

SERIAL STORY

The Chronicles of Addington Peace

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MR CORAN'S ELECTION

(Continued.)

The local was just steaming into the station when a fat, red-faced man came panting out of the booking-office. Peace gave my arm a squeeze as he passed.

"That is Horledge, the chief supporter of Coran's opponent in tomorrow's election," he whispered.

"So you have been making some new friends since I saw you last?"

"One or two," he said, stepping into a carriage.

When we arrived at Brendon, the inspector led me off to an inn in the center of the town. It was a pleasant, old-fashioned place, with black rafters peering through the plaster of the ceiling and oak panelling high on the walls. The modern Brendon had wrapped it about, but it had not changed for three centuries. You may find many such ancient inns about London, which watch the march of the red brick suburbs with a dignified surprise, until one day the builder steps in, and the old coach and horses or white hart comes tumbling down, and a cheap chop and tea house reigns in its stead. We dined early. At half-past seven, by the grandfather's clock in the corner, Peace rose.

"Mr. Coran's meeting does not begin until eight; but I want to be there early—come along."

The platform was empty when we arrived, but a score of people were already on the front benches. We did not join them, seating ourselves near the door. Brendon, or the graver part of it, moved by us in a tiny stream. A few elders walked up to the platform with the air of those who realize that they are something in the world. The clock above them was pointing to the hour when, with a thumping of feet and a clapping of hands, Coran appeared, and shook hands with the white-whiskered old chairman.

It was while the chairman was introducing "the popular and venerated townsman who had come to address them," that the red face of Mr. Horledge came peering in at the door. He stood there for a minute, and then modestly sat down on the bench before us. Peace touched my arm, and we moved along until we were just behind him.

The chairman ended at last, and amid fresh applause, Coran rose and stood gazing down at the little crowd with a benevolent satisfaction. Their respect and admiration was the breath of life to the man. You could see it in his eyes, in his gesture as he begged for silence.

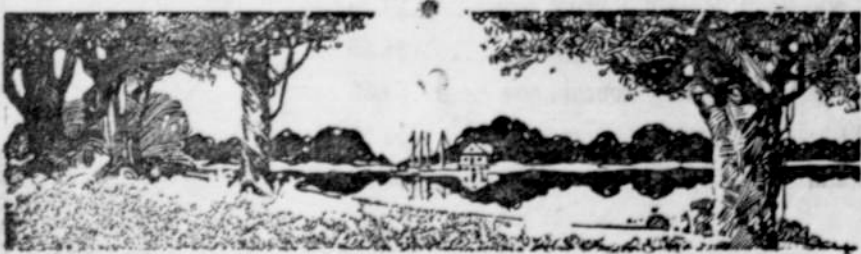
"My friends," he said, "I had no idea—this is most surprising. I—is it illegal?" he stammered.

"Blackmail for whatever purpose is illegal. Further attempts have been made to extort money. It is because they failed that you were placed in possession of the facts today."

"It seemed a mean trick, anyway," said Horledge, penitently. "I wish I had never listened to the old cad. But, Squares—I beg your pardon, Mr. Coran—I mean our friend here has always been such a model that I thought it rather fun. He can win the election, and welcome, after this."

"That is all, then. I want a word in private with these two gentlemen."

"I should prefer to answer this gentleman at once," Coran interposed.



SAVING THE ITALIAN BABIES

Maternity Insurance in That Country Has Greatly Reduced Infant Mortality.

Italy joined in 1902 the few European states which have established laws for the better protection of women working in industrial occupations after confinement. This law prohibited women from working for a month after confinement, but contained no provisions about the collecting of funds from which the expenses could be defrayed. For this reason regulations were generally disregarded, and women went back to work as soon as they were able to do so.

At the end of April, 1912, a new law came into force. All women in industries between fifteen and fifty years

He stood with his hands, clasping and unclasping, before him, but never moved his eyes from his opponent. There was grit in the fellow, after all. "It would be simpler if you withdrew," said the red-faced man, shuffling his feet uneasily.

"That your party's candidate might be returned unopposed?"

"Don't force me to explain," cried Horledge. "Why not withdraw?"

"You waste the time of the meeting."

