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\$20.00	Cloaks, sale price	\$10.00
\$18.00	Cloaks, sale price	\$9.00
\$15.00	Cloaks, sale price	\$7.50
\$12.00	Cloaks, sale price	\$6.00
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\$18.00	overcoats now	\$13.50
\$15.00	overcoats now	\$11.25
\$12.00	overcoats now	\$9.00
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Remember the Goods are Marked in Plain Figures and you can figure the advertised reductions for yourselves

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Omnium

A Story of the Year 1985

By F. A. MITCHEL

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It was at the beginning of the present century that one of the gatherers of those colossal fortunes quite common at the time founded an institution for original scientific investigation. Soon after the corps of scientists employed there began their work they made the discovery that living parts of a body might be substituted for decaying parts of another body. For instance, a knee might be replaced by a knee taken from a different person, serving the purpose of a new knee. From this starting point the experimenters proceeded step by step till there was no part of the human body that they could not supply.

Nearly half a century elapsed, however, before these gentlemen succeeded in replacing all the parts in a single human body by similar parts from other bodies.

The first perfect combination man was completed at the institute last year. There was not an organ or a part of an organ in him that had not been taken from another person. The man whose parts had been all removed and replaced had been named Peter Sykes, a criminal condemned for murder. He was given the choice of being executed or turned over to the professors to lose his identity by becoming another person. He shuddered at the immolation of his own personality, but consented rather than die the death of a felon.

The case was the first that was successful in producing an altogether new being. The operators who made or, rather, combined him considered that their first duty toward him was to name him. They chose the Latin word omnium, meaning "of all"—that is, Mr. Omnium was made up of all kinds of persons. It was expected by the unscientific laity that he might be opposed to giving up the name of Sykes, but as there was nothing of Sykes left in him he made no objection whatever. Indeed, he did not remember ever having been Sykes. The life Sykes had led was not in him at all.

Since Omnium was entirely experimental, the professors who had manufactured him gave orders that he was not to be permitted—at least for some time—to leave the institution. But a certain part of his brain and his right hand had been taken from a burglar. The consequence was that though locked in by a guard he found no trouble in picking the lock with such implements as he found lying about and walked forth into the world the first man born of a great many mothers and just as many fathers.

As might have been expected, this fragmentary though entire individual followed the strongest of all the natural laws—the law which unites the sexes. His component parts had been taken from persons between twenty and thirty. His average age was therefore twenty-five, a time of life when a man's fancy turns to love. He had been well dressed by the professors, and as they feared he might get out into the world without funds they had placed a roll of bills in his pocket. Feeling hungry, he went into a restaurant, where he ate a good meal and took a desperate fancy to the cashier, who was a very attractive young woman of twenty. Having scraped an acquaintance with her, he invited her to go to the theater with him that evening, an invitation she accepted.

It should be noted here that Omnium on entering the world as a combination man obeyed the two most important natural laws. The first thing he did was to satisfy his hunger, the second to make love.

Miss Mabel Thompson, the young lady to whom Omnium paid his addresses, found him a very puzzling person. Instead of having a few characteristic traits he had a hundred. The first clashing of idiosyncrasies she noticed was between those of a spendthrift and a miser, a portion of whose brains had been engrafted within his cranium. Instead of engaging seats at the theater he took a whole box. This was embarrassing to Miss Thompson, who was a very modest person. What was her surprise when after the play he took her to supper and ordered one herring for the two.

This episode, though neither of them knew it, showed from the first that, though it was possible to produce a perfect physical combination man, the matter of those elements that are to be classed as mental opened up a new field for the scientists. It demonstrated that to place in the same skull two such discordant elements as the brains of a miser and a spendthrift is to make a bad combination.

But Miss Thompson was doomed to further surprise and disappointment. While going home after the apology for a supper—half a herring for each of them—suddenly the strokes of a bell fell upon their ears. At the first stroke Omnium stopped stock still. There were three strokes, then nine. On the ninth stroke a hook and ladder truck passed. Omnium left the lady standing on the sidewalk, dashed to the truck, stood on the footboard, and was whirled away.

