

FRIENDSHIP.

What is the best a friend can be to you... Not only a beloved guide... The best friend is an atmosphere...

Love's Reward.

PHILIP had known her ever so long, ever since she came here, a little, rose-lipped child. He drew her to school on his little cart...

Only one month ago, and already the lustrous eyes had learned to watch for his coming, already the girlish heart had learned to throb at his voice.

And she—the thought of the face she had seen for the first time but one short month before, the dark, handsome face that had lighted into a look of involuntary admiration at sight of her, the face of the wealthy city stranger—Edgar Reynolds.

The following day broke fair and bright, with a golden sun in the valley-tops and June-time mists in the hills.

The birds are singing their matins in the tree tops; the brook is laughing as it ripples o'er its pebbly bed. In the midst of all this glorious sylvan beauty the elasticity of youth reasserts itself, and the girl's step grows lighter, her heart happier, till she almost forgets her little troubles.

In the village she posts her letters and turns to retrace her steps. She meets many laborers on their way to work, and each man touches his hat and smiles pleasantly on seeing the bright, pretty face, for, young as she is, she has spent many hours helping with kindly offices and gentle pity their wives and little ones.

Coming home, she passes a house that stands in its own grounds—a house with snowy curtains, stretching verandas and a well rolled tennis court attached. It is far more pretentious than her own cosy house.

It is filled with fashionable village. It is filled with fashionables just now who have fled from the crush and heat of the city, and, among others, Edgar Reynolds.

At the gate a sudden thought strikes her. The housekeeper's little child is very ill. She will go in and inquire for her. No one save the servant can be up yet. She pushes open the gate and noiselessly flits up the garden path to the rear of the house.

She accomplishes her mission and is returning, when she sees fluttering on the path before her a sheet of creamy note paper. She picks it up and glances around. It must have blown from a window left open on retiring.

She is about to take it to the housekeeper to return to its owner, when her eyes chance to fall on two words written in a firm, bold hand, "Florence Thorne." It is but a short letter, and the girl, forgetting all honor in the intensity of her surprise, reads every word of it almost before she knows what she has done. It runs:

"Dear Will—Expect me back on Thursday. Am tired of rustication. It would have been an unbearable bore were it not for an awfully pretty girl, flirting with whom has helped to pass the time. She is the daughter of Allen Thorne, the millionaire's brother, you know. Made a fool of himself by marrying a school teacher's daughter years ago. Florence Thorne is a shy, wild rose—poor, pretty and proud as a princess—but I couldn't afford to ruin my prospects for her, you know. Much as I could do to keep from losing my heart in earnest. Had half a mind to throw over Agatha Vere's thousands, but—pshaw, the bank account carries the day."

There is little more relating to business matters, then the letter closes with the hastily scratched signature, "Edgar Reynolds."

The girl stands stiff and rigid in the bright morning sunlight, a great startled horror in her eyes. All the pretty, childish beauty dies in the strained intensity of that gaze.

Hark! Is that some one coming? For a moment she lifts her hand to her head in a confused, helpless way. Then, crushing the letter into her bosom, she turns and flies fast as her leaden, weighted feet will bear her down the path, through the gate, along the dusty highway—home.

Her uncle came to her on receipt of Philip Howard's letter, stating how ill she was, his lonely old heart warming with love toward his brother's orphan child. As for Edgar Reynolds, he had heard of her illness with his usual well-bred indifference.

"Poor little thing! Perhaps it's the best way it could have ended after all," he said, and so, congratulating himself, he had gone back to town, while Philip Howard, far out on the broad Atlantic, a self-made exile from home and friends, carried in his heart of hearts the picture of a lovely, wistful, girlish face, with shyest pansy purple eyes.

Three years afterward James Thorne's palace home is a blaze of



Oil cloth trays may be considered a cheap and sloppy substitute for the real thing, but if you will try them once when making bromide or velox prints you will continue to use them for that purpose.

