

Reading for Women and all the Family



"The Insider"

By Virginia Terhune Van de Water

Chapter XVI
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When the guests went away that evening, and Mr. Norton after seeing them off stopped to put out the drawing room lights, I went towards the stairs. But his voice checked me. "Miss Dart," he called. "Wait just a moment. I want to say good night."

"Good night!" I said as he came towards me.

"And I want to thank you," he went on, "for acting the hostess so gracefully this evening. I am also grateful to you for not correcting the error those people made with regard to your position here. There was absolutely no need of enlightening them. They probably will not be here again for a long time—if ever—so why tell them that you are not our cousin when they had derived the impression that you are?"

I wondered inwardly how they had derived the impression. Still I did not care to ask.

"Oh, that's all right!" I said lightly. "Why not allow people to be mistaken when it does no harm?"

"Yes, who not?" he echoed.

Then, as I started away again, he said suddenly—"Do you know as I watched you preside this evening it occurred to me that it would be a great convenience to have you do this at other times, when Mrs. Gore is not well? Or even when she is well it would be mighty nice to have you at dinners, etc., to help along with the conversation. You know, it would brighten things up a bit."

"Thank you," I said, "but—please do not think of that. I am Grace's governess, you know, and my place is with her."

"But she is not a baby who needs a nurse with her day and night," he protested. "Moreover, you are not a nurse. When she is in bed, you can be spared."

"Perhaps," I admitted. "But if she awoke it would be my business to be with her. Moreover, my place here is settled, like my duties, and it would be wiser for me to run no risk of overstepping the one or neglecting the other. Good night again, Mr. Norton. And," I added, by way of softening what I feared might be an abrupt leave-taking, "thank you for a pleasant evening."

Mrs. Gore Calls

Mrs. Gore's door was ajar, and her voice arrested me as I was passing on my way to my own room.

"Miss Dart!" she called. "Come in, please."

I entered, but, as the room was dark, paused uncertainly near the foot of the bed.

"I wanted to ask you if you will tell Maggie to stop in here before she goes to bed," the invalid said. "She is in your room, you know."

"Yes," I replied. "I know she is. I'll tell her."

"Did the evening go off pleasantly?" she queried.

I knew now that the message to Maggie was but an excuse, and that

Mrs. Gore's real reason for calling me had been to learn how I had acquitted myself and if her absence had been noted. I was sorry for this lonely soul.

"Yes," I replied, "the evening went off pleasantly. Of course Mr. Norton's guests asked for you and regretted that you could not be down. They had hoped to meet you."

"I am usually well enough to entertain Brewster's friends," she assured me. "This is the first time I have failed him. I am sure I shall not be so unfortunate again soon."

"I am sure I hope not," I said sincerely.

"However," she went on, "I am glad you could save the situation from awkwardness. I thank you for taking my place."

"Don't mention it," I rejoined. "I am here to be of use in any way you think best."

I would not let her know that I was aware that the suggestion that I preside at the table to-night had not originated with her. Why should I thus antagonize her? It was plain that she wanted to be on agreeable terms with me. Perhaps she had decided that neither animosity nor jealousy had been a successful means to an end. In any case, it was my duty to follow her lead.

A Friendly Wish

"I hope you will be better to-morrow morning, and able to be up," I told her.

I went out, closing her door behind me. I had not heard Mr. Norton come upstairs and I started nervously as I came face to face with him in the hall.

"Good night again!" he said. "By the way—as man to man—tell me, did you ever hear another woman ask as many questions in a given space of time as Mrs. Gilman did to-night?"

"No," I smiled. "I do not think I ever did."

"Her husband has my sympathy," he remarked with a laugh. "She won't miss anything if she knows it."

When I went into my room I found Maggie fast asleep in a great chair, and I had to shake her to arouse her.

"Evidently Miss Grace has not waked up," I remarked when she was fully awake.

"No, ma'am, she hasn't. I guess she don't wake up any more nights, does she?"

"No," I said, "at least she hasn't since I came here."

"Then I don't see why Mrs. Gore's so afraid to have her left up here alone," the girl ventured.

I would not discuss a mistress' peculiarities with her maid, so made no reply.

Secretly I agreed with the girl. If Grace slept soundly through every night, why need I stay up here and listen for her? I abruptly stopped this train of thought.

"That is one of the things you are hired to do," I reminded myself sharply. "Then don't consider the possibility of your not doing it!"

(To Be Continued.)



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(Continued.)

The feeling soon passed. We marched cheerfully away, our hopes busy with what we would do when we reached New York. Johnny and I had accumulated very fair sums of money in spite of our loss at the hands of the robbers, what with the takings at Haugman's Gulch, what was left from the robbery and Italian Bar. These sums did not constitute an enormous fortune, to be sure. There was nothing spectacular in our winnings, but they totaled about five times the amount we could have made at home, and they represented a very fair little stake with which to start life. We were young.

We found Sacramento under water. A sluggish, brown flood filled the town and spread far abroad over the flat countryside. Men were living in second stories of such buildings as possessed second stories and on the roofs of others. They were paddling about in all sorts of improvised boats and rafts. I saw one man keeping a precarious equilibrium in a baker's trough, and another sprawled out face down on an India rubber bed, paddling over-side with his hands.

