

# A Liberal Reward

By Ethel Barrington

Deep in the heart of each man and woman lies some unfulfilled ambition toward which his efforts tend as a goal. With Myra Darling it was a gold watch.

Her days were passed behind a counter where a variety of neckwear was displayed. The remuneration was small and served only to provide her with a "home" and the simplest of comforts. The watch for which her soul hungered might have been the moon or the Rose's egg. But more trying than the privations she endured was the cheapness and narrowness of her life so different from the gentle surroundings of her girlhood.

It was her birthday, her eighteenth year, and Sunday—a day free from the aisle walker's espionage, a happy combination which Myra enjoyed to the full. A long afternoon in the crisp, cool air of the park was a happy event.

It was turning dusk as she left the park. The city lamps already shone in a long line down the avenue. On the side streets the shadows fell black and ugly, causing a few buildings to stand out in bold relief. Suddenly a flash from a passing automobile struck a small, round object that glittered near the curb. Myra bent over to pick it up. Had some beneficent fairy godmother thrown the gift at her feet? It was a watch, and on her birthday! She seized it rapturously and, looking neither to the right nor left, fled up the steps of her boarding house, never pausing until she stood in the hall room she called her home. She lighted the gas and drew down the shade, then breathlessly examined her new found treasure. The small hunting case was of gold, with no mark to identify it, and set in diamonds.

"You little beauty," whispered the girl as she caressed it with her fingers. Then, with woman's curiosity, she tried to open the back. It was difficult, but at last Myra gasped with surprise. The face of a young man, with honest eyes and kindly mouth, looked into her own. "I wonder if he owns the watch?" she thought. "No, it's a woman's trinket. He must have given it to the girl—and if so he's rich."

Myra abruptly closed the case. But she could not shut out the face from her mental vision.

She passed her evening rocking slowly in her chair, with a magazine between her fingers, the gentle ticking of the watch counting the passing hours. That night she dreamed not of the watch, but of a life which the watch typified, and through the dream stalked a man whose face was the face in the watch.

She awoke a little after 6 to revel in the delight of knowing the exact hour and turning luxuriously over for another fifteen minutes.

All day she thought about her wonderful acquisition and smiled happily to herself. The other girls noticed it and twitted her in their good natured if rather coarse way. Myra laughed, but guarded her secret and hurried home to pass another evening of the watch. But a life which the watch typified, and through the dream stalked a man whose face was the face in the watch.

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TOM HAD PRESENTED MYRA WITH A GOLD WATCH.

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# PITH AND POINT.

Few things are as good as they look. A little girl likes to take care of a baby, but it's different with a boy.

People complain a good deal. Still, they have a good deal to complain about.

Don't be too sure of yourself. The other fellow may only appear to be fooled.

How often you hear the expression, "He thinks no one has any rights but himself."

If a boy is healthy, two minutes after he has reached home from school he is eating something.

Some day the time comes to every man when the most he can do for those around him is to be patient.

There are two kinds of lock-gold: lock for which you must work and had lock which appears unannounced.—Archibald Globe.

The Skin of My Teeth.

Speaking of the somewhat popular lack of familiarity with the Bible, it deserves to be said that this deficiency is not confined to unlettered people. In an article on a political crisis in England Justin McCarthy quoted the expression "by the skin of my teeth" and parenthetically apologized for using what he called a vulgar phrase. The expression is quite commonly rated as slang by very intelligent people. A cynical commentator on this expression calls it an Urdu, for the reason that Job originally made use of it in his wallings. Saith Job in his nineteenth chapter, twentieth verse: "I am escaped with the skin of my teeth."—Boston Herald.

A Dampener.

"I don't know any sensation as humiliating as that of being told after you have just finished your best story, 'I've heard that before—but in a different way, of course, or I heard that another way,' or some other polite way of saying 'Cheer up!' said a prominent lawyer. "If there is anything that dumps cold water on the story teller and the audience it is that sort of thing. In some parts of the country it would almost mean gun play. I entirely agree with the old Kentucky colonel who used to say, 'No gentleman, sah, ever heard a story before, sir.'"—San Francisco Chronicle.

Making the Advance.

At a woman's club meeting in New York recently a woman who had made a witty speech about men in general was asked by one of the members if she could tell just what was the meaning of the expression, "An average man." "Of course I can," she promptly replied. "I think an average man is one who smiles and looks pleasant all day at the office, but when he comes home acts as cross as a bear with a sore head, just so he can make up the average."

The King of Mollusks.

The king of mollusks lives in the Indian and south Pacific oceans. He is tall to a weight of 500 pounds and the shells is of the bivalve kind, and the shells are about the same as that of our common fresh water mussel. The gigantic tridacna is the largest mollusk known to have lived on the earth since the sturion age. It is found on the bottom of the shallow seas of the ocean, and the large individuals have no longer the power to move about. They lie on one side, and all about them the corals build up until King Tridacna is sometimes found in a well-like hole in the coral formation.—St. Nicholas.

