CHARTER

THE LOUISIANA COMPANY, LIMITED.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF LOUISIANA, PARISH OF ORLEANS, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

Be it known, that on this 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and eleven, before me, Gustaf R. Westfeldt, Jr., a notary public, duly commissioned and qualified, in and for the parish of Orleans, and in the presence of the witnesses hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared the several persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, who severally declared that, availing themselves of the provisions of the laws of this state relative to the organization of corporations, they have contracted and agreed, and do by these present contract, agree and bind and obligate themselves, as well as all such other persons as may become associated with them, to form themselves into and constitute a corporation and body politic in law, for the objects and purposes and under the conditions and stipulations of the articles following, to-wit:

ARTICLE I.

The name and title of the said corporation shall be THE LOUISIANA COMPANY, LIMITED, and under its said corporate name it shall have power and authority and shall enjoy succession for the full term and period of ninety-nine years from and after the date hereof; to contract, sue and be sued, to make and use a corporate seal, and change, receive, lease, hold and convey, as well as mortgage and hypothecate under its corporate name, property both real and personal; to name and appoint such managers, agents, directors, officers and agents as the interest and convenience of said corporation may require, and to make and establish, as well as alter and amend at pleasure, such by-laws, rules and regulations for the proper management and regulation of the affairs of said corporation, as may be necessary and proper.

ARTICLE II.

The domicile of the said corporation shall be at New Orleans, parish of Orleans, state of Louisiana, and all citations or other legal process shall be served upon the president of said corporation, or in case of his absence, upon the vice-president, or in the absence of both of these officers, upon the secretary of the corporation.

ARTICLE III.

The objects and purposes for which this corporation is established and the nature of the business to be carried on by it are declared and specified to be to purchase, own, hold, sell, mortgage, lease, alienate, receive and otherwise acquire and dispose of real estate, oil and mineral land and oil and mineral rights and any other interest in lands, both in Louisiana and elsewhere. To buy, sell, own, lease or otherwise acquire, and to operate and maintain as principal or as agent in this state, or elsewhere, drilling outfits, machinery, appliances, apparatus and buildings of every description used or suitable for use in the extraction of oil or any other minerals from the earth, and for the housing, preservation, handling, refining and transportation of the same when so extracted, and particularly storage tanks and pipe lines, all solely for the uses of its own business and without power of eminent domain; to buy, sell or otherwise acquire and alienate, and to establish, export or import oil, minerals or mineral products of all kinds and in connection with said objects to lease, buy, sell, build, or otherwise acquire; and to locate and maintain warehouses, sheds, storage tanks, tank cars, dwellings, storehouses and repair shops; to sell merchandise and carry on a general store and commissary, and to conduct hotels, boarding houses and lodging houses for its agents and employes, and generally to hold and exercise all such incidental powers and privileges not expressly excluded, as relate to the objects hereinbefore set forth.

ARTICLE IV.

The capital stock of the said corporation is hereby fixed at twenty thousand dollars ($20,000.00), divided into and represented by two thousand (2,000) shares of ten dollars ($10.00) each. The whole of the said stock or any part thereof may be issued and delivered to any person, firm or corporation for the acquirement of rights, privileges, franchises and property purchased and acquired by this corporation, also in payment, settlement and adjustment of the costs, fees, charges and expenses and commission incurred for services rendered in the formation and organization of this corporation, and in acquiring and bringing about the purchase of the property, rights and franchises aforesaid; also for cash or in installments of such amounts as the board of directors may determine; also for merchandise received or services actually rendered to this company. The board of directors as hereinafter created is especially authorized to dispose of the stock of this company in whole or in part, for any and all of the purposes above stated, as in its judgment may seem fair and proper. This company shall begin business as soon as three thousand dollars ($3,000) of its stock shall have been subscribed.

ARTICLE V.

All the powers of this corporation shall be vested in and exercised by the board of directors, composed of seven stockholders, any four of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The said board of directors shall be elected annually on the last Wednesday in January of each year. The first election to be held in the year 1912.

All elections shall be by ballot at the office of the corporation under the supervision of three commissioners to be appointed by the board of directors, and in the absence of any commissioner, the president shall have the power to fill the place by appointment, and of all such elections as well as meetings of sotckholders, except for the purpose of liquidation or dissolution, or as otherwise required by law, ten days' notice shall be given by mailing to each stockholder who appears as such upon the books of the company, at his last designated address, or to the General Delivery at New Orleans, if he has not designated an address, an announcement stating the time and the place of the meeting. Each shareholder shall be entitled to one vote for each share of stock standing in his name on the books of the company, cast in person or by proxy, and the majority of the votes cast shall elect. The board of directors shall have the power to fill all vacancies that may occur on the board. Failure to elect directors in the day above specified shall not dissolve the corporation, but the directors then in office shall remain in office until their successors are elected, and qualified.

