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THROUGH THE DARK VALLEY

The darkness of night was over the city. Here and there a house with a lighted window frowned sullenly on the belated passerby, who, with eyes strained to catch a glimpse of her desired goal, hurried up the street. In a few minutes she reached the house where the lighted piazza revealed a black ribbon fluttering from the door. With a gasping cry she drew back; then, the next instant, recovering, the peal of the bell echoed through the house.

"Is it you, Elsie?" the elder woman, opening the door, asked softly. "I hardly expected you to-night; and yet, I thought that you would come."

"How could I wait after that telegram? I had just time to catch the train," she spoke in a harsh, strained voice.

Gently taking her hand, her mother-in-law led her into the library. But the usually attractive room seemed filled with a strange weirdness. To Elsie's excited fancy, even the fire flashed and leaped in an uncanny manner, as the light kindlings were laid upon it. Elsie felt as if she were stifling.

Awed by the suffering which changed the bright, youthful face into one suddenly old and care-worn, Mrs. Merton suppressed her own grief to answer the unasked questions of the woman Oswald had loved so well.

"It happened at 10 o'clock." Elsie leaned forward that no word might be lost. "Perhaps it was a mistake to keep from you that his life might end suddenly at any time; but he did it to spare you pain. He came home for a document that he left there," pointing to the table. "Just as he reached the door he fell. The doctor said that he died instantly."

"Don't go to him to-night," she begged as Elsie moved toward the door. And when she would have accompanied her, Elsie firmly motioned her back.

A solemn quietness filled the room where the still form rested. Elsie removed the covering from the face, which, noble in life, was now filled with an added dignity. A smothered moan, a confused jumble of incoherent words reached the ears of the woman who waited outside; then the minutes dragged into hours and the silence remained unbroken.

As Elsie looked at her dead husband, her loss was no longer visionary. Before, she had been stunned, helpless; but now she felt a sharp, poignant pain. Her hot hands covered the cold hand of the sleeper. Her throbbing temple was pressed against the cold, lifeless one. Only a few short hours ago, and what tender words of love would have answered the endearing epithets that Elsie uttered. Oh! for only one word. But never to hear his voice again. How could she bear the long years of separation with nothing but memory to comfort her!

"If people would get the right idea of death, much of the bitter heartache would be avoided. Death is advancement, promotion. A short separation, then endless reunion."

Did a voice speak? Or was it memory recalling the precious words with which Oswald had once comforted her. As before, it effected the same purpose. Elsie was calmed, strengthened. Then memory yielded another treasure.

"If I can accomplish ever so little good in the world before I am called home, I will not have lived in vain."

Elsie shuddered as she thought of Oswald's class of poor boys whom he was educating to become useful, honorable men; of his services as choirleader in the church, which was unable to pay a salary; of all the good he had hoped to accomplish in the city. Should these things cease because their leader was found worthy of promotion? Elsie bowed her head low over her husband's, speaking each word slowly, solemnly, impressively:

"Oswald, I promise, with the help of God, to carry on the work you have left."

* * * * * *

It was 15 years later that the city celebrated its centennial. The Y. M. C. A. Building, dedicated the week before, was opened to the inspection of the public. In the City Hall inspiring addresses were heard. But the climax of the celebration was reached when the young lawyer, whose eloquence appealed to the hearts of his audience, finished his address with the words:

"Many have spoken to-night of our pride in our beautiful city, and in our noble-minded, loyal-hearted citizens. But none have spoken of the far greater pride we feel in the woman who, 15 years ago, vowed to perpetuate the memory of her dead husband.

"It is chiefly to her that we owe thanks for the erection of the beautiful building you have admired to-day. It is to her that 20 boys owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude that she carried on the work her husband left unfinished. Of that class of boys, two are missionaries in the Far East; three are ministers; four in the medical profession; six are members of well-known business firms, and the remaining five, including myself, are following the profession her husband honored."

Taking the hand of the shrinking woman, seated among the speakers, he led her forward. But the thundering applause which greeted her drowned the closing words.—LILLIAN G. COPP.

A Course in Diving.

The free instruction given by the United States navy at its seamen gunners' school includes a course in diving. Many of the younger bluejackets become very proficient in this work. Besides his regular pay the member of a ship's crew, if a diver, receives an extra compensation of $1.20 per hour for the actual time he is employed under water.

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No systematic and business-like method has been adopted heretofore to effectually place before city people the attractions of Pike County and to bring them in close touch with this section. Many people would establish summer homes here if they knew of the ideal conditions. Pure water and air, freedom from mosquitoes, cool nights and beautiful scenery are what people in the cities are searching for. Pike County too is within three hours of New York City, and with the automobile, reasonable distance, instead of constituting a drawback, is now considered by people who can buy, an advantage, especially in the selection of a country site.

