## SAVED FROM FIRE

While on a business trip to Chicago last summer I was invited to stay at the house of Walter Kennedy, a man with whom I had dealings. Kennedy was a salf made man who by industry had rendered himself and his family very comfortable. His house stood on the banks of Lake Michigan on a bluff a dozen miles north of the city. One evening after dinner we were smoking on his piazza overlooking the bridge with her club. I'm sure she lake. Mrs. Kennedy sat with us, stroking the hair of her little daughter. Beneath the waves were plashing.

"By the bye, Kennedy," I said, "were you in Chicago at the time of the great

"Well, yes," he said; then, after a moment's silence, "It was the big burn that gave me my start.'

I looked expectant, but did not care to ask for his confidence.

"Everybody about here knows the story," he said presently, "so I might as well give it to you. In 1871, I regret to confess, I was little better than a street arab. I lived from hand to mouth on what I could pick up and never had a cent over. Indeed, it never occurred to me to save anything out of my scant earnings, I remember well the opening of the great fire. It was Sunday night and, though October, was very warm, I was playing craps with some boys on the street when the fire alarm sounded, but we had had so many alarms for the past month that we boys paid no attention to it. Presently there was such a great glare to the west that we stopped the game and went across the river to get a nearer view. We found the people over there moving out of their houses and the streets lined with furniture and bedding, on which were lying the little children.

"I roamed about, enjoying the novelty of the situation, till I found myself in the track of the fire. I looked about for a way out, and, seeing that there was but one chance, down a street running southward, I started to run for my life. The buildings I passed were deserted, their owners having realized their danger and got away. Not a human being was nearyes, one. Passing a mattress lying on the sidewalk, I heard a cry. Stopping, I examined a diminutive bundle on it and unrolled a mite of a girl baby."

"She weighed twelve pounds," put In Mrs. Kennedy. "You weighed her a few days after." .

"Well, then," continued her husband, "I unrolled a twelve pound baby. The most natural thing is the world to do was to pick up the baby and take it along with me. At any rate, this is what I did. There were flames in my path, though more smoke than flame. Covering the baby's face carefully, I shot through it like an arrow. Now I was safe. The fire was sweeping north-

"Well, here I was, near midnight on the 8th of October, 1871, a boy of twelve years, without a cent in my pocket, suddenly become a father. 1 went on southward, where the people in safety were standing in front of their houses or on their roofs watching the great glare and listening to the boom of falling buildings. My burden was squalling, and a woman, taking pity on me and it, brought out from her house some milk in a bottle. The baby drank it, and when I gave the woman my story she had the liberality to give me the bottle, but not the humanity to take us in.

"There was an outhouse in the neighborhood where I had often slept, there being a board loose, so that I could crawl into a place where hay was kept. I took the baby to this place and laid her on a soft bed. Fortunately I hadfound her well wrapped in blankets. I shall never forget the companionable feeling of cuddling up alongside the little thing and going to sleep. In the morning I was awakened by something tugging at my hair, and there was the baby laughing at me.

"I took the bottle, went out and begged some food of a woman and brought it back for the child's break-

"It was fortunate you went to a woman," remarked Mrs. Kennedy. "You wouldn't have known how to prepare the food."

"It was then I learned, and after that I prepared the food myself. Well. and never jaw back." He added: "Pa as soon as the baby was asleep again is a Quaker, but I really don't think I went out and earned some money carrying things for people-for they were pouring southward on Michigan avenue-then went back again and gave the baby its dinner. She looked to me like a birdlet just hatched, her nose was so small and her mouth so wide. The only name I knew for a the maid in the hall." bird was 'chippy,' or what we boys called 'chippy bird,' so I called her Chip.

"One day I was doing a job for a gentleman and told him about my baby. He asked me where she was. and after he had promised me not to take her from me I told him. He went with me to our home, and when he saw Chip snoozing away, with an empty bottle beside her, great was his astonishment. He told me to pick her up and follow him, but I said that all I wanted was to earn money to buy milk for her, and, seeing that I was determined, he left me alone with her, telling me to come to his store and he would give me work. I did so and soon after took Chip to a little room I hired. Having something to work for, I attended to business and am now at the head of the concern I entered over thirty years ago."

