

THE ESCAPE.

By ANITA REYBURN.

The girl with a loose white sweater over her evening dress to guard against the cool of the night, passed like a shadow from column to column of the terrace, passed tall flower-filled urns, a fountain and statues glistening white in the moonlight.

At the top of the broad steps that led down to the river, she paused under a spreading tree.

She hesitated, then started down the steps, cautiously keeping in the shadow of the high stone rail.

At the foot of the flight, a boat-house snuggled against the slope and beside it lay a yacht pointing seaward like a great white bird ready for flight.

She remembered with relief that the captain and crew were in the house, having a share in the festivities of the wedding rehearsal.

The groom was to arrive that evening and the bridal party was assembled and guests were invited to receive the wonderful person of title who was to wed the family fortune in exchange for a coronet.

She glanced on, spurning launches and motor boats of various kinds, and chose a rowboat rocking gently on the easy swell of the river.

Gathering her skirts close, she got in and pulled a long, easy stroke up the river. Two miles away was a favorite haunt of hers, a flat, grassy dell, where willows hung over a clear little stream that lost its identity here with the big river.

The little boat swung into the haven as she rested one oar, and slid in under the willows. Moonlight filtering through the tiny leaves made a wonderful lacework of shadow on the water.

"It is fairyland," breathed the girl softly, and the place caught the echo and sent it back to her.

"It is heaven!" said the echo and, lo, the voice was masculine!

She looked around surprised, and not displeased, for the voice had thrilled her.

"Better than heaven! It's here and heaven is yet to come," she answered. "Fairyland then, and you are Titania."

"Yes, I am Titania. And who are you, mysterious stranger?"

"Oberon! Didn't you guess?"

"Stupid of me, good king of the fairies! I don't think I shall call you Oberon, either. He was a mischievous maker, and led Titania a terrible life. Remember how he put the ass' head on the clown and caused her to fall in love with him?"

"That isn't a fairy trait. It's very human. Many people love as they are told—and marry also."

An odd look crossed her face. "Come out, kind stranger. Be you Oberon, Puck or the donkey-headed clown, I should like to see you," she coaxed.

And then the branches rustled and a canoe slid out of the willows quiet close to her. The girl saw how erect he sat and his strong, clear features. Susceptible to his smile and voice, she felt her heart beating strangely. Her answer was irrelevant. "Isn't this a truly wonderful night?"

"It is—because you are here!"

"And aren't people foolish to stay indoors?"

"They are—when you are outside!"

"And why do people have stupid weddings?"

"Because two people are in love!"

"No. Not always! Do you know, I've just run away from a wedding, or rather the preliminaries. The real wedding is tomorrow."

He was instantly interested. "You don't say so! And who, pray, is the bride?"

She told him.

"Ah! And you?" he asked. "What have you to do with it all?"

"I," she said, "I am in the bridal party."

"I am going to confess, too," he added. "I am in the bridal party also."

"What! You!"

"Yes. And drawn by the beauty of the night I ran off just as you did. We're both in the same boat."

She laughed delightedly. "My sin is less heinous now," she said, "since I have company."

HERE IS REAL "LUCKY STONE"

Owner Is Justified in Belief That It Has Saved the Lives of Two That Owned It.

George F. Kanx relates this little story of a lucky stone and the adventures of its owners:

"Some years ago a meteorite was given to Edward Heron Allen, the famous writer on palmistry and the violin, and this gifted man always wore it about him. One morning he awakened to find that the entire roof above him had fallen in, except just that portion over his bed.

"He told the story to one of the best-known ladies in Boston, one who is known for her public spirit, her love of art and her faultless manner of entertaining. This lady successfully urged Allen to give her the meteorite.

"A few days later, while out driving, a great truck with two runaway horses attached to it struck her carriage. Instinctively she raised her muff to protect her face. The muff was almost cut in two but the lady was not hurt. A few days later, while she was walking under some scaffolding, it fell, and the open part where the hoists went up proved to be just where she stood. Although surrounded by ruin, she remained unharmed."

Whether the stone was a factor in averting disaster to its owners in their moments of peril is, however, a matter apart from the facts in the case. — Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

MEAN LITTLE THRUSTS STING

Keen Mental Anguish Often Follows Words Which Were Merely Spoken "In Fun."

What good do you get out of giving people mean little thrusts? If this is the sort of thing you enjoy, there is something wrong in your make-up. There is a spot in your heart which is morally decayed.

Its badness may not cause you to become positively dangerous, but you have within you some of the same quality of cruelty which makes the heathen hang men up by the thumbs, because they enjoy the suffering of their victims.

The hurts you inflict are mental. The barbarian tortures are physical. Mental anguish is more painful than physical hurt. It cuts deeper and lasts longer.

