

...sion waxed warm in the Plain Dealer office when Jim became stirred to the depths. He was a tall, sandy-haired, lantern-jawed fellow, with the marks of the tyro's scourge, consumption, in his colorless face. Typedust in the lungs does not create much outward sign; but the insidious poison is quite as deadly. Jim was not a man whom one would suppose a woman would love. Yet if all tales were true a woman had loved him—or thought she had—and because of it Jim was what he was. A woman had loved him; that was the tragedy in Jim's life. The talk of the composing room turned one day upon life—life in the abstract. Somebody, with the philosophy born of several years' knocking about the world, said life was a dream—a bad dream occasionally.

'Oh, it's a mighty good thing to be alive,' said the optimistic lad, with the dawn still soft upon his lip. 'It's a damned nuisance!' growled Jim from his corner, distributing type at a rate which sent the bits of metal clattering into the empty boxes in a continuous stream. 'There's some good things in the world,' said the optimistic one.

'But the average man never gets on,' interjected Jim; 'and if he does, it only makes him discontented.'

'That's what he ought to be—discontented,' declared the Anarchist. 'Discontent is what wakes men up to their rights.'

'Things are so well ordered in life.' The first speaker hastened to break in upon the Anarchist. Any topic of conversation, from the age of Queen Victoria to the use of the papyrus by the ancients, was liable to merge into a discussion of the principles of anarchism. 'It's just like a stick of type—like this bunch I've got in my hand.' The optimist was at the distributing galley and was just lifting a handful of the wetted type. 'Every line regular and even; one come right after the other—'

And then the comparison was completely ruined by the dropping out of a single letter near the middle of the wet handful. The mass of type crumbled and a little heap of 'pi' lay on the galley. The optimist swore; the anarchist laughed.

'That's it,' said Jim, glancing up. 'That's life exactly. Drop out a letter—it's pi that's left. That's all it is—pi.'

The optimist was silenced for the nonce.

Later the foreman took him aside and said:

'Don't you know better than to stir up old Jim today?'

'What's the reason?'

'It's the anniversary of his marriage to that woman.'

'Say, what was the matter with her—or with him?' asked the lad. 'I never knew.'

'If you'd been here as long as I have, you'd know,' growled the anarchist. 'And look at me—just where I was ten years ago. I tell you there's no chance for a man to rise under the present conditions—'

'Oh, stop it!' growled the foreman.

'But about Jim's woman?' asked the optimist.

'Oh, she was a daisy, she was,' returned the foreman. 'And I guess old Jim thought the world of her. He brought her out from the country town where he was born—they set up housekeepin' in mighty nice style. Jim was pullin' up a big string here every week, and ev-

whether she went or stayed, a cent the foreman shrugged his shoulders.

'What became of the woman?'

'Oh, she's right in town here, I believe—shameless hussy! She wears finer clothes than Jim could afford her and has gayer friends, I reckon. I believe it would give Jim untold satisfaction—it's his only grip on life, in fact—if he could see her downfall before he catches up his final string.'

'He must hate her,' said the youngster, with a shudder.

'Hate her! That isn't the name for it, I reckon. He's just living for a chance to get back at her in part payment of the score he has against her.'

But if Jim was hoping to triumph at the undoing of the creature who had wrecked his life, it became evident to the thoughtful men in the office that the triumph must come quickly. Jim's cough grew more hollow, his step more feeble, and the flush on either sallow cheek burned more brightly.

But he seldom missed a day's work. He clung to his case with a feverish desire to be going, doing, doing—to find succor from thought, perhaps, in busying his brain and fingers with the types. There was no way to keep him out of the office but to discharge him, and the foreman couldn't do that.

Jim lived at a cheap lodging-house, and eat at a still cheaper restaurant. He appeared to have no use for money, and along with his cynicism he gained a most unenviable reputation for stinginess. 'The boys' couldn't see why a man with nobody dependent upon him should never put on a 'sub.'

Through all kinds of weather Jim plodded to and fro. The wintry blasts did not seem to have so ill an effect upon him; but when the spring came, he broke down suddenly. He had no vitality with which to withstand the change, and tottered feebly back and forth to work. Often at noon he would go no farther than the doorway of the newspaper building and sit there in the sun rather than put forth the effort to go to dinner.

