

An Unconventional Affair

By ADA C. SWEET

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It was a dull day in the great department store where bright-eyed Katie Hamilton worked, and she had plenty of time to study the few buyers who stood at the counters.

"Do you sell crepe at this counter?" Katie turned instantly. Her question was that most awkward of all objects, a man on a shopping expedition.

Katie saw Silas, and he knew that she saw him, at such times—they did not occur too often—and something sweet and warm began to stir in both young hearts, and yet no word was spoken from the day of the famous hatband.

SHE TOOK THE HAT FROM THE STRANGER'S UNRESISTING HANDS.

ly upon him, and he held a hat which was not new, but still respectable, of black, soft felt, in his hand.

"Shall I show you some crepe?" asked Katie, setting a square, green box upon the counter between them.

"I want just a little," the customer said, hesitatingly, "only enough to go 'round this hat."

Katie showed him several pieces of crepe, but the man seemed hardly to grasp her meaning as she rapidly unfolded the black stuff, and rattled off the prices.

At last he said, appealingly, "Which would you take if you were me?" Katie at once settled that point, and with a sigh of relief the man paid for the scrap she had selected for him.

"I am obliged to you; it is a great favor!" said the young man, his face glowing with approval, and then he became grave again, and his eyes were very earnest as he leaned toward the young girl.

"It's for my mother," he almost whispered, "and mother was so neat and tidy, I feel as if she'd care."

"I understand," said poor little Katie, who had neither mother nor father, and who lived with a hard-fisted, grudging aunt, earning her bread in the swarming city, uncounted among its thousands.

Tille, the bleached blonde who stood next to Katie, began to titter and nudge her other neighbor, and the farmer had suddenly straightened up and lunged away, while Katie, never lifting her dark eyelashes, demurely folded and arranged the pieces of crepe in their boxes.

Silas Stern walked rapidly westward, against the rising wind, in the flying snow, to his team and empty hay-rack wagon in the stableyard near the market place, and began his drive over the rough roads to his farm, 15 miles away.

And so no one need be surprised nor scandalized to hear that as the winter wore on, a tall, athletic form was often seen waiting at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, near the door of the great store where Katie worked, and that, mutely watching the girl's figure as it moved along the street, the man sometimes followed it—at a respectful distance—until it disappeared in a crowded street car, bound for the tenement district.

Katie saw Silas, and he knew that she saw him, at such times—they did not occur too often—and something sweet and warm began to stir in both young hearts, and yet no word was spoken from the day of the famous hatband.

One April evening Silas made a call upon the pastor in the village near his farm. He asked the minister for a certificate of good character, much to the worthy clergyman's surprise, for Silas, being an independent farmer, could need no recommendation for work.

"Make it as strong as you can, conscientiously," Silas begged, "and please say I have no bad habits, for you know I haven't—it's for a—a lady!"

The great fellow stammered and the Rev. Jonah Harlow saw a great light. The certificate was "made strong," for Silas was, to use the minister's own language, "of the salt of the earth." And the young man did not go away from the good man's door without a word of counsel and admonition.

Armed with the parson's letter, and further sustained by one he had written himself, Silas walked boldly into the great store one spring afternoon at half past 5 o'clock. He stood again before little Katie Hamilton's station at the counter. The other girls were busy putting their wares away for the day, and Katie stood unoccupied, as Silas leaned down to speak to her.

"Here are two letters, both directed, 'To whom it may concern,' but that means you. Please read them when you are alone—and don't be hard on me! I've thought of you ever since I saw you!"

He gave her one look, and noted the beautiful pink color in her cheeks; then he hurried out of the building.

Silas neglected his spring work a little and hung around the village postoffice the next two days, for he had asked the girl "it concerned" to write to him. On the morning of the third day of suspense her letter came, and surely no small white packet ever before gave a big, brown man such comfort. It did not take long now to bring the woe of Silas to an end.

One day, with their marriage license in his pocket, Silas brought Katie from the loveless city to the village parsonage, and there the minister made the twain one. And on the old farm was again a home in the big house, surrounded by its acres of apple trees.

There is the best of authority—that of Silas and Katie themselves—for declaring that the two were happy ever after.

LETTER FROM PHILIPPINES.

Wonderful Possibilities of the Islands Developing Under American Management.

