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**Civic Improvement Club.**  
The regular meeting of the Ladies  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
**An Independent  
Worker**  
She Came to Grief by Ig-  
noring System  
By F. A. MITCHEL  
\*\*\*\*\*



Miss Gwendolen Archer, aged eight-  
teen, was an earnest church worker.  
There was only one trouble about Miss  
Archer—so said the older ladies of the  
church—she was rather inclined to take  
affairs into her own hands. She had  
served on a committee to send boxes  
of clothing and other domestic articles  
to ministers in out of the way places  
the largeness of whose families was  
proportionate to the smallness of their  
salaries. Becoming restive at being  
subordinated to older women, it oc-  
curred to Miss Archer to pack a box  
and send it away herself.

When she had got together sufficient  
articles, consisting principally of such  
as would be needed by children, she  
looked over the list of impetuous  
ministers with large families and se-  
lected one that stood higher on the list  
than some to whom boxes had been

sent. Why this family had been om-  
itted she did not know, and since she  
was acting independently she did not  
care to ask.

There was at this time in the south-  
west a sort of missionary station pre-  
sided over by the Rev. Francis Kap-  
lan. His parishioners were plainmen,  
cowpunchers, Indians, greasers and  
some negroes. There was not a per-  
son in his flock with whom he could  
associate on familiar terms. It was  
lonesome out there in the home of the  
cactus, and Mr. Kaplan sighed for a  
companion. He was thinking of writ-  
ing to some of the ladies in the east  
who had sent him to his field of labor  
to ship him a wife when one day he  
received a box.

Mr. Kaplan opened it, wishing that  
he might find a wife packed in excelsior,  
a real flesh and blood wife who  
would be a companion to him in his  
exile. Taking off the cover, he saw  
inside on top of various articles a pa-  
per on which was written in a woman's  
hand, "If you want anything else  
send to Miss Gwendolen Archer." The  
address was added.

Taking up an article, he unfolded a  
little girl's petticoat; the next was a  
nightgown; a third was a pair of boy's  
knickerbocker trousers. Then came toys  
of various kinds, children's shoes, stock-  
ings that had been often darned and  
some much thumbed schoolbooks.

Now, though Mr. Kaplan had no chil-  
dren to use these articles, there were  
plenty of little Mexicans and picca-  
ninnies who would be only too glad to  
get them. He turned them over to  
some women of his flock for distribu-  
tion, and various children who had  
been running about nearly naked were  
now better covered.

Mr. Kaplan wrote Miss Archer,  
thanking her for her donation, and, re-  
ferring to her paper on which was  
written that if he wanted anything  
else to send to her, he said, "There is  
one thing I need very much, but since  
it is not an easy thing to get I hesi-  
tate to ask for it." He did not inform  
her that since he had no family of his  
own he had given the things to those  
who had, but he said some other  
things that were not called for—name-  
ly, that he was sure Miss Archer must  
be a very practical Christian and al-  
together lovely.

Then followed by correspondence a  
kind of twenty questions game. The  
young lady asked whether the object  
desired belonged to the animal, vege-  
table or mineral kingdom. The reply  
was the animal kingdom. Was it a  
pet? Yes, it was intended for a pet.  
Then followed a number of questions  
as to what kind of an animal it was—  
dog, cat, parrot or such like? The  
answer to all these questions was in  
the negative.

Miss Archer, not making headway in  
the matter, concluded to consult her  
minister. The minister, Dr. Hawley,  
listened to her and took Mr. Kaplan's  
letters, which he promised to read and

advise her after having done so. He,  
however, turned them over to his wife  
with instructions to read them and re-  
port.

Mrs. Hawley read the letters and,  
considering them rather strange epis-  
les for a clergyman and a man of  
family to be writing to a young girl,  
consulted with the chairman of the  
committee for sending supplies to in-  
digent clergymen. Then it came out  
that the ladies had learned that Mr.  
Kaplan had no wife or children, his  
name had been erased from their list.  
It also came out that Miss Archer,  
instead of working under orders, had  
been doing so on her own hook. Mrs.  
Hawley and the ladies of the commit-  
tee saw at once that the article Mr.  
Kaplan wanted was a wife.

Miss Archer received a note from her  
pastor that he had turned Mr. Kaplan's  
letters over to his wife, who would  
endeavor to solve the riddle.

Mrs. Hawley's report was long de-  
layed. One day a member of the sup-  
ply committee showed Miss Archer a  
photograph of a handsome young  
clergyman and asked her how she liked  
his appearance. Miss Archer ex-  
pressed herself very much pleased  
with it. Later on another member of  
the committee asked Miss Archer to  
exchange photographs with her. The  
meaning of these two photographic in-  
cidents was made known to Mr. Kap-  
lan by Mrs. Hawley, who had written  
him saying that she would be happy  
to assist in supplying the article he  
needed and apologizing for Miss Ar-  
cher's having prematurely sent him the  
children's clothes, the girl having sup-  
posed him to be married. So Mr. Kap-  
lan, at Mrs. Hawley's suggestion, sent  
her his photograph, and she sent him  
Miss Archer's.