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A live real estate office can do more good for Milford than any other agency, it has been rightly said. Of course, The *Pike County Realty Exchange*, has not been established primarily for a public purpose, but the advancement of this locality will be one of its objects.

Every new summer home or estate enhances the value of all other property. Those who have property for sale and prospective purchasers should write at once to

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A REVOLVING SAFE.

Ingenious Device to Outwit the Enterprising Burglar.

Since no metal has yet been devised which can resist the action of the oxyhydrogen or the oxyacetylene flame, it became necessary to find some other means of keeping burglars from safes and strong boxes, so the revolving safe has been evolved. It consists of a steel box inclosed on all sides and arranged to revolve on ball bearings, and inclosed in a spherical compartment, built of strong masonry and closed. In the inclosing masonry and in the strong-box doors are contrived, by means of which the strong box is accessible from outside, as long as it is not revolving, which would be the case, for instance, during the business hours of the bank in whose quarters the revolving safe is set up. At the close of business both doors are closed, an electromotor, operated by a storage battery, is switched on and the strong-box then revolves at a uniform rate of speed uninterruptedly until a predetermined period, to which a clockwork connected with the switching apparatus is set, when the moving mechanism is automatically switched off.

People of Other Planets.

Calculations as to the size required for human beings on the other planets vary widely according to the basis of reckoning. According to those based upon the attraction of gravity, Jupiter should be peopled by pygmies of 28 inches. Wolfius, on the other hand, argued that Goliath himself would be accounted decidedly undersized upon that planet. He worked from the feebleness of the sun's light there, which would demand that the pupil of the eye should be much more dilatable. Since the pupil stands in constant proportion to the ball of the eye, and that to the entire body, said Wolfius, a little calculation shows that an average Jovian must be nearly thirteen feet seven inches tall—not quite four inches shorter than Og, king of Bashan, according to the measure of his bedstead given in Deuteronomy.

Air in Sleeping Room.

Janet T.—It is not to be wondered at that you are small and have a contracted chest if you sleep in a room devoid of a window. Can you not change your room? You can never expect to be well and strong as long as you sleep in a room without ventilation. To expand the chest you should stand before an open window early in the morning, clad in a loose gown, with feet close together and arms relaxed at your side; rise slowly on the toes and take long, deep inhalations through the nostrils, with the mouth closed; hold the breath for a moment and then come down quickly on the heels and exhale quickly through the mouth. Drink plenty of water and try to walk at least eight squares every day.

She Was Too Quick.

There were three at the little table in the cafe, a lady and two men.

Suddenly the electric lights went out and the lady quickly and noiselessly drew back.

An instant later there was the smack of a compound kiss. As the electric lights went up each man was seen smiling complaisantly.

"I thought I heard a kiss," said the lady, "but nobody kissed me."

Then the men suddenly glared at each other and flushed and looked painfully sheepish.

An Animated Mirror.

Mark Twain is constantly receiving photographs from men who have been told that they look like him. The latest one is from Florida, and Mr. Clemens is said to have written the following acknowledgement:

"I thank you very much for your letter and the photograph. In my opinion you are more like me than any of my doubles. In fact, I am sure that if you stood before me in a mirrorless frame, I could shave by you."

Making a Diagnosis.

Physican.—"From a hasty examination, I am of the opinion that you are suffering from clergyman's sore throat."

Patient.—"The—you say!"

Physician (quickly).—"But it is quite possible I am wrong. I will look again."

The Endless Chain.

"Why do you want wealth?" asked the philosopher.

"For the sake of the power it will bring me," replied the financier.

"And why do you desire power?"

"For the sake of the wealth it will enable me to accumulate."

Utterly Alone.

Eva was a little out of sorts.

"It is intolerable," she said.

"What is intolerable?" he asked.

She sank upon a stone in sheer despair.

"Just think," she said, "there is no other woman's husband with whom I can make invidious comparisons."

Even ExChange.

Angry Patron—That's the third time you've given me the wrong number. You must have what they call the telephone ear.

Girl in Central Office—I beg your pardon, sir, but that isn't the trouble. You have what we call the cornmeal mush voice.

Stores Unnecessary.

"Ah gottuh git a chicken foh mah brekfuss."

"Why, it's nearly midnight, Mose. Aren't all the stores closed?"

"Yessuh. Ah 'spec so. Did you'all wanter buy sumfin?"

A Crying Need.

"What do you consider the most crying need of the age?"

"I don't know; but if you had said the most crying need of the night I should have said sterilized milk."

SAVED THE SITUATION.

What Caused Her to Sigh a Great Contented Sigh.

She raised her head from his shoulder for a moment.

"Do you believe that exercise, and lotions, and toilet preparations will improve a woman's looks?"

He pressed her blond curls back upon his chest.

"They couldn't improve the looks of some women," he said.

