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PHIA

Ten years ago in a certain goodsized town in Pennsylvania there RESIDENCE WITH J. W. BARNARD lived a family whom I will call Mitchell. The family consisted of husband, wife and two children the latter being a boy aged 5 and a girl of 7. Mitchell was a private banker, known to be honest, respectable, and worth a clear \$100,-000. I knew little or nothing about the family until certain incidents occurred. One day his wife was fatally injured in a railroad collision at a point 50 miles from home. When he reached her, in response to a telegram sent by a stranger, he found she had been removed to a hotel, and was being tenderly cared for by a woman who gave her name as Mrs. 1. B. Gray, of Philadelphia. She was on the train, but suffered no the mystery.

> Mrs. Grav, as I might as well tell you now, was petite, good looking, a good talker, and in a general way, captivating. The fact of her taking charge of Mrs. Mitchell as she had done proved her tender heart. She told Mr. Mitchell she had oeen a widow 18 months, and was practically alone in the the world, and though he was burdened with grief and anxiety, he did not forget to thank her come in at the last moment and for her great kindness and to take had been placed there for the her address.

and he took his wife home to die backs were missing next morning. discovered that his dead wife's tered by the front without soundjewelry was missing. She had ing an alarm. No stranger could the 12th day of August she exworth of diamonds. They had awake and all right. disappeared, and when he came to Mitchell's purse and a few other night, secure the keys and then

returned home to report to Mitch- ed. ell that nobody but Mrs. Gray profession.

I went about other business, and it was about four months before I saw Mitchell again. Then fountain and read while the girls he sent for me in an official capa- romped about with other children. city again. No reference was I had closely watched her while in made to my previous work, but this park, but no one had eyer come to him. A month after the had been perfection. death of his wife he had opened correspondence with Mrs. Gray, and the result was that she had come to take charge of his house. He was without relatives, or, at him in his situation, and she claimed to be free in her movements. You will suspect, just as I did, that she had captivated him but he fought shy of any acknowl-

edgement of the sort. bank. It was situated just a ly in the rear of it. The house fronted on one street and the bank on another, and there was an alley between. Indeed, the rear vard of the house led right up to Mitchell used to come up and go the banking rooms, divided off by the usual railing, were the private offices and the vault. A burglar alarm was connected with the

ing a kennel close to the door.

What the banker wanted to see

me about was this: He had not only missed money two occasions considerable sums Neither had the word of the combination of the vault, and it seemed impossible that they could it. It had been changed about a have taken the money, even if so inclined. Both were perfectly honest so far as anyone knew, and Mitchell was all tangled up over

He had'nt talked to me over five minutes when I would have taken my solemn oath that Mrs. Grav was the guilty party, but, of course, I didn't drop a hint of my suspicions to him. She was shy, prudent and apparently all right, and I had put in a month on the the money needed to pay the men case and made no discovery when

A deposit and some bonds had night. The whole thing amounted She resumed her journey, to about \$900 and bonds and green of her injuries. It was three The safe had not only been openweeks after her death that I came ed with a key, but the bank had into the case. After everything been entered by unlocking the was over the husband suddenly rear door. No one could have enwith her, when the accident took have entered by the back on acplace, about a thousand dollars count of the dog, who was wide

When Mitchell sent for me to run over events in his mind he give me the news I was pertectly could not remember that they had satisfied that Mrs. Gray was the come home with her. Mis. Gray guilty party. I believed she had had turned over to him Mrs. the nerve to enter his room in the things, but a pair of diamond ear slip through the back yard, enter drops, two rings, and a pin were the bank and open the safe. When I learned that the dog was a great I was employed to proceed to the favorite of hers this belief was a scene of the late accident, and certainty. I could'nt for reasons seek to trace the jewelry. The already given, say a word to collision had occured right at the Mitchell about this. He wanted the depot in a small town. Peo- to suspect his two employees, but ple about the depot and at the when we had canvassed the matter hotel assured me that Mrs. Mitch- he was made to see that it was alell had her jewelry on when taken together unlikely that either of to the hotel. The landlord's wife them was guilty. Indeed he was was positive, and the doctor who alone in the bank when the bonds was called in was positive, and and money came in and he alone when I had worked the case out, I knew where the deposit was plac-

What did I do? I turned to could have taken the jewelry. He Mrs. Gray again and in about a was astonished and indignant, week something happened to and not only vigorously repudiat- prove that I was on the right trail. ed the implication, but discharg- One of the street car lines of the ed me from the case, with the town ran down to the railroad deassertion that I was a novice in the pot. It was Mrs. Gray's habit of an afternoon to ride on this line with the little girls as far down as a certain park and to sit near the fresher and other troubles had come near her and her demeanor

