

Mrs. Bittersweet's Proposal

By HARRIET WHITNEY DURBIN

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"Peppers and pumpkins! A widow moved in right next door, and this leap year!"

Mr. Alonzo Larkins stared apprehensively out of his window as if he expected to see his newly arrived neighbor flitting up his porch steps in search of him with a lasso. Instead he really did see a small, inoffensive looking woman walking serenely from her doorway toward her own front lawn bearing a pot of pansies and a trowel.

"Of, of course," he continued enviously, "wants to make a good impression first before she lets out at me! Well, ma'am, my heart is tough. But you are a neat little bundle," he added, with a slight change of tone; "trim as a saffron whistle. That's right—let that ruffled up pink contraption slide off your head. Gum, what shiny brown hair! And look at the little curl bobbing over her ear!"

Little Mrs. Bittersweet did not seem at all troubled by the orb Mr. Larkins deemed it expedient to keep focused upon her. She trotted around about her own business, paying little heed to the doings of her bachelor neighbor. The first time she met him plump and square she gave him a sweet, indifferent little nod and said, "Good morning," which somehow excited his discontent and ire.

"Took about as much notice of me as she would of a brindle dog," he complained to himself; "in fact, not as much. She gives up all the old stray dogs and gets 'em bones. What's the matter with me, I'd like to know."

He looked anxiously into the mirror as he brushed his hair. He saw there in a good looking and fairly good natured face, the chief defect of which was an expression tending toward self conceit.

"Now, ma'am," he observed decisively, addressing the absent widow,



THE WIDOW SAT ON THE EDGE OF HER PORCH.

"you've got to see me and appreciate me. Then if you choose to take advantage of leap year privileges I don't really know as I'll run away."

Meantime Mrs. Bittersweet's attention had been directed to Mr. Larkins by her friend, Miss Podderly.

"He's the smartest man in Bibbville," said she, "and got everything in his house a woman's heart could wish, from gas ranges to teaspoons, not to mention scuds of blue and white ware saucers. But seems like he's afraid some woman'll marry him in spite of himself. I guess he's too bashful to ask any one. But I believe in my heart you could overcome the difficulty, Polly, if you'd set your cap good and strong."

"Set a fiddlestick!" retorted Polly Bittersweet scornfully. "I'll never set my cap for any man."

"Well," said Miss Podderly, with a shrug, "I wish I had the opportunities you turn up your nose at so recklessly."

Mr. Larkins finally grew decidedly disconcerted, and a little puzzled.

"I don't understand you, ma'am," he admitted in one of his mental apostrophes to the widow. "I have so far modified my views as to give you every opportunity to signify your wish to become Mrs. Larkins, and yet you're as cool and calm as a lake of snow. I'm not used to it, ma'am, and I won't stand it. I'll give you three weeks more to get interested in me, and then I'll take and propose to you. That's about what I'll do."

When the allotted three weeks of grace had expired Mr. Larkins in desperation executed his threat and received a plump "No!" the result of Miss Podderly's championship and a streak of contrariness in the widow's disposition.

He accepted the sentence with visible disappointment, but bore it with manly fortitude.

"I'm sorry, ma'am," he said frankly, "tearing sorry. I've taken more of a shine to you, somehow, than I ever did to any one, and I'd be good to you, you can bank on that. But if you can't like me you can't. There, now, madam; don't go and cry—don't. I wouldn't hurt your feelings for forty farms." For the widow's heart all at once had

smitten her sharply, and some subtle pathos in Mr. Larkins' simple acceptance of defeat caused her eyes to brim with misty tears.

"I'm so-o-o sorry," she faltered, blushing and sobbing, "I—"

"Don't mention it," implored Mr. Larkins. "Don't you be miserable or

bine about it. But if you should—kind of change your mind, you know, ma'am, just let me know; won't you?" Mr. Larkins dived headlong into his garden patch and hoed vigorously to distract his thoughts, and the widow sat down on the edge of her porch and swung her neat little foot dejectedly.

"I do believe I'm half witted," said she under her breath. "I dare say I've lost as good a man as I'll ever meet, and all because Henrietta Podderly told me to run after him. I needn't have run after him, but I could have thrown him away, and I ain't half as smart as I thought I was. I'm lonely and miserable, woo-oo-oo." Mrs. Bittersweet ran into her sitting room and cried as heartily as Mr. Larkins hoed.

"After that she smiled sunnily whenever she met him. He smiled genially. The widow daily became more lonesome and more convinced that she had discarded a congenial spirit.

"He won't propose again in a hundred years," she bemoaned herself, "and no wonder, he don't want to risk another snub. He did tell me to let him know if I changed my mind. I hate to like fun, but—"

One golden afternoon when both were sitting in an unusually pensive mood upon Mrs. Bittersweet's porch the widow's heart suddenly prompted her to a little prospecting.

