The Last Straws.

By Carl Williams.

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******* Though the windows were opened to the fullest, no breath of air seemed to enter. The awning ropes hung limp and lifeless. The scallops that were bound in gay braid did not stir.

From the hall came the clatter of the cleaners as they worked in other offices already emptied of workers, and once or twice one of the women poked her head through the open door to see how soon she could get in to clean room No. 802.

Stella bent wearly over the typewriter, her flying fingers writing in the F addresses from a huge list on the desk beside her, while at a nearby table the office boy slipped in the circulars I which the envelopes were intended to \\

To Stella it had seemed the last s straw when just before closing time S the office manager had brought her the voluminous list and had ordered ber to see that the circulars were sent | out that evening. He was going out I of town and had left early.

The other clerks had slipped out as soon as he had disappeared, and with only the assistance of the boy she had to send out 300 circulars. In his hurry to get away the manager had not even left the usual "supper money," so she would get nothing to eat until she reached her boarding house. It would be long after the regular dinner hour. and she would be lucky to get any-

It was nearly 8 when the last envelope swallowed up the last circular



THE CONDUCTOR'S VOICE WAS HARD AND UNFRIENDLY.

and she was free to go. The elevator had stopped running, so she and her helper faced a walk down eight flights of stairs. For the third time in as many hours Stella told herself that this was the last straw.

She was not used to the grinding toll of the city, and even the regular work came hard. When her father had died and his wife had followed him to the grave within a few months all of the little savings had gone to the physician and the undertaker.

Stella faced the task of self support bravely enough, but there were times when her overtired nerves were rubbed to rawness and even the little things of life bore heavily upon her.

The extra work coming at the close of a particularly trying day had exhausted her vitality. Listlessly she climbed aboard an uptown car and sank into a seat, glad that the home going rush was over and that she did not have to stand up all the way.

The approach of the conductor roused her from her absorption, and she opened her purse. As she glanced into the change compartment she gave a cry of dismay. The pocketbook, never well filled, even on pay days. was bare of coin.

Feverishly she tumbled its contents into her lap, replacing the articles after shaking them out one by one, but the 35 cents which had been there when she returned from lunch had dis- SHE'S A OUEEN

appeared. "That bluff don't go!" The conductor's voice was hard and unfriendly. He had had a row with the inspector on the last trip, and his ill humor had not yet subsided.

"You'll have to pay or get off," he added as Stella looked up with the tears trembling on the heavy fringe of lashes, "We don't have to take tears for tickets. Got the coin?"

Not daring to trust her voice, Stella shook her head and thought of the three mile walk ahead of her. The other last straws became insignificant in the face of the new trouble.

The conductor reached up to pull the rope, but across the alsle a man rose and checked him.

"Don't get off, miss." Stella looked up into the friendly face and smiled her thanks through her tears.

"I've got the change handy." "You must let me send you the

Compiled by the U.S. Government for Astoria and Vicinity.

JULY, 1908.					JULY, 1908.				
Itiah Maria					Low Water.	A. M.		P. M.	
High Water,	A.	mount	P. 1	-	Date.	h.m.	ft.	h.m.	I ft.
Date.	h.m.	ft.	h.m.	ft.	Wednesday 1	8:56	-0.2	9:06	3.
Wednesday 1	1:54	8.1	3:25	7.2				9:47	
Thursday 2	2:30	7.7	3:52	7.3	Friday 3			10:24	
Friday 3	3:05	7.4	4:20	7.4	Saturday 4	10:22		11:05	
Saturday 4	3:50	6.9	5:00	7.6	SUNDAY 5			11:51	
SUNDAY 5	4:35	6.6	5:38	7.7	Monday 6				
Monday 6	5:36	6.2	6:20	7.8	Tuesday 7	0:50		12:28	2.
Tuesday 7	6:45	6.0	7:10		Wednesday 8			1:24	3.
Wednesday 8	8:00	5.9	8:08	8.2	Thursday 9	3:00	4.1		
Thursday 9	9:18	5.9	9:00	8.3	Friday10	4:00	0.3		
Friday10				8.8	Saturday11	5:00	-0.4		3.
Saturday11				9.0	SUNDAY12	5:53			3.
SUNDAY12			12:20	7.0	Monday13				3.
SUNDAY12			11:38	9.3	Tuesday14	7:28	-1.7	7:36	
Monday13				7.6	Wednesday15	8:15	-1.6	8:30	2.1
Tuesday14	0:28	9.4	1:58	7.9	Thursday16	3:00	-1.2	9:25	
Wednesday15	1:18	9.3	2:44	8.2	Friday	9:48	-0.7	10:24	2.
Thursday16	2:10	9.1	3:28	8.4	Saturday18	10:34	0.0	11:18	1.1
Friday			4:10	8.4	SUNDAY19	11:22	0.8		
Saturday18	4:00	8.0	4:55		Monday20			020033	1.6
SUNDAY19	5:00	7.4	5:47		Tuesday21			1:22	1.
Monday20	6:10	7.0	6:39		Wednesday22	2:38			2.1
Fuesday21	7:25	6.6	7:35		Thursday23	3:45	0.4		3.1
Wednesday22	8:45				Friday24		0.0	4:34	3.
Thursday23	10:02	6.5	9:26	8.4	Saturday125	5:32		-5:30	3.4
Friday24	11:05	6.5	10:20		SUNDAY26			6:20	3.4
Saturday25					Monday27				3.4
SUNDAY26					Tuesday28	7:30		7:40	3.4
SUNDAY 26			11:50	8.5	Wednesday29	8:00		8:14	3.3
Monday27		***	1:20		Thursday30		0.1	8:45	3.1
Monday27 Tuesday28	0:30	8.4	1:55		Friday31	8:50			2.9
Wednesday29	1:05	8.3	2:22	7.5		0.00	0.4	4.711	40.
Chursday30		8.0	2:50	7.6					
riday31		7.8		7.					
	10000		and the same of the	100					