In his address before the convention of the Photographers' Association of America, Lucius W. Hitchcock said the following, which is excellent advice for any amateur:

There is a wide difference of opinion as to what is the perfect negative. Of course, the experienced worker will make a negative for a certain paper and with a certain object in view, that light and beauty. The massive doors are swung open; the perfume of the flowers floats out on the night air.

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If it suits his purpose is a perfect negative, although it may be useless for other papers. But it is to dispel the idea in the mind of the beginner, that a perfect negative must be crisp and clear, black and white.

Ortol is a good all around developer for snap shots, where pyro is disliked, but with all its staining qualities, pyro can be excellent. Pyro and metol in combination is a developer that can be adapted easily to long or short exposures by diluting the developer and a much under-exposed negative can be made to yield a fair print by leaving it in a diluted pyro-metol developer until well stained through the film.

Such a negative is a disappointment to look at, but the print is better than the negative in detail and contrast. The amber color of a pyro developed negative, although thin, makes it a slower printer than a much more dense, black and white negative developed in hydrokinone, metol, amidol or rodinal. In the perfect negative there should be only absolute opacity in the very highest lights, such as the glancing of the sun on the crest of the waves, and absolute transparency over where the lines require to be pure black.

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SOCIAL INSTINCT OF ANTS.

Insects Who Preferred Duty to the Call of Pleasure.

A swarm of formica pratensis was closely pressed in its nest by an army of the same species, and crowds of alarmed defenders issued from the entrance to the nest and flew to take part in the fight.

At any other time the honey would have been covered in a few instants with ants gorging themselves, but this time numerous working ants came upon it, tasted it for scarcely a second and returned to it restlessly three or four times.

Compared to the manner of other social animals, and especially to those of man, the manner of ants exhibits a profound and fundamental aggregation of facts of convergence due to their social life. Let me mention devotion, the instinctive sentiment of duty, slavery, torture, war, alliances, the raising of cattle, gardening, harvesting, and even social democracy.

I have been unable to give more than a short sketch of the social life of ants. Let each one study it for himself and he will experience in doing so the joy of discovery.

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KING'S ODD RIGHTS.

EDWARD VII. RETAINS IMPORTANT PREROGATIVES.

Can Neither Die Nor Err—Is Not Subject to Law and Is the Only Person in the Empire Who Cannot Arrest a Felon.

The prerogatives of the king of England, though considerably curtailed by a long series of enactments, are still of great extent and of vast importance. The theory of English law, as to the prerogatives of the monarch, is entirely inconsistent. The law recognizes him as an irresponsible being, and yet the same law defines his powers.

However ludicrous it may appear to the untutored American, it is nevertheless a fact (according to British statutes) that among the many rights which have been taken from the sovereign are that he can neither die nor err, and that he is not subject to law.

A curious consequence of the entire exemption of the monarch is that he is the only person in the realm who can not, under any circumstances whatever, arrest a felon. The reason for this is that, if the prisoner were innocent, no action for false imprisonment could be brought against the crowned head.

The king is also exempt from taxation, because, as the revenues are one of his prerogatives, it would be useless for him to tax himself, yet the lands purchased from the privy purse are taxable. No matter what duties he may contract he can not be arrested or his goods restrained or taken in execution.

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HE GOT THE HALF-DOLLAR.

One of the best dog stories which has been told in a long time is related in the Nashville Banner.

The narrator of the anecdote was driving in town in Mississippi with the owner of the dog. To show the animal's cleverness he got out of the carriage, held his pocketbook to the dog's nose, and then taking therefrom a half-dollar, hid it under a large rock. The men drove on for a half-mile, and then the dog was commanded to fetch the half-dollar.

The animal, without the least hesitation, started back on a run, and my friend explained that as the rock was heavy the dog would be unable to turn it over, so would have to scratch under it to reach the piece of money, and it would naturally take him some time. It did, for he had not appeared when we retired, about 10 o'clock.

