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**Peary's Flags at Pole.**

Peary planted five flags at the North pole in 1909. They were: A silk American flag, given him by Mrs. Peary 15 years before; the colors of Delta Kappa Epsilon, his fraternity; the "World's Ensign of Liberty," with red, white and blue in a field of white; the Navy league flag, and the Red Cross flag.

**Sophisticated Kid.**

We often hear of children being sheltered from the wickedness of the world. They are not. The little wretches must accept the common fare and hear of plenty of wickedness, among themselves and in their homes. What a lot of wickedness I know about before I was ten years old!—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

**Destructive Tourists.**

Tourists are responsible for the destruction of many of our young trees, says a state forester. "Automobilists," he says, "dig up young conifers for transplanting and usually carry with them roots exposed for great distances, expecting them to take root and grow. Most of them die. The practice should stop."

**Knew Her Mother.**

The little daughter of an artist was playing on the porch of her home when a man selling colored postcards spoke to her. "Do you think your mother would like some of these?" he asked, showing her the cards. "No, I am sure she would not," was the decisive reply. "My father makes them."

**Real Teaching.**

There is no teaching until the pupil is brought into the same state of principle in which you are; a transfusion takes place; he is you, and you are he; there is a teaching; and by no unfriendly chance of bad company can he ever quite lose the benefit.—Bergson.

**Reprove Wisely.**

Reprove, especially as it relates to children, administered in all gentleness, will render the culprit not afraid, but ashamed to repeat the offense.—Hosea Ballou.

**It Helps the Other Side.**

"Profanity," said Uncle Eben, "is a way of showing that you haven't any argument of your own and ain't got no respect for nobody else's."—Washington Star.

**Jest Too Costly.**

It is generally agreed to be folly to hazard the loss of a friend rather than to lose a jest.—Benjamin Franklin.

**Another Mystery.**

One thing women's clothes have to the imagination is what makes them so expensive.—Duluth Herald.

**A Well Marked Trail.**

The road leading to easy street is littered with the trimmed remains of easy marks.—Plint Journal.

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**THE BIG HEART OF MICHAEL**

By GEORGE R. CHESTER

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WRITHING, scintillating snakes of white-hot iron shot one after another out of their rolls, to come sliding lithely and rapidly along the floor toward Michael Dyer all day long, like things of malignant life. It was Michael's duty to grab these searing bars with a pair of tongs and guide them into the next set of rolls, through which they emerged longer and thinner and still more lithe, for another agile man to handle. But with that man Michael had no concern; it was upon Dan Lennon—working next to him down the dim aisle, which, like a dream of the inferno, was shot throughout its interminable length with these vivid, crawling streaks—that he turned his glowing eyes in the occasional pauses when, for some reason or other, a beat or two was missed in that rhythmical procession of angry metal.

The cause for his somber speculation was presently revealed when Dan was attacked by an acute paroxysm of coughing—a seizure that shook him violently from head to foot, that made him gasp and struggle for breath, and, stooping, huddle his shoulders together for escape from that intolerable pain in his chest.

"I'm afraid it's got me," he said, glancing up at Michael, and his eyes were full of fear.

"You're crazy with the heat," responded Michael roughly, and went back to his station.

It! They seldom alluded to the White Scourge by its right name in the mills. They held it in too much awe, for sooner or later the dread malady laid most of them low.

**II.**

At Dan's gate near Mrs. Lennon met them, and Michael paused to exchange a pleasant word with her. She was heartily glad to see her husband's friend, as she always was, for he had been their bulwark through years of trouble, and she felt a debt of gratitude to him that was beyond payment. Michael paused but a moment at the gate, and then went on to his own tiny cottage next door, where a twelve-year-old daughter had been his housekeeper and sole companion for half her industrious life. In the evening the two men sat out upon Michael's little porch, and for an hour or so Dan was more his old self than he had been for many, many days; but on the following morning he did not go to work. "It" had finally "got" him, and further pretense was out of the question.

In the evening Michael always stopped in as soon as he came from work to gossip with Dan about what had gone on that day in the mills; and both Dan and his wife grew to look for his coming as the most cheerful moment in their day, though often, after he had gone, and while the light of this cheering visit was still in his wife's eyes, Dan would lie in frowning silence.

