

## IT WAS AN EASY TASK

By WALTER J. DELANEY

(© by W. G. Chapman.)

"HOW did I come here?" murmured Ralph Norton, and turned in his bed and gazed out through the window of a cheerless, sparsely furnished room. Far as he could see the sluggish river wound in and out a low marshy stretch. Barges loaded with coal moved lazily along. Beyond a group of dilapidated factories and shipyards was the city. It recalled the last fading picture presented to his consciousness, how long since he knew not, but that problem was instantly solved. "We found you outside, where you had fallen into a cinder pit," spoke a melodious voice, and Ralph turned his glance to see, seated near his bed, a young girl sewing. She was poorly, but neatly dressed. She wore few articles of adornment, her hair was worn without attention to fluff or flummery, but the sweet repose of her face, the kindly gentle eyes arrested the attention of the invalid and held it riveted. "You have been there four days, unconscious," she went on. "You must not move, the doctor says, for your left ankle is broken." Ralph winced as, moving the member in question, he was promptly made aware that it was not in normal condition. "You are strangers to me," said Ralph weakly, "and this is a strange place. I recall wandering aimlessly about the docks with my suitcase." "That is here, safe," spoke the girl. "We found it by your side. You must have stumbled and fallen. The doctor called was at first serious about the bruise on your head, but he said this morning that all danger had passed for that and you would have the broken limb only to trouble you." "Only," repeated Ralph bitterly under his breath, and then sheer weakness caused him to close his eyes and his mind drifted hazily. His thoughts took in a present very unhappy and forlorn condition. He had left his home after a quarrel with his wealthy uncle, to make his own way in the world. Alas! it had been a hard, awakening experience for the disappointed young man. He had found false friends, hard knocks, was brushed aside in his efforts to secure work by men with a "punch" as well as those "with a pull." He had to confess that he had not the training to combat in the journalistic arena with those who knew the ways better than he. He had come from home with a very good outfit, and his dressiness had helped him get several good assignments with a society journal. The season over, however, he lost his position. No new ones offered. His money ran out and, selling off some of his effects to settle his debts, he placed the rest in a suitcase. Ralph was city-wearied as he wandered aimlessly. He had a vague idea of finding some place where he could bury himself and forget his old vain ambitions. Near the spot where he now found himself his mishap had overcome him, and here he was, helpless. Apparently he was not friendless, however, for his environment suggested that he was under the charge of a faithful and attractive nurse. It was dusk when Ralph awoke again. He observed a light in the next room and made out his nurse and a weazened, elfish-faced old man conversing. "I am poor, very poor," the latter was whining. "I cannot afford expense, if he has any." "No, uncle," spoke the girl definitely. "I know from his ravings while in fever his whole story, and it is a pitiful one. See, uncle, he himself will surely find some way to pay the surgeon when he is well. As to the little he costs us, the way we live, you can surely spare that for the sake of sweet charity." "Charity! charity!" groaned the old man. "Who gives me charity? No, no, I tell you I am poor, poor! See how miserably I am obliged to live! See how hard I work in the city! He must pay—pay!" "He will, when he recovers," declared the young girl. "Oh, uncle! would you drive him out, possibly to become crippled for life, because of neglect? Be humane, for my sake; I will work the harder for you." "Ha! he has struck your fancy, eh?" snarled the old man. The girl blushed hotly, but she said, with girlish dignity: "The memory of the poor brother who died bids me be kind to the stranger." The old man grumbled, but his companion held to her point. He exacted a promise from her that she would see if the suitcase did not contain some belongings that might be sold to pay the way for his unwelcome guest. It did not take long for Ralph to understand that the miserly Galbraith, as he learned his name to be, was a miser for whom his niece served. He had some business in the city in the scrap-iron line. Within two days Ralph was able to sit up. Then the girl, Ottila, in some way got a pair of crutches, and inside of a week he was able to move to a bench outside the house and hobble around. He had unpacked his belongings from the suitcase. Recalling the conversation he had overheard, he did up the dress suit that had done vast

