

ONE MAN'S WAY

By DOROTHY DOUGLAS

"NAN," Sir John Dyke proposed gently so as not to startle the lovely young girl sitting so confidingly close to him in his big car, "am I far too old for you to consider as a husband? I want you to marry me very, very much."

A bright flush sprang into Nan's cheeks, and she turned her trustful blue eyes straight toward his own. "Oh, Sir John," she smiled softly, "you are offering me a great honor. I-I hardly know what to say. Your friendship for me, the hundred and one lovely little things you do for me, your constant care and thoughtfulness have been the sweetest attentions I have ever had." She gazed affectionately at him. "I hardly think any younger man could have a tenth of the understanding that you have, and that means so much in happy marriages."

"I feel sure I can make you far happier than some young, thoughtless cub who might continually be stabbing your so sensitive spirit. I want you to spread your wings and grow big. I can help you wonderfully, Nan."

"It is only a reflection of your own bigness that you see in me," said Nan. When Sir John Dyke would have contradicted her she stopped him with a hand laid softly over his. "I will marry you," she said, "and try to become exactly what you want me to be."

Sir John, confused for a fleeting second by her swift consideration and answer, stooped swiftly and pressed his lips to each of Nan's pink palms. The contact sent an unexpected stab at his heart. Nan's eyes opened wide, her lips parted with a swift intake of breath.

A moment of tense silence followed, broken then by Sir John. His voice was not altogether steady. "You will not regret, my dear?" he questioned, and when she shook her head slowly, not trusting her voice, he added; and you will promise to tell me if anyone captures the more dominant type of love from you—before—well, before it is too late?"

"I promise to let you know," said Nan, with serious eyes, "if any other love capable of jeopardizing your happiness comes into my life. And I also want you to know that my answer to you now would be the same were you as poor as—as I am."

Sir John laughed. "Splendidly said, Nan. Now," he added more lightly, "shall we lunch, then drive down and have a ring fitted? I don't want a long engagement. May I send the announcement to the papers tonight?"

Later, when they stepped into the great jewelers on Fifth avenue, a dozen clerks would have gone forward to attend Sir John, but it was his nephew, learning the business from the counter up, who had that privilege.

"I have long wanted you to meet this nephew of mine, Nan," said Sir John, performing the introduction, and then watched the meeting of his fiancée and his handsome nephew. Their glances met and clung and their hands drew apart with a swiftness of movement that sent a sharp pain through the heart of Sir John. Then Nan turned her startled, baffled glance upon him and he responded to the silent appeal.

Events piled up rather quickly after that first meeting. Sir John managed, first, with the selection of many wonderful bits of jewelry for Nan, to bring the two young people together. Then there were cozy dinners at his own glorious home on Park avenue. And though these intimate hours John watched something growing between Nan and his nephew. Their glances seldom met now, and Nan never permitted a moment alone with the younger man.

All three tried in true blue-blooded fashion to assume a calm exterior, while inwardly a bomb seemed ever ready to burst. The inevitable drawing together of flaming youth seemed imminent.

It was a scant two months since the engagement had been made public that Sir John, unable to stand the strain of suspense, withdrew from the drawing room after dinner and left the two together. He felt that it was only fair that they should be alone in order to come to a definite understanding. He took his pipe and his thoughts out into the small space which he called his garden, and there in the quiet herded his emotions well into control that little Nan might not know of the ache that was already heralding the loss of her.

He had scarcely drawn the first draft of smoke from his pipe when he jumped up to encircle the slim, trembling girl who had flung herself into his arms.

"John, dear," she panted breathlessly, "please, please don't leave me so much with Jeff. He is beginning to think himself in love with me and I am trying so hard to ward it off. I love you so dearly that I can't bear to have any one else suffer—"

"But Nan—Nan—surely you—" It was Sir John now who trembled. He had not supposed the world capable of offering so great a moment. And as the strong, protecting arms held her close and ever closer Nan realized the full grandeur of an understanding of love.

Usage of a Language. "Some expressions are confusing." "For instance?" "We hear of hard cash." "Well?" "We identify cash as being hard and then we hear of cash given."