It was one evening near the end, when his wife and Michael were standing together at his bedside, that the long-pent-up rebellion broke from Dan's lips.

"Strong and healthy, both of you," he complained bitterly, "and you're waiting; just waiting for me to get out of the way!"

It was unjust, it was cruel! It was not like Dan's self to have had that thought, much less to have voiced it; but he was warped and twisted all out of his normal mind by the wasting malady that had fastened upon him.

They forgave him in all pity, but the words had been said; they could not forget them, and the shadow of them still lay between the two when they stood above Dan's grave—lay between them the more when, later on, they came to realize that Dan had foreseen the truth even before they themselves could have known it.

The problem for Fanny Lennon became a serious one at once. The eldest of her children was but ten, and she had no way to earn for them but by plain sewing, which was scarce and poorly paid. She could not accept of Michael's charity now, even in her direst extremities, and the knowledge of it cut him like a knife. That he should be earning good wages and have more than enough, while the wife of his friend, to say nothing of the woman whom he now could admit that he loved, was in dire straits, worried him by day and by night.

Forced by his distress, he spoke to her one evening when the children were playing together in the back lot; but, like his crude bigness, he spoke without vestige of tact.

"You remember what Dan said to us by his bedside," he began; but he got no farther.

With a piteous gesture Mrs. Lennon stopped him.

"Please don't let us talk about it," she begged him, and what further plea he had at heart froze upon his tongue. He could not know, with what sense of guilt, even though blameless, she remembered that charge against her faithfulness.

Thereafter Michael was more distressed than ever. He saw the Lennon children insufficiently fed, with plenty next door; he saw them insufficiently clad, while his own daughter had more than she needed; he knew the Lennon offer to be empty, while his own useless money piled up in the bank. One evening, how-

ever, he came home with a lighter step than he had known since Dan's death.

"I guess you'd better have me to look after your property," he said gaily to Mrs. Lennon, stopping at her door.

"My property," she repeated wonderingly.

"Yes, your property. A fellow was down at the mills today hunting Dan up to see why he didn't pay his insurance. That was the first the company knew he was dead, and the first I knew he had any insurance. Did you know it?"

She was overwhelmed.

"Dan always did keep his money matters a secret," she reflected, however, and she managed to ask how much it was.

"Well, it ain't a lump sum," Michael answered her. "It's better than that; he insured himself so as to give you eighty dollars a month."

"I told the fellow I'd attend to the business end of this for you," he informed her. "There's got to be papers signed, and they might cheat a woman. I'll draw your money for you," and thereafter he did.

**III.**

And so matters might have gone on, but that one day Michael made the mistake which he had escaped through all his service and got an ugly burn. For a week he was delirious in the fever that came of it. It was during that week that Mrs. Lennon, in the midst of her nursing of him, happened to remember that this was the fifteenth day of the month. Leaving her patient in charge of Nellie Dyer, she made her way to the office of the insurance company whose address she had found upon her policy. As her introduction she said that she had come to draw her money, and laid down her policy.

"No policy was ever issued by this company in the name of Daniel Lennon," the clerk informed her. "This paper is a rank forgery, so clumsy that it would be laughable if it were not criminal."

He kept the policy still in his hand. It was his evident intention not to give it back to her. Crushed and bewildered, she turned away, but a thought sent her again to the wicket.

"But I have been getting my money on it for nearly four years," she urged.

"You have," said the clerk incredulously. "Who has been paying you?"

"Michael Dyer," she answered, "a neighbor of ours."

The clerk looked at her curiously, and presently he smiled.

"I shall have to keep this policy and look up the facts," he told her, still with that curious smile that had an unwonted trace of gentleness in it; "but I don't think just now that any prosecution will grow out of it. If Mr. Dyer has been handing you this money, he must have been paying it out of his own pocket."

Now that the clew had been given, she knew that the clerk's conjecture must be true. It was like Michael to do this big and generous thing—to give up to her more than a third of all that he earned!

She went home with her head in a whirl, and turning into her own house in a breathless panic of thought, sat down in the dim front room. What revisions of feeling took place within her there, what tearing away of prejudices and ideas and habits of mental process that had hedged about her soul, she could not tell; but, no matter how it came about, she was a different woman when, a half-hour later, Nellie Dyer came running over, beaming with delight.

"Oh Mamma Lennon!" cried Nellie. "Papa is awake and in his right mind at last, and he's asking for you!"