obliged to you."

"I forget where I live," was the un-from the trolley ride, for there was a blushing statement. "Just you forgetpark beside the bridge which was the

needs a nickel real bed and tell 'em ; I sent it."

He sank back in his seat, rejoicing in the fact that Stella's confusion prevented her glanch, ross the aisle. which enabled him to a gard her stee ily without embarrassment.

Disappointed at the turn affairs had taken, the conductor retired to the rear platform to devise new names for the inspector, and Stella looked out of the window with a new sense of content

Nine months she had lived in the city, and this was the first time that any one in the throngs of men and women had paused in the rush of the workaday world to be friendly. Coming at a time when the last straw had nearly had the effect of breaking her spirit, if not her back, the cour tesy was doubly welcome.

She turned suspicious, however. when she rose to leave the car and found that her companion was following her. He read her thoughts with quick comprehension.

"I live on this street," he explained. with a frank smile. "I live at 237." "I live at 240," she cried, blushing to find that she was pleased to know that he lived nearby.

after dinner will you let her introduce us and go out trolley riding? It's nice to ride up to the bridge. There's sure to be a breeze there."

Stella nodded. If the particular Mrs Skerry was willing to act as sponsor. surely a trolley ride was proper. Stel-

la beamed on the young man. "My name's Jack Murray." he went on, anticipating the introduction.

"Mine's Stella Meade," she volunteered in return. "I'll be glad to go riding with you, Mr. Murray. I'd hate to stay in the house. This has been such a dreadful day. When the manager told me to stay and get out a lot of circulars it seemed like the last straw that broke the camel's back Then the idea of walking home seemed worse than that."

"Last straws may break camels" backs," he said, with a smile, "but we ain't cameis, you see. There's always some one hanging around to lift the load when it gets too heavy."

Stella flashed him a grateful glance as she stopped in front of her boarding place and watched him cross the street to the flathouse where he lived with his mother. Mrs. Skerry, sitting by the basement window in the deserted dining room, graciously called her to come

While the tired girl ate the half warmed food her landlady dilated on the good qualities of the Murrays. Mrs. Murray was a member of the same church society to which the boarding mistress belonged, and the son she thoroughly approved of.

Not until after 11 did they get back it, too, until you see some one that terminus of all pleasure rides. They WANTED-TWO OR THREE had to dance a little, and Jack twice treated her to ice cream. As they stood on the steps of her boarding place the man looked down into her people. Address, A. B.

> "And you'll let me call for you until the straws make too heavy a 4 rooms. Inquire of S.

Stella nodded an assent.

only straw was loneliness, and I'm not Loan Association, lonely now.

"And you're not going to be if I can help it," was the hearty reply, and Stella's heart beat faster as she realized that soon she would be neither lonely nor alone. Unlike the camel's load, her last straw had led to happiness.

Bargains In Babies.

Among the deacons of a Presbyterian church in an Ohio town was a good old gentleman familiarly known as "Uncle Thomas." Although too deaf to hear, he was always in his accustomed seat at church, and his zeal in religious work was untiring. Owing to a shortage of song books in the Sabbath school some additional ones were ordered by "Uncle Thomas," who appris-"Skerry's?" he asked. "I say, I ed the pastor of their arrival, and the know the old lady. If I come over latter agreed to announce the fact frem

he pulpit on Sunday morning. The pastor made the promised announcement, among others, concluding

"Parents wishing their children baptized will please present them at the close of the service."

The good deacon jumped to his feet and in the loud voice peculiar to the deaf bawled out, "Those who haven't CONCRETE any can get them at my house for 50 cents aplece!"

As "Uncle Thomas" and his wife had always been childless this startling information almost broke up the meet- ANY PERSON WANTING ANY ing.-Success Magazine.

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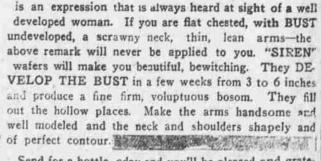
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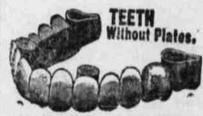
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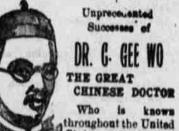
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