

Kleptomania

By Donald Allen

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An event to be much talked about in society and another to cause chatter from the seventh floor to the basement at Maxim & Co.'s department store, occurred the same week. The first was the announcement of the engagement of Miss Edith Lisle to Mr. Eugene Nevins, who was one of the partners of the store, and society agreed that it was a fine match. Society refers to those things the same way men refer to horses in a race.

The second event was the general overhauling of the store detectives and many of the sales girls, on account of the sudden increase in shoplifting. Laces and other valuable goods not the usual prey of the shoplifter were being taken in a way to make the loss a serious one and to call for increased vigilance.

Maxim & Co. had the reputation of carrying the finest line of laces in the city. There were four salesgirls in this department, and the one in charge was Miss Grattan. She had held her place for nearly a year when the first theft was reported. The first and second cases were passed over, but when the third was reported Miss Grattan was placed under suspicion. It was Mr. Nevins who set the watch on her, and it was to Mr. Nevins that the report was made later on.

"Lives with her widowed mother; goes out very little and then with Mr. Traver, of the furniture department. It is said that they are engaged. If she takes the lace, she sells it somewhere. Cannot say that suspicion should attach to any one of the four at the lace counter."

In the line of business Mr. Nevins had once called Miss Grattan to the office. She had not trembled and covered in his presence. On the contrary, she had seemed too assured and snippy to please him. There must be discipline in department stores, and when an employee is before the powers that be, he or she is expected to act as if life was at stake. As Miss Grattan didn't, Mr. Nevins was displeased with her.

In the general overhauling Miss Grattan came first. Lace to the



"There is Slackness There."

value of \$200 had been taken from her department two days before. There had been a rush at her counter all day, mostly of well-dressed women. There had been scores and scores of sales. There had been scores who did not buy. The salesgirls must not only handle the stock, but answer questions, record sales, keep their eyes open and look upon every customer with suspicion, and feel that some one of those customers might be a shoplifter, and there to put the four in peril of losing their places. Mr. Nevins realized all this, but he made no excuses for Miss Grattan, nor permitted her to make any for herself.

"There is slackness there or these things could not happen," he said. "A smart girl can tell a shoplifter half way across the store. If there is any more stealing from your counter I shall be obliged to transfer you to the crockery department."

There were three store detectives, all noted for their smartness, and yet they could not tell a shoplifter half way across the store, nor yet ten feet away. Miss Grattan took it rightly that she "was marked down," but she returned to her counter resolved to watch with more vigilance than ever. In the big stores they do not make the mistake of watching what may be called the common folks to the exclusion of all others. What the common folks take is called stealing; what the wealthy take goes under the head of kleptomania. Both are watched alike.

Four days after the talk in the office, Miss Grattan had a customer for high-priced lace. She was a young woman of about twenty-two, who had come in her auto, and she had a full purse and bought liberally and took away her package. She was watched, and yet ten minutes after she had gone a valuable piece of lace was missing. The most that could be found out about her was that she had frequently been in the store and that she paid cash and never had her purchases sent. The loss had to be reported to Mr. Nevins. He did not

transfer Miss Grattan to the crockery department, as he had threatened. He was evidently about to do so, when something she said in describing the customer she suspected made him hesitate and take on a puzzled look, and after a time to remark:

"After you have taken stock tonight you may find the missing lace. At any rate, let it go for a day or two."

Why the change in him? Did he suspect her, and was he going to have her watched? Was he going to have her mother's house searched?

Yes, Miss Grattan was engaged to Mr. Traver, the head of the furniture department; but the fact had not been publicly announced. These engagements seldom appear in the society journals. It's two or three days off under protest—a marriage, a flat and then one bears no more. It may be spoken of in the store for a day, but only by employees.

On the evening of the last theft mentioned the matter was talked over between the lovers. Mr. Traver was a man of action. He had a sister who was not known at the store, and next day she was a customer at the lace counter. She didn't make a purchase, but she kept her eyes open. The next day she was at the glove counter. On the next she was back at the lace counter.

Perhaps one of the store detectives became suspicious and followed her about for a time; perhaps one of the four girls at the lace counter hoped to find her shoplifting and see her punished. She was there, undetermined whether to buy or not when the young lady of the auto swept into the store and up to the counter. She was gracious and patronizing. She wanted expensive lace to send to a girl friend in the country. Miss Grattan waited on her and watched her. Never had she watched a customer so closely. Miss Grattan suspended her buying to leave the store and order a public auto to wait in front of it.

At the end of half an hour her quarry came out and entered her own auto and speeded away. She was followed and her residence located. She had not left the store above a quarter of an hour when the white-faced and shaking Miss Grattan was up in the office reporting to Mr. Nevins:

"The young lady whom I suspected a few days ago came for more lace today and bought \$50 worth. She had hardly gone when I missed five yards valued at more than that."

