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THE ORIGINAL THEO.

Margery had been called upon at as early age to solve one of life's most troublesome, if not important problems; one which few girls are forced to grapple with so young, though seldom does one escape encountering it, at some time. Being averse, by nature, to doing anything by halves, Margery had increased her cares by inviting several acquaintances to cheer her solitary existence during the weeks of her parents' absence from the city.

To be more explicit, Margery's problem was that of housekeeping, and the management of servants, and such was her situation that this was made as difficult as possible, for Margery's home was in the suburbs of a southern city, where desirable servants are by no means in abundance. Such a place is supposed to combine the many comforts of both city and country life, and although little is said of its also combining their discomforts such is most truly and hopelessly the case.

Mr. Merrill, the father of Margery, found himself, at the time when our story opens, in sadly failing health and much in need of a change of air and scene. This must be of some weeks' duration, and feeling that it would accomplish little good unless she was by to see that he took proper care of himself, Mrs. Merrill determined to accompany her husband.

It was too great an expense, however, for Margery and the three boys to share the trip, and so it was, they were left behind after many misgivings indeed, and instructions as numerous as if Margery was about to rule a domain as important and extensive as that governed by our president.

Margery felt a due sense of the responsibility of her position, though by no means overwhelmed by it. Possibly she would have a chance to distinguish herself, and the desire to do this was one which our heroine shared, in common with most other human beings. Particularly did she wish to perform her duties well in the eyes of two mischievous boy cousins, who were spending the summer at the Merrill's home.

These two young gentlemen were usually described by a facetious member of the family, as "Theo, who thought he was brilliant, and Jerry, who disagreed with him."

But however much opinions of Theo might differ, it is certain that during the summer of which we write, that conceited young person really distinguished himself.

If was during the first meal that had been served after Mr. and Mrs. Merrill took their departure that the incorrigible Theo made a suggestion which fell a little short of causing a small revolution in the household.

Margery had taken her place at the table with a somewhat ruffled expression. "You will have no waitress tonight," she declared, with a little preliminary rattle of the cups. "That is, you won't have any to-night, or any other time, while I am keeping house!"

The boys stared and gasped, and Jerry began wishing that all his favorite dishes hadn't been put on the opposite end of the table.

"Yes," resumed Margery sadly, "Carrie wasn't worth shooting, and when she smashed one of the dresden plates a while ago I simply bundled her home in a hurry. They're all careless and stupid and thievish, and I'll wait on the table myself! I say," she added, noting various shades of disapproval on the faces about her, "if you don't like it, you can just change your boarding places, but I'm pretty sure I can go round and change the plates for the second course and bring fresh ones a good deal quicker than she can. I'll never break any, either."

Theo was bending over his plate with a pensive and somewhat sad expression. "I say," he declared presently, "I visited convict camps, and I guess we've all got about as good feet as the convicts have."

Margery stared. "I can't imagine," she remarked with dignity, "the possible connection between my housekeeping and the pedal appendages of convicts."

"Then you've got a good deal less imagination than I thought you had," observed Theo, calmly. "The connection is obvious. At the convict camp, every fellow's his own waiter. Now, we men folks would feel awfully bad to sit back and have you changing our plates for us, so why can't we all do it for ourselves? You can just go to the piano and play us a march, and we'll get up and parade round the table fast, to the music; then, we'll put our plates down on the sideboard and all march gracefully back again. It would be lovely!" And Theo sighed, in ecstatic imagination of the novel scene.

"By the ghost of Hamlet, what a bright theor-ry!" exclaimed Tom, who was inclined to be sarcastic, and evidently ignored the fact that puns are the lowest order to wit.

Strange to say, however, Margery looked rather pleased, and eyed Theo thoughtfully. She was fond of originality in almost any form, and the uniqueness of her cousin's plan struck her fancy at once. "But," she hesitated, "you know I'm going to invite Alice and Lillie and Kate on a visit next week, and what do you reckon they'd think of it all?"

"Be charmed," declared Theo promptly; "perfectly charmed! And then, you know, if there are girls here, we can introduce quadrille figures, and make it beautiful. For instance, the boys and girls'll go round opposite sides, and as they pass each other the boys'll wave their plates over the girl's heads, and it'll be lovely!"

"Very," sniffed Tom scornfully; "the way you'll drop little rivulets of syrup and gravy all over the young ladies' tresses will be something ideal!" But poor Tom found, to his chagrin, that his opinions received no attention whatever, and that very evening the first trial was made of what Jerry dubbed the "Theo-food march."

Not only did it prove effective, picturesque and unique, but Margery declared it a most expeditious method of getting the table cleared, and only wondered that no one had ever thought of adopting such a scheme before.

Practice makes perfect, and after a day or two, the young Merrits executed their march around the table under Theo's leadership, in a manner that might have given pointers to a professional stage manager. So great indeed was the young gentlemen's success that he began to wonder if he would not be making a mistake in selecting law as his future profession.