Early the next morning we heard a sharp bark at the door. When the door was opened in rushed the dog, dragging with him a pair of trousers which he dropped on the floor.

Of course we were mystified, but the explanation soon came in the shape of a neighbor who lived several miles distant. He rode up on a mule, and inquired if a dog with a pair of trousers in his mouth had come into the house. Just then the pointer walked out on the porch, and the man exclaimed, "Why, there's the dog now."

The caller said that late in the afternoon of the day before he found the dog scratching under a large rock near the road, and thinking he was after a rabbit, stopped and lifted the rock up, and to his surprise found a half-dollar underneath. He put the money in his pocket, and the dog followed him home. The dog appeared to be friendly, and the man petted him and gave him his supper.

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She—He declares he loves the very ground I tread upon. He—Ah! I thought he had his eyes on the estate.

Subbubs—Why are you sneaking into the house so quietly? Commute—Sb—h! The cook has company, and I do not wish to disturb them.

"I can safely say that no man ever attempted to bribe me, gentlemen." "Don't be down-hearted, old chap; your luck may change."

Cittman—I see you raise your own vegetables. Suburbanite—No! I simply plant a small garden so as to keep the chickens at home.—Life.

The Lawyer—I really hope I don't annoy you with all these questions. His Fair Client—Not at all. I'm used to it. I have a 6-year-old son.

He—I fancy men believe in friendship rather more than women do. She—Possibly, but the great trouble is it's generally their own friendship they believe in.

Wisem—Honestly, now, did you learn anything while you were in college? Graduate—Um—um—well, I learned how to state my ignorance in scientific terms.

"Is your family fond of cereals, Mr. Jumpup?" "Oh, very! We're reading several in the Parlor Portfolio now, and can't hardly wait from week to week."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Cassidy—Stop kickin' about yer hard luck, man! Some mornin' ye'll wake up an' find yerself famous. Cassidy—O'ho, but ye whin that mornin' comes 'twill be me luck to oversleep meself!

Mrs. Hiram Offen—I hope you washed the fish thoroughly before you put in on the broiler, Della. Della—Shure, what would be the use of that, ma'am? Hasn't it been livin' in the water all its life?—Philadelphia Press.

"Oh, well, my dear," observed he to his wife, "you will find that there are a great many worse men in the world than I am." "How can you be so cynical, John?" replied his wife reproachfully.—Syracuse Herald.

Silas—So Zeke won't have anything but first-class literature? Cyrus—No. Why? Silas—Well, you subscribe to a magazine because he saw "Entered as second-class matter" on the front page.

Superintendent—It is our usual custom to let a prisoner work at the same trade in here as he did outside. Now, what is your trade? Shoemaker, blacksmith or— "Please, sir, I was a traveling salesman."

Constance—I am going out in Algy's launch. Penelope—But naphtha launches are very dangerous. Constance—I know it. But Algy gave me the choice of either going out with him on his naphtha launch or his sailboat.

"I see a crank out West announces his invention of a 'theater hat for ladies that will shut up when the ladies talk.' Would 'yeen young man, now, that won't do, sir. I've got to live, you know."—Chicago Tribune.

Lady (to furniture clerk)—I like the Louis XIV. and the Louis XVI. designs equally well. It wouldn't do, I suppose, to have both chairs in the parlor? Clerk—Oh, yes, madam; they would harmonize well—only two years' difference, you see.—Judge.

Teacher (to class in geography)—And who knows what the people who live in Turkey are called? Class (unanimously)—Turks! Teacher—Right! Now, who can tell me what those living in Austria are called. Little Boy—Please, ma'am, I know. Ostiches!—Judge.

Hasty Harry—'Wat youse fishin' here widout any bait for? Don't youse know dat fish won't eat a bare hook? Strenuous Stove (scornfully)—'Wat! Don't youse see dat if de fish don't bite I ain't got to go to de trouble o' takin' 'em off'n d' hook. Where's yess professional instinct?

