

# A Job In The Senate Chamber

By Frank H. Sweet  
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She went up the middle steps and turned around the corner to the right. A long line was extending back from the door, expectant, impatient, though the visitors' gallery would not be open to the public until 12. She drew from her belt the one remaining link of former opulence. It still lacked two minutes, and she slipped the watch back with a scarcely breathed sigh. Why had she come here at all, she thought accusingly? She would be best there visiting the stork, in search of a position as clerk; that were surely some business houses she had not yet been in. And—ah—besides—

Her eyes were brighter, and a flush came and descended to her lips in a soft, evanescent smile that was more like the smile of the old days before the wife's failure came.

She had been standing at the post-office door, and he had looked precisely as he had that day when he parted from them in the Arizona canyon, he a penniless prospector and her father an extensive mine owner. And he had not forgotten. Even before she saw him, he had sprung from a carriage, with regard to his horses, and was coming up the postoffice steps with outstretched hands.

"Good heavens! You here, Muriel—Miss Ashburton," he had cried, with a gladness in his voice which he did not attempt to conceal and which brought an answering color to her face and light to her eyes. There had been nothing between them except a look and hand pressure, but she had often thought of him in these latter dreary years and was glad to know he had remembered her. "I looked for you everywhere—everywhere," he had continued, "but without a clue. I was afraid you had gone from my life. But pardon me; we cannot talk here, and I have a great deal to say. May I call on you at once this evening?"

"My father is dead," she had managed to say. Her brain had been in a whirl, her heart in a tumult. What did it all mean? What was this impetuous man saying, implying? By a strong effort she had controlled herself.

"Yes, you may call," she had answered in a low voice. "I will be glad to see you." And she had given him the number of the house in which she rented one small room.

"Thank you, I will be there early. I would ask to go back with you now, but I have an appointment which is already overdue. Isn't it providential, though, this meeting? I have been in Washington only three days, and to turn up against you—

"Have you employment here?" she had asked for want of something better to say.

"Yes, temporarily; a job in the senate chamber. You remember I was a jack of all trades, from a farm boy to an inept prospector, with occasional dabbling in fresco painting and fence building to help me through college. But I will not detain you here in the wind any longer."

She had watched him spring into the carriage and drive away, an odd light in her eyes and a warm color in her cheeks. As she went down the sidewalk she laughed softly.

Before she went down the sidewalk she had remembered to call and cared for her. It was beautiful to know that in the hurrying, indifferent world there was one who still thought of her and cared for her a little. The manner or lack of employment was such a small matter compared with that. Knowledge of life soon leveled such petty distinctions.

Most unconsciously her steps had turned toward the capitol. The only alternative seemed a continuation of her search for employment, and, somehow, she shrank from that just now, even though she had been restricting herself to a single apartment a day for a week. She would celebrate the finding of a friend. It was opening day at the senate chamber and would be unusually interesting, and perhaps she might see this friend himself or some of the work he had been doing.

# QUEEN OF DIAMONDS

By MARGARET RICHARDS  
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The usually cheery face of Mme. Fontaine, "palmist and card reader," was overcast. Even the invitingly clean little room where Madame received the anxious seekers after wisdom shared in the prevailing gloom. A crudely drawn hand covered with cabalistic signs had become detached from the wall and lay unheeded in the corner, the cards by whose aid coming events were evoked were pushed carelessly aside. It was evident that misfortune had fallen upon this faithful priestess of the future.

Nora McCabe had always been a wonder at "cutting the cards," and it was when Pat McCabe died (an event which the cards neglected to mention) leaving her with five little children, that Mme. Fontaine had sprung into existence. Having an average amount of quick Irish wit and more than an average understanding of human nature, Nora had prospered and as Mme. Fontaine she avoided tragedy and dealt mostly in romantic and glowing generalities.

But of late the fates had not shown Madame the consideration due so faithfully a follower. There had been a falling off in the number of people who came to explore the misty paths of the future under her expert guidance. Four of the children were too young to do much besides consume milk and supplies of bread and butter, and the day before Jimmy, the eldest, had been brought home with a broken leg. In short, the outlook was serious.

"Though it isn't always you can expect to be havin' the luck," sighed Nora, stooping to pick up the hand that pointed a mutely protesting finger at her from the corner.

The cover of the radiant picture she made against her dull surrounding, a girl, tall, graceful, tall, made, came swiftly along the shabby street. If her courage almost failed her, she made no sign as she walked steadily on. All the girls had learned from the past, and she would be married within a year, and was not Margaret even now on her wedding journey? To be sure, she had told Louise Henderson the same thing, and there was not even an admirer in Lou's horizon; but, then, every one makes mistakes sometimes.

Such was his hope. She and Louise alike believed in it. Oh, dear, no! But she did so want to know if John really was very angry. He might have known she did not care for that stupid Captain Carstairs.

With flushed face and trembling but determined fingers she pressed the button under the card bearing the name "Mme. Fontaine" and soon stood quaking inwardly, but outwardly serene, before the door of the modest little flat.

