

an exploded superstition, an anachronism, part of a vanishing order of things, and that the ideal which was replacing him was a boiler-plated monster with clockwork heart and brain, named Efficiency. And that Cuthbert must go, along with his Jacobean manner, and his family ghost, and the oaks in the park, and everything else that couldn't prove its right to live except by being fine and lovely and full of garnered sweetness of the past—

"At this point in my meditations the door of the cabin opened and Miss Browne came out, looking sternly resolute. Aunt Jane followed, very pink about the eyes and nose. With a commanding gesture Miss Browne signalled the rest to approach. Mr. Tubbs bounced up with alacrity. Mr. Shaw and Cuthbert obeyed less promptly, but they obeyed. Meanwhile Violet waited, looking implacable as fate.

"And where is Captain Magnus?" she demanded, glancing about her.

But no one knew what had become of Captain Magnus.

As for myself, I continued to sit in the shade and tat. But I could hear with ease all that was said.

"Mr. Tubbs," began Miss Browne, "your recent claims have been matter of prolonged consideration between Miss Harding and myself. We feel—we cannot but feel—that there was a harshness in your announcement of them, an apparent concentration of your own interests, ill befitting a member of this expedition. Also, that in actual substance, they were excessive. Not half, Mr. Tubbs; oh, no, not half! But one-quarter, Miss Harding and myself, as the joint heads of the Harding-Browne expedition, are inclined to think no more than the reward which is your due. We suggest, therefore, a simple way out of the difficulty. Mr. Dugald Shaw was engaged on liberal terms to find the treasure. He has not found the treasure. He has not found the slightest clue to its present whereabouts. Mr. Tubbs, on the contrary, has found a clue. It is a clue of the first importance. It is equivalent almost to the actual discovery of the chest. Therefore let Mr. Shaw, convinced I am sure by this calm presentation of the matter of the justice of such a course, resign his claim to a fourth of the treasure in favor of Mr. Hamilton H. Tubbs, and agree to receive instead the former allotment of Mr. Tubbs, namely, one-sixteenth."

Having offered this remarkable suggestion, Miss Browne folded her arms and waited for it to bear fruit.

It did—in the enthusiastic response of Mr. Tubbs. "Well, well!" he exclaimed. "To think of our takin' old H. H. that liberal! O' course, havin' formed my habits in the financial centers of the country, I named a stiff price at first—a stiff price. I won't deny. But that's jest the leetle way of a man used to handlin' large affairs—nothing else to it, I do assure you. The Old Man himself used to say, 'There's old H. H.—you'd think he'd eat the paint off a house, he'll show up that graspin' in a deal. And all the time it's jest love of the game. Let him know he's got to win out, and bless you, old H. H. will swing right round and fair force the profits on the other party. H. H. is slicker than soap to handle, if only you handle him right.' Can I say without hard feelin's that jest now H. H. was not handled right? Instead o' bein' joshed with, as he looked for, he was took up short, and even them which he might have expected to show confidence—here Mr. Tubbs cast a reproachful eye at Aunt Jane—"run off with the notion that he meant jest what he said. All he'd done for this expedition, his loyalty and faith to same, was forgotten, and he was thought of as a self-seeker and voracious shark!" The pain of these recollections damped the torrent of Mr. Tubbs' speech.

"Oh, Mr. Tubbs!" breathed Aunt Jane, heart-brokenly, and of course a tear trickled gently down her nose, following the path of many previous tears which had already left their saline traces.

Mr. Tubbs managed in some impossible fashion to roll one eye tenderly at Aunt Jane, while keeping the other fastened shrewdly on the remainder of his audience.

"Miss Higlesby-Browne and Miss Jane Harding," he resumed, "I accept. It would astonish them as has only known H. H. on his financial side to see him agree to a reduction of profits like this without a kick. But I'm a man of impulse, I am. Get me on my soft side and a kitten ain't more impulsive than old H. H. And o' course the business of this expedition ain't jest business to me. It's—er—friendship, and—er—sentiment—in short, there's feelin's that is more than worth their weight in gold!"

At these significant words the agitation of Aunt Jane was extreme. Was it possible that Mr. Tubbs was declaring himself in the presence of others—and was a response demanded from herself—would his sensitive nature, so lately wounded by cruel suspicion, interpret her silence as fatal to his hopes? But while she struggled between maiden shyness and the fear of crushing Mr. Tubbs, the conversation had swept on.

