

ALL IN REGINA'S ABSENCE

(By D. J. Walsh.)

IT ALL came of Regina Gould's being sent to California as delegate for the Woman's club.

"There's just one way I can go Ellen," she told Ellen Nugent. "If you'll come and look after mother. I can't leave her alone, you know, even with Mary Sweet. As a matter of fact, Mary Sweet needs quite as much managing as does mother, and you will be equal to every occasion."

Ellen Nugent smiled faintly. Nothing so nearly like a blessing had ever come to her before, but of course, she was not going to tell that to Regina or anyone. She had come home tired and discouraged and so nearly ill that the doctor had recommended complete rest for her. Added to that she had lost her job—the job that she had relied upon for the past seven years, ever since her father's death made it necessary for her to earn her own living. He had left nothing, poor father, but tender memory and a parcel of debts which Ellen had somehow paid. Thus today she found herself without a job, without savings, without the necessary strength for getting another job and very lonely and sad in the cheapest room of Mrs. Hoff's boarding house. And now of a sudden came opportunity, change, diversion and all because for some unaccountable reason Regina Gould, rich, fortunate and beautiful, should feel that she was the one dependable person to whom she could look for a favor.

"I'll come, of course, Regina," she said, trying to keep her voice steady. "But I shan't be you. And your mother and Mary Sweet won't be persuaded that I am. Still, I'll do my level best."

A week later Regina was on her way to California and Ellen, accompanied by a shabby suitcase, was occupying Regina's pink-and-cream bedroom in the splendid Gould house.

She sighed as she hung her two wearable gowns on the nickel rod beside Regina's superfluity of frocks. And she sighed again when she went down to lunch and found herself alone, served by Mary Sweet efficient maid, who eyed her with scorn as she sat there in Regina's chair. Mrs. Gould seldom left her room. She was a tiny, wispy old woman, with chronic ill-health and an obsession for undisturbed quiet, whose chief entertainment consisted of reading a certain curative form of literature and listening to her canary chirp seeds.

After lunch Ellen attended to a few duties prescribed by Regina and then went to the library to read. Choosing an armful of tempting books she curled up on the davenport, tucked a pillow behind her and gave herself up to an afternoon of real enjoyment. It had begun to snow in the thick, clotted March way and this made her sense of security doubly delightful.

She had lost herself in her book when Mary Sweet ushered a visitor in upon her unannounced. She would not have done such a thing with Regina, but she did it with Ellen.

"I beg your pardon?" the man said, wondering. "You are not Reg—Miss Gould—"

"Not in the least," Ellen uncurled and arose. He was tall, she was short, and she had to look up at him. Up lifted Ellen's eyes were singularly lovely with their blue depths and their black pencilings. For the rest she was just an ordinary little tired person, most unlike the golden and radiant Regina. "You wished to see Miss Gould? I'm very sorry. She just started for California this morning."

"And I," said the man with a smile that Ellen loved instantly, "have just come from California to see her. I arrived late last night. My name is Gordon—David Gordon."

"Oh!" Ellen caught her breath. So he was David Gordon, whom Regina had waited so long for. He had gone away a long time ago and Regina expected him to come back and finish his interrupted love-making. He had been so proud it seemed to actually propose to an heiress. And now here he was and there Regina was! How unfortunate! Ellen wished she could comfort him. He must be so terribly disappointed. And poor Regina! "Won't you sit down?" she asked him.

He sat down. He was still sitting there when the room became so dim that Ellen had to pull on the light behind her. Then he arose to go. She hated to have him go. She liked him so; he was so big, so honest, so interesting. What would Regina do in her place? What would Regina expect her to do? She asked him to stay to dinner.

Mrs. Gould came down and kept them company. She was very glad to see David, but she did not say much. She fed the cat and let Ellen and the guest do the talking.

The next day David sent flowers. It was a graceful return for hospitality. Then for some days she saw nothing of him. She had hoped he would come again. He had made a strong impression upon her. She was not susceptible; she had never had a lover and she had thought she could care for no man. But David Gordon had got into her thoughts, into her heart, into her life itself, and the more she tried to rid of him the more this memory persisted.

Then he came again. Ten days of good food and rest and change had beautified Ellen amazingly. She had laid aside several years and David told

her so when he saw her. He brought her a box of candy and explained that he had been out of town. And he asked her if she wouldn't like to go to a concert that evening.

Ellen was happy. She was going with David to a concert! Mrs. Gould thought it was nice, and even Mary Sweet approved. But then Mary Sweet was all for Ellen now.

