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MISS BIGGS' LEGACY.

By EMILY S. WINDSOR.

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MISS BIGGS had always said that she did not like surprises, for they were "mostly unpleasant;" but this one was decidedly not of that category. It had come by the eight o'clock mail the previous morning, and Miss Biggs was still in a state of the greatest amazement. It was only when reading the plainly typewritten lines that she felt that she was not dreaming.

She took up the letter again, although she now almost knew it by heart. There, after a number of legal phrases, was the gist of it all.

"Which estate, after all lawful debts are paid, consists of a mortgage of $4,000 on a property in the neighboring village of Bendor. The said mortgage is overdue, and foreclosure was about to have been made by the late Mr. Biggs."

Yes, there it was, and there was the signature in his own handwriting, of Lawyer John Penny.

Four thousand dollars, and left her by a cousin with whom she had not been on friendly terms for years.

Why, it seemed a fortune! Miss Biggs' glance went around the room. The colors in the carpet had all faded to a dull gray, but she could have a new one now. Some of the chairs were going through in the seat; they should be recaned. And she would buy a new lounge like the one in Dawson's furniture shop, covered with maroon leather. But, best of all, she could have a headstone put to her father's grave.

She was still absorbed in her contemplated expenditures when a knock came at the door. Miss Biggs hurriedly thrust the letter into the pocket of her gown before admitting her visitor, who proved to be Mrs. Sprague. Her plump countenance was flushed from rapid walking.

"La, Susan!" she exclaimed in a high-pitched voice; "I met Deacon Gosset a few minutes ago, and he told me that he'd just got back from Plainville, where he heard that your cousin Hiram had died and left you all his money—so I just ran right over," and she sank into a rocking chair.

"Do tell me," she went on, as Miss Biggs closed the door, and sat down opposite her, "if it is true."

Miss Biggs replied stiffly that it was. Martha Sprague's loud voice and love of news had always annoyed her.

"Well, to be sure," exclaimed Mrs. Sprague. "What luck! 'To them that hath shall be given,' as the Scripture says. When did you hear about it?"

"I received a lawyer's letter yesterday," replied Miss Biggs, coldly.

"La, to think of Hiram Biggs leaving you his money when you were not friends for so long. This is a strange world." And Mrs. Sprague shook her head thoughtfully.

Miss Biggs made no reply to this profound statement. She sat stiff and upright, her eyes fixed in cold politeness on her visitor's face. "Hiram was counted pretty rich," said Mrs. Sprague, tentatively.

She had a burning wish to know the amount of money which Miss Biggs had inherited, but she did not dare to ask plainly.

"I believe so," assented Miss Biggs, indifferently. Mrs. Sprague rocked back and forth. It was plain that Miss Biggs was not going to give her any information on the subject of her legacy, so after a few desultory remarks, she rose reluctantly to go. As she reached the door, she turned suddenly.

"O, Susan," she said, her black eyes snapping spitefully; "guess whom Deacon Gosset saw in Plainville. Sallie Mayhew! Don't you remember her? But, la, I forgot, of course you do," and she laughed meaningly. "You know," she went on, "everyone wondered where she and Jim went. Well, it seems they went out west, where Jim made money. They came back to this state about ten years ago, and Jim bought quite a fine place not far from Plainville. But he lost most everything just before he died a year ago. Deacon Gosset said that Sallie looks so poor and miserable. And she's got a lot of children, so you didn't miss much by not getting Jim," and with another laugh Mrs. Sprague went away.

Miss Biggs had arisen with her visitor, and listened to her with apparent unconcern, a dull red which had crept into her cheeks being the only sign that Mrs. Sprague's words aroused any interest.

But when the latter had gone, she threw herself into a chair, and buried her face in her hands. A tumult of feeling took possession of her, aroused by the memories which those names had stirred up. She had not heard them for so long, and no one but Martha Sprague would have dared!

It was all so long ago—20 years—that the pain and shame of it had grown dim. And he was dead! Yet was it so long ago? It seemed but yesterday that he was with her talking of their coming marriage. She had loved him so, and had been so proud of him, though she had not said much about it; it had never been her way to talk a great deal. Then came that dreadful day when they told her that he had gone away and married Sallie, with her yellow hair and pink cheeks. That awful day—she could remember the shame and agony of it yet! And now he was dead—had been dead a year. There was no feeling of anger in her heart toward him; there never had been much. She had known that he was weak—and Sallie had led him on. But for her—how she hated her! It gave her pleasure to recall Mrs. Sprague's words about her looking poor and miserable.

She was glad that she was suffering; it was but just.

The next morning Miss Biggs donned her old black alpaca gown, which she had carefully brushed. Fortunately, the day, for the beginning of autumn, was cold enough to warrant her wearing her winter cape, which hid the worn spots in her waist. She had freshened her bonnet with new ribbon, so that, as she started to the station next morning, she looked really very well. The excitement of the occasion gave color and warmth to her face. Life was not so hard with $4,000 in prospect. She stepped along briskly.

One of the uppermost thoughts in Miss Biggs' mind during the trip to Plainville was the stone which she could now put to her father's grave. It should be a fine one, and she would order it that very day in Plainville, as soon as her interview with Lawyer Penny was over.

She found the latter awaiting her. He was an elderly man with kindly gray eyes.

After he had made various explanations regarding Miss Biggs' legacy, he said, rather hesitatingly:

"My late client was about to foreclose the mortgage, but perhaps you will be disposed to exercise a little clemency, and extend the time. It is a sad case. If James Mayhew had lived—"

"Who?" interrupted Miss Biggs, sharply.

