JUST GOSSIP ABOUT PEOPLE

Nancy Wynne Tells of the Reception and Presentation of Bronze Relief to Mrs. Stevenson—She Hears Various Bits of Social News

THAT was a most interesting meeting at the Art Alliance yesterday afternoon. It was a reception given in honor of Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, who was seventy-four years old. There were a great many people there as Mrs. Stevenson's friends are numerous and every one was eager to felicitate her and to hear Miss Agnes Repplier's speech at the presentation to Mrs. Stevenson of a portrait of her herself done in bronze by R. Tait McKenzie. Mr. John Cadwalader presided at the formal meeting and Miss Repplier spoke most cleverly.

The bronze really is a wonderful piece of work and is a striking likeness. Those of us who have seen Mrs. Stevenson at her desk in her home or her office, know just the position which Dr. McKenzie has copied. Pen or pencil in one hand, she toys with her lorgnon with the other hand, sometimes using it and at other times holding it in her hand while she talks or thinks over what she is about to say.

There were present representatives of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, and of all the various associations of which Mrs. Stevenson is a member. It was a most enjoyable and interesting affair.

HAVE you ever seen anything like the number of weddings planned for Easter week, the week following and now even the week preceding. Billie Adamson is to be married the week before Easter. The date has just been announced. It is March 19 and the wedding will take place in Valley Forge Memorial Church, where his bride-elect, Amelia Green, lives. She is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Green, of Franklin. I hear that Mrs. George Newhall, Mrs. A. S. Janeway, Mrs. Billie Reeves, Kitty Smith, Nancy Robb and Eleanor Green, who is Amelia's sister, will be in the wedding party.

SPEAKING of the church at Valley Forge reminds me of one of the last fashionable weddings that took place there. Eleanor Newhall's it was. She married Duncan Selfridge you know, and they have been living in Boston or rather near there. Now, however, they have come back to Strafford and are occupying Eleanor's little house just between the Ashton Littles' and the Edward Beales' places. The Henry Bartol Braziers rented the house for a while, but now the Selfridges are there and the Braziers have moved into town.

I HEARD another nice bit of news yesterday. The Hatherly Foster, Jrs., have a son. He was born about a month ago, I understand, but there has been no public announcement of it. The baby is called Hatherly Foster, 3d. Mrs. Foster, you remember, was Isabelle Stoughton. She is a sister of Nancy Stoughton, who is to be a debutante of next season. Another sister is Mrs. Fred Ballard, of Chestnut Hill. She was Frances Stoughton.

I SAW Betsy Davis the other day and thought she looked very pretty. She was wearing a dark blue suit, the coat of which was a loose model, trimmed with a narrow braid of henna. Her hat also was henna and was awfully becoming. It was trimmed with ostrich feathers. With this costume she wore a neckpiece of sable.

THE other day Teddy was sitting in the room with mother and auntie. He was in fact playing on the floor and apparently not noticing their conversation. Presently, however, Aunt Violet remarked to mother, "And you ought to have tasted those ca'mels, they were the best I ever made." Teddy pricked up his ears and then he went over to mother and said, "What's the other kinds of ca'mels mother?" "What other kind do you mean, dear?" asked mother. "Why," replied Teddy, "'em ones what lives out at the Zoo."

NANCY WYNNE.

Friday and Saturday next, February 25 and 26.

Miss Frances T. Leaf, daughter of Mrs. Edward Bowman Leaf, 2027 Walnut street, left yesterday for Lake Placid, N. Y., where she will spend a fortnight.

Miss Lucile Polk Carter, of Almonbury House, Ithan, is visiting her father, Mr. William E. Carter, of Aiken, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Heckscher Wetherill, of 1830 Rittenhouse square, are spending several weeks at Palm Beach, Fla.

Miss Julia A. Berwind, of 102 South Twenty-first street, returned last night from a short visit to New York.

Miss Charlotte Mae Graves, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand J. Graves, of Manheim and Wissahickon avenues, Germantown, who has been spending a few days in Baltimore, Md., has returned to her home.

The Senior Prom of the Germantown Academy will be given on Monday evening next, February 21.