Due notice of another election shall forthwith be given, as above provided. Such notice of election shall be continued to be given until an election is held. The board of directors at the first meeting following an annual election shall elect from their number a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer, all of whom shall be stockholders, and such other officers as the board shall deem necessary. The board shall have the power in its discretion to unite two or more of the above or other offices and the same to confer upon one person, and shall have the power to fix the salaries of all officers and of such other officers as they deem necessary. The baord of directors shall have the power to make and establish as well as alter and amend all by-laws, rules and regulations necessary and proper for the support and management of the business and affairs of this corporation, not inconsistent with its charter.

The said board shall also have full power and authority to borrow money through the president or some other duly authorized agent or agents; to execute mortgages and issue notes, bonds or other obligations in such a manner and on such terms as in their judgment may be advantageous, and generally to do all the things necessary for the proper carrying on of the business of the said corporation; as also to issue and deliver full paid shares of stocks and bonds or other obligations of the said corporation in payment of the money borrowed or money, labor, services, property or rights actually received by the said corporation, as hereto-fore set forth. At any meeting of the board of directors, any director absent from the meeting may be represented by any other director, who may cast the vote of said absent director, according to the written instructions of the said absent director. The board of directors shall have the power, by a vote of not less than four directors, to sell, lease, mortgage (by bond mortgage or otherwise), or to pledge any or all of the property, movable and immovable belonging to the corporation, or to receive in exchange therefor, money or stocks or bonds or other obligations of another corporation without referring to the shareholders for the power to do so. And they may also purchase for stock in this company or for cash or on credit, property of any kind required for any of the purposes of the corporation, without authority of the shareholders.

Until the next meeting to be held under this charter, or until their duly qualified successors are elected and installed, the board of directors shall be composed of: George H. Smith, H. B. Hearn, E. P. Tatum, E. Miller, W. Brewer, A. J. Chapman and F. E. Schenck, with Geo. H. Smith as president, H. B. Hearn as vice-president, W. Brewer as secretary and E. Miller as treasurer.

ARTICLE VI.

Whenever this corporation shall be dissolved, either by limitation or from any other cause, its affairs shall be liquidated by three stockholders to be appointed at a general meeting of the stockholders convened for the purpose of liquidation, as hereinafter provided, each share being entitled to one vote to be cast by the holder either in person or by proxy. Said commissioners shall remain in office until the affairs of said corporation shall have been fully settled and liquidated, and they shall have full power and authority to transfer and give title to all the assets and property of the corporation and to distribute the proceeds. In case of death or disability or resignation of one or more commissioners, the vacancy shall be filled by the surviving commissioner or commissioners.

ARTICLE VII.

This act of incorporation may be modified, changed, or altered or the said corporation may be dissolved with the assent of three-fourths of the capital stock represented at any general meeting of stockholders convened for such purpose, after previous notice shall have been given in one or more daily newspapers published in the parish of Orleans, state of Louisiana, once a week during the thirty days next preceding such meeting and upon the date of such meeting, and by notice mailed at least forty days prior to such meetin, to each stockholder who appears as such on the books of the company, to the post office address designated by him, and in case of failure to designate an address to the General Delivery at New Orleans.

Any change which may be proposed or made with reference to the capital stock of said corporation shall be made in accordance with the laws of the state of Louisiana on the subject of altering the amount of capital stock of corporations, and it may be increased or diminished upon a compliance therewith, upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the stock of the corporation. No stockholder shall ever be held liable or responsible for the contracts or faults of this corporation, in any further sum than the unpaid balance due on the shares of stock owned by him, nor shall any mere informality in organization have the effect of rendering this charter null and void or of exposing any stockholder to any liability beyond the amount due on his stock.

In order that this charter may also serve as the original subscription list, the subscribers hereto have set opposite to their names, the number of shares of stock subscribed for by each of them.

Thus done and passed, in my office in the city of New Orleans, in the presence of J. Blanc Monroe and John Dalmen, Jr., competent witnesses, of lawful age, who have signed their names with the said appearers and me, notary, on the day and date aforesaid, after reading the whole.

(Original signed): J. B. Bannon, 45 shares; A. J. Chapman, 45 shares; E. A. Kelley, 45 shares; A. W. Wenham, 45 shares; Udolpho Wolfe, 45 shares; J. E. Schenk, 45 shares; Geo. W. Smith, 45 shares; R. J. Anderson, 45 shares; Ernest Miller, 45 shares; W. T. Brewer, 45 shares.

