

### The Test of Time

By ALVAH JORDAN GARTH

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Gerard Massey, the bad boy of the village, was expiating the crime of some one who had fired an apple at farmer Warner's horse and gig, precipitating a runaway. Gerard was squirming in the powerful grasp of the outraged agriculturalist and, ablaze with pain and resentment, smarted most under the realization that half a dozen of his comrades at a distance were witnesses of his castigation. Nearer by little Effie Warner his true friend, though a sorrowful mourner over his constant escapades, was sobbing as though her heart would break.

The farmer had snatched up a heavy leather strap and doubled it to rain the stinging blows on Gerard's shoulders. At length he gave Gerard a fling and the strap after him.

"There, young man!" he panted. "There's more in store for you if you come meddling about my place again. 'I could kill you!' hissed out Gerard in a wild paroxysm of rage. 'I hate you, and I'll raise a crowd and hang you to a tree with this very strap!' He seized it as he spoke, Gerard, gaining a grove just beyond the farmhouse, flung himself down, his mind tempest tossed with thoughts of direful revenge.

"I'll keep this strap," he declared. "I'll keep that man with it sometime when the odds are equal." He was an orphan and his life with a distant relative had few charms to hold him to Rusville. He was in disgrace, he had been whipped publicly! A gentler spirit it came to him as he thought of Effie.

He left Rusville that night. His last act was to indite a rude pencilled scrawl to Effie. "I shall never forget you," he wrote, "and you have been kind to me like an own sister, but I will never forgive your father, I never threw the apple. Think I'll give away my friends, though! I'm going away to make my living and grow big enough to some day make your father pay for disgracing me."

Gerard's plans for the future were vague. It seemed, however, that fortune favored the homeless lad from the start. Ten miles from Rusville he was overtaken by a man driving an automobile. He looked pale and weakly as he hailed the foot traveler. "Are you going far?" he inquired. "Anywhere to get work," responded Gerard.

"I'll hire you. I am on a five hundred mile trip to Chicago and am an invalid. I can manage the wheel well enough, but it exhausts me to get out of the machine. I'll pay you well to attend to the various little chores for me—yes, and maybe find you further work when we reach the city."

They later went to a large hotel for the night and Gerard slept on a cot in the room occupied by his employer ready for any service required. It was just after midnight when Gerard aroused to dread alarm. The room was filled with smoke, beyond the window was a glare, yells and screams echoed through the building. He ran to the door and tore it open. Beyond a roaring mass of flames presented.

"We are hedged in from below; our only chance is by the window," said Gerard, but a glance there was scarcely encouraging. His invalid charge was practically helpless. Quick witted in action, however, Gerard followed out the only desperate plan in view. After he had accomplished this he could scarcely credit the details. Five feet below was a jutting section of roof. Still further below that was the projecting cornice of an adjoining building. The strap was the only medium Gerard could adopt, first to lower his companion. But for this frail strand of life both would have perished.

Endeared to him by his courage and daring the invalid took up Gerard as a protegee. Five years later when the former died he left Gerard a large business, and the emotions and impulses of the latter drifted into the mature experience of the successful business man.

"The strap has brought me luck many a time," meditated Gerard. "But for it I would never have left home, but for it I would have lost my life at the hotel fire. What a wild later I was of old John Warner in those days, and I wonder what has become of little Effie."

One day there came to his desk a young lady. Diffidently she told that she had applied for a position to the manager subject to the approval of his employer. As Gerard looked up the past suddenly burst upon his astonished vision. Then the applicant started and the light of recognition came into her face.

Gerard gently spoke her name and took her hand. How lovely had Effie grown! He encouraged her to talk, not as to a prospective employer, but to her friend. It was a wearisome story of struggle and toll and loss that Effie recited. "It has been bad luck for poor father," she said. "He is all broken now, and we are both dependent upon my efforts for a livelihood."

"It seems that I have had all the luck," mused Gerard Massey, alone in his room that night. "Did it not all come from that leather strap? And Effie is more sweet and lovely than ever."

And he had a vision that came true—the sharing of that luck with his boyhood's dearest friend.

### DUNLAP ITEMS

Bernice Rieckster returned to Sac City on Friday after a few days visit here. Bertha Malone has been visiting on upper Willow the past week and returned to her home in Denison. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pederson entertained a number of friends at their home the past Sunday. Mrs. Rose Robinson, of Central City, Neb., has been in town for a visit with relatives and old friends. Mr. and Mrs. Handke, of Peigus Falls, Minn., has been in town for some time, having motored down for a visit. They will be accompanied home by their daughter, Mrs. Lyman Dye, and her small son.

Mrs. Harry A. Little was called from her home in Webster City, the past week by the serious illness of her father, J. A. Moore. At the present writing he is much improved. Mesdames, E. E. Acton and R. G. Moore and small daughter are visiting Mrs. Moore's people at Algona. Dr. Heise is here for a visit with friends from Emmetsburg. He drove down in his new Essex car.