The sixth annual dance of Haverford College Musical Club was given last night at the Manheim Cricket Club.

Mr. and Mrs. I. Hazleton Mirkil, of 2107 De Lancey street, are entertaining as their guests for a few weeks Mr. and Mrs. John Hemphill, of West Chester.

The last meeting of the Junior Musicale Club will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 30.

The Agnes Irwin Musicale Club will give a musicale, to be followed by a dance, at the New Century on Wednesday evening, April 27.

Mrs. Frederick McQ. Falck, of St. Martins, has issued invitations for a luncheon and card party in honor of her daughter, Miss Mary Falck, on Wednesday, March 26, at her home, Springfield avenue and Lincoln drive.

Mrs. Henry Steele Montgomery and her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Ord Bretherton, of the Woodley, Merion, will leave on Monday next for the Traymore, Atlantic City, where they will remain until March 1.

The annual final concert and dance of the Combined Musical Clubs of Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges will be given in the Rose Garden of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel on Monday evening. Among the patronesses are Mrs. Joseph W. Anderson, Mrs. William Hyde Appleton, Mrs. Charles C. Hodge, Mrs. George W. Jacobs, Mrs. Charles F. Jenkins, Mrs. Howard Cooper Johnson, Mrs. Davis L. Lewis, Mrs. J. Lawrence Lippincott, Mrs. George Oppenlander, Mrs. E. Pusey Passmore, Mrs. Allen K. White and Mrs. William P. Worth.

The board of managers of the George W. Childs Library in Wayne, will be at home at the library to their friends and subscribers from 2 until 5 o'clock in the afternoon of Washington's Birthday, February 22. Mrs. Thomas E. Walton and Mrs. Fallen McCurdy will be assisted by members of the board, of which Mrs. A. B. Parker, of Strafford, is president; Mrs. T. Stewart Wood and Mrs. James England will pour tea.

Mrs. Holda Kahn, daughter of Mr. Samuel Blumenthal of Elkins Park, and Mr. Sol Block, of Trenton, N. J., will be married tomorrow evening at the Ritz-Carlton.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lamberton, of 327 West Seymour street, Germantown, are spending a few days in Atlantic City.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis have returned to their home in Rose Valley from a fortnight's stay at Atlantic City prior to Mr. Lewis' departure for a trip to Virginia.

Miss Anna Cochran, of Walley Still Farm, near Chester, has announced the engagement of her niece, Miss Adele du Cournon Cochran, to Mr. Daniel E. Davis, of Pittsburgh.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Curtis and their little son, of Caracas, Venezuela, who have been the guests for some weeks of Mrs. Curtis' parents, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Maxwell, at their home in Lansdowne, will leave on Monday for Sommerville, S. C., to remain until April, when they will return to Lansdowne until they leave early in June for South America.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ladoux entertained the bridge club to which they belong last evening. Their guests were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Haines, Mr. and Mrs. David S. Ludlum, Mr. and Mrs. William Laddis, Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Stockton and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Wisdom.

Mrs. Albert Foster Damon has returned to her home in Lansdowne from a visit to Ithaca, N. Y., where she was a guest at a house party at Cornell University, of which her son, Mr. Henry Gilroy Damon, is a student.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heidelberger have returned to their home, 114 Atlantic avenue, Atlantic City, after spending several weeks visiting in New York and Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Heidelberger, formerly of Atlantic City, have taken a house, 5409 Gainor road, Wynnefield, where they are living.

The D. T. C. Sorority of the William Penn High School will give a dinner, followed by dancing, for 200 guests at the Ritz-Carlton this evening.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

An interesting debutante of next autumn will be Miss Hannah M. Elliott, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. William J. Elliott, of 317 South Seventeenth street. She will be formally presented to society at a tea to be given by her parents at their home on Friday afternoon, November 5.

Miss Katherine D. Porter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Porter, of Chestnut Hill, will be formally presented to society by her parents at a tea on Friday, October 14. Miss Porter with her parents will leave early next month for Hot Springs, Va., where they will spend several weeks.

