

The Empty House

By Fannie Barnett Linky

The little brown car had swung with a soft humming sound down the smooth road, and its sole occupant was sitting with her hands in her lap, looking dreamily out at the landscape and the rows of houses that they passed.

If, as the poets say, "the eyes are mirrors of the soul," then it was very apparent that Elaine Hargrave was not happy, for the sad, far-away expression on her face told its own story.

As the machine turned the corner of the street, however, she began to take more interest in her surroundings. Suddenly she leaned forward and spoke to the chauffeur.

"Stop, Jacques," she commanded, sharply, "at the house 'To Let.'"

The brakes ground sharply, and Elaine stepped out at once. She looked again and drew in her breath quickly. A wave of crimson flooded her face. The chauffeur wondered at the sudden order, for they were already late for dinner, and he did not think that his mistress could possibly want to look at this empty house.

The glory of a perfect spring day was over all the out-of-doors. It seemed a day to tempt anyone to remain in the open, and drink in to the full the beauties of bountiful nature, but evidently this did not attract the girl, for she mounted the steps of the house at once.

She looked around at Jacques after she had rung the bell. "Wait till I come out," she said.

A slovenly-looking woman suddenly appeared in response to her ring. She was as dusty looking, somehow, as the house was, and quite as dejected looking; but Elaine scarcely saw her as she spoke:

"I want to see the house," said the girl. "I suppose I can go in?"

"Well, it's getting pretty late, mum, and I don't think as you'd be seen' much," replied the old woman.

"You can give me your candle," said Elaine, quietly, as she slipped a coin into the not over clean hand, and with a little gasp, the woman yielded.

The front door was opened, and Elaine went through the passage and gazed upstairs like a ghost, the woman promptly returning to the lower regions, whence she had come. Lighted the dirty candle from a gas jet burning in the passageway, Elaine went from one room to another with quick, nervous haste. Her face was quite colorless, but her eyes burned with a feverish light that made her seem very different from the brilliant lady of fashion that most people knew as Elaine Hargrave. Here she was but a girl; and face to face with memory, a memory that was still alive after three years of bitter struggle—the struggle of trying to forget.

For today was the third anniversary of what was to have been Elaine Hargrave's wedding day, but that wedding never took place; and on the third anniversary of "what might have been," as Elaine expressed it herself, and just home from travels that had taken her into the faraway corners of the world, the girl had become possessed with the desire to see the place that once she had expected to call "home."

She stopped for a moment in her fitting from room to room and looked about her. Here, but three short years before, she had planned to come as a happy bride, and here she had left the man she loved after her bitter quarrel, called him "Puritan" and "Prude," because he would not countenance the ways of her "set." How empty and false were the ways of that very same set, she had come bitterly to realize, just as in her heart of hearts she had come to respect all the more the man who would not bow down to them. And how empty was her heart as well!

She could see him plainly, if she but shut her eyes for a moment, as he stood before her that day so long ago, so tall and proud and good to look at. She had always taken such pride in his good looks, all the more so because he had not belonged to her "set," but had come to the city unknown, and had worked up to an enviable position. She could almost hear again his earnest voice as he remonstrated with her on that last fateful day in this house.

She recalled now how she had flung away from him, although in her heart she had known even then that he was right, but some perverse spirit seemed to urge her not to give in; how she had refused to do what he asked for, telling her "that she would live her life without him, and that she realized now that it was a mistake to expect an outsider—a plebeian—to understand the ways of her kind of people." Even now, after three years, Elaine still winced as she thought of those hasty words of hers. How she must have hurt him—and all the time she was hurting herself as well; and he had let her go on without a word of protest, in the end gravely agreeing with her, and saying that he would never ask her to come back again. And he hadn't. And they never met nor wrote.

Elaine's eyes were opened now, but of course it was far too late to give in and acknowledge her loss in the wrong. Three years of time had passed between them, the bar of resentment words on either side keeping them apart.

