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RS. RIODAN'S **THORWALDSEN**

By WALTER A. TICE

By the S. S. McClure Company

Every auctioneer in town knew her and expected to stumble upon her, whether at the fashionable Broadway sales or in the dimmest corner of the ghetto, and never one of them had a good word for her.

Mrs. Riodan's parsimony was as notorious as it was unnecessary, but it was her hobby to acquire bric-a-brac at ridiculous bargain figures. Had the original Venus de Milo been offered to her at \$500,000 she would have held out for \$490,000. Nothing gave her such exquisite pleasure as to escort a guest to some dim niche in her much decorated house and murmur with a gentle, cooing inflection:

"So glad you like it, dear. I purchased it for a song. Such a bargain! You wouldn't believe it if I told you."

In vain had wily auctioneers endeavored to entrap the lady in some of their clever schemes. She invariably scented danger and stopped bidding just when they saw the lamb led to slaughter. A group of these worthies who had been called in to examine a superb col-. lection of art goods drifted into a cafe to lunch together, and Mrs. Riodan's hobby came up for discussion,

A wideawake chap recently from Chicago listened to the tales of her shrewdness and finally remarked:

"Gentlemen, I wager a supper party for this crowd that if I have charge of that sale I will not only force Mrs. Riodan to purchase a certain article which I shall select, but she will pay at least 50 per cent more than it is worth."

The supper wager was quickly taken. and cash bets were added, the young had heard before. And what was he auctioneer taking all offers. In less than a week Mrs. Riodan commenced to receive mail regarding the sale of the famous Burton collection. Almost daily there arrived either an enticing circular or a simply engraved card reminding her of the date of the sale until she became actually excited over the prospect.

When the day arrived, Mrs. Riodan was among the first on the scene, but not earlier than two young men whose tastes in bric-a-brac seemed closely allied to her own. One of them, whose face was that of a student and whose garments in some indefinable fushion suggested foreign blood and the artis-



SHE LISTENED DELIGHTEDLY TO HIS CRIT-ICISMS OF THE COLLECTI

tic temperament if not the calling, was especially interested in the display of

Mrs. Riodan felt that here was a kindred spirit, and she listened delightedly to his criticisms of the collection and his easy chat of things he had seen abroad. He particularly dilated on the fact that to auction sales alone was be indebted for an opportunity to pur chase rare bits of bronze, evidently his

"If one is really a judge of such things," he remarked, "there is absolutely no danger of being cheated and every chance of picking up a rare bar

"Ab," sighed Mrs. Riodan, "a kindred spirit indeed!" And she strolled, with assumed carelessness, as close as possi-ble to this connoisseur, thinking complacently of her five pieces of bronze, each picked up at an auction sale. Suddenly she heard him of the artistic temperament utter an excited exclams

"By Jove, that is a gem?" They had paused before a bronze statue not more than a foot in height.

out exquisitely molded. It was a really fine production of Thorwaldsen's "Wrestler." With bated breath she fell back, as did the two young men, to study the figure more critically. "Exquisite" came to her in dulcet tones. "Worth five hundred, if it's

worth a cent, or my opinion is value

leas."
"A gem, worth a couple hundred,"
murmured Mrs. Riodan, and as she
looked the muscles of the weestler

seemed to gleam in the uncertain light like burnished gold.

The men made a note of the number and then moved on, but Mrs. Riodan still lingered. She would have that piece, for she had heard the artist remark as he turned away that no one in the room would probably realize the real value of that bit.

By the time the sale opened Mrs. Riodan was in a feverish state. The auctioneer rolled off his customary jar gon, bidding went merrily on, but Mrs Blodan heard nothing until the auc

reached the Thorwaldsen. m one bid \$5, and Mrs. Riodan bewed on the ignorant individual a lance of scorn. The bids rose slowly, and at \$25 Mrs. Riodan entered the arena, and so did the young artist. Up, up went the figures until finally these two were bidding steadily against each other.

"One hundred dollars!" exclaimed the artist nonchalantly.

"One bundred and twenty-five?" snapped his rival.

The artist roused himself. "One hundred and fifty!" The drawl had left his voice. Mrs. Riodan hesitated.