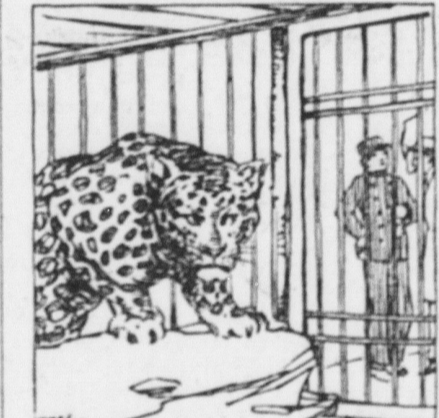
service in his society reportorial experience. He asked Ottila to dispose of it. The sale brought a pitiful sum, but it quieted old Galbraith for a day or two. Then Ralph handed her the watch he wore, a cheap timepiece that did not go. She seemed embarrassed as these negotiations showed the niggardly persistency of her uncle and placed her in a false position with the guest whose respect she cherished. Ralph was pained to note the sharp corners she had to cut in order to provide the meals from the narrow amount her uncle allowed her. It could not be otherwise that day by day the sterling qualities of his devoted nurse wooed his mind from all thoughts save interest, and then deep gratitude and finally love. After the sale of the watch he observed that Galbraith was more favorably disposed toward him. Then he accidentally learned the secret of this. He missed a gold necklace that Ottila had once worn. He was sure that she had disposed of this and that the proceeds had gone to Galbraith as if coming from their patient. His soul was stirred. That evening Galbraith came home in a great state of excitement. He showed Ralph a newspaper advertisement stating that one missing Ralph Norton would learn of something decidedly to his advantage by communicating with a certain law firm. With-in twenty-four hours Ralph learned that his uncle had died leaving him a fortune. It was a happy day for Ralph when he sent Galbraith a check for a liberal amount. Then there was a royal gift for his faithful nurse. Accompanying it was a letter, telling her of his love. There came a brief note. It bade him forget the obscure girl so far removed from his social circle. It hoped he would find some fitting bride in his own class and that they would be happy. When Ralph went in quest of the Galbraiths he found the old house on the river deserted and abandoned. For a year he watched, waited and hoped. Wealth had not its anticipated charm, with his thoughts fixed ever and always upon the one woman who had befriended him in his distress and whose loyalty and simplicity had won his devotion. Then one day, just a year after his first meeting with Ottila, an amazing visitor came to Ralph. It was Galbraith, but a new Galbraith. He was arrayed decently, almost gorgeously. "I sold out my business," he clicked with a shrewd grin, "hence, some profit. It was for the sake of my niece. You remember Ottila?" "I shall never forget her!" cried Ralph, starting from his seat. "Where—where is she?" "You would see her?" questioned Galbraith. "I have been searching for her for a whole year." "And your mind has not changed concerning her?" "It never will! Speak out, man—where is she?" "Come with me," said Galbraith, and as they walked along he told of how Ottila had been at a school studying for a year, how she was now at the comfortable home he had provided for her. "It was a test," said the old man. "Ottila wished for education, to wait a year, and see if you still remembered her. See, neither of you are poor now, and she is a jewel!" And within the hour Ralph Norton fondly folded in his arms his darling!

## Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER

### LEOPARD'S COMPLIMENT

"I have just received a compliment," said the Leopard. "Indeed," said some of the other animals in the zoo, "and what was the compliment?" "What is a compliment?" some of the others asked, for they did not know what the word meant. "A compliment," said the Leopard proudly and haughtily, "is a sentence or speech of praise. 'If any one compliments you, it means that that person is saying, or has said, fine, praising, complimentary, pleasant, flattering things about you. 'A compliment is always nice, because it is always made up of praise.' 'Oh,' said the animals in their different languages. 'Now,' said the ones who had known what the word meant but wanted to hear about the compliment, 'now,' they repeated, 'tell us the compliment.' 'I will tell it to you gladly,' said the Leopard, as he paced up and down his yard. 'We're glad that you're glad to tell it,' said the other animals. 'Pray begin.' 'The keeper,' said the Leopard, 'was speaking to a person a few moments ago. 'You all know what a person is, I imagine? 'A creature with two legs and two arms and who talks a lot of funny words, and who laughs in a funny way.' 'Yes, we all know what a person is, for the keeper is a person, too,' said the others. 'Well,' continued the Leopard, 'the keeper was telling this person some-