She started once more on her pilgrimage through the rooms. First the dining room, with the familiar paper, which she herself had selected. He had not been so well-off then, and had insisted upon living in the style that his own earnings would entitle them to—but he had worked hard to give her as many as possible of the luxuries that she had been accustomed to.

"So small a thing to men so large a loss," murmured the girl to herself. She had read those words somewhere, and now they came into her mind. She stood for a time looking out through the clouded windows. Great tears welled up in her eyes and poured down over her face—as if the barriers were suddenly let down and engulf her memory to flow in and engulf her.

She had never allowed herself to think in this way before, but the spirit of love seemed to have come back to the dusty little room from which he had flown three years before. For her time passed unheeded.

Darkness fell. Outside James felt very cross. The idea of anyone spending so much time looking at an empty house! He folded his arms and went half asleep. Down in the basement, the care-taker, having finished her supper, came up, and forgetting all about her visitor, or, thinking that she had surely gone away long ago, closed the door and went home.

And Elaine dreamed on—for how long, she knew not. But suddenly she awoke to reality with a start, to notice that it had grown very dark outside, and that there were footsteps coming through the hall. Then came the sound of a voice that seemed familiar.

"Hold the light low there, please. I wish to see all the rooms. There, thank you; that's better."

Elaine had crept to the door, and was listening with a white face. She had a glimpse of the two men as they passed the door—one, evidently the night watchman, holding the lamp, and the other, the man she had sent away three years before.

"So he, too, has not forgotten," thought Elaine, bitterly.

She wondered if she should speak—make her presence known—but each time she tried to her courage failed her. She looked again. Yes, there he was! Standing in front of the open fireplace. Once more she peered through the open door. "How changed he was," she said to herself. "How much older and grayer."

Her face was still wet with the traces of her recent tears, but she did not even know it as she went up and tapped gently on the wall between the two rooms. He turned round suddenly with a great start. Then he came to the door and opened it wider. Elaine walked into the room.

All the light from the lamp seemed to shine on the slender figure, standing there so erect and proud. The girl's face was white and strained, but her blue eyes shone like twin stars. The man started back with a little cry of unutterable astonishment.

"Elaine! Good God!"

"Listen," she said softly, her hands outstretched. "Let me humble myself while I can. I need you, Richard—I want you—you and the little house."

MEDAL OF HONOR TESTS ARE FIXED

GENERAL PERSHING TELLS HIS OFFICERS WHAT DEEDS ARE TO BE REWARDED.

ARMY STORES' LOW PRICES

Soldiers in France Can Buy Many Things Cheaper Than in This Country—New "Overseas Cap" Added to American Equipment.

(From Committee on Public Information.) Washington.—These tests are applied to cases recommended for the medal of honor, according to instructions issued as a guide to officers by General Pershing:

Men who have performed in action deeds of most distinguished personal bravery and self-sacrifice above and beyond all call of duty; so conspicuous as clearly to distinguish them for gallantry and intrepidity above their comrades; which involve risk of life or the performance of more than ordinarily hazardous service, the omission of which would not justify subjecting the person to censure for shortcoming or failure in the performance of his duty.

The distinguished-service cross is awarded for gallantry in action to anyone who may distinguish himself in action by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operation against an armed enemy, under circumstances which do not justify the award of the medal of honor.

The distinguished-service medal is awarded for exceptionally meritorious service to the government in connection with operations against an armed enemy.

Prices quoted for June on merchandise in the huge general stores operated by the quartermaster corps in France show that members of the expeditionary forces may secure goods at prices lower than retail prices in effect in this country.

June quotations are: Half-pound package chocolate, 11 cents; can of cherries, 24 cents; can of cocoa, 14 cents; pocket comb, 6 cents; can of corn, 10 cents; shaving brushes, 15 cents; tooth brushes, 12 cents; can stringless beans, 10 cents; bottle gullie ale, 9 cents; can plum pudding, 32 cents; standard 50 safety razors, \$1.75; pair shoe laces, 3 cents; can talcum powder, 5 cents; pound cut-loaf sugar, 10 cents; spoon cotton thread, 4 cents; two-ounce package smoking tobacco, 7 cents; hand soap, 1 cent; can lobsters, 25 cents; shaving soap, 4 cents; bottle Worcestershire sauce, 20 cents; linen handkerchiefs, 15 cents; pint bottle olives, 23 cents; can green peas, 10 cents; shoe polish, 9 cents.

