

The Social Pirates

Story No. 4
A WAR OF WITS

Plot by George Bronson Howard.
Novelization by Hugh C. Weir.
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(Continued from Yesterday.)

"Why—he is using hyoscine, of course—and I suppose you know that that's about the same thing as scopolamine—if you know what THAT is! If you don't, I'll tell you—it's a narcotic, hypnotic drug. When you've had an injection of it you're not unconscious, as you are with ether or even morphine. You're just sort of—oh, dopy. You're not conscious of pain, but you can talk and move. And—you don't remember anything when it stops working in your system!"

"Oh," said Mary, with a deep long breath. "That is clever, Mona! But we might have known it would have to be something clever!"

"It seems she's got a special check-book—or, at least, an extra one—with her. He suspected that, and when he had her under the influence of the drug he made her get it out. Then he had her hide it in a new place—which she would only remember when she had taken the drug! Do you see?"

"She'd notice the missing checks, you mean, if she saw the book when she was herself?"

"Of course! And, as it is, she does not see them. She won't find out until she gets her next statement from her bank! Oh, it's wonderful—from his point of view. You see—she's given him the check! You ought to say they were for his professional services, and I don't see what she can answer to that! He does help her—naturally. No wonder she's free from pain most of the time!"

"Well—I'm not sorry for her," cried Mary ironically. "The things I've heard about her—the mean things she's done! And, as for the man, of course, he's a doctor. He ought to be for us to have some of the money that he let him keep it. It seems to me our moral position is unassailable, Mona."

"I'm glad of that," said Mona dryly. "because we couldn't think of taking the money if it wasn't, of course."

"We haven't got it yet," said Mary with a laugh. "And I don't care—but it does make me feel a little better to know that we're not doing anything really wrong when we bring off these coups of ours."

"Oh, I know—I feel like that, too," said Mona. "And I don't think we're hypocrites, either. Just how do you expect to go about this? You ought to know more than I do about the doctor. I haven't had much chance to study him."

"I've only begun, really," said Mary. "But I know he spends a lot of time in the Casino. There's a hint here if I can work out some way of following it up. You'd better go back—I'm going to make friends with Dr. Hyoscine. I think he'll be here soon, and we mustn't be seen together."

Dr. Hyoscine did call that evening, as Mary anticipated, and was glad to find her much improved in health. He saw in her, of course, the woman she pretended to be—the social successer she actually was. To him she appeared to be a young and attractive woman—a widow, he guessed, or, at worst, divorced. Her eyes were plentiful, he supposed, or she would not be at Yellow Springs. He quite forgot that he himself was here as an adventurer; or, if he did not forget, he did not reflect that her errand might be like his own.

And so he was glad to find that she seemed ready to welcome his attentions. He was not thinking of marriage—that he felt could not be considered until he knew about her means. But he was entirely willing to make discreet love to her, if she encouraged him, being careful to leave himself a loophole of escape if she proved financially ineligible.

There was enough of a foundation for Mary to build upon. In a few days she and Dr. Hyoscine were on terms that approached intimacy, and he was a frequent and welcome caller in her rooms—her supposed illness being excuse enough. Mary, of course, studied him attentively, and she soon decided that the man's great weakness was his love of gambling; that it was upon this side that he might be most easily approached.

Mona and the Doctor Visit the Casino.

Frequently he was her escort in the Casino. Mary herself did not play. "Oh, I have no scruples against gambling!" she said. "It's this public play that I don't care for. And—must I confess it? I have a vulgar fondness for poker, of all games! Of course I couldn't play that here! Some time, though, perhaps, we could have a game in my room, and I'll show you that I'm a good sport!"

Hyoscine smiled. He thought he knew the sort of poker a woman would want to play! However, he would be willing to endure even a petulant game for the sake of her company. He had walked into Mary's trap, his wily doctor who had proved too clever for Letty McLean herself!

Mary had seen that she must have help. And she was not surprised when, a day or so after her talk about poker with Hyoscine, a bored young man bowed to her on the terrace. She knew him as Marty McMurtha, whose specialty was the impersonation of a young man of wealth.

