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A Matrimonial Escape

By ARTHUR W. BREWSTER
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I lived in a gold mining region where a great deal of assaying needed to be done and, being a chemist, set up an establishment where I could do this and other work pertaining to mines. My place was a receptacle for gold dust, large quantities of which were left with me continually.

Miss Rebecca Wright, my typewriter, was a very circumspect young lady. I attempted occasionally to joke with her, but met with no response. On one or two occasions I ventured to say something a bit tender to her, but met with no encouragement. But when a man's mind is set on producing results, especially with a woman, he will not let up until he has accomplished them or is obliged to give it up. What I wished, all I wished at least, at first was to see Miss Wright show a consciousness of my admiration and some appreciation of the fact.

But something happened which led me to forget Miss Wright and any one else except one unknown person. That person was getting away with gold dust in sufficient quantities to ruin me if the leakage continued.

No great quantity was taken at one time. Indeed, what I missed at a weighing had but the value of a few dollars. But I missed these small amounts continually. I had nothing laid up, and the amounts I was losing made up an accumulating debt. I set a watch on every one connected with the establishment except Miss Wright. I did not propose to have any one spy upon a girl who had every evidence of rectitude.

Then the stealing ceased for awhile. I began again to think of my stenographer and, yielding to pique, recommenced my efforts to break through that illness which characterized all her actions toward me. She accepted my attentions, but passively. She even permitted me to retain her hand when I took it in mine on meeting her after a brief absence. Matters progressed between us until I came to driving her out occasionally. I was not especially in love with her, though I might have been had she received my attentions more warmly. It was with me rather a matter of curiosity, though since I lived a lonely life in a country where there was little of woman's society I often thought of marrying Miss Wright, if I could gain her consent, for the sake of a home.

Then suddenly the leakages in gold dust recommenced. I charged several persons in my employ with being the thief, hoping that some one of them would break down under the accusation and confess. Among others I accused the woman who kept my premises in order. She turned on me like a fury.

"If ye want to know where yer gold dust is goin' I'll tell ye. The young leddy ye're drivin' out and sayin' 'sweet things' to is relievin' ye of it."

I was too indignant to ask her a single question as to what ground she based her charges upon. Indeed, I feared Miss Wright might hear her, and to be charged with such a crime would break her heart. I therefore dismissed the allegation with contempt and from that time felt more tender than ever toward the injured girl.

Indeed, I was daily becoming more and more inclined to enter into a matrimonial partnership with Miss Wright. I grew more and more demonstrative, in many ways indicating my intention. Miss Wright's demeanor underwent no change. She would permit me to encircle her waist, to kiss her; but, as for responding, she made no response whatever. I confess that this excited my amour propre, though at times I felt inclined to cease my demonstrations, feeling that I might as well caress a stone.

One evening I was sitting on a sofa beside Miss Wright, our heads very near together. I asked her why she was so unresponsive. She said she didn't know; she had always been called undemonstrative. I wished to propose to her, but she was so cold that I couldn't bring myself to do so. Though my arm was about her waist and her head rested on my shoulder, still there was no love current running between us.

That night on taking off my coat I saw something glitter on its shoulder. I recognized particles of gold dust. It struck me at once that the particles were where Miss Wright's head had been. Then a terrible thought came to me. Was the woman I was thinking of making my wife a thief? Was she carrying away the dust in her hair?

I did not sleep much that night and the next day went away for a brief season, employing a woman to spy on Miss Wright. When I returned my detective reported that every night the girl washed her hair and poured off the water in the bowl, leaving a sediment, which she scraped together and put in a little box.

Not for worlds would I expose one whom I had so nearly asked to be my wife. I went away again, leaving a note for her informing her of my discovery and telling her not to let me find her when I returned.

I have tried in vain to make up my mind to propose to some other woman. My mind has been so warped with this one experience—the narrowness of my escape from marrying a thief—that I am forced to be unjust to the rest. Perhaps some day I shall really fall in love, and that will end my suspicions.

WOOLMEN'S MEETING WILL BE BIG EVENT

When the annual convention of the National Wool Growers' Association opens in Portland January 4, it will be the biggest and most important gathering of sheep raisers in America for years. Questions of vital importance to the sheep industry are to be considered and the future policy of the wool interests will be outlined.

According to those high in the councils of the organization, little support for the wool men may be expected either from President Taft or the next Congress. Both, it seems, are determined to lead Schedule K to the slaughter in revising the tariff bill. The friends of the threatened schedule would leave the subject to the Tariff Board, but it is said President Taft feels that the public expects further tinkerage with the rates on wool and woolsens and he is determined to accede to their demands.

It is felt by the wool men that their side of the case has never been presented to the public fairly, while on the other hand they charge the agitation that has arisen against them to the mudslinger and muckraker in the sensational magazines.

"Schedule K," said D. O. Lively, chairman of the general arrangements committee, "will be the meat of the cocoon as far as the convention is concerned. It is the life of the wool trade, and when it is threatened the existence of the wool industry is in danger. Woolgrowers all over the country are alarmed at the rapid advancement of the sentiment for a change in the wool schedules of the tariff."