"And what became of the baby?" "Chip," he replied, looking at his wife, "I think you'd better finish the story.

"There's nothing more to tell."

## HUMOR OF THE HOUR

Bridge.

A Voice Over the 'Phone-Is this Mrs. Tingler's residence? The Maid-Yes.

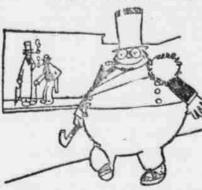
The Voice-Is Mrs. Biddle there-Mrs. Atherton Biddle?

The Maid-Yes, she's playing can't come to the 'phone, The Voice-Well, just say to her

right away, please, that her residence The Maid-Thank you. I'll let her know as soon as they finish the set. I know she wouldn't want me to dis-

SIMPLE METHOD.

turb her now. Good-by."



"He discharges every obligation." "Does he indeed?"

"Yes; discharges them from his

Was Forced to It.

"And this." said the young man who was showing his country relatives through the Museum of Art, "is a replica of the Venus de Milo,"

"Gosh!" said Uncle Amasa, "she was a good looker, all right. Wa'n't never married, was she?"

"No, I don't believe she ever was." "I s'pos, bein' armiess and not havin' a husband to hook up her clo's, she simply had to dress that way, no matter whether she liked it or not."

The Old, Old Cure.

A moderately fond father discovered his young hopeful reading a dime novel.

"Unhand me, villain," the detected boy thundered, "or there will be bloodshed!"

"No," said the father grimly, tightening his hold on his son's collar, "Not bloodshed-woodshed."

A Whopper of a Hopper.

"What is that, mamma?" inquired small Brenhilda. "It is a grasshopper," answered her

mother. A few moments later the little girl came running to her mother and said: "You made a mistake, mamma; it is a flowerhopper."

Answered.

"Some adjectives," said the teacher, "are made from nouns, such as dangerous, meaning full of danger; and hazardous, full of hazard. Can any boy give me another example?" "Yes, sir," replied the fat boy at the end of the form, "plous, full of

pie."

Mamma Had Mentioned It. "There was one man whose life was perfect," said the Sunday school teacher. "What one of you can tell me who he was?"

Little Mary Jane's hand went up and the teacher nodded to her. "He was mamma's first husband," she said.

A Modern Mother.

"Mamma," said little Dorothy, "I want some water to christen my doll." "No, dear," replied her mother, "it's wrong to make sport of such things."

"Then I want some wax to waxinate her. She's old enough to have something done."

Bobby Knew.

A small boy, writing a composition on Quakers, wound up by saying that the "Quakers never quarrel, never get into a fight, never claw each other man can be."

Juvenile Grafter.

"I saw you kiss sister last night." "Did you, Bobby? Here's a quarter for you.'

"Thanks. And then I saw you kiss "Great Scott; Here's \$5!"

One Exception.

She-(Protestingly) - That's just like you men. A man never gets into trouble without dragging some woman in with him."

He-Oh, I don't know. How about Jonah in the whale?

Where Nerve Falled.

Judge-Prisoner, are you guilty or not guilty? Prisoner-Let my lawyer plead not

guilty for me, Judge. I ain't got the The Kind It Was.

"Waiter, this chuck steak I ordered is like wood." "Yes, sah. Dat am wood-chuck steak."

No Choice. "What kind of a man would you like for a husband?" "Oh, either a bachelor or a widower. I'm not particular which."

## The Precious Jewel

\*\*\*\*\*\*\* T+++++++++++++++++++ Her embroidery rested neglected on her lap, and tapering fingers lightly held the needle posed in idleness. The drooping lids did not wholly conceal the dreamy eyes which seemed to be held with hypnotic power by the light that flashed and sparkled on the third finger of her left hand. Her face was sweetly quiet, and the soft, gentle expression registered happy thoughts.