Dr. and Mrs. Deacon Steinmetz announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Mary Gladys Crosby, to Mr. Francis J. Cole, son of Mr. Charles J. Cole, of Elkins Park.

Mrs. Robert H. Large, of 151 South Twenty-second street, who sailed last week for Europe with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Newbold Welsh, expects to return in two months. Her daughter, Miss Marjorie L. Large, who is spending a few weeks in Cuba with Miss Elizabeth C. Norris, daughter of Mrs. Alexander Gareschè Norris, will return to her home the latter part of this month. Miss Large will be presented to society at a tea the latter part of November.

Miss Elizabeth Breckenridge Field, daughter of Commander W. Roy Mason Field, U. S. N., and Mrs. Field, of Stenton avenue, Chestnut Hill, who has been entertained as the guest of Mrs. Osborn Day, of New Haven, Conn., has returned to her home.

Dr. and Mrs. George Fales Baker, of Old Oak, Rosemont, and the Bellevue-Stratford, will entertain Justice and Mrs. Robert von Moschzisker at dinner and later in their box at the opera on Tuesday evening, March 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Ash Pearson, of 432 West Price street, Germantown, will give a dinner on Friday evening, March 18, in honor of Mr. Stansbury Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warrick Miller, before the meeting of Mrs. Charles Stewart Wurts' dancing class.

Miss Mary L. Bayard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. McKean Bayard, of 105 East Johnson street, Germantown, left yesterday for a fortnight's stay in Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gwynne Henderson, of Indian Queen lane, Germantown, will entertain at dinner on Saturday evening, April 9, in honor of their daughter, Miss Helen C. Henderson, before the meeting of the Saturday evening dancing class.

Mr. and Mrs. James Walter Butterworth, of Crefeld and Sunset avenues, Chestnut Hill, have issued invitations for a theatre party, followed by supper at the Ritz-Carlton on April 2.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Holmes, of Oak lane, announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Eleanor Holmes, to Mr. W. Clifford Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Park Moore, Wildorcliff, Elkins Park, at a kitchen shower and card party given today in honor of Miss Clara Matsinger. The marriage of Miss Matsinger and Mr. Alfred W. Holmes, brother of Miss Holmes, will take place in the spring.

Miss Elizabeth Jeanes, daughter of Mr. Henry Sulger Jeanes, of 2012 Spruce street, will leave today for Montrose, Pa., to attend a house party to be given by Mr. and Mrs. Warriner, of 135 South Eighteenth street, in honor of their daughter, Miss Eloise Warriner. She expects to return to her home on Wednesday.

Miss Frances J. Ross, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George G. Ross, of 1721 Spruce street, will entertain as her guest the latter part of next week, Miss Elizabeth Duffy, of Baltimore. She will come to attend the Beaver camp reunion on

GERMANTOWN

Mrs. John Ordway Webster, formerly of Washington, who has been the guest of Mrs. Alan MacDonald, of 231 East Johnson street, has gone to Chicago to occupy her new home in that city.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dalgliesh, 6501 Ogontz avenue, will entertain informally at 500 at their home this evening. There will be twelve guests.

Mrs. Convers Button Graham, Jr., of Pastorius street, entertained informally at cards at her home on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Johnson, of 101 East Durham street, will entertain at dinner at the Cedarbrook Country Club on Thursday evening, March 3.

Mrs. Harry Davis, 236 East Highland avenue, will entertain informally at cards at her home on Monday evening. Her guests will include Miss Katherine Braddock, Mrs. Charles Solly, Mrs. Walter H. Deisroth, Mrs. Edward J. Murray, Mrs. James Myers, Mrs. Harry Brown and Mrs. Walter Fitzgerald.

Miss Leila MacIntyre will entertain informally at her home this afternoon. The guests will include Miss Dorothy Magill, Miss Mabel Marple, Miss Mildred Simons, Miss Evelyn Lacey, Miss Georgina Skirving, Miss Alice Spencer, Miss Annetta Van Buren, Miss Frances Mackie, Miss Flora High, Miss Minerva Grede and Miss Gladys Davis.