You may think that the one who is the butt of your remarks does not feel them deeply; but you know how sensitive you are to similar thrusts.

If you will stop to think a moment, and place yourself in the position of the one you attack, the chances are that you will not be guilty in future of the mean little things in which you now indulge yourself as a matter of "a little fun." — Irish World.

ROUMANIA AND HER NEIGHBORS.

Roumania proper is a country of 53,000 square miles, with a population of less than eight million. It is thus slightly larger than Pennsylvania, although it has half a million fewer people than the Keystone state. It has a population of 141 per square mile, as compared with Serbia's 137, Greece's 94 and Bulgaria's 108. Its imports amount to \$15 per capita, as compared to Serbia's \$7.50, Greece's \$7.80 and Bulgaria's \$8.75. Its exports per capita amount to \$18.42, as compared with \$6.73 in the case of Serbia, \$7.21 in the case of Greece, and \$7.87 in the case of Bulgaria. She also spends approximately one and a half times as much per capita for governmental purposes as Greece, Serbia or Bulgaria in normal times.

HAS 114-YEAR-OLD QUILT

Mrs. Harold Dodge of West Woodbury, Vt., has a copperplate quilt which is one hundred and fourteen years old and in good condition.

UNADULTERATED.

"Waiter, this coffee is nothing but thick mud!"

"Yes, sir; certainly sir. It was ground this morning!"

A LONG TIME AFTER.

Lady Next Door — Were you named after your mother?

Mary — Of course. She was born before I was.

LESS REASON TO BE.

Father — Aren't you sorry now that you hit Willie Jones?

Bobby — I ain't half as sorry.

FARMER SMITH'S BITTER LESSON

Christmas Mail Order Shipment Proves Nightmare.

"BARGAINS" ARE A DELUSION

After Unpacking Goods, Quickly Goes to Home Town Store, Sees What He Buys and Makes Vow Never Again to Patronize Catalogue House—No More Wander Book Stuff.

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Experience is the name men give their follies and their sorrows. It is the successive disenchantment of the things of life.

It is reason ennobled by the spoils of the heart. At least that is Smith's interpretation of experience.

Disagreeable Brand of Wetness.

One December it happened that the weather man seemed to conspire with the mail order man. He turned out a disagreeable brand of wetness that filled the farmers with a distaste for the "open road" that David Grayson optimistically praises in all seasons.

But all farmers are not optimistic, like David.

Farmer Smith liked the comfort of his sheltered home. So he naturally was attracted by an invitation from the mail order house to sit down in an easy chair before the fire and select his Christmas supplies from the pages of a wonder book left at his front gate by the R. F. D. man.

Wonder Book Solves Problem.

The idea seemed mighty attractive and comfortable. He thought he might as well experiment once anyway.

So he and his wife had a nice time filling out the yellow order slip according to their needs and revenue.

Then they sent it on its way to the firm which promised them thrilling bargains in all lines of merchandise from pins to palaces.

The Smiths had made one trip to town. The day had been characterized by haste, hunger and worry. They hadn't had time to buy what they wanted.

So the catalogue seemed to solve the problem for them. It seemed as if it were going to save them lots of time, energy, money and brain fag.

Shipment Arrives.

It was a beautiful pre-Christmas dream made up in four measures of comfort, confidence, curiosity and hope. The awakening came afterward, likewise the disillusionment.

Their shipment arrived two days before Christmas. This was very reassuring. But it necessitated a special drive of nine miles to the nearest express office.

The C. O. D. express charges were unexpectedly high. The first intimation of a mistake came with the realization that the express charges exceeded the difference in price between home store and catalogue house articles.

Traffic had been congested and the passage rough. Damage was visible. Smith hoped it wasn't serious, but he took his stuff home with unpleasant forebodings, and that night when the family was asleep he and his wife opened the package in the kitchen.

Caused Smith to Swear.

There was a lot of excitement to unpack, but when the work was done and the contents stood revealed there was a verbal fireworks display on the part of Smith, who forgot for the moment that he was a deacon in the church, and Mrs. Smith's tears were bitter.

The parlor lamp was a scream. Its embellishments were livid enough to light a colored Baptist church without the aid of acetylene. The handkerchief Battenberg looked as if it had been made on a sweatshop machine intended for overalls. The guaranteed pure wool overcoat assured them at a glance how thoroughly they had been fleeced.

Passing on the balance of the "alleged bargains," the baby's stocking was the piece de resistance of their Christmas feast. It was a tullest affair, decorated with green and red yarn tassels and filled with junk that represented the discard of a one cent poverty stock and exuded suggestions of bacteria from top to toe.

Do Shopping at Home.

The stocking was the final straw. Next morning Smith latched up old Bess, and he and his wife plodded to town again through the slush to get a bona fide supply of Christmas gifts.