"Whose?" she asked.

"Well, yours and Violet Cochrane's, for instance," he replied thoughtlessly.

"I don't understand you," she said, raising her head for the second time, and chilling him with a look. "We are not at all alike."

"I mean," he replied, turning her head for the second time, and thinking quicky, "that your looks couldn't be improved, because they are perfect as they are, and hers couldn't be improved because no amount of work could make her pretty."

And the firelight flickered as he sighed a great sigh of contentment and relief, while he drew a deep breath.—Tit-Bits.

Blackheads.

Mrs. H. G.—As long as you scrub your face you are very likely to have blackheads. Always steam the face, or bathe it well with hot water before trying to remove the blackheads.

After removing them massage thoroughly and then bathe the face with toilet water. Apply the following blackhead lotion two or three times a day. Before retiring use the cleansing cream, in the morning the toilet water. Hot water with a teaspoonful of phosphate of soda, taken before breakfast will soon make the skin look clear.

Blackhead Lotion.

Boracic acid, 1 dram; Alcohol, 1 ounce; Rose water, 2 ounces.

"Aren't my new slippers attractive?"

"My dear, they're immense."—New York Telegram.

Of Interest to Women

Why Not Plant a Wild Flower Garden—But You Should Avoid Too Many Varieties—Alice Lounsberry Writes Entertainingly.

At present there is a strong feeling among Americans for wild-flower gardens in which the plants shall be encouraged to retain their native characteristics, says Alice Lounsberry. Many nurserymen now make a specialty of supplying plants for the wild garden. Usually it is better to buy their stock than to rely wholly on transplanting from the woods, because under care plants often develop exceedingly strong roots which enable them to establish themselves more quickly and permanently in a garden than if just taken up from their natural surroundings.

In my garden I have a wild-flower corner, or it might be called a small woods garden, since most of the things dwelling there are true inhabitants of dense and quiet places. A similar effect might be achieved in a border by those who have not so large a spare corner in their gardens.

The wild columbine has grown for years in light, dry soil under the full sun. Not far from columbine there snuggles in the May woods the showy orchid. The moccasin flower and the large yellow lady's slipper, with other members of the evasive orchid family are to be found in the woods of May. In fact, these two mentioned beauties, along with the snowy orchid, are the three representatives that have come from their native haunts into my garden. The large yellow lady's slipper thrives perhaps the best of them all, and of it I have established a fairly large colony.

Often a mistake of those who search the woods for plants for their gardens is that they strive to collect too many species. It is better taste to have few kinds and to have them in considerable numbers. The aim of wild flowers in a garden should be to form large, permanent colonies; as scattered individuals they are not sufficiently effective.

PRETZEL HOLDER.

Keeps Pretzels from Sliding Off Plate and Salt Off Tablecloth.

Pretzels, as a rule, do not pile very well. When there is a fair-sized heap on a plate the top ones usually slide off as the plate is passed around and the salt from them is scattered all over the tablecloth. This may not be a very serious matter, but a New Jersey man didn't see why people need put up with even this slight inconvenience, so he designed a pretzel holder and here it is. A plate has a metal standard rising from the centre to the height of a foot or more. The pretzels can be hooked over this

Pretzels Hook on Standard.

standard and a layer or two of them piled around the bottom in such a way that there is no danger of their falling off. The plate may then be passed around with no fear of dropping any of its contents. Restaurants particularly of the German variety, can find plenty of use for this article, and the free lunch counters at saloons will probably use it to save the scores of pretzels that are daily knocked to the floor. In the home, the holder will keep the tablecloth clean.

Brides Abandon Orange Blossoms.

From the other side comes the news that brides are departing from certain traditions with regard to their raiment when they go to the altar. For two years orange blossoms have been abandoned by many in favor of myrtle or the rose. Recently London women of prominent families have selected pale rose color for their wedding gowns and soft blue is also a favorite hue. Of course, yellow and green are to be avoided, but all the blues, pinks and shades on the fawn color are among those which may be selected. Paris girls who have married recently have chosen wreaths of fresh myrtle, with long tendrils of green hanging in the folds of the tulle veils. So far few American brides have taken to wearing any except white or cream gowns, but the orange blossom is fast going into oblivion.

A Remedy for Pimples.

There is nothing like hot water as a remedy for pimples. Apply it to the pimples with a soft cloth, and then pat dry with a soft towel. Above all things, do not pick them. The less the fingers touch them the sooner they will disappear. Picking them causes irritation and makes them quite painful.

A Georgian's Hard Luck Story.

His house went dead and his mule went lame and he lost six cows in a poker game; then a hurricane came on a summer's day and blew the house where he lived away, and the earthquake came when that was gone and swallowed the land that the house was on; then the tax collector came around and charged him up with the hole in the ground.—Lipscom Parrot.