

A New Phase of the Servant Question

By LOUISE B. CUMMINGS

Two convicts sat together in a prison yard sunning themselves and smoking their pipes. Other prisoners were either lounging about or taking exercise walking to and fro, while the guards kept an eye out for all to make sure that they were not getting together in one or more groups. The two men smoking together, though they had no acquaintance, opened conversation in the usual way.

"What are you here for?" asked one. "The servant question." "What's the servant question got to do with yer bein' within walls?" "Oh, it's a long story; but, seein' we've nothing better to do, I don't mind tellin' it to you."

"Go on." "I've always made it a rule to work through servants. I can get more advantages by takin' 'em in to a deal than in any other way. They make it dead easy for a feller. The easiest job I ever got was this way. I was walkin' along a street in a suburban town, where the houses wasn't too near together, lookin' for a job, when I come to a decent lookin' house—not too fine, for in the finest they have safes; nor too poor lookin', for in them kind they don't have nothin' to put in safes; but the middle kind, where they have good things, but not so valuable that they keep 'em out o' the way—as I was sayin', I come to a house of the middle kind and, goin' around to the back door, knocked and asked the maid if there was any old clothes in the house they didn't want. I was out of a job and would be glad of anything I could get.

"She looked at me, and, says she: 'You don't want any old clothes. You're lookin' for a job, but not the ordinary kind of a job—one with more profit in it than doin' odd jobs at 20 cents an hour.'

"She looked at me kind of knowin' and I twigged right off. 'I wouldn't mind a pard,' I says, and she asked me what I meant and I says 'halves.' 'That's fair,' she says. 'When do you want to begin work?' 'I always work at night,' I says, 'when other people is sleepin'.'

"Well, I made a deal with her right off, and I was to do the job the next night. The maid was goin' to have friends to dinner then, and she was always expected to put away the silver, the best bein' brought on on swell occasions. I took to that idee and pulled out a fiver to bind the bargain. After takin' my instructions how to get in and what to do next I goes away.

"The next night about 11 o'clock I went to the house, and they was jist puttin' out the lights. A cop went by slingin' his night stick, so I waited till he'd put a block or two between me and him; then I went into the back yard and sat down in a dark place for half an hour, givin' 'em time to get to sleep. The maid had left a stepladder outside, 'cause it was a basement house, and I was to git in at a back kitchen winder on the main floor.

"I put off the job till I felt that all that was goin' to sleep had gone there; then I puts the stepladder agin the wall and goes up to the winder. It went up as slick as if it had been greased, and, feelin' I found the maid had soaped it. This made me feel sure she wasn't trickin' me and was doin' everything to help me on. I got down to the floor inside and follered the direction she'd given me, passin' from the dinin' room into the pantry, where the maid said she was goin' to leave the silver, tellin' her mistress the next mornin' she'd forgot to take it to her room where she kept it nights, so she wouldn't have to waken any one by gittin' it in the mornin'.

"I got into the pantry all right and was feelin' for the swag when an electric went up, and there stood a cop at each of the pantry doors. They had me cooped up, and I was covered by both of 'em at the same time.

"It was all up with me, of course. They clapped the bracelets on me and took me out into the hall. All the lights was turned up, and downstairs I saw the gentleman of the house comin', with the maid behind him, only they all was dressed in their regular clothes. I was all broke up by seein' the maid dressed like a lady.

"Well," said the gentleman to his wife, 'this doin' your own housework is a savin' in more ways than one, isn't it, my dear? There's a thousand dollars' worth of property held on to by your bein' maid and cook and all the other servants, and I'll put half of it into a brooch for you.' Then, turnin' to the cops, he said to 'em: 'A year ago, when we was spendin' a thousand dollars a year for servants, we lost \$5,000 more in one night. Luckily my wife likes housework, isn't literary, don't write papers for woman's clubs and is a profitable woman to have in the house.'