"Mr. Larkins," she said softly, "do you ever change your mind?"

"No," returned Mr. Larkins plumply. "Not without solid reason."

"We-ell," she continued, holding her breath at her own boldness, "would you still like me to—er—er—be—be—"

Her meaning rushed through Mr. Larkins like a streak of electricity. He sprang out of his lolling attitude at a bounce.

"Polly, if you're asking me if I'd like you to be my wife, I say yes—yes—yes. I didn't dare to say, you again, but you've a perfect right to ask me, even if I hadn't told you to, for it's leap—why, Polly, love, what's the matter? You're as pale as ashes. What is it, darling?"

"Why, I've actually as good as asked you to marry me," gasped Polly. "Just what I've always declared I'd do rather than do! Oh, well," as Alonzo's arm stole protectively around her waist, "I guess I was excusable this time. But Alonzo, listen. Don't you ever, the longest day you live, let Henrietta Podderly know I did it—will you?"

"Never!" vowed Alonzo, kissing her.

Nothing Equal to Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for Bowel Complaints in Children.

"We have used Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in our family for years," says Mrs. J. B. Cooke, of Netherlands, Texas. "We have given it to all of our children. We have used other medicines for the same purposes, but never found anything to equal Chamberlain's. If you will use it as directed it will always cure." For sale by G. C. Stone, druggist.

Water's Part in Colloquial Terms.

"How many of our expressive expressions are built around some reference to water?" said a writer. "Take a few brief examples for consideration. If we think a scheme isn't very strong or a statement decidedly weak, we invariably say 'it won't hold water.' Do we infer that more wisdom lurks in an individual's head than he is ordinarily given credit for, what do we say? 'Still waters run deep.' When a person gets into some kind of difficulty, we say he is in 'hot water.' "When a proposition of any kind is rejected, especially a proposal of marriage, it is a case of having 'cold water thrown on our hopes.' Fortune has its 'tides,' and blessings or riches are 'rained' down on us. If a speaker exhausts his topic and still tries to talk, we say that he has 'about run dry.' "Rumors are always termed 'about,' and when a business enterprise goes down we call it 'swamped.' A man struggles to 'hold his head above water,' according to our colloquialisms, and when he doesn't know what plan to pursue in order to accomplish certain ends it is said of him that he is 'all at sea.'—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Sure Cure For Piles.

Itching piles produce moisture and cause itching, this form, as well as blind, bleeding or protruding piles are cured by Dr. Bo-san-ko's Pile Remedy. Stops itching and bleeding. Absorbs tumors, 50c a jar, at druggists, or sent by mail. Treatise free. Write me about your case Dr. Bosanko, Philadelphia, Pa. Sold by Stone & Mercer, druggists.

An Organ Without Stops.

There is a man living in an Eleventh street flat who has no music in his soul, and there is a man on the lower floor whose soul is full of it. The lower floor man not long ago added a four lung parlor organ to his lures and penates, and two healthy daughters of his began to practice on it. Several nights later a friend paid a visit to the first man, and as soon as he got inside the apartment he heard the parlor organ on the lower floor.

"Fine toned instrument, that," he said, because he, too, had some music in his soul.

The musicless man grunted.

"Whose make is it?" the visitor asked.

"Don't know," was the ungracious answer.

"How many stops has it?"

The host pulled himself up for a powerful effort. "Well," he replied, "it's been in the house for about a week now, and in that time it hasn't had any that I have been able to discover."—New York Press.

Sweet Melody Flour.

Public dancing at the Elkbridge dance hall every Tuesday and Friday nights. Admission to gentlemen 50 cents, and to ladies 25 cents. Music by the Peerless piano player.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

To the Republicans of Harrison County: I am a candidate for the Republican nomination for the House of Delegates, subject to the decision of the Republican primary election to be held on the fifth day of May, 1904.

HAYMOND MAXWELL.

FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Republican nomination for the House of Delegates, subject to the decision of the voters at the Republican primary election to be held in Harrison county, May 5, 1904.

JOHN W. CARPENTER.

FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

We are authorized to announce Jasper S. Kyle as a candidate for the House of Delegates, subject to the decision of the Republican voters at primary election to be held May 5.

FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Republican nomination for the House of Delegates, subject to the decision of the Republican primary election, to be held May 5, 1904.

M. C. JARRETT.

FOR SHERIFF:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Sheriff of Harrison County, subject to the decision of the Republican primary election.

JOHN M. FLANIGAN.

FOR STATE SENATE:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Republican nomination for State Senate, Twelfth Senatorial District, subject to the Republican Senatorial convention. I have served one term in the Senate and solicit the support of all who approve of my record therein.

HARVEY W. HARMER.

