# PRESIDENT ADDRESSES SENATE ON PEACE

## Wilson Desires End of War in Europe Without Victory to Either Side—Would Extend Monroe Doctrine to All Nations—Freedom of Seas Advocated.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Whether the United States shall enter a world peace league and, as many contend, thereby abandon its traditional policy of isolation and no entangling alliances, was put squarely before Congress and the country today by President Wilson in a personal address to the Senate.

The full text follows:

Gentlemen of the Senate: On the 18th of December last I addressed an identic note to the governments of the nations now at war requesting them to state more definitely than had yet been stated by either group of belligerents the terms upon which they would deem it possible to make peace. I spoke on behalf of humanity and of the rights of all neutral nations like our own, many of whose most vital interests the war puts in constant jeopardy.

The central powers united in a reply which stated merely that they were ready to meet their antagonists in conference to discuss terms of peace.

The entente powers have replied much more definitely and have stated in general terms, indeed, but with sufficient definiteness to imply details, the arrangements, guarantees and acts of reparation which they deem to be indispensable conditions of a satisfactory settlement.

We are that much nearer a definite discussion of the peace which shall end the present war. We are much nearer the discussion of the international concert which must thereafter hold the world at peace. In every discussion of the peace that must end this war it is taken for granted that that peace must be given by some definite concert of power which will make it virtually impossible that any such catastrophe should ever overwhelm us again. Every lover of mankind, every sane and thoughtful man, must take that for granted.

I have sought this opportunity to address you because I thought that I owed it to you, as the council associated with me in the final determination of our international obligations, to disclose to you, without reserve, the thought and purpose that have been taking form in my mind in regard to the duty of our Government in these days to come, when it will be necessary to lay afresh and upon a new plan the foundations of peace among the nations.

It is inconceivable that the people of the United States should play no part in that great enterprise. To take part in such a service will be the opportunity for which they have sought to prepare themselves by the very principles and purposes of their policy and the approved practices of their Government ever since the days when they set up a new Nation in the high and honorable hope that it might in all that it was and did show mankind the way to liberty. They cannot, in honor, withhold the service to which they are now about to be challenged. They do not wish to withhold it. But they owe it to themselves and to the other nations of the world to state the conditions under which they feel free to render it.

That service is nothing less than this—to add their authority and their power to the authority and force of other nations to guarantee peace and justice throughout the world. Such a settlement cannot now be long postponed. It is right that before it comes this Government should frankly formulate the conditions upon which it would feel justified in asking our people to approve its formal and solemn adherence to a league for peace. I am here to attempt to state those conditions.

The present war must first be ended; but we owe it to candor and to a just regard for the opinion of mankind to say that so far as our participation in guarantees of future peace is concerned it makes a great deal of difference in what way and upon what terms it is ended. The treaties and agreements which bring it to an end must embody terms which will create a peace that is worth guaranteeing and preserving, a peace that will win the approval of mankind; not merely a peace that will serve the several interests and immediate aims of the nations engaged.

We shall have no voice in determining what those terms shall be, but we shall, I feel sure, have a voice in determining whether they shall be made lasting or not by the guarantees of a universal covenant and our judgment upon what is fundamental and essential as a condition precedent to permanency should be spoken now, not afterwards, when it may be too late.

No covenant of co-operative peace that does not include the people of the new world can suffice to keep the future safe against war, and yet there is only one sort of peace that the peoples of America could join in guaranteeing.

The elements of that peace must be the elements that engage the confidence and satisfy the principles of the American Government, elements consistent with their political faith and the practical convictions which the peoples of America have once for all embraced and undertaken to defend.

I do not mean to say that any American government would throw any obstacle in the way of any terms of peace the governments now at war might agree upon or seek to upset them when made, whatever they might be. I only take it for granted that mere terms of peace between the belligerents will not satisfy even the belligerents themselves.