"H'm! You will apply for your salary this evening. We can no longer afford to keep you here. The other day, when I told you to wait a bit, I thought I had a clue to solve the problem; but it seems that I was mistaken. I shall transfer the other girls to the crockery department. The four of you are a careless lot, but you are the worst."

An hour later Mr. Traver asked for a word with Mr. Nevins.

"If it's about Miss Grattan, I don't wish to hear it," was the answer.

"But it isn't. It's about the shoplifter at the lace counter. I know her and know her place of residence."

"You—you do!"

"And if you get out a search warrant before she can mail away the lace she lifted this afternoon it will be found in her house. My sister followed her today."

Mr. Nevins bent forward on his desk and hid his face in his hands, and it was three long minutes before he raised it to say:

"I—I suspected—I knew, but I didn't want any one else to know. You and Miss Grattan are engaged. Please go, both of you. Your wedding gift from the firm will be enough to set you up in business. You see, Miss—Miss Lisle is a kleptomaniac, and I can't—can't—"

And his face was in his hands again when Mr. Traver softly withdrew. Society wondered and by and by forgot.

Why Feminine Angels?

The "feminine angel" appears to be the invention of Christmas card producers and "mopumental maasou," as the makers of tombstones call themselves. In Milton's heaven there is no equality of sex, for there is never a mention of a woman, even as a celestial camp follower. Guerdin's angel at Fano, which inspired Browning's beautiful "Guardian Angel," is a man. The feminist, however, will hardly cite this as another example of the unfair predominance of man, since even man, as an angel, has no concern with government or the vote.

A New Leap.

A newly qualified judge in one of the small towns of the south was trying one of his first criminal cases. The accused was an old colored man, who was charged with robbing a hencoop. He had been in court before on a similar charge, and was then acquitted. "Well, Tom," began the judge, "I see you're in trouble again." "Yes, sah," replied the prisoner. "The last time, judge, you was ma lawyer." "Where is your lawyer this time?" asked the judge. "I ain't got no lawyer this time," answered Tom, "I'm gwine to tell the truth!"

A Difference.

"Men in the olden times were delighted if they got a lady's glove." "Well,"

"Now they're as glum as can be if they get the mitten."

Indifferent as to the Present One.

"Dora, you are sixteen and can't spell your name correctly!" "Oh, that's all right, mother, I expect to change it in a year or so."—Judge.

PLENTY OF ROOM FOR MORE PEOPLE ON FARMS

Herbert Quick, editor of Farm and Fireside, writes an interesting article in the current issue of his periodical on the causes that are back of the high cost of living. Following is an extract:

"What we want to know is why there are not more people on the farms. I have just read in a magazine the explanation: they are all stirred up about it, that all the available land is taken up. That is true if fencing and owning, and cut-and-covering is taking up. But any farmer knows that there is room for twice, three times, as many people on the farms as are there now. I heard Mr. John W. Bookwalter of Springfield and the rest of the world read a paper on this subject last winter. He called the attention of his hearers to the rush of people to the cities as a great danger to the world—to civilization.

"He seemed to miss the effect he himself has had on this matter of the rush of people to the cities. Mr. Bookwalter possesses from 50,000 to 70,000 acres of farm land. On this immense domain there live probably from a thousand to fifteen hundred people. This is in Nebraska. In Nebraska, too lives Arnold Martin, who on twenty-one acres makes money, besides supporting his family. If the land owned by Mr. Bookwalter were owned by the men who work it, there would be living on it three thousand ordinary Nebraska farm folk, instead of fifteen hundred people. If it were owned by men like Arnold Martin, there would be room for three thousand five hundred families, or say a population of fifteen thousand people on this same estate, which now supports perhaps fifteen hundred people on one half the crops—and Mr. Bookwalter on the other half!"

"What would be the effect on the cost of living if every tenant farmer in these United States were all at once changed into an owner of his farm? Would it not change most of them into better farmers? It surely would. They would manure more heavily, establish better rotations, buy fertilizers, cease skinning the land, begin trying to make the place adequate to the support not only of the old folks, but of the children."

LEGAL NOTICES

PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP NOTICE.

Consult County Clerk or the Respective Signers for further information.

In the District Court Probate Division, in and for Cache County, State of Utah.

In the District Court of the First Judicial District of the State of Utah, in and for the County of Cache.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF UTAH, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CACHE.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Berdine Larsen, Deceased.

Creditors will present claims with vouchers to the undersigned at her residence at Logan City, Cache county, Utah, on or before the 31st day of December, 1912.

Date of first publication, August 27, 1912.

FRED W. CROCKETT, Attorney
BERDINE LARSEN, Administratrix.

