

PERK

By ELIZABETH DE BOER

Three of the famous four sat in their banner-hung den. Suddenly Ted Morse, captain of the crew, rose, and dramatically pounded his fanned fist upon the desk, said:

"Look here, fellows, we've got to do something about Perk!"

Slip Morgan punched the white H on a red pillow and threw it at Bill Milton, track champion. Slip was shortstop on the baseball team.

"Come off of that, Morgan," the afflicted drawled. "What'll we do about Perk?"

Ted took the floor.

"This is the way things stand. We're graduating this year and I'm having the famous four spend the summer with me on Long Island. We'll have a big time, but look at Perk! He'll probably ship a young library home before he comes. That lad's the brightest man in college; but boys, he's missing life." One hand was flourished in the smoke-heavy air. "What girl would give a row of pins for a man who's always buried in books? They don't care if he graduates summa cum laude. What they want to know is, if he broke his ankle in football or won a cup in tennis. And the worst of it is, the speaker registered deep emotion, "Perk is so very good-looking!"

"Yes," Slip flashed, "a month's training would make him the biggest bug on the team. But no, he prefers to write books on electricity."

Three long groans!

Bill spoke next.

"Perk is a wonder, but Ted said it, he's missed life, and it's up to us to force it upon him. The question is, how?"

Inspiration soared into the room and Slip's inevitable hand leaped to catch it. The game is on.

Perk was leaning over Miss May. When one is six feet two and one's partner in five feet, one naturally leans over. A becoming pink had swept his face and a painful expression, that of absolute resignation, had beneath it. Miss May spoke prettily.

"Oh, Mr. Perkins, it must be wonderful to be famous in college."

Perk was afraid to contradict, but denied fame bravely. Miss May was determined.

"You mustn't try to deny it," she shook a pink forefinger at him, "for Ted has told us all about you, and, she looked sweetly up, "personally, I had much rather be famous in sports than the brightest man in college. I just love baseball, and they say you are so splendid."

Perk gasped! This was Ted's work! Ted's and the other two. They had told all the young ladies present that he was a college-famed athlete, and, try hard as he could to deny it all, the girls had heaped him with admiring attention. Perk saw the object of his temporary hate grinning across the dance hall and would have given his summa cum laude to hit him.

That night words burned between the famous four.

"Yes, they all believe it and they're going to keep on believing it," Ted quietly informed his former roommate. "It's just a little lesson the college forgot, old man, and you owe your present popularity to us."

"Thanks," said Perk bitterly, "especially in the case of Sally Byron." But the boys laughed and Perk reddened—resigned.

The next day Perk took Sally canoeing. Things had progressed. They were already applying first names.

"What a wonderfully steady stroke you have, Perk," Sally complimented. "I suppose you acquired that from practicing in the crew."

"I never—" Perk began, but never ended.

As the day went on he suffered more, but he learned. He took a new interest in sports and they suited him so perfectly. His books were forgotten, not too much, but enough. And three of the famous four wagged their heads approvingly—then jubilantly—for Perk had fallen in love.

A Sunday evening was being heralded by a golden-purple sunset and Perk had enticed—It took very little enticing—Sally to the shore. They sat quietly, Sally's small hand hidden in the man's big one. With the last lingering rays of the setting sun, Perk turned to the girl beside him.

"Sally," he said quietly, sturdily. "I have something I want to tell you. I haven't played fair—I've lied." The girl's eyes widened but she made no reply. He went on:

"The boys tried to play a little joke on me, but they carried it a bit far, and I didn't have the nerve to deny it. They said I was a big athlete in college—and, well, I'm not—I'm nothing in a girl's opinion—in yours. I didn't realize what it would mean to a girl like you and I went in for the biggest things that interested me—books. I was all wrong, but it's too late. I can't do it now, I've dropped her hand and looked away. I can hope to be forgiven, but I want you to know how hard it's been to tell you this, because," his eyes found hers, "I love you."

She smiled happily.

"Perk, dearest," I knew all the time. Ted let me in on the little joke, and I think it's done you good. It's broadened your views and interests and," she looked adorable, "and it's proved to me that you're a man—and Perk, you might be interested to know that—that"

BEFORE DAY OF GUNPOWDER

Soldiers Were Capable of Doing Considerable Execution With the Bow and Arrow.

The first "gun" used in warfare was undoubtedly the crossbow—artificial—of the type having a reflex composite bow made of wood, sinew, horn or whalebone, and wound up with a ratchet or "cranequin," which slipped on over the stock and was held in place by a loop controlled by a transverse peg in the stock just behind the lock.

