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Sold by Stone & Mercer, Druggists.

## In the Grip of Environment

By HENRY WINTHROP

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Jim Blakely, the clown, came dashing out of the ring into the dressing tent and stopped short. Nellie Cosgrove was sitting on top of the leaping pad, her usually merry eyes streaming with tears. Beside her stood a man looking exceedingly awkward and uncomfortable.  
Circus folk are always resentful of the intrusion of the outside world into their domain, and the fact that this stranger wore a frock coat and an exceedingly shiny silk hat was all that was needed to convince Jim that he was the cause of Nellie's tearful eyes. He strode up wrathfully, his painted face in ludicrous contrast to the intense tones of his voice.  
"See here," he said fiercely, "this isn't any place for an outsider, least of all for a bloomin' dude what comes in and insults one of our girls. If you don't get out of here quick you'll be sorry for it, and I won't have to call my 'Hey, Rubie,' to do it."

Spanzles, the Great Dane, that did a pup riding act as well as leading a



"DON'T, JIM," SHE SAID PLAINLY. "I don't want to hurt you, child," he said sadly. "I was thinking" he could not tell her how that one sentence had torn at his heartstrings all ready sore. He rose. "Well, I've got to go in and get Spanzles ready. I'll say goodby after the show." He turned on his heel, and presently she could hear him calling to the dog. Then other sounds of preparation began and presently she, too, went inside.

The "round top" was already packed in the wagons and on its way to the cars when Nellie emerged from the women's side of the dressing tent, where the lawyer waited impatiently for his charge. She went up to the boss property man. "Put my trunk in the wagon, Sam," she said. "I'm going on with the show."

The lawyer blustered and stormed, but she was adamant and finally he appealed to Blakely.  
"You can't go with us, Nell," said the clown, his face as white as though he had not removed his ring makeup. "There is no reason why you should stay on."

She made him a saucy courtesy. "There is every reason, good sir," she smiled. "In the first place, this is my life, the only one I know or want, and besides—she went very close and whispered in his ear—"besides, I found out back of the tent there that I—loved you."

And after that what could Blakely say?  
The Difference.  
Uncle Jared and Uncle Benjamin made a sorry pair. True there was blood on Uncle Benjamin's forehead, and he looked white and faint, but Uncle Jared, who tried to support him, walked with a very pronounced limp, displayed only one coat tail where two should have been and was rumpled and bedraggled generally in a way to suggest participation in a riot.

"What's happened to you two?" asked a townsman.  
"That pesky colt of Benjamin's run away and throwed him just as I came along," Uncle Jared answered. "I'm giving him a lift along toward home."

"Look as though you needed one yourself," pronounced the inquirer. "What's been happenin' to you?"  
"What? Me? Why, nothin' to speak of—just been to bed to see the big procession. Got more or less hustled round and tromped on. Ah!" He stooped painfully to adjust a shoe which had been ripped open so that half of the upper flapped as he walked.

"Don't see much difference betwixt ye, Judgin' by the display of wreckage," the neighbor persisted.  
"There's considerable difference I take it," Uncle Jared answered, with conclusive dignity. "Benjamin's met with an accident, but I've been pleasin' in"—"Youth's Companion."

Motual Ships.  
Tom—What made you give me away so when I was telling that yarn at the dinner table? Dick—I didn't mean to; it was only a slip of the tongue. But that's no reason why you should have kicked me so hard! Tom—Oh, I didn't mean to—it was only a slip of the foot.  
—Detroit Free Press.

Incapable is a form of weakness. I have never known a man of real ability to be incapable.—Goethe.

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The only way to cure catarrh and all other diseases of the respiratory organs is to breathe Hyomel.  
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SWEET MELODY FLOUR

There in the soft light that came through the tent she found him. Out from all was life and movement. Here they were practically alone. She slipped down beside him on the overturned manger and slipped her hand into his. It's horny palm closed over her tiny fingers, and he put away the pipe, but gave no other sign. It was as though he opened the conversation.  
"I feel like a dream girl tonight," she began confidentially.  
"Don't you remember how we used to plan that if we ever got money we would start a show of our own, and only have in the company people we really liked and make them do only one act apiece?"  
He laughed shortly.  
"It's funny what you've got to go and live up to it. It would never do for an actress to ride in the ring."

"I don't want to go a bit," she protested. "This is the life I know and love. I want to stay here and be myself, not another girl all dressed up, with servants and all that sort of thing."

He turned on her sharply.  
"See here, Nell," he commanded. "Don't talk like that. It's hard work doing two acts twice a day. It's not for you, my girl. Make up your mind to that."

She turned up the turf with the toe of a dainty shoe. "I don't want to make up my mind to it," she protested. "I don't care for the old money. I want to be here with you and all the rest. You hurt me!" She broke off suddenly, releasing her hand from his grasp and rubbing it.

"I didn't mean to hurt you, child," he said sadly. "I was thinking" he could not tell her how that one sentence had torn at his heartstrings all ready sore. He rose. "Well, I've got to go in and get Spanzles ready. I'll say goodby after the show."

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