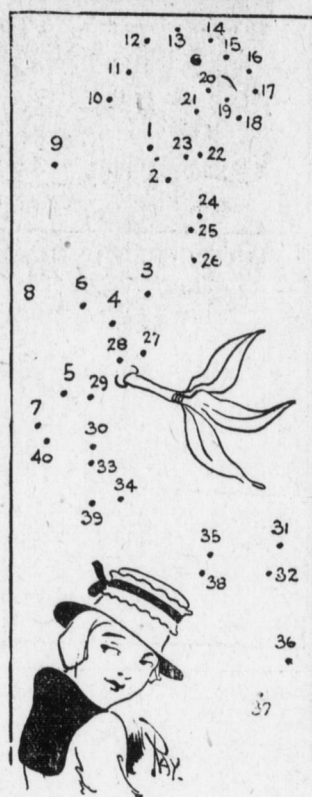
We viewed these things from the thwarts of a boat which we hired for \$10. Our horses we had left outside of town on the highlands. Everywhere we passed men and shouted to them a cheery greeting. Everybody seemed optimistic and inclined to believe that the flood would soon go down.

"Anyway, she's killed the rats," one man shouted in answer to our call.

We grinned an appreciation of what we thought merely a facetious reply. Rats had not yet penetrated to the mines, so we did not know anything about them. Next day in San Francisco we began to apprehend the man's remark.

Thus we rowed cheerfully about, having a good time at the other fellow's expense. Suddenly Johnny, who was steering, dropped his paddle with an exclamation. Yank and I turned to see what had so struck him. Beyond

DAILY DOT PUZZLES



I wonder if my—
Will eat this little carrot.
Draw from one to two and so on to the end.

SPANKED SMOKING WIFE
Elizabeth, N. J., March 20.—Admitting that he had spanked his youthful and pretty bride, Elizabeth, in the good old-fashioned way, Edmund Durka, 56 years old, was arraigned in police court yesterday and testified that he had inflicted the punishment to break his wife of smoking cigarettes. The defendant testified that his wife consumed four packages of cigars each day and because of the high cost of living had insisted that she cut down smoking expenses.

HINTS FOR THE HOME GARDENER

MAKING THE SMALL GARDEN WORK

With Careful Planning Much Food May Be Produced in a Little Space

A LITTLE forethought will enable a comparatively small tract of land to supply the average family with fresh vegetables throughout the growing season, say specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture. Most owners of small gardens are content to raise a single crop on each plot of land at their disposal. It is quite possible, however, to grow two or three crops in one season, and if these are properly selected the home-grown produce will be both better and cheaper than any that can be purchased on the market.

Just what vegetables are to be grown depends, of course, upon the individual tastes of the family. In general it may be said, however, that the aim of the home gardener should be to raise vegetables in which freshness is an important quality. Peas and string or lima beans, for example, lose much if they are not cooked almost immediately after they are picked. On the other hand, as good potatoes can be bought as can be grown. Moreover, they occupy a large area in proportion to their yield and consume in a backyard or small garden valuable space which could be put to much more profitable use. This is true also of corn, cucumbers, squashes, and melons. It will also pay the amateur gardener to grow certain specialties of which he may be fond, and which may be troublesome or expensive to purchase. Okra is an example of this class, and little beds of parsley, chives or other herbs take up very little room and provide the housewife with little additions for her table which are most welcome if they can be picked at the right moment without trouble.

If the small garden plot, however, is to be made to bring the maximum returns in economy and pleasure to the owner, every available foot of it must be made to work continuously. This can be accomplished only by careful planning and it is recommended, therefore, that amateur gardeners draw up in evidence a complete layout for their garden. A typical plan of this character is shown in the appended diagram. On the plan the gardener should indicate the date when each of his projected crops is to be planted. No more space should be

allotted to each than is needed to furnish a sufficient quantity of the vegetable for the family consumption or for local sale. In many cases, also, space should be left between the rows for the interplanting of later crops and for easy cultivation. Plants which make a high growth and cause heavy shade should not be located where they will interfere with sun-loving small plants. Perennials, too, such as rhubarb and asparagus, which are not cultivated, should not be grown among plants which call for tillage.

If a garden is planned in this way and the scheme carried out, the plan should be kept for use the following year, with notes of the success or failure of the different items in it. For example, if too much or too little of any vegetable was grown this fact should be recorded. It is not desirable, however, to follow too closely the same plan in succeeding years. The same kind of vegetables should not be grown twice, if this can be avoided, in the same part of the garden.

