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THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION FORGET THAT THE PARSONAGE FOLKS NEED MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS, SO LITTLE CONNIE TELLS BANKER SOME PLAIN TRUTHS

Mr. Starr, a widower Methodist minister, comes to Mount Mark, In., to take charge of the congregation there. He has five charming daughters, the eldest of whom, Prudence, age nineteen, keeps house and mothers the family. Her younger sisters are Fairy, the twins Carol and Lark, and Constance, the "baby." The family's coming stirs the curiosity of the townspeople. After a few weeks the Starrs are well settled. Prudence has her hands full with the mischievous youngsters, but she loves them devotedly despite their outrageous pranks. It is a joyous household, but the parsonage girls are embarrassed at Christmas time because the congregation has failed to pay the pastor's salary. Little Connie needs clothing, and sadly disappointed, takes matters into her own hands.

CHAPTER VI—Continued.

"Oh, I had her dressed warmly underneath, very warmly indeed," declared Prudence. "But no matter how warm you are underneath, you look cold if you aren't visibly prepared for winter weather. I kept hoping enough money would come in to buy her a coat for once in her life."

"She has been looking forward to one long enough," put in Fairy. "This will be a bitter blow to her. And yet it is not such a bad-looking coat, after all." And she quickly ran up a seam on the machine.

"Here comes Connie!" Prudence hastily swept a pile of scraps out of sight, and turned to greet her little sister with a cheery smile.

"Come on in, Connie," she cried, with a brightness she did not feel. "Fairy and I are making you a new coat. Isn't it pretty? And so warm! See the nice velvet collar and cuffs. We want to fit it on you right away, dear."

Connie picked up a piece of the goods and examined it intently.

"Don't you want some fudge, Connie?" exclaimed Fairy, shoving the dish toward her hurriedly.

Connie took a piece from the plate, and thrust it between her teeth. Her eyes were still fastened upon the brown furry cloth.

"Where did you get this stuff?" she inquired, as soon as she was able to speak.

"Out of the trunk in the garret, Connie. Don't you want some more fudge? I put a lot of nuts in, especially on your account."

"It's good," said Connie, taking another piece. She examined the cloth very closely. "Say, Prudence, isn't this that old brown coat of father's?"

Fairy shoved her chair back from the machine, and ran to the window. "Look, Prue," she cried. "Isn't that Mrs. Adams coming this way? I wonder—"

"No, it isn't," answered Connie gravely. "It's just Miss Avery getting home from school. Isn't it, Prudence? Father's coat, I mean?"

"Yes, Connie, it is," said Prudence, very, very gently. "But no one here has seen it, and it is such nice cloth—just exactly what girls are wearing now."

"But I wanted a new coat!" Connie did not cry. She stood looking at Prudence with her wide hurt eyes.

"Oh, Connie, I'm just as sorry as you are," cried Prudence, with starting tears. "I know just how you feel about it dearest! But the people didn't pay father up last month. Maybe after Christmas we can get you a coat. They pay up better then."

"I think I'd rather wear my summer coat until then," said Connie soberly.

"Oh, but you can't, dearest. It is too cold. Won't you be a good girl now, and not make sister feel badly about it? It really is becoming to you, and it is nice and warm. Take some more fudge, dear, and run out-of-doors a while. You'll feel better about it presently, I'm sure."

Connie stood solemnly beside the table, her eyes still fastened on the coat, cut down from her father's. "Can I go and take a walk?" she asked finally.

"May I, you mean," suggested Fairy. "Yes, may I? Maybe I can reconcile myself to it."

"Yes, go and take a walk," urged Prudence promptly, eager to get the small sober face beyond her range of vision.

"If I am not back when the twins get home, go right on and eat without me. I'll come back when I get things straightened out in my mind."

When Connie was quite beyond hear-

ing, Prudence dropped her head on the table and wept. "Oh, Fairy, if the members just knew how such things hurt, maybe they'd pay up a little better. How do they expect parsonage people to keep up appearances when they haven't any money?"

"Oh, now, Prue, you're worse than Connie! There's no use to cry about it. Parsonage people have to find happiness in spite of financial misery. Money isn't the first thing with folks like us."

"Poor little Connie! If she had cried about it, I wouldn't have cared so much. But she looked so—heart-sick, didn't she, Fairy?"

