

MY ODD UNCLE

By DWIGHT NORWOOD

My uncle's life had been blighted by an ill assorted marriage. In every other respect he was to be envied or would have been had it not been for his marriage. He was prosperous in business affairs and accumulated a fortune. But no children were born to him during the brief period of his marriage, and after his separation from his wife he never entered upon a second matrimonial adventure.

I was his only male relative, and after hesitating for some time between leaving his property in trust for a philanthropic work and leaving it to me he finally came to the conclusion to allow it to accumulate through my lifetime. I to establish the foundation that he intended. But this plan was contingent on my agreeing not to marry.

His proposition to me, if accepted, would give me every comfort and luxury so long as I lived, but would deprive me of wife and children. I did not agree with my uncle on the subject of matrimony because I knew that, though a splendid man, he must be a very hard man to get on with. He seemed to be fond of me, and if I wanted anything I had only to ask him for it. Yet I dared not oppose him in any of his prejudices. The difference between me and the wife from whom he separated was that I understood him and had the tact to manage him, while she failed in both these respects.

My aunt was much younger than my uncle—she was but little my senior—and, being conscious of her inability to get on with him, came to rely on me to help her manage him when a deadlock came between them. I was born old and never given to acting upon impulse, while she was sensitive and had no faculty for going around a stone wall instead of over it.

My uncle's proposition—which ignored my aunt—placed me in the position of taking what belonged rightfully to her. In making my decision I was influenced far more by what was my duty to her than to carry out my uncle's intentions.

I accepted the condition, and my uncle made his will, leaving his property in trust to me, I to have so much of the income as I chose to appropriate to myself, but in consideration of this I gave my word to him that I would never marry, and the will stipulated that in case I did marry the property was to pass out of my hands and the foundation was to be established. Under this condition it would be practically impossible for me to marry, one of the reasons being that I would be obliged to drop from affluence to poverty, a very unpleasant fall.

Before acceding to my uncle's wishes I asked my aunt if she would disapprove of my doing so, and she told me that since she could not benefit by her husband's property she preferred that I should do so. However, before accepting the proposition I made bold to tell him plainly that his separation from his wife was principally his own fault and that he was doing her a great injustice to leave her property, or, rather, its income, to me instead of to her. I expected that this would alter his determination, but was surprised that it had no effect whatever to deter him from his purpose. Indeed, it seemed to confirm him in it.

I did not promise not to turn over a part of the income from his estate to his wife. My privilege to do so would have satisfied me with the position I assumed had it not been that I was pledged to celibacy. Moreover, there was a woman whom I wished to marry. When the papers had been signed I informed my uncle of this fact, though I did not tell him who that woman was. He merely said, "You should thank me, my boy, for saving you from a life of misery."

Upon the completion of the agreement my uncle gave me the position of his right hand man that I might be prepared to manage his estate after his death. He was certainly a very queer man, and no one could tell what he would do. Two years after our compact he was taken suddenly ill. He called for me and said:

"I have been told by my doctor that I have but a few days at most to live. The approach of death has made a change in my feelings. It is a part of a new plan I have made that you should marry."

I looked at him in astonishment. When I had recovered from my surprise I said to him:

"If I marry there is but one woman in the world I will make my wife."

"You will marry the woman I intend you shall marry or I will make a new will, leaving you out in the cold."

He was very weak, and I knew there was no time to waste.

"Whom do you require that I shall marry?" I asked.

"The woman whose life I have made miserable."

My heart came up into my throat, but I controlled any expression of my emotion.

"Have you obtained her consent?"

"Yes."

"Very well, I will not stand in the way of your doing this last act of justice."

I have always been balanced between two opinions as to the prime motive of my uncle's act. Either he was so perverse that he wished to marry me to a woman I did not love, thus separating me from one I did love, or he had observed the love that had sprung up between me and the woman he had put away. But to do him justice I believe he was repentant toward her.

AUCTIONS SELL ALL BUT APPLES

Fruit In Prime Brings the Best Results

"DON'T DUMP" ADVISED

"The meeting of fruit auctioneers in New York last March, may prove to be of importance in the industrial history of the United States," declares Arthur M. Geary, formerly a fruit grower near Medford, who is passing the Summer lecturing upon the fruit marketing systems of the Eastern cities.

"The fact that practically all the fruits from the Pacific Coast including the cherries, pears and prunes of the Northwest, but excepting apples, are now sold at auction in the large Eastern cities indicates the tremendous scale which auction selling has already attained in the United States.