A GREEDY CORMORANT.

When a keeper in the National Zoological park in Washington I observed a remarkable example of the well known greediness of the cormorant.

Four little cormorants came to the zoo and were placed in a cage in which they had once been kept. Outside was a pebbly yard in which the dogs had been exercised. The cormorants waddled about this yard and seemed to be having a fine time until one morning I noticed that one of them was sitting on the ground unable to rise. He did not waddle up to get his meal of whole fish, each usually about half as long as his own body, and as the others came rushing toward me to get their share I knew that he was ill. I went into the cage and lifted him up. What was my amazement to hear something grating and clanking inside of him! And he seemed surprisingly heavy. I at once called the head keeper, who decided to investigate by means of a surgical operation.

He took out two pounds of stones, one of which was four inches long, two and a half inches wide and about half an inch thick. The poor chap seemed to feel relieved. In a few days he became convalescent, ate his food regularly and seemed to be doing well. Then that looked bill reached under the feathers and tore out some of the surgeon's stitches, which were undoubtedly irritating, as the wound was beginning to heal. As a result of this interference the wound opened, and as the weather was hot, the patient died five days after the operation.—St. Nicholas.

NAPOLEON'S METHODS.

The Way the Great Military Genius Planned His Battles.

In his work on "Napoleon" Colonel Bonaparte's planning out of his battles. It runs:

"Spreading out and bending, sometimes lying, over his maps, with a compass in his hand, which corresponded to about seven or eight hours' march in the field, he marked the positions of his corps and divisions with various colored pins, as well as the supposed locations of the enemy, he ordered the movements of his army with an accuracy of which one can scarcely have an idea. Moving his compass across the map, he judged immediately, by according to the topography, roads and the season, how many marches any corps required to reach on a given day a certain place where he needed it and the rate of speed demanded, and with this knowledge (and his judgment was absolute of what troops could do in immediate vicinity) it was quite unnecessary to issue general orders as would have been the case if he had dictated the instructions for the execution of which he made him so famous. Napoleon avoided such general orders as would have been the case if he had dictated the instructions for the execution of which he made him so famous. Napoleon avoided such general orders as would have been the case if he had dictated the instructions for the execution of which he made him so famous.

# A SWIMMING HORSE.

The Proper Way to Ride the Animal in the Water.

A military journal of Paris gives this account of the way a horse should be ridden and of the way he should be ridden in swimming a stream:

To begin with, it must not be supposed that a horse always swims naturally and with ease the moment he is off his feet in the water. The animal under such circumstances has but one notion—to lift his head out of the water and to lift his shoulders as high as possible.

In doing this his hind quarters sink, and he finds himself almost standing upon his tail, or at least in a position three-quarters erect.

In such a position, if the rider draws upon the reins or throws his body back in the least, the animal's hind quarters will sink more and more, his body will take a vertical position, and, be that the water uselessly with his forehead, he will finally sink.

As soon as the horse gets off his feet in the water he should grasp a hand, either the other right or left, resting at the same time well forward upon his shoulders, but without touching the horse's head. The rider's knees should be pressed tightly to the horse's sides; otherwise he is likely to be swept off by the water.

This is the only position which will enable a man to remain in the saddle and the horse to swim at the same time.

The reins must be held loosely and each well to one side. If the horse is to be guided in the water give the loose rein the other right or left, and the horse will be guided by the loose rein.

Hair and Intellect.

"Did you ever notice," asked an observant woman, "how many intellectual people have Auburn hair?" At the end of the day I don't remember her noticing a single reddish head of hair among the hundreds of uncovered heads spread out before me. They were the well coiffed heads of the average nice woman. The next night I attended a meeting of a very learned society at the Hotel de Ville, Paris. 200 or 300 of the ablest thinkers and educators around town, and without turning my eyes I picked out at least a dozen Auburn haired women in a few seats in front of me. Now, that was more than a coincidence. It argues something for the possessor of Auburn hair. I should think.

PREPARING RAW OPIUM.

How the Drug is Taken From the Poppy and Made Into Balls.

The preparation of "raw" opium in the East is carried out as follows: In February, as a rule, the juice is gathered, the poppy plant being then in full flower and of a height of three or four feet, each stem having from two to five capsules of the size of a duck's egg. Before the capsules are pierced the fallen petals of the flowers are carefully gathered and sorted according to color, and the stems are cut and then are heated over a slow fire and formed into thin cakes, to be used for the covering of the drug when collected. The piercing of the pods requires great skill, and upon it largely depends the yield. The opium farmer uses an instrument which carries a small lance-like tool, which has three or four short, sharp prongs, and with this a half dozen perpendicular cuts are made in each capsule or seed pod at once, but quickly congeals. The day after the thickened juice is carefully gathered, being scraped off with a small iron trowel, and the mass thus gathered is put into an earthen vessel and kept carefully stirred for a month or more, great care being taken to keep the mixture from becoming too thick. The natives wash about in the large vats containing the paste-like fluid and lend it out to hundreds of ballmakers sitting around the room. Every man has a spherical brass cup lined with the poppy flower petals before him. Into this is pressed the requisite quantity of opium. From the opium ball is transferred to another man, who gives it a coating of clay. This gives the drug when ready for shipment, the appearance of a fair sized cannon ball. When well prepared in this manner, opium will keep for fifteen years or more. Before it can be used the opium balls have to be broken up and further treated. Tropical Agriculture.