FOR STATE SENATE:

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the Republican nomination for State Senate from the Twelfth Senatorial District, subject to the Republican Senatorial convention of that district comprised of the counties of Harrison, Doddridge and Lewis.

ARTHUR K. THORNE.

FOR ASSESSOR:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Republican nomination for assessor for the lower district of Harrison county, subject to the Republican primary election to be held May 5, 1904.

ERNEST L. PIGOTT.

FOR ASSESSOR:

To the Republicans of Harrison county—I am a candidate for the Republican nomination for the office of assessor for the Upper district of Harrison county, subject to the decision of the voters at the Republican primary election to be held on the fifth day of May, 1904.

ERNEST A. RIDER.

FOR ASSESSOR:

I announce myself a candidate for the office of Assessor, Upper District, subject to the voters of the Republican primary election, May 5, 1904.

FRANCIS M. DAVIS.

FOR ASSESSOR:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Republican nomination for assessor in the upper district of the county, subject to the decision of the voters at the Republican primary election, May 5, 1904.

WILLIAM L. HUGHES.

FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:

We are authorized to announce Wil E. Morris as a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney for Harrison County, subject to the Republican primary, to be held May 5th, 1904.

The Property Called Health

Runs down or Improves, just depends on how it is cared for. It is the most valuable property we have, and should receive the most consideration. It helps you in business, helps good looks, helps makes friends, helps get situations and help you hold them, and always makes happiness. Property like this, at the first indication of being out of repair, should be looked after, and a remedy applied at once. There are any number of signs that show repairs are needed. Bilious spells, indigestion, dyspepsia, belching, dizziness, sick-headache, sallow complexion, pimples and liver spots on the face, a drowsy feeling after meals, sour stomach, etc. These symptoms all show loss of health. Druggists will sell you for sale, a box of Dr. Gunn's Improved Liver Pills, a sure cure for all of these diseases. Sold by Stone & Mercer.

Sweet Melody Flour

All persons having any of our iron cream freezers, please notify us at the store or by mail. We will call and get them. Respectfully, J. T. Swager.

Sweet Melody Flour

Any one needing stone or cement work done and needs stoneasons, write to Stoneason's Union, No. 11, post office box 431, Clarksburg, W. Va. mar11-1m.

STOP PAYING RENT! BUY A HOME!

FOR YOUR OLD AGE.

HARRISON COUNTY HOMES WILL NEVER BE CHEAPER

Six miles west of Clarksburg on the National Turnpike Road, the Parkersburg Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad system, and the Clarksburg & Salem Electric Railway, lies a beautiful farm of 163 acres, an ideal plot of ground for suburban homes. This splendid property has recently been divided into one hundred and twenty-eight building lots of generous proportions, upon two lots of which residences have already been erected. No twenty-five foot lots, but big, home like plots of ground—big enough to raise families on. The smallest ones contain a quarter of an acre—the largest twenty-eight acres; while there are many, just the right size for handsome homesteads, containing from two to four acres. There are some suitable for truck farming and poultry yards, and afford most attractive opportunities for our farmer friends to establish lucrative business ventures. It is the best of limestone land and will raise anything.

Every lot in the above property, now known as the Francis Addition to Reynoldsville, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, Thursday, April 14th, 1904. The sale will take place upon the grounds and those who desire to attend can secure transportation for ten cents the round trip on the street cars which leave the St. Charles Corner, Clarksburg, every thirty minutes, or they can take any of the local trains on the B. & O., which stop on the grounds. A band of music will be in attendance to enliven the occasion and a generous luncheon will be at the disposal of all who are hungry.

Every one attending the sale will be entitled to participate in the great drawing of Lot No. 46—a splendid property 75x200 feet, facing on Lynch street. A ticket will be furnished to each one present, and the drawing conducted in a manner fair to all. Come and get a home for nothing.

A cash payment of only one-fourth is required, and the balance is extended over a period of one, two and three years.

The sale of this property ought to prove the most successful in the history of Clarksburg's growth. The lots will never be worth less. No one ever lost money on suburban property near a growing community. If you do not need money give this to some one who does.

M. J. FRANCIS, Wilsonburg, W. Va.

BUY A HOME NOW, DON'T PUT IT OFF!

WANT DEPARTMENT

Want, Found, For Rent, Lost Notices, etc., etc., will be published in this column at the rate of two cents per line per insertion, INVARIABLY CASH IN ADVANCE. Count six words to the line. Nothing accepted for less than 25 cents.

Wanted—Waitress at the Florentine hotel; must be well recommended; wages \$3.00 per week. mar29-1f.

For Rent—Stable and living room for rent. 458 W. Main street. 10mar-1f.

For Rent—Cheap house. Apply to J. M. Wine, Hickman street. mar20-1f.

For Rent—A six-room house with bath and cellar, centrally located. Inquire of Dr. E. N. Flowers. mar25-1f.

