

The Sugar Roses, the Marquise, the Fig Man and the Chantecler Box

A Problem Novel Whose Scene Was a Fifth Avenue Show Window

Those who do not approve of the problem novel had better not read this story. Through the characters, most of them, moved in the best society, and the scene is laid in the show window of a Fifth Avenue shop...

she was so prettily colored and her hair so charmingly curled. She wore a flowered brocade gown looped up over spreading satin petticoats, and she was fascinating and not easy to analyze...

The question was being posed, not over by a large vase full of pale pink roses, but by a large vase full of pale pink roses who lived side by side in harmony with only this riddle to trouble them.

For strange as it may seem, part of them were



THE MARQUISE LOVED THE FIG MAN

real roses, while the others were spun from sugar. The sugar roses were so perfect that hardly any one could have told them from the real and the roses themselves, both real and sugar, were puzzled by the problem stated at the beginning of the chapter.

The second problem of the novel was like this: If one's head is made of marsh-mallow and one's hair of chocolate, and one's body of a couple of figs, and one's arms and legs of raisins, and one's hands and feet of almonds, and one's bones of wires, and one's only coat of buttons, is one any the less a man for all that?

Apparently not, if one could judge by the admiring way the sugar cookies gazed at the combination. The sugar cookies were good girls too, very simple and domestic in their tastes, brown, sweet and wholesome. They always sat demurely in a row and waited to be spoken to, but somehow they never attracted much attention, and anyway what were sugar cookies when their beautiful candy roses nodded from their vase on the upper shelf?

Of course the fig man knew that the candy roses were not nodding at him. He did not know that they were entranced and absorbed in the discussion of their own peculiar problem, but he feared that they were bowing invitingly to the chantecler candy box across the way.

This chantecler box was a dangerous fellow, expansive, brilliant, handsome, vain and bold. He was quite equal to telling the roses that they were good to look at and to eat. Was it possible that a mere pink, young sugar rose would admire a chantecler candy box? One never can tell what a woman will do!

But the plot thickens! Enter the marquise! She was beautiful if you like, but in such a different style from the candy roses. In the first place her head and body were of china, so her brain and heart were of the coolest, but folks did not find this out until afterward because



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incorporated an institution to be called the "Tilden Trust," with capacity to maintain a free library and reading room in the city of New York, and such other educational and scientific objects as you shall designate, and if you deem it expedient, that is, if you think it advisable and the fit and proper thing to do, convey that to institution all or such part of my residuary estate as you choose, and if you do not think that course advisable then apply it to such charitable, educational and scientific purposes as in your judgment will most substantially benefit mankind.

It will be noted that the disposition of the trust was indefinite both as to the amount which they were to give to the corporation to be formed and also as to the incorporation and the validity of the bequest was denied upon the ground of this complete discretionary power to convey or not to convey to the suggested beneficiary.

The trustees proposed the incorporation of the "Tilden Trust" and elected to convey to it the entire property, but the Court held that the validity of the charitable trust because of its uncertainty could not be cured by anything done by the testator.

In striking contrast with the Tilden will is that of his contemporary in law and politics, Roscoe Conkling, the text of which is as follows: "I, Roscoe Conkling, do hereby make, publish and declare my last will and testament as follows: I give devise and bequeath to my wife, Julia, and to her heirs and assigns forever, all my property, and I constitute, whether real or mixed, and I constitute

and appoint my said wife executrix of this my last will. It would undoubtedly take a better lawyer than even Mr. Conkling to break his will.

In passing upon the validity of the will of President James K. Polk, a Tennessee court of chancery said: "This will was written by the testator with his hand in the Executive Mansion at Washington at a time when he was President of the United States. He was a lawyer of recognized ability, but filled with high public office with distinction and reflected great honor upon his State. His will was witnessed by a law partner and a Senator in Congress and named as executor one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. It comes to us with the impression of having been carefully thought out and executed in good faith."