In the summer of 1902 Mr. Victor H. Olmsted, a former assistant statistician of the department of agriculture, who, in 1899, under the general direction of Col. (now Gen.) J. P. Sanger, of the war department, superintended, with great ability and success, the census of Cuba, was appointed an assistant director of the census of the Philippine islands.

This is a country of wonderful possibilities. Labor is cheap and cost of production in every direction low; and, while the native laborer is apt to be improvident, there are thousands of Chinese here who can be employed at very low wages and who make the best workmen, as well as the most faithful. This virgin field will not remain virgin very long; the opportunities are too great and favorable results too certain to be neglected.

The people almost universally are favorable to American occupation and government; they are more prosperous and contented under our honest and equitable administration of their affairs than they have ever been before; and this, notwithstanding the ravages of cholera, the rinderpest that has killed off a large proportion of the carabao (the work ox of the agriculturists), and the partial failure of the rice crop.

There are, to be sure, wandering bands of "ladrones" here and there that the government has not yet been able to suppress, but these robbers are disappearing rapidly in numbers and strength and will soon be only a memory. It is wonderful that this should be so, when it is considered that lazonism has been an established institution in these islands for centuries.

The scheme of some of these "ladrones" during the past two years has been to pose as patriots, revolutionists against American authority, and in this guise to force contributions from the peaceable inhabitants of the rural districts, whom they terrorized, and upon the fruits of whose industry they have lived. But their day is nearly past, and it is safer for one to be in almost any part of the archipelago to-day than it is to be out of doors at night in large sections of New York city and Chicago.

The great and quick success attained by American methods honestly and earnestly applied in these islands is, I believe, without parallel in the world's history.

PHILIPPINE GOLD.

Word of Warning Regarding Alluring Stories About Pay Dirt in the Islands.

Report is circulating in the states papers to the effect that placer gold in a certain portion of one of the Philippine islands is very plentiful. It is pointed out that natives have been successful in obtaining the metal in considerable quantities by crude processes; also that the peaceful condition of the country at the present time gives opportunity for visiting the interior of the islands. Upon such report a gold fever is spreading, and a rush to the islands prophesied, reports the Manila Times.

While we are not informed touching the motives that gave rise to these reports, it is well to remind prospectors and miners, who may act upon such information, that it should be taken with several grains of allowance. There is every reason to believe that the mining industry of the archipelago, will, in time, be valuable; that it will be one of the chief factors in bringing white men and capital to the islands, but as yet there is much speculation over the outlook. So far as known, no important discoveries have been made, while many ventures to goldbearing sections have ended in tragedies. No information has been secured from the interior regions beyond the fact that gold is present in the gravel of the streams.

Any considerable influx of goldseekers at this time is not to be encouraged. Until gold deposits have been discovered, sufficiently rich to guarantee the belief that there is something more than rumor in the coming gold production of the Philippines a wild rush to the islands would be disastrous. Natives have mined here for many years and continue to do so after their fashion, but the tests of the gold-bearing ground have not been such as to justify statements or reports that would bring an influx of gold hunters. As has been the case in all great stampedes, in a short time many of the adventurers would be stranded in the islands, a condition here that would bring more disastrous consequences than would be met on the bare undras of Bering sea.

Touching upon the peaceful conditions of the islands, there is no question but that there is great improvement over the situation of previous years, but the best informed would hesitate long before risking the perils of a trip far into the interior without ample protection against the lawless bands. The safety circle does not yet include the mountainous regions—the future horse of the prospector. In goldseeking in the Philippines, the individual prospector will make greater haste by moving slowly.

Chief Way-Station.

The United States owns the chief way stations of commerce, the principal islands and harbors in mid-Pacific—Tahiti and the Hawaiian group, Tutuila in the Samoan group, Guam in the Ladrones, and Manila. It is generally conceded that Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian group, and that of Pango-Pango, in the Samoan, are far the best, if not the only valuable harbors in all the mid-Pacific.

WALL STREET FAVORED.

The United States Treasury is Being Run in the Interests of Bankers and Bondholders.

Wall street is still in the dumps and does not seem able to rally from the enormous decline in the quoted value of stock. The Napoleons of finance are turning their eyes to congress to help them and the select members of the finance committee of the senate are preparing a bill which is intended to be just what the Wall street people want. Very seldom has congress legislated entirely as Wall street has dictated, because what the stock jobbers ask for is just what the other people who pay the taxes don't want, and won't have if they can help it.

