

Periwinkle House

By Opie Read

Illustrated by R. H. Livingstone

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SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER I—The time is the late '60s or early '70s and the scene a steamboat on the Mississippi river. All the types of the period are present and the floating palace is distinguished by merriment, dancing and gallantry. There are the customary drinking and gambling also. Virgil Drace, a young northern man, is on his way south on a mission of revenge. He meets an eccentric character in the person of one Liberty Shottle, who is constantly tempting the goddess of chance. They form a singular compact.

CHAPTER II—Drace gets his mission off his mind by entering into deck sports in which he exhibits an unusual athletic prowess. Liberty Shottle is again unlicked at cards and attempts a financial negotiation with Drace. The latter, seeing an opportunity to use Shottle, confides to him that his mission is to find a certain ex-guerrilla, Stepho la Vitte, who had murdered Drace's father. It is his determination to announce to his new chum, to name La Vitte as high as Haman. Drace has become enamored of a mysterious beauty aboard the boat.

CHAPTER III—The steamer reaches New Orleans, at that time in the somewhat turbulent throes of carpetbag government. Shottle becomes possessed of two tickets for the French ball, a great society event, and proposes that Drace accompany him to the affair. The young men attend and Drace unexpectedly meets the girl who had fired his heart aboard the steamer. She is accompanied by one Boyce, whose proprietary interest indicates that he is her fiance. Through stratagem Shottle learns that the name of the girl is Nadine la Vitte and that her companion of the evening is the man who is seeking to marry her.

CHAPTER IV—Drace passes an uneasy night torn by the suspicion that Nadine is the daughter of old Stepho la Vitte, now an admitted outlaw. Now, more than ever, he is resolved to find where the girl lives and to find Stepho. Drace and Shottle begin a search of the city. In one of their nocturnal pilgrimages they come upon a mob intent upon hanging a poor wretch from the limb of a tree. It is a typical carpetbag execution and aroused the resentment of an opposing mob of citizens. Drace takes a hand in the fight which starts and is instrumental in preventing the execution. From a window opposite the scene, he catches a glimpse of one he is sure is Nadine.

trumpet."
"Does your church ever need money?" In a moment he lost his dignity.
"Look yeah, boss, what's er nigger church fur ef it ain't fer need money? Co'se it need money. But what you gwine do erbout it?"
"Yassuh," he said, when Drace had warned him with a greenback, "I reckon dey done moved away. There was er kind of rumpus last night. And I reckon they-all thought it wasn't no place for dem no mo'; dey let' mighty sudden-like, uhly dis maw'nin'."

And that was all Drace could learn; no one in the vicinity would admit that they knew them or their destination. Disliking to call too much attention to himself, Drace walked away heavy-hearted. For a long time he wandered the streets. He came to the levee, and the French market. He went into the old St. Louis cemetery, and looked upon the novel sight of bodies sepulchered in a wall with doors like a furnace. These compartments, he learned, were rented by the month to the poor; and a short tenantry it was for many a son and daughter of penury answering Eternity's call, for when the grim agent failed to collect the pittance promised by sorrow, the shrouded renter was evicted—an old Spanish custom, Drace was told.

Recalled by these grim surroundings to the purpose that had brought him to the South, Drace now determined to give himself wholly to his quest for Stepho la Vitte. He returned to the hotel, and found Shottle nervous in a cloud of smoke. The floor was covered with burned matches and the stubs of cigars.

"Lib, I'm crushed," announced Drace. "So am I. But how does it happen that the dust-cart drove over you too?"
"Nadine is gone. The place is nailed up."

"That's tough, all right. But what are you going to do about it? Are you going to come to your puritanic senses and give the whole thing up, or do you expect—"

"I expect to fulfill my sacred mission. I must find Stepho la Vitte."
Shottle got up and shook hands with his friend. He swore that he would make the search the aim of his life. "Suppose you hire me by the day," he suggested. "A man does better work by the day. He always has fresh stimulus every time the sun rises."
"Very well—ten dollars a day."
"That's liberal, Virgil, and I'll take it. And let's get Old Josh to help us. He is more or less acquainted with Stepho's habits."

CHAPTER V
An hour later Drace and Shottle returned to their hotel after a ceremonial visit with Colonel Josh. The name of Stepho, had indeed been mentioned, and he promised to do what he should do.

"I beg your pardon, sir, but I am a friend of Mr. la Vitte, and—"
"Pardon, monsieur, but you do not look like him, ze friend."
"But I am. And I came with word that will be of advantage to him. The police are after him—"
"Aw, he know zat. Monsieur would trouble himself for nothing. Good morning."
"Just a moment, please. You have no need to look on me with suspicion. I am his friend—and—"
"If you his friend," interrupted the man, "you know he gone—to Europe, on steamer to France."
Drace was about to abandon the man in despair when Shottle, who had been staring at a case of wine which stood by the door ticketed and sealed for shipment, suddenly interrupted.

"Ah," he cried, "can this be the bet his value, but him. I want thirty-five Guinea negroes. Stee them up to him."
"What a farce!" commented Drace. "Was it? Well, I reckon not. They had to go out and buy thirty-five Guinea negroes. It took quite a while, but the General waited. And when they had all been sized up, the General went up the River, with his thirty-five Guinea negroes trailing after him."
Now Drace could see the picture of it, and he laughed. This was the man he was going to visit!