Mere agreements may not make peace sure. It will be absolutely necessary that a force be created as a guarantee of the permanency of the settlement so much greater than the force of any nation now engaged or any alliance hitherto formed or projected, that no nation, no probable combination of nations, could face or withstand it. If the peace presently to be made is to endure it must be a peace made secure by the organized major force of mankind. The terms of the immediate peace agreed upon will determine whether there is a peace of which such guarantee can be secured. The question upon which the whole future peace and policy of the world depends is this:

Is the present war a struggle for a just and secure peace or only for a new balance of power? If it be only a struggle for a new balance of power, who will guarantee, who can guarantee, the stable equilibrium of the new arrangement? Only a tranquil Europe can be a stable Europe. There must be, not a balance of power, but a community of power; not organized rivalries, but an organized common peace.

Fortunately, we have received very explicit assurances on this point. The statesmen of both of the groups of nations now arrayed against one another have said in terms that could not be misinterpreted that it was no part of the purpose they had in mind to crush their antagonists. But the implications of these assurances may not be equally clear to all—may not be the same on both sides of the water. I think it will be serviceable if I attempt to set forth what we understand them to be.

They imply first of all that it must be a peace without victory. It is not pleasant to say this. I beg that I may be permitted to put my own interpretation upon it and that it may be understood that no other interpretation was in my thought. I am seeking only to face realities and to face them without illusions. Victory would mean peace forced upon the loser, a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished. It would be made in humiliation, under duress, at an intolerable sacrifice and would leave a sting, a resentment, a bitter memory upon which terms of peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand.

Only a peace between equals can last; only a peace the very principle of which is equality and a common participation in a common benefit. The right state of mind, the right feeling between nations, is as necessary for a lasting peace as is the just settlement of vexed questions of territory or of racial and national allegiance.

The equality of nations upon which peace must be founded, if it is to last, must be an equality of rights; the guarantees exchanged must neither recognize nor imply a difference between big nations and small, between those that are powerful and those that are weak. Right must be based upon the common strength, not upon the individual strength of the nations upon whose concert peace will depend. Equality of territory or of resources there, of course, cannot be; nor any other sort of equality not gained in the ordinary peaceful and legitimate development of the peoples themselves. But no one asks or expects anything more than an equality of rights. Mankind is looking now for freedom of life, or for equipoises of power.

And there is a deeper thing involved than even equality of rights among organized nations. No peace can last, or ought to last, which does not recognize and accept the principle that governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed, and that no right anywhere exists to hand peoples about from sovereignty to sovereignty as if they were property.

I take it for granted, for instance, if I may venture upon a single example, that statesmen everywhere are agreed that there should be a united, independent and autonomous Poland, and that henceforth inviolable security of life, of worship and of industrial and social development should be guaranteed to all peoples who have lived hitherto under the power of governments devoted to faith and purpose hostile to their own.

I speak of this not because of any desire to exalt an abstract political principle which has always been held very dear by those who have sought to build up liberty in America, but for the same reason that I have spoken of the other conditions of peace which seem to me clearly indispensable because I wish frankly to uncover realities.

Any peace which does not recognize and accept this principle will inevitably be upset. It will not rest upon the affections or the convictions of mankind. The ferment of spirit of whole populations will fight subtly and constantly against it, and all the world will sympathize. The world can be at peace only if its life is stable, and there can be no stability where the will is in rebellion, where there is not tranquility of spirit and a sense of justice and freedom and right.

So far as practicable, moreover, every great people now struggling towards a full development of its resources and of its powers should be assured a direct outlet to the great highways of the seas. Where this cannot be done by the cession of territory, it can no doubt be done by the neutralization of direct rights of way under the general guarantee which will assure the peace itself. With a right comity of arrangement no nation need be shut away from free access to the open paths of the world's commerce.

And the paths of the sea must alike in law and in fact be free. The freedom of the seas is the sine qua non of peace, equality and co-operation. No doubt a somewhat radical reconsideration of many of the rules of international practice hitherto sought to be established may be necessary in order to make the seas indeed free and common in practically all circumstances for the use of mankind, but the motive for such changes is convincing and compelling. There can be no trust or intimacy between the peoples of the world without them.

The free, constant, unthreatened intercourse of nations is an essential part of the process of peace and of development. It need not be difficult to define or to secure the freedom of the seas if the governments of the world sincerely desire to come to an agreement concerning it.