Among other provisions his home, known as Polk Place, situated in the city of Nashville, was given to his wife for life and upon her death it was bequeathed to the State of Tennessee in trust to be occupied and enjoyed by such one of my blood relatives having the name of Polk as may be designated by the said State, and if there were no blood relatives of that name then by such other of my blood relations as may be designated by the said State to execute this trust.



THE ROSES WONDERED WHETHER THEY WERE GOOD TO EAT OR ONLY GOOD TO SMELL

"Oh, goodness!" said the candy roses. "To think that danger should have threatened us without our knowing it, when we were engaged in such an important work, and they peered down into the imploring eyes of the fig man and the bold ones of the chantecler box.



drops and maraschino cherries and other things that made folks take notice and wonder what was coming next.

Altogether she was a finished comquette and numbered her victims by the score. She and the chantecler box were old friends with a long standing flirtation. The candy roses interested and tipped the chantecler box and their delicate beauty and remoteness aroused the curiosity in him. They never noticed his efforts to attract their attention, but sadly gazed into space and wondered in faint murmurs whether they were good to eat or only good to smell.

The chantecler box smothered a fiery oath in his wattle and vowed he would teach the staid creatures a thing or two if he ever got the chance. He well knew that once won he would find them insipid and without flavor and that the marquise was more to his taste but that didn't matter.

The marquise read him like a book but woman she had her own feelings and desires and successfully trifled with the marquis-loved the fig man! As the manner of problem novels this tale up to the present has dealt largely in analysis and description, but have patience, reader, the action will now begin. Yes, the marquise loved the fig man.

Amazed and disgusted with herself she was but as much as she could care for any one she loved this simple and modest man of the people and as she had always had everything she wanted she set herself slightly but persistently to the work of winning him. His respectful, almost hopeless worship of the candy roses, though she saw it plainly, only whetted her appetite for conquest. All the brandy drops and maraschino cherries in her were aroused and she pursued him with the insinuating arts and graces of which she was mistress.

At last exasperated by his stupidity in not perceiving what her intentions were toward him she came out plump and forthright to him in so many words:

"Oh, foolish fig man!" said she. "When you can have a mouthful of peppermints and wintergreens and cinnamon, and cloves and violets and rose for the asking, why waste your precious youth on tasteless spun sugar that doesn't even know or care for love? Come, be mine!"

The fig man was startled, a little repelled, but it must be confessed a good deal tempted. However his loyalty came to the rescue and he blurted out:

"No, ma'am, thank ye just the same, but until I'm sure ye candy roses will never look at me I couldn't really."

"A veil shall be drawn over the furious anger and humiliation of the marquise while she retired to plot revenge. Shortly afterward, fresh and smiling as ever, she sauntered beneath the vase of candy roses. They called to her:

"You, who know the world so well, tell us, do you think that we are considered good to eat or just to smell?"

"That, my dears," answered the marquise, "is a question too profound to be answered offhand, but as a woman of the world I must warn you that in your absorption you have overlooked the serious danger that threatens. Do you not see that there are men hanging about affording you with their insolent glances and trying to attract you with their bold compliments? Be warned by me, dear girls, and have nothing to do with them. Send them about their business, for if they once get hold of you you will never be able to settle that question that fills your lives."

and erected over the spot where said tomb may be."

This was declared invalid as tending to establish a perpetuity. It was not a gift for public charity and was merely an attempt to retain the property for the use of the blood relatives of the testator.

German Inventions for the Near Sighted and for the Police.

A German inventor has devised what he calls telescope eyeglasses. They are intended for the use of short sighted persons by the very simple means of enlarging the image on the retina. They are especially designed for that class of near sighted people who cannot wear the ordinary single corrected glasses.

The monacle combination consists of two parts united in a single metal frame, a front objective lens or collector and a second nearer the eye to disperse the rays at the proper angle to make the correction for the degree of myopia in question. When properly prescribed and made, says the Scientific American, the two lenses have such relation, to each other that there is no distortion, astigmatism or colored border to the image obtained.