Miss Helen Montgomery entertained at a Valentine party at her home on Tuesday evening. The guests included Miss Gladys Brennan, Miss Ruth Paul, Miss Helen Shepherd, Miss Jennie Hunter, Miss Esther Scheirrey, Miss Elsie Scheirrey, Miss Helene Alexander, Miss Margaret Bowers, Miss Helen Tatnen, Miss Mabel Marple, Miss Dorothy De Mott, Miss Lillian Sullivan and Miss Ray Atkinson.

A dance was given by the Junior Council of Germantown of the Congregation Chavas Chesed at Mercantile Hall on Tuesday evening. The committee in charge included Mr. Joseph Pulvosky, Miss Mae Hurwitz, Miss C. Ontaker, Miss Edith Levy, Miss Idella H. Hurwitz, Miss Jeanette Davidson, Miss Fannie Bauer, Mr. Morris H. Starr, Mr. Abram Orlow, Mr. Monroe Schweriner, Mr. Max Lewis and Mr. Stanley Solomon.

NORTH PHILADELPHIA

The Sisterhood of Rodeph Shalom Congregation will have a County Fair at Mercantile Hall on Thursday evening, February 24 to commemorate the mammoth bazaar held by the ladies of the congregation in 1870 to help build their present house of worship, at Broad and Mount Vernon streets. The chairman, Mrs. Alfred M. Levy, will be assisted by 100 persons.

Mr. and Mrs. Lisle Q. Owens, of 4825 North Fifth street, are receiving congratulations upon the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Jane Owens, on February 3. Mrs. Owens was formerly Miss Elizabeth Judge MacBride.

Mr. and Mrs. Abram Berg, 887 North Twenty-third street, will be at home on Sunday from 3 until 6 o'clock in honor of the engagement of their daughter, Miss Jeannette R. Berg, to Mr. Sidney S. Good, of Wheeling, W. Va.

Photo by J. Mitchell Elliot.

MISS SARAH BARRINGER

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Moreau Barringer, of 2105 Walnut street

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA

Miss Lillabelle Hare, of 2507 South Nineteenth street, will entertain the members of the Pennsylvania Club of Skidmore School of Arts at tea today. Her guests will include Miss Elizabeth Redfern, Mrs. Henry Wilkins, Miss Elizabeth Merritt and Miss Vera Kendrick.

The Beryl Club will hold a novelty dance at the Studio Dansant, 1820 Market street, on Washington's Birthday. The members of the club include Mr. A. J. Clark, Mr. J. McCaffrey, Mr. Thomas Doyle, Mr. J. Leahy, Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. T. Quigley and Mr. V. S. Sheridan.

The wedding of Miss Helen Butler and Mr. Edward Barker took place on Wednesday, at Elkton, Md. Upon their return to this city they were given a surprise party by their friends. Among those present were Miss C. Stuart, Miss D. Moore, Miss A. Dorrance, Miss L. Francis, Miss Robert Donnelly, Mr. George Bates, Mr. Julius A. Russell, Mr. John Crotty, Mr. Thomas McCormack, Mr. L. J. Kelly, Mr. George Young and Mr. Robert Stewart.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Grass, of 2228 South Lambert street, are at the Chalfant, Atlantic City, for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Fatley, of 2222 South Twenty-second street, will have as their guest for a few weeks Miss Edith H. Crosby, of 241 Central avenue, Orange, N. J. Miss Crosby is now spending a few days with her brother, Mr. William J. Crosby, of 5313 North Carlisle street.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss M. Zesette to Mr. W. Lee. The wedding will take place in June.

WEST PHILADELPHIA

Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Cadwallader, Jr., whose marriage took place last month, have returned from their wedding trip through northern New York. Mrs. Cadwallader will be remembered as Miss Helen Washburn. Dr. Cadwallader, who served overseas for two years, formerly lived at 22 Wellington road.

