



The RECLUSE of FIFTH AVENUE

by WYNDHAM MARTYN

W.N.U. SERVICE

STORY FROM THE START

From the comfortable financial situation to which he had been born, Peter Milman, American gentleman of the old school, and last of his family, is practically reduced to penury through the misfortune of a friend, Hazen Brewer, whom he had unwisely trusted.

CHAPTER I—Continued

"It was my intention to bequeath them to the Metropolitan." Milman frowned a little. "It will seem like breaking faith with the dead."

Sneed did not yet know that the man he served was insolvent and that all these relics which told so much of the Milman history must come under the hammer. "You can leave me," Milman said, after a pause. "I want to remain here some time."

At six o'clock Sneed ventured to disturb Peter Milman. During the hours he had passed downstairs Sneed thought he understood what his employer meant. He had put things together. He believed Peter Milman was cataloguing his treasures. Hazen Brewer's failure had been as complete as the evening papers proclaimed.

Peter Milman's manner vaguely disturbed his butler. There was a smile where usually mild cynicism reigned. Almost it seemed as if the sword which Milman held had imbued him with swashbuckling courage of that hard-drinking, roystering Oliver Milman who had been a notable figure in the Colonial wars.

"I am not sure," Peter Milman observed, "that man made a good exchange when he put aside the sword and depended upon law and its chicaneries."

"So I've heard, Mr. Peter, sir," Sneed returned, understanding nothing.

"I was not aware the view was so generally accepted," said his employer. "The man who owned this literally carved his way to fortune. He had fought in Europe before he came here. His God-fearing brother, my own ancestor, disowned him publicly in church on Christmas Sunday and lost all his cattle and barns by lightning the next summer. I have always had a sneaking fondness for Captain Oliver."

Sneed followed his master down the broad stairs. The butler regarded himself as a built-in feature of the mansion. He knew that to seek work in the bustling world outside would be repellent and bewildering. He realized that Peter Milman and he were two lonely, friendless men. And they had lost their home because one of them had trusted implicitly in Hazen Brewer. What a price to pay for friendship, Sneed mused unhappily. He did not understand how it was the other seemed in no way depressed. Sneed was not to know that Captain Oliver's shade had whispered courage into the ear of the last of the Milmans.

CHAPTER II

At ten o'clock on the following morning, Peter Milman entered the offices of a firm of lawyers which had transacted the private business of Hazen Brewer. Henry Payne, the head of the firm, looked troubled when Milman's card was brought in. The interview would not be pleasant for either of them.

"I came," Milman began in his urbane manner, "to find out, if possible, the extent of Mr. Brewer's losses. I might have called up Hazen, but in a moment like this he has worries enough."

"I hope Mr. Brewer is not worrying now."

"Then things are not as bad as they seemed?" Milman's heart pounded as he said it.

"Worse. I've had news for you, Mr. Milman. Poor Hazen Brewer committed suicide in the early hours of this morning. I suppose when he saw there was left nothing but liabilities, his mind gave way."

Payne wished he could discover from Milman's expression how much or little this news meant to him. But Milman had too much control of himself to allow any man to see how stricken he was.

"Poor Hazen," he murmured. "He was one of my oldest and best friends."

A curious tribute, thought the lawyer, to one whose speculations had ruined him. But perhaps the other did not yet realize to what an extent his private fortune was involved.

"The mortgage on my house," Milman began, "I suppose it will be foreclosed?"

"I'm afraid so. There will be a meeting of his creditors within a day

or so. If I can act for you in any way, I shall be only too glad to do so."

"You are very kind," said Mr. Milman courteously. He shook Mr. Payne's hand and left.

"A thoroughbred," murmured the lawyer, who had seen many distinguished men listen to bad news in this office. "Poor devil, wiped out absolutely!"

Before going home, Peter Milman took his way to an agency which specialized in French domestic help of the better sort.

"I want," he said to the woman at the desk, "a French butler who will do the entire work of a house in which only a few of the rooms are occupied. A woman comes in by the day to clean the place and the windows, and the furnace is attended to."

"I think I can suit you," she said, and turned to a card index.

"Wait," said the other. "There are other necessary qualifications. He must be a good plain cook and know no English."

"That makes it easier," she said. "I have a man with very good references who could fill the bill. He came



"You May Regard Him as a Temporary Expedient."

over in the last quota. If you could wait a few minutes, I could arrange to have you meet him."