Another German has invented what he calls police eyeglasses. On the side next the face they have tiny convex mirrors which may be extended or retracted by folding back so as not to show. They give the wearer if he has normal sight an image of what is going on almost directly behind him. They are proposed for the German secret police. Whether adopted or not is not to be ascertained from headquarters.

"Go away, men!" they called shrilly. "We don't wish to have anything to do with you. We are busy. Besides, you would not suit us at all. You are too elemental. We would only marry very subtle men with brains who could help us to settle our place in the great scheme of things."

The crestfallen lovers turned away, thoroughly convinced that their suits were hopeless. The fig man was the first to remember the marquise. The more he thought the more he warmed to the idea.

He sidled up to her and quavered out: "The roses won't have anything to do with me, ma'am. I've been thinking that if ye can't find any one better than me I don't mind."

The marquise looked coolly at the fig man and said: "Really, my good man, have I ever seen you before? If you want work in the garden I'm sorry, but I've already engaged a gardener."

The stricken fig man turned away to make room for the chantecler box, who had also remembered the marquise. He strode jauntily up to her and with a fascinating smile said, "Ah, Clarisse—"

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OUR GROWING APPETITE. Not That We Eat More, but That There Are More of Us Eating.

In 1890 the American herd had eggs in sufficient numbers during the calendar year to amount to seventeen dozen for each inhabitant of the United States. Omitting all thought of adding a single egg to the individual share of eggs, but merely to maintain the 1000 proportion of eggs to population the hens of the United States in 1910 must be laying annually 221,000,000 dozen more eggs than they laid in 1890.

The per capita product of milk in the year 1890 was 95.6 gallons per annum. To maintain this per capita for the benefit of our increment of population, says the Atlantic, the milk supply in the year 1910 must exceed that of 1890 by 1,242,500,000 gallons.

To maintain butter, of which the per capita amount produced in 1890 was four pounds, at the same per capita in 1910 the aggregate production must exceed the former figure by 182,000,000 pounds.

Of potatoes, that other staple of human consumption, the per capita product at the last census was about four bushels, hence in 1910 to maintain the potato supply for our new-comers but not to increase it for the rest of the community to the extent of even one potato each (one potato grows in this approximately 100 bushels), there must be an additional 600,000,000 bushels more of this homely but useful vegetable than were reported in 1890.

What this product means is best noted by observing that to supply the world consume the entire potato crop as reported at the last census of the States of California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland and North Carolina.

Monument as Winning Post. From the Strand.

There are monuments in all sorts of out of the way places, but one that is really unique is that erected in a river. It stands in the Parramatta River, New South Wales, a stream known the world over for its floating events that have its place upon it.

This monument, which is in memory of the world famed swimmer Scobie, is also unique from the fact that it was built by an extra scroll of flourish, and was made and that this was sufficient in law to constitute a seal.

THE ANTIQUATED SEAL. A Very Small Thing to Which Great Importance is Given Sometimes. From Case and Comment.

A most absurd thing connected with legal business is the little piece of red, green or blue paper or daub of sealing wax which we often place at the end of a signature to a deed, will or other important document.

At a very small thing in size, but one to which a great deal of importance is frequently given. It is a relic of antiquity, and no plausible excuse can be invented for continuing its use.

Some of the more progressive States have practically abolished its use by legislation, which deprives it of any technical significance, and in others, however, it is still used with all seriousness and solemnity, and an almost magical value is given to it by dignified Judges that is little less than ridiculous.

A man died years ago leaving part of his estate to another to enjoy while he lived, with the privilege of devising it at his death to others whom he might select by a writing under his hand and seal. A writing was executed, devising the property, but it was contested by others claiming the property upon the technical ground that the signature and the daub were therefore void.

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In December, 1839, a contract was arranged between the Post Office Department and the Franklin Railroad Company to carry the mails from Chambersburg, Pa., to Hagerstown, Md., there and back at a speed not less than seven miles an hour and for the compensation of \$3,500 per annum.