(Witnesses): J. Blanc Monroe, John Dalmen, Jr.

GUSTAF R. WESTFELDT, JR.,
Notary Public.

I, the undersigned, recorder of mortgages in and for the parish of Orleans, state of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing act of incorporation of The Louisiana Company, Limited, was this day duly recorded in my office, in book 1018, folio 538.

New Orleans, April 20th, 1911.

(Original signed) EMILE LEONARD,
(Seal) D. R.

A true copy:

GUSTAF R. WESTFELDT, JR.,
Notary Public.

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CHARTER

OF "THE RHINEGOLD CO., LTD."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF LOUISIANA, PARISH OF ORLEANS, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

Be it known, that on this twenty-fourth day of the month of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-fifth, before me, Edgar Mayer Cahn, a notary public, in and for the parish of Orleans, state of Louisiana, therein residing, duly commissioned, qualified, and sworn, and in the presence of the witnesses hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared, the several parties whose names are hereunto subscribed as such, who, severally declared, that availing themselves of the laws of the state of Louisiana, made and provided in such cases, they have contracted, and agreed, and do, by these presents, contract, agree and bind themselves together with all such other persons who may hereafter become associated with them, to form a corporation and body politic, for the objects and purposes following, to-wit:

ARTICLE I.

The name of this corporation shall be "THE RHINEGOLD CO., LTD.," and under its said corporate name, it shall have power and authority to have and enjoy succession for the full term of ninety-nine years from and after the date hereof; to contract, sue and be sued; to make and use a corporate seal, and the same to break or alter at its pleasure; to hold, receive, lease, purchase, and convey, as well as to mortgage and hypothecate property, real, personal and mixed, corporeal and incorporeal, etc.; to name and appoint such managers, agents, directors and officers, as its business interests and convenience may require, and to make and establish as well as to alter and amend, from time to time, such by-laws, rules and regulations for the proper government of the affairs of this corporation as may be necessary and proper.

ARTICLE II.

The domicile of this corporation shall be in the city of New Orleans, state of Louisiana, and all citations and other legal process shall be served on the president of this corporation, and in the absence of the said president upon the vice-president of this corporation, and in the absence of both the president and vice-president of this corporation, upon the secretary-treasurer of this corporation.

ARTICLE III.

The objects and purposes for which this corporation is established, and the nature of the business to be carried on by it are declared and specified to be to transact a general restaurant and bar-room business, in all its branches, in the city of New Orleans, state of Louisiana, and to do all things necessary, proper and relating thereto, as well as to engage in any business or businesses connected therewith or appertaining thereto.

ARTICLE IV.

The capital stock of this corporation is hereby fixed at the sum of ten thousand dollars ($10,000.00), to be divided into one hundred shares of the par value of one hundred dollars ($100.00) each, the said shares to be issued only at par, and to be full paid and non-assessable, and when issued, shall be issued only for cash, or the equivalent thereof. No transfer of stock shall be binding on this corporation unless recorded on its books. This corporation shall be a going concern as soon as three thousand five hundred dollars ($3,500.00) has been subscribed and paid in.

If any shareholder of this corporation shall ever desire to dispose of his shares of stock or any of them, he shall first give a written notice of that intention to both this corporation and the stockholders thereof, for the full term of ten days, and, if, after the lapse of the said ten days, this corporation or the shareholders thereof, or any of them do not purchase the said shares so offered for sale at the highest bona fide offer therefor, then the said shoreholder wishing to sell said shares shall have the right to sell the said shares as he sees fit, and to whomsoever he sees fit.

ARTICLE V.

All the powers of this corporation shall be vested in a board of directors to be composed of three stockholders, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of this corporation.

That said board of directors shall be composed of the following officers: a president, a vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer. The first board of directors of this corporation shall be the following: Joseph C. Beals, president; John Schoen, vice-president, and Victor Caparo, secretary-treasurer, which said board shall hold office until the third Monday in April, 1912, when a new board shall be elected, and thereafter at regular intervals of one year.

All directors shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. All such elections shall be by ballot and shall be conducted at the office of this corporation under the supervision of three commissioners appointed by the board of directors. Each stockholder shall have one vote for every share of stock standing in his name on the books of this corporation, to be cast in person or by proxy, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect. The other affairs of this corporation shall be determined on the same basis.

Directors shall have power to appear and vote in person or by proxy duly given in writing.

Any vacancy occurring by death, resignation or otherwise, on the board of directors, shall be filled for the remainder of the said term by the remaining directors. A failure to elect directors on the date specified shall not dissolve this corporation, but the board of directors then in office shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. Each director shall own at least one share of stock. All checks shall be signed by any officer that may be designated by the said board.