Achille Luty was forty-seven, rather terrified by the size and noise of New York, and anxious to begin to save money so that he might return to Amiens and establish a restaurant. The wages he was offered seemed marvelous. The restrictions seemed no burden to him. He had no friends to ask into the house, and the little leisure he was allowed made the saving of his wages certain. He was to report at the house on Lower Fifth avenue tomorrow at noon.

That night at dinner the estimable Sneed noted a certain unusual nervousness in his master's manner. The old butler did not dream of the ill fortune that awaited him.

"Sneed," Peter Milman began, when the coffee had been poured out, "my future household arrangements will be on a different scale from what they have been of late. You have been a faithful servant to me for many years. I am not likely to find your equal. In lieu of notice I shall give you six months' wages. I shall be glad if you will leave before luncheon tomorrow."

"Oh, Mr. Peter, sir," Sneed wailed, "what have I done to be treated like this?"

"Nothing. If I had my way, I should never let you go. You cannot understand how sorry I am. But the thing

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Big Job for Woman to Handle Grown Man

"Man has always wanted a listener since the beginning of things, and when he comes home he wants it still."

Listen for all you are worth; it is your job. I can tell you, to handle a full-grown man properly is a full-grown woman's job, and don't you forget it.

"Anyone can be charming when the evening falls and the stars twinkle in the sky, but give me the man who can be charming at breakfast without being offensive."

"It is the things of the spirit more than those of the flesh by which love is preserved. A woman may not trouble to powder her nose, nor manicure her nails, and yet she may have that subtle flair for loving well which turns life into a constant adventure. That is the woman of whom a man

is inevitable. There are matters when you must ask me to explain. This is one of them."

"Let me stay," Sneed begged. "I don't want wages. I can do the work we pay that woman for, and tending the furnace is good exercise. This is my home, too, sir."

"Sneed," said the other kindly, "I tell you that by remaining here you will embarrass me and imperil certain plans I have determined on, will you still want to stay?"

"I'd do anything for you, Mr. Peter," he said brokenly.

"I knew you would. I will say this: If, by any turn of the wheel, things become better, I will have you back."

"The papers say nothing is left," Sneed returned dismally.

"If the papers were always correct, this would be a direful world."

Sneed looked into the face of a Peter Milman he did not know, and he had believed he knew his employer in every mood. It seemed to the butler he had discovered a new personality, someone more ruthless, harder, biterer.

"The man who comes tomorrow will never take your place. You may regard him as a temporary expedient. When you go, Sneed, I shall see one of my few friends depart."

The butler knew that there was no argument he could use to change his employer's determination. But he was cheered by the faint hope that some day he might return. Mr. Peter, he reflected, had never been like other men. Reserved, non-communicative, aloof and austere, but inflexibly a man of his word. Six months was not so long. Sneed thought he would spend the period in foreign travel. He had understood that during the past quarter century certain improvements had been made in the world.

When Peter Milman told Sneed that his presence would imperil certain plans, he was speaking sober truth. In the upper rooms of his home there had been born the determination to save the things he loved from being disposed of at auction. It seemed almost as though the shades of his forbears, lingering about the things that had been theirs, had concentrated their influence upon their ultimate descendant. He had gone to the Milman museum to say farewell. He had put down his ancestor's sword with the determination to fight. And in this fight Sneed, for all his faithful ways and honest heart, could have no part. Any deviation from the way of life he had followed for so many years would alarm the faithful butler. He would inevitably have imagined his employer was ill and buzzed about him like an anxious fly.

Milman's way of life changed directly Achilles Luty entered his service. To the Frenchman it was nothing unusual that Milman went out frequently. Luty knew nothing of the former secluded existence.

A few days after Sneed's hegra had begun, Achilles Luty dropped three letters into a nearby mail-box. The letters were addressed to: Fleming Bradley, Edgewater, N. J.; Floyd Malet of Philadelphia; Neeland Barnes of Peekskill-on-the-Hudson.

Fleming Bradley, returning home from a tedious day of work in the laboratory of an oil refinery, found his letter on the table where his meal was set. He was a big, untidy man of middle age, taciturn, and unpopular with his fellows because he invited no confidences nor answered personal questions. At the Edgewater refinery, as in that at Bayonne from which he had come two years previously, he was known as F. Bradley. None suspected him of being the great physicist, Fleming Bradley, once the foremost man in his line America had produced.

He slit the envelope and looked at the address and signature. The name Peter Milman meant as little to him as his own name to Edgewater. Bradley had never read a Social Register in his life. Between the pages was a money order for one hundred dollars.