Ellen suffered temptation when she went to dress. There were all Regina's frocks and she could wear one if she chose, for even though Regina was large those soft things could be made to fit anybody. There was one, red with splashes of beading. She thought over it long, then she put it back. It was not right that she should be going to a concert in one of Regina's gowns with Regina's lover.

She wore her black crepe. The music entranced her. It rang in her ears all night. But she awakened to the resolve that there should be no more of David for her.

It was not so easy, though, to get rid of him. He came and came; he brought her flowers and candy; he insisted on taking her to ride in the new car he had purchased; he told her all about himself, how he had bought a piece of worthless-looking land and later found that it had oil value; how he had more money than he had ever dreamed of possessing, no matter how hard he worked. And he wasn't afraid of work.

He was very kind to her, but only for Regina's sake she knew. She was grateful, but unhappy, because she knew that she loved him.

Regina came back, handsomer than ever, walking in several days ahead of schedule.

"I got your letter," she told Ellen. "So David is back! Well, I hope you've been nice to him."

"He has been nice to me," Ellen said faintly. "I'm glad you've come, dear."

She went back to Mrs. Hoff's. It was all over.

That evening she was called down to the parlor and there he was. He took her in his arms.

British Crown Jewels Make Dazzling Display

Within the concentric works of the tower of London is Wakefield tower, the repository of the regalia of crown jewels of England's royal house. Behind heavy bars of iron grating, these priceless treasures in the shape of crowns, coronets, scepters, spurs, bracelets, spoons, salts and tankards glow in a blaze of diamonds, strange-ly dazzling to human eyes. A king-
dom's ransom is gathered there, and the awed visitor knows that he has never seen before and will never see again such untold wealth in precious stones.

The guide book calls attention to the "Stars of Africa," once known as the Cullinan diamond. The eye searches out the imperial state crown which, containing 2,818 diamonds, 237 pearls and many other jewels, was altered to permit of the insertion of the large oblong brilliant of the "Stars of Africa," weighing 309 carats and cut from the Cullinan stone. The alteration required the addition of two sapphires, 56 brilliants and 52 rose diamonds. That single stone is so large, so water clear, so brilliant, that it exceeds the beauty of the crown and the crown's jewels. That priceless oblong can be removed from its setting, at the wish of the queen, for she has the right to wear the stone when she so desires.

Scarcely eased of the wonder of that magnificent stone, the eye falls upon an even greater cause of breathless admiration, for the royal scepter lifts its slender regal length a little below but directly in front of the crown. Within its head, below the cross, blazes the largest cut diamond in the world, the largest of the "Stars of Africa," weighing 516½ carats, said to be beyond price. It is drop shape and flawless, as are all the stones cut from the Cullinan stone. Under the light it has the matchless beauty of drops of dew under a morning sun.

Under the spell of those stones, information about the Cullinan diamond is sought and easily found, so famous is the stone. It is known that in 1905 it was found in the yellow ground of the newly discovered Premier mine in the Transvaal, being three times the size of any known diamond. This clear and water white stone weighed 3,025½ carats, or 1 1/3 pounds, and the largest of its surfaces appeared to be a cleavage plane, indicating that it was only a portion of a much larger stone.

The Transvaal government purchased this Cullinan diamond in 1907 for a gift to King Edward VII. In Amsterdam it was cut into nine large stones and a number of small brilliants. All the stones are flawless and of the finest quality. The two in the royal jewels are the largest brilliants in the world.

Under the magic of those stones it is a bit difficult to realize that they are chemically identical with charcoal and can be reduced to that physically different substance under great heat or electricity. In spite of much scientific study, the origin of the diamond still remains a mystery.

Public School Lands
The Continental congress in its "land ordinance" of May, 1785, dedicated from the public lands which lay west of the thirteen colonies lot No. 16 of every township to "the maintenance of public schools within the said township." The policy of giving public lands for education has been continued, and lands and scrip have been granted to a total of 117,244,519 acres, an area nearly equivalent to that of the German republic.—Washington Star.

Receipt for Stolen Ruler Asked in Ad

Moscow.—A thief has been appealed to through an advertisement in Izvestia here to send a "receipt" for an accounting ruler stolen some time ago. The "ad" follows:

"THIEF who stole at house number 123, Leningrad Road, in June, 1928, a Wichman accounting ruler, belonging to Dreyer, a student of the Moscow Technical institute, is begged to send a receipt to the following address: Moscow, Garahovskaya st. 16. The Trade Union Committee refuses to give me a new ruler without such receipt."