MORE TIME TO REFLECT

It is noticeable that the Portland Chamber of Commerce very recently came out boldly against any plan of wheat purchase by the government; that it condemned the Lowden plan of separating domestic and foreign wheat and taxing the domestic wheat so that wheat prices in the United States would be forced to advance.

The Portland chamber sagely remarks that this is not sound business, and possibly the chamber is right; but the thing that attracts attention is when the government is considering a movement to aid the wheat farmer, whether the movement is sound or not, we find the Portland chamber standing up against it, but when the ship contracts were let by the government to Portland shipbuilders on the very unsound principle of cost plus 10 per cent, that same Chamber of Commerce applauded the good business being done and never raised its voice in protest.

The business game is decidedly amusing. How wrong a thing can be when the other fellow does it, and how easy it is to settle down in the cushions and justify the same thing when done by someone close to the throne.

This must be considered regarding Portland chamber's action: That deliberative body had more time to reflect upon the soundness of the wheat situation than it had when shipbuilding was the sought-for business.—La Grande Observer.

HIGH SCHOOL PRESS HOLD INTERESTING MEETING

University of Oregon, Jan. 17.—(Special) — Committees that arranged the program for the fourth annual High School Press Association convention held on the University of Oregon campus Friday and Saturday, are already making general plans for next year's program. On the basis of the experience of the recent convention, a number of improvements have been suggested for next year.

It is probable next year that separate round tables will be devoted to the discussion of business and editorial problems of high school newspapers, magazines and annuals. Several joint sessions of editors and managers will be held, however, in order that representatives of each division of the newspaper may obtain an all-round understanding of the most effective means of instructing the high school delegates in reporting and make-up. The visual instruction feature is to be retained in next year's program.

One hundred and three high school were represented by 356 delegates at the conventions Friday and Saturday of the Oregon High School Press Association and the Association of Student Body Officers.

DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS IN THE NEAR EAST

The Ninety and Nine, the Bible story of how a good shepherd rescued a strayed sheep, was re-enacted with dramatic setting in the Near East at Christmas time. Instead of one sheep being lost, there were many hundreds of children that had been rendered homeless by the recent deportation of Christians from Turkey. In the Bible story there was plenty of room for the one lost sheep. In the modern story there was no room for but 200 children, although several hundred should have been accommodated. The rescue was made by Near East Relief

WHEAT MEN FORM LEAGUE

(Continued from page one)

A county branch of the league will be formed at Lexington on Saturday, February 9, when the Farm Bureau has arranged to hold their county convention there.

Vice-President Jones and Director Cox hope that a large and representative gathering of farmers and business men of the county will be present to lend their moral and physical support to the movement.

workers from Aleppo, according to advices just received by J. J. Handsaker, State Director Near East Relief, 613 Stock Exchange, Portland.

That conditions of suffering in the Near East have not ceased is indicated by a letter just received from Greece at the Near East Relief office in Portland by J. J. Handsaker, state director. The letter was dated early in December and states that the transfer of populations between Greece and Turkey is causing hid-

eous suffering. The relief workers have taken down the sign from the Near East orphanage, as no more children could be accommodated and they were being asked daily to take children in. "As the wet cold weather comes on the suffering and death rate will be appalling. We are asking to be allowed to give the refugee children one hot meal a day. Our answer from New York is that we must wait the results of the Christ-

mas campaign in America for funds. In the meantime, the children are hungry and we have no bread." "Do you wonder," the letter concludes, "that we are waiting almost breathlessly the outcome of your efforts to raise money?"

Dr. and Mrs. A. H. Johnston have taken apartments in the First National Bank building, where they were busy installing their lares and penates Saturday.

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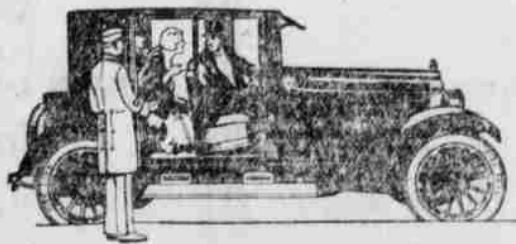
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