An attractive Valentine luncheon and card party was given on Monday by Miss Dorothy Minnich, of Stoneleigh Court, Forty-first and Walnut streets. The guests included the following: Miss Miriam D. Marshall, Miss Dorothy McCrees, Miss Emma McDowell, Miss Mildred Keebler, Miss Helen McFadden, Miss Martha Bowman, Miss Vanesto Huyette, Mrs. A. Provost, Mrs. Edgar Morris and Miss Dorothy Minnich.

Miss Cora Stiles and Miss Theresa Stiles, daughters of Mrs. George Stiles, of Hamilton Court, Thirty-ninth and Chestnut streets, are entertaining informally at bridge this afternoon.

Mr. J. Earl Wagner, of 320 South Forty-second street, is spending a month at Miami, Fla.

Miss Gladys Mann, of 605 Wynnewood road, entertained at luncheon and five hundred on Tuesday. The guests included Mrs. W. Franklin, Miss Estelle Van Rosen, Mrs. Archer Develin, Miss Mildred Keebler, Miss Miriam Dorothy Marshall, Miss Dorothy McCrees, Miss Mae Burr and Miss Dorothy Mann.

Maier-Huber Wedding

A pretty wedding took place on Thursday afternoon at St. John's Reformed Church, Fortieth and Spring Garden streets, at 3 o'clock, when Miss Isabel Messner Huber, of 5412 Baltimore avenue, became the bride of Mr. Carl Edward Maier, of Youngstown, O., the Rev. Dr. Robert O'Boyle officiating. A reception followed immediately after the ceremony at the home of the bride's parents.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, Mr. John F. Huber, wore a gown of brown net trimmed with chenille, a brown hat of maline and she carried Ophelia roses and lilacs. She was attended by a sister of the bridegroom, Miss Alene Maier, of White Haven, Pa., as maid of honor. Her gown was of blue taffeta, with hat of maline to correspond, and she carried pink roses.

Mr. John Francis Huber, Jr., brother of the bride, acted as best man.

After an extensive wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Maier will live at Youngstown, O., where they will be at home after May 1.

TIOGA

Mrs. William Roach, of 1512 Erie avenue, will entertain at luncheon at her home on Monday afternoon in honor of Mrs. J. A. Trask. The decorations and color scheme will be yellow. The guests will be Mrs. Charles Collier, Mrs. John Cortelle, Mrs. John Crowhurst, Mrs. Amos Gender, Mrs. Newton Firth Hill, Mrs. Charles Fow, Mrs. Thomas Poole and Mrs. Lewis Smith.

The Neighbors' Club, which was entertained last week by Mr. and Mrs. Newton Firth Hill, of 1523 Erie avenue, will meet on Thursday evening, February 24, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Roat, 1530 Erie avenue. The members include Mr. and Mrs. Charles Collman, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Gender, Mr. and Mrs. Newton Firth Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Metz, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller, Mr. and Mrs. William Roach, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Roat.

NORRISTOWN

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Eleanor D. Quinn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Quinn, of DeKalb street, and Mr. T. Hastings Yeakle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Yeakle, of 11 East Freedley street.

Mrs. George Bandle, of West Main street, entertained at bridge and five hundred at her home. There were twenty-four guests present from this city and Pottstown.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Beswick, of 1431 Locust street, entertained at a children's party at their home in honor of the fourth birthday anniversary of their small daughter, Miss Doris Beswick. Sixteen little friends were present.

The annual banquet of the Montgomery county members of Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa., will be held at the Hotel Hamilton, on Tuesday evening, March 1. Mr. Paul A. Mertz is chairman of the banquet committee.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Mrs. William Price will entertain at dinner at her home in Media this evening in honor of Miss Lucy Logan and Mr. D. Owen Stephens, whose marriage will take place on Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe F. Ballard, of Chester, are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Cochran Ballard, a few days ago.

Among those who attended the Valentine costume dance given this week in the Guild Hall of Rose Valley, were Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Heulings, Mr. and Mrs. James Gilpin Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Pew, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. William Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Howell Lewis Shay, Miss Elizabeth Cox, Miss Marjorie Parker, Miss Ruth Parker, Miss Margaret Price, Miss Margaret Frederick, Miss Virginia Gibson, Miss Frances Wright, Mr. William Heulings, Mr. Rodman Schutz, Mr. Edward Wright, Mr. Carl de Moll and Mr. E. T. Drinker.