"Mr. Shaw," said Miss Browne, "you have heard Mr. Tubbs, in the interest of the expedition, liberally consent to reduce his claim by one-half. Doubtless, if only in a spirit of emulation,

you will attempt to match this conduct by canceling our present agreement and consenting to another crediting you with the former sixteenth share of Mr. Tubbs."

"Don't do it, Shaw—hold the fort, old boy!" broke in Cuthbert Vane. "I say, Miss Browne, this is a bally shame!"

Miss Browne had always treated the prospective Lord Grasmere with distinguished politeness. Even now her air was mild, though lofty.

"Mr. Vane," she replied, "as a member of the British aristocracy, it is not to be supposed that you would view financial matters with the same eye as those of us of the Middle Classes, who, unhappily perhaps for our finer feelings, have been obliged to experience the harsh contacts of common life. Your devotion to Mr. Shaw has a romantic ardor which I cannot but admire. But permit us also our enthusiasm for the perspicacity of Mr. Tubbs, to which we owe the wealth now within our grasp."

Mr. Shaw now spoke for the first time.

"Miss Browne, I do not recognize the justice of your standpoint in this matter. I have done and am still prepared to do my best in the business of the treasure. If Mr. Tubbs will not give his information except for a bribe, I say—let him keep it. I shall continue the search for the treasure on the same lines as at present."

"One moment," said Miss Browne laughingly. She had never spoken otherwise than haughtily to Mr. Shaw since the episode of the Wise Woman of Dumbiedykes. "One moment, Jane—and you, Mr. Tubbs—"

She drew them aside, and they moved off out of earshot, where they stood with their backs to us and their heads together.

It was my opportunity. Violet herself had proposed that the original agreement—the agreement which bound me to ask for no share of the treasure—should be canceled. Nothing now was necessary to the ripening of my hopes but to induce Dugald Shaw to immolate himself. Would he do so—on my bare word? There was no time to explain anything—he must trust me.

I sprang up and dashed over to the pair who stood looking gloomily out to sea. "Mr. Shaw," I whispered quickly, "you must do as Miss Browne wishes." In my earnestness I laid a hand upon his arm. He regarded me bewilderedly.

"You must—you must!" I urged. "You'll spoil everything if you refuse!"

The surprise in his face yielded to a look composed of many elements, but which was mainly hard and bitter.

"And still I shall refuse," he said sardonically.

"Oh, no, no," I implored, "you don't understand! I—oh, if you would only believe that I am your friend!"

His face changed subtly. It was still questioning and guarded, but with a softening in it, too.

"Why don't you believe it?" I whispered unsteadily. "Do you forget that I owe you my life?"

And at the recollection of that day in the sea-cave the scarlet burned in my cheeks and my head drooped. But I saw how the lines about his mouth

relaxed. "Surely you must know that I would repay you if I could!" I hurried on. "And not by—treachery."

He laughed suddenly. "Treachery? No! I think you would always be an open foe."

"Indeed I would!" I answered with a flash of wrath. Then, as I remembered the need of haste, I spoke in an intense quick whisper. "Listen—I can't explain, there isn't time. I can only ask you to trust me—to agree to what Miss Browne wishes. Everything—you don't dream how much—depends on it!" For I felt that I would let the treasure lie hidden in the Island Queen forever rather than that Mr. Tubbs should, under the original contract, claim a share of it.

The doubt had quite left his face. "I do trust you, little Virginia," he said gently. "Yes, I trust in your honesty, heaven knows, child. But permit me to question your wisdom in

desiring to enrich our friend Tubbs."

"Enrich him—enrich him! The best I wish him is unlimited gruel in an almshouse somewhere. No! What I want is to get that wretched paper of Miss Browne's nullified. Afterward we can divide things up as we like—"

Bewilderment, shot with a gleam of half-incredulous understanding, seemed to transfix him. We stood a long moment, our eyes challenging each other, exchanging their countenance of faith and steadfastness. Then slowly he held out his hand. I laid mine in it—we stood hand in hand, comrades at last. Without more words he turned away and strode over to the council of three.

The group dissolved and moved rapidly toward us. Miss Browne, exultant, beaming, was in the van. She set her substantial feet down like a charger pawing the earth. You might almost have said that Violet pranced. Aunt Jane was round-eyed and twittering. Mr. Tubbs wore a look of suppressed astonishment, almost of perturbation. "What's his game?" was the question in the sophisticated eye of Mr. Tubbs. But the Scotchman had, when he chose, a perfect poker face. The great game of bluff would have suited him to a nicety.

Miss Browne advanced on Cuthbert Vane and seized both his hands in an ardent clasp.