On the third afternoon after the robbery she occupied her usual seat for an hour without anything unusual happening. I sat in the rear of her and about 30 feet away least without those who could aid and by and by I noticed that she was writing a note with a pencil. She did it so deftly that one sitting in front of her could not have told what she was at. Beside her was a large shade tree, and as near as I could make out she dis-I have'nt told you about the posed of the note, when folded up, somewhere about the tree. When square from his house, and exact- she left I followed her for a short distance, and, looking back, I saw a young and well dressed man occupying the place vacated by her. An hour later, when I could ex- ed: amine the tree, I found a hollow the rear door of the bank, and in the trunk just about on a line with her shoulder as she sat on through the yard. In the rear of the bench. One not looking for it know that his bank could be so hardware store. A thought struck and discovered nothing.

none with the back. A large and tree was their postoffice. Next in cash to clear out. She please.

MRS GRAY OF PHILADEL. | savage dog guarded the rear, hav- | day I was at the park half an hour | went, and as I left her at the depot before the usual time, and behold! she said. the young man was occupying that bench. As she appeared he got up and took a seat 100 feet from his wallet at night, but on away, and by watching closely I Tony Weller's advice.—New York most impressively. saw that she took a note from the Sun. of money had been taken from a tree. Before leaving she wrote small safe, which stood in his and "posted" one in, reply, after office outside the vault. One of she had gone I saw him get it. I the mysteries was in the taking of was now certain that I was on the the money. He employed a teller right trail, and went to Mitchell to and a book-keeper, neither of secure some particulars I wished whom had a key to the safe or to know. I told him I had a clue, vaults, unless it was a duplicate but would not reveal which way it made without his knowledge, led. I learned from him that the four numbers, and he alone knew

> month after Mrs. Gray's arrival, and he hesitatingly admitted that the word was "Aime," which was her Christian name. He would that at least two generations of his not, however, admit that this fact ancestors had lived without work. was known to her. For two weeks after receiving

this information I hardly got sight of Mrs. Gray. For some reason she remained very closely at home. I found out from Mitchell in a roundabout way that at a coal mine and also at a large the out side safe was robbed factory was deposited with him on the 14th of every month. It was simply passed in to him to be locked in the vault over night, as it came up from Pittsburg by

I reasoned that Mrs. Gray would worm this information out of him in some way, or that her accomplice would discover it, and that if she had the combination of the vault she would make her strike on the night of the 14th. On the 13th. On this latter day I hours, and became satisfied that he was from Pittsburg, and a "slick 'un." Among the things he did the road half an hour after mid- why he didn't go to work.

I promised Mitchell that a cli-

max would soon be reached, and then staked my all on what might happen on the night of the 14th, At 8 o'clock on that evening I threw a piece of "dosed" meat to his dog from a neighboring yard, at 10 I softly climbed the fence to find the canine in his kennel, and sick enough to remain there. I lay down within ten feet of him, hidden behind a bush, and it was an hour and a half before anything happened. Everybody in the neighborhood was in bed and asleep by that time, and I was not greatly surprised when a female figure, which I knew to be that of Mrs. Gray, suddenly appeared and passed me five feet away, going toward the bank. She stopped at the kennel to speak to the dog, and then opened the rear door and entered. I did not move from my hidding place until she reappeared, about twenty minutes later. She passed me on her way to the house. I followed quickly behind The keys she laid on the back steps, softly opened the side gate, and I let her reach the street before I brought matters to a climax. She was only just out of the gate when she was joined by a man, but when I rushed to seize them he got the alarm and was off before I could grab him. I got her, however, and she had a bundle under her arm, which I took charge ofa bundle containing about \$19,000 in greenbacks.

What a nervy woman she was! She just simply laughed a bit as I led her up the steps and rang the bell to arouse Mitchell, and when I told him all and had the money and keys to prove it, she just looked up at him with a smile and ask-

"Well, what of it?"

The "what of it?" was a corker. devil.' Mitchell could'nt let the public would have sat there fifty times easily robbed, and he couldn't let him, and he briskly stepped into My theory was that she had an duped by an adventuress, and prietor," he said, when a young must be some mistake." accomplice—the young man whom after a consultation he actually man advanced to meet him. front doors and windows, but I had seen. The hollow in the gave that little adventuress \$2,000

"Give the old man my love ed him to enter. when you get back to the house,

How Horatio Blowerson Started in Business.

BY OPIE P. RIED.