The board of directors may appoint from time to time such clerks, agents, employes, as it deems proper for the purpose of this corporation, as well as to enact such by-laws, rules and regulations, and alter or amend the same, necessary and proper for the management of, and support of the affairs of this corporation. The board of directors shall have full power to issue full paid, non-assessable shares of the capital stock of this corporation for cash, or in payment of labor done, or for property or business actually received by this corporation.

ARTICLE VI.

Whenever this corporation shall be dissolved either by limitation or from any other cause, its affairs shall be liquidated by three commissioners to be appointed by the board of directors at a general meeting of the stockholders convened for such purpose, of which said meeting, the stockholders shall be given notice in the manner and time provided for stockholders' meetings by Article VII of this charter, and a majority in amount of the capital stock of this corporation, represented at such meeting shall be requisite to determine and elect. Such commissioners shall remain in office until the affairs of this corporation shall have been fully liquidated. In case of the death of one or more of the said commissioners, the vacancy shall be filled by the remaining commissioners, by election.

ARTICLE VII.

This act of incorporation may be modified, altered or amended or the said corporation may be dissolved with the consent of three-quarters of the capital stock represented at a general meeting of the stockholders convened for such purpose after such notice shall have been given in one or more newspapers of the city of New Orleans, once a week for four weeks, preceding the said meeting, and by a written notice to the stockholders, each separately, thirty days prior to the said meeting, at the post office address of said stockholders designated by him in writing, or to his last known address.

ARTICLE VIII.

No stockholder shall ever be held liable for the contracts or faults of this corporation in any further sum than the unpaid balance due the corporation on shares of stock owned by him nor shall any informality in organization have the effect of rendering null this charter, or of exposing any stockholder to any liability beyond the unpaid amount remaining due on his stock subscription.

Thus done and passed in my office on this 24th day of April, 1911, in the presence of Messrs. T. A. Schuber and Jos. W. Helm, competent witnesses who have hereunto signed with the said appearers and me, notary, afer a due reading of the whole.

(Original signed): Subscribers' names.

(Witnesses): T. A. Schuber, Jos. W. Helm

EDGAR M. CAHN,
(Seal) *Notary Public.*

I, the undersigned recorded of mortgages in and for the parish of Orleans, state of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing act of incorporation of the Rhinegold Co., Ltd., was this day duly recorded in my office in book No. 1018, folio —.

New Orleans, La., April 26th, 1911.

(Signed) EMILE LEONARD, Dy. R.

I, the undersigned notary, do hereby certify that the foregoing copy of the charter of the "Rhinegold Co., Ltd.," as well as the certificate of the recorder of mortgages in and for the parish of Orleans, is true and correct, as per the original on file in my notarial office.

New Orleans, La., April 26th, 1911.

EDGAR M. CAHN,
(Seal) *Notary Public.*

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A Long Credit.

The motto of the highland host that battled for the Stuart cause, which bonny Prince Charlie headed, apparently was that heaven helps those who help themselves liberally. They levied toll on the henroost, stable and, according to the author of "The Land of Romance," even on the pockets of the Covenanters.

At Swarthholm a party of these marauders overhauled the house of a tailor, and when one of them was about to cut up a web of homespun that had taken his fancy the good wife earnestly remonstrated.

"A day'll come when ye'll ha' tae pay for that," she solemnly assured him.

Scissors in hand, Donald paused. "An' when will she pe hafing to do that?" he asked.

"At the last day," said she.

"An' that will pe a fery goot long credit," the robber coolly returned. "She wass going to pe only taking a coat, but now she will pe taking a waistcoat as well."

Helping Her Out.

The Smythes attempted the unwise experiment of trying to give a fashionable dinner party with an inexperienced maid, whose mistress had coached and coached her until, as poor Ellen said afterward, her mind was "all in a tangle." During the middle of the dinner Ellen appeared in the dining room with a look of perplexity on her face and said:

"Say, ma'am, I can't remember whether you want them croquetty things next or that salad, and I'm shy one salad plate, and I don't think there's goin' to be enough salad to go round anyway, so hadn't we better cut that out altogether?"—Washington Star.

Queer Coronation Gifts.

One of the most extraordinary gifts made on the coronation day of Edward I. was that of 500 horses which had been used by the royal princes and other personages in the procession to Westminster abbey. These horses, all richly caparisoned and harnessed just as they were, were let loose into the very midst of the mob after the banquet in Westminster hall that always succeeded a coronation in those days. The people in the streets were permitted to catch the animals, and to him who caught a horse it and its appointments belonged.—London Chronicle.

The South Sea Finger Bowl.