Early in the fall of 1902, when the first big break in the price of stocks commenced, the condition of the financial weather in Wall street was squally, and the secretary of the treasury, under orders from President Roosevelt, at once commenced to aid the banks in every possible way. Bonds were purchased at an enormous premium, the price being virtually dictated by the seller. All the receipts from internal revenue were deposited in the favored banks and allowed to remain there, without interest, and the vast sum of over \$150,000,000 is now loaned to the banks, on which not one cent of interest has ever been paid. All this succor being found enough to stem the tide of liquidation, the banks were allowed to withdraw their United States bonds, which they had deposited with the treasury as security for loans, and in place thereof deposit city and railroad bonds. This allowed the banks to use the released United States bonds to increase their circulation and thus to further inflate the currency.

At the last session of congress the attempt was made to pass the Fowler asset currency bill and the Aldrich bill, but the proposed legislation was defeated.

Then a further cry of distress came from the banks and Secretary Shaw began the refunding of United States bonds, which has just been closed with an issue of over \$1,000,000,000 of two per cent, in exchange for a like amount of three and four per cent, the government paying the enormous premium to the banks and other bondholders of over \$3,500,000 for the privilege of doing so. The statement is now made by Mr. Seligman, one of the principal Wall street bankers, that the administration is prepared to take further measures to relieve the money stringency, if such becomes necessary, to relieve the pressure in Wall street.

President Roosevelt is officially quoted as favoring the financial legislation that the banks ask for and will issue a call for an extraordinary session of congress, to commence November 9, for that purpose. All this shows that President Roosevelt has authorized more and greater favors to the banks and Wall street than any president ever did, and all the efforts of republican newspapers to make it appear that Wall street is opposed to the president are not only absurd, but borne out by facts.

The spook that worries Wall street congress, for it is a notorious fact that at any session just before a national election the politicians are on their good behavior and do not, as a rule, enact legislation that will be questionably received by the voters. That President Roosevelt will recommend financial legislation to congress is said to be assured, but whether congress will dare to legislate further in the interest of the banks and Wall street is problematical.

BOUND TO COME UP.

The Money Question Will Have to Be Reckoned With in Congress.

They say that the money question is settled, and yet the president is conferring with the republican leaders about financial legislation and the money magnates are preparing to squeeze the public into submission to their demands, says the Commoner. Speaker Cannon was called to Oyster Bay and urged to assist in carrying out the schemes of Wall street, but he could not be enticed. He was willing to allow congress to pass such a bill, but he would not promise to help. His assistance, however, will hardly be needed, for the financiers will bring the necessary influence to bear on republican members and Speaker Cannon would find it quite difficult to prevent the passage of any bill that Rothschild and Morgan agreed upon. It might be well, though, for the republicans to pause long enough to consider what Mr. Cannon says about the increase in the currency. He boasts that the volume of money has increased \$125,000,000 in the last year and he does not favor tinkering with the currency. The quantitative theory of money has been vindicated and still the republicans refuse to make permanent provision for an adequate supply of real money.

The fight that is coming up in congress over the currency measure will give the democrats a chance to call public attention to the manner in which the moneyed element controls the republican party.

Evidently the republicans are worried about the Empire state, and well they may be. Before November of next year comes around they will be still more worried.—Rochester Union.



St. Joseph Daily News

WHERE IS RECIPROCITY?

Reversal of Republican Party Policy That is Not Hard to Account For.

The drift of the republican leaders from reciprocity, to which they were ardently committed under the leadership of Elaine and endorsed by McKinley, is a reversal of party policy that is remarkable. When Mr. Dingley and his republican associates devised the tariff bill of 1897, they incorporated in it a reciprocity clause, and from the unanimity with which the bill was passed the whole republican party appeared to endorse it. To appease the ultra protectionists many of the duties provided for in the schedules were purposefully placed beyond the bounds of reasonable protection, in some cases higher than the protected interests asked for, so that when the rates were revised by reciprocity treaties they would still be high enough to protect the tariff barons from foreign competition. The bill having expressly provided for reciprocity treaties, the McKinley administration at once proceeded to negotiate with foreign countries. Treaties were made with nearly every country, but the senate refused to ratify them, and the schedules are still retained at the extreme high rates.

