

The Boycott : on Caroline

BY SUSAN KEATING GLASPELL.

WELL, if girls aren't the meaneest!"

His sister dried her eyes and looked up. "But not all girls, Will, and perhaps these girls don't—"

"Oh, that's right, stand up for 'em, after they've treated you like dirt all summer! For downright meanness and hatefulness give me a lot of girls. Why, a crowd of fellows would no more act the way this crowd of girls has done than—than—" And he stopped hopelessly, as if the thing was beyond comparison.

"Well, of course, boys are different."

"Yes, they are! When a fellow who seems to be the right sort moves into a town, do the fellows of that town let him alone—snub him for three straight months? Don't you think it! They give him a show—they're real to him, and if he turns out to be of their kind, then he's one of the crowd, and that's all there is to it."

"Well, that does seem to be the fair way. And I don't know—I haven't done anything, you see, I haven't had a chance. I suppose—Caroline's lips were quivering again—"that they just don't like my looks."

"Nonsense! Why shouldn't they like your looks? It's just their meanness."

"Will! Will!" There was a note of tragic excitement in his sister's voice. "There they come now—turning the corner. They go past nearly every day. They have picnics and—such things."

Will seated himself on the railing of the veranda and looked hard at the five laughing girls who were coming toward the house in an old-fashioned carryall.

"Don't seem too interested, Will. Don't—don't look at them like that."

"Why can't I look at them?" he retorted, savagely. "Guess if I want to look at them there's nothing to prevent it. They're not so much to look at, anyway."

"The crowd" of girls drove by with not a glance toward the big house, on the veranda of which Will and Caroline Stuart were sitting.

"They do have awfully good times," said Caroline, wistfully, "and they seem awfully fond of one another."

"I guess I'll go up and write some letters," she said, a few minutes later. "I like to keep my letters written up, because—well, you can see that it's been pleasant to get them since I've been here."

Her brother looked after her darkly. "Poor Cal! She never did a mean thing in her life. Why any one should want to snub her is too much for me."

"O mother," he called, as a pleasant-faced woman came round the house, "can't you come here a minute? I want to talk to you."

She took the chair he offered her. "It does seem good to have you home, Will, and I'm more glad for Caroline's sake than for my own. She has had a pretty hard summer of it."

"That's what I want to get at. What under the sun's the matter? What do those girls mean by lining up against Cal?"

His mother shook her head and raised her hands helplessly.

"Will, girls are queer," she said. "I can't understand it. Why, if they'd let Cal be one of them, they'd find her the jolliest and best of the lot. When she first came here in the spring she saw right away that they were the ones she would like to know, and she was so pleased to think that there would be nice girls for her to have a good time with. The first night we sat here on the porch they went by laughing and talking, and Cal looked after them forlornly, and I remember I said to her, 'Never mind, Cal, you'll be one of them in a week, and she said she supposed of course they'd call—or do something, but they didn't, and that's all there is to it. They simply act as if Cal wasn't in town.'"

"Well, of all the mean, contemptible, petty—!" And then words failed him.

"In addition to everything else," said the boy, after a few minutes of silent fuming, "these five estimable young ladies are acting pretty silly in snubbing Caroline. Cal could give those girls all sorts of a good time, and she would love to do it."

"Of course she would. When she saw how big the house was, she said to me first thing, 'Isn't it lovely, mother? We can have people here all the time!' And your father bought that automobile for no other reason in the world except that he thought it would be pleasant for Cal to take people out in."

"Well, mother," said Will, quietly, "it's just a clear case of snub, isn't it?"

Perhaps the whole thing would not have happened if just the week before the Stuarts moved to Elmwood Marion Foreman had not read a story about some people who were "vulgarily rich." No one in Elmwood was "vulgarily rich," and as Marion's imagination was such that she was bound to fix the phrase on some one, it descended upon the people who were expected in a few days to move into the big house.

That night she asked her father all about the new family.

"Why, really, Marion," he said, after she had put a half-dozen questions to him in rapid succession, "I can't account for this sudden interest of yours. I can't say that I know a great deal about the Stuarts. The man, so I am told, made a great deal of money last

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In reading the chronicles of the Kings of Israel we come upon the name of Jeroboam, and it is almost always mentioned in these terms, "Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin." This remark is not without significance, for Jeroboam has stood in the pillory three thousand years, with that placard over him. Why is he thus branded and dishonored?

At the time of its delivery he was in length, temptation overcome here. He was a Jew; a widow's son distinguished as a civil engineer. He had begun at the foot of the ladder, leading a hand with pick and shovel in the repairing of the fortifications of Milo. The eyes of King Solomon fastened upon the tall, broad-shouldered youth, and admiring his industry and cleverness, he promoted him step by step until he was made superintendent of public works, and placed in charge of thirty thousand men. His ambition grew with his advancement; and thus, at length, temptation overcome here. He was a Jew; a widow's son distinguished as a civil engineer. He had begun at the foot of the ladder, leading a hand with pick and shovel in the repairing of the fortifications of Milo. The eyes of King Solomon fastened upon the tall, broad-shouldered youth, and admiring his industry and cleverness, he promoted him step by step until he was made superintendent of public works, and placed in charge of thirty thousand men. His ambition grew with his advancement; and thus, at length, temptation overcome here.

