two of his men went to the barracks at the international line and captured the few men after a struggle. Leyva then marched on the custom house and the subprefecture, which were taken without resistance. Gustavo Terrazas gave over the keys. He was taken into custody and kept under close guard.

During the forenoon the insurgents received accessions to their ranks from among the citizens of Mexicali and the native employes of the neighboring ranches.

SUICIDE SAVES PETS.

Didn't Want Dog, Cat or Canary Bird to Die With Her.

New York.—(Special)—Mrs. Christina Weller, a widow, 75 years old, of Williamsburg, killed herself by gas early Sunday morning. In order not to sacrifice the lives of a pet canary bird, a dog and a cat, she first carried the three to a room in the upper part of the dwelling and shut the door.

After taking the bird, cat and dog to her bedroom, Mrs. Weller put on a mourning robe, carefully arranged her hair and wrote a farewell note, asking forgiveness and saying that what she was about to do she would do with a clear conscience.

Noted Woman Dead.

Newton, Mass.—(Special)—Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, widely known author and lecturer, died at her home in Newton Center, Saturday night, after a short illness, at the age of 67 years.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward was a daughter of the Puritans. She was born in Boston in 1844. Both of her grandfathers were congregational ministers. Professor Moses Stuart, her mother's father, was an eminent Massachusetts divine of his day and Bible commentator, and a pioneer of Bible literature in the United States.

May Never Meet Again.

Middletown, N. Y.—(Special)—"Gentlemen, we may never meet in this way again," remarked Samuel N. Greene, a wealthy business man of Florida, Orange county, in an after-dinner speech at a banquet in this city Saturday night. An instant later he fell back into his chair unconscious. He had been stricken with paralysis. He was attending the annual banquet of the Orange County Wagonmakers, and as he is 70 years of age, he felt that it was not likely that he would ever attend another banquet.

Yawns Baffle Doctors.

Scranton, Pa.—(Special)—Miss Tillie Stratford, a young woman of Forest City, is puzzling three physicians by an illness which they fail to diagnose. She is seized by yawning spells that last from 5 to 10 minutes. And sometimes as long as 15 minutes. So serious does her condition become at times that it is necessary to administer drugs to give her relief. Miss Stratford has been afflicted for three weeks.

STATE CAPITAL CHAT

Harrisburg Correspondence.

STATE CONTROL OF ROADS.

A bill which will take the improvement of condemned toll roads out of the hands of the city, borough or township acquiring them was presented in the House by Representative W. Bruce Good, of Luzerne County.

The bill is in the form of a repealer of the act of May 10, 1909, giving the municipalities control over the improvement and is believed to be in line with the general plan to give the State control of all turnpikes which may be made free.

Another bill which attracted considerable attention was that giving two or more boroughs the right to join in construction or purchase of water works and electric plants and to operate them in common. This measure was put in by W. H. Kern, of Montgomery County, whose home district is in the territory covered by the Springfield Water Company.

A bill introduced to permit the killing of deer and other big game by means of automatic or "pump" guns, it is said, will be fought by the State Game Commission. The measure was presented by F. H. Rockwell, Representative from Tioga County. Dr. Joseph Kalbus, secretary of the State Game Commission, declares the measure would undo the work of years for the preservation of game.

Another bill introduced was one by Mr. Billman, of Berks, providing that \$20 shall be paid out of county funds for the burial of each indigent person whose legal place of residence is unknown.

INDEPENDENTS' NEW ASSOCIATION.

An Independent Legislative Association was formed by independent members of the Legislature and men active in the movement said the qualification for membership would be "Good Government."

"Good Government is all there is to it, and the persons proposed for membership will be passed upon by a membership committee which will be thoroughly posted," said Representative Edwin M. Abbott, Philadelphia.

The league has established headquarters in a business building in this city and will hold meetings every Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, at which a program will be mapped out.

INDIGNANT OVER PLASTER "DRAPIING."

The Barnard statutory bids fail to stir up the Legislature because of the manner in which the male figures have been draped with plaster.

This treatment was discovered when the canvas coverings were taken off and numerous spectators were astonished to see the crude manner in which the marble effigies had been doctored.

No one appears to know when Barnard will be here, and as the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings declines to take cognizance of the matter on the plea that the statues have not been turned over, no one knows what will be the outcome.

STATE WANT \$1,927,000.

The trustees of the Pennsylvania State College, at their meeting here, decided to ask the Legislature for \$1,927,000 for completion of the building program, maintenance and other charges at the college and \$100,000 for the extension work, which includes the instruction and demonstration trails, the night schools and apprentice schools in various parts of the State.

The trustees re-elected General James A. Beaver, president and Dr. Edwin Earle Sparks, as secretary. The executive committee was re-elected.