"He wants it. He knows bronzes and—so do i." she thought. "Going, going, going"-

"One seventy-five!" The artist turned a troubled face to ward his friend. They conferred anxfously. The auctioneer looked from one to the other. Mrs. Rlodan felt her heart contract suddenly. She wanted that bronze. What was the

artist going to do? He shook his head. The auctioneer's hammer fell. The bronze was Mrs. Riodan's property, and, giving her address and settling the bill, she hastily left the room. An hour later, having completed her other shopping, she dropped into a fashionable restaurant, feeling that, having secured a bargain, she might treat herself to an exceptional luncheon. She had barely given her order when from behind a palm she caught tones that seemed strangely familiar, that drawling, dulcet note she saying?

'It's a jolly little lunch, isn't it, Madge? And let me tell you I carned it. I haven't played a part since the dramatic club days at college, but I flatter myself I did quite well this morning. What I know about bronzes would not cover your visiting card; but, heavens, how the old tady did snap at the bait! One seventy-five, and could get a brand new one for a hundred!"

The next afternoon a couple of women friends were taking tea in Mrs. Riodan's home, and one of them spied the Thorwaldsen.

"What a clever bit, Mrs. Riodan! And you've never shown it to us." The guest approached the figure and touched it daintily. "And of course you got it for a song. You always do, lucky creature!"

"Yes." murmured Mrs. Riodan. "for a song." Then she added under her breath as she passed the wafers. "But there were a few high notes in the song'

Why He Kept a Dog.

A prominent dog fancier and wealthy man of Philadelphia stepped into a gro cery the other night and accidentally stumbled over a fat old German who was sitting in a corner smoking his

Under his chair was the most re markable specimen of a dog that the gentleman had ever seen. It had the appearance of a pug, with rough, red hair and a long tail. It was impossible to resist laughing at the placid old man and his nondescript dog.

"What kind of a dog is that?" asked the gentleman.

I don't know," replied the German. "I suppose you use him for hunting?"

"Is be good for anything?"

"Then why do you value him so?" "Because he likes me," said the old fellow, still puffing at his pipe, and the expression of the dog as be looked up from under the chair fully confirmed the statement.

There is no better or stronger reason than that." assefted the gentleman emphatically as he walked away.-Phil-

The Birds' Nests That Men Eat. The swifts arrive in the Andaman islands toward the end of November, but they take their time in building the nests, which are formed from a gelatinous secretion from the salivary glands of those beautiful members of the swallow tribe.

If there has been a wet December. the first crop of nests is generally a poor one, being solled by the damp and drippings from the roofs of the caves. Collectors, however, begin in January to go around the island to the different caves in an open boat. The best quality resemble pure isin-glass and are worth their weight in sliver. Afterward there are two other collections. The caves in which the nests are found are scattered about the islands; some are far inland, others in rocks concealed in mangrove swamps. -London News.

The Love of Pine Linen.

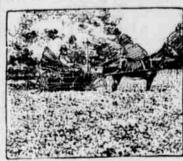
In the German household the love of linen is a passion. During the French wars under Napoleon when from every town and bamlet the terror stricken people field before the approaching ar-mies before ril else they sought to save their many chara of homespun lines, and when place returned what had es caped the Argus eyed enemy was ten-fold more pretions because of the borrors witnessed and the dreadful pangs endured. And even today the German woman prizes far above rubles her piles of snowy linen, the labor of many



IN THE ORCHARD.

Cover Crops of Two Kinds and Their Comparative Advantages.

There are practically two classes of plants which the orchardist may the for the purpose of securing a cover crop. These are the nitrogenous class on the one hand and the nounitrogenous class on the other. The difference between these two is marked by the



COWPEAS BROADCASTED.

power of the plants of the nitrogenous class to appropriate the free nitrogen of the air and store it up in their tis suce in such a way that it is more or less readily available to the succeeding crops. Prominent among plants which have this property are the clovers. peas, beans and vetches. These are the farmer's friends, the nitrogen collectors. Concerning cover crops and the orchard, Professor John Craig of Cornell university has summarized his investigations as follows:

The orchard is to be viewed in the light of a specific crop.

Humus is essential to the liberation of plant food.

Barnyard manure supplies organic matter, but is often beyond the reach of the orchardist.

Probably the ideal system of orehard management includes clean tillage and cover crop in the annual programme.