For Rent—Large room, \$6.50 a month; small room, \$4.50. Apply at 645 West Main street. mar21-1f.

For Rent—Up to date apartments in Jones' flat. Apply to Philip Willet, attorney, rooms 9 and 10, Leggett building. mar10-1f.

For Rent—Good store room and basement for store purposes, on West Pike street, formerly the West End Meat Market. Inquire of Attorney F. G. Vigar. jan29-1f.

For Rent—Desirable front room, furnished, gas and bath. Apply at 228 Carr avenue. mar3-1f.

For Rent—Furnished front room with bath, for gentleman. Apply at 125 Sixth street. mar23-1f.

For Rent—A good office room, centrally located on Main street. Inquire 325 Main street. 27feb-04.

For Rent—Two-room cottage in Glen Elk; \$10.00 per month. Suitable for railroad men. Lynn J. Carskadon. feb9-04d.

For Sale—\$350 National Cash Register, good as new. Will sell at a great reduction. Call at M. A. Naabbaum's, Main street store. feb29-1f.

For Rent—One nicely furnished front room with bath. 297 East Pike street, five minutes walk to P. O. office. f20f.

For Rent—Six room house, nicely finished, with bath. Possession April 1. Inquire at Oil Well Supply Store, Hewes street. 29feb-1f.

For Rent—Two apartments in Cunningham flats. Call 118 Third street. mar20-1f.

Wanted—An energetic, intelligent woman of good character and address. Capable of earning \$10 per week. For further information inquire at room 75 Jacobs building, Main street, Clarksburg, W. Va. apr3-1f.

Wanted—Ladies and gentlemen wanted at once to take orders for installment goods in Clarksburg and vicinity. 106 West Main street. apr7-04.

Wanted—Four or five furnished rooms for light housekeeping. Apply to Mr. Parks, at the Walker house. apr16-3f.

Wanted—Chambermaid at the Swager Hotel. apr17-1f.

LOT FOR SALE.

A desirable building lot in central part of city. Price, \$750.00. Terms to suit purchaser. This is a rare opportunity to secure a good lot cheap and on easy terms. For information address Box 273. apr14-12td.

Sweet Melody Flour

WATER RENTS. All water rents for the quarter ending March 31, 1904, are due and payable at the office of the city clerk. They must be paid at once, as I am required to settle for them. Prompt payments will be appreciated.

HUGH CALLAGHAN, Com. of Water Works.

Sweet Melody Flour

Dr. L. B. Earper, veterinarian, will treat your sick animal. Operating a specialty. Charges reasonable. Office 11 Pike street. apr28-1f.

Best Cough Medicine For Children.

When you buy a cough medicine for small children you want one in which you can place implicit confidence. You want one that not only relieves but cures. You want one that is unquestionably harmless. You want one that is pleasant to take. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy meets all of these conditions. There is nothing so good for the coughs and colds incident to childhood. It is also a certain preventative and cure for croup and there is no danger whatever from whooping cough when it is given. It has been used in many epidemics of that disease with perfect success. For sale by G. C. Stone, druggist.

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION.

At Rules held in the Circuit Clerk's office of Harrison County, West Virginia, on the first Monday of April, 1904.

The Glen Elk Hotel Company, a corporation, vs. Thomas C. Linger.

The object of this suit is to recover of the said defendant, Thomas C. Linger, the sum of \$119.50, with lawful interest thereon from the 1st day of November, 1903, until paid, for a debt due from him to the said plaintiff, The Glen Elk Hotel Company for board, lodging, services, etc., rendered to Florence Whann.

And an affidavit having been made that the said defendant, Thomas C. Linger, is a non-resident of this State, the said defendant is required to appear, within one month after due publication of this order, in the Clerk's office of our said court, at rules, to be held therefor, and do what is necessary to protect his interests. And it is ordered that a copy of this order be forthwith published in some newspaper in the City of Clarksburg, Harrison County and State of West Virginia, for four successive weeks, and be posted at the front door of the court house of said county for a like period of time.

A copy. Teste: H. W. WILLIAMS, Clerk.

J. E. Law, Counsel for Plaintiff. apr18-1f.

Metropolitan Hotel and Cafe

324-326 EUROPEAN PLAN. The best of everything properly cooked and served. Beautifully appointed rooms at moderate rates. Free simple rooms for commercial men. W. F. RAU, Prop. Also Prop. Glen Elk Hotel

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MADE-TO-ORDER CLOTHING

Long ago, they decided, as all must, that it is perfect in every particular. They continue to favor us with their orders because we have reduced tailoring to an art and can give not only correct fit and the best workmanship, but also the best value. Our \$30 suits to order are models of elegance.

C. L. FORD & CO., For mens 5 and 4, Traders Annex.



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We have it in Stock. We sell it at Right Prices.

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Choice Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

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