HIRES YOUTH TO PEN SUICIDE NOTE

Woman, Unable to Write, Critical of Boy's Work.

Newark, N. J.—Mrs. Ernestine Maser, thirty-eight, of No. 364 Fairmount avenue, Newark, could not write when her husband, John, came home from work one night he found her dead, a gas tube in her mouth. Near her lay a pen-written will. The police were puzzled as to how a woman who could not write could have left a suicide note with her name signed to it.

After questioning 35 persons living in the neighborhood, the police learned from Peter Anselmo, twelve, of No. 353 Fairmount avenue, that he had written the note.

"I thought she was just making a will," the lad said. Mrs. Maser's note said:

"Give all my property to my two younger children; do not leave my husband or my oldest daughter see my body. ERNESTINE MASER."

Peter went over to the Maser house after coming home from school to play with Charles Maser, seven. He said Mrs. Maser sent Charles out to play, telling him to stop running in and out bothering her. She asked Peter to write for her.

She criticized his penmanship, and tore up several uncompleted notes. He had trouble especially with her first name "Ernestine," which she wished written with the utmost neatness.

When he at last made a satisfactory draft, he said, Mrs. Maser gave him a quarter and bade him flippantly to run along and spend it.

The will is worthless, as it was not properly witnessed.

Woman Wrecks Bank to Gain Male Attention

Berlin.—Because no man courted her, thirty-eight-year-old Marianne Waldmann, daughter of a prominent patrician banker of Freiburg, in Silesia, bankrupted her father's bank and had him jailed, until she herself was arrested as a forger.

Since the war Germany has 2,000,000 more women than men. Marianne determined not to live without masculine attention. She showered all the men she met with presents, such as a house full of furniture, motor cycles, wine, and Persian rugs. She paid for these gifts with money from her father's bank, which she was running for him. She presented her father regularly with favorable balance sheets until the Saturday the bank failed.

Marianne denounced her seventy-year-old father as a fraudulent banker, though for his whole life he was the most respected citizen of Freiburg. He was arrested and placed in jail until the police discovered that his daughter was the defaulter.

Watch Lost 24 Years Recovered in Pawnshop

St. Paul.—Lost 24 years ago, a \$400 diamond studded gold watch was back in the possession of its owner here and William Conway pawnshop inspector, was hailed by his mates as the "man with the memory of an elephant."

Miss Eloise L. Callahan, now a business woman, lost the valuable little timepiece while on an excursion down the Mississippi river in 1904. She at once reported her loss to police, but after a fruitless search the watch was forgotten by all save Conway.

The inspector while on his regular rounds of the pawnshops observed in the showcase of J. S. Sammlson a woman's watch with a diamond crescent on the back. He consulted his record book and confirmed his conviction that it was the watch lost 24 years before by Miss Callahan.

Little Spaniel Saves Mistress From Kidnaper

Oakland, Calif.—A placid little spaniel trotting lazily along with his mistress turned into an enraged dog here when kidnappers threatened Helen Ruth Moss, fifteen.

The girl was walking along a high way near the edge of the city when an automobile stopped and a man asked her a direction. Pretending he was deaf, the motorist motioned the girl closed to the car and when she responded seized her and started dragging her into the machine. The man however, failed to reckon with the spaniel.

In an instant the dog was at the man's throat and continued to bite until the grip which held Helen was loosened and the girl was able to run away from the car.

Penetration Into Secrets of Nature Causes Faith of Man to Expand

By CHAPLAIN RAYMOND C. KNOX, Columbia University.

RELIGION suffers and stagnates without increasing knowledge; it becomes opposed to progress. With enlarging knowledge, religion becomes more charitable, more spiritual, more capable of doing its real work in the world. As men penetrate farther and farther into nature's secrets, as they give us a better understanding of the universe in which we live, as they make known to us more of the origin, the development, the laws of life, we are to think of them not as destroying faith, as is sometimes foolishly charged, but as men who make it possible for our faith to expand and grow.

Dr. Robert A. Millikan, one of America's most distinguished scientists said: "Scientists imbued with the spirit of service, which is the essence of religion, and religion, guided by intelligence, the intellectual honesty . . . and the effectiveness . . . of science, can, between them, without shadow of doubt, transform the world."

May this vision, prefigured when Christ was born, be not far distant, and His Kingdom shall come!

In the Three Wise Men who came from the East the church has seen the symbol that Christ fulfills the hopes of all men everywhere, and that in Him racial barriers are to be done away.