Winifred and Alice Dixon visited their sisters in Omaha the past week. Louise Tilton is at the Frank Hagen home caring for the infant son, Frank, Jr., during his parents' absence from Omaha. Nellie Small and Mary McElroy spent a few days in Omaha the past week at the home of their aunt, Mrs. Robert Doyler. Mrs. A. K. Jones has been in the eastern part of the state attending a W. R. C. convention.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Young and son, Edward, Jr., are in town at the A. K. Jones home, and are also visiting other friends. Miss Eugenia Cronkleton, who has been here for several weeks, repairing the home that is the property of the Cronkletons. She returned to Council Bluffs the past week. Both the Redekas and the O. E. S. lodge have held their last meetings the past week that will be held till cooler weather.

The C. C. C. of the Congregational church was entertained at the home of Mrs. Fred W. Curtis the past week with the entertaining hostess, Mesdames Jackson, McCarty and Ponnala. A dainty lunch was served and about eighteen members were present. Maurice Dugan, who has been in the hospital in Omaha for some time is wearing his knee in a plaster cast and limping considerably as a result. A son was born at the J. M. Grady home the past week. This is their third son in the family.

The Cronkleton property in the eastern part of town is now occupied by the Jim Mulligan family. They moved the latter part of the week. Messrs. Shaff and son were here from Washington one day last week. Mrs. Kinkeel has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Ed. Manchester. She left last week for a trip to the coast to visit her other children. Dr. and Mrs. Shetterly were in Omaha a short time last week. Mary Moorhead, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Moorhead, celebrated her sixteenth birthday last Friday by having a birthday party and entertaining a number of her small friends. Her mother came after the guests in the car, and to say the least had a fine time while expressing it mildly.

Messrs. Butler and Mullen, of Arion, spent last Sunday in Galland's Grove. Mr. Carmichael and daughter, Anna, who visited at the Ed. Carmichael home the past week, have returned to their home in Harlan. Arla Rawlings has come to Bristol to visit a week at the home of a friend there.

Mrs. J. R. Wheeler, who has been quite ill for several weeks, seems to be convalescing somewhat at the present time. Mr. and Mrs. G. Hansen, of St. Lawrence, South Dakota, are visiting relatives near town. Mrs. Chas. Brady, in company with her sister, Miss Potter, of Dow City, have gone to Atlantic for a visit with friends and relatives.

Mr. Cornelius and wife, of Dow City, were guests at the Terrill home in the north part of town on Sunday. Geo. I. Hanson, of Galland's Grove, spent Sunday in Dow City. Mr. Wilmorling, of Earlwing, was in town one evening the past week. Mr. and Mrs. Fagon, of Dow City, were in town on Thursday. Mrs. Hager, who is at the home of her brother, C. C. Donsall here, went to Dow City one evening the past week to attend an O. E. S. meeting there, returning the next day.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Smith and Mrs. L. E. Wright motored to Omaha one day the past week and visited L. E. Wright, who is still in the hospital. The county nurse, Miss Morris, in company with Miss Fowler, of Logan, motored up Sunday evening and visited friends. Jennette Hamigan has gone to Greeley, Colo., to attend summer school.

Mrs. Forrest, with her oldest daughter made a trip to Omaha last week to consult a physician in regard to the hearing of the small daughter. M. Brennan was in Omaha last week. Mrs. Hays, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Alexander, in Early, returned last week after a pleasant visit. Mrs. Caulfield was in Omaha one day last week.

The ball game Sunday between Ute and the home team on the home diamond resulted in another defeat for the home team. It seems that they have never been able to regain the "pop" with which they started out in the beginning of the season. Myrtle Malone, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orr Malone, of Deni-

son, has been in town visiting her grandmother, Mrs. Chevalier. Mrs. Dye and daughter, of Osceola, who have been visiting in the Frank Walker home, the past few weeks have returned home. H. Butler, who has been in the hospital in Omaha for so long, was able to return home the other day, a fact most pleasing to his family. W. Murphy, of Denison, was in town the past week. Ed. Barrett, of Omaha was in town several days the past week on business connected with the Citizens' bank.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Remde and Theresa Pfleger were in Omaha the past Monday. Agnes Garvine was in Omaha all of the past week. Don Benjamin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Benjamin, of Omaha, is in town on a visit at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Newton Lundaker. Thelma Acton is in Chicago visiting relatives.

W. J. Wetengel and P. G. Ingersoll were in Omaha one day the past week. Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Dougal and Mrs. Mangan motored to Denison one day the past week. The Culhouns, who have been staying at the home of relatives here the past week, have left for the west for the summer and will probably attend school there the coming year. Both Fay and Dale have many friends here who will always be interested in their welfare.

Bert Williamson and small daughter are visiting in Nebraska. J. A. Brainard, of Omaha, has been in town at the home of his son, Ray, in the country. Chris Nelson, of Omaha, was in town the past week visiting friends. Mr. and Mrs. John Schupp visited in Dow City the past Sunday. Henry Dozer, of Omaha, came Saturday afternoon for a visit at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Anna McElroy.

