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#### An Independent: Worker

She Came to Grief by Ignoring System

By F. A. MITCHEL

Miss Gwendolen Archer, aged eighten, was an earnest church worker. There was only one trouble about Miss | Kaplan wanted was a wife. Archer-so said the older ladies of the hurch-she was rather inclined to take served on a committee to send boxes endeavor to solve the riddle. of clothing and other domestic articles



SUSPICION OF THE TRUTH CAME SUDDENLY RUSHING OVER HER. Why this family had been omit-

sided over by the Rev. Francis Kapto ship him a wife when one day he

he might find a wife packed in excel- was engraved the name of Mr. slor, a real flesh and blood wife, who lan, would be a companion to him in his exile. Taking off the cover, he saw he has come. an's hand, "If you want anything else | Hawley hasn't sent it." send to Miss Gwendolen Archer." The

address was added. Taking up an article, he unfolded a little girl's petticoat; the next was a downstairs just as she was. On ennightie; a third was a pair of boy's tering the drawing room she stopped knickerbocker trousers. Then came toys short on the threshold. A young man of various kinds, children's shoes, stock- about twenty-five years old rose to ings that had been often darned and greet her. She recognized him at once some much thumbed schoolbooks.

Now, though Mr. Kaplan had no chil- had admired. dren to use these articles, there were plenty of little Mexicans and pickaninnies who would be only too glad to | ticles you sent me." get them. He turned them over to some women of his flock for distribution, and various children who had been running about nearly naked were now better covered.

Mr. Kaplan wrote Miss Archer, thanking her for her donation, and, referring to her paper on which was written that if he wanted anything it is not an easy thing to get I hesitate to ask for it." He did not inform "Oh, her that since he had no family of his things you sent came very handy, I asown he had given the things to those who had, but he said some other things that were not called for-namely, that he was sure Miss Archer must be a very practical Christian and altogether lovely.

Then followed by correspondence a kind of twenty questions game. The blush of a moment ago became a deep young lady asked whether the object crimson. desired belonged to the animal, vegetable or mineral kingdom. The reply was the animal kingdom. Was it a pet? Yes, it was intended for a pet. What further passed between the Then followed a number of questions as to what kind of an animal it wasdog, cat, parrot or such like? The answer to all these questions was in

Miss Archer, not making headway in the matter, concluded to consult her minister. The minister. Dr. Hawley, listened to her and took Mr. Kaplan's letters, which he promised to read and

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21 Thurman Street PORTLAND, OREGON, advise her after having done so. He, however, turned them over to his wife with instructions to read them and re-

Mrs. Hawley read the letters and, considering them rather strange epistles for a clergyman and a man of family to be writing to a young girl, consulted with the chairman of the committee for sending supplies to indigent clergymen. Then it came out that, the ladies having learned that Mr. Kaplan had no wife or children, his name had been erased from their list. It also came out that Miss Archer, instead of working under orders, had been doing so on her own hook. Mrs. Hawley and the ladles of the committee saw at once that the article Mr.

Miss Archer received a note from her pastor that he had turned Mr. Kaplan's affairs into her own hands. She had letters over to his wife, who would

Mrs. Hawley's report was long deo ministers in out of the way places layed. One day a member of the supthe largeness of whose families was ply committee showed Miss Archer a proportionate to the smallness of their photograph of a handsome young salaries. Becoming restive at being clergyman and asked her how she liksubordinated to older women, it oc- ed his appearance. Miss Archer excurred to Miss Archer to pack a box pressed herself very much pleased with it. Later on another member of When she had got together sufficient the committee asked Miss Archer to articles, consisting principally of such exchange photographs with her. The as would be needed by children, she meaning of these two photographic in-looked over the list of impecunious cidents was made known to Mr. Kapministers with large families and selected one that stood higher on the list some to whom boxes had been to assist in supplying the article he needed and apologizing for Miss Archer's having prematurely sent him the children's clothes, the girl having supposed him to be married. So Mr. Kaplan, at Mrs. Hawley's suggestion, sent her his photograph, and she sent him Miss Archer's.

Archer was all eagerness to hear the disappointed when she was told that it seen. was not best that she should know the name of the article, but it would in a disappointed tone, be sent to Mr. Kaplan and if Miss Ar- No sooner had the by the church committee to take it to

ever. Why was it not sent by express? The reply to this was that, being an animal, it must eat and, being a very high bred and valuable animal, it could the employees of an express company. Miss Archer thought the matter over and decided to decline the commission. have the responsibility of a pet dog or cat on a long journey to a benighted country. Why, the idea was too absurd for anything. If Mr. Kaplan wanted a pet he could come and get it.

When this reply was made to Mrs. Hawley the matter, so far as Miss Archer knew, was dropped. Then one day she was informed that Mr. Kapted she did not know, and since she lan was coming for his pet, and, since was acting independently she did not he had written her about it, she was care to ask. There was at this time in the south Miss Archer was somewhat miffed at west a sort of missionary station pre this, saying that she saw no reason why Mr. Kaplan couldn't have told lan. His parishioners were plainsmen, her frankly what he wanted as well cowpunchers, Indians, greasers and some negroes. There was not a person in his flock with whom he could associate on familiar terms. It was not. She said that she had been bothlonesome out there in the home of the ered a good deal about the matter and cactus, and Mr. Kaplan sighed for a would send no more boxes of supplies companion. He was thinking of writ-ing to some of the ladies in the east that she had brought the matter upon who had sent him to his field of labor herself by working independent of the committee

One day Miss Archer was much surprised at receiving a card on which

"Well," she exclaimed, "I'm glad inside on top of various articles a pa- bother will be ended. But I haven't per on which was written in a wom- anything for him. I wonder that Mrs.