One day Mrs. Hawley reported to  
Miss Archer that she had written Mr.  
Kaplan and he had given her the  
name of the article he wanted. Miss  
Archer was all eagerness to hear the  
solution of the matter and was much  
disappointed when she was told that it  
was not best that she should know  
the name of the article, but it would  
be sent to Mr. Kaplan and if Miss Ar-  
cher chose she would be commissioned  
by the church committee to take it to  
him.

Miss Archer was more puzzled than  
ever. Why was it not sent by express?  
The reply to this was that, being an  
animal, it must eat and, being a very  
high bred and valuable animal, it could  
not well be intrusted to the care of  
the employees of an express company.  
Miss Archer thought the matter over  
and decided to decline the commission.  
She saw no reason why she should  
have the responsibility of a pet dog or  
cat on a long journey to a beleaguered  
country. Why, the idea was too ab-  
surd for anything. If Mr. Kaplan  
wanted a pet he could come and get it.

When this reply was made to Mrs.  
Hawley the matter, so far as Miss  
Archer knew, was dropped. Then one  
day she was informed that Mr. Kap-  
lan was coming for his pet, and, since  
he had written her about it, she was  
to give it to him when he arrived.  
Miss Archer was somewhat miffed at  
this, saying that she saw no reason  
why Mr. Kaplan couldn't have told  
her frankly what he wanted as well  
as any one else. She asked if he in-  
tended bringing his wife and family  
with him and was told that he did  
not. She said that she had been both-  
ered a good deal about the matter and  
would send no more boxes of supplies  
to any one. The response to this was  
that she had brought the matter upon  
herself by working independent of the  
committee.

One day Miss Archer was much sur-  
prised at receiving a card on which  
was engraved the name of Mr. Kap-  
lan.

"Well," she exclaimed, "I'm glad  
he has come. Now I suppose this  
bother will be ended. But I haven't  
anything for him. I wonder that Mrs.  
Hawley hasn't sent it."

Expecting to see an old, elderly or  
middle aged man, she did not take  
pains to improve her toilet, but went  
downstairs just as she was. On en-  
tering the drawing room she stopped  
short on the threshold. A young man  
about twenty-five years old rose to  
greet her. She recognized him at once  
as the person whose photograph she  
had admired.

"I have come to thank you," he said,  
with a very pleasant smile, "for the  
articles you sent me."

"Why, I—"  
"You didn't expect to see a man of  
my age?"  
"No; I did not."  
"I have no wife or children, so I

gave the things in the box to the chil-  
dren of others."  
"You're not married?" By this time  
a blush was spreading itself over her  
face, not that she dreamed of what he  
had come for, but that she had blun-  
dered.

"Oh, no; I'm not married, but the  
things you sent came very handy, I as-  
sure you."

Then the remembrance of this mys-  
terious thing he wanted came to her.  
"Why," she asked, "couldn't you  
have written me about this—this pet?"  
A suspicion of the truth came sud-  
denly rushing upon her. The slight  
blush of a moment ago became a deep  
crimson.

Thus far the interview was given by  
either one or the other of the parties  
concerned, but here the account ends.  
What further passed between the  
young couple was not revealed. Mr.  
Kaplan was obliged to go back very  
soon to his charge, and Miss Archer  
had in the meanwhile become so in-  
fatuated with him that she would not  
let him go alone. So there was a  
hasty wedding.

"Served you right," said the chair-  
man of the supplies committee to the  
bride. "Hereafter you'll know better  
than to work independently."

**The Education of a Gentleman.**  
Friday afternoon was "debate day"  
in a school. On that afternoon classes  
after 2 o'clock were let go, and the  
assembled school listened to shily spoken  
pieces of poetry and addresses to  
gladiators. Then came the climax,  
the debate when world issues were set-  
tled for once and all. The speeches  
were after the pattern of this one,  
which one teacher recalls:  
"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentle-  
men, I rise to defend the affirmative  
of the question whether it is better to  
have wealth or education. Mr. Chair-  
man, if you was to get a kiss letter  
from a lady and couldn't read it,  
wouldn't you just feel like going away  
and dying? I close now to give place  
to an abler speaker."—New York Post.

**A Proverb Scrutinized.**  
"A prophet is not without honor save  
in his own country," said the man  
who complains.  
"Well," replied Farmer Cornstossel,  
"that's one way o' sayin' it. You  
might also mention that it's easier for  
a man to sell a gold brick in a town  
where they don't know him."—Wash-  
ington Star.