"Mr. Vane," she said with solemnity. "I thank you—in the name of this expedition I thank you—for the influence you have exerted upon your friends."

And this seemed to be to the noble youth the most stunning of all the shocks of that eventful morning.

Now came the matter of drawing up the new agreement. It was a cunny Scot indeed, who, acting on the hint I had just given him, finally settled its terms. In the first place, the previous agreement was declared null and void. In the second, Mr. Tubbs was to have his fourth only if the treasure were discovered through his direct agency. And it was under this condition and no other that Dugald Shaw bound himself to relinquish his original claim. Virginia Harding signed a new renunciatory clause, but it bore only on treasure discovered by Mr. Tubbs. Indeed, the entire contract was of force only if Mr. Tubbs fulfilled his part of it, and fell to pieces if he did not. Which was exactly what I wanted.

No difficulty was made of the absence of Captain Magnus, as his interests were unaffected by the change. Space was left for his signature. Mine came last of all, as that of a mere interloper and hanger-on.

My demonstrations of joy at this happy issue of my hopes had to be confined to a smile—in which for a startled instant Violet had seemed to sense the triumph. It was still on my lips as with a general movement we rose from the table about which we had been grouped during the absorbing business of drawing up the contract. Cookie had been clamoring for us to leave, that he might spread the table for lunch. I had opened my mouth to call him, "All right, Cookie!" when a shrill volley of burks from Crusoe shattered the stillness of the drowsy air. In the same instant the voice of Cookie, raised to a sharp note of alarm, rang through the camp:

"My Gawd, what all dis yere mean?" I turned, to look into the muzzle of a rifle.

(To be continued)

The press dispatches the past week carried the story of two evangelists being driven from Prosser, Wash., because they had taken advantage of their position as workers for the cause of Christ and it is certainly to be regretted when a minister of the gospel falls, but this would not justify one claiming that all ministers are bad. People generally are too broad minded to believe that because one minister goes wrong all are bun for the same destination. However, this incident might be a little lesson to those who preached that because in some other place at some time or other a community house was mismanaged the proposed legion building and community house for Brownsville will be a "hell hole."—Brownsville Times,

La Grande, Or., Dec. 30—(Special correspondence Oregonian)—in order to be sure that every child in La Grande of toy age was not forgotten Christmas, two of the largest stores of the city turned over to the Red Cross all toys left in hand Christmas eve. These were distributed Christmas morning. The stocks of both toy houses were large and when the Red Cross Santa Claus called at the homes which had been missed many a tear-stained face was brightened.

An automobile railroad with light rails from the Southern Pacific in Lane county to the eastern state line and thence southward is talked of. It is claimed that it could cost much less than the ordinary railroad, perform as good service economically and serve 22,000,000 acres of territory, including 106 little towns and villages. The first section may be from Oo-idge east to Craue,

"You Must Do as Miss Browne Wishes."

relaxed. "Surely you must know that I would repay you if I could!" I hurried on. "And not by—treachery."

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Keep Your Eyes Young



Since so many young people wear glasses the old idea that they make a person look old is seldom mentioned. The truth is that putting off wearing glasses when they are needed is what makes many people's faces look older than they are.

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ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS FOR FOWLS
INCREASE PRODUCTION OF EGGS



The Use of Artificial Light Has Produced Satisfactory Results in Egg Production of Flocks in a Number of States.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Artificial lights properly operated will materially increase the winter egg production of pullets, the United States Department of Agriculture believes.

The use of lights may also slightly increase the yearly egg production of individual hens, though not to any marked extent. The opinion of the department's poultry division is fully corroborated by many of the state experiment stations, particularly those in California, Indiana, Kansas, Washington, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New York and New Jersey. County agents working in New York and New Jersey report considerable activity in this project, in which the Department of Agriculture usually cooperates with the state agricultural college through the county agent.

Lighting as a Feeding Measure. It should be well understood that artificial lighting is intended primarily as a means of getting the hens to feed longer than they otherwise would during the short days of fall and winter. An extra feeding of scratch grain should be provided, so that the flock is induced to eat not only enough for maintenance but an amount comparable to what is eaten in the more active laying seasons.

Lights are used soon after September 1 in New Jersey, but in most localities they are started November 1 and continued to April 1. Conditions vary in different states. What may be good practice in New Jersey may not work in Kansas. In the latter state electricity is considered the only practical kind of light, while in other states kerosene lamps and gasoline lanterns are sometimes used. Electricity is the most practical method to use wherever it is available.

