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CONTRARY TO PRECEDENT

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According to precedent, Professor Stoughton should have been fat, bald-headed, nearsighted and shabbily dressed; he should have talked in a slow, deliberate tone; he should have paid heavy compliments to the young women, and at all times and in all places he should have been absurdly absentminded.

The men of science whom Miss Coverly had met heretofore at the Brentons' country place had always been very much of this description—staid servants who sat a horse with as much grace as they would have ridden a rail, who infallibly lost themselves whenever they went shooting and who spent much of their time reading before the library fire tomes whose very titles were depressing in their profundity.

The fact that Stoughton held the chair of biology at one of the big western universities seemed irreconcilable with his youthful face and his almost boyish enthusiasm over the horses and the shooting.

When he was presented to Miss Coverly just before dinner on the day of his arrival, that self-possessed young woman frankly told him that he had upset all her preconceived ideas of him.

Stoughton laughed delightedly. "I've fooled the world into thinking I am a biologist, but between you and me I don't mind confessing I'm an overgrown boy," he whispered to her as she went in to dinner on his arm.

It was a dinner that Stoughton long remembered—the mellow candlelight, the gay banter, but most of all the quiet, gray-eyed girl beside him, whose few words were always to the point and whose smile was something a god from high Olympus might well sue for.

All through the dinner Stoughton, under the spell of that smile, was at his best. His timely repartee and his brilliant flashes of wit kept the table in a genial uproar, but when the men were left to the decanters and the cigars he fell into a brown study, idly twirling a spirit glass between his thumb and finger and smiling quietly to himself as he recalled Miss Coverly's white throat and the pretty poise of her head.

Stoughton managed to be much with Miss Coverly during his stay at the Brentons'. They rode together in the crisp autumn mornings; together they beat the neighboring coverts for grouse and partridge; they strolled aside in the gorgeous twilights.

Stoughton, who had never before given the matter much thought, discovered he was possessed of a heart, and the alternate flashes of hope and despair this discovery brought about gave him ample opportunity for studies in antitheses.

At the end of the second week there came a day of gray, monotonous rain. In the billiard room the men were striving to amuse themselves with much smoke and an occasional bit of brilliant play. The women were endeavoring to kill time with the latest novels and long neglected correspondence.

Stoughton sought the library, where a big log sputtered cheerfully on the hearth. He drew a chair before the fire and, picking up a book at random, began to read.

There was a sound of light footsteps on the polished floor, and a quiet voice said mockingly:

"At last you yield to precedent. All the others read ponderous books before the fire."

Stoughton turned. Miss Coverly stood at the other end of the fireplace regarding him gravely.

"The others?" he said inquiringly as he laid the book down.

"The other men of science," she explained.

"Did they read bound volumes of German funny papers?" he laughed.

"Don't tell me," she said in shocked tones, "you are reading the Fliegende Blätter?"

"Caught red handed," he confessed. "You seem to have no respect for precedent," she pouted.

"You told me the other gentlemen of science who came were fat and bald-headed and vague as to ideas. Tell me, have I grieved you very much in not following the precedent in these things?"

"Not tremendously," she laughed.

"Look here," he said suddenly. "Did any of those scientific fossils propose to you?"

"Goodness! What an absurd question!" said she.

"Did they?" he insisted.

"Certainly not!"

"Well, you see, my—er—chief desire is not to follow their established precedent," he remarked pointedly.

The girl flushed; the professor came a step nearer. The girl retreated; the professor advanced sturdily. In a corner he caught her and held her fast.

"Contrary to precedent," said he evenly, "I shall ask you to marry me."

There was a long silence. Then Miss Coverly lifted to Stoughton a pair of eyes twinkling wickedly.

"And contrary to precedent I shall say"—she began and paused.

"What will you say?" he begged.

"Now—now, if it's contrary to precedent, can't you imagine what I shall say?" she asked archly.

Mrs. Brenton came into the room just then.

"We need Miss Coverly for a four hand at bridge," she said. "Now, how long, Professor Stoughton, do you intend to monopolize her society?"