Meanwhile, Alice, Lillie and Kate had expressed their intention of coming to their "dearest Margery" on the Thursday following, and added, as a postscript, the formidable information that they were to be accompanied by an old maid aunt, in the capacity of "chaperone."

"Aunt Jane" was the young people's bugbear, and in their eyes she possessed but one redeeming quality—that of laziness. This, of course, is usually deemed a fault, but in the case of Aunt Jane it was different, for this overruling trait often prevented her even discovering performances which would have called forth torrents of wrath had they not remained a secret.

In the first place, Aunt Jane always lay in bed late of mornings, and if the young people possessed sufficient energy to rise early there was no knowing in how many frolics they might indulge, undiscovered and undisturbed.

It was one evening at bed time that the formidable arrived. Being overcome with fatigue the elder lady sought her own apartment at once, and it was with a sigh of deep thankfulness that the youthful crowd caught the last glimpse of the stiff gray curls bobbing away upstairs.

It was hours later, however, before the girls, in their own rooms, had whispered their last stealthy secret and giggled their last giggle for the night. Aunt Jane was to be the victim of a plot.

It was not a plot, however, that dealt with poison or dynamite, but only some minor details of etiquette. Aunt Jane would probably seek to interfere with some of their arrangements, but they simply didn't intend to let her—that was all.

At breakfast that lady failed to put in an appearance and all went well. That is, the "food march," after the first course of fruit was finished, was carried through, much to the delight of Alice, Lillie and Kate. Several new figures were introduced, and not one of the boys was so unfortunate as to spill syrup or gravy on any young lady's tresses. (It might be well to explain, however, that there was no syrup or gravy to spill.)

At dinner, however, Aunt Jane was sitting rigidly erect at the foot of the table, when an ominous little bristle of the stiff gray curls, as though scenting mischief in the air.

She was unaccustomed to having no one to wait on the table, and expressed strong disapproval at Carrie's dismissal. How desert was to be served she had not the remotest idea, and when the first course was completed she was greatly startled by a sudden thunder of loud chords from the piano, and in a moment more surprised quite speechless when the entire crowd rose abruptly from their places, seized their plates and began a rapid march around the table.

Absolutely incapable of speaking, the poor lady leaned back in her chair and gasped, while the gay crowd whirled and revolved about her, quite ignoring her presence.

So great was the din, combining as it did the music, the clatter of china and shrill peals of laughter, that no one heard the door bell ring time an again, till at last the visitor, tired of waiting, entered unannounced upon the scene.

No one so much as saw him except poor, wretched Aunt Jane, who dropped her glasses, twisted her cap awry, and turned almost purple with mortification.

It was the minister, an old friend of both Aunt Jane's and the Merrills. Far from horrified, however, that gentleman stood watching the scene for a moment with a merry twinkle in his eye, then, catching the spirit of the occasion he seized Aunt Jane's plate, and, joining the marchers, deposited it on the sideboard himself.

The young people had triumphed and Aunt Jane was completely defeated. After that there was marching between courses at every meal, and all declared that it aided digestion, besides all its other good results.

Certain it is, too, that Theo's plan solved a problem for Margery which had for some time been troubling her. It had been her dearest wish to entertain a number of friends at a stylish tea of several courses, and she understood well how to order its preparation. It was the serving which had been the trouble. But now, what could be more unique than to have the guests all rise at the completion of each course, and marching around the table to the sound of music, deposit their own plates on the sideboard and return to the table?

A judge would be appointed to watch the performance and deliver a prize each to the boy and girl accomplishing their duties most gracefully.

Margery's tea was an entire success, and her guests declared that to the original Theo a unanimous vote of thanks was due for his bright suggestion and a merry and memorable evening.—Atlanta Journal.

Queen Victoria still adheres to a set of dietary rules and health prescriptions given her many years ago by Sir William Jenner.

Rutan the bicycle dealer and repairer has reduced the price of renting and repairing bicycles. A few Bargains in wheels from $5 up. Guns rented and repaired. Shop on broad street Milford Pa. tf

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This is the season when mothers are alarmed on account of croup. It is quickly cured by one minute cough cure, which children like to take.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

Historical Mortality List of the Dread Disease.

