The Millard Junior Ball

By JANE OSBORN

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Five years had sped since Dalton Drew was graduated from Millard college, and now he was revisiting the little college town for the first time in all that long lapse of years. To be sure it was a matter of business. A client of the law firm of which he was a junior partner lived in the outskirts of Millard, and Dalton Drew had been detailed to take this necessary trip to see him. Dalton arrived at six o'clock of the evening preceding the morning when he was booked to call on the client, and at the railroad station got in touch with one of his fraternity brothers whom he knew to be still a resident of Millard. Benson Forsyth had married and lived at home, but he apologized to Dalton, as his wife was taking a vacation, and as the cook had taken French leave, he could not play a very good host.

Dalton, however, took a taxi to the home of Benson Forsyth.

"There is nothing to eat in the house," explained Benson, "and there isn't a thing in town by way of amusement. Sometimes we have a good show. We'll have to go down to the Millard house and have dinner and then come to my home here for a quiet evening."

"What is the matter with Barlow's?" asked Dalton, recalling the confectionery restaurant that had been a veritable institution among the college boys when he was in college. "Barlow hasn't gone out of business?"

"That's the trouble," complained Benson. "Barlow still gets all the business. Tonight is junior prom. The whole junior class will be dining at Barlow's with their girls. We could probably get a table—Barlow always puts up extra tables and has extra waiters, but it's enough to take your appetite away—"

Dalton did not understand, so Benson explained. "To see all those girls—most of them just foolish girls from country homes—coming to their first big college dance. Going to Barlow's with some grass-green college student is a great event. Some of them are pretty enough, but no style. After what you're used to in the city, I'm afraid you would be disgusted."

"Still," deliberated Dalton, "we were just as green when we were juniors, and the girls we thought perfection were probably just as simple and demure. Fact is, Benson, I've an idea it would be interesting. I'm no great admirer of the self-possessed, self-satisfied girl of the big city. Let's go to Barlow's."

That is how it happened that Drew and Forsyth, of the class of 1916, looking quite worldly wise and middle-aged to the boys and girls who were dining at Barlow's that night, took their places at a small table set up in one of the aisles. It was they, not the students, who felt a little embarrassed at the contrast. They made no comments until the waiter had set before them the first course of the famous Barlow table d'hote, especially elaborate on the night of one of the big college dances.

"They're not so tame looking as I thought," said Benson Forsyth with considerable self-consciousness as he became aware of the fact that he had been looking with considerable intentness at the diners at a table nearby, which, however, Dalton Drew could not have seen without turning around in his chair. "I dare say girls, even country girls, are more sophisticated, know how to dress better and all that than girls of that sort used to. At the table behind you—you can't see them now—there are a couple of callow-looking juniors and two of the trimmest looking little twins you ever saw—bobbed hair, jade earrings, peaches and cream complexions. Do you see anything that looks good to you?"

"Yes," said Dalton, "the girl at the little table to the right."

Benson Forsyth turned enough to notice the girl in question. "You're joking—poor girl, she looks scared enough to choke. And she's with her brother. He's Jack Mateland's younger brother, fraternity brothers of ours. Poor girl. Funny she's so plain—Jack and Tom are good-looking fellows."

Dalton Drew looked again, reflecting on the obvious difference in his own and Benson Forsyth's taste. To be sure, the girl he admired was not well dressed. Likewise she was lacking in assurance. The stiff hat that crowned her smoothly brushed hair seemed too large and from time to time the girl lifted a slender but awkward index finger straight before her nose to raise the brim of the hat that seemed in peril of eclipsing her face entirely. When she did this her round eyes that she kept wide open and that looked a little humid from excitement, seemed to cross just a small fraction of a degree. Awkward as the gesture and expression was, it struck Dalton Drew as amusing and really delightful. He enjoyed his feeling of admiration, the more because it took considerable perspicacity to realize that she was really very pretty. He cast his eyes about the dining room, turned enough to catch a glimpse of the twins, and reflected that this Jane Mateland was undoubtedly the prettiest girl at Barlow's—a fact that he did not vouchsafe to the unappreciative Benson Forsyth.

When Benson and Dalton rose to leave their table it happened that Tom Mateland, junior, and his sister had also risen at the same time. At the door there were introductions and an exchange of the fraternity handshake between the men.

Dalton Drew stepped ahead with Jane Mateland when they had gone out. "You are going to the prom?" he asked, and Jane, with some confusion, said that she was not.

"Sis will go some other time," laughed Tom with obvious embarrassment, and they parted, Tom and Jane in one direction and Dalton and Benson in another.