"I beg you," Peter Milman wrote, "not to imagine that by inclosing this money I suppose you to be an object for charity. I urgently desire you to dine with me today week at half-past seven o'clock, and it may be that you must engage a substitute or be put—by my request—to some expense not otherwise necessary."

"You may ask yourself why you should go to this trouble for a man unknown to you. I would answer that I am thoroughly acquainted with your life history and entertain a great admiration for your genius. Think of me as one anxious to see you regain your rank as one of the great scientists of the world. Perhaps at this dinner you may be offered the opportunity."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Start With Clean Slate

You should enter the door of each new day with a clean slate and clear mind. No matter how poorly you have done your work before, there must be a new start made.—C. F. Johnson.

An Undivided Heart

An undivided heart which worships God alone, and trusts Him as it should, is raised above all anxiety for earthly wants.

Salvation

Salvation has cost too much for God to give it to a person, when he is not hungry for it.—Echols.

The Lie

A lie should be trampled on, extinguished wherever found.—Carlyle.

Improved Uniform International Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, (C. 1927, Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for May 29

PETER UNDAUNTED BY PERSECUTION

LESSON TEXT—Acts 5:17-42. GOLDEN TEXT—We ought to obey God rather than man.—Acts 5:29. PRIMARY TOPIC—Peter Shows His Courage.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Peter Speaks Bravely for His Lord.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Standing Firm Under Persecution. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Source of Courage.

The vindication of the house of God against the hypocritical act of Ananias and Sapphira had a salutary effect upon the people. The hypocrites were deterred from joining the church, but true-hearted men and women were all the more attracted to it, even identifying themselves with it. So great was the stir in Jerusalem that even the sick folk were brought where but the shadow of Peter might fall upon them.

I. The Apostles in Prison (vv. 17-18).

The marvelous success which accompanied the teaching of the apostles was too much for the Sadducees to endure. Their jealous wrath was aroused to such an extent that they laid the cruel hand of persecution upon these witnesses for Christ. Cain was jealous of Abel; Joseph's brethren sold him in slavery because he was the favorite of Jacob. Saul was jealous of David when the women ascribed greater glory to him.

II. The Apostles' Miraculous Deliverance (vv. 19-21).

1. The Lord sent an angel to open the prison and let the prisoners free (v. 19).

There are no doors, nor bolts capable of shutting out God's angel.

2. They were commanded to go at once and speak to the people. (v. 20).

The message they were to deliver was the "Words of this life." Most likely this means eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

3. Their prompt obedience (v. 21).

By daybreak they were teaching in the temple.

III. The Apostles Tried (vv. 21-32).

1. The meeting of the council (v. 21). In the early morning the Jewish council was convened by the high priest.

2. Their perplexity (vv. 22-24).

The officer was sent to bring the prisoners, but lo, when they came to the jail it was empty. This news greatly perplexed the council.

3. The apostles again arrested (vv. 25, 26).

When one came with the news that the apostles were teaching in the temple, officers were dispatched to bring them before the council. They refrained from the use of violence because they feared the people.

4. The apostles questioned (vv. 27, 28).

The council demanded of them the reason for not heeding the charge which they had previously given that they should not teach any more in the name of Jesus. This persistent testimony the officers interpreted as an effort to bring the guilt of Jesus' blood upon themselves.

5. The apostles' answer.

Peter boldly replied that they were under obligation to obey God rather than men. He further told them that they were guilty of the murder of Jesus Christ and that God had raised Jesus from the dead and exalted Him to be a Prince and a Savior to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel, and also that He had made the apostles, with the Holy Spirit, witnesses of these things.

IV. The Result (vv. 33-42).

1. They determined to kill the apostles (v. 33).

Peter's stinging words cut to the quick, but their desperate wickedness filled them with murderous hatred instead of moving them to repentance. They could not answer the message, so the only way was to kill their accusers.

2. Gamaliel's counsel (vv. 34-39).

He advised neutrality, assuring them that if it be a work of men it would come to naught, but if it be of God they could not overthrow it because they would be engaged in the hopeless task of fighting against God.

3. The apostles beaten (v. 40).

While heeding Gamaliel's advice, they vented their rage by beating the apostles and charging them not to speak in Christ's name.

4. The behavior of the apostles (vv. 41, 42).

They departed with hearts full of joy that they were counted worthy to suffer for the name of Christ. They continued to preach Jesus Christ in public and in private.

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An undivided heart which worships God alone, and trusts Him as it should, is raised above all anxiety for earthly wants.

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