The lawyer looked at her in surprise. "James Mayhew. If he had lived the mortgage would, no doubt, have been lifted, but dying so suddenly, he left his family in very straightened circumstances. If time is given Mrs. Mayhew will most likely be able to pay the money. She is going bravely to work, and her eldest boy will soon be in a position to help her. If you will make easy terms for her. It will be a great blow to her to lose her home."

Lawyer Penny paused and looked inquiringly at his visitor, but she made no reply, and he went on:

"I should be sorry to see them lose it. If you are willing to extend the time, Mrs. Mayhew will be here today, and it would be a great relief to her to know—"

Miss Biggs stood up abruptly. "I believe I need remain no longer this morning. You will foreclose at once, as you were about to do for my cousin Hiram. Good morning," and she walked quickly out of the office.

Miss Biggs had walked some distance when she remembered her intention of ordering the stone for her father's grave, but she had passed the stone cutter's shop, which was several blocks back. She would not retrace her steps, for she felt strangely tired and weak. She had eaten scarcely any breakfast that morning. She would return home on the noon train instead of passing the day in Plainville, as she had intended. So she turned in the direction of the station. When she reached it a suburban train had just come in, and the passengers were hurrying across the platform. One of them, a woman, was pushed heavily against Miss Biggs. She began to apologize, but stopped suddenly, as Miss Biggs looked up at her with a quickly suppressed exclamation. The two women stared at each other a few moments, and then Miss Biggs brushed past with a brusque movement, and hurried into her train.

Sallie Mayhew! And so thin, pale, and aged! The blue eyes dim and the yellow hair faded. How different from the pink and white face which had tempted Jim.

The weather changed suddenly that evening. A cold and steady rain set in. Miss Biggs found it so depressing that she lit a fire on the broad hearth of her sitting-room, reflecting as she did so, that with those $4,000, it was no longer necessary to deny herself such little comforts. She settled herself to enjoy the blaze, but she could not rest. She felt peculiarly unquiet, and tried to account for it by telling herself that she was tired out after her trip to Plainville, but as her unrest increased, she gave up the attempt of trying to conceal from herself its true cause. Finally she put into shape a resolution which had been trying to force itself upon her all afternoon, and then going to bed, slept peacefully.

Among Lawyer Penny's letters the next morning was the following:

"Mr. J. B. Penny—Dear Sir: You will not foreclose that mortgage. I wish you to make whatever arrangement will best suit Mrs. Mayhew. Very truly yours,

"SUSAN BIGGS."

"I declare," said Mrs. Sprague during the winter: "Susan Biggs ought to be ashamed of herself to go on wearing those shabby old clothes when she has so much money. She got all that property of Hiram's, and she is just as saving as ever. And it is a disgrace for her to leave her father's grave without a stone. I've no patience with such people."

The Matter-of-Fact Girl.

In the county of Wicklow lies the picturesque vale of Avoca, famous in song. Here is the confluence of two rivers, the Avonmore and Avonbeg, which bears the name of "The Meeting of the Waters." Two British tourists chanced to meet at this spot a girl bearing a pitcher of water, of whom they inquired the name of the river. "The Meeting," was the prompt reply. "Oh! we know that," quoth the tourists; "but what river is it?—what name do you call it by?" "Osh!" said the girl, "I never call it at all; it always comes of itself."—London Spectator.

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WITH SWORD AND CRUCIFIX. By E. S. Van Zile
THE CONSPIRATORS By R. W. Chambers

Some Short-Story Contributors
W. E. Norris, Owen Hall, F. J. McCarthy, H. S. Merriman, E. F. Benson, H. S. Williams, John Corbin, M. S. Briscoe

THE WEST — and its industries will be treated in a series of articles by Franklin Matthews.
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A DANDY AT HIS BEST — By Julian Ralph
THE KING'S TREASURE-SHIP — By Reginald Gourlay

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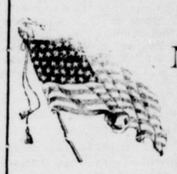

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RAILROAD TIME TABLES.

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Trains depart: No 14, at 9:40 A. M; No. 2, at 5:40 P. M. Butler time.
Trains arrive: No. 1, 10:00 A. M; No. 11, 3:00 P. M. Butler time.
No. 14 runs through to Erie and connects with W. N. Y. & P. at Huston Junction for Franklin and Oil City, and with N. Y. L. E. & W. at Shenango for all points east. No. 2 runs throughto Greenville and connects with W. N. Y. & P. for Franklin and Oil City. W. R. TURNER, Ticket Agent.

PITTSBURG & WESTERN Railway. Schedule of Passenger Trains in effect Nov. 20, 1898. BUTLER TIME.

	Depart.	Arrive.
Allegheny Accommodation	6 25 A.M	9 17 A.M
Allegheny Express	[illegible] "	9 32 "
New Castle Accommodation	[illegible] "	9 17 "
Akron Mail	8 15 A.M	7 05 P.M
Allegheny Accommodation	10 05 "	12 18 "
Allegheny Express	3 15 P.M	5 20 "
Pgh, Balt. and New York Express	10 45 am	"
Chicago Express	3 55 pm	11 50 am
Allegheny Mail	5 42 "	7 45 pm
Allegheny "Flyer"	"	7 05 "
Ellwood Accommodation	5 42 "	7 05 "
Chicago Limited	5 42 "	9 17 A.M
Kane and Bradford Mail	9 50 A.M	5 20 P.M
Clarion Accommodation	5 35 P.M	9 56 A.M
Cleveland and Chicago Express	6 25 am	"
SUNDAY TRAINS.		
Alleghe