

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

As It Happened

By TROY ALLISON. Copyright, 1908, by C. H. Sutcliffe.

Chesterton, first honor man, captain of the football team and all around favorite, walked down the elm avenue leading to the college, lost in meditation.

He kicked a piece of ice out of his path viciously, all the fervor of his heart concentrating itself in the wish that it could have been Johnson of the junior class who had obstructed his path in the same manner.



"YOU SEE, I'VE SPRAINED MY ANKLE" had steadfastly pleaded a full card every time Chesterton approached her. Chesterton didn't know what was the matter.

Esther Dillon, whose father was a teacher of mathematics and lived with in the college grounds, on her way home from an afternoon's shopping came upon him suddenly as he was trying his foot to see if he could manage to hobble to the dormitory.

proaching twilight seem more soulful from such standpoint?" He stood up hastily on his one sound foot and smiled grimly.

"Standpoint seems an inaccuracy of speech, Miss Esther, and really I have become so acclimated to chilliness in the last few weeks that I didn't notice the temperature of the pavement being anything but normal.

"Oh," she said, quickly sympathetic, "let me run to the gymnasium and send some of the boys! Does it hurt much?"

"Pretty bad, but I don't mind the pain so much if I can manage to hobble on. I was just taking a long breath to shout for one of the fellows, but I would rather have you help me if you don't mind.

"What made you do it?" he asked abruptly. The shoulder he was leaning on twitched violently.

"Why did you do it, Esther?" he asked pleadingly. "Why didn't you even thank me the tiniest little bit for the Christmas present I sent you?" she faltered.

"Of course that was the reason. When I thanked you for the roses and you didn't say a word—not even a tiny word about the package I sent you—I thought that—men were so queer," dolefully.

"Of course I seemed a downright brute and barbarian," berating himself manfully. "And I went to that reception with my courage screwed to the highest notch. I wanted to ask you if you wouldn't miss me enough at the end of the term—to—er—you know this is my last year, Esther," he finished awkwardly.

"Y—e—s—it's your last year," she repeated softly. "Esther, suppose that package hadn't gone astray—and I had let you see how overjoyed I was to have you think to send me anything—anything on earth, from a pale blue necktie to a white elephant—anything on earth that you had thought to send of your own accord."

magnanimously, "do you think that you would have been nice enough to me to have given me courage to tell you what I wanted to say?" He tried to see her face in the fast gathering darkness.

"It wasn't pale blue nor so large as an elephant," she parried. "My dear girl, I find I can't possibly walk without supporting myself more."

"I think it was the prettiest poster I ever saw," she said. And Chesterton's heart leaped when she reached up and patted the hand on her shoulder.

"I am coming over the first minute I can hobble with a stick and ask Professor Dillon if he wouldn't like a son-in-law," joyfully.

"Hello, old chap; anything serious?" "I'll lend a hand," she said with the misplaced cheerfulness of a life saving hero. The girl, surrendering her charge, hurried down a bypath to their cottage.

"That night Chesterton, in bath robe and slippers and absolute happiness, put down his pipe to take the note and the package that were handed him.

"Wasn't I stupid?" he read. "I did this package up carefully, the first of all my presents. I put it in the music cabinet for safe keeping and thought I had mailed it. Mother found it this afternoon. I don't know if you would really like to have such an absent-minded wife—she might forget to have your dinner on time—but I asked father myself, and he was almost as pleased as—"

"But I don't mind a sprained ankle at all." He stroked the swollen foot contentedly. "It's a blamed good investment."

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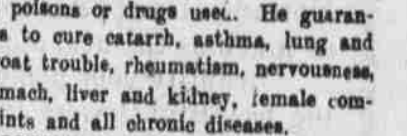
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