

The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

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WHENCE THAT SPIRIT?

A HERALD reader, name unknown, has sent us warning not to class widow pensioners with the paupers, else we will lose patronage to the HERALD.

We wish to examine the spirit which controls in this action, as it has a familiar approach and its old fashioned knock at once proclaims its origin, business and identity.

For the benefit of our adviser we will just state that we do not have the grouping nor naming of the County expense accounts. That work is done by the County Court and when we print the County expenses we copy it from other papers, just as it has been published, and do it because a large number of our readers like to scan the list of claims which have been allowed. As to paupers and pensioners we are not acquainted with either and could not segregate them were it our privilege to do so.

But to return to the spirit which peeps out through the threat, let us examine it just a little and see what power is behind it:

"If you don't do as I wish you to I will quit you. I will withdraw my patronage and I'll crush you if I can; you may fail in your business, but unless you do my bidding I will not support you. In other words, you can have no agency of your own and retain my patronage. I don't come to you with solicitation for your welfare, neither to lift you into higher ideals nor morals but simply to take away your agency; that is, your will must be my will; you must do what I want you to do."

This is the same spirit that has crept into our business troubles and our labor dissensions; it gets into towns and cities, into schools and churches, and we have seen it wax so great in professed believers that they actually refused to comply with their church obligations because they thought other members in the congregation were not good enough to associate with them. It is the actuating force which impels Huerta, the Mexican dictator, and it is the identical spirit cultivated by Lucifer which caused his expulsion from the courts of glory in order to secure peace in Heaven.

If you wish to entice us, please try the other spirit; we are well acquainted with coercion. Now we do not charge this particular person with all these things but we merely show where this spirit emanated and leads.

Before the HERALD appears again the holiday season will be well on, hence, the editor and force take this opportunity to wish HERALD patrons and readers a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

A Case of Worldly Wisdom

By EFFIE D. GARDNER

When Miss Mabel Willmarth wrote her lover, Edward Auchinkloss, that under her parents' orders she must break with him he was very badly cut up. He did not blame Mabel; she was not much over seventeen years old—certainly not an age at which a girl is warranted in marrying counter to the express wishes of her parents.

Auchinkloss was permitted to call upon Miss Willmarth to say goodby, after which he was expected to refrain from visits or communication. He found her as much averse to breaking with him as he was to breaking with her, but he also found her resolute in her determination to obey her mother.

"Father and mother," she said, "have only me. If I marry you in opposition to their commands a barrier will be raised between them and me that will never be removed. Besides, mother has convinced me that couples usually grow together, irrespective of any attachments for others either husband or wife may have had before marriage. We must make the best of the present for the sake of the future. You will marry another girl and I will be nothing to you. I suppose I shall"—

"Forget me?"

"I don't know. It doesn't seem to me now that I can."

"What you have said has, of course, come from your mother. It is too wise to be spoken by a girl of seventeen. But I confess that it is wise, or seems to be, and I would not for the world persuade you to do an unwise thing. One thing I wish you to tell me: Has not your mother some one in view for you who she thinks will be able to give you more than I?"

"Why do you ask that question?"

"Because until very recently both she and your father seemed to be well satisfied with me for a son-in-law."

"Mother especially enjoyed me to say nothing to you about any future relations between me and any one else. She says that, having broken with you, you are not supposed to take any further interest in me. Surely you cannot be expected to approve of any man that she—I mean I—might marry."

"Right again—that is, if your sentence had been finished as you began it. You should have finished that she might select. Nevertheless it is evident that some one has been selected for you, and naturally I am especially anxious to know who the fellow is."

"The fellow?"

"Well, the gentleman."

"Your use of the word shows that mother is right. You would naturally be prejudiced against any man I might marry."

He tried for an hour to induce her to tell him the name of her new fiance, but, having promised her mother that she would answer no questions with regard to her future, she stood firm. Finally he asked her if he should write a number of names on a bit of paper to tell him whether the name he wished to know was on the list. Since the man was a newcomer and she did not believe Auchinkloss had ever seen or heard of him, she consented. He wrote twenty names on the paper and handed it to her. She handed it back to him with a request to be released from her agreement. Auchinkloss released her and immediately took his departure.

Several weeks rolled around, and Miss Willmarth saw nothing of her discarded lover. She did not even meet him on the street. This was surprising, because the town in which they lived was small. More weeks passed with like result. His place was not supplied by the new suitor, because Mr. and Mrs. Willmarth had decided that he might not pay their daughter any attention whatever till she had passed her eighteenth birthday. Then the couple might be engaged, but for a year before marriage. Such an arrangement prevented any one from linking the two names together.

Four months passed between the time Auchinkloss was discarded and Mabel's eighteenth birthday. The latter had passed and the engagement had been made, though not announced, when the new appointee was arrested one day on a charge of giving a check on a bank where he had no account. Other claims against him followed the first, and it was not long before a pretty black record came to light. The engagement between him and Mabel was broken without any one outside the family knowing that it had occurred.

Then one day Auchinkloss appeared at the Willmarth home and was restored to favor.

"You remember," he asked, "our conversation when I was dismissed about a natural prejudice on my part as to the one who would take my place? Well, that prejudice served a purpose. It was I who unearthed your new lover."

"You? Why, you didn't know his

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