"You put your foot in it," laughed Benson. "The women have been gossiping about it for a week. Jane was going to be allowed to go to the prom this year. Her grandmother gave her $50 to buy her first evening dress, and she bought it and all the fixings. But none of the boys asked her. Can't blame them. Then they counted on having Tom take her, but Tom, it seems, had got engaged to a girl of his own, and the little fiancee wasn't going to let Tom take little sister. It seems that the girl lives in town and her folks wouldn't let her go to Barlow's to dinner with Tom, so Tom took Jane. She looked a little wistful—kind of pathetic, having the dress and everything—"

There was a pause. "Is there anything you could do to amuse yourself if I excused myself for the rest of the evening?" said Dalton Drew.

"Sure thing. Tonight's the night I bowl," said Benson. "I thought your appointment wasn't until morning."

"My law work isn't until tomorrow, but I have a sneaking idea I'll go to that dance. You and I are about the same size and shape. Let me go home and slip into your evening clothes. It's 7:30 now and the dance is at 9. I guess we can just about make arrangements."

First there was a telephone communication with Tom Mateland and Dalton Drew at the Mateland house. Dalton had come to town hoping to be able to go to the dance, he said, but he had no partner. Was it possible that his sister would consent to go? Then the florist had arrived with a box so full of orchids that little Jane Mateland's eyes overflowed with tears of happiness. At 8:50 Dalton Drew, looking the incarnation of evening propriety, but smelling a little of the Forsyth's cedar chest, arrived. He was immeasurably relieved to find that the evening dress bought with her grandmother's $50 did not fit so well or look so smart as to rob Jane entirely of her charming awkwardness. Dalton had a great longing to tell Jane that she was the most charming girl he had ever seen—he knew it would be the first time anyone had ever told her that. But he didn't tell her then; he wanted to wait until he could gather Jane and her stiff pink silk dress into his arms and feel the firm smoothness of her cheeks against his own.

Many a fate has been sealed and a destiny shaped within the five or six hours of a Millard junior ball. To those who sit in the patronesses' box, deafened by the music and fanning themselves to keep away the drowsiness, there seems no opportunity down there among the dancers to fall deeply in or out of love.

But it was possibly the only environment in which Dalton Drew could have brought himself to this important decision, for the whole place was laden with associations of his youth. There was a glamour about it that seemed to close in about him as he started to dance with Jane Mateland and that did not depart from him when, two days later, he found himself back in his law offices with the knowledge that he had asked for and received the hand of Jane.

UNIQUE INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND

Christmas Remarkable in That It Was Not Populated Before Its Discovery by Europeans.

Christmas Island, in the Indian ocean, is believed to be unique in that it is probably the only tropical island capable of sustaining a considerable population which had never been peopled until after its discovery by Europeans. Except where sheer rock walls occur it is heavily wooded from the water's edge to the summit. Coconuts and sago palms as well as many other tropical trees grow in profusion. Beneath them is a tangle of tropical undergrowth, but in this jungle are no wild beasts and only a few harmless reptiles.

But one pestiferous creature is omnipresent—a wicked-looking red crab. Some of these creatures attain a size of nine inches across the back. They do not confine themselves to the shore sands, but range all over the island, and always in groups. Sometimes armies of them march along. They even climb the trees and feast on the succulent nipa palms. As an offset to the crabs the island, unlike virtually every other tropical land is mosquitoless. This boon it owes to its porous soil and steep slopes.

Good in Kindergarten Work.

There is nothing that can make life so intensely interesting, that can so develop broad-mindedness, that can so fill one with a motive power, as to have a work which is so vital as to absorb one. Kindergarten training has in it all the elements which promote a young woman's growth. It fulfills Spencer's description of a training that best fits for self-preservation, for the discharge of parental duties, for the regulation of social and political conduct and the enjoyment of nature, literature and the fine arts.—Exchange.

Different Methods.

The City Kid—Look at that cow licking her calf. What's she doing it for?

The Rural Kid—I dunno. That ain't the way my maw licks me.

WHY AND HOW TO CULTIVATE SOIL

Of Much Importance That Roots of Various Plants Be Given Supply of Air.