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KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS TO SECURE REDUCED RATE

Committees Are Named—State Board of Trade Will Aid in Fight Against Railroads.

The standing committees of the Pennsylvania state board of trade, which was organized at Harrisburg, to make a systematic campaign for the election of legislators pledged to a 2-cent flat passenger vote on the railroads, were appointed by ex-Mayor Vance C. McCormick of Harrisburg, president of the board. Following is a list of the standing committees: Constitution and by-laws: William H. Stevenson and W. A. Griffith, Pittsburgh; Wilmer Crow, Harrisburg; J. D. Wentz, Washington. Finances: William R. Brinton, Lancaster; Clarence E. Greenway, York; Joseph C. Smith, Harrisburg. Baggage and transportation: D. C. Shaw, Pittsburgh; F. H. MacIntyre, Philadelphia; H. D. Burlington, Altoona. Interurban railroads: D. D. Harmon, Pittsburgh; Representative William T. Creasy, Catawissa; A. M. Howes, Erie.

The Capital Dedication commission officially fixed October 4 next as the date for the dedication of the new State Capitol. President Theodore Roosevelt, and probably Mrs. Roosevelt, and the members of the President's cabinet and their wives will attend the exercises. A large grandstand will be erected at the entrance to the Capitol for the dedicatory exercises. In the evening it is probable a banquet will be served to which the President and other dignitaries will be invited. The commission consists of Gov. S. W. Pennypacker, Speaker Henry F. Walton, Senator John C. Fox, of Dauphin; Senator W. C. Spraul, of Delaware, and members of the board of public grounds and buildings. The Governor will communicate with President Roosevelt regarding any suggestions he desires to make relative to the dedication.

The central power house of the Venango Power & Traction Company in Oil City, controlling all the electric lighting and street car systems of Oil City, Franklin and their suburbs, was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$350,000, with insurance of \$75,000. The flames originated in the boiler room. The destruction of the power house will cause a suspension of street car traffic in Venango county for at least three weeks. The officers of the company expect to have streets lighted again in Franklin and Oil City within a week. In the meantime the streets and those business houses which are not equipped with private electrical plants will be in darkness.

The reception to be extended the survivors of the famous Tenth Regiment volunteers, when they hold their eight annual reunion at Donora on July 31, promises to be equal to any that has gone before. At the conference between the committee representing the Veteran association of the Tenth regiment and the citizens of Donora plans were discussed while it carried out will make the reunion a complete success.

Very few, if any, of the operators in the Clearfield region have taken advantage of the offer extended by the miners at their reconvened convention permitting independent signing of contract under the terms of the 1903 scale. When the convention decided to allow independent action the delegates were of the opinion that 60 per cent. of the operators would sign at once.

Harold W. Carmichael, 16 years old, son of a wealthy contractor of Wellsburg, W. Va., was killed near Franklin by the explosion of a number of percussion dynamite caps which he carried in his pocket. He and Frank McClaren, another lad, found the caps and Carmichael discharged one of them. The concussion set off those he carried in his pockets.

George D. C. Miller and J. R. Dunham, watchmen at the Humbert tin plate mill, Connellsville, detected three men in the plant stripping the engines and machinery of brass and fired at them. About a dozen shots were exchanged, but the thieves escaped.

While leaning out of an engine cab at Hickman Run, Fireman John F. Brooks' head was caught between a freight car and the cab and was mashed to a pulp. Death was instantaneous. Brooks was 25 years old. His parents live in Georgia.

Andrew Carnegie, in a letter received by Dr. J. F. Bucher offers to give \$25,000 for the erection of a science hall for Waynesburg college, providing \$50,000 additional endowment is raised. The college authorities expect to raise the required amount.

The Pennsylvania railroad has ordered the employes of the maintenance of way department to work 10 hours a day instead of 9. This gives an additional hour to about 12,000 men between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

New Castle council ordered the city solicitor to file a bill in equity to compel the Bell Telephone company to use the new city conduit, which cost nearly \$100,000.

John Rugh, 83 years old, was found dead at the gateway leading into his stable yard at his home in the Eighth ward, Greensburg. He is survived by two daughters and two sons, Misses Johanna and Amanda at home, and Charles, a member of the Westmoreland bar, and Albert Rugh, of Greensburg.

John Z. Murrin was killed and J. M. Thompson had a leg and arm broken by a falling tree at Murrinsville, Butler county. The men stopped to watch the lumbermen fell trees. One tree, carried out of its course by the high wind, fell on Murrin and Thompson.

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