"Then He Looked at Me."

thing about me and something about all animals. 'And what do you suppose he said?' 'That we all had good appetites,' suggested one animal. 'That we all slept well?' asked a second. 'No,' said the Leopard, 'the keeper said that almost any animal could be made friendly, and then he looked at me. 'That is,' the keeper added, 'almost any animal but the Leopard. 'He is the one animal you certainly can't have as a friend or a playmate or a pet.' 'Now wasn't that a fine compliment?' 'It makes me so superior and fine not to stoop to be friends with the keeper. 'In fact it is so nice to have them all realize that the Leopard is not one of your little lap dogs, nor even a friendly big old pet.' 'Well,' said the other animals, 'it all depends on your idea of a compliment, that's all.' 'Of course,' the Leopard agreed, 'creatures feel differently about compliments. 'What is praise to one may not be praise to another. 'But I thought that was a great compliment, and I was mightily pleased. 'Of course as I am a big leopard I wouldn't be just a little bit pleased. 'If I am going to be pleased at all I am going to be mightily pleased as befits my rank and station as you might say. 'Oh yes, that compliment was all right.' So the Leopard began once more pacing up and down his yard and saying to himself: 'He will never have cause to make any other sort of a speech about me. 'The keeper is right in what he says now and he will always have to say the same. 'I, the Leopard, will see to that.'"

### Marilyn Got the Candy

Two-year-old Marilyn accompanied her parents to the home of a friend for dinner. Following the dinner the host passed a dish of candy around and then set it down. The entire group of adults was so interested in conversation that they completely forgot little Marilyn, who was sitting quietly by, wistfully watching the candy dish. Finally Marilyn piped up to her host: "Mr. Smith, don't you want some more candy?" Her parents were shocked, but Marilyn got the candy.

### Little Sister Knew

The new minister was around getting acquainted. He was speaking to the small daughter of the house. "You say your sister, Helen, is the eldest? And who comes after her?" "Oh, there's a different fellow almost every night."

## Little Change in Fall Silhouette

### Materials Are Rich in Hue and Texture; Accessories Important.

Day by day in many ways, designers are indicating their ideas for fall styles. So far, little change in the silhouette has been observed, says a fashion writer in the Detroit News, but materials are rich in hue and texture, and embroidery, jumper frocks, bouffant lines for young girls, and many of the other features that have been gradually gaining favor, are to be continued in early styles for autumn. And the woman who wishes to be well dressed must not overlook the fact that accessories are more than 50 per cent of her modishness, and should be chosen with skill and care as to their fitness. The sports models, which are for the most part executed in beige or pastel shaded woolen fabrics, have short skirts and high waists, which are sometimes indicated at the back only by a bolero. These suits generally consist of a two-piece over which is worn a full-length coat. Sometimes a new effect is obtained by the addition of a waistcoat, which trims a plain frock or is worn attached to a long coat. This waistcoat is generally executed in a fine or striped woolen fabric and is the most important of the collection's details. It is sleeveless and cut right open on the sides where it fastens with a single button. When it is attached to the coat it is nonexistent at the back, starting only from the sides of the front as on a very lovely peach colored kasha dress and, that widened by plaits and a plaid waistcoat. The most current form of the afternoon ensemble consists of a long velvet, crepe, silk rep or moire coat entirely lined with white and worn over a long white tunic placed over a narrow fourreau, which matches the coat. There are several such models as well as an appreciable number of coats lined with white crepe. The tunic is also variously repeated in colors matching the fourreau and in such cases it is shorter than the white ones and has more fullness on the sides. Dressier afternoon frocks are of two kinds. The first comprises those made in crepe satin, velvet or moire. These dresses are rather severe of cut and those made in crepe satin are very often in black trimmed with white. The flatter dresses, however, are made in paler shades such as beige, grey, etc., of crepe georgette and are trimmed with matching lace. Their bodices often blouse at the back and the fullness of the skirts, which is obtained by semi-detached panels, is placed in front. Among smartest of these afternoon frocks is a black crepe de chine with a bolero bordered like the skirt with a black silk fringe of the kind which is so much the fashion now.

