

# FINEGAN AFTER BEST OF SCHOOLS

### First Great Aim, He Says, Is to Give Children a Real Education

## PRaises Vocational Plan

West Chester, Dec. 14.—Nearly 500 school directors of Chester County attended the annual meeting yesterday in the Courthouse here of the Chester County School Directors' Association. The attendance being unusually large because directors now are paid \$1 for being present. This speaker of the afternoon session was Superintendent Thomas E. Finegan.

"My ambition," said Dr. Finegan, "is to develop an educational system second to none in America, but this can only be done through your co-operation. The one great aim is to get the children to school and then give them the best which can be afforded."

"They must be present every day, but the important factor is the teaching. We had 5000 teachers in the State last year who had only an elementary education, and the pupils are entitled to better than that. The rural pupils are as much entitled to good instruction as those in the large cities, and they are going to get it if my department can give it to them, but our plans must be revolutionized to do so."

Praise was given the vocational system, but Dr. Finegan said it would be forced on no rural community. If it is wanted, well and good, but if not, good single schools will be recommended. He called the vocational school at Unionville, this county, the model of America.

"It is my aim," said Dr. Finegan, "to make that school one which will be visited by instructors from every section of the country and copied."

New Jersey has improved educational matters to an extent in ten years, and that was credited to the fact that the State spends more on the educational system than does any other State in the East.

Officers were elected as follows: Dr. S. C. Schouwer, president; Miller M. Borg, secretary; George R. North, and vice president; and William C. Andrews, Oxford, vice president in place of Dr. L. T. Bremerman; treasurer, J. Walter Jeffers.

To serve on the eighth-grade Examination Committee, Clyde Dengler was re-elected for a term of two years. As delegates to the State School Directors' Association, the convention elected Mrs. Florence B. Cloud, of East Marlborough, and Mrs. Ella B. Spenkman, of Newlin, and Harvey M. Clymer, of Phoenixville, and John K. Thompson, Oxford, as alternates.

## THE DAILY NOVELETTE

Nick Takes a Hand  
By A. W. PEACH

SOME expert at window display had arranged a number of dolls of mixed varieties in amusing and ridiculous attitudes. Braxton had been gazing at them some time when his eye caught a curly tangle of dark hair just over the smooth cheek of the girl near him who was giggling into the hushing silence of her staff.

Just then she lifted her eyes, laughing eyes to his as she turned away from the window to depart. Her quick look indicated recognition in the sense that one feels when a stranger's face resembles a friend's. He returned the look with the same thought, and with a hazy memory of a rash resolve that he had almost made, never to spend another lonely Christmas in the city, but to go out and speak to the first girl he saw who seemed as lonely as he.

"She's beautiful," he thought, "but I do not believe in—"

"Why, I do not believe in—"

"Yes, you said Braxton, who lived in East Mansfield in Vermont?"

"I am the same chap," he said, somewhat eagerly as he heard the melody of her pleasant voice and caught the diffident note of doubt.

"Well, I am Annabel Morris—the little girl you used to play with years and years ago. I wonder—do you remember me?" she questioned shyly.

He blushed. "My memory of those days is a little hazy, but I do remember a little midget of a girl by that name; and once in a while I hear indirectly of her; and I am certainly glad to see her grown up; and I am glad, too, that she is right here, and—"

"Yes, I am not going to let her get away from me if I can help it. Now, you—"

"She turned to the window and the—"

"What is that?" she asked, and he pointed to the window. "That is—"

"Well, it does seem honest to me, but it's only a few days from Christmas, and it does seem as if—as if two people ought to be mixed up in Christmas. Don't you think so? I mean two to share the Christmas spirit."

"Do I? I should say I did. I was just going out to speak to the first lonely girl I met," he said with zeal.

"Speak to me, then," she reminded him.

"I will. Let's look at those windows along the street. Some of these fellows can make a fair-sized behind a pane of glass without a foot of space to spare."

"Let's," she agreed.