The words thrilled her strangely, and suddenly she knew that in the half-hour in which she sat alone she had gained an understanding of greatness, that at last she had a glimpse of the true bigness and tenderness of the heart of Michael Dyer.

With a catch in her throat she hurried over and into that other dim room where Michael lay with his eyes turned wistfully to the door through which she might come. As she hurried to the bedside and caught his hand he smiled at her and sighed his relief in her presence.

"It's so good to have you here," he said. "My old age friends are not so many, but that we miss them when we are in trouble."

"Friends, Michael! Friends!" and, suddenly sobbing, she knelt swiftly down, with her arm across him and 1928 her warm cheek against his upon the pillow.

**Unnecessary to State**

**This Story Is Fiction**

A village lad, Lester Gallup by name, was walking slowly along under the trees in his native hamlet one afternoon reading a letter from his sweetheart. Becoming deeply interested in the missive he collapsed with the trunk of a tree, striking it with such force that he sat down suddenly on the stone sidewalk. Neither rising nor removing his eyes from the letter until he finished the reading, he kissed the signature and then scrambled to his feet.

A gentleman who had arrived in town that morning came hurrying up to him, and declaring that what he had just witnessed was the funniest thing he ever saw in his life, offered Lester a movie contract at \$1,000 per week. The young man quietly and dignifiedly explained that he was not worth any such salary, politely declined the offer and went on his way.—Kansas City Star.

Geologists have estimated the lignite resources of Italy at 295,180,000 metric tons.

**STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.**

Hood River—Clean-up and beautification plans here this year include the painting of telephone and power poles in the business district. C. O. Huelet launched the pole-painting plan.

Fossil—C. O. Portwood, treasurer of Wheeler county, resigned his office February 19. The resignation followed the filing of an auditor's report showing a shortage in the treasurer's accounts of \$2203.76. H. S. Johnson, druggist, was appointed by the court as his successor.

Tillamook—Dates set for the 1928 Tillamook county fair, the 13th annual exposition to be held in this county, were set Tuesday by the fair board for September 14, 15, 16 and 17. The fair will be a week earlier than the 1925 show.

La Grande—The L. B. Menefee box factory and planing mill, located three miles east of La Grande resumed operations Monday morning after an all-winter shut-down. The company employs 45 men and procures its timber from Ladd canyon holdings near here.

Salem—The work of setting up the state lime plant at the Oregon state penitentiary started Monday. The plant previously was located at Gold Hill. By utilizing convict labor, lime fertilizer will be sold to the farmers at a cost of \$1.50 a ton less than charged at the Gold Hill plant.

Hermiston.—O. O. Felthouse has started shipping daily two carloads of sand from his big pits near here to McKay dam, where the material will be used in the concrete work on the big structure. It is expected that the shipments will continue during the summer until the dam is completed.

Arlington.—Arlington's new three-story hotel has been leased to Charles Darnelle of The Dalles for a ten-year period. The hotel will be opened April 15. Mr. Darnelle was formerly proprietor of the Bank hotel in The Dalles and has been in the automobile and real estate business since that time.

Woodburn.—Word is anxiously awaited from the Oregon Agricultural college, where a sample of oil found on the G. T. Bass place at Broadacres has been sent for testing. Mr. Bass was digging postholes on his farm and in more than one hole struck oil. The oil is of a golden color and almost in a refined state.

Pendleton.—A fourth poultry club in Umatilla county has been formed at Helix, it was announced Saturday by Fred Bennion, county agent. Fifteen pupils of the schools there have organized and elected Ethel Brown president, Lawrence Person vice-president and Earl Planting secretary. G. J. Prindle has been named club leader.

Salem.—Citizens of McMinnville, through petitions now in circulation there, will request the state highway commission to submit a bill to the next legislature designating the present west side highway, from Portland south, as the west side Pacific highway or changing the name of the Pacific highway to the east side highway.

Salem.—The Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad company had net income of \$749.93 during the year 1925, according to the annual report filed with the public service commission. The operating revenues were \$187,958.55, while the operating expenses aggregated \$165,096.61. The corporation in 1924 had a deficit of approximately \$10,000.