What they bought then had the guarantee of the manufacturer, the dealer and their own eyes, for by this time the Smiths were strictly from Missouri. They had had their lesson.

But how many thousands of Smiths and Joneses in this country who have had a lesson, but hesitate—in fact, absolutely refrain—from letting their neighbors and friends know that they have been through the same experience!

The reason that they do not admit it is easily explained in a few words. They are ashamed to acknowledge their cupidity and are waiting the opportunity to see their neighbor bite.

After their neighbor fell into the trap they decided that the best use to which their catalogue could be put was to lay it under the Yale log and start a holiday blaze going in the old fashion.

A SYNOPSIS Of The Proposed NEW KENTUCKY REVENUE AND TAXATION LAW

Constitutional Amendment. The new law is in conformity with the Amendment to Section 171 of the Constitution authorizing the General Assembly to— Classify property for taxation. Fix the rate of taxation on each class. Designate which classes shall be subject to local taxation.

Permanent. The new law provides for a permanent tax on real estate. The Tax Commission, Commission to carry into effect the provisions and exercise supervision over the entire question of State Taxation. To devote its entire time to the question and assume the duties of the various Boards and Commissions now having authority to assess and tax property for State purposes at Frankfort.

Rate of Taxation. The new law fixes the rate of taxation on all taxable property for State purposes at forty cents on each \$100 of assessed value. Instead of fifty-five cents, as at present, on all classes of property excepting deposits in bank, which are to be taxed at ten cents on each \$100 for the purpose of encouraging thrift and savings and the circulation of money now sequestered because of excessive taxation. In other respects taxation for State purposes will be absolutely uniform on all classes of property, whether owned by the residents of towns or the country.

Apportionment. The apportionment for each item of expense remains undisturbed, and the General Expense Fund, the School Fund, the Sinking Fund, the Kentucky University and Road Tax will receive the same exact proportion of the revenue as heretofore.

Real Estate. Real estate will be taxed as at present and according to its locality in the country or town and cities for State purposes at the uniform forty-cent rate, and for county, town or taxing districts at the local rates fixed by the local authorities. The value of real estate depends on its location and surrounding improvements and should naturally contribute toward the maintenance of such improvements.

Personal Property. Personal property is segregated into classes and each class will be taxed uniformly, whether owned by the resident of a town or the country, for the purposes for which it is taxed.

Money and Credits. Money in hand, notes, bonds, accounts and shares of stock in foreign corporations having less than twenty-five per cent of their taxable property in Kentucky will be taxed for State purposes only at the uniform forty-cent rate in lieu of all other taxes. Shares of stock in Kentucky corporations and foreign corporations having more than twenty-five per cent of their taxable property in Kentucky are exempt from taxation, as the taxes are paid by the corporations.

Machinery. Farm implements and machinery, the machinery of manufacturing establishments, including raw material and product in course of manufacture, will be taxed for State purposes only at the uniform rate of forty cents in lieu of all other taxation.

Mortgages. Mortgages will be taxed for State purposes only at the uniform rate of forty cents, and if for a period exceeding three years a registration fee of twenty-five cents on each \$100 will be required in order to secure revenue from foreign lenders on long-time loans, as this is the only Kentucky tax they would have to pay.

Banks and Trust Companies. Banks and trust companies will be subject to the same taxation as at present, but the State tax will be only forty cents instead of fifty-five, as at present, and the assessment will be made by the permanent Tax Commission instead of the State Board of Valuation.

Banks. Banks have heretofore been assessed on a different basis of valuation from other property, and it is not proposed to disturb this arrangement.

Bank Deposits. Bank deposits are placed in a separate class and depositors will be taxed at the rate of ten cents on each \$100 on money on deposit September 1, which tax may, however, be paid by the banks for their depositors or by the depositors themselves, and this nominal tax is calculated to largely increase the deposits in banks, as money not so deposited will be subject to the State tax rate of forty cents.

Railroads and Public Service Corporations. Railroads and public service corporations will be assessed by the permanent Tax Commission and the taxes on the various classes of property they may own will be the same as for individuals—forty cents for State purposes on property taxed for State purposes only and such local taxes as the local authorities fix on property subject to same. The value of franchises will also be fixed by the State Tax Commission and the new law dispenses with all other State Taxing Boards and taxing privileges of other Commissions at Frankfort.

Merchants. Merchants will be taxed on their real estate and tangible personalty as heretofore, but at the lower State tax rate of forty cents, and such local rates as may be fixed by the local authorities. Notes, accounts and cash in hand will be taxed for State purposes only at the uniform forty-cent rate in lieu of other taxes and bank deposits at ten cents on each \$100.