Expecting to see an old, elderly or middle aged man, she did not take pains to improve her tollet, but went as the person whose photograph she

"I have come to thank you," he said, with a very pleasant smile, "for the ar-"Why, I"-

"You didn't expect to see a man of my age?"

"No: I did not." "I have no wife or children, so I

gave the things in the box to the children of others. "You're not married?" By this time a blush was spreading itself over her else to send to her, he said, "There is face, not that she dreamed of what he one thing I need very much, but since had come for, but that she had blun-

"Oh, no; I'm not married, but the

Then the remembrance of this mysterious thing he wanted came to her. "Why." she asked, "couldn't you have written me about this-this pet"-A suspicion of the truth came suddenly rushing upon her. The slight

Thus far the interview was given by either one or the other of the parties concerned, but here the account ends. roung couple was not revealed. Mr. Kaplan was obliged to go back very soon to his charge, and Miss Archer had in the meanwhile become so infatuated with him that she would not let him go alone. So there was a

hasty wedding. "Served you right." said the chairman of the supplies committee to the bride. "Hereafter you'll know better than to work independently."

Have you paid the printer?

CHICHESTER S PILLS

#### A DESPERATE BANDIT

By MARGARET BARRY

Italian national police being summon ed to headquarters at Naples, his chief

"This brigand Lanetti who has been terrorizing the mountains must be captured. I have sent out a spy, who says that in a ravine back of Sorrento he came upon the band. He was halted and told to turn about. He could see no one, but remarked the position and says that if they remain there long enough for a competent force to attack them they must all be captured. Take fifty men, go at once and bring Lanetti here dead or alive. If you can bring the others do so, but do not fall to capture their leader." "Have you a description of him?"

asked the lieutenant. "No. Nor have I found any one who has seen him. He has but recently begun his depredations and thus far we have not been able to get any in formation about him. Persons have been captured by his band and held for ransom have not been brought before him."

Lieutenant Griolano with his mer went by train as near to the point they intended to attack as possible, then at nightfall followed a road leading up into the mountains.

As soon as it grew lighter the police. all armed with rifles, advanced, turn-One day Mrs. Hawley reported to ing a bend in the ravine, which led Miss Archer that she had written Mr. them face to face with a barricade of Kaplan and he had given her the stones the bandits had erected across name of the article he wanted. Miss it. Griolano halted his men and stood looking up at the barrier. All was sisolution of the matter and was much lent. Not a living thing was to be "The bird has flown," he remarked

> No sooner had the words been ut tered than a bullet sang close to his

The bravest man will duck at being Miss Archer was more puzzled than thus surprised, for the nerves do not give the brain time to reason that the danger has already passed. Griolano involuntarily ducked, then ordered his men to lie down under cover till he not well be intrusted to the care of could determine upon the best method of attack. He stood upright himself, taking in the defense before him. He was a handsome man, twenty-five She saw no reason why she should years old and brave. While he was looking for an opening by which to make a flank attack upon the position another bullet sang a few inches above his head. This time he was prepared and did not flinch,

On both sides of the ravine where the barrier had been erected there was a wall of rock, which the lieutenant saw no way of passing. Indeed, the position the bandits had taken could only be captured from the front, and this could not be done without considerable loss of life. The young officer was at a loss how to proceed. While deliberating another rifle cracked, and another bullet whizzed past him, this time knocking off the uniform Nanoeonic hat worn by the national police. "For heaven's sake, lieutement!" cried a sergeant, "Cease to expose yourself in that way. The next shot

will surely bring you down." "Those shots have come from different parts of the barrier," replied the lieutenant without heeding the warning. "There must be half our number behind it. and if we attempt greater part of our men. I must find way to get at them from"-

Ping! Another bullet grazed the officer's shoulder. "I beg of you, Heutenant," reiterated the sergeant, "to get behind a rock. Why the villains have missed you four

times I cannot understand." "Nor I," replied Griolano. "However, there is nothing for it but to carry

the place by assault." Given the order to advance the men moved up the ravine, each man getting over the rocks in his own way. Every noment all expected to receive a volley that would thin their ranks, but they made half the distance and not a shot had come from the barrier. Every neck was stretched, every eye bent on the improvised fort, looking for a burst of flame and smoke and a hailstorm of bullets. Half the remaining distance

"They are waiting," said the ser geant, "till we get right before them then each bandit will aim at one of us and they will fire all at once." But in a few moments more they

was covered and yet no sign of de

were at the base of the barricade then on and over it, all unhurt. In the farthest corner crouched the

garrison, a girl some seventeen years old. No other living being was there Griolano stood in amazement. "Where is Lanetti?" he asked,

"I am Lanetti." "You Lanetti?"

"Yes, signor." "Where are your men?"

"They are cowards. They have de erted me. After a brief silence, during which

he officer was lost in wonder, he said: "Why did you miss me so many mes. Are you so poor a marksman?' "No, signor. I can hit a bird on the wing.' "Well?"

"You looked so handsome in your beautiful uniform I could not kill

reported that the brigands had disappeared. But this is not the last of the story so far as Griolano and the bandit are concerned. The rest is a tale of love.

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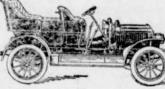
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