Connie certainly was heart-sick. More than that, she was a little disgusted. She felt herself aroused to take action. Things had gone too far! Go to church in her father's coat she could not! She walked sturdily down the street toward the "city"—ironically so called. Her face was stony, her hands were clenched. But finally she brightened. Her lagging steps quickened. She skipped along quite cheerfully. She turned westward as she reached the corner of the square, and walked along that business street with shining eyes. In front of the First National bank she passed, but after a few seconds she passed by. On the opposite corner was another bank. When she reached it, she walked in without pausing, and the massive door swung behind her.

The four older girls were at the table when Connie came home. She exhaled quiet satisfaction from every pore. Prudence glanced at her once, and then looked away again. "She has reconciled herself," she thought. Dinner was half over before Constance burst her bomb.

"Are you going to be busy this afternoon, Prudence?" she asked quietly.

"We are going to sew a little," said Prudence. "Why?"

"I wanted you to go downtown with me after school."

"Well, perhaps I can do that. Fairy will be able to finish the coat alone."

"You needn't finish the coat—I can't wear father's coat to church, Prudence. It's a—It's a—physical impossibility."

The twins laughed, Fairy smiled, but Prudence gazed at "the baby" with tender pity.

"I'm so sorry, dearest, but we haven't the money to buy one now."

"Will five dollars be enough?" inquired Connie, and she placed a crisp new bill beside her plate. The twins gasped! They gazed at Connie with new respect. They were just wishing they could handle five-dollar bills so recklessly.

"Will you loan me twenty dollars until after Christmas, Connie?" queried Fairy.

But Prudence asked, "Where did you get this money, Connie?"

"I borrowed it—from the bank," Connie replied with proper gravity. "I have two years to pay it back. Mr. Harold says they are proud to have my trade."

Prudence was silent for several long seconds. Then she inquired in a low voice, "Did you tell him why you wanted it?"

"Yes, I explained the whole situation."

"What did he say?"

"He said he knew just how I felt, because he knew he couldn't go to church in his wife's coat.—No, I said that myself, but he agreed with me. He did not say very much, but he looked sympathetic. He said he anticipated great pleasure in seeing me in my new coat at church next Sunday."

"Go on with your luncheon, twins," said Prudence sternly. "You'll be late to school. We'll see about going downtown when you get home tonight, Con-

nie. Now, eat your luncheon, and don't talk about coats any more."

When Connie had gone back to school, Prudence went straight to Mr. Harold's bank. Flushed and embarrassed, she explained the situation frankly. "My sympathies are all with Connie," she said candidly. "But I am afraid father would not like it. We are dead set against borrowing. After—our mother was taken, we were crowded pretty close for money. So we had to go in debt. It took us two years to get it paid. Father and Fairy and I talked it over then, and decided we would starve rather than borrow again. Even the twins understood it, but Connie was too little. She doesn't know how heart-breaking it is to keep hanging over every cent for debt, when one is just yearning for other things. I do wish she might have the coat, but I'm afraid father would not like it. She gave me the five dollars for safekeeping, and I have brought it back."

Mr. Harold shook his head. "No, Connie must have her coat. This will be a good lesson for her. It will teach her the bitterness of living under debt! Besides, Prudence, I think in my heart that she is right this time. This is a case where borrowing is justified. Get her the coat, and I'll square the account with your father." Then he added, "And I'll look after this salary business after this. I'll arrange with the trustees that I am to pay your father his full salary the first of every month, and that the church receipts are to be turned in to me. And if they do not pay up, my lawyer can do a little investigating! Little Connie earned that five dollars, for she taught one trustee a sorry lesson. And he will have to pass it on to the others in self-defense! Now, run along and get the coat, and if five dollars isn't enough you can have as much more as you need. Your father will get his salary after this, my dear, if we have to mortgage the parsonage!"

CHAPTER VII.

A Burglar's Visit.

A small hand gripped Prudence's shoulder, and again came a hoarsely whispered:

"Prue!" Prudence sat up to bed with a bounce.

"What in the world?" she began, gazing out into the room, half-lighted by the moonshine, and seeing Carol and Lark shivering beside her bed.

"Sh! Sh! Hush!" whispered Lark. "There's a burglar in our room!"

By this time, even sound-sleeping Fairy was awake. "Oh, there is!" she scoffed.

"Yes, there is," declared Carol with some heat. "We heard him, plain as day. He stepped into the closet, didn't he, Lark?"

"He certainly did," agreed Lark. "Did you see him?"

"No, we heard him. Carol heard him first, and she spoke, and nudged



Prudence Dropped Her Head on the Table and Wept.

me. Then I heard him, too. He was at our dresser, but he shot across the room and into the closet. He closed the door after him. He's there now."