A dance was given this week in the auditorium of Ridley Park for the benefit of the Near East Relief Fund. Miss Florence Righter was chairman of the affair.

RECEPTION FOR DR. BROOME

New Schools Superintendent to Be Guest of City and Civic Clubs

Educational leaders and public men will give a welcoming tribute to Dr. Edwin C. Broome, incoming superintendent of schools, shortly after he assumes his duties here next month.

The affair, which probably will be at the Bellevue-Stratford, will take the form of a dinner and public reception. It will be under the auspices of the City Club, Civic Club and the Public Education and Child Labor Association of Pennsylvania.

More than 800 guests have been invited to the dinner, and a considerably larger number will attend the reception. Mayor Moore, Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, state superintendent of public instruction; other public officials, George Wharton Pepper, members of the Board of Education and prominent educators will attend.

The dinner is in charge of a committee which includes Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, president of the Civic Club; Joseph Hagedorn, civic director of the City Club, and Franklin N. Brewer and Bruce M. Watson, president and secretary of the Public Education and Child Labor Association of Pennsylvania, respectively.

G. H. FRY ESTATE $218,000

Widow Is Chief Beneficiary—Other Wills Filed for Probate

The will of George H. Fry, 220 South Forty-second street, filed for probate today, disposes of an estate valued at $218,000. Mrs. Sarah B. Fry, his widow, is given most of the estate.

It directs that $25,000 be placed in trust for a son and an equal sum for a daughter. Twenty thousand dollars is devised to the Bethany Orphans' Home at Womelsdorf, Pa., at the death of the children. The residue is left to Mr. Fry's grandchildren.

The will of V. P. McAniff, of 2413 North Seventh street, is valued at $20,000. Inventories of estates were filed today as follows:

Susan G. Joslin, $26,563; Mary F. Dugan, $24,416; Margaret Grear, $15,251.

SUNNY DUCROW

By HENRY ST. JOHN COOPER

HE NODDED; he was at the door.

"I thought you'd stay and—and have lunch with me, it's my own cooking, Stan," she said.

"Thank you, no, I won't stay; you have given me my answer, Sunny, I am going, good-by." He held out his hand.

The tears came into her eyes. "I don't want to part with you like this," she said.

"Good-by," he said again. "Good-by, I am sorry I came back."

She shivered a little. "Good-by, then, Stan," she said gently, "if you feel like that about it."

"Yes," he said, "I am sorry I came back. I—I might have known a girl like you would change. You are right, you were only a child, there was no reality in your love, it was merely a fancy, a passing fancy for me. I suppose I should be proud that I awakened your liking if only for a little while. Good-by, Sunny!"

"Good-by, Stan," she said quietly.

He was gone, she heard him go out, heard the engine of the car start up, heard the gears go in and the sound of the tires turning on the ground. Gone.

She stood by the mantelpiece and looked down into the fire. How easily he had shifted all the blame of it from his own shoulders on to hers! The tears welled in her eyes and trickled slowly down her cheeks—unusual tears.

"He's hurt and angry," she thought. "Oh, it doesn't matter what he thought," she muttered. "And it was easiest for him to think it was my fault; if he had never gone away, I'd have gone on loving him and then I suppose one day my love, my little love for him would have become a great love. That's what I meant to tell him, but couldn't. It was a little love, a child's love, but it could have grown and got stronger, bigger and better if it had been allowed to stand in the sunshine."

"But it died," she whispered. "Yes, it died, it died. I knew it when I saw him. I didn't know it quite till then, it died all right."

CHAPTER LXV
The Thing She Could Not Do

Arthur Curtiss did not come to luncheon that day, nor the next; a whole week passed. Sundays he often came, and Sunny watched for him this Sunday morning, but he did not come to Sunnyville, so Sunny got out the little car which she had learned to drive herself, and she drove to see Bert and Evy.

Bert was struggling with a new play which, with his wife's help he was writing around Sunny. She wanted to find out how it was getting on. It was a tiny box of a place, almost as small as her own wee cottage, but rather more elaborate as regards its furnishings.

