
Under the Cross

[Original.] Ell Platt was having a hard time to make a living. He went from house to house selling any little article be could get a dealer to trust him with, and his life was passed principally in looking in at doors which were slammed in his face. One day, receiving no answer to his ring at a handsome residence, he tried the knob, opened the door and walked in. Hearing no sound, he reconnoitered as far as the second story, from a back window of which he saw a woman in the yard hanging up clothes. The premises had evidently been left in her care. Pulling open a bureau drawer, he saw a box and, opening the box, a small fortune in jewels.

The human mind is capable of great deliberation in a very small space of time. Eli Platt's certainly was. He had never stolen or robbed. Indeed, he had calculated the chances of such methods and knew they were decidedly against dishonesty. The goods were usually recovered, and the thief went to state prison. Platt concluded to take the jewels, hide them, suffer the consequences of the theft and when a free man again recover the treasure and take a good long comfortable rest. He decided and acted deliberately, not on the usual impulse of a thief,

That night he took the Jewels to a block on which the only building was a brick junkshop. Somebody had once taught him to find the north star by the pointer stars, so be took thirty steps from the perthwest corner of the junkshop toward the north star, stopped and, with a rusty shovel he found outside the junkshop, dug a hole and buried his treasure.

He had been seen coming away with the jewels and when they were missed was arrested, identified and sent to the penitentiary.

Seven years later Ell Platt, just discharged, sauntered by the block where he had buried the jewels. A number of buildings had been erected; but, fortunately for Ell, he recognized the junkshop, though it was now used for a feed store. He looked toward the spot where he had buried his treasure and saw that it was covered by the rear end of a chapel. The roof of this end was rounded up to a point, on which was a cross.

If his mind was capable of deliberation, it was also capable of calling up pictures. As he looked at the cross an altar. She was his mother. Then return. he saw himself toddling along by her

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side to church, later his confirmation. And now the treasure he had taken from another and had suffered seven long years to possess was sheltered by a sacred temple guarded by the holy emblem of the cross.

Life, like the world, is of two hemispheres. To pass from one earthly feel half sick all the time. I don't just hemisphere to another may require weeks, perhaps months. A passage from one spiritual hemisphere to another may be accomplished in a fraction of a second. As Eli looked up at what as a child he had been taught to reverence it occurred to him that it had been placed over his treasure that no hand should profane it. For what purpose? To save his soul. By whom? She who had long passed to her heavenly home-his mother.

In a twinkling he was changed. In a twinkling that which in prison be had looked forward to longingly, counting the days between him and its possession, had become only a means by which he might be rescued from evil.

Going to the front of the chapel, he found the doors open and entered. There was the stillness of a house of worship when no services were being held. Several people were kneeling before the altar. He went forward and dropped on his knees.

Long he stayed immovable, his head bowed upon his breast. He was thinking of the old woman who took him to church when he was a little boy-how, doubtless, she had waited while he was in prison for this moment, how she had interceded for him and how in the inscrutable ways of the heavenly hosts all this had been brought about.

Beside the altar was a booth shielded by a cortain in which a priest was hearing confession. When the confessor came out Ell Platt entered and told the priest the story of his theft. his endurance for its final possession and where he had buried his treasure.

The next day the priest conducted the chief of police and a party of workmen to the celtar of the chapel. Taking up the cement floor, they dug in the earth, and a few feet under the surface directly beneath the cross they about them. found a box of jewels. They were sent to their rightful owners.

A few days after their return the priest sent for Elj Platt and told him that a lady who had been the possessor of what he had stolen had been so pleased at getting her property again that she had sent him a present of \$500. Eli declined to touch a cent of it. "It all belongs to me, not as a thing to be converted into money, but as a key by which my better nature has been unlocked. It was kept for me by my old mother in heaven, who put this chapel and the cross over it that I he saw an old woman kneeling at might find it to work a miracle on my

Ell Platt, though a converted man,

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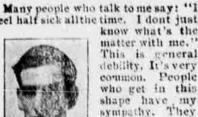
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than that of millions of his brothers, reains on ex-convict, and as such his road is more thoray than before But there is no temptation for him to attempt to ameliorate his condition by dishonesty. He is waiting for release. for a different reward, in the hereafter. Is be not pearer than his fellows to that Christianity when to be a Christian meant martyrdom?

FRANK P. CHENEY.

LISTEN

and remember the next time you suffer from pain—caused by damp weather-when your head nearly bursts from neuralgia-try Ballard's Snow Liniment. It will cure you. A. prominent business man of Hempstead, Texas, writes: "I have used your linment. Previous to using it I was great sufferer from rheumatism and neuralgia. I am pleased to say that now I am free from these complaints. I am sure I owe this to your liniment." For sale at Hart's drug store.

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These stories began long ago. Virgil in the "Eneil" tells of four archers who were shooting for a prize, the mark being a pigeon tied by a cord to the mast of a ship. The first man hit the mast, the second cut the cord, and the third shot the pigeon as it flew away. The fourth archer, having nothing left to shoot, drew his bow and sent his arrow flying toward the sky with such speed that the friction of the" swept on, like a meteor, to disappear

The stories told of Robin Hood's archery, illustrated by his wonderful upon a sensible person's credulity. The famous story of William Tell, doubted by many persons, is believed by others to have a foundation of fact. There was a Dane named Foke of whom the same story is told, and William of Cloudesley, an Englishman, is said to have shot an apple from his son's head merely to show his expertness,

Most stories of bows and arrows relate to the accurate aim of the archers, but a Frenchman, Blaise de Vigenere, tells one that shows the tremendous force with which an arrow may be propelled if the bow be strong and long enough. According to his own account of the matter, he saw Barbarossa, a Turk, admiral of a ship called the Grand Solyman, send an arrow from his bow right through a cannon ball.

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