To Protect State Fish.

Catching of black bass less than ten inches in length will be made an offense against the fish laws of Pennsylvania, if a bill amending the fish laws goes through.

The bill has been prepared by the State Department of Fisheries, and in addition to protecting the famous bass, places sunfish, river chub and fish on the list of game fishes, makes the closed season for "sunnies" December to June 14; prohibiting use of spears and gigs except in a few cases, forbidding use of torch or light for killing frogs, but allowing a light to catch leopard frogs for bait by nets or hands; defining rights of public fishing in waters through private lands and imposing a license fee of \$10 on all unnaturalized foreigners.

It is also planned to protect terrapin by means of a closed season and to conserve minnows by new regulations as to nets.

Fight Anglers' Bill.

The directors of the United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania passed resolutions against the proposed anglers' license bill, but decided not to take any action for or against the anglers' license bill, holding that local organizations should be left free to do as they please. Huntingdon was selected as the place for the annual convention in June. Eighteen new camps were reported formed in the last year.

THE POTASH CONTROVERSY

German Claims Presented at Washington Are Contradicted by American Interests.

Washington, D. C., Jan.—The cotton growing states are particularly interested in the potash controversy between the State Department and Berlin, since the future price of fertilizer is directly affected by the outcome. German interests have just made representation to Secretary Knox similar in effect to those assertions made by circular letter to the miners throughout the South claiming that the German potash law, which places a penalty on mines selling heavily to Americans at a lower price than has formerly ruled, is merely a part of the general conservation policy of Germany.

According to Ochsismus, a leading German geologist, there are about 39,000 square miles of potash in one section of Germany, each of these containing some 50,000,000 tons of pure potash. This same authority states that the annual output from these mines is about 600,000 tons each and he figures that if the annual output should jump to 5,000,000 tons annually, it would still require 621,600 years to exhaust the supply.

Another of Germany's assertions is that the law does not discriminate against Americans. The brief of the American potash buyers committee submitted to congress points out that, under the law as recently passed by Germany, the mines of the potash trust in that country were allowed a proportion of output sufficient to supply the world, while the independent mines that had made contracts to supply the United States at a reduced price were limited to one-fourth of their actual sales already made to us. In addition a "penalty" of \$22 per ton was imposed for overproduction. Thus the penalty falls exclusively upon shipments to this country and indirectly upon the consumer.

An effort is apparently being made to create the impression that this controversy is really a contest between the policy of the German government and an American trust. The fact is that there is no such complete and powerful trust in the United States as this German potash syndicate. This syndicate actually monopolizes the entire potash supply of the world, save for the two mines that broke away from the trust and sold to American buyers. In this country there are about 70 different fertilizer manufacturers using potash, and of these about 75 per cent are independent of any trust affiliation.

Another claim made by the German committee at the White House was to the effect that the American buyers knew that a law would be passed providing for government taxes and penalties to be assessed, and that they made these contracts with this knowledge in mind. The American committee states positively that this information was brought to them after the contracts were made, and used as a club in an attempt to force them to give up the contracts already entered into, which would have reduced the price of fertilizer materially in this country.

An official high in the government here is authority for the statement that the cost of this controversy must necessarily fall upon the consumer, and that it should, therefore, be settled quickly. While the American companies paying a penalty have met the prices made by the German trust that pays no penalty, this has been done at a loss, and should they withdraw from the field because of this, the price of fertilizer in this country would be dictated by the German monopoly untrammelled in Berlin.

A transaction in stamps. The stamp vending machines installed in many stores and shops about the city are not favored by a woman who hurried into a drug store in Massachusetts avenue several days ago, where there is a branch post office.

"How do you sell your two-cent stamps?" she inquired indignantly.

"Two cents apiece," replied Bassett.

"Well, that's all right," she replied, while she fished in her purse for a coin. "This is the fifth place I have visited after stamps. At all the other places they had those slot machines where you have to spend a nickel for two two-cent stamps. I made up my mind not to be held up if I had to walk all over the city. Give me two stamps."

The woman laid down a dime and hurried out with two two-cent stamps, leaving six cents in change lying on the show case. She did not return.—Indianapolis News.

Crutches or Biers.

Richard Croker, at a dinner in New York, expressed a distrust for aeroplanes.

"There's nothing underneath them," he said. "If the least thing goes wrong, down they drop."

"I said to a Londoner the other day: 'How is your son getting on since he bought a flying machine?'"

"On crutches, like the rest of them," the Londoner replied.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels. Sugar-coated, tiny granules, easy to take as candy.

Led by the Nose.
"Pa, what is a 'leading woman'?"
"Any woman, my son."—Boston Transcript.

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