"Very well, gentlemen, I say that Mr. Coran there is no fit candidate, because—"

There is something unsettling in the official tap on the shoulder which the police of all countries cultivate, something which it does not take previous experience to recognize. Horledge's face turned a shade paler as he glanced over his shoulder at the little man who has thus demanded his attention.

"And what do you want?" he growled.

"I am Inspector Addington Peace, of the Criminal Investigation department. I warn you, Mr. Horledge, that you are lending yourself to an attempt at blackmail."

The detective spoke in so soft a voice that I, who was standing by his side, could barely catch the words. "Bless my soul, you say so?" cried the other.

"I should like a five minutes' talk with Mr. Coran and yourself. After that you may take your own course. Will you suggest it?"

Mr. Horledge did not take long to make up his mind. He told the meeting that he might have been misinformed. If they would permit it, he asked for a five minutes' private conversation with the candidate.

The meeting received the suggestion with cheers. It was something unusual in the monotony of such functions. We walked up the central aisle between a couple of hundred pairs of curious eyes, mounted the platform, and followed Coran into a small ante-room, the door of which Peace closed behind him.

"On June 15 the Brendon Anti-Vivisection society, of which you, Mr. Horledge, are president, received the

Good night to you, and many thanks."

"Great Scott! Inspector, but you gave me a fright. I hope, Mr. Coran, you don't bear malice? That's all right, then. Good night all."

As he disappeared through the door the elder man dropped into a chair, covering his face with his hands.

"This is shocking!" he groaned.

"Oh, Mr. Peace, are you sure it was my sister?"

"There is no doubt at all."

"But what can I do now?" he asked, looking from one to the other of us, with a pitiable expression. "Shall I withdraw?"

"Nonsense," said the little detective, firmly. "Fight your election and win it, sir; and the best way to begin is to go back and tell them all about it."

"Go and tell them? Go and tell the meeting?" he cried.

"Yes. They'll like you all the better for it. Do you suppose there is no human nature in Brendon? Are you going to keep this miserable scandal hanging over your head all your life? If you stick to politics some one is sure to rake it up. Be a man, Mr. Coran, and get it over now."

"I will."

He had got to his feet, his eyes set with a sudden determination. He stretched out his hand to each of us, turned about, and marched out of the room like a soldier leading a forlorn hope against a fortress. As the door slammed behind him, Peace looked at me with an expression in which sympathy and humor were oddly mingled.

"Take my word for it, Mr. Phillips," he said, "many a reputation for desperate valor has been won by a less sacrifice."

It was not until after two days that I heard the arguments by which the inspector had worked his way to a conclusion. They form a good example of his methods.

"It was evident," he said, "that the blackmailer knew Coran's character, his position as regards the election, and the details of his house and grounds. Those facts suggested a relative or close personal friend. The theory that it was a relative was strengthened by the newspaper cutting. It was not a thing a casual ac-



THIS IS SHOCKING! HE GROANED.

sum of twenty pounds from an anonymous source," said the little detective.

"Certainly."

"That sum was extorted from Mr. Coran by the threat of revealing the secret which Miss Rebecca Coran told you this morning, and which you verified this afternoon by a reference to the old newspaper files in the British museum."

"I had no idea—this is most surprising. I—is it illegal?" he stammered.

"Blackmail for whatever purpose is illegal. Further attempts have been made to extort money. It is because they failed that you were placed in possession of the facts today."

"It seemed a mean trick, anyway," said Horledge, penitently. "I wish I had never listened to the old cad. But, Squares—I beg your pardon, Mr. Coran—I mean our friend here has always been such a model that I thought it rather fun. He can win the election, and welcome, after this."

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quaintance would be likely to keep by him all these years.

"From Coran I learnt that he had had differences of opinion with Miss Rebecca. In my conversation with her she spoke bitterly of his refusal to subscribe to her society for the prevention of vivisection. She returned to the subject several times, mentioning the financial difficulties in which the local branch, of which she is the secretary, was placed. Those facts impressed me.

"Before Appleton arrived last night I had carefully searched the summer house. In a corner of the woodwork I discovered a note from Miss Emily. The place was the lover's letter box. Indeed, I had been expecting that young gentleman's appearance long before he came. I did not, however, tell this to Mr. Coran when he pressed for an arrest. It would hardly have been fair on the girl. I do not imagine that they will find the old gentleman so stony-hearted after tonight. As for the young man, in the inquiries I made concerning him, I found nothing that was not straight and honest. I put him out of the list at an early date.