MAKE PLANT FOOD AVAILABLE

Many Persons Make Mistake of Working Too Deeply and Cut Off Feeding Rootlets—Steel Rake Is Useful Tool.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

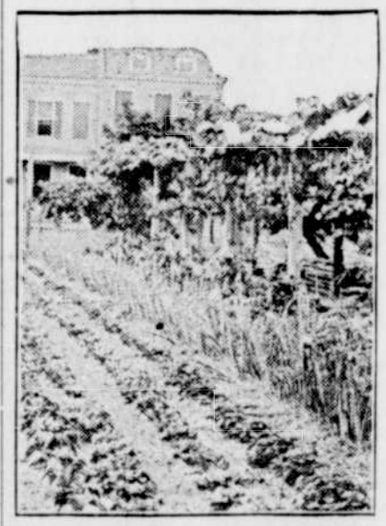
Most people have an idea that gardens are cultivated solely for the purpose of killing weeds. As a matter of fact, the killing of weeds is just one object of garden cultivation, says the United States Department of Agriculture. The roots of plants require air just the same as do the tops, and if the ground is packed or hard or is sunbaked over the surface after a beating rain, the roots cannot get air, and for that reason the plants will suffer if not cultivated. The same thing is true where the land is poorly drained and waterlogged. The water keeps out the air and the roots cannot feed the plants.

Cultivation has another object, in that it breaks up the soil particles and makes plant food available for the feeding rootlets of the plants. Many persons, however, make the mistake of cultivating too deeply, and by so doing cut off or injure the feeding rootlets and deprive the plant of its source of nourishment and support. Frequent shallow cultivation during dry weather results in the formation of a layer of fine dust which serves as a mulch or blanket to retain moisture.

Cultivating After Rains.

The soil should always be cultivated just as soon as it is sufficiently dry to be safely worked after heavy rains. If it is not cultivated, a crust forms, the surface bakes, and the crops are injured. The same will apply where irrigation is used, and it has been found best to give the soil a thorough soaking, then cultivate as soon as it is dry enough, and apply no more water until absolutely necessary.

The hoe and the steel rake are the most important tools for cultivating the small garden. On a larger scale a wheel hoe or a horse cultivator may be used to advantage. The wheel-hoe outfits are provided with a number of different attachments adapted for the different types of work to be performed. These implements have the advantage that one can go over the garden very rapidly and break up the surface of the soil in a comparatively short time. It is generally necessary, however, to follow with the hoe and the fingers to remove any weeds that have not been destroyed by the wheel cultivator. Even where horse-drawn tools are occasionally used, the greater part of the work, especially during



One Section of a Well-Planned Garden.

dry weather, may be performed by means of a common steel rake. It is not necessary to go very deeply into the soil, but merely to stir the surface.

A Tool That Helps.

A handy little tool for loosening the soil can be made from a piece of thin board 2 inches wide and 14 inches long, with one end whittled down to form a handle and the opposite end provided with three No. 6 or No. 7 wire nails. This little home-made implement can be used very soon after a rain to loosen the surface, so that any small seeds can break through.

It should be borne in mind that the time to kill weeds is when they are just coming through the ground. If allowed to become established, it is much more difficult to get rid of them than if they are taken in time. If the top 2 inches of soil is kept continuously and thoroughly loosened, there will be no serious difficulty in keeping out weeds.

SOY BEANS FIT IN ROTATION

Take Place of Oats and Are More Profitable as Cash Crop—Of Benefit to Soil.

Soy beans fit perfectly in rotation in the place of oats, making a four year rotation corn, soy beans, wheat, clover, they being more profitable than oats as a cash crop, and leaving the soil in much better shape, both as to mechanical condition and fertility, as little or no preparation for wheat is needed on land from which a crop of well cultivated soys has been mowed.

Shaker Sect Is Fast Dwindling

Most Remarkable of All Religious Groups That Found Sanctuary in Colonial America.

TWELVE COMMUNITIES LEFT

Introduced Idea of Equal Rights for Women Two Years Before Declaration of Independence—Practiced Real Communism.

Washington, D. C.—The idea of equal rights for women was introduced in America two years before our Declaration of Independence declared, "all men are created equal." Spirit manifestations, akin to the recent popularity of other world communication, had a vogue in the colonies before the Revolutionary war.

These facts are recalled by the proposed abandonment of the Shaker community in Enfield, New Hampshire, which is reported to have dwindled from 350 members to only six survivors, says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"Of all the religious groups that found sanctuary on the soil of colonial America the most remarkable, perhaps, were the Shakers with their customs that were partly medieval and partly far ahead of their day," the bulletin continues. "And the persistence of a firmly grounded religious belief is aptly illustrated by their survival to this day although their virginal vows provided no younger generation to carry on their tradition, and their deliberate isolation in self-sustaining communities gave few opportunities to make converts.