Eleanor Robinson was called the prettiest girl in the Westchester set, and more critical eyes than Madame's would have brightened at the radiant vision she made as she entered the flat. Her hair, with shining eyes bent eagerly forward over the well known table upon which Madame's experienced fingers had already placed the queen of diamonds.

"That's yourself," explained the woman as she deftly shuffled the cards, "and this," laying a heart on the table, "is good luck to yourself an' yer wish, an' here's an offer, an' a foiner offer it is, with money too. It looks like a marriage offer, an' 'tis from—" But whom it was from most never remain a mystery, for a shrill voice from the next room called Madame, and she hurriedly hastened to answer it. The door, and the fortunes of the queen of diamonds came to an ignominious ending on the floor.

"I'm that worried I don't know what I'm doin'," said Madame as she came back, and half crying, stooped to pick up the cards. "My Jimmy has his leg broke, an' his gettin' along so nice, an' Mr. Carstairs sayin' his wages should be raised this Saturday comin'."

"Mr. Carstairs?" interrupted the girl in a strained voice. And Madame's keen eyes noted the warm wave of color that flooded her face.

"Yes, miss," she returned, "Mr. Carstairs the lawyer. It was a foiner place for Jimmy, an' him likin' it an' gettin' into Mr. Carstairs's ways. An' now his leg's broke, an' no knowin' when he'll get another place," she added dejectedly, and in spite of herself a tear splashed on the recovered queen.

## THE CRUEL PIANO.

My husband's little boy, separated from me only by a thin lath partition of a wall, is playing five finger exercises in halting rhythm and with innumerable false notes. The instrument is one in which the light of years has left a tone like a disconcerted nutting partner.

The little boy, a pale child in a long pinafore and big white ears, hates his clanking instrument as much as I do, and so we meet on a level of mutual affliction. I loathe hearing him, and he hates his instrument, now, in the name of good common sense, why must he be offered up as a sacrifice?

His mother is a poor woman, and the building cottage piano with platted faded green front represents the chops and many other wholesome things she has not eaten, and what she allows the young lady in the third floor back, who takes her board out in piano lessons, is a serious sacrifice. Now, I ask what for?

Why is all the world playing an unnecessary piano? Marriage has a fatal effect on music. For some occult reason as soon as a girl is married the piano—the grave of so much money and time—retires out of active life and swathed in "art devices," huddled by vases, cabinet photographs and imitation "cries" serves less as a musical instrument than a warning. But no sooner are the next generation's legs long enough to dangle between the keyboard and the pedals than the echoes awaken to the same old false notes that serve no purpose unless an hour of daily martyrdom over a tone splashed keyboard is an excellent preparation for the trials of life. Mrs. John Lane in London Outlook.

**A Fair Opportunity.**  
Tasso, being told that he had a fair opportunity of talking advantage of a very bitter enemy, replied, "I wish not to plunder him, but there are things which I wish to take from him not his honor or his life, but his malice and ill will."

**How to Make the Hair Fluffy.**  
To make the hair simply fluffy without entiling it, moisten it with a preparation of two grams of alcohol or refined spirits of wine, one ounce of cologne, half an ounce of bicarbonate of soda and four ounces of rose water. Every night rub every inch of the scalp with cold water, using a clean white brush. If you want to keep your hair in good condition, once a week use a tonic. An excellent one is made of alcohol, one pint; sweet oil, one ounce; tincture of cantharides, one dram. Use a few drops of any essence you prefer to perfume it. A good way to apply any lotion to the head and hair is by means of a toothbrush or the finger tips.

**His Farewell.**  
"That young chap calls on our Myrtle with a sneer of 'farewell' and the old man in the dining room."

"Why so?" asked his wife.  
"He has a very fine farewell performance in the vestibule."—Baltimore Herald.

## Truths that Strike Home

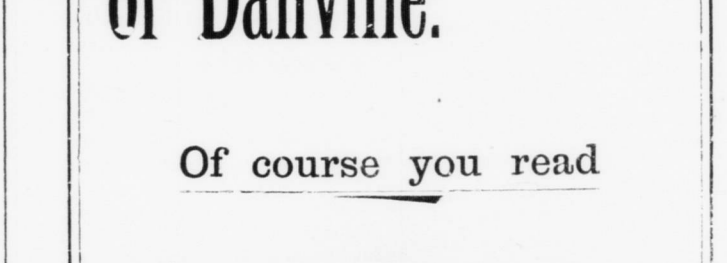
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Seranton (D&H)	8:15	10:15	6:10	8:10
Pittston	8:30	10:30	6:25	8:25
Williamsport	8:45	10:45	6:40	8:40
Lock Haven	9:00	11:00	6:55	8:55
Belleville	9:15	11:15	7:10	9:10
York	9:30	11:30	7:25	9:25
Harrisburg	9:45	11:45	7:40	9:40
Philadelphia	10:00	12:00	7:55	9:55
Washington	10:15	12:15	8:10	10:10
Baltimore	10:30	12:30	8:25	10:25
New York	10:45	12:45	8:40	10:40

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