### Motion Picture Player Adopts English Coat

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### Silver and Gold Cloth Used for Evening Wraps

Evening wraps are made of silver and gold cloths and of metal brocades. They are the most flattering additions to the wardrobe, for they are worn at night when the loveliest things are wanted and they have proved themselves entirely satisfactory for the needs of the modern young lady in this respect. Of course, the Spanish shawls remain ever popular and this season they are done in silver and gold brocaded effects which, combined with white and sometimes with colors, serve to give the utmost of a sumptuousness of effect. Then there are the evening coats of brocaded materials. Some of them have hoods. Others keep their own contour and line without the addition of any hat, assuming, as they should, that an evening wrap is destined to be worn without any or with the slightest of head coverings.

## Chic for Fall Wear in Line of Sport Wraps



For fall wear the garment here shown is one of the latest styles. It is of brown and tan plaid with a tan caracul collar and long flare cape falling to a point at the hem of the coat.

### Pajama Suits Inspired by Robes of Chinese

For the tea hour with one's intimate friends or even for dinner at home, Paris likes the pajama suit, inspired by the richly ornamented robes of the Chinese. Molyneux has scorned satin and used a silver lame with a pink backing to make the trousers and straight blouse of one of his pajama suits. These trousers have an amusing strap under the instep to hold the trouser leg taut. The three-quarter-length flaring coat worn with this costume is of pale pink georgette embroidered in silk flowers of every shade. A more practical pajama suit designed by Drecoill has a straight coat of silk brocade in which Chinese red is the predominating color. The black satin trousers are gathered into an extremely feminine ruffle about the ankles. A belt and cuffs on the brocade coat, made of the black satin, definitely relate the two pieces of the garment.

### Reappearance of Ostrich for Trimming Purposes

Three things stand out with great distinctness in the new fashions launched for the autumn season. One is the continued vogue of sheer fabrics for evening frocks, second is the favor with which all shades of red are regarded, and third is the reappearance of ostrich used for trimming purposes as well as for millinery. The effort that is being made to awaken hat consciousness is successful so far as milliners themselves are concerned. In the new models there is much more variety, and a more lavish use of decoration. From Paris comes word that ostrich is chosen as trimming for plain felt hats. Coincident with the revival of ostrich for millinery purposes is the introduction of the feather boa. In its new version it is quite different from the type of ostrich boa dearly beloved of English women of a certain age and a certain era.

### Charming Sports Coats Are in Striped Effects

A fashion that had its origin at the smart French resorts is rapidly achieving a vogue on this side of the Atlantic. It is only a few weeks since the finest cardigan jacket, knitted of the finest wool, made its appearance at Deauville. At present these smart little sports coats in brilliant or pastel striped effects are in evidence where fashionable women assemble. Cross-wise stripes are something of a novelty and in the brief period since their introduction have become unusually popular. Pink and green in a soft almond tone are put together in various ways this season and form a combination of colors that is considered extremely smart. The shades, however, are always very delicate and in their soft tones remind one of the subtle colors that give such beauty to Italian scarfs and shawls.

### Higher Waistlines

The waistline, like the thermometer, is creeping up again. In order to secure this effect some designers are showing models in which the skirt is dovetailed into the bodice. That is, dovetailed into the bodice. That is, the upper part of the skirt is cut in points which end on the yoke of the bodice.

### Ruffles on Sleeves

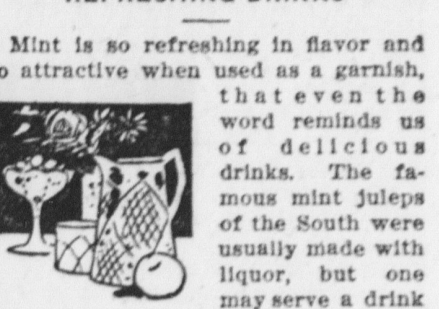
Double ruffles with a band of ribbon or organdie between, make a charming variation for the new full sleeves.

## THE KITCHEN CABINET

(© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

The courage to be just, the courage to be honest, the courage to resist temptation, the courage to do one's duty; this is moral courage that characterizes the highest order of manhood and womanhood—it is the courage without which no great or permanent success in life is achieved.—Samuel Smiles.