The following figures convey an idea of the fearful ravages of the bubonic plague from the time of the first historical record of its existence: The history of bubonc plague dates from the second and third centuries before Christ, and two Alexandrian physicians, Dioscorides and Posidonius, who were contemporaries of Christ, have left a description of the disease which leaves no doubt that it was the same as that of modern times. The plague never died out, but it was not until the middle of the fourteenth century that the horrible epidemic known as the "black plague" visited Europe and caused the death of more than 25,000,000 people. The disease was epidemic in London in 1348, 1361, and 1368. In 1325 two thirds of the academic population of Oxford died of it. It was again epidemic in London in 1400, 1406, 1428, 1472 and 1499. In 1466 over 40,000 persons died of it in Paris. In 1563 it broke out again in London, and the mortality was more than 1,000 per week. In 1572 Lyons lost 50,000 of its population from the plague. In 1575 it visited Venice and carried off 70,000 persons. In 1603 the mortality of another epidemic in London reached 38,000. In 1603 an epidemic in Egypt is said to have resulted in the death of 1,000,000 people. An epidemic in London, in 1625, caused a mortality of 35,000, and in 1636, more than 10,000 Londoners were carried off. In 1656 there was a terrific epidemic which carried off 300,000 in Naples, 60,000 in Genoa and 14,000 in Rome. In 1665 a fresh epdemic in London resulted in the death of 68,500 people. This is the first absolutely accurate estimate on record. In 1679 Vienna lost 76,000 by plague and in 1681 Prague lost 83,000. In 1704 Stockholm had an epidemic, with about 40,000 fatal cases. In 1720 an epidemic in Marseilles carried off from 40,000 to 60,000 people. In 1770 and 1771 the plague killed 300,000 people in Moldovia, Wallachia, Transylvania, Hungary and Poland, and in the same year one fourth of the population of Moscow died of plague. Since that time there have been frequent outbreaks of the disease, and it has constantly existed in lower Hindoostan and about Constantinople, but there have been no really great epidemics. Coming to recent times, Bombay suffered an epidemic in 1896. In January the mortality was nearly 5,000, and in February 4,000. The total mortality in the Presidency of Bombay has been 164,083. In Puna, last August, there was an average of 100 deaths a day, in a population of 60,000.

It is a remarkable fact that Europeans seem scarcely susceptible to the disease nowadays, and are able to withstand its ravages when infected During the recent outbreak in Hongkong only 11 Europeans were attacked, and the mortality in their cases was but 18.2 per cent. Among Japanese (10 cases) the mortality was 60 per cent, among Portuguese residents (18 cases) the mortality was 66 per cent, and among Chinese (2,619 cases) the mortality was 93.4 per cent.

Dr. George M. Sternberg, LL. D., in an interesting article in the Geographic Magazine, says:

"I shall have the satisfaction of stating that preventive medicine has made such progress during the past 50 years that there is very little danger that bubonic plague will ever again commit serious ravages in the more enlightened countries of Europe, or that it is a serious menace to the lives and prosperity of citizens of the United States."

Success in Naval Life.

And now of the chances of success and promotion in this naval life. Any enlisted man may win a warrant. This means the uniform, pay and position of a warrant officer, with the privilege of retirement at the age of sixty-two years—a position of honor and trust, and a comfortable salary for life. Good conduct and honorable, faithful service will win this, and in winning it you may perhaps be lucky enough to go with a Hobson of a Merrimac. I remember perfectly how I sentenced Murphy, seaman, of the Iowa, to death, as I thought, when, after volunteering for the job, I selected him to go with Hobson on his daring trip. Twenty officers and six hundred men had volunteered in response to the signal from Admiral Sampson, "I want volunteers to sink the Merrimac." In reply to my signal, "How many do you want?" the answer came, "One seaman." But how to select the one out of all the gallant fellows who were so anxious to go? Eventually heads or tails decided in favor of Murphy, an those who saw his face will never forget his smile and the shake of his head as the offers came: "Fifty dollars for your chance, Murphy!" "One hundred and fifty, Murphy!" It was worth many days of hardship to be Murphy. It was worth many long night watches to have a chance to be Murphy. And think what it must have been to sit in the boat with Cameron Wilson when that gallant chap cut the cables off Cienfuegos. Only ninety yards to the shore—fifteen hundred Spanish infantry and several machine guns, making the Mausers sing and the water foam, yet they sat still, the brave boys in the blue shirts, and sawed away on the cables until the job was done. Some died, and many will carry scars to their graves for that day's work, but wasn't it worth half a lifetime of hardship to be one of them?

The Queen of Italy is fond of the English and Americans, showing them special courtesy at the Italian court.

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" 606, Sunday Only	7.45	"
" 88, Daily Except Sunday	10.34	"
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" 620, Sunday Only	4.30	"
" 8, Daily Express	5.20	"
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" 1, Daily Express	11.33	"
" 11, For Hoboken Exp't Sun	12.10	P. M.
" 5, Daily	5.15	"
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Trains leave Chambers street, New York for Port Jervis on week days at 4.00, 7.30, 9.00, 9.15, 10.30 A. M. 1.00, 3.00, 4.30, 6.30, 7.30, 9.15 P. M. On Sundays, 4.00, 7.30, 9.00, a. m.; 12.30, 2.30, 7.30 and 9.15 P. M.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Milford Sabbath services at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sabbath school immediately after the morning service. Prayer meeting Wednesday at 7.30 P. M. A cordial welcome will be extended to all. Those not attached to other churches are especially invited. REV. THOMAS NICHOLS, Pastor.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, Milford: Services Sunday at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday school at 12.00 M. Week-day service Friday at 10 A. M. Holy Communion Sunday at 7.45 A. M. Seats free. All are welcome.

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