



LOST OPPORTUNITIES
By ELLEN ADAIR

The Army of the "Might-Have-Beens"

In spite of all the controversy and contention which circle around that time-worn topic, life is pretty well just what we choose to make it, and most of the same is very largely left in our own hands. The pity of the affair is that so many people can't or won't understand this, and drift along aimlessly and in such a depressed fashion that one cannot wonder that they never get anywhere at all.

In the whole vocabulary of the English language, there is no sadder term than "might have been." And yet there is a large and ever-increasing human throng who might be congregated together and labeled as the melancholy army of the Might-Have-Beens. For, although the fact may not always have been brought home to them, they are failures, and sooner or later they are going to find that out. Then before them will rise the specters of lost opportunities, the ghosts of those hundred and one chances, which, like the proverbial tide, if taken at the flood, lead on to fortune, but which if neglected never returns, and somehow or other they have missed that tide, and fortune has eluded them altogether. "Luck has been always dead against us," they say in an injured tone. "We haven't had a fair chance! It is a shame that things should be so unequally divided in this world! Some people are born fortunate, while others seem specially chosen out for misfortune."

Wrapped in the delusion that fortune or misfortune is entirely a matter of luck, they drift along without making the slightest effort to retrieve past errors and past mistakes. For their pessimism precludes effort and hampers achievement.

Another class of "might-have-beens" have a completely different outlook. For these are optimists, and with a Micawber-like persistency, they are forever hoping that "something will turn up." What this mysterious and decidedly nebulous "something" may be is a matter of conjecture! But all the same the conjecturing is very delightful and pleasing, and has in it so much of the gambling element that these might-have-beens are almost reconciled to their lot. They have one saving grace and that is the sporting spirit. One can really forgive many failures to the optimist, no

matter how absurd his method of life may be. For, in perpetually looking on the brighter side, he has learned one lesson of tremendous value. Mr. Micawber doubtless was a trying proposition to his wife, to his family and to his immediate circle, but at the same time he formed a character in fiction that could not well be dispensed with; for he was delightfully refreshing and entertaining. He certainly wasted little time on idle brooding over lost opportunities, although the latter certainly were legion. And that is the curious part of the Micawber character. For the men and women who are life's failures generally suffer from poignant regrets and bitter memories of happier days. Only too truly do they find:

It is truth the poet sings
That a sorrow's crown of sorrows
Is remembering happier things.

The man who is working in uncongenial surroundings, or whose duty lies in an uncongenial task, or whose ambitions have been sadly unfulfilled is up against a very hard situation. For it takes every bit of courage and every scrap of strength to go through the daily round, and it is so desperately hard to keep from bitterly rebelling against one's lot. Behind the dull, apathetic faces of many of the world's toilers there lie grand possibilities, wonderful aspirations—but shut in, hidden, almost crushed. And oh, how these poor souls are yearning for a wider sphere!

Yet if we seize every opportunity that life offers—and life does offer wonderful chances, if only we have eyes to see and hearts to understand—there ought to be a feeling of satisfaction, of accomplishment in our lives. To the door of each opportunity comes knocking. Decisive action and strength of mind will accomplish success. And faithfulness in small things will bring the bigger opportunities in its train.

Then in our lives we need have no bitter regrets, no profitless dwellings on lost opportunities. For we have seized opportunities and have developed them, we have made of ourselves and our lives something truly worth while. And to be able to say to oneself at the end of a long day that it all has been "worth while" is the only thing in the whole world that really matters.



AN AFTERNOON TOILETTE OF SIMPLE LINES



A SMART GIRL'S
DIARY

A Quaint Gown

Mother got a telegram today saying that Aunt Jane was coming on the next train to spend Easter with us, so I was sent to the station to meet her. Of course, Aunt Jane never bothers to say a word about the hour of her arrival, she leaves that to her family to make out—that's the way Aunt Jane does things. The "next train" proved to be due late in the evening, and there I was, with nothing to do but sit in that stupid station. Just as I had given up all hope, along came Jimmy Cox, and after I had stated my sorrows, he invited me over to a dance at the hotel across the street, as I had intended him to.