Although the men are issued ample rations the quartermaster stores are opened to the enlisted men for the purpose of permitting them to add to their menu or to satisfy individual desires for dainties or delicacies. The highest grade of merchandise only is carried in stock so that the men may be sure of having the best, whether in rations or extra supplies.

Meats, groceries, fish, vegetables, notions, toilet articles, smokers' articles, and scores of miscellaneous items are included in the published price lists. These lists are made available to each company and purchases may be made either for cash or on credit.

Among the staples to be found in these chain stores are: Fresh beef, ham, bacon, turkey, potatoes, rice, hominy, beans, onions, coffee, tea, sugar, cheese, cocoa, butter, and evaporated fruits. The canned fruits and vegetables include: Apples, peaches, apricots, pears, cherries, currants, pineapples, prunes, asparagus, sweet corn, tomatoes, mushrooms, sweet potatoes, spinach, squash, turnips and beans. Included in the list of canned meats and fish are: Lobsters, oysters, salmon, mackerel, cod, sardines, shrimps, herring, deviled crabs, sausages, tongue, turkey, deviled ham, corned beef, corned-beef hash, roast beef and mince-meat.

For the man with a sweet tooth there are: Jams, jellies, preserves, raisins, apple butter, maple sirup, molasses, cranberry sauce, citron, nuts, candy, etc. The smoker may purchase smoking tobacco and chewing tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, pipes, cigarette papers and matches. The incidental needs of all the men are supplied with razors, combs, brushes for all purposes, buttons, soap, shaving sticks, shaving mugs, mirrors, razor straps, shoe polish, shoe laces, toilet water, talcum powder, tooth powder, witch-hazel, towels, handkerchiefs, pocket-knives, needles, thread, candles and playing cards.

In one army camp there are 55 battalion baseball teams, besides the headquarters, staff, brigade and division teams.

More than 800 penalties for violation of rules and regulations governing licensed dealers in foodstuffs have been imposed during the past ten months by the food administration. About 150 companies and individuals have been ordered to quit business in licensed commodities for a limited or unlimited period, and over 500 have voluntarily made a money payment, usually to the Red Cross, or have temporarily abstained from doing business rather than risk calling down more drastic penalties.

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Standard safety razors are now being issued to men in the expeditionary forces. In addition, each man is issued a toothbrush, comb, hairbrush, soap and towels.

SIGNIFICANCE OF HUN'S SUBMARINE

Fabric of International Economic Life Is Threatened.

DEPENDING ON LAND POWER

Germany's Aims Must Be Thwarted, Forcing Her to the Sea and Observance of Its Rules of Freedom.

By FRANK J. GOODNOW. From the Committee on Public Information, Washington, D. C.

The nineteenth century witnessed what was probably the greatest achievement of the human intellect. This was the bringing about of the economic unity of the world. Since the opening of the present century it may be said that no country which has any marked development has been self-sufficient. The products of the tropics have become articles of necessity to the inhabitants of the temperate zone. The minerals which nature has stored in such profusion in particular districts are regarded as held in trust for the world at large. Failure in the crop of certain staples like cotton, which can be grown only under peculiar conditions, is felt in distant lands. Drought in the Australian antipodes makes it difficult for Europe to clothe herself in wool.

This economic world unity has been the result of a slow development. Many things have contributed to its growth. Without, however, the recognition of the freedom of the seas it would have been impossible. The transportation of many products is conditioned by the cheapness of freight rates incident to water routes. These routes are available for general use only if the sea is free to all who desire to use it, unimpeded from attack. Their interruption as a result of the naval operations of the present war has been followed by scarcity in many countries.

