

Raising the Limit

A Story of What Happened on Christmas Eve

By Jeanne Olive Loizeaux

It was Christmas eve in a city. The rich were preparing by the expenditure of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of dollars to enjoy the festivities...

The streets were crowded with belated purchasers, some buying decorations, some gifts of value, some a few simple toys.



"WELL KNOWN SQUARE."

The first moment some forgotten article and were hurrying hither and thither to supply the deficiency.

Big Jim could not escape the hurry, the laughter, the package laden throng. He hated the bedizened windows, the greetings, even the strings of turkeys and chickens in the market windows.

The very sleighbells jingled "home," and he hated to think of himself in that connection. He would have gone to his boarding house, but no one was there.

"Come home," she called. "Come home," she called. "Come home," she called.

It was too early to play poker. Well, he could go to the postoffice at least for his mail.

"Mr. Carrigan is very busy now," said the private secretary of the railroad president.

"I was waiting for my girl," she began with the volubility of lonely age.

"I'll tell you," he answered, "I expect she'll be right-married and safe, like I, before you get to bed."

mommer snatched gratefully at the words. "Married an' safe, I reckon," she repeated.

"You will hear from her all right if you wait. You'll get sick here," he left her and at the door ran head-on into Shorty.

"Two hundred dollars, I'll go you!" They stooped to the pavement and matched. Big Jim's luck held.

"I'll raise the limit in this 'gentleman's game.' Two out of three the winner—to quit this life and be decent!" Shorty nodded.

"You're a square sport, Jim. You'll keep your word," then he turned on his heel toward the river.

Jim stood thinking awhile till a policeman passing bade him "move on." Then he passed slowly back toward the main street.

"Come to yourself! Come home!" pleaded the soldier. "Go back to your mother! Be good! Nothing else pays!" She nodded assent to them.

"I'll go home—but let me out of here now," they yelled reluctantly, but the young man forced himself to her and took her arm.

"My name ain't Babe; it's Molly. What do you mean, talking about getting married? A year ago—just a year ago—if you'd said that it would have saved me. Now—"

"Now it will save both of us. I mean it, Molly. You're a thousand times too good for me. But marry me and I'll take you home and I'll stick by you."

"Marry me tonight," he said, "and tomorrow I'll take you home. I'll wake everybody and get a license, and I'll take care of you. We've got \$200 to begin on. Come to the postoffice first."

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MY UNKNOWN FRIEND.

A Flow of Wealth Came From a Hidden Source.

By THOMAS R. DEAN.

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I was thirty years old and had not saved a penny when I fell in love with Emma Earle. I told her of my love, but also told her that we could not be anything more to each other than friends, owing to my ill success.

"You are too good hearted," she said, "to achieve financial success. Most of the wealth attained is by saving. To save one must shut one's eyes to other people's needs, their sufferings."

I received my \$2,000 at a time when, owing to a financial panic, there were many bargains to be picked up in dividend paying stocks.



HE TURNED AND STARTED TO RUN.

After the receipt of this information Emma and I again racked our brains to remember some one who was thus indebted to me.

Dear Sir—I intend to open an office in New York for the transaction of the business of our company, principally the transfer of shares.

Who Samuel Langford was or who had recommended me to him I had not the remotest idea.

I wrote accepting the position, at the same time requesting Mr. Langford to tell me why I had been selected to fill it.

"On seeing you he turned and started to run. You pointed your gun at him and called on him to halt. Being defenseless, he gave himself up."

"I remember very well. But go on." "He told you how he had been born in poverty in the city; how without parents to guide him, after he was some six years old, he had fallen into such a life as such boys most inevitably fall into and had at last been sent to state prison.

"I have gone over every person I have ever helped," I replied, "and remembered you, but I never dreamed that I was indebted for my good fortune to a former jailbird."

"Why do you weep over the sorrows of people in whom you have no interest when you go to the theater?" asked the man.

"I don't know," replied the woman. "Why do you cheer wildly when a man with whom you are not acquainted slides to second base?"

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Make Life There Joyous and Bar Out Business Worries.

Whatever your lot in life, keep joy with you, says Orion Sweet Marden in Success Magazine. It is a great helper. Borrow worry, jealousy, envy, bad temper, create friction and grind away the delicate human machinery.

"Now For Rest and Fun." "No Business Troubles Allowed Here." These are good home building mottoes.

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WANTED A JOB.

A certain playwright relates how a manager was much annoyed by the persistent applications for a "job" made by a peculiarly seedy individual.

At last the applicant did succeed in gaining audience for Blank, the stage manager, who was in the theater for the time "sizing up" candidates for the chorus.

There were, of course, a number ahead of him, but this fact did not prevent the seedy man from interrupting the stage manager between songs with requests for a job.

Exasperated, the stage manager at length turned to the pianist and ordered him to play an accompaniment for the stranger. With considerable hesitation the seedy person raised what voice he had in song. The result was bad as had could be.

"What do you mean by this tomfoolery?" he demanded, disgusted. "You certainly have confounded impudence to ask me for a job!"

"Look here!" said the stranger, angry in turn. "I don't claim to be able to sing. In fact, I don't want to sing. For a stage manager, I only sang to show you how much you insisted on it!"

A raw recruit from a remote corner of the Green Isle was engaged for the first time in a field maneuver in England on outpost duty.

After an hour he returned and asked the soldier, "Has the colonel been here?"

Receiving an answer in the negative, he went away, returning later on with the same inquiry.