"Who the person may have been that listened at the window I cannot say; but I conclude it was Miss Rebecca. She certainly did not attempt to carry off the parcel.

"This morning I discovered that an anonymous donation of twenty pounds was sent to Miss Rebecca's society the day after the first successful attempt at blackmail. I kept an eye on the house, and shortly after midday she walked down to Horledge's shop. He is the president of her society. They remained for some time together, and then Horledge took a train to London. I followed him to the newspaper room in the British museum. Things were becoming plain.

"I have now no doubt that Miss Rebecca guessed who we were from the first. She told the secret to Horledge, who was, you remember, one of her brother's chief opponents in the election, out of sheer feminine spite. I suspected the man would attempt something at the meeting on Friday night. My suspicion was correct, as you saw."

"And the election?"

"He won his seat on the council. I think he deserved it, Mr. Phillips."

(CHRONICLES TO BE CONTINUED.)

BEST BEANS TO GROW

Some Like Bush and Lima Varieties Because Easy to Grow.

Others Prefer Pole Limas on Account of Quality, Quantity and Season of Profitable Bearing. —Also Large.

A writer says that both bush and lima beans are more satisfactory and easier to grow than the pole limas. Now, every one for his choice, but we prefer the pole limas every time for quality, quantity and long season of profitable bearing, says a writer in an exchange. It is true that setting poles for plants to vine on requires more work than when no poles are used, but the results more than pay for all the work. The trouble with most of us in our gardening and farming is that we try to grow things in the easiest way, but the easiest way is seldom the best way. We should never be satisfied with anything short of the best.

Pole lima beans are the largest and best beans grown. Make the soil as loose and rich and fine as possible. Harrow, disk and harrow till the surface is a smooth, fine and mellow as an ash heap. Lay off rows, both ways, about four feet apart and plant three seeds to the hill at the crossing of the rows.

Cultivate young lima beans as for other garden plants, keeping the surface clean, fine and level. Allow no weeds to grow close to the cultivated plants, as limas will not thrive in the presence of strange company. Some people to reduce labor plant corn or sunflower in the same hill with pole lima beans for the vines to climb.

This is a grave mistake, for two good plants cannot grow in a place where there is room enough for only one. A



Hamper of Pole Lima Beans.

poor bean crop always results from this method, as one good, old gardener puts it, "It is the lazy man's way of gardening."

We pole our beans with round poles about eight feet long and the thickness of one's wrist. They are set one pole to each hill and the four poles form a square brought together and tied with common binder twine, about nine feet from the ground. This gives a wigwam frame with firm, broad base and so substantial that no ordinary storm will blow it over.

Almost all other members of the bean family are quick maturing plants and the life of the crop covers only a part of the growing season. Not so with pole lima beans; they are rather slow growing. It requires nearly ninety days for the vines to fully mature and come into heavy bearing. But after the vines begin to bear they continue to produce blossoms and fruit all through the remainder of the growing season, so long as the green beans are regularly picked and more allowed to ripen, providing there is sufficient moisture in the soil to sustain growth. Keeping out all weeds and grass and keeping the surface raked loose and fine will help to conserve soil moisture at dry times. A light covering of straw on the surface will also help to conserve soil moisture during August and September, when rains are often infrequent and evaporation great.

ADVANTAGES OF DAIRY FARM

Increases Productivity of Soil, Insures Monthly Income and Even Distributes Labor.

Prof. F. L. Kent, of the dairy husbandry department of the Oregon Agricultural college, states as follows the advantages of dairy farming in the Oregon Countryman, a monthly magazine published by the students at O. A. C.:

"Briefly stated, the advantages of dairy farming are: Increasing productivity of the soil, a regular monthly income putting the business on a cash basis, a better distribution of the labor of the farm than is possible under a single crop system, and supplying a product for the market all of which should be of the highest grade and for which there is always a ready sale."

Building Dairy Herd. Get a purebred dairy sire and raise your own cows.

Dainty Designs for the Young "Smart Set" of Paris Society



Two fashionable members of the younger Parisian "Smart Set" wearing elegant lingerie and lace dresses with ribbon bows and parasols to match.