This evasion of the intent and the letter of the Dingley bill is a fraud upon the tax payers of the country, perpetrated in the interest of the trusts and combines. The few who gain by the tariff have obtained control of the machinery of legislation to the detriment of the many who pay the tax or the exorbitant profit to the trusts.

The speaker of the house of representatives is selected, and the committees are appointed, to conserve the interests of monopolistic combinations. President Roosevelt falls into line with the majority and agrees that we must "let well enough alone."

The symptoms of revolt against this policy amongst the republican leaders have been curbed, but in the minds of the people it is rampant and cannot be obliterated by the actions of president or congress. The promise to reform the iniquities of the tariff after election will probably be made in the platform of the republican national convention, but the evident intention being to catch the votes of reformers and then still "let well enough alone" will be too palpable to fool the voters. High trust prices are an object lesson that too many are suffering from and the promise of reform at some distant date will hardly curb their impatience.

When the tariff barons refuse to allow the ratification of the reciprocity treaties which were intended to aid our export trade, how can the republicans, no matter what promises they may make in national platform, be expected to revise the tariff? When they decline to carry out a law of their own making which would reduce in a small measure the profits of two or three small monopolies, of what value are their promises to pass a law that would force competition on all the tariff monopolists?

With the republican majority in congress bound by fetters of steel to the tariff barons, it is absurd to expect them to strike off the shackles, and they never will do it.

OPINIONS AND POINTERS.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow is described as being "six feet two inches tall and having an immense reach." But his reach is not "immense" enough to get over the statute of limitations and grab those beyond, nor does it seem to be long enough to touch those who are "higher up."—Savannah News.

The feeling that the president had yielded to the clamor of the pension attorneys when he removed Mr. Evans seems to be justified by some of the recent rulings of his successor, Mr. Ware. The wholesale admission of a new class of pensioners means several hundred thousands more taken from the treasury.—Providence Journal (Rep.).

The slight on Gen. Miles will not dim his fame. It is on a par with the disapproval of Admiral Dewey and Admiral Schley, expressed by the same administration, that takes this occasion to insult the hero of Spottsylvania, and Chancellorsville, and Ream Station, the conqueror of the Sioux and Cheyennes, Comanches and Bannocks, the captor of Geronimo, and the man who conducted the campaign in Porto Rico almost without the loss of a man, where a blunder would have exceeded the losses before Santiago.—N. Y. American.

On the retirement of Lieut. Gen. Schofield some years ago, President Cleveland very gracefully expressed the feeling of the nation upon a similar occasion, and it was not believed that President Roosevelt would be less mindful of a soldier's fame or of the sentiment of a patriotic people. The studied slight upon Gen. Miles is the perfunctory order issued by the adjutant general, without a word of individual recognition, is not so much an insult to him as to the nation, as offense that the whole nation will resent.—Philadelphia Ledger (Ind. Rep.).

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for August 25, 1903—David and Jonathan.

THE LESSON TEXT.

1. And Jonathan said unto David, O Lord God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to-morrow any time, or the third day, and behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and show it thee;—

2. The Lord do so, and much more to Jonathan; but if it please my father to do these evil, then I will show it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace, and the Lord be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

3. And thou shalt not only walk yet I will show me the kindness of the Lord, that I die not.

4. But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever; no, nor when the Lord hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

5. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the Lord even require it at the hand of David's enemies.

6. And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

7. Then Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow is the new moon; and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

8. And when thou shalt have stayed three days, then thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was in hand, and shalt remain by the stone Ekel.

9. And I will shoot three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a mark.

10. And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find out the arrows; if I expressly say unto the lad, Behold the arrows are on this side of thee, take them; then come thou; for there is peace to thee, and no hurt; as the Lord liveth.

11. But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond thee; go thy way; for the Lord hath sent thee away.

12. And as touching the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the Lord be between thee and me for ever.

GOLDEN TEXT.—There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—Prov. 18:24.

OUTLINE OF SCRIPTURE SECTION.

David's escape.....1 Sam. 19:1-24. David's appeal to Jonathan.....1 Sam. 20:1-11. Jonathan's covenant.....1 Sam. 20:12-26. Jonathan's sign.....1 Sam. 20:17-22. The sign given.....1 Sam. 20:23-24. The affectionate parting.....1 Sam. 20:35-42.

TIME.—Probably about 1022 B. C.