There was a change in Bert, a very distinct change for the better. He had thrown off his slouch; he held his head up, there was in his eyes an expression of confidence, of greater self-respect. He spoke with less uncertainty; he even flushed when he talked of the play, and the light of enthusiasm glowed in his eyes.

Sunny saw it. She looked at him and nodded appreciatively.

"She's going to do him a heap of good; she's making a man of Bert, getting him out of the old rut," she thought; and she was right.

Evy, in her own way, was ten times more clever than Bert, better educated, her outlook on life was broader; she knew a great deal that he had never dreamed of. He was a child compared with this sweet-faced little wife of his.

Yet to see them together, to hear them, one would think that he was an epitome of wisdom and she an ignorant little thing. She appealed to him every moment; she strove to put confidence into him, and she succeeded. In a quiet, unostentatious way, Evy was educating her husband, and Sunny saw it. She and Bert held forth enthusiastically on subjects of which, a few months ago, he had been entirely ignorant. He had self-assurance which he had never possessed before.

"You're the cleverest girl I ever saw, how clever you are!" Sunny whispered to Evy when they were alone. "You are the cleverest girl and the best!"

"Clever, I?" Evy flushed. "Why? I don't understand; what do you mean, Sunny?"

"You're making Bert, you've made him; he's different, he's a man now! He's got something in him, he always had, come to that, but he was afraid of himself, didn't trust himself. You're teaching him to believe in himself a bit, and it's the best thing you ever did, Evy."

"Sunny, do—do you think I am succeeding?" Evy asked.

"I know you are. Bert's different, I wouldn't have believed it. Only, Evy, be careful, don't let him get too much the other way, don't let him get thinking too much of himself and too little of you; if he does, I'll have a word to say to Bert."

Evy smiled; she shook her head. "That's where you are wrong," she said. "You understand Bert all right, but Bert is very, very good to me, and we are very happy, Sunny. I think I know we shall be happier and happier as the years pass. We understand one another, Bert and I."

Sunny smiled. "That's where you make a mistake," she said. "You understand Bert all right, but he doesn't understand you, he thinks he does, but he doesn't. No man ever does understand a woman properly yet, and I'll bet you that to the last day of your lives Bert'll never quite understand his wife; and it's just as well he shouldn't."

"I don't understand you, Sunny," Evy cried. "I hide nothing from Bert, there's nothing in the past that I haven't told him."

"I don't mean that," Sunny said.

"I don't understand what you do mean, Sunny, dear."

Sunny shook her head. "When you are as old as me, Evy—"

"As old as you, I'm years older than you are, you child!"

"In some ways I'm a lot older than you," Sunny said, "a lot, a lot, Evy!"

The tiny cottage in Sunnyville seemed very empty tonight. Sunny shivered a little as she lighted the gas. It was lonely coming back here to the emptiness, the more so in comparison with the happy little home she had just left behind her.

"Anyhow, it don't matter about me," she thought. "Bert's happy and Evy's happy and everyone is happy as she'll ever be in this world, and me? If I am a bit lonely, I s'pose it's my own fault." But, I know what I'll do, I know!" She nodded her head.

The idea had been in her head for a long time. "I'll get a woman to come and do for me," she thought, "and I'll have dear old Gibbins here! It's getting to be too much his coming down here four days a week. I'll have him here, get rooms for him next door with Mrs. Bagley, and he'll be happy as a king, bless his old heart!"

With Sunny to decide was to act immediately. Three days later old Gibbins was installed in Mrs. Bagley's front bedroom, as happy as a king as Sunny had said he would be.

But Sunny's home was his home; he took his meals with her; they roamed about the place together and talked to one another, and there was a perpetual smile on the old man's face.

"God has been very good to me, Sunny," he said, "very, very good to me."

"And to me," Sunny said quietly, "it's right, ain't it? His helping those that help themselves."

The old man put his hand affectionately on her arm.