Can it be wondered that the poor girl was astonished, disappointed, in the man who had so recently come to her to kindle those hopes of marriage

and home which are born in every woman? Omnium called upon her the next day and was coldly received. Had the two heard a remark of Professor Sweigler when Omnium was being put together they would have understood the strange action. "This is a portion of the brain," the professor had said, "of Sam Tucker, the most daring fireman in the department. He has taken twenty medals for bravery at fires." And the professor inserted some gray matter in the cranium before him.

Omnium explained to Miss Thompson that when he heard the fire alarm and saw the truck dash by he felt an unconquerable impulse to get on the truck and go to the fire. He regretted leaving her alone, but could not help it. Whereupon she forgave him.

Reconciliations are always dangerous, and it proved so in this instance. Omnium told her that he loved her, clasped her in his arms and begged her to marry him.

Her answer was that, first, he must make known who he was; second, his means, and if these were satisfactory to her she would consent to a trial engagement.

Omnium after a few moments' thought told her that he would prepare a statement for her embodying the information she asked for. The truth is he knew nothing about himself and thought it necessary to do a job of thinking on the matter. He left her, promising to bring the facts the next evening. He had hired a room and went there from Miss Thompson. Throwing himself into an easy chair, he began to think.

The first person he remembered being was Evau Drake. He recalled working in a counting room as a man of that name. Then being addressed as Dr. Harwood came glimmering in his brain. Corporal Horgan was the next identity he felt, and this gave way to Julius, a colored man.

"Great heavens," he exclaimed, "is there negro blood in my veins?"

He examined his nails and the palms of his hands, but could see no traces of such an inheritance. This comforted him.

How it happened Omnium himself could never explain. He remembered jotting down the names as they occurred to him of persons he seemed to have been, and he recalled addressing a note to Miss Thompson beginning, "The information as to myself promised you is"—Then followed the name Omnium, after which he had written the word alias, adding six other names. He had evidently got confused at a consciousness of having been so many different persons and did not know what he was doing, for the next morning Miss Thompson received the list of his names through the mail.

"What is it?" asked a friend who was with her at the time, seeing her turn pale.

"Don't ask me!" moaned the poor girl.

"Do tell me."

"My lover confesses to six aliases. He's a crook."

Miss Thompson's friend after laboring with her for hours finally induced her to promise that she would never see her lover again and that she would send his note to the police.

The escape of Omnium from the institute occasioned consternation among the professors who had constructed him. They could not know what he would do and feared some trouble would result from his being at liberty for which they would be held responsible. One morning Dr. Tunshutter, Ph. D., while looking at the morning paper noticed that a man had been arrested with half a dozen aliases to his name. He was a puzzle to the police. Neither the name Omnium nor any of the aliases except that of a murderer who had been sentenced to be executed and of whose execution there was no record was known to the authorities. No one knew what to do with him.

Dr. Tunshutter threw down his paper, called a carriage and drove at once to the office of the superintendent of police. To his request that Omnium be returned at once to the institute, the superintendent said that the return must be made legally and asked for the man's identity.

"How can I tell you that?" cried the professor. "There are parts of more than fifty people in him."

"Do you mean that you can't give me his legal name?"

"He has none."

"Is he white or black?"

"I can't say; there is a faint trace of black in him."

"He is a man, isn't he?"

"Not entirely. There are cartilages of several dogs, the skins of two rats, and much sewing was done with catgut."

"For heaven's sake, take him away!" cried the superintendent. "I wouldn't have the responsibility of either holding of giving up such a monster for the world. I'll turn him loose, and you must have some one from your confounded institute here to take him. If he gets loose again he'll get into court, and it will require a United States supreme justice to establish his legal status."

Omnium was released from custody that afternoon and caged by the keepers of the institute. He managed to get hold of a lawyer, and his case came up before the court. Seven attorneys, three judges and a large number of jurymen lost their minds in the struggle to establish his legal identity. While these efforts were being made he one day became very much excited and fell dead. The professors made a postmortem examination and found some of the catgut with which the lobes of the brain had been sewed had decayed.

Then a law was passed forbidding the construction of any more combination men.