SUMMONS

In the District Court of the First Judicial District of the State of Utah in and for the County of Cache, Henry Brady, Plaintiff, vs. John Watson, Katherine Mainwaring, Jane Hendricks, Mary Cox, Susa Brady, Alice Smith, Sarah Knudson and Katherine Keppner, sole and only heirs at law of George Watson and Jane Watson, Deceased Defendants, Summons.—The State of Utah to the said Defendants: You are hereby summoned to appear within twenty days after the service of this summons upon you, if served within the county in which this action is brought, otherwise within thirty days after service and defend the above entitled action, and in case of your failure so to do judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. This action is brought against you to obtain a decree of the court reforming a decree of distribution pertaining to the real estate described in the complaint.

FRED W. CROCKETT, Attorney for Plaintiff, Postoffice address, Logan, Utah.

CONSTRUCTING 6x8 FOOT CONCRETE CULVERT

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the State Road Commission, 321 Felt building, Salt Lake City, Utah, up to 11 o'clock a. m. September 13, for the furnishing of all labor, tools, material, etc. necessary for the complete construction of a reinforced concrete, box type, culvert as per plan 5-15-142. Said culvert to be constructed over Hyrum Slough on State Road between Logan and Wellsville, Cache county, Utah.

All proposals must be submitted on the blank form furnished by the state Road Commission, and when submitted, must be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal for Constructing Concrete Culvert." This envelope shall then be enclosed in another envelope and addressed to the Secretary of the State Road Commission at Salt Lake City, Utah. All proposals submitted on other forms will not be considered.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a cashier's check for five per cent of the amount of the bid, payable to Caleb Tanner, secretary of the state road commission, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract for the work, should it be awarded to him, and which will be forfeited as liquidated damages should the bidder default.

The state road commission will require the successful bidder to execute a satisfactory bond of 20 per cent of the contract price. Bond must be given within ten days after award of the contract.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of the state road commission and at the office of the county surveyor of Cache county, Logan, Utah.

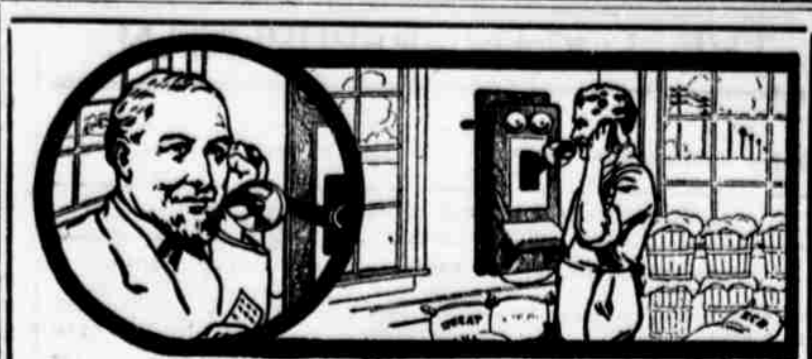
The state road commission reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received, or accept any proposal that appears advantageous to them.

These instructions are to be construed with and made part of the contract.

By order of the state road commission.

CALEB TANNER, Secretary of State Road Commission
W. D. BEERS, State Road Engineer.

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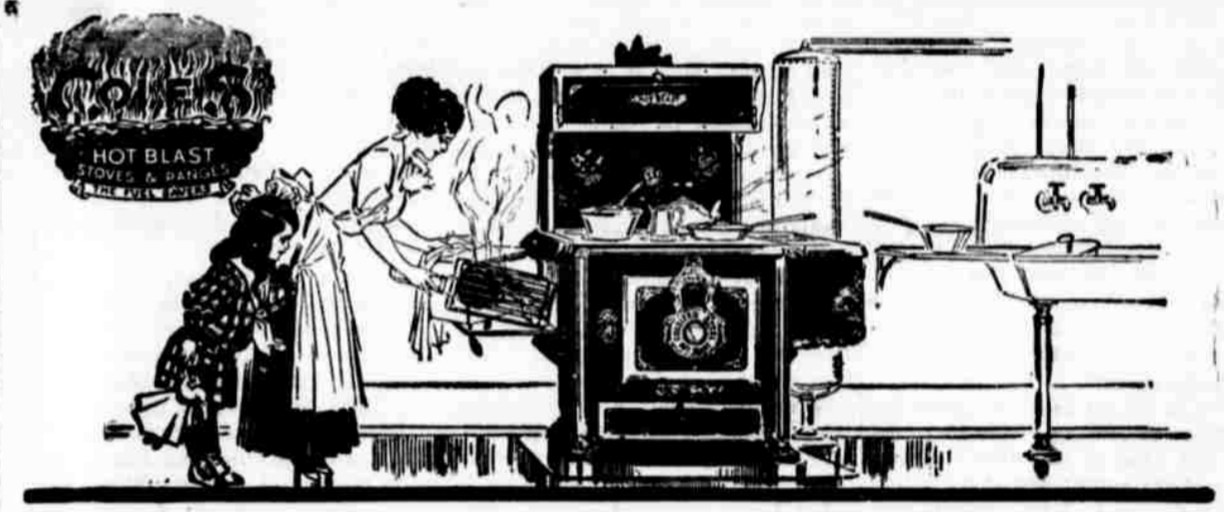
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