This weapon reached its highest development in Germany under Maximilian, when it had a steel bow of immense power. There is one in the Boston museum with a bow of over two and one-half inches wide and nearly three-fourths of an inch thick. In central Europe, France and Spain the bow was not used much save by the people who came under Mohammedan influence. The cross-bow being a much easier weapon to use, it was forbidden in England to anyone not having a certain income, in order that the yeomen and common people should be forced to use the long bow, which in military purposes was vastly superior on account of the rapidity of its fire, although outraged by the crossbow. It had one great advantage of lightness. A military crossbow with windlass weighs about 20 pounds.

REVOLUTION IN OLD EGYPT

Records Tell of Uprising Which Evidently Ended Unhappily for the Rebellious Citizens.

A recently deciphered papyrus shows a pretty revolutionary spirit among the Egyptians in the year 2000 B. C., or nearly 4,000 years before the French thought of an upheaval. The period is between the old and the middle kingdom, and an Egyptian sage plaintively invites the king to save his people in telling him of the conditions of the country. He tells him that "that is past which yesterday could be seen. The land turns like a potter's wheel. The noble cry out and the poor are full of joy. Each town says, 'Let us drive the strong from without our midst.' Those who wore clothes are now in rags. Noble women trail through the land, and housewives say, 'Had we only something to eat!' . . . The poor possess lordly things, and those who could buy themselves no sandals now have treasure. . . . The people have dethroned the king and persecuted his officials." That the revolution was a success seems hardly to have been the case, for the papyrus goes on to say that laughter has gone; misery is in the land; big and small say, "If only I were dead."

Up a Tree.

While in Africa recently Mr. A. S. Le Souef, director of the Taronga zoo (Sydney), saw plenty of elephants, which were destructive to the crops put in by the natives of the Uganda country. He also observed the body of a small antelope about 14 feet up a tree. The carcass of the antelope had been put in this position for safe keeping by leopards. "These members of the cat family are hand-rouse, and extremely active," says Mr. Le Souef. "They play about in clear places in the forest, tear up the ground, and spring far up the trees. They are most active, but they do not readily attack humanity, unless it be a child at evening, and they are hungry. The beauty of their fur makes them desirable for a zoo and for rugs, but the number that may be killed is limited. I saw the beautiful Colobus monkey, which, in spite of its striking black-and-white coloring, was difficult to observe among the juniper trees from whose branches hung long pieces of lichen."

No Man's Hero to His Wife.

While the fire that destroyed the four-story Stillman department store in Muncie recently was at its height an excited woman called police headquarters, saying that her husband, a workman, was supposed to be repairing the roof on the Stillman building and she feared he might have perished in the flames. A policeman who investigated found that the man in question not only had escaped but had helped to save a woman clerk who was in danger. The officer informed the wife of this, thinking she would not only be relieved but proud of the husband. Instead she snapped back: "What was my husband doing on the roof with a woman?"—Indianapolis News.

Length of Life Extended.

In 1848-50, 25,000,000 deaths from the plague or "black death" occurred, which was one-fourth of the entire population of the world at that time. The average length of life in the sixteenth century was only 21 years, while in this, the twentieth century, the average life is "forty-five years. In India, however, the average life today is only twenty-four years. We are enabled to see what the science of medicine is accomplishing in more civilized countries, where ignorance and superstition do not prevail to any great extent.

Preocious Youth.

Mary and Ruth were discussing plans for playing house and Mary said, "I'll be the mother and you be my little girl."

"No," said Ruth, "I want to be the father."

"Oh," said Mary, "let's play we've got plenty of money, and then we won't need a father."

CELESTA

By BRUCE BERESFORD

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When father was cross and mother tired out and sister Emma in a bad temper, pretty, gentle Aida Percy had an unfailing source of respite and pleasure—Celesta.

Celesta was her pet canary. He was nothing of a singer, although he had a full vocabulary of little chirpings, of odd expressiveness, covering a gamut from pitiful pleading down to the harsh intonations of complaint and scolding. As to his cute capers and tricks, his gyrations on his perch and his taking ways of daintily picking a cherry from Aida's own ruby lips and swinging on her neck chain extended lengthwise, he was acrobatic, entertaining, guest and lover all in one. He greeted her with joyful whistle at dawn and all but kissed her good night. Friends might prove false and suitors tiresome, but Celesta thought only of Aida, lived only for her, and when one day he lay dead in the bottom of his cage Aida could not have mourned more sincerely if it had been a cherished member of the family.

Aida took no one into the matter of the final disposition of her dead pet. "If there is a bird's heaven," she told her mother, "Celesta's spirit has gone there. As to the poor little body, it shall go back to the elements of nature that composed it."

So Aida went down to the basement where the janitor had his office. She had been to the florist's and had obtained a little box lined with soft white cotton. In this she placed the dead bird, covering him with flowers. This impromptu casket she covered with folds of soft tissue paper. The janitor was conversing with a bright faced, well dressed young man as Aida entered the office.

"Mr. Nelson," she spoke, extending the parcel in her hand, "will you please place this in the furnace. It is my dead pet bird, Celesta, and I have no place to bury him."