"Do you know who I am?" "Faith and I do not," answered the recruit.

"I am the colonel." "Begorra, you will catch it then," said the soldier. "The sergeant has been asking twice for yez already?"

Reilly and Corn were "having it out." They had been deadly enemies for years, but neither had offered to lay hands on the other up to now.

Before they commenced it was stipulated that it was to be a fair "stand up" fight, and with that they started. Corn had it all his own way from the beginning.

"It was," returned an onlooker. "An' 'ow, thin, can he be expectin' me ter fight 'im fairly if he do be knockin' me down all the time?"

Wesley and Tea. In his younger days John Wesley found it difficult to stop drinking tea.

The Dinner Table of Old France. Could we restore for half an hour the dinner table of old France and obtain half a dozen instantaneous photographs of a royal banquet at any era between the reign of Francis I and Louis XIV. such laughter would be heard as might disturb the serenity of Louis in paradise.

The bread I eat in London is a deleterious paste, mixed up with chalk, alum and bone ashes, insipid to the taste and destructive to the constitution.

A Lazy Man. A worthy old citizen of Newport who had the reputation of being the laziest man alive among "them hilllocks," so lazy, indeed, that he used to weed his garden in a rocking chair by rocking forward to take hold of the weed and backward to uproot it.

The Eternal Feminine. "Myrtle has gone upon the vaudeville stage and has made an instant big hit because of her darning."

"What is her act?" "She sings in a cage of mice!"

OASIS OF THE NORTH.

Fertile Soil and genial climate in Northern Alaska. Like an oasis in the desert is a fertile spot discovered in the wilderness of the Koryk river, Norton sound, northern Alaska, by a number of travelers who say the new field is almost a perfect Utopia and will make fortunes for them.

A dozen or more hot springs revolutionize the appearance of the region. The ground is never covered with snow. Berries and wild fruit grow in profusion. The grass grows thick and soft. There is an abundance of water upon the rocky hillsides. The climate is healthy during the summer, being cooled in winter by winds from the north.

The Ancient Use of a Kiosk. A Roman woman in the ancient time was not allowed to drink wine except it were simple rubin wine, and however she might reach strong drinks she could not indulge even by stealth—first, because she was never entrusted with the key of the wine cellar and, second, because she was obliged daily to greet with a kiss all her own as well as her husband's male representatives, down even to second cousins, and as she knew not when or where she might meet them she was forced to be wary and abstain altogether, for had she tasted but a drop the smell would have betrayed her.

Among the Honors. One of the last times that Bishop Burgess of Long Island dined out was at the Press club, where the waiters are all negroes. The head waiter bowed Bishop Burgess and his host profusely to their places. "This way, admiral," said he. "Tek this table. You get a better view of the harbor head, admiral."

"I am not an admiral," said Bishop Burgess, smiling. "My mistake, sub," said the head waiter. "Ah about or known all the time I was er talkin' to a military man. You like dis table, colonel?"

"I am not a colonel," said Bishop Burgess, smiling more broadly. "I am a bishop."

"He be shuah, sub," said the head waiter. "To-o be shuah! Ve'y sorry for mah mistake, sub. I got dem titles of admiral and colonel wrong, sub, but Ah was all right on de main issue. Ah knowed soon as Ah saw you dat you was one of de face cards of your profession, sub."—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Dead as a Doornail. The phrase "dead as a doornail" originated in this way in early days, when door knockers were common, the plate upon which the knocker struck was sometimes called a nail. In the course of years it was struck so often that all life was supposed to be knocked out of it; therefore when it became necessary to refer to anything hopelessly lifeless it was merely an emphatic expression to say that it was "as dead as a doornail."—Home Notes

A Nickname For Barrett. Lawrence Barrett, the tragedian, was subject to dyspepsia, and when he was cold and distant toward his company one irreverent fellow always refused, however, to be suppressed. He said one day: "Just look at Cassius. He looks as solemn and righteous as if he'd swallowed the sword of justice. Let's call him the Scabbard." And the Scabbard he was—out of his bearing—for the rest of that season.

Australia Is Prospering. Australia has been having an exceptionally prosperous year, both exports and bank clearings showing great improvement.

A Reliable Remedy FOR CATARRH. Ely's Cream Balm is quickly absorbed. Gives Relief at Once. It cleanses, soothes, heals and protects the diseased membrane resulting from Catarrh and drives away a Cold in the Head quickly. Restores the Senses of Taste and Smell. Full size 50 cts., at Druggists or by mail. Liquid Cream Balm for use in atomizers 75 cts. Ely Brothers, 56 Warren Street, New York.

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ILLUMINATING OIL. Burns white, clear and steady to the last drop. For the sake of everyone in the family insist upon having Family Favorite Lamp Oil. Smokeless—Sootless—Odorless—Costs no more than inferior tank-wagon kinds. Saves eyes—saves money—our dealer has it in his stock from our refineries. Waverly Oil Works Co., Independent Refiners—Pittsburg, Pa. Also makers of Waverly Special Auto Oil and Waverly Gasolines.

Well Answered. "Why do you weep over the sorrows of people in whom you have no interest when you go to the theater?" asked the man.

"I don't know," replied the woman. "Why do you cheer wildly when a man with whom you are not acquainted slides to second base?"

Mexican Trade Increases. In 1910 Mexico's imports were \$97,428,700 gold, an increase of \$19,000,000 and her exports \$130,028,000, an increase of \$14,500,000.

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