The professor took the girl's hand in his and faced the smiling intruder.

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"Forever, dear Mrs. Brenton," he announced serenely.
BARRY PRESTON.

FREAKS OF SEA QUAKES.

One That Stranded Big Vessels Half a Mile Inland.

Sea quakes are mighty disturbances of the waters of the ocean, their cause or causes being identical with the causes of earthquakes. In Major C. E. Dutton's book, "Earthquakes," the author has some interesting facts regarding the ocean variety of quake. From the entries in the logs of many ships he concludes that in rare cases the power of the sea quake shocks may be great enough to render standing on deck as difficult as it sometimes is on land. It may even be great enough to cause the fear that the vessel is being shaken to pieces. Gigantic waves in the ocean are, of course, a frequent accompaniment of the sea quake. On the west coast of South America, where these waves are frequent, they sometimes follow a quake having its center below the sea level that is also felt on land. But more often they come without warning. The most memorable sea quake of this locality occurred Aug. 3, 1898.

Major Dutton describes it as follows: "The coast of South America was shaken all the way from Guayaquil, in Ecuador, to Valdivia, in Chile, the highest intensity being manifested in the neighborhood of Arica. The force of the quake in this town was very great, throwing down most of the structures and producing land slips. A few minutes later—precisely how many minutes is not known—the sea was observed to retire slowly from the shore, so that ships anchored in seven fathoms of water were left high and dry.

"A few minutes later still it was seen returning in a great wall, or 'bore,' which caught up the ships in the roadstead and swept them inland as if they were mere chips of wood. Among them was the United States steamer Waterke, one of the improvised war vessels of the blockading fleet in the civil war, which was carried inland nearly half a mile and left with little injury on shore by the recession of the wave."

KEEP THESE IN MIND.

The power of kindness. It wins when all coercive measures fail.

The dignity of simplicity. When the "frills" are off the man is "on."

The wisdom of economy. The man who saves makes more than he saves.

The pleasure of working. The only really unhappy, rich or poor, are the idle.

The influence of example. Practice does more than precept in showing the way.

The worth of character. In the last analysis the only real value is a clear conscience.

The success of perseverance. "Keeping everlastingly at it" brings the hoped-for result.

The value of time. Lost capital may be restored by diligent use of experience. Time lost is lost forever.

The obligation of duty. Your concern should not so much be what you get as what you do for what you get.—New York Commercial.

Temperament and Food.

For bilious persons a chart of life published by Professor Boyd Laynard gives emphatic warning of dangerous rocks in the shape of sausages, pork, turtle and other commodities. Eels must not be eaten by brain workers, chilly persons should cultivate a taste for sardines, while irritable people are warned away from ginger, and the melancholy man must not touch bacon. Whitebait, it is suggested, is inadvisable for persons who are of an amorous nature, asparagus is forbidden to those who suffer from excitement, and languid persons are told to be careful when they indulge in peas, potatoes, arrowroot and macaroni. Duck for some mysterious reason is described as unsuitable for the bashful, the irate, the pale, the drowsy and the inebriate.—St. James' Gazette.

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WANTED—INSTALLMENT COLLECTOR for merchandise accounts; good salary and expenses. Address, Manufacturer, P. O. Box 1027, Philadelphia, Pa.

WANTED—MANAGER FOR BANCH office we wish to locate here in Astoria. Address, with references, The Morris Wholesale House, Cincinnati, O.

LOST.

LOST—LADY'S CRESCENT CLASP pin, set with small stone; finder will please return to this office and receive reward.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NOTICE FOR BIDS—BIDS WILL be received for the foundation and basement of the New St. Mary's Hospital; plans and specifications may be seen at the office of the architect at St. Mary's Hospital; all bids to be in on or before the 25th of this month; right reserved to reject any or all bids. March 6, 1905.

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FOR SALE—LOT 1, BLOCK 14, Adair's Astoria; for particulars write to J. P. Miller, Onieda, Wash.

FOR SALE—STEAM TUG IN FIRST-class condition; terms reasonable; suitable for selling purposes. For particulars apply at this office.

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