How to Use Artificial Light. The total daylight, real and artificial, should be about fourteen hours. There are three ways of increasing the apparent length of the day—by turning on lights very early in the morning, or by keeping them going several hours at night, or by using them both morning and night. While all three methods have given good results, the first is usually found most convenient, because the lights merge into daylight and no ill effects result if they are not turned off promptly.

In using the second method some dimming device is needed with electric lights to lower the illumination gradually. The hens do not get to their roosts if the light is suddenly extinguished. Gasoline and kerosene lamps have to be turned down.

Artificial lighting can be abused, with disastrous effects on the flock. If they are run for too long a day, the hens may produce well for a short time and then begin to moult. If the laying passes 60 per cent, or, in the opinion of some poultry authorities, 50 per cent, there is danger of moulting and consequent cessation of laying. In the spring the lights should never be stopped abruptly. The length of time they are run should be shortened about ten minutes a day until they can be entirely abandoned.

Other Points With Lights. Fresh water should be given the flock the first thing in the morning when the lights are turned on. Birds of different ages should not be housed together or lighted in the same way. They should be properly graded and flocked according to age. Lighting makes it possible to carry February-hatched pullets through the first fall and winter producing period with less moulting. Yearlings and two-year-old hens are better if started with artificial lights in January, and the method is not as profitable as with pullets. It is considered a questionable practice to turn lights on culled hens to stimulate egg production. In New Jersey, where the largest amount of work has been done with artificial lighting, it is thought better to sell the culled and buy good birds.

Artificial lights should be suspended from the ceiling so that the entire floor space is lighted. If the roosting closet partition casts a shadow on the roosts, the chickens will go to sleep in the shadow.

Results in New Jersey show that in general the use of lights nearly doubles production during the period of high prices of eggs and greatly increases the usual net return over the cost of lights and feed in the lighted pens. The

lighted flock showed better health than the unlighted ones, and the subsequent laying was as good among the birds which had had winter lights as with any of the birds.

A record was kept of 14 New Jersey flocks for five months. The birds averaged 3,802 in number and laid 280,511 eggs altogether. This was a 41 per cent production, whereas a 22 per cent production was usual before the experiment. This meant an increase of 127,158 eggs.

An experiment was made at the agricultural experiment station, New Brunswick, N. J., in which 600 unlighted pullets made a profit of \$3.20 per bird, but 500 lighted birds cleared \$5.07 each. The lights were turned on in the morning. Where an evening lunch was given to 100 pullets the profit per bird was \$5.48. The fuel and operating cost for 1,100 birds was 4.4 cents per bird. An increase of a single egg per bird pays this cost.

GEESE RETURN GOOD PROFIT
Fowls Are Quite Easy to Keep and Breeders See Bright Future for the Industry.

Experienced raisers of geese assert the goose is one of the most profitable and easy fowls to keep, and express belief in a bright future of expansion for the goose industry. The Toulouse, African and Embden are the three most popular breeds, the Embden being the all-white type, considered ideal for market purposes.

MANY ACCIDENTS
HAPPEN ON FARM

Falls and Refractory Animals Cause of Hurts That Could Be Avoided.

DIVERS MISHAPS DELAY WORK
Careless Use of Unprotected Machinery Takes Toll of Limbs That Would Be Prevented With Use of Safety Devices.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Farmer Brown was driving the doctor back to town, after he had set neighbor William Johnson's fractured leg and dressed three caved-in ribs. Johnson seemed to be in bad luck constantly, and the neighbors were circulating a subscription paper for him and arranging a "bee" to do up his unfinished work.

Earlier in the season a hold-back broke on a hill. The horse ran away, throwing Johnson to the ground and confining him to bed several days in a busy period.

A little later one of his little boys fell. And of course there is danger to inexperienced persons.

"No bull above two years old should be permitted in a pasture, even if dehorned, as all bulls should be. Even an ugly ram has been known to kill a man. Savage dogs ought not to be necessary on a farm. But you find them, and often they find you first."

"Farm machinery, such as corn shredders, take a toll of limbs that should be prevented to a large degree if the most ordinary safety devices were installed and kept in working order.

Making Thrashing Safe. In some states the boiler inspection laws do not apply to steam thrashers. Every thrashing machine owner ought to have his boiler inspected once a year, whether there is a legal requirement or not.

"I could talk for another hour or so on farm accident breeders that might be eradicated. A country doctor's practice is full of them; but here we are at the house. Come in to dinner before you go back."

"Much obliged," returned Brown, as he cramped his fliver around in the roadway. "I guess I'll hurry back to the farm and fix up a few things before the neighbors have to get up a 'bee' to tide me over a broken leg."