Thus she sat when the woman entered and disturbed the day dream.

"Oh, here you are; taking a sun bath. You'll rain your eyes in that strong light." Then noting the girl's flushed face and following her gaze, "You happy, silly she exclaimed: little goose! It is pretty, isn't it?" she added quickly, for the girl's expression had as quickly changed.

"It's lovely," she whispered. Then looking the woman in the eyes she "Why do you questioned frankly: call me a 'silly little goose?" "

The woman's gaze shifted. "Why?" persisted the girl.

"Because you seem so happy." "I am happy. The very happiest

girl in the whole world!" That's just it. We all think soat the time."

"But I know I am." The woman laughed softly, but

there was no mirth in the sound. "How strange you are to-day! told you first because you always lips, seemed so sympathetic; and now you only laugh at me."

"No, child. I am not laughing at yoù. I feel more like crying for you. Your nature is so intense you will suffer as keenly as-as you love sincerely.

"But why think of suffering when everything is so beautiful and bright. Can't it be so, always?"

"There is always the reaction after the awakening."

"The awakening-from what?" "Oh, just this beguilling ecstatic fancy you are obsessed with at present. It is inevitable. After the knot is finally tied and the prop removed, those innocent, ignorant happy beings float out into the ether and alight somewhere; it matters little where. They are alone, with no one to lean upon, and everything to learn, even how to walk alone or rather to gether."

"But why-tell me why it is so?" "Oh, there are various reasons. With me it is money-or rather the lack of it. He is not the kind of man that attracts money, or thinks that it is vital; and I am the kind of woman that needs it. Why two such people are drawn to each is one of the mys teries of life. My happiness, my power, my whole nature calls for money and what it can do. It is an innate desire, obliterating all else. Long ago I ceased trying to stifle it, but fong for it, wish for it above all else, and pray for it constantly, eternally."

"Oh, but when two people love each other and have each other, what else can really matter?"

"To live is to create-desires at least. To be unable to fulfil one's de sires is a living death, or worse, But don't mind me, child; I'm wretchedly melancholy. Go on with your dreaming, and worship your ring. It is a precious jewel."

The girl continued to dream, but they were no longer the same, since that ambiguous, enervating element had entered into them, corroding and destroying the silver meshes of some of the finest ones. Sometimes they would appear in hideous, frightful forms, and then she would slip the spark of fire from her finger and shut it away from the light and her sight. resolved to send it back to the giver, thus ending all between them, and thereby eliminating the torture. But with the beginning of each new day, confidence, born of the virgin love that filled her being, was restored to

her heart, and the ring to her finger. Thus the days passed, while the giver, unconscious of the fact that his fate still hung in the balance, toiled on in happy anticipation, preparing the modest home that meant to him a heaven on earth.

When the blow came it was a surprise and a shock, and the girl shrank from a duty she felt was hers. The aversion was not to death or the dead, but to the living. She dreaded to meet the woman who had so suddenly attained her desire; the wife of the man who, during life had falled to make her happy, and by dying had enabled her to realize her dream! How could she even look upon such Mammon idolatry!

Then she went to her, she found her, not as she had pictured, revelling in the luxury of her long coveted affluence, but crushed and broken by the revelation of death; suffering the tortures of contrition, and deploring the minutes wasted in vain longings while, uncherished and unheeded, the greatest thing in life, a noble, unselfish love, had slipped forever from

"Contentment is a pearl of great price!" These words, which heretofore had been merely words, flashed into the girl's mind illumined with the sublime light of understanding.

"Ah, that is the precious fewel! And we must not cease to wear it, lest we also abandon the charm of life."

In the rapture of her newborn strength she clasped the woman in a compassionate, palpitating embrace, but the form was still and irresuscitable.-LENA SPALDING.

## Selections

NEWEST FORTUNE TELLER.

Telephone Girl, from Glass Case, Reveals Your Future to You.