"The Shakers never had more than 5,000 members and the 12 communities remaining today reported 367 members in 1916, which means a population of not more than a thousand. The longevity of individual members, combined with their abstinence from meat and fish, their prescribed manual labor and hygienic living, have made their communities interesting human experiment stations for the biologist as well as the geographer. The bodily movements as they worshiped closely resemble the noon-day gymnasium exercises of many an American business man.

Arrested for Gyrations.

"Ann Lee, self-styled, 'Ann the Word' but known among her followers as 'Mother Ann, founded the Shakers, whose official title is 'United Society of True Believers in Christ's Second Coming.' After four children died in their infancy Ann Lee sought solace among an offshoot of the Quaker sect in England, which had been influenced by the early Eighteenth century wave of 'manifestations' among what we would call 'mediums.' Ann could not read or write, and her husband later deserted her. For her shouting, leaping and bodily gyrations during her exhortations she was arrested in Manchester.

"While in jail the young woman asserted that the Christ appeared to her in a vision, told her he was one with her, and upon serving her sentence she gathered a few followers and set out to America to proclaim herself the embodiment of Christ in His second coming.

"On the way across the ship's captain forbade the Shakers to indulge in their athletic form of worship. Whereupon, according to Shaker literature, a storm arose, a plank was sprung, and the vessel began to fill. 'Mother Ann' reassured the captain saying two angels had appeared before her in a vision to promise her safe passage. Just as the crew was becoming exhausted from pumping a huge wave again struck the ship and jammed the plank back into place!

"For two years 'Mother Ann' worked in New York as a washerwoman, then, in 1776, she founded the first Shaker village at Watervliet, New York.

"In such strange fashion was instituted, the year that America dates her national birth, the Western world's first experiment in communism. Later societies, or 'families,' grew up in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Ohio and Kentucky.

The Shaker Platform.

"The cardinal principles of the Shakers' religion are virgin purity, confession of their sins, complete separation from what they term the world's vanities, and a communism which approaches political socialism. If a man and wife join a Shaker community they are supposed to live as brother and sister.

"Until recently they prohibited the taking of photographs and they forbade pictures of all kinds as idolatrous. Even the cultivation of flower gardens for decorative purposes was frowned upon in former years. And there is still doubt among the older members about the propriety of musical instruments.

"The Shaker community is as nearly self-sustaining as possible and about the only importations in their beginnings were iron for their ploughshares. In their industrial and agricultural development they have contributed many valuable ideas which have been seized upon for general use. They are credited with the revolving harrow, cut nails and the planing machine. Raising herbs for medicinal use was one of their early major industries."

GIRL IS ATHLETIC STAR

Miss Dorothy Bough, here seen going over the hurdles, was a star performer in an athletic meet in Philadelphia. She made the 75-yard dash in ten seconds, tying the women's record.

Lays Real Golf Ball.

Independence, Kan.—L. Kenoyer's famous hen is again in the limelight. This biddy a year ago laid eggs on a roof, shied them off and then grabbed them as they fell. She devoured her own eggs. One day recently she laid a round egg, which Mr. Kenoyer, after treating with acetic acid and formaldehyde, finds makes an excellent golf ball. He has refused $500 for the hen.

Powdered shark's skin is used for polishing diamonds.

American Gold Perils Tourist

Is Big Hindrance to Travelers and Exchangeable for Less Than Bank Drafts.

MRS. TENNANT IS SEARCHED

Fined for Attempt to Leave France With United States Coin She Brought In—French Law Limits Its Amount Taken Out.

Paris.—Americans traveling in Europe who persist in the time-honored custom of carrying about a certain amount of gold may profit by reading of the disagreeable experience of Mrs. Palmer Tennant of Hagerstown, Md. Mrs. Tennant has just returned to Paris after eight months of travel on the continent and in North Africa with her husband. On leaving New York last August Mrs. Tennant and her husband bought a small amount of gold to use in any emergency in case they arrived in an out-of-the-way place where checks and letters of credit did not pass current.

Mrs. Tennant kept $100 in gold pieces in an envelope in her dressing bag. She passed through various custom houses without any difficulty or delay save for the usual formalities. On arriving at Bellegarde on the French frontier on her way to Geneva a few days ago Mrs. Tennant fell into the hands of the only woman inspector in the Bellegarde customs. This woman, after being assured that Mrs. Tennant had nothing dutiable to declare, started to make a minute examination of the contents of Mrs. Tennant's dressing bag and picking up an envelope of the Banker's Trust company found the five $20 American gold pieces, which she immediately confiscated.