"An—Mr. Winthrop, isn't it?" she said. "Doctor—you must meet me. Winthrop—John Hyde Winthrop, 34, of Boston! He and I are always meeting at places like this!"

"Oh, one does," said Winthrop. "Nice place, this—healthy, too, eh, doctor?"

Dr. Hyoscine scowled a little. Winthrop did a good deal to remove any faint and lingering doubts he had still cherished concerning Mary. The man was irreproachable; he was dressed in the latest fashion. Speech, manner, appearance, all proclaimed the man of good family, the refined, superior Bostonian. Moreover, it was quite plain that he saw in Mary a most attractive woman, and that she was by no means indifferent to nor displeased by his interest in her. Dr. Hyoscine saw a rival—and naturally his own interest in Mary increased at once.

This was one of the effects that Mary had sought to produce by bringing McMurtha down, and she was not slow to take advantage of it. She knew very well the remarkable potency of jealousy in enhancing one's attractions. And for the next day or two Dr. Hyoscine found that it was much harder than it had been before the arrival of the extremely correct Mr. Winthrop to secure Mary's company.

To Be Continued Tomorrow.

BARN AND HOGS BURNED

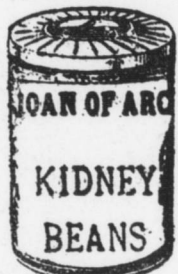
Special to the Telegraph
Dillsburg, Pa., May 15.—A large bank barn on the James Helkes farm, near Mount Zion Church, one and a half miles south of Dillsburg, burned to the ground Friday afternoon. The stock was saved with the exception of twelve head of hogs. The house caught fire from sparks, but was saved by a bucket brigade. The loss will be about \$3,500.



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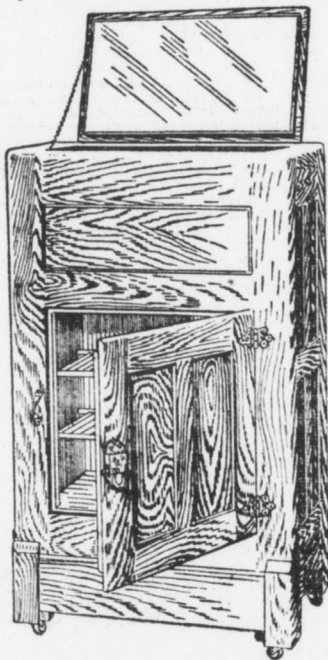
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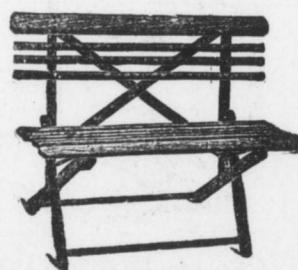
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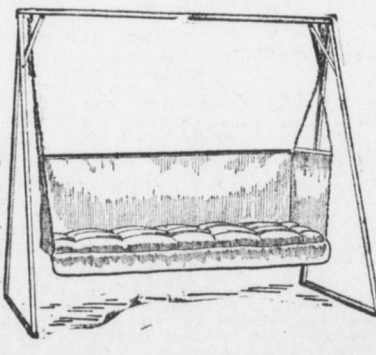
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- 3 qts. Bonnyhead Pure Milk
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- 1 box Diamond Matches
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- 1 package Astor House Rice
- 1 package Fluffy Ruffles Starch
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- 1 package Export Borax Soap
- 1 can Acorn Evaporated Milk
- 1/4 lb. Ho-Ho Tea
- 1 package Sharpless Cream Cheese
- 50c worth of Laundry work
- 1 package Jersey Corn Flakes

- 1 package Luden's Cough Drops
- 1 box Shoe Polish
- 1 package Liquid Veneer
- 1 package Bon Ami
- 1 can Joan of Arc Kidney Beans
- 1 package Fan Tan Corn
- 1 package Celery Verve
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