"They started in on their trip through fairyland. They admired, laughed and mused before the Christmas windows; they looked and enjoyed the same windows. He found that he found her under his just as he found her; he found, too, that her voice set echoes to ringing in a delicate, lovely heart, and at the end of that brilliant street with Christmas spirit, he found that, if he were not in love in first sight, he was experiencing a first-class imitation.

After a merry lunch he put her on a car that she informed him would take her to the suburban home where she boarded, and before he released her, he had her promise to attend a play with him.

He watched the car bear her from sight, and turned homeward. "Annabel—how good that name sounds! Gray eyes and friendly eyes. I guess Saint Nick took a hand in bringing us together there. Funny how you stumble now and then, here in this tremendous city, on some one you know! Annabel—Lord, I'm in love with her right off!"

Happy evenings followed. She was busy during the day as an attendant in the office of a physician where her training as a nurse was of value and her personality an asset. In the evening, however, they found happiness in the Christmas spirit abroad. In their chats she recalled memories of the little village, and his own freshened with the result that he was drawn even closer to her.

Then came a tragic moment. "Really, Scott, I don't think we better see each other again."

The shock broke down the barriers. "Why—what—you don't mean—"

He caught himself, put his hands on his shoulders, and spoke swiftly. "You know I am deep in love with you—and you are—"

Her head was down. "Yes, Scott, I am afraid, because I am—I am learning to love you—and there are reasons why—"

"No, please!"

She broke from his arms. His quick step toward her was stayed by a voice. "Scott, some one wants to see you—"

Miss Annabel Morris and her father. He turned to his friend in whose apartment he roomed and where he and the Annabel he loved had come to a tragic crisis. "But I don't—"

Neither do I!" his friend replied. "But she's in the reception room talking to my wife!"

At the end of that hour Scott went to his room, somewhat dazed, but beginning to understand. The true Annabel and her father had come to the city for Christmas, and being strangers there, had looked him up, and he had met them; there was no doubt of that. The other Annabel was a clear impostor, but—she's the one I love!" was his decision.

She had fled at the first words of his friend. Scott tried to find her by telephone; then remembering that she had dropped the name of her physician employer, he telephoned him. The calm voice said he knew no one by that name, but there was a young lady of the description given who had just notified him that she was leaving the city. Rather sudden, he thought.

He must have thought Scott rather sudden, for he did not wait. A taxi took him to the great station. Frantically he tore about, locating every train that was due to leave in order of time. Suddenly, peering through a gate, he saw her, dashed in, and drew her back from the steps. She trembled as she saw him and was powerless.

"Annabel, what—"

"Please," she begged breathlessly, "let me go! I am Ruth Waiter. I deceived you. You came once to the doctor's office for an examination. I noticed you then, and when I filled out your card I saw you had lived where I spent one summer as a girl. I loved you, but you didn't notice me. I thought you were too ill. I've seen you since, and when you stopped at the window I was so lonely and you looked so—so friendly—and I was so lonely, I just had that crazy scheme pop into my head. Now—please—you see—"

"I see just this much, girl that I love no matter what name, that I'm going to marry you on Christmas Day if such a thing can be done. Anyway, Gray Eyes, let's not have a lonely Christmas with every one around us happy! Let's be happy, too! Will you?"

The gatekeeper took in the rapture of that kiss with envious eyes, but Scott did not care nor did the girl he loved, no matter what her name.

**LITTLE BENNY'S NOTE BOOK**  
By Lee Pape

**THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN**  
Short Story by Benny Potts

It was a bitter cold day and the snow flakes were falling by the hundreds as a poor beggar sat on the cold pavement hoping somebody would drop something in his tin cup to keep skin and bones together.

Alas, he sighed internally, this is a heck of a day to be out in with no clothes to speak of.

**Duelists Fire Together: Both Die**  
Dyersburg, Tenn., Dec. 14.—George Ryan and Lonnie Tisdale were both killed in a pistol duel yesterday. Meeting near the railroad station, the two men opened fire and dropped at the same time, each having sustained fatal wounds.

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