Of course, the time just flew by, and I danced with Jimmy all the afternoon, although there were plenty of people I knew there. Some of the gowns were stunning, especially a black taffeta one worn by a visiting girl from Washington. She was just the ideal type to carry off an extreme style, and her bronze hair had enough red in it to enliven the somber effect of an all-black costume on so young a girl.

The bodice was made in the 1830 style, with a quaint little quilling of black net over white chiffon at the front. The sleeves were very short and puffed out, and the jacket was boned up like a corset. It would have been a real peasant blouse if it lacked up the front. The silk

had no finish on the shoulders but a coarse picot edging.

It must have taken at least five yards of taffeta to make that skirt, as it fell in large folds at the bottom, and was extremely short. All down the front were little black taffeta rosettes, and the hem was secured by a rope of the same material, instead of a stitching. This was a very good idea, as taffeta splits so where it is stitched. I liked the daintiness and the tea and Jimmy so much that I almost forgot all about poor Aunt Jane, until Jimmy reminded me that it was nearly 7 o'clock.

The Message

I heard a voice at evening softly say:
"Bear not thy yesterday into tomorrow,
Nor load this week with last week's
load of sorrow;
Lift all thy burdens as they come, not
try
To weigh the present with the by and
by;
One step and then another take thy
way—
Live day by day!"

—Julia Harris May.

The Daisy

The daisy once was white
Until it caught a sight
Of angels in the air.
Such raptures flushed the flower
That, ever since that hour,
Its glad pink blush is there.

—G. Barlow.



FARM, GARDEN and the HOME

EGGS and
CHICKS

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Keystone Poultry Foods are the best and most complete in your feed that makes your poultry thrive and lay more eggs. They are also a fine indoor plant. Offer a 500 mag. of seeds for \$1.00. Plant the seed 400 times in a box, with 100 seeds in each box. Outdoors in summer. Colors, mixed, only 10c. 4 box \$3.00. FARGO'S, Dept. 1, Freehovens, N. J.

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PRIZE
SUGGESTIONS

PRIZES OFFERED DAILY

For the following suggestions sent in by readers of the Evening Ledger prizes of \$1 and \$50 are awarded. All suggestions should be addressed to Ellen Adair, Editor of Women's Page, Evening Ledger, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

A prize of \$1 has been awarded to Den, 4573 Manayunk avenue, Roxborough, Pa., for the following suggestion:
The best way to keep the plants in the new girls in place and avoid a great deal of pressing is to tack a half-inch wide piece of tape or rubber back of the plants. This will keep them in place indefinitely.

A prize of 50 cents has been awarded to Mrs. J. R. P. 323 Kent road, Cynwyd, Pa., for the following suggestion:
Simple directions have many times been given for the proper way to pack the fur and winter things, but there is a plan which I have found to be of the greatest value. Buy a box of large gummed jar labels, and as each newspaper package is securely done up, seal it with one of these labels, and write on it the contents of the package. Then in the fall, when you want a certain coat or fur or pair of woolen gloves, you can find them without opening half a dozen packages

that will perhaps not be required for another month.

A prize of 30 cents has been awarded to Martha Miller, 1709 Frankford avenue, Philadelphia, for the following suggestion:
When cooking sometimes you burn yourself pretty badly and lots of times you have nothing to put on it to stop the pain. Every one has potatoes in the house. You simply take a raw potato, grate it, and put it on the burn. This will take the fire out at once and will not make a blister.

A prize of 30 cents has been awarded to E. McCabe, 4941 Florence avenue, Philadelphia, for the following suggestion:
To mend a pin or any receptacle used to contain cold or ice water, put a piece of paper over the hole and pour on this melted paraffin. As long as the cold will prevent the paraffin from melting this will last, which will be for some time.

Aspiration

Let me but live my life from year to year
With forward face and unreluctant soul,
Not hurrying to, nor turning from the
good.

In the dim past, nor holding back in fear
From what the future vells; but with a
whole
And happy heart, that pays its toll
To youth and age, and travels on with
cheer.

—Henry Van Dyke.

The Right Sort of Girl to Marry

She is far too clever to talk of her rights; she takes them, and that as a matter of course.

She would rather wear gowns that match her hair than dye her hair to match her gowns.

She tries to help her lover to build a future for himself, and to assist him in every possible way.

She is not so foolish as to think that a man is ever convinced by mere argument. She contents herself by showing her faith in her actions.