PLACE.—Gibeah of Saul.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

In what true friendship consists is seen in the strength and beauty of the tie that existed between David and Jonathan. Friendship does not demand but gives; and either would willingly have made sacrifices for the other. Such a friendship is possible only between persons of exalted character.

Chapter nineteen narrates the temporary reconciliation between Saul and David, at Jonathan's earnest intercession. But it was very short-lived. As soon as David again wins renown in battle, Saul's hatred returns, more violent than ever, and the victim of his insane jealousy escapes from the court by night, assisted by his wife, the king's daughter. He seeks refuge with Samuel at Ramah, but his presence there is soon discovered, and fleeing at Saul's approach he returns for an interview with Jonathan.

David did not wish to be forced into the life of an outlaw, if he could possibly remain in peace and safety at the court. So he begs Jonathan to discover, if possible, the cause of the king's animosity toward him. Jonathan's sanguine disposition scouted the idea that Saul desired David's death, or that his dislike was really permanent, but David feared the worst. The two friends arrange together that at the feast of the new moon, which was to occur the next day, Jonathan should make a final attempt to reconcile the king to David.

Then as the two friends walked through the fields—both conscious that it might prove their last meeting—they solemnly vowed that their mutual friendship should be lasting—should continue even to their descendants. "When Jehovah hath cut off the enemies of David," Jonathan's faith in David's future is remarkable. In spite of David's desperate condition that day, his friend believed in him, and believed he would some day be king of Israel. Jonathan's utter lack of jealousy under such circumstances is truly Christlike.

Jonathan promised to sound his father on the following feast day as to his feelings toward David, and agreed to report to David at their rendezvous, on the third day. As a private interview might be prevented by the presence of spies or others, they arranged the signs as described in verses 20-22, so that, in any case, David might readily know whether or not it were necessary for him to flee from the country.

The rest of this chapter should be faithfully read. At the appointed feast, David's absence is noted by the king, who had probably planned his death on that occasion. Jonathan quickly discovers Saul's implacable hatred of his rival, and risks his own life vainly in defending David from the royal abuse. The account of the parting of the friends at the trysting-place on the third day is brief but significant of their strong attachment. They never met again but once.

"Jonathan loved David as his own soul. And why? Because his soul was like the soul of David; because he was modest, he loved David's modesty; because he was brave, he loved David's courage; because he was virtuous, he loved David's goodness."—Charles Kingsley.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

A true friend will always stand up for his absent mate. A true friend will forfeit even life itself to protect the one he loves. A true friend seeks to give rather than get; his joy is in benefiting his comrade.

TRUTH.

Self-deal is the secret of delight. Great treasures do not need large houses. Men who will carve their own fortunes must expect to cut their own fingers.—Barn's Hours.

A HERO.

It's so easy to be cheerful when the blooms bend down with dew, and it's easy to be cheerful when the sun is shining through all the summer-tinted foliage, and filmy cobweb strands. Wet with dewy sparkling jewels, wave as though fair unseen hands were intent on sending signals, filmy signals down the line; Oh, it's easy to be happy when the world is all a-shine!

When one simply just can't help it, it's easy to be glad! But when clouds have shut the sun out, and life's going to the bad, then it isn't quite so easy; when the birds forget to sing, and the erratic, whirling branches of the trees forget to swing, and gum Sorrow stalks beside you, and Fate gibes at you and jeers; But the man's a hero truly who keeps smiling through his tears.

Aye, that man's a hero truly, who, when racked and pinched with pain, and whose lips are all a-quiver with deep anguish, tries again to smother out their droop with laughter, and to see the brighter side. Of the dark clouds stretched above him, and who tries and tries to hide

All the grief that racks his bosom, and from Fate's grim gibes and jeers. Turns him bravely to the future and keeps smiling through his tears.—J. M. Lewis in Houston Post.

A Wedding Innovation.

English wedding customs and fashions are considered very smart on this side of the water, but not many of them have been carried into practice. At the recent wedding of Lady Juliet Lowther, the daughter of Lady de Grey, to Mr. Plum, the bride's mother, gorgeously gowned, reached the church nearly an hour before the time set for the nuptials. She stood in the front part of the nave and greeted and received her friends as they came in.

Just a Private Payment.

Perhaps, says the Cincinnati Enquirer, the money which Turkey owes the United States is deftly concealed somewhere in the saddle which the sultan sent to President Roosevelt.

In the Philippines there are published 24 papers in Spanish or in native languages, and ten in English.