Effects of tilinge and of cover crops are similar in many respects, but while both tend to make plant food available the cover crop may actually add to the store.

The cover crop prevented frost from penetrating the ground deeper than sixteen inches as compared to twenty-one inches on bare ground. The percentage of water in cover

cropped ground compared favorably with bare uncultivated ground in Iowa and New York. The texture of the soil and subsoil is much improved by the burrowing hab-

its of the earthworm and the penetrat ing character of clover roots.

The cover crop_ prevents surface washing and injurious erosion of or chard lands.

A comparison of the fertilizing qualities of the clovers, cowpen and hairy vetch placed the last far in the lend, with alfalfa and mammeth clover second and third in manurial value.

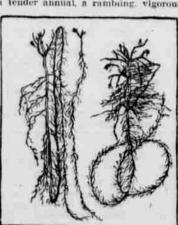
Hairy vetch appears to be a valuable leguminous plant for cover crop purposes. It is hardy, deep rooting, grows at low temperatures and produces a dense mat of vegetation on the surface of the ground.

Cowpea is particularly valuable for system of semicultivation and as part of a combination crop.

Of the nitrogen consumers rye and buckwheat are of most importance. Oats are favorably spoken of in some parts of the country.

Certain mixtures are used to advantage. Alfalfa, mammoth clover and turnips have given satisfaction, but oats and crimson clover do not suceeed.

The cowpea is a Japanese bean. It is a tender annual, a rambting, vigorous



ALFALFA ROOT. HAIBY VETCH ROOT. grower. Its cultivation has been con fined to the south and southwest, where it is grown to some extent as a forage crop, but generally for green manuring In the north its greatest value is its power to renovate wornout soils. It should be remembered that it is a hot weather plant, and the seed must not be planted before corn planting time: that it "goes down" with the first autumn frost and that on poor soil better results may be secured by planting in rows and cultivating than by broad easting.

Fertilising Tomatoes.

The impression is quite prevalent that the tomato does not require heavy manuring. Experiments that have been conducted at a number of stations show that the tomato is a piant that quickly and profitably responds to the use of manures or fertilizers and that the maturity and yield are very largely influenced by the method of manuring and fertilizing. Experiments conduct ed by the New Jersey station have shown nitrate of soda to be one of the best nitrogenous fertilizers for this



Miss Rose Hennessy, well known a poetess and elocutionist, of Lexi-Ky., tells how she was cured of a inflammation and ovaritis by the u Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compo

"Dear Mrs. Pinkham: —I have been so blessedly helped through of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound that I feel him acknowledge it, hoping that it may help some other woman suffering. "For years I enjoyed the best of health and thought that I would do so. I attended parties and receptions thinly clad, and would be achilled, but I did not think of the results. I caught a bad cold a months ago while menstruating, and this caused inflammation of the and congested ovaries. I suffered exernciating pains and keptgetting My attention was called to your Vegetable Compound and the secures it had performed, and I made up my mind to try it for two nesses what it would do for me. Within one month I felt much betat the close of the second I was entirely well.

"I have advised a number of my lady friends to use it, and all themselves as well satisfied with the results as I was."—Miss for Hennessey, 410 S. Broadway, Lexington. Ky.

The experience and testimony of some of the most women of America go to prove beyond a question that is Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will correct all such troub at once, by removing the cause, and restoring the organ normal and healthy condition.

"Dear Mrs. Pinkham: — About two years ago I consulted sician about my health which had become so wretched that I longer able to be about. I had severe backache, bearing-down pains across the abdomen, was very nervous and irritable, as trouble grew worse each month. The physician prescribed for I soon discovered that he was unable to help me, and I then deat try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and soon four try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and soon four

try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and soon form it was doing me good. My appetite was returning, the pains dis-ing, and the general benefits were well marked. "You cannot realize how pleased I was, and after taking the cine for only three months, I found that I was completely cured trouble, and have been well and hearty ever since, and no more is monthly period, as it now passes without pain to me. Your wey Miss Pearl Ackers, 327 North Summer St., Nashville, Tenn."

When a medicine has been successful in restoring to a more than a million women, you cannot well say without by "I do not believe it will help me." If you are ill, do not be to get a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound write Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., for special advice. He vice is free and helpful. Write to-day. Delay may be fatal.

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