Mr. and Mrs. Fromm have returned from the trip to Pullerton, Neb. Mrs. A. H. Howarth, of Tecumseh, Neb., was in town a short time the past week. A number of people from upper Willow spent Sunday at Oliver Lake near Omaha. Mamie Carroll, of Defiance, with a friend spent Sunday at the Tom Hamigan home. Leonard Berger, who has been in the hospital at Soldier for a tonsil operation arrived home last week. Mrs. Stilson, of Arion, was in town one day this week visiting her sister, Mrs. Thos. Lehan. Mrs. Paulsen, of St. Louis, is in the vicinity visiting her sister for a short time.

Mrs. Iza Anderson has been spending the week at the home of Mrs. C. E. Moorhead. Messrs. Murphy and Hamigan attended the ball game at Ute Sunday. Mrs. Honz visited in Omaha last week. Arla Rawlings spent last Sunday at Carroll, meeting a friend there. Mesdames Butler and Webber were in Omaha one day last week. Al Burling was up from Missouri Valley and spent Sunday with his mother. Fred Lambert, of Dell Rapids, is

South Dakota, is in town visiting relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Clark Gorham, Sr., have returned from a visit at the home of their son, Ellis, who moved to South Dakota this spring. They made the acquaintance of their new granddaughter while there. On the return trip they were accompanied by Miss Mullen, who has been visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Ellis Gorham. Ray, Thompson and wife spent Sunday at Moorehead. A number of real estate men from Vail and Denison were in town the forepart of the week looking into the situation here on the land question. Ed. Ryan reports that his son, Ed, Jr., will soon return from his trip with Leonard Wood. Ed speaks of the fact that even his hero was defeated he would not have missed the trip he was privileged to take with Gen. Wood on his campaign for any amount of money.

**Uncertain.**  
"Well, Mr. Pedagogue, does my boy show any special aptitude for work?" asked the proud father. "I think so, Mr. Bronson," answered the schoolmaster. "I am not certain as yet whether John will make a sculptor or a baseball player. He is unerring in his aim with paper wads, but the condition of his desk top convinces me that he can carve with considerable facility."

**No Facilities.**  
"Rather a husky looking individual." "Yes. That's Prof. Sampson Grapleigh. He gives physical culture lessons by mail." "I see, a correspondence school. But suppose one of his clients applied for instruction in person?" "The professor would be in a most embarrassing predicament. He might have to hire a gymnasium."

**Competent at Last.**  
"How long has this reporter been on the staff?" "Oh, long enough to become really useful as a news gatherer." "What do you mean?" "He has passed through the period of aspiring to write the 'Great American Novel,' or the 'Great American Play' and is now able to concentrate his mind on a police court item."

**Lizards Victims of Curiosity.**  
Little boys of the Orient often capture lizards by catering to their curiosity. When one of them spies a lizard that has scurried into a crevice he makes a slipknot of colored straw and holds it before the hole. After a time he is rewarded by seeing the tiny creature coming out to examine the curious thing before its den and later it actually puts its head into the noose, which is quickly drawn together by the watchful boy.

**Forty Ideal Age for Women**  
English Artist Sweeps Away Time-Honored Ideas Having to Do With Spinsterhood.

There is a flurry among English spinsters. A prominent artist has come to the conclusion that a girl of forty should be man's ideal. He sweeps away all the time-honored rubbish about spinsters at the age of forty being mostly interested in cats and enannies. Here is what he has to say about the new old girl.

"The ideal age for a woman from the viewpoint of the man who studies the sex as an artist is forty years. The woman of forty is at the perfection of her beauty and has attained a settled mentality which she did not possess as a girl in her teens, or as a young woman in her twenties and thirties. At forty she is an ideal companion, pleasantly matured, tolerant and understanding. Only the ignoramus in life find joy in the society of young girls or undeveloped women."

During the war and since many women of the so-called "sweet-and-foxy" age got married, a considerable number of them widows. This has led to frequent lamentations by younger women that, with the huge number of unmarried beauties about, it is unpatric for Cupid to show such favoritism for widows and spinsters.

But Reluctantly.  
Poets are born; free verse writers are borne with.—Boston Transcript.

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How Egyptians Make Fire.  
The question of how the Egyptians made fire was one that often exercised archeologists. No representation of the process existed on the monuments, nor does the nation appear to have attached any religious significance to the origin of fire. The question was settled by the discovery at Kahun of a regular bow drill for making fire, together with several sticks showing the burnt holes caused by fire drilling.—National Geographic Society Bulletin.

Cheap and Pretty Home.  
One of the most interesting exhibits at the British Dairy association show was a four-room cottage, complete, with large entrance hall, carriage port to the nearest freight station, priced at \$875. The house is made of asbestos—a compound of asbestos and cement—and the manufacturers describe it as "weather-proof, ratproof and dampproof." A charming little week-end cottage of two rooms is offered at \$375.

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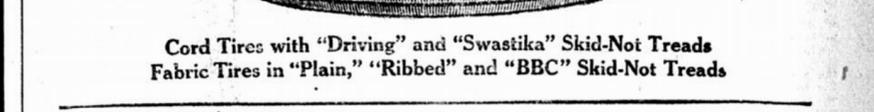
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