Civilized man did not invent the finger bowl either in form or in use. It was used in the south sea islands some hundreds of years before Europeans and Americans found out that they were necessary to their own refinement. A bowl of water is handed around to every diner in a south sea house. This south sea finger bowl is half a cocoanut shell, beautiful, useful, practically unbreakable, yet not of sufficient worth to prevent its being thrown away tomorrow and replaced by a fresh one from the nearest palm.—Harper's Weekly.

A Queer Funeral.

One day some years ago a man passing along a street in a central district of London dropped into a gulf that suddenly yawned for him. He had got into a coal mine shaft that had been bricked over 150 years before and forgotten. The depth of the shaft and the accumulation of foul gas in it precluded the recovery of his body, so the borough authorities had religious services held over the hole. The mayor dropped a handsome wreath into it, and it was once more covered up and arched with brick.

Golf In Scotland.

In Scotland public golf links are made to pay for themselves at 4 cents a round.

Salt on the Bird's Tail

Story of a Mardi Gras Masquerade

By SAMUEL E. BRANT

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"Who is the biggest fool you ever met?"

"Man or woman?"

"Woman."

"The girl I'm engaged to."

"Well, I like that. What kind of wife do you expect her to make?"

"How should I know her qualifications for a wife? Marriage is a lottery. Other men may marry for qualifications, but we youngsters don't pretend to forecast what a girl's going to be. And I don't believe the old ones hit it any better than we."

"What makes you set your fiancee down as a fool?"

"I'll tell you, but I must begin back a little way. She's Madge Whitridge, only it should be Madge Wildfire instead. Not that she is so wild as she was. She's been quieted down a bit by a certain little happening that came near resulting disastrously. She nearly caused my death."

"You don't mean it! Not intentionally, I suppose."

"Well, whether there was a spark of intention in it I don't know. You never can tell what a woman is going to do or why she does it. We can't be sure she knows herself. If Madge had caused my death any prosecuting attorney might have made a very good case against her of doing it with malice aforethought. And to tell the truth I'm not sure but she did."

"And you're going to marry her?"

"You bet—that is, if she doesn't shake me for another fellow, though I don't think she would do that now. She might have done it before this thing I'm going to tell you about happened; but, as I said, it sobered her, and she's quite tame. That's the time I chose for putting salt on the bird's tail.

"There's more appropriateness in this simile than you may imagine, as you'll see in a moment. But for the incident. We 'floor gliders,' as one called our dancing club of young people—there was not one over twenty, and some of the girls weren't over fifteen—concluded we'd celebrate the Mardi Gras with a masquerade ball. I'd been getting sweet on Madge—Wildfire I may as well call her—and about the time the costumes were being arranged I was sitting up to her like a sick kitten to a warm brick. In fact, we arranged to have corresponding costumes for the ball.

"This was after Rostand's play of 'Chantecler' came out, and everybody was talking about it. You know that the leading lady chicken in the play is the hen pheasant, the leading gentleman being the rooster chanticleer. We concluded to get ourselves up as these two birds. I was a month arranging my outfit—I did it all myself, you know—but when I got it done it was a corker. I made the body of a rooster, which I strapped under my arms, with an elegant head and comb in front and a fine display of cock's tail behind, the tail being made of tissue paper of different colors. You couldn't have told it from the real thing.

"I went to see Madge the afternoon before the ball. It so happened that we got to quarreling, and I went off in a huff. This was unfortunate, to say the least. We had spent a lot of time getting up our bird rigs and expected to make a lot of fun billing and cooing during the ball, and the worst of it was, now that we were in just the opposite condition from what we expected, we hadn't time to get other rigs."

"What was the cause of the quarrel?"

"We tried on our costumes in advance, and when she walked I told her she waddled like a duck. That made her mad, and she fired back, and we soon were in for it hot and heavy.

"When the ball came off, instead of walking about together, I strutting, she cuddling up beside me, we were as far apart as possible and when we met glared at each other. After awhile I saw her sitting in a window with Ned Tucker. This made me all fired jealous as well as mad, and to show my spleen what did I do but go up near where they were sitting and whisk around with the intention of turning my back on Madge. I didn't calculate how near my tail feathers were to them, but it seems they brushed their faces. This made Madge madder than ever. Ned had just struck a match to light a cigarette. Madge jerked it out of his hand and held it under the tip of my tail.

"In a second the whole of it was in flames. I tried to get the rooster part of me off, but it was tied on so well that I couldn't do it. The flames ran from the tail to the wings and from the wings to the rest of the body. The whole roomful of people rushed toward me, scared out of their seven senses, every one crying, 'Put him out!' Whether they meant to put out the flames or put me out to prevent my setting them all afire I don't know. I was howling with the burns and with fear when a Roman senator took off his togs and wrapped it about me.