At noon a crowd of idlers watched from across the street the raising of a huge safe to an upper window of the building. With the reckless unconcern of Americans, there was an almost continuous stream of pedestrians beneath the bulky package in its jute covering. The blocks creaked, the ropes strained, and the men tugged at the cranks, while the thing slowly rose in the air.

Suddenly there was a sharp cry from some observing individual in the crowd. 'Look there!' and a hoarse murmur arose from the spectators. The main cable holding the safe had begun to strand!

And yet only a few had seen the danger. People threaded their way unconsciously over the coils of rope and other debris on the sidewalk beneath the menacing mass of iron. A woman was coming down the street—a woman whose dress and manner attracted the attention of every loafer. She picked her way over the cables with a great fro-frouing of silken skirts and a glimpse of a daintily shod foot and ankle, and with her eyes cast down and her red lips smiling.

The men at the cranks stopped in horror. A louder and hoarser cry burst from the crowd. The cable above the safe unstranded like lightning and a long streak of white appeared upon the blackened hemp. The woman was directly beneath the safe.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of Maryland, Done at the City of Annapolis on the 30th day of July, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

LLOYD LOWNDES, Governor of Maryland.

By order of the Governor, GEORGE B. LOWMYRE, Secretary of State.

...NO HIM OUT.—Here is a story of a revival meeting which took place near Willoughby some time ago, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. A certain worthy exhorter took the floor and started in on an extended discourse. He talked, and talked. Time was swallowed up, other speakers were crowded out, the audience was exhausted, and still the exhorter talked on.

Pretty soon he paused a moment to catch his breath, and then spreading out his hands he bellowed forth: 'I see a mighty field before me!'

Before he could get any further he was interrupted by a little German-American in a front seat. The little man turned half round and said in a penetrating whisper:

'Poys, poys, somebody put up der bar gwick! If he efter gits himself inside of dot field ve von't go home tonight!'

The exhorter saw the point and brought his remarks to a hurried close.

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**PROCLAMATION.**  
WHEREAS, at a session of the General Assembly of Maryland held at the City of Annapolis on the fifth day of January, 1898, a bill was passed proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State by adding a new section to Article four thereof, to be known as section 31 A, which said Bill and Amendment are the words following, to wit:

CHAPTER 193.  
AN ACT to amend the Constitution of Maryland by adding a new section to Article four thereof. SECTION 1. Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, (three-fifths of all the members of both houses concurring therein) that the following section be and the same is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Maryland, and if adopted by the legal and qualified voters thereof, as hereinafter provided, the same shall stand as an additional section to Article 4 of said Constitution, to follow section 31 and to be known as Section 31 A.

SECTION 2. And Be it Further Enacted, by the authority hereinbefore expressed, that the following section hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution shall be, at the next general election to be held in this State, submitted to the legal and qualified voters thereof, for their adoption or rejection, in pursuance of the directions contained in Article 4 of the Constitution of this State; and at the said general election the vote on said proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot, there shall be written or printed the words, "For the Constitutional Amendment," and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," so that the voter may elect; and immediately after said election due returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against said proposed amendment, as directed by the said fourth Article of the Constitution.

Approved April 9, 1898.  
LLOYD LOWNDES, Governor of the State of Maryland, in pursuance of the provisions of Article four of the Constitution of the State, do hereby order and direct that a copy of said Bill proposing said Amendment be published in at least two newspapers in each county, where so many may be published and where not more than one be published, then in that newspaper, and in three newspapers in the City of Baltimore, one of which shall be in the German language, once a week for at least three months preceding the next ensuing general election, which said general election shall be held on Tuesday, the Seventh day of November, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, at which election the said proposed amendment shall be submitted, in the form and manner prescribed by the General Assembly, to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of Maryland, Done at the City of Annapolis on the 30th day of July, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

LLOYD LOWNDES, Governor of Maryland.

By order of the Governor, GEORGE B. LOWMYRE, Secretary of State.

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Jns 31-47

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