"V. K. McElheny, Jr., president of the American Fruit and Produce Auction Association, believes that if the auction companies instead of simply taking the business that the jobbers and receivers turned over to them had advertised the merits of their system among the growers that the jobbers and receivers would now be turning over \$200,000,000 worth of business to the auctioneers of the country. Sixty to seventy million dollars worth of fruit are now sold at auction annually in the different large Eastern cities.

"Apples from the United States exported to England and Germany are sold uniformly at auction. Some of the large receiving apple jobbers of this country who profess to have so little confidence in the public sale of apples sell apples at auction abroad. The same jobbers sell fancy oranges, cherries, and other fruits, through auctions in this country.

"The auction system has not brought results to the apple growers so far, because they have made it a dumping ground for apples that have become defective.

"If apples in their prime were systematically supplied the auctions, there is every reason to believe the Northwest grower would attain the same result—the same satisfactory price—that he receives from the use of auctions abroad."

FLORIDA EXCHANGE FAVORS AUCTION.

Twenty-five years ago, no Florida oranges and grapefruit were sold at auction. Today, all the fruit marketed in the large cities by the Florida Citrus Exchange is disposed of under the hammer.

Mr. Scott, New England representative of the Florida Citrus Exchange, said in a lecture recently: "From many years' experience in both methods, I am satisfied that, as a rule, the auctions in our large centers offer the very best solution of proper marketing."

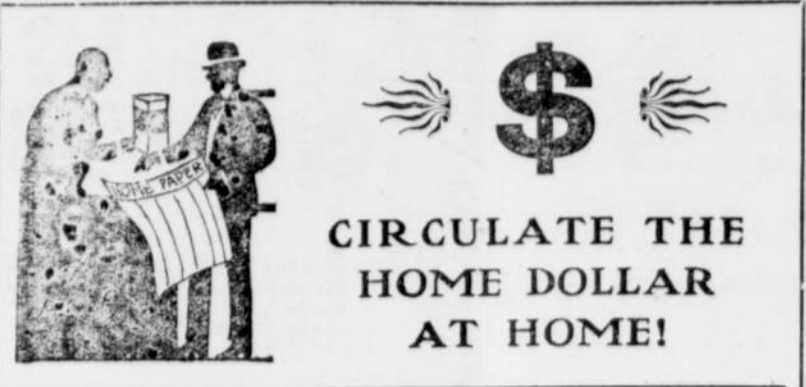
"I have found wide misconception of auctions among the growers. Having in mind the old-style auction where various articles were put up for sale after every other effort had failed, they feel that an auction is a veritable slaughter. If they do feel this way, they believe that it is a deep-laid plot on the part of the buyers to get together and buy at a much lower price than could be the case at private sale."

PUSH CARTS SAFETY VALVES FOR MARKET

The push-cart merchants who hover in the back of the auction rooms in the large cities form a safety valve. If oranges glut the market and the prices fall a few cents, the push "carts" buy heavily. They fill their carts with oranges and a great many more people begin eating oranges.

The increased rate of consumption established in this way, often sends the price up with a rebound that repays for the earlier low prices.

The push-cart merchants do not now have ready access to supplies of apples, as they are not often sold at auction.



It will then pass through many hands, help many merchants and increase home prosperity.

A DOLLAR WELL SPENT IS A DOLLAR SPENT HERE

Playground.

I do not know of any better way to teach a boy to be honorable and straight than to give him a chance to play with his comrades. In the playground he learns without any suggestion of rebellion against instruction and precept and preaching. He learns it because he does not want anybody else to cheat him and is "down" on the boy that does not play fair. And in the long run, because he is "down" on the boy that does not play fair, he will establish standards of conduct which we must maintain in the community and particularly in our great cities. If there is one thing that we need more than another it is the constant emphasis among our citizens of that spirit of fair play, that willingness to give and take, that generosity in defeat and that lack of assertiveness in victory which we identify with our sport and which is learned best of all in childhood upon the playground.—Justice Charles E. Hughes, United States supreme court.

Guiding Principles.

Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliances with none; the support of the state governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies; the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad; * * * freedom of religion; freedom of the press; freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus, and trial by juries impartially selected—these principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation.—From first inaugural address of President Jefferson.

Strength of Past Mistakes.

Because our ancestors lived in huddled cities we go on building upon narrow and tortuous streets, sinking our capital in mistakes which age makes it more and more difficult to retrieve. The original cowpaths of Boston have become picturesque slums which support innocent babies and stifle the health and the happiness of other people's children. Attack these slums, and you attack helplessness itself. Try to widen and ventilate, and you will find that you have struck at the security of the innocent. This is the real strength of the pest and the overwhelming grip it has upon our lives. It lives on, not because intelligence can defend it, but because it has become so intimate a part of us that to cut it out seems a little too cruel.—New Republic.

