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THEIR MISTAKE

By MILDRED WHITE.

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Arden-by-the-Sea, July 8.
Dear Nell: The Ambercrombie fortune is in ruins, and the last of the Ambercrombies starts out to make one anew. It was some dilemma planning how to do it, and where to leave mother. Mother is so mistakenly attached to me, that she can't bear me out of her sight, and I couldn't make our joint fortune, sitting on the front doorstep. So we sold that uselessly impressive furniture dear old father loved to hoard, and from our past grandeur I saved only the biggest touring car, with a purpose. To make the long story short, I am installed at Arden-by-the-Sea as public chauffeur, or "bus driver"; and my big pot car may be hired by guests at "The Bluffs" for a day's excursion, or it makes regular trips to meet trains as happens to be most desirable your humble friend acting as driver. Mother is, for the time being, making her home with Cousin Tilly, and later, of course, when I return with the spoils, we are hoping to winter together. This stunning announcement will be all I feel that you can bear for the present.

So I am always lovingly, PEG.
Arden-by-the-Sea, July 29.
Nell Dear: I am glad that you look so sensibly upon my adventure; your sympathy is encouraging. Of course there is romance in my story, but romance, I fear, of a poor order. For while I have for the very first time in my life fallen in love (yes, it is sadly true), the object of my affection is palpably unworthy. So I shall only have to try to "fall out" again for my pains. The trying is the hardest effort of my life. You see, Don is really so big and dear and engaging, that one can't steel one's heart against him, and here is the way it all began: I drove down to meet the train one evening as per schedule, and some of the chatty society young women who stop at the Bluff rode with me for pleasure. These girls are so kind and friendly that I have to remind myself forcibly that I am a "hireling"; and they confided to me merrily the secret of the young fortune hunter. A man friend of this Mr. Donald Benton's had told a certain young woman of Mr. Benton's purpose in coming to Arden. He had, it appeared, invested and lost all the money his father made in oils and left to him, and he was traveling around now where heiresses might be located, in hope of regaining money through marriage. Miss Olive O'Neil, a recent guest at Arden, is a very great heiress indeed, and a democratic one, as well. My informants laughingly said that they could "guess why Mr. Benton had selected the Bluffs as a stopping place." Then, they pointed him out to me at the station, and departed, preferring to walk back to the hotel. Mr. Benton did not signal my car, as I expected, but after giving it—and me—a long, interesting scrutiny, he handed his bag to a boy and started to trudge along. At an opening beyond the wood I came upon him later; he looked weary; the walk that long way about, was tiresome. And as I slowed down to ask (professionally) if he would care to ride, he intercepted me, but in hand, to make just that suggestion. He was, I thought, unnecessarily apologetic about it, but as we rode along I forgot everything but the frank charm of his manner, and the nice look in his eyes. You can see, Nell, it was love at first sight, unmistakably. And the wonderful thing seemed, that as days passed, my love was as promptly reciprocated. We met often, and quite by accident here and there, and I was joyously and secretly thinking how the girls had wronged Donald Benton in their suspicions, when my awful awakening came. Can you guess it, dear friend? Donald had mistaken me for Olive O'Neil the heiress, whose favorite car happens to be of the same make and model as my own. Olive O'Neil, who prides herself upon severely tailored cut clothes, who answers in a way my own description as to coloring and size. His stare of consternation as I announced my true and humble identity was enlightening. I spared him further embarrassment, and myself further pain, by an abrupt good-by. Your unhappy, PEG.

Arden-by-the-Sea, Aug. 1.
Dearest Nell: A hasty note. Rather a contradiction of all I have lately written, and a sort of poison of joy over events that are, I'm rather incoherent, but I am engaged—and to Donald Benton. And, Nell, being just Peg Ambercrombie, and not Olive O'Neil, makes no difference to the man I wronged in thought. In fact, he's glad that I have no money at all, because he has so much. That was a joking story regarding his unfortunate investment. Don says certain friends enjoy circulating it, in order to save him from match-making mothers. Anyway, he is saved now, Nell, and we are to be married soon. I will write you about it.
Your happy, PEG.

Teaching Jobs Made Secure.
California's state assembly has passed the teachers' tenure bill, which provides that after serving a probationary term of two years school teachers shall be classified as permanent and can be removed only after charges have been preferred against them and are sustained in open court. In various parts of the state teachers of acknowledged competency have been dropped without opportunity to defend themselves.

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