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Playing For High Stakes

By WILL T. HALE

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NEATLY attired and sober, Redford appeared very much out of place in that part of the city he was visiting...

Redford on any other occasion might have regarded the surroundings with horror and shrinking, but as he jostled among the rabble he was so intently scanning certain landmarks...

Walking into the nearest he found a youthful Jew; but as he was on the point of leaving, an individual answered the description entered from the street...

"Have you a good collection of overcoats?" Redford inquired. "A jim-dandy lot," was the response...

"There is but one of that color in stock," explained the broker, taking the garment from a drawer. "Fine thing—stun—up-to-date. I have thought of taking it for myself, since the owner has let slip the time by two days for its redemption."

The words prepared Redford for exhortation. To prevent this he affected a lack of interest, though his eagerness was apparent enough to the shrewd broker.

"Well, it suits my fancy, and I'll make it forty more," Redford said. "Indeed, I have a right to it!"

sides, you say you haven't the ticket. While that is not absolutely necessary your possession of it might induce me to make a—er—a sacrifice. I will not part with it now, being a man of my word. However, if—"

But Redford had turned away, very white and terribly disappointed, all of which was noticed and gloated over by the broker. "A good thing," said the latter. "He will come back, when I'll get my price. The garment does have a history, it's apparent. It's great to understand human nature!"

There was a dangerous glitter in Redford's eyes, but the broker, possessed of determination, which was augmented by avarice, said: "Yet I alone have a right to make the search—this is now my property."

Although a stranger in the city, he easily found the way to his hotel. Rushing to his room, with nervous hands he opened the letter and read: "I am a prisoner in my father's house. As you know, he bitterly opposes our marriage. Conceiving the idea that we intended an elopement, several months ago he sold his effects and brought me here. I am constantly watched, and not allowed to leave my room. But believe me when I say that nothing can shake my love or make me forget you for a moment."

It was dated at a country place some 400 or 500 miles distant. Redford took the first train for that point, and, since love laughs at bolts and bars, why go into details regarding the release of Miss Bonsel or the wedding which followed a few days thereafter?

"But I am anxious to know how you proceeded after having received such incoherent directions from my brother?" the bride asked one day while on their tour. "As I said," explained Redford, "I found him in almost a dying condition after his week's debauch. In his wanderings he had pawned his overcoat, your letter being thoughtlessly left in one of the pockets. The ticket was lost, and while he could not recall the broker's name he remembered the city where the loan was received, and gave as coherent a description of the proprietor as possible in his condition. Seeing that your brother would be well cared for, I started out on my quest. Many persons would have been hopeless, but love gave me cues, you know! At any rate, recent events show my success—even though I had to resort to the methods of a highwayman! And do you know that after awhile I am going to return to the scene of my adventure with the broker and give myself up. I have no fears of the result—all the world loves a lover, and despises a Shylock!"

Washington Woman Who Had Been Abroad Asked for "Boots"—Did Not Get High Stakes.

While one abides in the United States it is just as well to speak English as she is spoken here, and not as our cousins across the water prefer it. I am moved to say this by the experience of a Washington woman who has just come home from Hot Springs. She has spent a great deal of time in England and she has a near-English accent and vocabulary in which she takes great pride. Some little time before she left the Springs she wrote to her husband in Washington of her pressing need of footgear.

"Please go right down to Thus-and-So's," she wrote, "and get me a pair of boots. The puppy has chewed up my last pair and I haven't a thing left. They have my last and size at Thus-and-So's."

Now her husband, says the Washington Post, is a plain, unimaginative man of United States habits and speech, and boots to him meant boots. He didn't concern himself to wonder whether millady wanted boots for riding or wading, he knew simply that she said she wanted boots, and boots she should have. So the lady came up from Hot Springs with the Bulliondorfs in their private car, with an expensive pair of riding boots in her trunk, wrath in her eye and a pair of black satin slippers on her feet. Hereafter when she wants high shoes she'll say shoes and not boots.

"It will be so horrid to have everybody staring at us and whispering that we are just married. Let's act as if we had been married a long, long time, so they won't suspect." "But I'm proud of it," he said, slipping an arm around her and drawing her lovingly close to him. "I'd like to stand on a housetop somewhere, daring, and shout so that all the world could hear it that you are mine—"



HAD A SHORT CONFERENCE.

my very own—my sweet, adorable, beautiful, superb wife. It won't do any good to try to mislead them. "They'll all know it the minute they see us. I couldn't keep from looking happy, no matter how hard I tried. But leave it to me. I'll fix it so they won't stare at us or whisper about us."

Then the proud groom returned to his wife, and the official, standing at one end of the car, said, waving a hand toward the happy couple: "Ladies and Gentlemen: I am requested to announce that they have just been married."

Exciting Fox Hunt.

Begins in Pennsylvania Woods and Ends in Dining Room of the Town Coal Dealer.

A fox hunt which began on the grounds of the Upland Fox Hunting club's fields, then coursed through the streets and ended in the dining-room of a private house, where Reynard was captured, gave the quiet town of Upland, Pa., an exciting turn the other day.



RAN INTO COAL HOLE.

huntsmen. Up and down the streets, in and out of alleys, round lamp-posts, over doorsteps came the crowd at Reynard's heels. A man placing coal in the cellar of a house saw a red streak whiz before him, pass into the coal hole at his feet and disappear in the cellar. It was the fox. Tongues hanging out, the dogs leaped to the hole.

Deaths from Apoplexy. Only 12 per cent. of the deaths from apoplexy, softening of the brain and paralysis occur under 45 years, 33 per cent. occur between 45 and 60, 55 per cent. occur above 60.

Average Size of Farms. There are nearly 6,000,000 farms in the United States, the average size being 140 acres.

Regret. The man who once was railing "Against the summer's sultry blast Now sits beside the furnace, Sadly musing on the past. —Washington Star.

Way Behind the Times. Mrs. Dearborn—Is she an up-to-date woman? Mrs. Wabash—No; why she can count all the husbands she's had on the fingers of one hand! —Yonkers Statesman.

Did You Ever? He—I can kiss you, easier, dear, if you sit in my lap. She—I really believe you're getting lazy. —Town Topics.

Plausible Explanation. "You say they have Bionas in a strait-jacket. How did they manage it?" "O, his wife talked him into it." —Chicago Tribune.

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