"Then he jist takes her in his arms and gives her a smack, and she was the proudest lookin' woman you ever seen. But I noticed that when she seen me between two cops she looked sorry for me."

The convict paused and then added reflectively: "I don't say that all servants is in with us, but I does say that if all the tiddies in the land gits to doin' their own housework the most profitable part of our business 'll be gone, and I don't reckon they'll do it. The women is gittin' brainy, and they likes to write papers and spout 'em. But we got to look out for them as isn't up to them literary pranks."

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Advertising Rates on application
CARDS OF THANKS—\$.50 OBITUARIES—\$1.00 up.

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Holiday Greetings

With Best Wishes of The Season
to our Many Customers.

C. A. LUTHY, Jeweler

20% OFF ON CUT GLASS UNTIL NEW YEAR'S DAY

LOST—On school ground, Baptist Sunday School pin. 25c reward, W. J. Hewitt.

To Build Strength—Rexall Olive Oil Emulsion. A real body and nerve food free from Alcohol and dangerous drugs \$1.00 bottle at Beauchamp's.

Geo. Warford who has been in Fall City was in town Tuesday and Wednesday.

John Merrifield and family are spending Christmas at Aumsville with relatives.

FOR WOMENS ILLS
Rexall Vegetable Compound—A safe remedy for female weakness. \$1.00 at Beauchamp's.

Misses Witzel, Hollister and McShane, three of Stayton's teachers are spending the holidays in Salem.

Mrs. Riley Privet of Bellingham, Washington is visiting at the G. W. Murphy home this week.

J. W. Mayo and wife are spending Christmas day with relatives in Lebanon.

FOR HEAVY COLDS
Beauchamp's Cold Tablets help to quickly break up the cold. Gently laxative, price 25c at Beauchamp's.

T. D. Phillips and wife of Jordan were Stayton visitors Saturday.

Chas. Williamson and wife who have been visiting at Mrs. Lucy Kearns returned to their home in Moscow, Idaho Saturday.

Mrs. Clara McConnell returned to her home in Aberdeen, Wash., Monday after a weeks' visit at the Hobson home.

W. R. Ray, wife and daughter Effie of Mt. Pleasant were in town yesterday.

Enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with a "First Pick" Cigar. Made in Stayton Oregon by Jos. J. Lambrecht.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Brewer an eleven pound boy Tuesday.

FOR THAT COLD
Use Beauchamp's cold Tablets and "White Pine and Tar." Breaks up most any cold in a few days.

Miss Mabel Townes who is attending school in Portland this winter is spending the holidays with home folks at Mt. Pleasant.

Andrew Fisher of the Waldo Hills visited at the Joe Fisher home Monday.

For Chronic Catarrh—Rexall Mucotone. A common-sense internal treatment to remove the cause. 50c & \$1.00 bottle at Beauchamp's.

Dr. Beauchamp reports a boy born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chance of North Santiam, Dec. 14.

OLD LADY FRACTURES HIP

Grandma Flick, who lives at the home of her son, John Flick in Linn County, fell one day last week and sustained a serious fracture of her left hip bone. Mrs. Flick is 80 years of age. Drs. H. A. and F. E. Beauchamp set the injured member.

BAPTIST CHRISTMAS TREE

The Baptist Sunday School had a tree and an entertainment Christmas Eve. The church had been prettily decorated for the occasion.

SHOOTS OFF TOE

Fred Caspell, who is here visiting from Montana, was starting to go hunting Sunday morning, when he accidentally shot off a toe on his left foot with a no 20 shot gun. Dr. Beauchamp amputated the mutilated member and the foot is getting along nicely.

E. B. Hunt was fined \$5 Wednesday morning in the Justice court for leaving his team unhitched in the street.

School Notes

Miss McShane and Miss Hollister are attending the State Teachers Association in Salem Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Miss Hollister and Mrs. Pratt gave their Christmas Program together in Mrs. Pratt's room. The room was nicely decorated, they had two trees, one on each side of a fire-place.

