

An Unknown Friend

By JOHN N. LARNED

I was pretty well fixed when I was married, and the future looked bright. But I had a falling-out with my wife called it falling—I couldn't stand to see any one suffer. I indorsed a note for a friend to save him from bankruptcy and owned others money, not counting on the fact that I would need what I put out, and if I didn't have it I would come to grief myself. And so I did.

One day I received a letter from a manufacturer of automobiles that he wished for an agent in my city. My pay would be a salary of \$1,500 a year and a commission on every machine I sold. Who the man was or why he wished me for his agent I didn't know and didn't stop to inquire. I accepted the position at once.

Rathbone was the name of the head of the automobile company. Soon after being settled in the business I wrote him, asking how he came to choose me as an agent, but received no reply. The letter that came from the factory was dictated by the superintendent of the sales department, and I was not sure that Mr. Rathbone had ever seen my letter, or, if he had, whether he had found time to reply to my question. I sold a good many of his autos and was making money when another windfall came to me that surprised me more than the first.

Mr. Rathbone's auto works were incorporated, and one morning I received a registered letter which, on opening, I found to contain a certificate for a thousand shares of the new company made out in my name. I was never in my life so dumfounded. Then it occurred to me that as an employee of the concern I was expected to subscribe for the stock. Though I had laid up some funds, I had not enough to pay for the stock. While I was wondering what it all meant one of my employers called my attention to a newspaper item mentioning the organization of the manufacturing company for which I was agent at shares of \$20 each. The par value of my stock was \$20,000, and the item further stated that there had been sales at 120.

I wrote at once to ask if the stock had been sent me as subscribed stock and on what terms I would be expected to pay for it. A formal reply from the treasurer of the company came to me that the thousand shares stood in my name on the company's books full paid.

When I told my wife about the matter she said that the stock had been placed in my name to serve some purpose connected with the organization of the company and I would find out in time that I didn't own it. I wrote several letters to the main office about it, but they were not answered. My wife was fearful that if any financial breakdown occurred to the company we would be in as bad a fix as before I was offered the agency. I resolved to let the matter drop and await developments.

When the first quarterly dividends were declared I received a check for \$1,000. I looked at it in amazement, then, showing it to my wife, remarked that if this was ruin I wished I might keep on being ruined in the same way as long as I lived. At this rate my stock was paying me \$4,000 a year. It didn't seem worth while to write for an explanation, for no such letters had been accorded an answer. My wife still feared that I was being used as a dummy to put through some financial scheme, but dummies don't usually receive checks for hard money. They are not the basket of the balloon, but the gas bag. I didn't put any faith in this interpretation. Since I could get no information I determined to leave my business in charge of my demonstrator, go to the office of the company and find out for myself what was at the bottom of my good fortune.

I carried out my resolution and one day walked into the office of the manufacturer. I was obliged to send in my card to the president and received a reply to call at his home that evening. When I presented myself there, after being admitted, an elderly woman came in to receive me and said:

"My husband has asked me to say that he is under a great obligation to you, which he is endeavoring to repay. But it is in your power to do him a great injury. He suggests that you return to your home and accept the benefits he has bestowed upon you and those he intends to bestow, asking no questions."

"And he will not see me?"
"He prefers not."
"May I ask why?"
"Because you may recognize him."
"And if I do?"
"I can answer no more questions. I will say this, however—I consider my husband overtimid about the matter."
"I cannot conceive why I should injure one who has so befriended me."

She remained silent, and I withdrew. I returned to my home and within a week received a certificate for another

thousand shares of stock.

One night while lying awake memory brought me a possible explanation. When a youngster, some fifteen years before, while hunting I started from the bushes a man wearing stripes. He begged me not to betray him. Instead of doing so I secured ordinary clothes for him, and he put on and went his way. I never heard from him. I do not doubt that this man became successful and was my benefactor. After thinking the matter over I decided to respect his wishes and never again tried to see him.

ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION.

How the Pulmotor Is Used to Restore Normal Breathing.

The pulmotor is an automatic resuscitation appliance which produces a flow of inhaled and exhaled air by a single nozzle; the rhythm of respiration adjusting itself automatically to the dimensions of the lung, and thus the astonishing result is produced of a seemingly lifeless body beginning to breathe regularly as soon as the pulmotor is placed in connection with it. The pulmotor works directly on the respiratory organs and if the spark of life still exists will fan it into a flame and give the heart and lungs a chance to fight.

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Land Tilled.

The department of agriculture estimates that there are 1,140,000,000 acres of tillable land in the United States and that only 27 per cent of this immense area is under cultivation. It might add that of the 27 per cent actually cultivated comparatively few acres are handled in such a way as to show anything like their maximum production.

Here is food for the pessimist. The man who fears that the country is nearing actual exhaustion may find cheer in the thought that little more than a quarter of the available agricultural land is being made productive. Supply inevitably meets demand, and as the demand for agricultural products increases the supply will be enlarged by the development of regions which have not been touched by the plow.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Why She Couldn't.

"Oh, I couldn't love him."
"Why not?"
"He wears a wig. The very idea!"
Then the dear creature removed two rats, some puffs, a coronet, a braid, a pompadour, a switch and sat down to peruse a novel.—St. Louis Republic.

Church Directory

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Evening service at 8:00 o'clock
Sunday School at 10:00 a. m.
Y. P. A. Meeting at 7:00 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening.

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H. F. JONES, Pastor.
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Evening Service at 8:00 p. m.
Sunday School 10:00 a. m.
Y. P. S. C. E. 7:00 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 8:00 p. m.

BAPTIST CHURCH.
G. A. POLLARD, PASTOR.
Sunday School at 10:00 a. m.
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Christian Union Endeavor, 7:00 P. M.
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