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RECORDS FOR COPPER CENTS

COLLECTING THEM ONE OF THE STRONGEST OF HOBBIES

Many a Man Has Labored for Years in the Effort to Get a Coin of Every Date One of 1793 to 1877 for \$2.10, by Only Three of One Million

Many a man has labored for years in the effort to get a coin of every date one of 1793 to 1877 for \$2.10, by only three of one million.

The highest price ever paid for a specimen of this variety was \$340, which this year was paid for an uncirculated specimen of a Liberty cent dated 1793, which was sold in the city last September. The former owner of the coin, the late Peter Monaghan of Cincinnati, is said to have taken a train from his home to Philadelphia in order to secure this specimen.

The rarest cents and highest in price are those dated 1793, 1799 and 1801, all of which when uncirculated are sold at \$100 and upward. There are a number of other pieces dated several years later that bring high premiums when in a circulated condition. One of these is dated 1800. All the cents of this year are very scarce in fine condition and it is difficult to procure a specimen that does not show considerable wear. There are two varieties of this cent which are sold at a high premium. The first of these is known as the "Comet" variety. It gains this title from the fact that a break in the die shows a comelike streak of metal or ridge just behind the head. A splendidly preserved example of this variety sold for \$41 this year, while another one of 1800, a perfectly struck coin, brought the record figure of \$75.

The cent of 1821 in perfect condition is another extremely rare and valuable coin. This year was said to have been the finest known cent of this date brought \$25, which an uncirculated one of 1823 brought \$30.

A variety of the cent of 1825, one of the finest known, of red color, just as it originally came from the coining press brought \$23, while a splendidly uncirculated cent of 1827, also thought to be the finest known, sold this year for \$24.

It must not be inferred that all cents in the original mint red state of preservation necessarily must be very valuable for that is not the case. Perfectly red cents of such early dates as 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819 and 1820 are easily procurable at a premium ranging from 35 cents up to a few dollars.

An 1824 cent this year brought \$12. It was of the variety showing an irregular date in large figures, with small stars around the head of Liberty. It was in a brilliant proof condition.

There are many rare and high priced cents even after the last named year. A fine proof cent dated 1849, with small figures in the date, brought this year \$7, while a brilliant red proof cent of 1857 with small figures in the date, sold for \$24. A splendid proof cent of 1848 with small figures in the date, brought \$43, and a red proof cent of 1849 sold for \$21.

The rarest of all the cents is a variety dated 1793. Its exact value is matter of conjecture as it has not been offered at auction since 1890, when two specimens were disposed of at the sale of the Parmentier collection. This variety of cent is of the "flowing hair" type, which shows a head of Liberty to the right with flowing hair, which was one of the first designs to be made at the mint. The coin does not differ materially in design from certain other cents of 1793, showing a wreath on the reverse, except in a small emblem directly under the bust of Liberty. This is a representation of a wing containing four leaves, varying in this respect from the other similar varieties of the year, which show but three leaves on the wing.

This cent is known as the "four leaf clover" cent, and up to the present time only three specimens are definitely known. All three are in the collection of a well known Chicagoan. It is safe to say that were a specimen of this cent offered at auction it would bring \$500.

There is a surprising number of private business men who are quite engaged in bringing together a complete series of the cent pieces, dating from 1793 up to the present year. Collectors of these coins are put down by some persons as being afflicted with a mild form of insanity, yet it is a curious thing that the most masterful of them seem readily to bring to the attention of the collector the cent piece.

One of the best known coin collectors of this country, and one of the best who brought together the most comprehensive collection of his time, had his interest aroused in coins through his search for a fine specimen of the 1793 cent. This was J. J. Mickley of Philadelphia. Mr. Mickley was born in 1806 and desired a cent of that date for this reason: It was through the difficulty experienced in obtaining a well preserved specimen of the 1793 cent that the attention was drawn to the extreme rarity of the date in any condition, but he thought these shavings were worth the trouble and he has since that time been collecting together a wonderful collection.

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