A great many people attended the program of the different rooms Friday.

The Parent-Teachers meeting held at the school house Friday night was well attended. A good program was furnished by the pupils of the school and by some of the ladies of town. We all enjoyed Mr. Harrington's speech and hope he will speak to the school some time.

A type-writing test for speed was given last week. The words per minute by each contestant were as follows: Bessie Clow, 25; Oliver Lesley, 25; Leo Rock, 24; Merna Weddle, 24; Nellie Stowell, 25; Helen Staab, 30; June Kearns, 31.

The school will have a number of fire drills each month. The first one was held last week and every one was out of the building in—minutes.

The eighth grade attended the program in Miss McShane's room Friday afternoon.

\$7.00 for \$2.50

UNTIL THIS YEAR

Collier's

The National weekly has been \$5.50 per year. They have reduced the price in Clubs only to \$2.50. The proprietor of the Stayton Mail has made an arrangement with them whereby Collier's and the Mail may be obtained one year for the sum of \$2.50.

Collier's has half a million subscribers. Collier's has over two million readers. Collier's comes every week. Collier's calls a spade a spade. Collier's is the National Weekly. Collier's is absolutely fearless.

Collier's will contain next year, 1000 Editorials, 600 News Photos, 250 Short Articles, 150 Short Stories, 100 Illustrated Features, 2 Complete Novels.

Remember you can only get Collier's in this town at this remarkable price in conjunction with The Stayton Mail. Both one year \$2.50. The time is limited on this remarkable offer, so take advantage of it at once. He who reads Collier's is well posted on any subject. Read Collier's.

Tracy Pritchard of Lyons cut his left hand severely with an ax a few days ago and had to have Dr. Beauchamp dress the wound.

World's Largest Flower.
The island of Mindanao produces the largest flower in the world. Its habitat is far up the Parag mountain, 2,500 feet above the level of the sea. The natives give it the name of bolo. Its full blown blossom, five petaled, is above three feet in diameter, weighing twenty-two pounds. The flower was first found in Sumatra and was called Rafflesia schadenburgia, in honor of its discoverer.

They Drink Up Water.
Five hundred and twenty tons of water are required to produce one ton of dry oats, while 310 tons of water are needed for one ton of corn and 453 tons of water for one ton of red clover.

Wall Paper.
In the manufacture of wall paper one worker by the aid of machinery does the work of 100 manual laborers, and in cutting and drying paper by machinery four men and six girls do the work of 100 operators by the old time method.

A Scientific "If."
If the earth were to revolve seven times faster than it does bodies at the equator would lose their weight and remain stationary in the air without support.

Platinum.
Platinum is the heaviest commercial metal known. Its specific gravity is 21.5 as compared with 19.25 for pure gold and 19.53 for silver. Briefly, platinum is twenty-one and a half times as heavy as water, more than twice the weight of silver and heavier, bulk for bulk, than pure gold. It is softer than iron, but somewhat harder than copper.

Church Property.
The value of church owned property in the United States is \$1,757,575,807. Only 25,000,000 of the 95,000,000 inhabitants of continental United States are church members.

Snail Shells.
More than 600,000 pounds of snail shells are shipped out of Malaysia every year to Europe and America to be used in the making of buttons and novelties. The shells, when of good quality, bring about 16 cents a pound in New York. The shells are taken from the ocean by fishermen and sold through Chinese collectors to European firms at Singapore.

Macadam Roads.
In the opinion of an English scientist the wear of macadam roads is not due to the suction of automobile tires, but almost entirely to the crushing effect of horseshoes and iron tired wheels.

Island of Elba.
The island of Elba, famous from its association with Napoleon, is a favorite resting place of many migratory birds traveling between points south of the equator and the Arctic ocean. It is therefore visited by ornithologists from all parts of the world.

Merry Christmas and HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Lowney's Chocolates
The World Renowned Kind
Cigars, Stationery, Newspapers, Magazines, Post Cards, and Notions.
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