The freedom of the sea became an established fact only in comparatively recent times. A perusal of the quaint phraseology of some marine insurance policies, often still retained beyond the times to which it is applicable, reveals the dangers incident to ocean travel not so many years ago. Pirates, pirates and pirates all combined not so long ago to make the risks of ocean travel extra hazardous. The claims of potatoes and pineapples to monopolize the ocean were recognized as incapable of justification only a few hundred years back. Pirates still plied their nefarious trade within the memory of living men. Indeed, pirates are still to be found in the rivers and estuaries of southern China, and merchant ships in that part of the world are compelled to arm themselves even now against piratical attack, as was universally the case the world over not much more than one hundred years ago.

No Peculiar Rights to Sea. The freedom of the sea against piratical attack was secured by the united efforts of all seafaring nations who treated the pirate as an outlaw to whom no consideration or quarter was to be given. Long before this result was reached it was determined by common agreement that no one country should claim any particular rights in the sea such as Spain and Portugal had with papal sanction once set up. Apart from the influence of principles of justice, it was found as a practical matter that live and let live was the only principle which could be applied. For interference with the ships of any country was easily repayable in kind. Censorious hostility between seafaring powers would have followed the application of any other policy, as it did actually follow the monopolistic attempts of Spain.

The significance of the submarine which has first been used in the war now raging consists in the fact that its use imperils the economic unity of the world to which attention has been called. The submarine threatens the freedom of the seas through the recognition of which progress in the direction of world economic unity has been made possible. The submarine threatens the freedom of the seas because no adequate method of defense against it has as yet been discovered. If it is used as it has been in the past few years by a nation whose chief concern is land rather than sea power, retaliation and reprisal are impossible. Two can play at the game of sea monopoly when surface shipping and seafaring nations are concerned. But where the submarine is used by a power whose interests are continental rather than oceanic the game which is played is quite a one-sided one. All the power which is attacked can do is to endeavor to destroy as many submarines as possible, and recent experience would go to show that such a policy is not effective. A power which makes use of submarines for the destruction of merchant shipping of course invites reprisals, but if that power has no shipping such reprisals are impossible.

Owed Existence to Britain. This is the situation at the present time. The submarine is the weapon of the German empire whose seacoast is both small and completely under the control of Great Britain so far as concerns its use as a base for sea power. Germany had, it is true, a great merchant marine before the outbreak of the war. But she knew very well that that merchant marine owed its very existence to the forbearance of Great Britain and that at the first breath of war it would melt away.

Germany, therefore, determined to pin her faith on railways which should pass through lands under her control. This is the secret of the Berlin-Bagdad railway. This is the reason why Turkey was brought under her dominion and Serbia was sacrificed. To this belief in her continental destiny is due the desire to exercise her influence over Austria. The fulfillment of her plan involved the control of Constantinople, since only at Constantinople

BOMBAY GREAT CITY

Beautiful Metropolis Owes Much to the Parsis.

Unthinkable Towers of Silence Still Maintained in Heart of Most Fashionable Residential District—Population Now Million.

Bombay now has nearly 1,000,000 inhabitants. At the beginning of the nineteenth century it already had 200,000 and early in the twentieth century the census takers counted 950,537 souls. Elleanor Franklin Egan writes in the Saturday Evening Post, nearly 700,000 of these are Hindus and 150,000 are Mohammedans, while less than 10,000 are Christians, counting both pure European and mixed blood.

There are about 60,000 Parsis, and the Parsis are the most interesting and important element in the community. It is to British initiative and example and to Parsi appreciation, intelligence and generosity that Bombay owes the fact of her present existence as one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Yet the Parsis still maintain the unthinkable towers of silence in the heart and center of Bombay's most fashionable residential district; the towers of silence, where the Parsi dead are disposed of by the forever hovering horrible flocks of kites, which on occasion grow gorged and careless and drop human flesh and little bones in the flowering fragrant gardens of the great on Malabar hill. But what would you? The towers of silence are unthinkable only to the Christian mind.