She does not believe that a man can love once and only once in his life. Like a wise girl, she accepts the present and ignores the past.

She remembers that when once her lover has been gained, tact is necessary to keep him as a lover, and so she uses every scrap of tact she possesses.

She knows that every man has an ideal girl enshrined in his heart, and that there is no reason why she should not be the ideal of at least one true lover. Every girl who is idolized is idealized.

Women Horticulturists Busy at Work

Students at the Ambler School of Horticulture for Women have begun active outdoor work and are planning for the spring planting. They are repairing the damaged trees in the orchards and setting together trees which had been split by the winter storms. Plans are under way for a spring lawn site and horticulture conference to be held at the school May 23. The work of the girls will be exhibited and a concert and supper will be followed by dancing in the evening.

Last Day
for the
Great War
Pictures



Today Is Your Last Chance
To See the
Evening Ledger's War Films

Tonight winds up the continuous, successful four weeks' run of these marvelous war scenes—by far the longest one-house stand ever made by any war pictures. Don't miss them; it's your last opportunity to see the most thrilling real battles in the history of photography. Every phase of modern warfare is pictured to you with a vividness hitherto thought impossible. Four of the brave company of daring camera-soldiers lost their lives to get actual battle scenes for America. You see

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Evening Ledger
ONE CENT

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Tomorrow's Menu

"Soon at Easter cometh Alleluia,
With butter, cheese and a tansy."
—OLD CHRISTMAS CAROL.

BREAKFAST

Flax
Hominy and Eggs and Bacon
Rained. Biscuits
Coffee

DINNER

Cream of Celery Soup
Roast Beef
Boiled Onions Mashed Potatoes
Cranberry Jelly
Asparagus Sticks Vanilla Ice Cream
Birds' Nests
Coffee

SUPPER

Pork and Beans
Graham Bread
Preserves
Sponge Cake

Hominy and Eggs and Bacon.—Rinse a mold in cold water and pack it with two cups of cooked hominy. When formed, turn out on a dish and cover with thin slices of bacon. Cook in the oven until the bacon is crisp and serve with poached eggs around it.

Birds' Nests.—On each dessert plate or at each plate at the beginning of dinner, place a small bird's nest of candied orange peel in which there are some candy eggs. The eggs can be made of uncooked fondant, rolled in ground pecan or walnut meats or dipped in chocolate. Make the fondant by mixing the unbeaten white of an egg, pinch of cream tartar, two tablespoons of cream and enough confectioner's sugar to make a stiff cream. Then mold into little eggs and roll in the nuts or else chill for two hours after molding and dip in melted chocolate. To make the nests make candied orange peel as follows: Cut the thin outer peel of two or three oranges into shreds and soak for 24 hours in cold salt water, with two tablespoons of salt to a quart of water. Rinse, cover with fresh cold water and boil until tender. Make a syrup of two cups of sugar to a cupful and a quarter of water and when it boils add the peel and simmer gently until the peel looks clear and the syrup thickens. Take out a little at a time and roll in granulated sugar. Let it dry and form into little nests.

Sponge Cake.—Beat the yolks of five eggs until they are creamy, add a cupful of sugar gradually, beating all the time. Then add the juice and rind of half a lemon and a pinch of salt. Then fold in whites of the eggs beaten dry, and fold in a cupful of pastry flour.

AROUND THE BARGAIN COUNTERS

Evening Gowns at Reasonable Prices

This is just the time of the year to buy reasonably priced evening gowns, as the offerings of the winter are beginning to look shabby, and one cannot afford to go to Atlantic City or any of the seashore resorts without at least one taffeta gown. These are being shown in all of the large stores, and very moderately priced, too.

A plain little gown for the informal dance was made of lavender silk net with the popular birdcage effect, edged with lavender satin on the tunic skirt. The blouse was full and simply finished off with a net quilling at the neck over a white chiffon cloth foundation. A wide girle of the satin was the only trimming. The price was \$16.

A neat little gown for the lounge type of girl was made of ciel blue taffeta. The skirt bodice was fitted with soft white lace and tiny wisps of sleeves of the same. The wide waist with wide neck and black skirt bodice and was made of the best blue velvet with three rows of black lace on the bottom. The price was \$16.

DAILY SHORT STORY
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