"I was taken to a carriage and home. I wasn't burned at all, but just to punish the confounded girl that applied the match I gave out that I might die. She was knocked clean out, and when I let up on her she wilted. She had put a match to my tail; I put salt on hers and caught her."

"You mean she caught you. There are lots of men who think they do the catching when they are caught themselves."

GIVE IT FREELY.

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due when it is in the power of thy hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give, when thou hast it by thee.
—Proverbs of Solomon.

Saving Her Strength.

Doctor—My dear madam, you've been overtaxing your strength. Try wearing less jewelry.—Life.

THAT GOLD MINE

By M. QUAD

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"Abner Day, you are an old fool! You don't know enough to come in when it rains!"

Abner Day, farmer, had heard these words hundreds of times in the fifteen years since he had married the Widow Winters, and his reply had always been the same:

"Waal, some folks are born that way and can't help it."

On a portion of Abner's farm was a range of hills. It was a limestone ridge, but there was a legend that gold had been found there years before—a nugget of gold as big as a teacup. That legend never died. When other news was scarce it was brought to the front, and it was generally believed in Abner's grandfather had meant to open the hills some day in search of other nuggets. So had his father. So had he. The trouble was to find time. There were plowing and dragging and planting and hoeing and reaping, and he never got a day to himself.

The widow began to poke at him as soon as married, but it did no good. She would go on to tell how many tons of gold were probably hidden away in those hills and how, if dug out, they could have the clock cleaned, a new door to the shed and the cellar stairs repaired.

"I'll get around to it some day, Sarah," he would reply.

"But why not tomorrow?"

"Mebbe I can."

But he didn't. His farm work interfered. As he finished his morning meal the wife would say:

"Now, Abner, that gold mine today. You can dig half a ton of it as well as not, and we need new flatirons and a washboard."

"Yes, I know."

As the day passed and he sat down to supper she would ask:

"Dig any gold today, Abner?"

"Nope. I had other things to see to."

Of course the gold mine legend was gossip for many miles around. Once a month at least some one came along and wanted to dig on shares. They would see the wife first and she would readily agree. All she wanted was that a lawyer should draw up the agreement so that it would hold water. She had been cheated by a lightning rod man once and she didn't propose to be anybody's victim again. She kept a corner of the cellar cleaned out to store the gold in, but it was never used. The stranger would go down into the field and talk with Abner and after he had winded himself he would hear the farmer say:

"These taters has got to be hoed, and you come around some other time."

"But don't you want to be a rich man?"

"It would be kinder nice."

"You could go to Europe."

"Yaas."

"You could build a fine house and have your carriage and servants."

"I see."

"Perhaps you'd be elected governor."

"Shoo."

"And I'll have a lawyer draw up the contract and bring it here tomorrow to be signed. Digging will begin at once. Within a week"—

"Yes, I know, but these taters"—

It was always so, and when Abner scuffed up to the house at sundown it was to find his wife in the sulks or in tears, and she generally ended up with:

"And if you don't go to digging the first thing in the morning I will."

Think of it—fifteen years of poking and not a hole made in the hillside! The ex-widow must have been a patient, determined woman to stand it. But stand it she did. She would conquer or die. One day, after her many disappointments, she fell ill. The doctor pronounced it typhoid fever, and she became a very sick woman. At times when she was out of her head she would babble about that gold mine. At length, to prevent further worry, the M. D. advised Abner to go to digging and ease the mind of the patient.

"But I've got to plow out corn tomorrow," was protested.

"Never mind your corn. You get a couple of men and open those hills or you'll soon be a widower."

"Do you think it'll be safe to have several tons of gold around?"

"Quite so. When I call again I want to see you at work."

In a lucid interval the patient was told that digging was to begin. She was very ill, but she braced up enough to say:

"Tell Abner that if he finds any old plow points or wagon tires mixed up with the gold to throw 'em one side. He's an awfully careless man."

Abner and his hired man dug and dug and dug. They dug here and they dug there, and people came for ten miles around to see them throw out shovels of gold. But there was no gold. There was neither gold nor silver nor copper nor iron. There was limestone, but nothing else—nothing but a petrified hickory ax handle. When this was found the patient had passed the crisis of her fever and was mending. Abner was permitted to go to her bedside and exhibit his find.

"What is it?" she asked.

"A petrified ax handle."

"Didn't you find the petrified ax blade to go with it?"

"Nope."

"But why not?"

"Didn't dig long enough, I guess."

"Abner Day, you are an old fool! You don't know enough to come in when it rains!"