This garden was a city backyard 25 by 70 feet in dimensions. It happened to be bounded on two sides by a board fence, and this fact was taken advantage of to plant and train grape vines. Strawberry plants were set alongside of the flagstone walks and currant bushes between the walks and the fence. In the space between the bushes and the strawberries low-growing vegetables, such as beans, peppers, eggplants and the like, were set out. In a space about 12 feet wide between the walks low-growing, quick-maturing, early vegetables were planted in such a way that later-maturing varieties could be put out at proper intervals between them. The early plantings consisted of radishes, early beets, lettuce, carrots, and a few parsnips. The beets gave way later to a few late cabbage plants. The sunniest portion of the yard was turned over to tomatoes of which there were about a dozen plants trained to a single stem and set about 18 inches apart in each direction. Early and late peas were put out in the least sunny portion of the yard. Later, in the fall, spinach, kale and potato-plant sets were planted in order to provide a supply of green succulents for the winter and early spring.

MISSION SOCIETY TO MEET
Lemoyne, Pa., March 20.—A meeting of the Young People's Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church will be held at the home of Miss Slothower, Hummel avenue, this evening.

Remember Our Location
20 N. 4th St.
Harrisburg, Pa.
Near the Young Women's Christian Association

LOW PRICE LEADERS
ROBINSON'S WOMAN SHOP
20 NORTH FOURTH ST.
Near Young Women's Christian Association

Remember Our Location
20 N. 4th St.
Harrisburg, Pa.
Near the Young Women's Christian Association



The Small Boat Immediately Headed In His Direction.

the trees that marked where the bank of the river ought to be we saw two tall smokestacks belching forth a great volume of black smoke.

"A steamer?" cried Yank.

"Yes, and a good big one!" I added.

We lay to our oars and soon drew alongside. She proved to be a side wheeler of fully 700 tons, exactly like the craft we had often seen plying the Hudson.

Along toward midnight as I was leaning on the rail forward watching the effect of the moon on the water and the shower of sparks from the twin stacks against the sky I was suddenly startled by the cry of "man overboard" and a rush toward the stern. I followed as quickly as I was able. The paddle wheels had been instantly reversed, and a half dozen sails were busily lowering a boat. A crowd of men, alarmed by the trembling of the vessel as her way was checked, poured out from the cabins. The fact that I was already on deck gave me an advantageous post, so that I found myself near the stern rail.

"He was leaning against the rail," one was explaining excitedly, "and it

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An Open Letter To Every Woman and Miss In Harrisburg and Vicinity

DEAR FRIENDS AND READERS:

No doubt you are already acquainted with Robinson's Woman Shop—perhaps you have made this your store, perhaps you have never visited us, however in either of these cases this letter should be of importance to you, because you will soon want wearing apparel of some kind, and surely you will want to spend your money where you can make it go the farthest and if you desire to practice true economy, then Robinson's Woman Shop should be your store.

Now you will ask yourself this question "Why can Robinson's Woman Shop sell for less than others?" This is easily answered by saying, Mr. Irving E. Robinson is his own buyer, manager, advertising man, window trimmer, etc; he employs no floor walkers, has no automobile deliveries, no expensive building location, no expensive electrical fronts and has no unnecessary expense which naturally keeps prices down on all stocks as you readily understand that some one must pay for these expenses and naturally it must come from the purchaser; therefore you are always assured of prices being the lowest at Robinson's Woman Shop.

As an illustration of what we say is true, you never pay for alterations here on anything, and even in summer we never charge for alterations on wash dress skirts, no matter what price you pay—even in clearance time alterations are free.

You are never urged into a purchase here, in fact you make your own selection unless of course you ask our girls to help you to select; in this case you are always given an honest opinion. Our policy always has been and always will be—"to serve you and not urge you."

We never buy seconds, job lots, surplus stocks or goods for sale purposes. We never quote values, leaving it entirely to your good judgment as to the value of your purchase and should you be dissatisfied for some reason or other, it is always a pleasure to exchange your purchase, refund your money, or satisfy you in any other way that will please you.

We never advertise \$30.00 and \$35.00 Suits for \$19.50, or \$3.00 and \$3.50 Waists for \$1.95, or \$15.00 and \$20.00 Coats for \$9.98, as we are not believers of such advertising, and we know that the woman or miss of to-day believes as we do, that you cannot get something for nothing, any more than some one could sell you a \$5.00 gold piece for \$1.98.

Our foundation has been and always will be "Honesty in our advertising." Should you not always see our advertisement, we will appreciate when in need of outer-garments to make it a point to inspect our rich stocks, as we know our low expenses mean big savings to you.

Besides Mr. Robinson being on the floor to see that you get prompt and courteous attention, Mrs. Robinson is always here to help you to whatever service she can render, as it is our earnest desire to see that no one goes away dissatisfied, whether one makes a purchase or not.

We are now ready to serve you with rich stocks of Women's and Misses' Suits, Coats, Dresses, Waists, Blouses, Dress Skirts, Petticoats and House Dresses. Every new style is here, every new shade is here, every possible style taste can be suited, as we have prepared for the stylish young miss, the conservative woman, the stout woman, the hard-to-fit woman, in fact we have prepared like never before, and we earnestly extend to you and your friends an invitation to come and inspect our stocks, and we assure you that we will feel honored by your visit.

Taking this opportunity to thank you for any favors shown us in the past and hoping to have the pleasure of serving you in the near future, we are

Very Truly,
ROBINSON'S WOMAN SHOP
Mr. and Mrs. Irving E. Robinson.