The program, as now outlined, includes many speakers of national prominence, who will speak on tariff matters and other subjects of vital importance to the wool industry.

A great sheep and goat show will be held in connection with the convention, which meets at the armory, and prize animals from all over the country will be on exhibition. Breeders and wool men are taking unusual interest in the approaching session and they will attend in very large numbers, it being expected that no less than 6000 people directly interested in the sheep business will be in Portland during the four days of the convention.

LOCAL TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

- List of real estate transfers for the week ending December 17, 1910, as furnished by the Hood River Abstract Company:
- R D Langille to Ambrose M Kelley, lot in blk 3, Parkhurst
 - Charles Davidson to Noah W Bone, lot 12, blk 3, Riverview Park
 - E O Blanchard to Charles H Sproat, W 1/2 lot 6, blk 2, Hood River
 - E B Clark to Nettie Johnston, lot 6, blk 2, Clark's Addition
 - B R Richter to Henry W and Albert Rodamar, 20 acres south of Tucker's bridge
 - C A Graham to A K Higgs, 30 acres in Upper Valley
 - C B Alteson to Hubert W Garabrant, lots 6 and 19, blk 7, Idlewild
 - M V Rand to William J Collier, 20 acres on East Side
 - Allice C Horner to Albert Sternberg, lots 4 and 17, blk 24, Hood River proper

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Perigo & Son

Mince Meat Popcorn Figs Dates Apples
Kraut Oranges Bananas Grapefruit

CASHMERE TO HAVE HUGE WAREHOUSE

A huge warehouse, of either concrete or other frost proof construction and with a storage capacity of 100,000 boxes, will be erected in Cashmere early in the coming spring, says the Cashmere Valley Record. Plans for the construction of the gigantic structure are now in the hands of the architects, and work on the building will be started within three or four months, according to the present plans of the men behind the undertaking, W. J. Rice, L. Cadwalader and E. C. Conover.

The site of the mammoth warehouse will be just east of the Wenatchee Produce Co.'s warehouse, a lease of the ground having been secured by the new warehouse men. The warehouse will cover the entire space of the ground secured, and will have ground measurements of 250x90 feet and will be two stories and a basement, so built that another story will be added when required, without altering the character of the building.

Through the center of the warehouse will run a spur track from the Great Northern track which will accommodate ten cars within the building. Another feature that will make for the better keeping of apples will be a cold storage plant for the pre-cooling of cars, which will be installed if found necessary.

GIRL ON LONG RIDE TO ARRIVE DEC. 23

Miss Alberta Claire, who is crossing the continent on a wager, starting from her home at Buffalo, Wyoming, April 2nd, riding her cow pony and accompanied by her large shepherd dog, will arrive in Hood River Dec. 23rd. She is enroute to New York by way of Portland, San Francisco and New Orleans.

If Miss Claire makes the trip successfully, she is to receive one of the largest ranches in Wyoming and \$1000 cash. One of the conditions is that she shall have no funds for expenses except such as she earns en route. She started with only \$2 cash.

Miss Claire tells of many hardships in the wilds, but she has become tanned, hardy and continues her unexampled journey with zest and confidence.

It goes without saying Miss Claire is fearless, but she is armed with a six-shooter for protection against bears and any other dangerous creatures likely to be met in lonely places. Her best record for one day's travel was 65 miles.

HEIGHTS FOOTBALL TEAM AFTER BOB RIVAL'S SCALP

Editor News:—In regard to the write-up in the Oregon Journal, the Heights football team most heartily thank the Hood River Giants for not being classed with us. While we have lost all three games, we have played fast teams, while the Hood River Giants have not played a team this season they have not out-weighted by a large margin. We could win nearly every game we played if we would play out of class, as they have done. The Hood River Giants say they would like to meet the Oregon City boys. We wish to say that they had better look for a smaller team if they wish to win. We would like to have the Hood River Giants tell the public why they did not play The Dalles high school. We can tell if the Giants won't. It was because they got cold feet. Get on the map, Giants.

Catarrh Cannot Be Cured

With local applications, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease, Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing catarrh. Send for testimonials free. F. J. Cheney & Co., Props., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by druggists, price 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Modern Bungalow for Sale

Beautiful home on Oak street, near Ninth. Lot 50x100, nicely terraced, good lawn and many choice flowers, including roses and chrysanthemums. Six rooms, pantry and bath, built-in bookcases, buffet, china closet, window seats. Sleeping porch, full basement, wash trays.

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Water Works on the Farm

Yes, that's just what we mean—real water works, running water in the kitchen, the bathroom, the laundry, the barn—in fact, all over the place. And it's all done by that tank you see in the lower left hand corner of this picture—the Leader System. It's a vastly different from the old-fashioned elevated tank which worked by gravity. For the Leader Water Supply System is operated by compressed air—reliable, safe and clean. Your windmill pumps water into the tank (which is already full of air). The air, being elastic, is compressed into upper part of the tank, and forces the water out through the pipes.



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