The young man had drawn aside to afford Aida an opportunity to proffer her request. As she told the object of her mission he removed his hat, and Aida was grateful for what she took to be a recognition of respect, fond interest in the dead companion of many happy hours. Tears were in her eyes as she parted with all that remained of her little favorite. She turned away with only a casual glance at the young man.

It was an impulsive remark of a close girl friend that caused her new uneasiness and worry after she had become quite resigned to her loss. Aida had told this friend of the fate of the little bird. "Oh, Aida! how could you have consented to such a shocking thing as having poor Celesta burned up!" exclaimed Winnie Towner, and the more Aida thought of the act the deeper grew her regret and melancholy. One day she came across the janitor.

"Of course you disposed of my bird as I suggested?" said Aida.

"No, Miss, I didn't," came the amazing reply. "Young Mr. Worrell asked me all about you that day you came to my office. He opened the little box and saw the flowers and everything. 'Nelson,' he says to me, 'I will take charge of this. We have a quiet pretty spot in our home garden where I am going to bury it.'"

"And who is Mr. Worrell?" questioned Aida, a load seeming to have been lifted from her heart.

"He and his sister own the building here," explained the janitor. "He is the young man who was here the day you brought the bird to me. He and his sister live in the big house with an iron fence all around a beautiful garden up on Mersey street, opposite the library building."

So little Celesta had appended to other hearts than her own! A feeling of the most fervent gratitude toward Blake Worrell came to Aida, to remain permanently. One pleasant afternoon she walked slowly by the place the janitor described. Aida looked beyond the fence across the lovely flower beds and shrubbery, wondering where the grave of Celesta could be, and experiencing a sensation of rare relief and gladness to realize that her favorite reposed amid such beauty and peace.

A man and a woman came from the house and turned down the street toward the spot where Aida stood. She recognized the young man of the janitor's room. He half paused, slightly lifted his hat and passed on while Aida flushed, she knew not why. The pair halted a few feet further on and the sweet faced lady, Worrell's sister, came back to Aida.

"My brother tells me you are Miss Percy," she spoke. "Can I venture to think that you would like to see where we have placed Celesta, alongside of two of our own remembered household pets?"

That broke the ice and let loose a flood of fervid emotions in the impressive Aida. The three visited a little mound in a peaceful corner of the lovely garden, and when they parted Aida was warmly invited to again meet these true souled people, whose thoughts were so closely in harmony with her own.

And with the first flowers of spring blossoming, it was by the side of her husband that Aida Worrell looked down upon the little mound so precious to both.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF NORTH PLATTE EQUITY ASSOCIATION

Know all men by these presents: That we, whose names are hereto attached, have associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a cooperative corporation under the laws of the State of Nebraska, and for that purpose, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:

ARTICLE I. The name of this corporation shall be "North Platte Equity Association."

The principal place of transacting the business of this corporation shall be in the city of North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, and such other places as the Board of Directors shall select.

ARTICLE II. The general nature of the business to be transacted by this corporation shall be to buy, sell, trade and deal in, at wholesale and retail, groceries, provisions, produce, and all other articles and things incidental to a general grocery, vegetable, food supply, poultry, fish, and other food products, and to conduct a general cold storage business, to manufacture, buy, prepare and sell ice cream and ice, as well as milk, cream and ice cream, and to sell all kinds of lumber, cement, coal; to buy, sell, lease, exchange, dispose of, or otherwise deal in all kinds of machinery, engineering and hardware specialties, gasoline or gas engines and motors, steam engines, boilers, electrical machinery, and all kinds of electrical equipment, wire, dairy supplies, and all other articles and things incidental to the business of a general grocery, and to conduct the business of general dry-goods and to sell and deal in, at wholesale and retail, furniture and articles used in the furnishing and equipment of banks, theatres, churches, schools, residences and other public and private buildings; to buy, sell, trade and deal in grain, feed, hay, straw and other agricultural products at wholesale and retail; to buy and deal in, at wholesale and retail, dry goods, clothing, wearing apparel, and textile fabrics of every kind, hats, caps, millinery, boots, shoes, furnishings, and fancy goods, and all articles and merchandise of like character, and to conduct the business of general dry-goods and to sell and deal in, at wholesale and retail, all kinds of hardware and other articles; to buy, sell, lease, store and repair automobiles and motor vehicles of all descriptions and their parts and accessories; and to manufacture and sell automobile tops, bodies and other automobile accessories, and to purchase and sell, at wholesale and retail, all kinds of food products and all kinds of poultry, bread stuffs and other similar articles; to buy, sell, lease, store and repair automobiles and motor vehicles of all descriptions and their parts and accessories; and to manufacture and sell automobile tops, bodies and other automobile accessories, and to purchase and sell, at wholesale and retail, all kinds of food products and all kinds of poultry, bread stuffs and other similar articles; 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