Manufacturers. Manufacturers will be subjected to the payment of State taxes only on their machinery and raw material and product in course of manufacture, notes, accounts cash in hand and other intangible personalty at the rate of forty cents, and bank deposits at ten cents on each \$100. Their real estate will be subject to State and local taxes as at present.

Farmers. Farmers will be subjected to the present taxation on their land and improvements, but the tax rate for State purposes will be forty cents instead of fifty-five. Agricultural implements and machinery will be taxed for State purposes only at the uniform forty-cent rate. Crops grown within the year are exempt from all taxation. Bank deposits will be taxed at ten cents on the hundred dollars, and this tax may be paid by banks. Cash on hand, notes and accounts, taxable bonds and stocks will be taxed for State purposes only at the uniform forty-cent rate.

Livestock. Livestock will be taxed as at present, but the State tax rate will be forty instead of fifty-five cents.

Household Effects. Household effects, including pictures, musical instruments, furniture, metals and jewelry, will be taxed as at present, but the State tax rate will be forty instead of fifty-five cents, and there will be the present exemption of \$250 for heads of families.

ALL TAXPAYERS IN FAVOR OF A BETTER TAX LAW SHOULD WRITE TO THE GOVERNOR AND URGE HIM TO CALL A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY TO

TAKES CONTESTS INCREASED TO 17 DEATHS

Charges Sutherland Exceeded Six Pupils of Oklahoma School That Was Wrecked Succumb To Injuries.

Hinton, W. Va., Jan. 8.—Attorneys for United States Senator W. E. Chilton, of West Virginia, who was defeated in the recent election by Howard Sutherland, republican, today instituted proceedings in circuit court here to oust Sutherland on the ground that the republican nominee in his primary campaign exceeded the limit of expenditures provided by the state corrupt practices act.

CLEAN YOUR CLOVER SEED.

We have installed a Buckhorn cleaner for cleaning clover seed.

Bring your seed to us and they will be cleaned in the proper way.

F. A. YOST CO., Incorporated.

WISDOM.

"She wanted to marry him for his money."

"Did she fail?"

"No—she failed and she married someone else."—Town Topics.

KEEP THE CHANGE!

A.—I say! What do you mean by telling Jones I was an idiot?

B.—Why, it isn't a secret, is it?

BOARD MEETING.

The board of trustees of Bethel Woman's College will meet to-night at 7 o'clock at the office of Forbes Mfg. Co., Virginia street.

nearby movement. "Any activity in real estate about here?" asked the tourist. "None whatever," answered the disconsolate citizen of an Arizona town, "except when a puff of wind comes along and shifts a little sand."

Scientific Fact of Interest. A distinguished British scientist has decided that there is some form of radiation from chalk and granite cliffs, possibly electrical, which causes climatic differences in places near together.

TWO ONLY.

Only two marriage licenses have been issued this year, both on Jan. 3 and previously reported.

Muskogee, Okla., Jan. 7.—Deaths caused by the tornado in Southeastern Oklahoma yesterday were increased to seventeen by the death of six more pupils of the Viroton County School, which was blown to pieces by the wind. Eight persons are known to be injured seriously.

The tornado, after demolishing the schoolhouse, killing or injuring all but two of the twenty-nine persons in it, dipped down on Quinton, Okla., destroying a number of houses and injuring seven persons, one probably fatally.

MRS. LEWIS J. STEWART.

Mrs. Kitty Stewart, wife of L. J. Stewart, of Gracey, died Friday night after a long illness. She was 70 years old and is survived by her husband, two sons and two daughters. Her husband is also very low.

Contemporary.

"Miss Ann Teek has had her house furnished in colonial style." "Well, she ought to feel thoroughly at home amid such surroundings."

Lawson will Stay.

Thomas W. Lawson canceled his trip to Europe and will appear in Washington Monday to testify regarding the alleged leak in connection with Wilson's peace note.

Advertisement for 'You May Talk to One Man' featuring an illustration of two men in suits. Text: 'You May Talk to One Man. But an advertisement in this paper talks to the whole community. Catch the Idea?' Below the illustration is a small text: 'Two Only. Only two marriage licenses have been issued this year, both on Jan. 3 and previously reported.'

Large advertisement for C. R. Clark & Co. Text: 'Listen Mr. Farmer "MONEY SAVED" IS "MONEY MADE" We will sell you your groceries for less money---\$10 a pound for your tobacco will not profit you if you pay too much for what you buy. Be Sure to get our Prices on Flour, Sugar, Coffee, Molasses, Bacon, D. Salt Butts, Lard, Syrup, Bran, and Cabbage. We buy in large lots and will give you the benefit of the close prices obtained. Drop in and see us, we always have a good fire and plenty of water. DON'T FORGET THE PLACE. "If It's on the Market, We Have It." C. R. Clark & Co. INCORPORATED. Wholesale and Retail Grocers. South...