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**SUNDAY IN THE CHURCHES**  
Notes of Services of Various  
Religious Bodies.

**First Baptist Church**—Rev. W. N. D. McCullough, pastor. Morning worship at 11 o'clock; evening service at 8; Bible school at 8:45; B. Y. P. U. at 7. Music by the largest choir in the city.

**Brethren Church**, corner Fifth and East Main streets.—Sunday school at 9:45 a. m.; preaching service at 11 a. m.; C. E. at 7 p. m.; evening service at 8; prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:45; Young People's Bible study every Tuesday evening at 7:45 at home of pastor. Frank Lindblad, pastor, 549 Fairview street.

**Church of the Brethren**, corner Iowa street and Mountain avenue.—Sunday school at 10 a. m.; church services Sunday at 11 a. m.; Christian Workers and preaching services Sunday evening at 7:30. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock. We cordially invite all. Elder S. E. Decker, pastor.

**Christian Church**, corner B and Second streets. Nelson L. Browning, pastor. Residence, 55 Pine; Telephone, 128. Bible school at 10 a. m.; G. W. Milam, superintendent. Communion and preaching at 11 a. m. Junior Endeavor at 4 p. m. Training for Service at 6:15 p. m. Young People's meeting at 7 p. m. Evening service at 8 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday at 7:45 p. m. Pastor's afternoon at home, Tuesday.

**First Church of Christ Scientist**—Sabbath school, 9:45 a. m.; regular morning service at 11 o'clock Sunday; Wednesday testimonial exper-  
ience meeting at 8 o'clock in the evening. All services are held in G. A. R. Hall. Reading room is open every day in the week between 2 and 4 p. m. except Sunday. All are cordially invited and literature may be read free of charge, or purchased, if preferred. F. C. Homes, first reader.

**First Congregational Church**, corner Boulevard and East Main. W. A. Schimley, pastor. Manse, 469 Boulevard.—Sunday services: Sunday school 9:45 a. m.; C. G. Porter, superintendent. Preaching at 11 a. m. Junior Christian endeavor, 2:30 p. m.; Mrs. W. A. Schimley, superintendent. Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:30 p. m.; V. V. Mills, president. Preaching service, 7:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evening, 7:30. Men's League the second Monday evening of each month; C. H. Willison, president. Ladies' Aid meets second and fourth Wednesdays of each month; Mrs. E. A. Morthland, president. Woman's Missionary Union meets the first Wednesday of each month; Mrs. W. A. Schimley, president.

**First Free Methodist Church**—Corner East Main and Seventh street. Sunday-school, 9:30; preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 in the evening. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30.

All are cordially invited. M. F. Childs, pastor in charge.

**Methodist church**—Sunday school, 9:15 a. m.; preaching, 11 a. m.; Junior League, 3 p. m.; Epworth League, 6:15 p. m.; preaching, 7:30 p. m. Rev. L. C. Poor, pastor.

**Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene**, cor. Fourth and C street—John T. Little, pastor.—Sunday services: Sunday school 9:45 a. m., Thornton Wiley, superintendent. Preaching services at 11:00 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

**Presbyterian church**, corner North Main and Helman streets. H. T. Chisholm, pastor.—Public worship at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Sunday school at 9:45 a. m.; Men's Bible class at 12 m.; Junior C. E. at 3 p. m.; Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:30 p. m.; prayer meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

**Rosary Church (Catholic)**, corner Sixth and C streets.—Sunday services: Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, 8 a. m. and 10:30 a. m. Christian Doctrine for Children, 2 p. m. So-  
ciality of Mary, 7 p. m. Benediction and Sermon, 7:30 p. m. Weekday services: Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, 7:30 a. m. Friday, Holy Hour and Sermon, 7:30 p. m. Inter-  
views by appointment. Phone 106. Rev. J. P. Moisant, pastor.

**Seventh Day Adventist**, cor. Fourth and C streets.—Services every Sat-  
urday: Sabbath school, 9:45 a. m. Preaching services, 11 a. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:30. T. G. Bunch, pastor.

**Temple of Truth (Spiritualist)**, 479 Boulevard.—New Thought class, Sunday, 7 p. m. Regular Lyceum, Sunday, 8 p. m. Theosophy class, Friday evening, 8 p. m.

The W. C. T. U. hold its regular meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the Methodist church at 2:30 p. m., unless otherwise notified. Visitors invited.

**Fire Alarm System.**

We print below the city fire alarm signals. Readers of the Tidings are urged to cut out this slip and paste it in the telephone directory or in some other conspicuous place. A reprint of the signals will appear from time to time in this paper:

\*\*\*\*\*  
**CITY FIRE ALARM SYSTEM.**  
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Fire Chief, phone 74.  
Chief of Police, phone 160.  
Residence, phone 410-J.

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