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Reclamation of Stump Lands

The transformation of a wilderness into a garden is planned for Western Washington and Oregon no less wonderful than the miracle wrought by irrigation east of the Cascades. This is the solution of the logged-off land problem that now seems in sight. To the Southwest Washington Development Association must be given the credit for carrying this movement forward until it has reached a point where successful clearing of large areas of stump lands at low cost is successfully accomplished.

At the convention of the association, held the past week at Vancouver, the method of operation was shown and plans for the future discussed. Prof. Sparks of the State College at Pullman showed by actual demonstration how land may be cleared of stumps and roots with a minimum of money and effort and at the convention sessions prominent delegates outlined a plan for pooling large stump land areas and making fertile farms out of now almost worthless land.

The organization of a big company to handle the land, clearing it and placing it on the market in small tracts for the farmer, was forecasted. It was suggested that money be raised for the work by bonding the land, similar to the plan followed in irrigation sections. Easy payments for purchasers were favored and it was generally agreed that the resulting development in dairying, vegetable growing and fruit raising would be astonishing in its far reaching benefits to the territory between the Cascade Mountains and the sea.

For a concrete illustration of what patronizing home industry means: recently the Vulcan Iron Works of Seattle obtained a big contract to furnish the structural steel for the new Bon Marche building. To get out the work, an extra force of men has been employed. Then an order was placed for \$20,000 worth of bolts, nuts

and rivets with the Washington Steel & Iron Company, of Edmonds. The result is that the Edmonds plant has to increase its working force and the Edmonds merchants get an additional number of customers. Not so, had the orders been sent outside of the state. The building up of home industries makes for prosperity.

In the eleventh biennial report of the state land department it is shown that the receipts of the department during the last biennial period from October 1, 1908 to September 30, 1910 amounted to \$3,783,913.29. The report shows the exact condition of every land grant and that of all the land grants of the state 16.35 per cent have been sold and these 502,998 acres have brought \$10,577,798.

Women living in the fruit section of Eastern Washington believe that the enactment of the Eight Hour law would be to the detriment rather than benefit. In a recent communication to a Spokane paper, one of them said that every housekeeper knows that in canning time, it is necessary to work overtime to save fruit for domestic purposes. She argued that the same holds good with regard to commercial matters. Strong influences have been brought to bear on the lawmakers at Olympia that the measure is distinctly humanitarian, but investigation proves that the ten-hour law now in force gives female labor all the liberties that are desired by those who really must earn a living by working. It is agitated solely by labor leaders, men and women who do not do manual or physical labor.

"Burns Is In Town" screamed the Seattle newspapers the other day and there was a general scurrying on the part of the guilty conscience people, when it became known that he was cooperating with Prosecuting Attorney Murphy of King County in a graft investigation. Immediately following, a special session of the grand jury

was ordered and now people are awaiting development. It's William J. Burns, who uncovered the timber frauds in Oregon with Attorney Heney and later on stirred up things in San Francisco. Former Chief of Police Wappenstein and the so-called Vice Syndicate of Seattle are said to be the ones whose records Burns has been ferreting out. Sensational revelations are promised.

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Kick on New Fishing Bill

Many fishermen are up in arms over the proposed fish law that opens the season April 1 and closes Dec. 1. They want the season to open May 1 and close Nov. 1.

It is claimed by the fishermen that under the proposed law that the native trout will be caught during their spawning time in April and the eastern brook trout that have been planted in the Washington streams will be taken from their spawning beds during the month of November.

Supt. S. S. Drew, of the Little Spokane hatchery, is of the opinion that all the work of the Spokane Fish Protective Association, in planting east brook trout eggs, will be spoiled if the law goes into effect.

Drew has received applications from the following places for trout fry: Cusick creek, Tacoma creek, Hawk creek, Taccannon river, Trout lake, Newman lake and Hughes lake. All but Hawk creek want eastern brook trout, while they want rainbow.

Railroad Commission Good Thing

An engineer of Tacoma, J. A. Foster, stated before the railroad committee of the legislature that in case the legislature failed to appropriate \$40,000 for the state railroad commission, that the 20,000 railroad employes in Washington would each contribute \$2 for its support, as the men who handled trains recognize more than any one else the value of the commission. Mr. Foster represents the trainmen's organization,