She then ordered Mrs. Tennant into an inside office to be searched. Mrs. Tennant and her husband protested strongly and pointed out the fact that they were not carrying French but American gold, which they had brought into France. Protests were of no avail and Mrs. Tennant was forced to disrobe down to her last garment. The woman inspector even tore the lining out of her hat and ran her fingers through Mrs. Tennant's hair.

After their trunks were examined in a vain quest for more gold, the Tennants were marched by a half dozen officials to the prefect of police, who took the American gold, figured out a very low rate of exchange and gave Mrs. Tennant French notes for her gold. He then fined the American woman 50 francs for attempting to carry gold out of the country. Mrs. Tennant was so upset by her experience that she paid the fine lest any further indignities be offered her, and continued on to Geneva with her husband after four hours' delay.

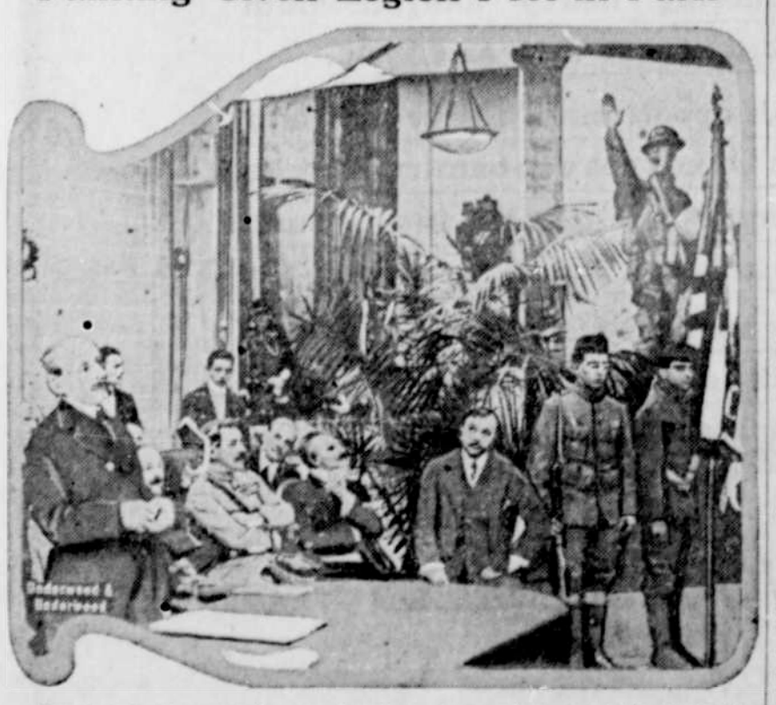
Subsequently inquiry has developed that the woman inspector at Bellegarde makes a specialty of gold digging, whereas the male inspectors at Bellegrade usually make only a most cursory inspection, and, in most cases, pass trunks without opening them at all, after making the usual inquiry as to dutiable tobacco, liquors and perfumes. An American woman with two children had $350 in American gold taken away from her recently by the same woman inspector at Bellegarde. American men carrying gold pieces on their watch chains have been similarly relieved.

Gold Is Hindrance.

The French law prohibits any person taking more than 5,000 francs in currency out of the country. Gold is not only a hindrance to a traveler, but it is exchangeable at a lower rate than a bank draft. Paris banks recently paid 10.95 francs for American dollars in the form of bank drafts or travelers' checks, but only 10.20 francs for American gold. Travelers coming from Germany who admitted to the customs officer that they were in possession of more than 3,000 marks were invited to hand over the surplus or go to jail. In each case they were given a receipt for their money and informed that they could redeem it when they returned to Germany.

One American, who innocently told a German inspector that he had only $500 but that its equivalent was in German marks, had to turn over all but about $30 with which to make his way as best he could south, through Switzerland, to catch his steamer. This incident happened at Basel, where the German inspection of trunks is most minute. Anything brought in Germany and not declared is confiscated. The immense purchases by foreigners in Germany has brought about the most rigid scrutiny of baggage.

Painting Given Legion Post in Paris



Marshal Foch presenting to American Legion Post No. 1 in Paris the symbolic canvas "America," the work of M. Reni-Mel, official painter to the French minister of war. The painting, of an American soldier aiding a wounded French comrade, will hang on the wall of the post headquarters in Paris.

JAP SCHOOL BOYS SUSPENDED

Call Principal "Despotic" in Discharging Old Professors—Vote "Want of Confidence."

Kyoto, Japan.—The boys of the high school of Kyoto who passed a vote of "want of confidence" in their principal were suspended for a week. The non-confidence vote was based on the alleged "despotism" of the principal in discharging old professors. As a conference between the principal and the scholars could not come to an agreement, the suspension of the boys was decided upon.