The gypsy queen and the Hindu princess who tell your fortune for a cent in the phonograph rooms give it to you printed on a card. High in a glass case and life-size in form the lady sits, with one hand outstretched over an array of playing cards, and when you have dropped your cent in the slot in the machine's base the lady up above moves her hands back and forth over the face of the cards before her and looks very wise and then in a moment there is popped out to you from below a bit of pasteboard on which you will find your fortune. The newest of these fortune tellers talks it right into your ear; she is called the telephone girl.

Like the others, the telephone girl sits, life-size, high in a glass case on a pedestal containing the mechanism; but the apparatus is somewhat different. Here you find arrayed, over which the hand of the figure sways, the same layout of playing cards; but here instead of a raven perched at the fortune teller's elbow you find rising from the table in front of her the curved arm of a telephone transmitter, which is placed at a height convenient to the telephone girl's

At one corner of the base of this machine is the slot to put the cent in and on the other corner on the customary hook hangs a telephone receiver. Drop a cent in the slot and place the receiver at your ear and There is trouble in store for you," says the telephone girl, "but don't be alarmed, you'll come out all right. Don't lean on others, but trust yourself and go ahead," and so on.

The Height of Kings.

A remarkable feature about the physiques of reigning European monarchs is that they are nearly all shorter than their consorts. George V. is several inches shorter than Queen Mary. The German Empress is a trifle taller than the Kaiser, who always insists on the Empress sitting down when they are photographed together. Czar Nicholas II. looks quite small by the side of the Czarina. Alfonso of Spain is a head shorter than Queen Victoria Eugenie, and the King of Italy hardly reaches to the shoulder of Queen Helena. The Queen of Denmark too is a good deal taller than her husband. Exceptions to the rule are the King of Norway and the new King of the Belgians. The latter is six feet two inches in height and the tallest King in Europe.

Washington's Characteristics.

Washington was 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighed about 200 pounds. His strength was unusual, and for the greater part of his life his health was unbroken. The "Father of His Country" was not a handsome man, but he looked every inch a king, and it is said that in the moments of his anger he was terrible to behold. At no time was he an inviting man. No one ever thought of him as being a "good fellow," one of the "boys." Always desperately in earnest, he made people feel his earnestness, and they never felt like "fooling" with him or being over familiar with him. It is a fact, that he was an "aristocrat," but it is not true that he was a monarch-

Toy Spaniel an Old Breed.

The English toy spaniel is undoubtedly one of the oldest and most popular breeds of pet dogs known. As far back as the days of Charles the Martyr this breed was much prized by the ladies of the court. In the narrative of the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, indorsed in Lord Burghley's hand and forwarded to the court, it was recorded that one of the executioners found her little pet (a spaniel of practically the same type as those afterward known in the reign of Charles II.), which had crept under the folds of her garments to be near her, and which would not be taken away.

Rank in Kentucky.

"Yes, sir," said the Kentuckian, as they sat by the stove, "you can tell a man's rank in this State thusly: If you see a man with his feet on top of the stove, he's a gineral; if his feet is on that rail about half way up, he's a colonel; and if he keeps them on the floor, he's a major."

"Ah, yes." said his companion; "that's good as far as it goes; but how are you going to distinguish a captain or lieutenant?"

"Stranger, we don't go no lower than major in Kentucky."

White and Colored Mortality. Statistics show that the death rate of the negro is not far from double that of the white. For the year 1900 the rates, per 10,000, were: White, 178; colored, 299, a colored excess of 66 per cent., or as five to three. According to Surgeon-General O'Reilly, in his report for the year ending June 30, 1903, the death rates of white and colored soldiers were, respectively, 144 and 241 per 10,000, almost exactly in the ratio of three to five-a colored excess of over 67 per cent., the life conditions being exactly the same.

Believing the best of a man will in most instances incite him to do his best.

Red Stars.

Red stars have been found to be more numerous than was generally be-Heved, but they are usually so small that only astronomers who possess powerful telescopes are able to detect them.

Champagne.