To the mind of the Parsi all other methods of disposing of the dead are unthinkable. The Parsis are sometimes carelessly referred to as Persian Jews or are grouped with Persian Jews, of whom there are a good many in Bombay. But the faith of the Parsis is not the Jewish faith. They are Zoroastrians—worshippers of the sun and fire as the truest manifestations of the Almighty—and they came down from Persia into India about the middle of the seventh century, when they began to be grossly persecuted by the Mohammedan conquerors of the Sassanian empire.

But they were persecuted always by the Mohammedan conquerors of India and by the Hindus, until the happy day arrived for all religions when British power began to be predominant in India. But Bombay was purely British long before the rest of India was anything but a happy hunting ground for English merchants, and the Parsis along with other mistreated elements in the population flocked to the sure shelter of the British flag. There are only about 100,000 Parsis in all India today and 90,000 of them belong to the Bombay Presidency or province and at least 60,000 of these live in the city of Bombay.

Many of them are gentlemen of the finest type and they are distinguishable by their long black coats and the curious stiff black interlock hats they wear. Their homes are the most pretentious in the city—palaces set alongside British palaces in the most fashionable districts; and they control a tremendous percentage of the city's commerce and trade.

A Parable. Brand Whitlock said in an address in Washington: "My own experiences have done me good. They have broadened my mind. I am a writer rather than a politician, and we writers live too restricted lives. "You know the story of Carlyle and his sound-proof room in Chelsea. "Carlyle had built a sound-proof room for himself on the top of his house. The room had no windows, but only a skylight for illuminating purposes. To an elderly visitor from Cranleighputlock the room was shown proudly by Carlyle, and the visitor gave a cackling laugh and said: "My conscience, this is fine! Here you may write and study all the rest of your life and nobody'll be a bit the wiser!"

Children's Savings. More than 40,000 children under sixteen years of age have savings accounts in the Los Angeles banks. They have more than \$1,000,000 on deposit, or an average of something over \$25 each. One thirteen-year-old youngster is credited with heading the list. He has nearly \$2,000 on deposit, from a beginning made with 50 cents when he was seven years old.

Many of the Los Angeles banks make special provisions for the savings accounts of children and in addition to accepting savings accounts, teach lessons of thrift in their advertising matter. They also lend encouragement to thrift propaganda in the public schools and children's organizations.

Hint on Physical Culture. Merely to hear the sound of music gives one the dancing impulse—an inclination to move the feet or the hands or the body in time with the rhythm of the music. To make your exercise attractive, therefore, start your music first and then as you feel the swing of it you will find pleasure in going through your exercises. Make it a part of your daily schedule. You can either follow the practice of taking ordinary, standard exercises to the accompaniment of music or you can do special dancing movements. All dancing movements partake of the character of exercise.—Carl E. Williams in Physical Culture.

Origin of Tea Drinking. Tea drinking seems to have originated in China; and the Chinese, according to Prof. King, in his "Farmers of Forty Centuries," drank it first as a sanitary measure, having found that boiling their water saved them from typhoid and afterward adding tea leaves to make the boiled water palatable. Dr. R. A. Gortner of the University of Minnesota, writing in Science, believes that this is not an exact description of what happened, but that the discovery of the efficacy of tea as a typhoid preventive came after its general adoption in China as a pleasing drink.

BOYS' LETTERS TO MOTHER

Missives Written From Trench or Encampment Have Much More Than Ordinary Meaning.

The soldier boy should understand that he must do a good deal of the letter-writing himself. He should not depend upon the mother or sister to do it all. A letter from home is a grand influence but a letter home makes the writer truer, stronger and nobler. Remember every word the boy writes has a mission in it, and that mission embraces himself as well as the loved ones at home. A boy can make for himself a fine character by simply writing to his mother. He cannot hold converse with her even by mail without becoming a better boy. He is not in near as much danger from army follies and sins after writing a letter to his mother. Any boy who writes frequently to his home will make a better soldier and come out of the war a truer man. The army is a school and letter writing is a recitation that shows a boy's intellectual and spiritual progress, and it will do what a recitation is designed to do—stimulate him to do his best. A letter to mother is a loving thought of her and these loving thoughts make the boy a brave, truer soldier.—Ohio State Journal.