PROPER COLORS FOR WALLS SAVES TIME AND TROUBLE

Always a Few Rules That Are Well to Keep in Mind When Decorating.

If we redecorate in a thorough way our first puzzle is the choice of a color. A few rules are useful. Blue, green, brown, and gray are excellent colors for sunny, well-lighted rooms. If the room is on the north side of the house or is ill-lighted we may need to use yellow or yellow tan on the walls in order to produce the sunny appearance the room otherwise lacks. Tan is a good all-around color and is usable in well-lighted or poorly lighted rooms.

All these colors are best if soft. For example, a sage green wall is much more pleasing than a bright green or a leaf green wall; a Copenhagen blue is better than a vivid blue; the most agreeable gray for walls is brownish gray in tone. Tan in a great variety of shades is always a favorite.

Bright red should never be chosen. It is crude in color and tiresome to live with. A soft mulberry red is sometimes a desirable color, and a brownish or Indian red is also in good taste.

As a wallpaper always looks darker when hung on the wall than it does in the sample, we must take care to select medium or light shades, if we want cheerful rooms.

EXQUISITE BRIDAL COSTUME



Model of white liberty satin with draped and slashed skirt and pointed train. Deep square décolleté corsage with drapery of rhinestones.

Japanese Crepe for Children. Among the newest dresses for children are those made of Japanese crepe. The use of Japanese crepe is directly in accord with the current fashion for materials of a crepe character. Moreover, the Japanese variety is decidedly superior, both in durability of effect and in quality, to any other crepe, because it is woven by hand and the crepe feature is produced in the weaving, while in some other instances it is brought about by a process of shrinkage.

Case for Delicate Centerpiece Not Hard to Make, and is Especially Valuable.

It is sometimes a difficult matter to keep centerpieces from becoming crushed after laundering, so many women make a case in which to roll them. Purchase a piece of cretonne one and a quarter yards long and at one end turn up a hem wide enough to cover a pole an inch in diameter and in length a trifle shorter than the width of the cretonne. When choosing the material select a dainty design showing alternate stripes of flowers and a delicate color.

Bind the three sides with half-inch washable ribbon, stitching it neatly either by hand or on the machine. Attach three pieces of ribbon to the end. These are used to tie the case when the centerpieces are rolled in place.

This is an especially useful article, and should be added to the linen chest, and there will never be any need of pressing a centerpiece before it is fit to place on the dining table. It requires only a short time to make an attractive case of this variety, and you will never cease to sing its praises when it has saved you much inconvenience.

Now that you have supplied a case for the centerpieces, provide like articles for the dollies of your luncheon set. From cardboard cut two circular pieces an inch wider than the plate dollies and two others an inch wider than the diameter of the tumbler dollies. Cover these with cotton wadding and sprinkle with lavender. Using Cretonne to match the centerpiece case, cut circular pieces enough to cover the top and bottom of the dollies. Allow a half inch for turning in all around, and neatly whip-stitch the two together or baste roughly and bind with the half-inch ribbon. At three places attach pieces of ribbon with which to tie the cases shut when the dollies are placed between the two sections. A set of cases for a luncheon set would make a most acceptable gift to a prospective bride or to the systematic housewife who likes a place for everything.

Dainty Garments for the Newcomer. All the best layettes consist of simple garments made entirely by hand. The expectant mother who knows how to do neat sewing may prepare for her baby a layette good enough for a prince, and of the same materials as would be used for any little royal highness. The fabrics chosen for little slips and dresses are fine, sheer linen or cotton weave. Where considerable dainty hand embroidery is to be used, linen would best be chosen, as it is durable enough to make the work worth while. It has the advantage also of keeping perfectly white after much laundering and irons smooth without starch. Lawn, either linen or cotton, in fine qualities, sheer nainsook and French batiste are preferred for making the baby's dresses and petticoats.

From an Old Raincoat. An apron with a bib can be made for wash day, or when you give the baby a bath. A bathing cap, and bag to carry your bathing suit, and little utility cases dear to the suitcase of travelers, may be made from a discarded raincoat.

Starch for Laces and Muslins. Mix a small quantity of corn flour smoothly with cold water. This will be found excellent for lightly stiffening all delicate and lacey fabrics, including veils and neckwear of sheer materials.