

## An Important Easter For the Rev. John Redfield

By ELLINOR MARSH

John Redfield left the theological seminary full of honors, but despondent. His father had died insolvent, and the support of a mother and younger brothers and sisters devolved upon the son.

John was about to accept a business position when he received through the bishop an offer to deliver an Easter sermon, with a fee of \$50, at the church of the Edmonson Manufacturing company. He was to go up on Sunday morning, to meet the president's car at the station.

John considered \$50 a very liberal fee for a single sermon and conscientiously determined to do his best to merit the money. He was in sympathy with the labor classes and had done some work to ameliorate their condition. He spent much time in preparation, but wrote nothing, since he possessed the gift of speaking extemporaneously.

On Easter morning John made half an hour's journey to Edmonson and on alighting at the station saw only a single vehicle waiting, a car with a girl in it. She was evidently looking out for an arrival and, seeing a man in clerical dress, beckoned to him. When he joined her she asked if he was Mr. Redfield and when he admitted the fact said that she was Miss Chalfinch. The president of the Edmonson company had been suddenly called away, and she had come to take him to the home of her aunt, with whom she lived, whence she would drive him to the church.

Redfield was conveyed to a handsome house in the principal residential part of the town, where he spent an hour before the time for the church service chatting with Miss Chalfinch. What connection she had with the Edmonson Manufacturing company was not apparent; but, not liking to ask her point blank what it was, he remained in ignorance of it. Miss Chalfinch was not as backward as he in asking questions and learned from him the conditions which have been thus far mentioned.

Redfield, seeing a congregation of working people looking earnestly up at him for advice and comfort, soon warmed to his subject and preached a heart to heart sermon to them. Miss Chalfinch was seated among them and seemed much pleased at the effect produced upon the listeners. At the close of the service a number of men and women gathered around John and eagerly asked him if he was the new rector. When he said he had only come to preach the Easter sermon they looked disappointed.

Meanwhile Miss Chalfinch was waiting for them to finish their questions and when they had done so led John out to the car and drove him to her home for dinner. Her aunt and John and herself dined together, and after dinner the aunt retired to her room. Miss Chalfinch spent the time before John was to return to his home chatting with him, and the questions she asked as to his affairs, the requirements of his family and other matters seemed somewhat inquisitive to him. Finally she said that the church built by the Edmonson company was as yet without a pastor and asked him how he would like the position. John said that he had weighed the subject of remaining in the ministry and had decided that he could not afford to do so, encumbered as he was. He would be obliged in a pastorate to start with a diminutive salary, and, since his heart would be in the field of the poor, he would not be likely to increase it. If money were his object—and, considering his responsibilities, money was an important matter with him—it was far better for him to enter business.

Miss Chalfinch agreed with him in this. She said she believed the Edmonson company was to pay the salary of the pastor of the church and that it was not to be over \$500 a year. She expressed her approbation of this unless a man could be secured who would have a marked effect for good on the congregation. "They are not well educated," she added, "or used to relying on themselves. They require some one to lean on, and that person can often influence them to action required for their welfare when some demagogue is trying to persuade them to the contrary. For my part, I believe that the right man in the pastorate of the church would be a good investment, to say nothing of other considerations."

Redmond was much impressed with this opinion, but made no rejoinder. Taking out his watch, he remarked that it was nearly his train time.

"Would you accept \$5,000 a year and a rectory free?" asked Miss Chalfinch.

"Would I accept the sky for a pasture?" replied John, smiling.

"I have asked you a question, and I think I am entitled to a reply."

"In that case I assure you that I would accept \$5,000 a year with great pleasure."

"Very well. Consider yourself called

to the pastorate of the church."

John looked at her, wondering if she had gone daft.

"My father owned nearly all the stock of the Edmonson company and left it to me in his will. I can do what I like with the property, but have not interfered in its management except on matters concerning the comfort and spiritual welfare of the laborers in the factory."

A day came when the owner of the Edmonson works married the rector, and together they became the dispensers of much charity.

### How They Save.

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"How's that?" inquired his astonished friend.

"Well, you see, every Sunday morning we eat a light breakfast and start out for a spin. Around noon we happen to be near the Joneses or the Smiths and, of course, we drop in. They invite us to stay. Then on the way back we have to pass the Williamses or the Henrys, and they ask us to supper."

"But you have to pay them back, don't you?"

"No, that's the best part of it. Since we got the car we are never at home."—Kansas City Star.

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