Hood River.—Demand for lumber by the contractors engaged on the Wauna bridge, which will span the Columbia river at Cascade Locks on the site of the legendary Bridge of the Gods, has caused early activity at the Stevenson, Wash., sawmill of the Ryan-Allen Lumber company. The concern is completing a dock on the river front. Sixty men are employed.

Arlington.—A fast start in life and an uncertain birthplace were accorded a ten-pound baby boy to Mrs. George Kirkwood of Baker on eastbound passenger train No. 24. Dr. V. Gessner of Arlington was asked by Gessner to board the train. The child was born about 4:30 when in the vicinity of Hermiston. Dr. Gessner left the train at Echo, where both mother and child were reported to be doing well.

Hermiston.—Efforts are being made by the official board of the Hermiston irrigation district and by the Umatilla project farm bureau to obtain from Dr. Elwood Mead, director in the federal reclamation service, action that will insure water for the Umatilla project during 1926, irrespective of whether delinquency exists. Recently the director informed the board that under the law delivery of water may not be made during 1926 if water users are delinquent for more than one year.

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**Gold and Silver Coins.**  
The United States gold dollar contains 25.8 troy grains. A troy pound contains 5,760 troy grains, but the more familiar avoirdupois pound contains 7,000 troy grains. A million dollars in United States gold coin, therefore, weighs 3,686.4 pounds avoirdupois. The standard silver dollar weighs 412.5 troy grains, and a million dollars in such coin would weigh 56,921 pounds, or nearly 24½ tons.

**Appreciation of Merit.**  
I think that, however a thoughtful man may suffer from the defects and absurdities of his company, he cannot without affectation deny to any set of men and women a sensibility to extraordinary merit. The coarse and frivolous have an instinct of superiority, if they have not a sympathy, and honor it in their blind and capricious way with sincere homage.—Emerson.

**Old Swiss Cheeses.**  
A peculiar bridal or marriage custom which prevails in some parts of Switzerland is presenting the people with a "register cheese." On this cheese dates of the marriage, births and deaths are recorded. Many persons own cheese records that are 200 years old. A country squire living near Gessenay has one dated 1660.

**Scientists Rejected Name.**  
The planet Uranus was named Georgium Sidus, George's Star, by its discoverer, Sir William Herschell, in 1781, but astronomers refused to accept the name, and it was finally called by its present name.

**Titian's Incentive.**  
It is said that Titian always kept a cluster of grapes hanging in his studio as an example of beauty of form and line.

**Designed American Flag.**  
The United States flag in its present form was designed by Samuel Chester Reid, an American naval officer, who distinguished himself in the War of 1812, by repulsing a British attack of Payal in 1814.

**Use of Peat in Ireland.**  
Considerable areas in Ireland consist of boggy land, where peat is found. From very early times peat has formed an important fuel in this country and still continues to be used extensively today.

**Altitude and Taste.**  
At an altitude of 19,000 feet, during the recent expedition to the summit of Mount Everest, adventurers are said to have lost their sense of taste. Onions and peppermints seemed virtually without flavor.

**Well to Remember.**  
Because one side is all wrong, it doesn't follow that the other side is all right.—Good Hardware.

**Helps to Old Age.**  
Another general aid to longevity is the fact that the good die young.—Akron Beacon Journal.

**High-power salesmanship comes too near assault and battery to last long.**

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**Curious Word.**  
What English word in common use will describe a person or thing as not to be found in any place, and yet with no other alteration than a separation of the syllables will correctly describe him as being present this moment?—Nowhere, now here.—Brooklyn Eagle.

**Origin of Bridal Veil.**  
The wedding or bridal veil is the relic of an ancient superstition. It was first worn in ancient times to conceal and protect the bride from evil spirits which it was thought might do her harm. The bridal veil was in common use among the Greeks and Romans.

**De Gama's Discovery.**  
One of the states of the Union of South Africa, was discovered by Vasco de Gama, who landed on this coast on Christmas day, 1497. He named the region Terra Natalis, the meaning of which is expressed in the present name.

**The Upkeep.**  
Medical science may add 20 years to the average life, it is announced. It should also do something about adding to its income so it will be in a position to enjoy these added years.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

**Gassing.**  
"It isn't the original cost, it's the upkeep," remarked the balloonist as he opened another tank of hydrogen.—Notre Dame Juggler.

**Pack Silver in Flour.**  
Pack silver in dry flour when storing it for some time and it will not tarnish.

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