There lived in the thriving town combination of the vault door had tied upon as the most pronounced the gentility of his appearance and the unquestioned respectability of his family. It was known and that his grand-uncle had shot a man for calling him a liar. No one knew by what means Blowerson contrived to live, he had no property and performed no labor. Once he was elected county clerk, but he never went into the office, except when he fancied that a fee might be due him. His real occupation was the playing of chess with an old fellow who had lost a leg in the Mexican war—sitting in the shade of the court house when the weather was warm, and huging the stove in the grocery store of the Hon. Matt Lucas when the atmosphere was chilly. Long before his term of office expired, the most influential of the county's tax-payers held a meeting and requested him to resign. Being a gentleman and a descendant of people that were not compelled to labor, he bowed gracefully and changed notes at the park; also on stepped down or rather up, as the performance added to his dignity. shadowed the young man for three The mayor, a direct offspring of a nobody -- a man whose uncouth activity had carried him to the front now that the negroe were freed was to go to the depot and inquire and respectability was no longer a about various night trains, and demanded quality-once had the particularly one which pased over hardy "gall" to ask Blowerson

Blowerson began to swell like a turkey gobbler, that fills himself with the wind of self importance. "Why don't I work!" he explod-

ed. "Why ding the scales on your common hide, I am a gentleman.'

"Oh, you must excuse me," said the mayor. "I didn't know it."

"Abner," Blowerson remarked with the quiet tremulo of suppressed anger, turning to the town marshal, who came up just at that moment, "take this fool mayor away from here, or I'll be dinged

if I don't hurt him." on an occasional spree. He argued that this unstringing of dignity was necessary, and that an unclogged flight of fancy was essential to the perfect health of the mind. On one of his sprees he went to Cincinnati, and this extension of the orbit of his orgies, proved eventful in his after life. The second day after his arrival in the city he awoke to find himself thirsty and moneyless. This was surely a painful predicament, as he was not acquainted in the place. He attempted to borrow a few dollars from a hotel clerk but was frowned upon. He went out into the street and wandered aimlessly. He might have hawked his return railway ticket, but he was unacquinted with the business of the great American scalper; he might telegraph to his friends, but unfortunately his friends knew silk hat. "Low bred mortal," used to rive clapboards for a living. My father had negroes to tramp. The world is going to the billed to you."

He stopped in front of a large Blowerson. society know that he had been the place. "I want to see the pro-

"Step back into the office

"You are the head of the firm, I and ask him if he never heard of believe," said Blowerson, bowing town.

> "Yes, sir; I am John McCall," the old gentleman politely, but somewhat proudly, answered. "Won't you have a seat?"

Blowerson sat down drew a large draft (which was promptly honored) on his deposit of dignity, and of Mayfield, Tennessee, a man then said: "I have come to you, whom any one of observant incli- Mr. McCall for the purpose, sir, nation would immediately have set- of purchasing a number of stoves or rather I am looking around. character of the community. Hor- I am Horatio Blowerson of one of atio Blowerson prided himself on the oldest families in Tennessee, life, and I shall be disgraced." and am a citizen of Mayfield, that state. But," he suddenly added, arising, "I will go on around and way, is there a place in the immediate neighborhood where I can get yours?" something that is fit to drink?"

'Why, just come with me, Mr. Blowerson; there is a place not far me money enough to pay the from here where we introduce our freight on those stoves, and let customers, and I am satisfied that me put them in your old store. you will find it to your liking. I will call our head salesman and take him with us."

They went to the samplecoom of a wholesale liquor house, where Blowerson's feverish "coppers" were cooled with cham- idea of Blowerson attempting to pagne. Then McCall and the break into business, as they termhead salesman took Blowerson to ed it, was a prodigious joke, and dinner and feasted him with dainty victuals and more wine.

"Shall we go back to the store?" said the head salesman, anxious that business should begin.

"Yes,' Blowerson answered, wishing that he could find an aveto carry out the "bluff."

"Three hundred, sir."

peated "and I want them shipped the anvil; the merchant languish send the bill along with them. Oh, if you have any doubt as to my matter. Come, let us go and tele graph to the governor of Tennessee.

"We can look up your rating, I suppose," said the salesman.

"I have no commercial rating. The truth is, I have just started in business. Come let us go and telegraph to the governor of Tennessee."

"I suppose you are all right," said the salesman, "still this is Blowerson had a habit of getting out of the regular order of business."

That may be true, sir; and if I were not a gentleman with a record I would resort to the commen means of business. I am too tation for a few stoves."