Angieworms and Rain.

Just why the angieworm comes out of the ground after a soaking rain when its natural tendency is to seek the deep, moist part of the earth in times of drought was long a puzzle to the naturalists. The enthusiastic fisherman will tell you that the only way to find any fishing worms when the soil is very dry is by digging down to where it is damp or by sprinkling the ground thoroughly the night before you intend to dig. It is evident that the Lumbricidae like water. The other recently discovered fact about them is that they also like air and cannot live without it. When it has rained until the earth is thoroughly saturated Mr. Angieworm has to crawl out of the ground in order to keep from drowning.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

World's Finest Equestrian Group.

London's statues are generally the laughing stock of foreign visitors. They are called "jokes in stone" and other rude names. It is all the more gratifying to find one at least of these generally despised objects gaining the applause of qualified judges. A party of Belgian sculptors and artists on a recent visit were moved to proclaim their conviction that the quadriga of "Victory" on the arch at the top of Constitution Hill was not only the finest equestrian group in England, but in the whole world! The sculptor, Captain Adrian Jones, once told the writer that it was twenty years after the first sketch was made that the group was finally put in position.—London Standard.

Too Young.

The Ross—You are late again, Newlywed. Have you a reasonable excuse? Newlywed—No. He's not old enough to reason yet—just yells all night.—Puck.

Notice To Creditors.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR JACKSON COUNTY.

In the matter of the estate of Mary Geiger, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, by order of the County Court of Jackson County, State of Oregon, has been duly appointed and is now the duly qualified and acting administrator of the estate of the above named decedent.

All persons having claims against said decedent or her estate are hereby notified and required to present the same duly verified with proper vouchers, to the undersigned administrator at his office in Jacksonville, Jackson County, State of Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.

Date of this notice and of the first publication thereof is July 31, 1915.

CHARLES PRIM, Administrator of the estate of Mary Geiger, deceased.

Summons.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF JACKSON.

Frank W. Sexton, Plaintiff,

-vs-

Margaret Sexton, Defendant.

To Margaret Sexton, the above named defendant:

In the name of the State of Oregon: You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled Court and cause, on or before six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, said first publication being on the third day of July 1915. And you are hereby notified that if you fail to appear and answer said complaint, for want thereof the plaintiff will apply to the above entitled Court for the relief demanded in said complaint, to-wit:

That the bonds of matrimony heretofore and now existing between plaintiff and defendant be dissolved, and that the plaintiff be released therefrom and for a decree of this Court forever annulling and dissolving the said bonds of matrimony, and for a decree of absolute divorce from the defendant here in. For such other and further relief as to this Court may seem just and equitable.

This summons, by order of Honorable F. L. Touvele, Judge of the County Court of the State of Oregon, in and for Jackson County, regularly made in open court in Jacksonville, Oregon, on the 26th day of June 1915, is served upon you by the publication thereof for a period of six successive weeks in the Jacksonville Post, a newspaper published regularly once per week at Jacksonville, Oregon, and of general circulation in said County and State, the date of the first publication of this summons being on Saturday July 3, 1915, and the date of the last publication thereof being on the 14th day of August, 1915.

NEWTON W. BORDEN, Attorney for Plaintiff.

Clean as a Whistle.

The origin of the saying "As clean as a whistle" is ascribed to the "whistle tankard" of olden times, in which the whistle came into play when the tankard was emptied or "cleared out" to announce to the waiter that more liquor was required.

Horticultural Note.

"I see Philip is going in for intensive gardening."

"You don't say?"

"Yep; raising a mustache."—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Pessimist.

"Papa, what is a pessimist?"

"A pessimist, my son, is a man who does not believe that his make of motorcar is better than anybody else's"—Judge.

Sorry He Spoke.

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread"

"I know. What place have you been kicked out of now?"—Chicago News.

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Change in Southern Pacific Time Table.

Effective January 17, 1915.

NORTH BOUND TRAINS.

14 Portland Passenger.....8:20 A.M.

16 Oregon Express.....5:20 P.M.

12 Shasta Limited2:17 A.M.

Extra fare train.

SOUTH BOUND TRAINS.

13 California Express10:45 A.M.

15 San Francisco Express...4:00 P.M.

11 Shasta Limited.....3:20 A.M.

Extra fare train.

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