"You've been dreaming," said Fairy, lying down again.

"We don't generally dream the same thing at the same minute," said Carol sternly. "I tell you he's in there."

"And you two great big girls came off and left poor little Connie in there alone with a burglar, did you? Well, you are nice ones, I must say."

And Prudence leaped out of bed and started for the door, followed by Fairy, with the twins creeping fearfully along in the rear.

"She was asleep," muttered Carol.

"We didn't want to scare her," added Lark.

Prudence was careful to turn the switch by the door, so that the room was in full light before she entered. The closet door was wide open. Con-

nie was soundly sleeping. There was no one else in the room.

"You see?" said Prudence sternly. "I'll bet he took our ruby rings," declared Lark, and the twins and Fairy ran to the dresser to look.

But a sickening realization had come home to Prudence. In the lower hall, under the staircase, was a small dark closet which they called the dungeon. The dungeon door was big and solid, and was equipped with a heavy catch-lock. In this dungeon, Prudence kept the family silverware, and all the money she had on hand, as it could there be safely locked away. But more often than not, Prudence forgot to lock it.

Have you ever awakened to find a burglar in your room? What did you do—pretend sleep? Or shout? Or keep still at his command?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

SYMBOL UNTOUCHED BY WAR

Lion of St. Mark Has Escaped Destruction, Though Hand of Time Has Been Heavy on It.

The lion of St. Mark still stands. Curiously enough, while utmost precautions have been taken to preserve the edifices and monuments of Venice against the ruthless hand of the aviator, this symbol of the republic, one of the chief artistic and historical glories of the city, still poses on its column in the Piazzetta with never a sandbag, masonry shield, or wooden covering to guard it from harm.

The lion of St. Mark long has been an interesting relic, source of some speculation and an endless amount of historical legend more or less authentic. There is a tradition that when Napoleon carried it to Paris there were diamonds in its eyes. They were really white agates, faceted.

It is conjectured that the lion may have formed a part of the decoration of some Assyrian palace centuries before it became the symbol of the Venetian patron saint, St. Mark. The head, except for the crown, the mane, and the larger part of the body and legs, other the claws, are much older than other portions of the figure. The wings and paws are of a much later date, while the rump part and the tail are restorations executed after the lion had been sent back from Paris early in the last century.

The lion is in a condition that care is required even under ordinary conditions. There are rents and fissures throughout the body, and the portions are held together by iron rivets that have rusted away. Many initials mark the metal, presumably engraved by artists employed in various restorations.

The Lion of St. Mark could be destroyed with little effort. It has survived the chances of war to the present.

Work of Japanese Silkworms.

An improvement in the manner of hatching silkworms has been recently perfected by Japanese growers. Egg cards are immersed in diluted hydrochloric acid for five to ten hours just before they are hatched. In a fortnight or 12 days after the immersion the eggs are perfectly hatched, and worms that are stronger and more healthy than those hatched in any other way may be seen coming out of the shells. The silk produced by the worms thus hatched is better and longer than that produced in any other way. It has been stated that the silk produced by the worms bred in the newly invented way measured 1,200 feet, whereas the thread produced by the worms hatched in the ordinary way measures only 700 feet at the longest.

Soldier Didn't Impress Her.

Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, who, at the age of seventy-nine, has recently contributed some cleverly written articles to the periodical press, tells this story:

An entertainment was given in his honor at his Norfolk home on his return from Egypt. Among the crowd assembled on the occasion was the wife of an agricultural laborer. She was very eager to know Sir Evelyn Wood, and a bystander pointed him out to her.

"What!" she exclaimed, in amazement, "that little man General Wood! Why, my old man could clout (thrash) him easily!"

"Never," said Sir Evelyn, as he concluded his story, "had I felt more humiliated."

The Obstacle.

A little two-year-old boy was at play on the beach. At every other step he would stumble and fall, only to pick himself up pluckily and try it again. His fond mother decided the beach must be rough, and suggested going to another spot.

"There is no use, dear," her husband replied, "he would stumble over a grain of sand!"

Breslau has a paper chimney which is 50 feet high and proof against fire.

Marine News

Big Shipyard Started.

Tacoma—Actual construction on what will be Tacoma's biggest ship-building industry began Tuesday, when about 50 men were put to work by the Tacoma Dredging company at the diking for the proposed 1,600 foot fill along the Hylebos creek waterway, upon which the Todd Shipbuilding company will ultimately build the most modern and complete yard in the northwest. A construction office has been erected at the site.