About 25 per cent of all the champagne that is made in France is lost by the bursting of the bottles. Only about 5 per cent of spurious champagne is lost in that way.

The Game of Pole.

The Persians played ball on horseback 1,500 years ago. The ball was bandled about between the opposing players by means of long sticks, mallets or rackets. From this game mid ern polo has undoubtedly been evolved.

Alaska's Woodlands. It is estimated that the total forest

ind woodland area of Alaska is ap-

proximately 100,000,000 acres, or about 27 per cent of the land area of the ter-The Concrete Battleship. A fort built on a long, narrow island

at the entrance to Mandla bay is called

the "concrete battleship" because of Its shape and because it carries two ship's turrets, each with two twelveinch guns, Our Lighthouses.

tablishment of the United States government is the most complete and efficlent in the world.

It is claimed that the lighthouse es-

Found Gold, Lost His Life. The first man who discovered gold In Australia was handed. He was one of the first convicts transported to Botany bay, and when he learned the great secret he brought a sample to a probability of becoming remunerahanged by Governor Phillip for attempted escape.

The Grosbeak Weaver. In China the grosbenk weaver,

very small bird with a very large beak. small objects thrown in the air, and it also performs other tricks, Oldest Banknote.

The oldest banknote is in the Asiatic museum of St. Petersburg. It was issued by the Chinese government and

dates from the year 1399 B. C. The Gulf Stream. It is estimated that the amount of receives from the gulf stream amounts

rived from direct solar radiation.

The Dogger Bank, The Dogger bank in the North sea measures from east to west 105 miles while the greatest breadth is sixty-five miles, tapering down to twenty-five miles. The largest ships can sail over the bank's area with entire safety.

HARD ON THE MOURNERS.

When the Preacher was Carried Away by His Own Etoquence.

Among the quaint and true stories which Marion Harland has told in her autobiography is an instance of plantation preaching. Two young men happened to be present at a funeral service held in a negro cemetery.

The coffin reposing beside the grave was unusually small, in fact the witnesses agreed that they had never beheld a smaller. Inspired by the presence of the two visitors the preacher continued his discourse with extra vigor.

"Even de distinguished lives of de two 'lustrious strangers what has honored us by comin' among us dis blessed arternoon to jine in our mo'nin'-what is they? And what are we? And what is man bo'n o' woman, my brethren? Up ter-day wid de hoppergrass and down ter-morrow wid de sparrergrass!

"Like de flower ob de cornfiel', so he spreads hisself like a tree planted by de horse branch. Den de win' rises and de tempes' blows an' beats upon dat man-and whar is he?" Pausing in mid career the proacher touched the pathetically ridiculous box with a disdainful foot. "As fur dis t'ing"-rising on his toes in the energy of his contempt-"as fur dis 'ere itum-put de t'ing in de groun'! It's too small fer to be argyin' over!"

Silkworm Gut in Spain.

In reply to a Wisconsin inquiry, Consul-General Frank D. Hill, of Barcelona, furnishes the following information in regard to silkworm gut in

The raising of silkworms for business purposes is confined to the warmer climate, where such trade has show his success and was promptly tive. The principal countries producing silkworm gut, used in the manufacture of fishing tackle, are Spain, Italy and Japan. The most important center of production in Spain is in the Province of Murcia, where the peasants collect and sell gut to the meris trained to catch coins and other chants, under whose care it undergoes a lengthy process of preparation before being delivered to the market. Barring their common origin, this trade has no point of contact whatever with the manufacture of silk, as worms that are destined for one of these purposes become entirely useless for the other.

Prices in Spain for silkworm gut (called sedal) vary from \$1 to \$10 per 1,000 sedales or snells, according to heat which the northern hemisphere quality, and a certain amount is exported, chiefly to England.

to fully one-fourth of the total heat de-To Make It Fit the Crime. The old penalty of the treadmill ought to be revived for the speed maniae. Constant motion without the ability to get anywhere would be a punishment fitting the crime, and a taste of it might correct the impulse to go flying through the public streets to the great danger of other people's lives and limbs.





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