Direct Evidence.

The lawyer shook his finger warningly at the witness and said: "Now, we want to hear just what you know, not what some one else knows or what you think or anything of that kind, but what you know. Do you understand?"

"Waal, I know," said the witness, with emphasis, as if from a sudden leg and had it across the other "I know that they grabbed said that Bill Thomson told him that he heard John Thomas' wife tell Sid Shurford's gal that her husband was there when the fight took place and that he said that they sang each other around in the bushes right considerable."

# FAMOUS PAINTINGS.

Discovered by Accident and Bought For a Mere Song.

The strange vicissitudes through which some of the most highly prized and valuable pictures now preserved in public and private galleries have passed provides romantic reading. Take, for instance, the case of a sea captain by Turner.

A Captain Treharne was spending a holiday in Bournemouth, chancing one day to be turning over the thousand and one articles in an old curiosity shop, he came across a dirty, ragged painting depicting a sea scene. It was painted on an oak panel, was not framed and was in a terribly disreputable condition. Prompted to buy the derelict, the captain secured possession of it for 80. The purchaser took it home with him, the painting was cleaned and the varnish removed. Scrutiny then revealed the famous initials of Turner.—M. W. T.

More remarkable still was the history surrounding Raphael's "Three Graces." While rummaging among a collection of old furniture in Italy a French art loving man named Raboulet happened upon it. He acquired the painting for a few francs. On his return to France M. Raboulet offered it to the Louvre for a modest 800, but the great Parisian art gallery refused to buy it. The owner finally disposed of it to an Englishman for 750. In a few years the painting passed through a number of hands. Finally it was purchased by the Duc d'Anjou for 125,000.

More remarkable was the purchase of the second example of Raphael's art. A gentleman of Pinner while walking along the railway road one day had his attention arrested by a painted panel in the window and bought it for 12 cents. The gentleman took it home and cleaned it. At the same time he was mystified by the initial "R." on the back of the panel. It was a genuine Raphael, worth \$3,500.—Stray Stories.

At the Gods.

The gods of most South American tribes of Indians are generally looked upon as sacred, but when the gods become a nuisance it is time to put an end to them; at least, that is what a certain tribe along the Zabrul river think. They worship the human and monkey, but as soon as the iguana started eating chickens they thought it time to stop worshipping him and to eat him. In place of the chickens he had eaten. They do, and they prefer iguana stew to chicken fricassee.

Trees That Make a Noise.

A curiosity is known in the tropics as the sand bark tree and also as the monkey's dinner bell. It has a round, hard shelled fruit about the size of an orange which when ripe and dry bursts open with a sharp noise like the report of a pistol. Its juice is poisonous. The South American trumpet tree might furnish a band with musical instruments, inasmuch as its hollow branches are utilized for horns and also for drums.

# SHAM ARMOR.

Story of a Once Famous Vessel in the Russian Navy.

Among the anecdotes told by Colonel F. A. Wellesley in his book, "With the Russians in Peace and War," is one concerning an once famous vessel of the Russian navy. When the ironclad Peter the Great, from which so much was expected, was in course of completion the deputy acting minister of marine, on being suddenly asked by the czar what progress the ship in question was making, lost his head and replied that she would be ready for sea in three weeks. The emperor expressed great satisfaction at the news and said that he would shortly inspect the vessel at Cronstadt. It so happened, however, that far from being ready for sea, the ship was still in dock and that her armor plates, which were being rolled in England, had not even been delivered. In view of the emperor's threatened visit all work on board the ship was stopped, and hundreds of men were set to work night and day at the erection of cabins, the covering of the ship with sham armor, the erection of wooden turrets and the like.

"When the Duke of Edinburgh came to Russia I told his royal highness this story," continues Colonel Wellesley, "which he was most reluctant to believe. I told the duke, however, that he would soon have an opportunity of judging for himself at a naval review, and I predicted that, as he was a naval officer and therefore sure to detect anything wrong, some excuse would be made to prevent his going on board that particular ship. The duke expressed to a Russian naval officer his desire to visit that ship, but objections were raised to his doing so.

"Then the emperor, noticing that something was amiss, ordered a boat to be lowered immediately to take his royal highness on board. After the review the duke told me that I was wrong about the turrets being made of wood, as he had placed his hand on one of them, and it was made of canvas and yielded to the pressure of his fingers."

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