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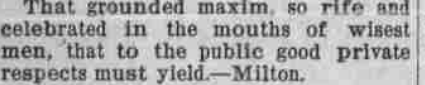
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Frequently Planted to Help Cost of Maintenance.

When Trees Reach Bearing Age They Should Not Be Made to Compete With Annuals.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Frequently planted to help the cost of maintenance, the peach trees in the orchard.

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Van Vivier's Scoop

By F. M. GILMER

advancement comes slowly in a newspaper office, and to Philip Madge seemed an immeasurable distance off, when suddenly he made his great scoop. It was the merest accident—successes mostly are, if we knew the truth of them. One evening he was walking along one of the fashionable residence streets when suddenly he was startled by a scream, and looking up he saw a woman with the wild eyes and cunning of a maniac sitting

very outer coping of the walls of a house, where she waved her head, and leaned distantly forward into the street below. Instantly all the mystery of the blind, and jealously guarded of the mansion, at which many averted, was revealed. Here of those family tragedies, at the world guesses—some poor creature, living out her life padded walls, who had escaped her keepers, and with that in-flight from a prison which is all reason, was preparing to fatal leap into the street below. The street crowd that seems to from the very pavement when anything unusual happens, had gathered. They could see the gestures of the keeper vainly to call the woman, but at every instant, the crouching creature's figure, the perilous edge made a moan if to cast herself down, and try fear the attendant dare not catch her. The great front door of the house was flung suddenly open, and servants rushed about seeking assistance, but none what to do, and the crowd would only wait breathlessly for pending tragedy.

Madge had taken Philip but an instant to take the scene, and with a sudden inspiration he dashed past the crowd in the doorway, and up the stairs. The crazed woman was still and pretty. A dainty silken and a filmy lace scarf blew about. Evidently she was a woman of society, so the thoughts rough his mind as he dashed through three flights of steps and the open door in the roof at which she had evidently

fallen. He knew well enough he might be going to his death, but he only smiled a little grimly, and moved on towards the pathetic figure swaying on the ledge of the wall. The woman looked up at the sound of an approaching step. She saw a handsome young man—a young man such as she vaguely remembered in that world that was not all horrible dreams and padded walls—coming toward her. When he reached her he made a courtly bow, and offered her his arm, and without one protest, mechanically, naturally, as if they had been on the ballroom floor, she arose and put her hand within it, and together they started toward the house, treading the narrow ledge, whose outer edge was death. A single push of the crazed woman's feeble hand and mutilation waited for them below, but there was not a tremble in the man's voice as he asked her:

"And what did you think of the new tenor this winter at the opera?"

In the street below the crowd stood silent, tense with excitement, until they saw Philip hand the woman, still with courtly grace, through the door in the roof, and then it broke into tumultuous cheering.

As for Philip, his one thought was to get to the office. His part in the adventure appealed to him not at all. It was what any fellow would have done, he thought, and he could leave that out, but he realized the value of the story. The secret of the darkened mansion. The closed blinds. The beautiful woman, with her wild, mad eyes—it was full of color, it was picturesque. Besides it was a scoop. No other reporter had been there, and a scoop is as dear to the newspaper heart as a first-born to a mother. There was still some of the excitement of the adventure tingling in his veins, and as he wrote he felt his description was vivid, and he turned it in to the city editor with the calm and unmixed satisfaction of knowing that it was good "copy."

There is, perhaps, no other joy in life equal to that of the young writer who reads his own productions in type, and Philip's first conscious act the next morning was to reach for the paper. He had expected his story to be given some prominent place; perhaps to be featured. To his dismay it was not even printed. He looked the paper over twice to have suspicion deepen into certainty. It had been left out. How long he might have stared at the paper in bewilderment he never knew, but that two letters caught his eyes, as they lay upon his table. One was from the city editor of the Asterisk, and he pounced upon it for an explanation.

"Dear Van Vivier," he read, "sorry, but your scoop was scooped. The distressed damsel you rescued is old La Roux's daughter, and La Roux, as you appear not to know, is the heaviest stockholder in the Asterisk. Naturally he wanted your story killed. Virtue is rewarded, however. He suggests you for night editor in place of Clarkson who has resigned. Report for duty tonight."

The other letter was from Madge. It said:

"Dear Philip: I have heard of your rescue of poor Fannie La Roux. How could you be such a hero, and such a goose as to take such a risk? You need a guardian, sir, and I am going to marry you to take care of you on this day one month. You can't refuse a lady, you know. Yours, Madge."

Philip read the letter twice, and then he bowed his head on the table, and when he raised it his eyes were very dim and tender.

love 'oo and 'oo won't never be lone-some any more," and, indeed, it seemed to Philip he had never been lonesome again. There was always Madge.

But who may count securely on the future? Move the kaleidoscope ever so gently, and its figures change. One turn of the hand of fate and the bright picture one's dreams painted are shattered forever. There came a day when Philip had to do, not with visions of a golden future, but with a hard and merciless present. Suddenly an unexpected thunderbolt came the failure of the trust company in which his fortune was invested, and he awoke one morning to find himself that most pitiable of all creatures on earth—the man who needs money, and knows no way of earning it. He had taken the blow standing, with a smile on his lips, like the thoroughbred he was, and just how deep the hurt went none knew.

"Pleasant prospects," was his sole comment, with a shrug of his shoulders to those who would have consoled with him on his loss, "a beer income, and a champagne taste. Do you happen to know the best way to adjust them?"

He might meet the situation with laughter and scoffing so far as others were concerned, but when it came to Madge it was another thing. "I can't ask her to marry a beggar," he said to himself, setting his teeth, and with a face as white as death, "and I'm not portly enough to settle down and live on her money," and there had been a terrible scene in which he had told her this, and released her from her promise to marry him.

"Oh, Philip, Philip," she cried, clinging to him, "what good is all my money to me if I can't make things easy for you? Surely there is more than enough for us both."

Then he tried to explain to her, blunderingly and haltingly, that something that is dearer to man than even love of woman—that something which he must have, or die of self-loathing—his own self-respect.

"I couldn't live without it, darling," he said at last, passionately, "if I gave in to fate without one struggle, and was content to let you support me, I should imagine your contempt for such a weakling in every tone of your dear voice. I should see it in every glance of your dear eyes. No, no, I must make my fight and win my place in the world of men, or I will die fighting on the battlefield. If I succeed I will come back to claim my own. If I fail, a better man wins. Don't you see how it must be that way?"

And in the end Madge "saw." The sympathy that always understood others was part of her charm, and Philip went away.

At college he had rather distinguished himself by some clever skits in the college journal, and so it seemed natural to him to turn to journalism as the most available way of settling the bread and butter problem. A friend obtained a place for him on the staff of the morning Asterisk, where he began at the bottom of the reporter's ladder, and learned among other bitter pieces of knowledge that the public hunger and thirst for gory details of murder, and has but a lukewarm interest in the higher criticism, and that on a newspaper staff a university degree is regarded with far less respect than a nose for news.

Still, the glamour stripped from journalism, Philip kept doggedly on. He acquired a reputation for being faithful and accurate. He was a gourmand for work and the city editor began to speak hopefully of him, but

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