"We've helped one another, my little Sunny," he said. "And He has helped us both. I'm very, very happy here, happier than I ever thought I should be! Happier, my dear, perhaps than I deserve to be." He paused; his hand tightened on her arm for a moment. Sunny looked up at him and saw the tears in his old eyes. She lifted his hand to her lips.

"You and me, no matter what comes, what happens," she whispered, "you and me together, the best of friends, true friends!" She paused; she lifted her little face.

"There," she said, "don't you get it now, the smell of vinegar? It always reminds me of Bert."

* * * * * *

Sunny was sewing industriously. Out on the scrap of a back garden, old Gibbins was manfully digging.

From outside there came the sound of a car. Sunny listened; her face whitened a little. She listened intently, the car had stopped; she heard the sound of footsteps, and the color flooded her cheeks suddenly.

"I thought you—you'd forgotten all about me, Arthur!" she said.

"You didn't think that, Sunny!" he said quietly. "You knew that was not true!"

"Then why—why didn't you come?" she said. "I've been looking for you, it's weeks now since you were here; you never came that day, and I—I—had got such a nice lunch for you."

"I did come that day," he said. "I came, but—" He paused.

"But you didn't come, I didn't see you," Sunny cried.

"You had a visitor; some one was here, so I went away again," he said.

"I—I don't understand," she said.

"Dear, you do, I knew who it was, it was Dobrington, so I did not come; I knew that you did not want me that day, today I have just come to tell you that I am glad you have found your happiness! I understand there was some misunderstanding, some little quarrel, eh? But it is all over; he came back to you, and—so I kept away like a coward, I had a fight with myself, but, thank God! I've got the better of it, I'm here today to wish you joy and happiness, Sunny. I do from the bottom of my heart, without regret, without pain, dear."

"Arthur," she said, "Arthur, I think I know what you mean, but—but you are wrong, all wrong!"

"Wrong," he said, "Wrong, Sunny?"

She nodded. "It was Stan; he—he came back like you said he did; but, Arthur, when he came back I—I knew that something had happened, something that made all the difference to me and to him."

"Sunny," he said, "Sunny, what do you mean? Do you mean that you are not his promised wife?" he cried. "I counted on that. I made up my mind when I saw him here, his car waiting. I thought it would be all right for you again. Sunny dear, is there anything I can do? Tell me, is not the quarrel made up? Is there anything that needs explaining?"

"There's nothing to put right, everything's put right," she said. "It's all cleared up, Arthur, and—and he's gone."

"Gone? You sent him away?"

She nodded.

"Then you—you don't—it was not"—he paused—"Sunny, did you not love him?"

"I thought," she said, "I thought I did, then I knew I was wrong! I told him, and he was angry, very angry with me, Arthur, but it's all over now. Do you remember once here in this little house you said I—I was a wonder, was there anything I could not do? And—I—I said—"

"You said there were some things that you could not do, but you would not tell me what they were, Sunny."

"I—I can't tell you now," she said.

"You sent him away," he said, "you sent him away, why?"

"Because I knew that I did not love him as once I thought I did; he didn't trust me, Arthur, and that killed my love for him."

"Sunny, little Sunny, is there—" He paused; into his eyes there came an eagerness, a new-born hope. "Dear, is there any hope for me now; is there any hope in this world for me, Sunny?"

Sunny looked out through the window at the old man laboring slowly over his work; she looked back into his eager, pleading, hopeful eyes and she smiled.

"That was—was it," she whispered, "one of the things I could not do, Arthur—just to—to tell you, dear, that I—"

"Cared for me?" he whispered. "Cared, Sunny?"

Sunny nodded.

THE END

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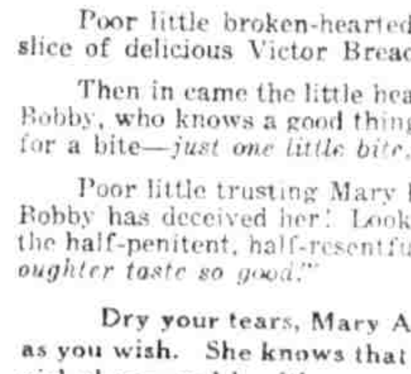

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