### REFRESHING DRINKS



Mint is so refreshing in flavor and so attractive when used as a garnish, that even the word reminds us of delicious drinks. The famous mint juleps of the South were usually made with liquor, but one may serve a drink of fruit juices with nothing but pleasure in the consequences. **Mint Cup.**—Express the juice from five lemons, add the leaves from a dozen stalks of mint, one and one-half cupsful of sugar and one-half cupful of water, cover and let stand thirty minutes. Just before serving pour into a pitcher over a large piece of ice and add three bottles of chilled ginger ale. Put a sprig of mint in the top of each glass or a bunch in the top of the pitcher for garnish. **Pineapple Lemonade.**—Make a syrup by boiling one cupful of sugar and two cupfuls of water ten minutes, add the juice of three lemons and a can of grated pineapple; cool, strain and add four cupfuls of ice water. **Ever Ready Lemonade.**—Add a cupful of sugar to two cupfuls of water and boil together twelve minutes; add a third of a cupful of lemon juice, cool and turn into a jar. Keep in the ice chest and serve with a few slices of fresh lemon for a garnish. **Chocolate Milk Shake.**—Melt four squares of unsweetened chocolate, add one and three-fourths cupfuls of sugar and a pinch of salt; pour on gradually, stirring constantly, one and one-half cupfuls of boiling water. Boil five minutes. Cool and put into a jar, keep on ice. For chocolate milk shake add two and a half tablespoonsful of the syrup, one egg and two-thirds of a cupful of milk, with two tablespoonsful of chopped ice. **Iced Egg Nog.**—This drink is not only refreshing but nourishing. Beat one egg for each glass, add a pinch of salt, a little sugar and a few drops of any desired flavoring. Beat well until the egg has absorbed the sugar. To make it especially good separate the egg and white and stir in the white lightly, add lemon juice if desired with a grating of lemon rind, and sufficient milk to fill the glass. Use iced water when the lemon juice is used. A delightful drink which may always be at hand for an emergency is grape juice, with ginger ale. The combination is good and the zest of the ginger ale makes a most refreshing drink. **Some Choice Recipes.** For variety try this recipe; it is as pleasing to the palate as it sounds: **Stuffed Pork Chops.**—Have pork chops cut one and one-half inches thick, split each chop to the bone and stuff with bread crumbs seasoned well with melted butter and eggs and onion, pepper and salt. Roll in cracker crumbs and beat on both sides. Now place in a baking pan and cover with the following: One small can of tomatoes, one small onion chopped, one tablespoonful of butter, a teaspoonful of sugar and one of salt. Fasten together with a toothpick before frying and bake until thoroughly well done. **Olive Salad.**—Take one cupful of stoned olives, two cupfuls of celery chopped fine, four hard-cooked eggs diced fine. Mix with a cupful of mayonnaise and serve on lettuce. **Raisin Fudge Cake.**—Cream together one and one-half cupfuls of brown sugar and one-half cupful of butter, add two egg yolks, one cupful of chopped raisins, four ounces of melted chocolate, one-half cupful each of hot water and sour milk, two and one-half cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful of soda, one-half teaspoonful of cinnamon and one-fourth teaspoonful of cloves. Bake in sheet pan in moderate oven. Cover with boiled frosting, using the two egg whites and two cupfuls of sugar, adding water to moisten and boil to a thread, pouring over the beaten egg white. Sprinkle a half cupful of blanched almonds over the top of the cake. **Vegetable Curry.**—Mix one cupful each of cooked carrots, potatoes, turnips and peas together. Pour over them one cupful of white sauce, one tablespoonful of lemon juice, one-fourth teaspoonful of curry powder, all cooked in the white sauce. On a large platter heap seasoned mashed potato, with plenty of butter dotted over it, make a border and brown in the oven. Pour the vegetable curry into the border and sprinkle the whole with finely minced parsley. Serve very hot. **Cored Apples Cooked and Filled** with a mixture of chopped nuts, raisins and marmalade, then covered with a meringue and browned in the oven, is another attractive way of serving apples.

Nellie Maxwell