"Oh, maw," said the 10-year-old hopeful, "do you see how wet my clothes are?" "Yes, young man," spoke mamma, sternly, "and you have been in swimming." "No, maw." "Then how did you get wet?" "Why, some boys wanted me to go in swimming, and I ran away so fast I perspired."

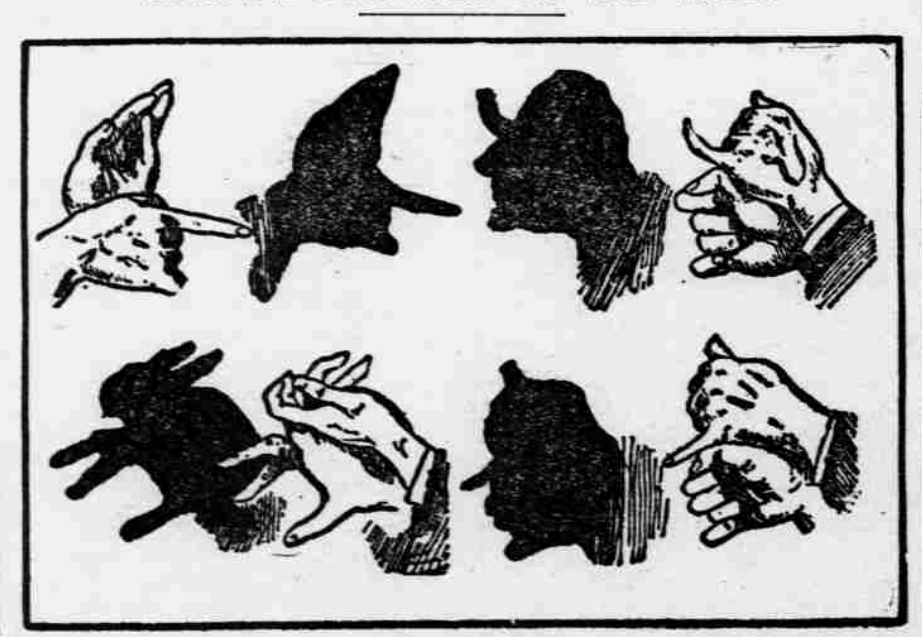
"Young man," said the Irish magistrate, as a youthful prisoner was brought before him. "I would advise you to make a full confession if you want to get off with a light sentence." "And if I don't confess, then what?" asked the young man. "Oh, in that event," replied the magistrate, "I shall probably have to acquit you for want of evidence."

The First-Born: "Yes, it took my wife and me and my mother and my wife's mother and two sisters and an old aunt of mine and half a dozen of our cousins to pull our first baby through till it was 2 years old." "And did the little one become stronger by that time?" "No, we had another by that time, and came out of the dream."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Room for More Improvement. Prison Director—What, you here again for burglary? When you left here three weeks ago you said that you had become a much better man.

Prisoner—Yes, sir, but I want to become better still!—Helter Welt. Located. Canvasser—I would like to see the lady of the house. Mistress—Certainly. She is working back in the kitchen. Fishing cultivates patience. Ladies will please take notice.

SHADOW PICTURES ON THE WALL.



Tree Turned Into a Newspaper. A foreign paper tells of an experiment. It was made to see how quickly a tree could be turned into a newspaper.

The increase in the number of tourists to the Philippine Islands has flooded New York with various styles of pipes that are new to local dealers. They are in the main unique and are more valuable as ornaments and additions to collections than for the actual satisfaction obtained from smoking them.

Plainly Stated. Mr. Yerning—if you will only marry me, I promise you I'll make you a good husband. Miss De Termond—Never fear! If I decide to marry you I'll make you that.—Philadelphia Press.

NEW PIPES FOR SMOKERS.

Come from Philippines and Some Useful for War Clubs. The increase in the number of tourists to the Philippine Islands has flooded New York with various styles of pipes that are new to local dealers.

The average girl may not be able to name the postmaster general, but she can tell what kind of a marriage service is being used before the minister has read half a dozen lines.