It is further a symbol that men who are seekers of truth, who are striving to understand the world in which we live and the mystery of life, are naturally attracted to Him who declared: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." In Him they find the answer to the profoundest questions that can be asked—what is life? What is the purpose which all of our powers, our knowledge, our resources, shall serve?

For unless we have found the purpose for which to live, life is bound to be only a baffling, a futile thing. It is never sufficient to have merely something to live on. What each one of us needs is something to live for. Without aim, men surrender to cynicism and despair.

Phlegmatic Public Conscience Enables Moneyed Evildoer to Evade Justice

By EDWARD J. FOGARTY, Warden Cook County (Ill.) Jail.

American psychology and conscience, especially in relation to crime, is leading to a crisis in the national life of the country, which in ten years will have reached such proportions as to make the United States a dangerous place to live in. Money has law and order roped and hogtied. The man with money considers himself above the law, because the law is powerless to restrain him. Why? Because public conscience is phlegmatic or doesn't bother, and public sentiment, in many cases, leans towards the evildoer rather than denounce him.

One means which would effectively counteract the general trend of psychology in crime is to adopt the English way of thinking in relation to the criminal. There punishment follows quickly the commission of crime, and the criminal, no matter from what station in life, nor how wealthy, knows to a certainty that if caught, he will have to pay for his act. In this country, on the contrary, many months frequently pass before the accused man is brought to trial, and in a large number of cases material witnesses have disappeared and the state is unable to prove its case.

Our jails are overcrowded, our penitentiaries taxed to capacity, it is true, but that in itself means nothing. To restrain a criminal for a time before his trial with the hope always that he can beat his case, is no deterrent. Take a cross section of prison inmates throughout the country. Analyze them and you find the poor man who cannot afford a tricky lawyer, or the criminal with neither influential friends nor political pull. In the meantime wealthy malefactors of our country roam the streets, dictating to the law with a fairy wand of gold.

Current Unemployment to Be Blamed on the Limitations of Markets

By PROF. SUMNER M. SLICHTER, Cornell University.

Labor-saving devices and mass production are not the cause of current unemployment, but limited markets are. The public in recent years has not increased its buying of manufactured and agricultural goods, but has been putting its money into stocks and bonds, land, insurance, electricity and education.

It may be figured that since 1920 a decrease of 1,800,000 employes has occurred in farming, manufacturing, mining and railroading. Building construction and the repair trades have taken up some of the slack. Between 1923 and 1928 we might place the net drop in employment at between 500,000 and 1,000,000.

The most remarkable thing about this increase in unemployment is that it has occurred in the face of a rapid increase in spending by the public. Debits to individual accounts indicate the people of the United States spent at least one-third more money in 1927 than in 1923.

In order to diminish unemployment there must be a change in relationship between wages and other prices which would make it profitable for employers to use more labor. Speculation in stocks and land should be discouraged. A program of public work might cause more money to be spent for labor.

Science a Failure Because It Teaches Man That He Is Incurably Selfish

By HARRY WARD, Professor Union Theological Seminary.

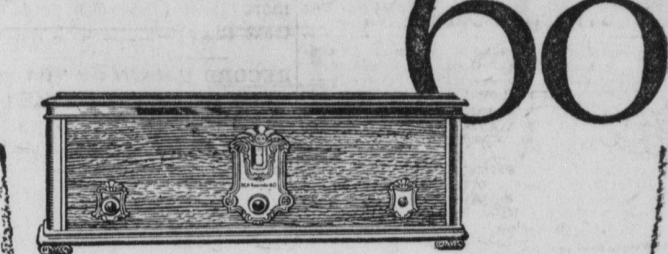
In order to explain man, science must compass God. It is not enough to study where man came from and his behavior with his kind, past and present, and to try to take him apart by analyzing his mind, emotions and physical reactions. To learn what man really is, he must be put back together again and considered in his relations with God.

The note of doubt almost approaching despair in all the worth-while literature of the present day came because the World war has shown that man has failed to learn to control himself. The machine age has largely conquered the forces of nature, but when its inventions are used to promote war and when it permits the cruelty of organized sports and prostitution, evils that even animals do not know, it is a failure so far as man's control of himself is concerned.

Science fails in helping man to conquer himself because it teaches that man is incurably selfish, and this age is inferior to a more God-fearing generation that believe not only in salvation from sin but in the conquering of sin itself.

Man needs God, but God also needs man for the working of Himself on human beings on this planet.

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