LITTLE DUTIES.

If you are ever tempted to feel discontented because your work in life seems of very little importance, remember that on little things well done many a greater work depends for usefulness. The man who builds a lighthouse does a great work, but it would be of very little use if the men who keep the lamp burning neglected their duty.

WHO STOLE THE JEWELS?

By DAVID WALTER CHURCH

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I was taking dinner with my friend Horace Jones and his wife the other day. Jones has accumulated a snug sum hunting up rascals. In other words, he is a detective. When we were drinking our coffee and smoking I asked him to give me the most important case in which he had ever been employed.

"You mean the most important to my employer or to me?"

"Well, let it be the most important case to you."

"All right. I'll give you the Williams case."

I saw his wife look up at him, evidently with an intent to stop him, but he told the story all the same.

"Mrs. Williams came to the office one day—she was a widow—and stated that something was occurring in her house she wished investigated. She possessed a number of valuable family jewels, which she kept in a safe imbedded in the wall on the second story of her dwelling. She alone knew the combination, and yet the jewels were gradually disappearing. She had a governess for her children, a Miss Elizabeth Ward, whom she suspected. I having been detailed on the case, she was giving these facts to me. At this point I interrupted her.

"'I thought you said, Mrs. Williams, that you alone know the combination. How can Miss Ward open the safe without it?'

"'Possibly in this way: She has a brother who is a skilled mechanic in the service of a safe and lock company. He visits her frequently, and I suspect that either he has instructed her in lock picking or she conceals him in the house and he watches his opportunity to pick it himself unobserved.'

"It struck me that to discover the truth all she had to do was to watch and she would catch either Miss Ward or her brother stealing the jewels. But if she preferred to pay a detective for doing it I was quite willing. I was introduced into the house as a nephew of Mrs. Williams, from a distant land, and, of course, to Miss Ward.

"I found the governess a very attractive young lady. Had I not felt very sure she was an adventuress I should have fallen in love with her. Indeed, I'm not sure but— Don't like to hear it, eh, dear? That's quite natural. I'll switch off from that part of the story, though I'm sure you have no reason to be jealous. Well, I took up my residence for a few days or a few weeks, as the case might require, and was assigned a bedroom directly opposite the safe in which the jewels were kept.

"It didn't take me long to find out that Miss Ward was as smart as a steel trap, and I made up my mind that to catch her—or her brother, which was the same thing—I would have to be awake every night in the week. But she seemed worried. With the true detective instinct, I saw through that. I inferred that her brother was dominating her, compelling her to keep on with the thefts, while she feared this scheme would at last be detected and one or both would spend a term in the state prison. At any rate, she was worried.

"I remained awake all night for several nights in succession, and as I had no excuse to remain in bed all day I gave up the plan of catching the thief in the act and determined to try and worm myself into the confidence of Miss Ward and see if I couldn't get the secret from her. I found her quite willing to be courted and"—

"Horace!" interposed Mrs. Jones.

"Pardon, my dear." Then to me: "My wife can't bear to hear me speak of my premarital affairs."

"Of course she can't," I chimed in with Mrs. Jones. "How would you like your wife to talk about her own premarital affairs?"

"Um! That's different. But to go on with my story. I didn't get much from the governess, and while I was making up to her Mrs. Williams reported that she had lost another jewel.

"Meeting Miss Ward after this theft, I found her in a very bad humor. Why I could not understand, for neither she nor any one else had been caught stealing. She astonished me by coming out bluntly:

"'Mr. Detective, if you wish to find out who is stealing the jewels change your room.'

"You could have knocked me down with a feather. I knew I had met my match and answered never a word. I went to Mrs. Williams and told her I would take a room farther from the safe. She gave me one at the end of the hall where I could see without being seen, the light, which was kept burning low all night, being directly over the safe.

"Time passed, during which I was getting impatient at doing nothing, though I was not dissatisfied at being kept in the house with Miss Ward. One night I heard a light tap at my door. Putting on a dressing gown, I opened it. Miss Ward was standing in a dark corner and pointed toward the safe. There stood Mrs. Williams fumbling with the lock.

"'She's asleep,' whispered Miss Ward.

"Mrs. Williams opened the safe, took out something, closed the door and went away. The mystery was solved. As a sleepwalker she was transferring her jewels from the safe to a tin box in her bedroom closet."

"What became of Miss Ward?" I asked.

Jones looked at his wife, and both smiled.

USEFULNESS.

Nothing in this world is so good as usefulness. It binds your fellow creatures to you and you to them, it tends to improve your own character, and it gives you a real importance in society beyond what any artificial station can bestow.—Sir B. C. Brodie.

A Pretty Miss.