The Bumblebee was jointly owned and operated by Major Hewitt and a young fellow named William Hawkins. It was a fine steamer, but while it was cunningly masked as a public carrier, Shottle was quick to discover that it was in truth a nomad gambler, profuse in entertainment that taxed not the giver. But the entertainment sought by this pelican, as the gamblers termed Shottle, was not of wine from France, the fish-egg from Russia or venison from America's native woods, but spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs. And while the Bee still lay at the wharf, breathing low and humberously through her nostrils, Shottle had put in operation a quickly contrived "touch," presenting himself to Major

publication of this summons, to-wit: On or before Thursday, December 21, 1922, and upon your failure to answer the complaint or otherwise plead in this suit, within the said time, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint, to-wit for a decree that plaintiff is the owner of the following described real property:

Lot 14, Block 30; Lots 6 and 7, Block 10, and Lot 13, Block 32, situated in the Oregon Iron & Steel Company's First Addition to Oswego, in the County of Clackamas and State of Oregon. And that by said decree it be declared and adjudged that plaintiff is the owner of said premises, and is entitled to the possession thereof, and that you, the defendants above named, have no estate nor interest whatever in or to said land or premises, or any part thereof, and that you and each of you defendants above named be forever debarred from asserting any claim whatever in and to said land and premises adverse to the plaintiff, or to his assigns, and for such other and further relief as to equity shall seem mete and proper; and for plaintiff's costs and disbursements in this suit. This summons is published by order

of Hon. J. U. Campbell, Judge of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Clackamas, made this 26th day of October, 1922. Date of the first publication is Thursday, November 9, 1922. Date of last publication is Thursday, December 21, 1922.
W. S. UREN,
Attorney for Plaintiff,
Orgonian Building,
Portland, Oregon.
(11-9-7)

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NOTICE OF SCHOOL ELECTION TO INCREASE TAX MORE THAN SIX PER CENT OVER THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of School District No. 62 of Clackamas County, State of Oregon, that an election will be held in said District at Oregon City, Oregon, on the 24th day of November, 1922, at 7:30 o'clock P. M. to vote on the question of increasing the amount of the tax levy in said District for the year 1923 by more than six per cent over the amount of such levy for the year immediately preceding.

It is necessary to raise this additional amount by special levy for the following reasons:
The School District has been going in debt for several years. With this increase the District will be able to keep on a cash basis.
Dated this 28th day of October, 1922.
Attest:
A. C. HOWLAND, District Clerk. O. A. PACE, Chairman Board of Directors.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATE AND ACCOUNTING SHEET

School District No. 62
This original estimate is made in compliance with Section 231-A of the school laws of 1921 and shows in parallel columns the unit costs of the several services, material and supplies for the three fiscal years next preceding the current year, the detail expenditures for the last one of said three preceding fiscal years and the budget allowances and expenditures for six months of the current year. ("Six months of the current year" means six months of the last school year.)

	Estimated for the ensuing school year	Expenditures in detail for six months of last school year	Expenditures for the three fiscal years next preceding the last			
			1921-22	1920-21	1919-20	First year's totals
EXPENDITURES						
Personal Service:						
1. Superintendent	\$ 3,000.	\$ 1,500.	\$ 3,000.	\$ 3,000.	\$ 2,400.	\$ 4,324.94
2. Principals 4	6,415.	3,584.	6,415.	4,834.96	4,834.96	1,064.91
3. Teachers 42	46,975.	26,998.	45,081.	39,191.71	33,545.19	134.94
4. Janitors 5	4,320.	2,160.	4,150.	3,750.	3,187.50	88.13
5. Clerk	540.	270.	540.	535.	462.67	
6. Stenographer and commercial teacher	900.	450.	852.	807.90	354.75	
7. Other services					7.50	
Legal					107.	
Total—Personal Services	\$62,150.	\$34,042.	\$60,038.	\$52,904.20	\$44,389.55	
Material and Supplies:						
1. Furniture (desks, etc.)	\$ 553.	\$ 171.70	\$ 501.75	\$ 145.14	\$ 173.75	
2. Supplies (general)	1,800.	487.08	1,858.61	1,770.17	1,064.91	
3. Laboratory	175.	108.23	340.16	191.71	134.94	
4. Domestic Science	250.	131.11	301.68	275.70	88.13	
5. Manual Training	250.	85.24	375.94	670.25	493.10	
6. Printing & Advertising	425.	105.75	461.80	582.51	375.67	
7. Fuel	2,000.00	166.50	1,875.25	2,091.46	1,625.	
8. Light, Power & Gas	750.	439.09	742.41	750.	548.74	
9. Water	250.	85.75	220.50	85.75	355.25	
10. Telephones	210.	111.77	216.93	178.40	127.94	
Total—Material and supplies	\$ 6,663.	\$ 1,882.22	\$ 6,925.03	\$ 6,741.09	\$ 4,987.48	
Maintenance and Repairs:						
Buildings & grounds	\$ 4,500.	\$ 954.64	\$ 2,747.67	\$ 1,491.85	\$ 2,058.11	
Maintenance and repairs	\$ 4,500.	\$ 954.64	\$ 2,747.67	\$ 1,491.85	\$ 2,058.11	
Highways (Highways, Streets, etc.)	\$ 95.20	\$	\$	\$ 178.45	\$ 187.87	
Repairs	\$ 95.20	\$	\$	\$ 178.45	\$ 187.87	
Interest	\$11,735.	\$ 7,022.50	\$11,225.	\$12,040.	\$ 9,250.	
Depreciation	200.	1,208.25	34,849.33	37,259.48	31,925.23	
Total	\$11,935.	\$ 8,230.75	\$46,074.33	\$49,299.48	\$41,175.23	
Total	\$ 78,785.	\$ 42,314.97	\$107,063.33	\$99,645.29	\$85,567.03	

I do hereby certify that the above estimate of expenditures for the year 1923 was prepared by me and that the expenditures and receipts for the six months of the current year and the expenditures for the six months of the preceding current year as shown above have been audited and are true and correct copies.

A. C. HOWLAND, District Clerk.

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