Many carloads of brush are being brought to the site of the dike, and two great pile-drivers are at work placing the piles which will form the retaining walls. Brush and rock will be dumped behind the piling, and behind this foundation the silt from the bottom of Hylebos creek will be placed by a big suction dredge, which will be placed at work as soon as sufficient diking has been constructed, probably in about 10 days.

Jap Warships Visit.

Tacoma—Mystery surrounding the reported arrival of two Japanese cruisers in the Straits of Juan de Fuca February 5 was cleared up Thursday by the arrival in Tacoma of a party of nine officers of the Japanese cruiser Iwate, which, with the cruisers Idzuma and Nishin of Admiral Y. Takashita's squadron are at Esquimalt, and said to be coaling at that port. News of the arrival of the members of the imperial Japanese navy was closely guarded by the Canadian censor.

It is reported that the cruisers brought \$10,000,000 in gold to the Canadian government as a loan, but no confirmation of this statement could be gotten from the Japanese officers.

American Vessel Sunk.

Rome.—The American schooner Lyman M. Law was sunk February 12 off the coast of Sardinia by a hostile submarine, says a Stefani dispatch from Cagliari, Sardinia. The vessel was loaded with agricultural machinery, the dispatch adds. The crew of 10, of which eight were Americans, says the message, have been landed at Cagliari.

Motorship Leaves St. Helens.

St. Helens, Or.—The motorship S. I. Allard, launched at the St. Helens Shipbuilding company's yards last month, left Thursday for Astoria, being towed by a tug. At Astoria there will be about 10 days' work before the vessel will be ready to be towed to San Francisco, where engines will be installed.

Steamship Goes Aground.

Bellingham, Wash.—The steamship Windber of the Pacific American Fisheries, went on Starr Rock here Wednesday at 11 o'clock, while backing into position at a lumber mill dock. The steamship Norwood and tugs attempted to pull the vessel off but failed.

NORTHWEST MARKET REPORT

Portland—Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.55 per bushel; fortyfold, \$1.52; club, \$1.51; red Russian, \$1.48.

Millfeed—Spot prices: Bran, \$26.50 per ton; shorts, \$30.50; rolled barley, \$42@43.

Hay—Producers' prices: Timothy, Eastern Oregon, \$19@20 per ton; valley, \$15@16; alfalfa, \$14@16; valley grain hay, \$12.50@14.

Butter—Cubes, extras, 37c per pound; prime firsts, 37c; firsts, 36c; dairy, 30c. Jobbing prices: Prints, extras, 39c; cartons, 1c extra; butterfat, No. 1, 43c; No. 2, 41c, Portland.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, current receipts, 32c per dozen; candled, 33@32c; selecta, 34c.

Poultry—Hens, heavy, 18@20c per pound; light, 18@20c; springs, 17@19c; turkeys, live, 20@21c; dressed, 25@28c; ducks, 20@22c; geese, 12@13c.

Veal—Fancy, 14@15c per pound.

Pork—Fancy, 15@15c per pound.

Vegetables—Artichokes, \$1.00@1.20 per dozen; tomatoes, \$6.00@7.50 per crate; cabbage, \$5 per hundred; eggplant, 25c per pound; lettuce, \$2.35@3.50 per box; cucumbers, \$1.50@1.75 per dozen; celery, \$5.50 per crate; cauliflower, \$2.50@2.60; peppers, 30c per pound; sack vegetables, \$1.25 per sack; sprouts, 12c per pound; rhubarb, 10@11c.

Potatoes—Oregon buying prices, \$3.00 per hundred; sweets, \$4.

Onions—Oregon buying prices, \$7.50 per sack, country points.

Green Fruits—Apples, 75c@82.25 per box; pears, \$1.75@2.50; cranberries, \$10@11 per barrel.

Hops—1916 crop, 5@9c per pound; 1917 contracts, 10@11c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, fine, 28@33c per pound; coarse, 33@36c; valley, 33@41c; mohair, nominal.

Cattle—Steers, prime, \$8.50@9.25; fair to good, \$7.00@8.00; medium, \$6.50@6.75; cows, choice, \$7.35@7.75; medium to good, \$6.50@7.00; ordinary to fair, \$5.75@6.25; heifers, \$5.00@6.00; bulls, \$3.75@6.00; calves, \$3.00@9.00.

Hogs—Light and heavy packing, \$11.50@12.35; rough heavy, \$9.85@10.00; pigs and skips, \$9.35@10.00; stock hogs, \$8.50@9.00.

Sheep—Yearling wethers, \$10.25@10.75; lambs, \$10.00@12.70.