"I guess we'll send them all

right," said the salesman. Blowerson started home that afternoon and was so tired that he fell asleep immediately after getting on the train. He did not awake until he was nearly home, and then his head ached so strongly and with such thought-preventing throbs that he did not think of his absurd stove order; but he playing chess with the old fellow that had lost a leg in the Mexican war, and it would have worried him, but, having an important him too well. He saw the mayor move to make, he instantly exof his own town drive past in a pelled the thought from his mind; carriage, sitting beside a distin- but the next day while he was guished looking man wearing a slowly walking along on the shady side of the street, the railway stamused Blowerson. "His father tion agent stopped him, and smil- entire stock was sold within two ling, said:

"Mr. Blowerson, there are three wait on him, and here am I a hundred stoves over at the depot

> "Merciful heavens!" exclaimed "I couldn't understand what you wanted with so many stoves," the

agent went on, "and thought there "You'll have to send them back

-no; wait until I see you again." Blowerson strolled on, ponder- erson & Son.

Blowerson stepped back, and a ing, or attempting to ponder, as to clean-looking old gentleman invit- what he should do. It was the first time in his life that he had ever been called on to think seriously. He met the mayor of the

"Say, Mr. Beasley, I am in a

"I hope it isn't a bad one Blowerson.

"But it is a very bad one. I was in Cincinnati the other day when you were there, and-but, to shorten a painful story, I acted the blamed fool and ordered three hundred stoves, and they have

"How did you manage it?" "I hardly know-was full at the time. I must have used great arguments as to my standing. Why, I haven't a cent to save my "Of course you signed some

"Oh, I remember signing some sort of notes. I am disgraced for come back after dinner. By the life. Say, Beasley, what are you going to do with that old store of

sort of contract?

"I was going to rent it, but noody wants it. "I'll tell you what to do. Lend

Blamed if I don't try to sell

"All right, Blowerson, I'll pay the freight and have the stoves

hauled over." That afternoon a crowd of tittering people were gathered about the entrance of an old store. The they were eager to see his first attempt at a sale. Blowerson employed a man to help him, and, mounting a box himself, began to

cry his ware.

"Fellow citizens," he began, 'for many years I have observed that nearly every family in this country is a martyr to bad cookery. nue of escape, but being comfort- Indigestion, and all sorts of stomably full and strangely daring he | ach ills beset our people, and renreturned to the store, determined der them incapable of exercising half their physical and mental strength. The lawyer sputters "Now, sir, about how many and threshes about in his pleadstoves do you want?" the salesman ing, floundering for the right lead asked when they reached the of thought. Why? Indigestion. The physician gropes and fumbles over the pulse of his patient, and da'led, can not find the keen edge "Whew!" the salesman whistled. of the disease. Why? Indigestion. "Three hundred," Blowerson re- | The blacksmith stands fatigued at at once. Grade them yourself and ishes at the counter; the farmer mopes behind the plow, on account of badly prepared food-vea, God's sunshine does not apstanding step right around to the pear half so bright as it really is, telegraph office and settle the the moonbeams are not so silvery and poetic; the waters do not flow with a rippling so musical-nothing is as it should be, and all on account of indigestion. For years I have been of no use to my fellow man, during my entire life, you might say, I have been worthess, not through design, however but because I have been searching for some way, some great discovery by which I could confer an everlasting benefit. At last I have found that way, and by the pawning of my sacred honor, have procured the cast iron agencies of relief. In this store I have three hundred stoves-but don't be frightened, for when they are gone I will get more. Of course stoves have been brought to this town ever since we were boys, but I am well known, sir, to injure my repu- the first man who has ever made a specialty of them, and who among you can say that indigestion should not be treated as a specialty. Step right in, for I am going to sell them just a trifle above cost. Ah, there goes a man who has suffered long enough. He recognizes great power within him and is now resolved that they shall hereafter exercise their full swing. Take the stoves along, my dear friends, and leave me your due bills. There goes another determined and high-spirited man. To-day he may be feeble in health thought of it the next day while he but in a few weeks from now he sat in the shade of the court house, may be a veritable Samson. Go

in, gentlmen. The country papers came out with a striking, though joking "write-up" of the great stove house, and country wives, not understanding the joke, but keenly feeling the necessity for stoves, urged their husbands not to let so rich an opportunity pass by. Blowerson's first note fell due and was promptly met, and-well the months.

"You are now out of your bad box," said the mayor.

"Yes, and I have ordered more stoves. Hanged if 1 don't like the business, and don't see that it hurts my standing as a gentle-

This was the origin of the great hardware firm of Blowerson & Son of Nashville, Tennesse.

The old stand is not in use as a stove house, but having been renovated, serves as a free business college and is supported by Blow-