The Japanese Week. In old Japan the week was entirely unknown, and it was not until the present era that the Ichiroku, or holidays, one of the "ones" and "sixes" of each month (i. e., on the first, sixth, eleventh, etc.), were introduced. But that was speedily abandoned for the week system. Sunday is an official holiday, with names adapted from the Occidental names, as follows: Niekayobi (Sunday), Getsuyobi (Monday), Kayobi (Tuesday), Sulyobi (Wednesday), Mokuyobi (Thursday), Kinyobi (Friday), Doyobi (Saturday). Sunday is in vulgar parlance also called Dontaka, which is a corruption of the Dutch Zondag, and Saturday is called Handow—that is, "half-Sunday."

Avoid the Discourager. Sometimes people grow discouraged because their work does not seem to count for much. A taper lay in a drawer, whence its owner took it out and carried it away. "Where are you taking me?" asked the taper. "To show big ships their way across the sea," was the reply. "But no ship could see by means of my tiny light." "Leave that to me," said the owner, as he lighted the big lantern and blew the taper out.

Responsibility the Cure. If there is anything that shows what a man or woman really is it is responsibility. It makes those taking a stand in the full light, where they can really justify their claims. If a person who constantly boasts his greatness can stand under the test and burden of responsibility, then his success is assured. If he fails in this test he loses friends. Until such persons regain their position they are despised and rejected.

Martyr and Coward. A witty judge declared recently that "a patriot was a man who refused to button his wife's blouse. A martyr, he went on, 'is one who attempts and fails, while a hero tries and succeeds.' "Then what is a coward?" asked a curious bystander.

"Oh, a coward," replied the judge, "is a man who remains single so that he won't have to try."

The use of tractors on Louisiana rice farms has increased 50 per cent in the last few years.

Notable Men Epileptic.

John Bunyan's epileptic characteristics were well marked. Julius Caesar, Peter the Great, Wellington and Alexander the Great were sufferers, and the strong assertion is made that Napoleon was also subject to its mental control. Lord Byron was a notable epileptic, as was Balzac and the composers Mozart and Mendelssohn. Jean Jacques Rousseau was esteemed as one of the class, and even claim is lodged that Thackeray was a victim of the disease. These are but few of hundreds of noteworthy instances in the annals of the human race.

Who Built First Auto?

Just who built the first automobile in the United States is a matter of dispute. Elwood Haynes of the Haynes Automobile company of Kokomo, is one of the claimants of the honor. A machine built by him in 1893-4, which made a successful trial trip at the speed of six or seven miles an hour July 4, 1894, is on exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

Indian Name Survived.

The survival of the original name of Cuba is a remarkable instance of persistence, as the island has been baptized and rebaptized many a time since its European discovery. Columbus first called it Juana, in honor of Prince John, the son of Ferdinand and Isabella. After Ferdinand's death it was called, in his memory, Ferdinand. Subsequently this name was changed to Santiago, after St. James, the patron saint of Spain. Still later it was named Ave Maria, in honor of the Virgin Mary. But none of these names held, and the Indian name is still preserved.

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Thousands of women are employed in the United States gas-mask plant.

They are acting as inspectors and are engaged throughout the entire process of manufacture, according to a statement from the gas defense service. Hundreds of girls have been trained in the special art of sewing the face pieces. Each separate step in the assembling of the mask is done by women workers, until the mask is completed, the last inspection is made and the final product is ready for shipment overseas.

The military postal express service established for the expeditionary forces has charge of the collection, dispatch and delivery of all mail emanating from and destined for the American forces in France.

It also will receive, dispatch and deliver the express arising, or arriving, in France for the American forces, and will deliver express bound for the United States to the proper express company.

The three new national forests recently established in the East include approximately 658,000 acres.