"Is matrimony really a failure?"

"Generally it is a miss-taken affair."
—Baltimore American.

How He Did It

By LOUISE IDA ROSS

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There were two things Frank Trowbridge excelled in, but before stating them it is better to give the information that Frank's whole front name was Frances and she was a girl. The two accomplishments were flirting and athletics. She lived in summer on a lake ten miles long by three to six miles broad and could beat any other girl near it rowing, sailing, swimming, diving, fishing and any other sporting accomplishment fitted for women. The boys were all in love with her.

Frank wasn't overscrupulous as to making believe that she returned their affection, at least to a slight degree, but nothing definite could be got out of her by any of them. Charlie Wiggins, who was a year or two older than the rest of them and consequently harder for her to manage, was a cool sort of a chap, and it bothered her because she couldn't tease him as she teased the others. Near the end of a summer she had half promised to be engaged to half a dozen fellows and feared she would be obliged to be serious with some one of them. Charlie came up from the city for a two weeks' vacation. It struck Frank that by giving him the most of her time the others would drop out of the race, thinking that he was the lucky man. Then when they found they were mistaken she could accuse them of having deserted her.

Charlie fell into the trap very easily; but, though he didn't let Frank know it, he had no mind to fall out. With her permission, to say nothing of encouragement, he devoted himself to her till just before the time when he must leave. Then he laid his own trap.

"Frank," he said, "that little single sticker your father gave you in the spring is a dandy, isn't she?"

"She can beat anything on the lake."

"Except my Gertrude."

"H'm! Your Gertrude's a tub. By the bye, who's she named for?"

"That's a secret."

Frank slowly raised her long lashes and gave him a look.

"You think she can beat my Polly, eh?"

"I'm sure of it."

"I'll bet you a pound of candy against"—

"Nonsense! Do you suppose I race for trifles?"

"What stakes would you race for?"

Charlie didn't reply for some time. Then he said: "I'll race my Gertrude in a wind fair for both two miles up and two miles back. If you lose you marry me; if you win I marry"—

"Whom?"

"My boat."

"I know what you mean. You'll marry this mysterious Gertrude."

There's no knowing by what feminine process Frank made up her mind to accept the challenge. She certainly hadn't the slightest doubt that the Polly could sail around the Gertrude in circles, the latter being notoriously the most sluggish boat on the lake. But she was a trifle jealous of this unknown Gertrude, and Charlie was to marry her if he were beaten. Be this as it may, the race was made up to take place on the first day there was a sufficient breeze. Frank was to sail the Polly and Charlie the Gertrude.

On the day of the race there was a breeze varying from 4 to 10 knots. Charlie gave Frank permission to inspect his boat, which she did, but Charlie declined to inspect the Polly. Most of Frank's semifiances as well as many others were on hand to see the race, but no one knew the stakes. All expected that it would be a walk-over for Frank.

A designated starter fired a pistol, and when the boats sailed over the line another was fired, indicating that the race was on. As was expected, the Gertrude dropped astern of her rival from the first. But when the former had got over half and the latter three-eighths of a mile the Gertrude ceased to lose. The Polly turned the stake boat a quarter of a mile ahead, when the Gertrude began to make a slight gain. This was astonishing, for she didn't careen any more under a fresher breeze, indicating she didn't get one. She was not long in catching the Polly and not much longer in pulling ahead of her, though this at first was hard to tell, for Wiggins passed a hundred yards to her lee. This was considered very good of him, since his boat did not blanket his rival.

Meanwhile the breeze had lost nearly half its force. But while this made a great deal of difference in the speed of the Polly it did not affect that of the Gertrude. The latter sailed on, slowly gaining on her rival, coming in an eighth of a mile ahead. The winner was received with no especial demonstrations, for sympathy was all with the lady. But what was lost in rooting was made up in surprise. Wiggins remained in his boat till Frank came in beside him, blushing like a peony, at which every one wondered. Charlie stepped into her boat and handed her ashore, saying as he did so:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I take both pride and pleasure in introducing my fiancee."

The half dozen semifiances who were present were crushed, and Frank wished she were at the bottom of the lake.

"How did you do it, Charlie?" she asked that evening when they were consulting about an engagement ring.

"I bored a hole in the bow and one in the stern, with a pipe between them. With my feet I pumped water from the bow and drove it out at the stern. See?"

"I think I do."

THE BATTLE OF LIFE.

In its best estate and in its highest condition life is a fight, not a truce; a struggle, not an achievement; a growth, not a pleasure; a discipline, not a relaxation. The man who wins its real successes is not he who has the most perfect health, but he who bears disease and misfortune with silent courage and gains from them a more daring spirit.