It is a problem closely connected with the limitation of naval armaments and the co-operation of the navies of the world in keeping the seas at once free and safe. And the question of limiting naval armaments opens the wider and perhaps more difficult question of the limitation of armies and of all programmes of military preparation. Difficult and delicate as these questions are they must be faced with the utmost candor and decided in a spirit of real accommodation if peace is to come with healing in its wings and come to stay.

Peace cannot be had without concession and sacrifice. There can be no sense of safety and equality among the nations if great preponderating armaments are henceforth to continue here and there to be built up and maintained. The statesmen of the world must plan for peace and nations must adjust and accommodate their policy to it as they have planned for war and made ready for pitiless contest and rivalry. The question of armaments, whether on land or sea, is the most immediately and intensely practical question connected with the future fortunes of nations and of mankind.

I have spoken upon these great matters without reserve and with the utmost explicitness because it has seemed to me to be necessary if the world's yearning desire for peace was anywhere to find free voice and utterance. Perhaps I am the only person in high authority among all the peoples of the world who is at liberty to speak and hold nothing back. I am speaking as an individual and yet I am speaking, also, of course, as the responsible head of a great government and I feel confident that I have said what the people of the United States would wish me to say.

May I not add that I hope and believe that I am in effect speaking for liberals and friends of humanity in every nation and of every programme of liberty? I would fain believe that I am speaking for the silent mass of mankind everywhere who have as yet had no place or opportunity to speak their real hearts out concerning the death and ruin they see to have come already upon the persons and the homes they hold most dear.

And in holding out the expectation that the people and government of the United States will join the other civilized nations of the world in guaranteeing the permanence of peace upon such terms as I have named, I speak with the greater boldness and confidence because it is clear to every man who can think that there is in the promise no breach as a nation, but a fulfillment rather of all that we have professed or striven for.

I am proposing, as it were, that the nations should with one accord adopt the doctrine of President Monroe as the doctrine of the world; that no nation should seek to extend its policy over any other nation or people, but that every people should be left free to determine its own policy, its own way of development, unhindered, unthreatened, unafraid, the little along with the great and powerful.

I am proposing that all nations henceforth avoid entangling alliances which would draw them into competitions of power, catch them in a net of intrigue and selfish rivalry and disturb their own affairs with influences intruded from without. There is no entangling alliance in a concert of power. When all unite to act in the same sense and with the same purpose all act in the common interest and are free to live their own lives under a common protection.

I am proposing government by the consent of the governed; that freedom of the seas which in international conference after conference representatives of the United States have urged with the eloquence of those who are the convinced disciples of liberty; and that moderation of armaments which makes of armies and navies a power for order merely, not an instrument of aggression or of selfish violence.

These are American principles, American policies. We can stand for no others. And they are also the principles and policies of forward looking men and women everywhere, of every modern nation, of every enlightened community. They are the principles of mankind and must prevail.

### Pershing Sends Supplies Out.

Juarez, Mex. — A Mexican courier arrived here Monday night from Casas Grandes with an official message saying 161 motor trucks of the American expeditionary forces left Colonia Dublan Sunday for Columbus, N. M., loaded to the top with camp equipment, supplies, ordnance stores and excess baggage. After ten months and seven days in the field, General J. J. Pershing's outpost troops were moving toward field headquarters Monday, preparatory to withdrawal of the punitive expedition from Mexico.

### Appeal Made for Priests.

Washington, D. C. — An appeal to General Carranza to spare the lives of two Roman Catholic priests arrested near Mexico City last week and charged with sedition, has been made by the State department.

The priests were to be tried under an old law giving the court the right to impose the death penalty without appeal. One is an archbishop, Monsignor Francisco Orozco, of Guadalajara, and the other is Bishop Miguel de la Mora, of Zacatecas. Both are Mexicans.

### Miners' Case Appealed.

Washington, D. C. — Litigation involving claims of $1,283,000, treble damages, under the Sherman law, against the United Mine Workers of America by the Coronado and other Arkansas coal mining companies, was appealed to the Supreme court Tuesday.

President White and other union officials asked review of Arkansas court decrees permitting prosecution of the union, and asked for a writ of prohibition against further proceedings in the Arkansas litigation.

### Wickersham Sure Victor.

Seward, Alaska — The Bristol Bay election returns, opened Tuesday at Valdez, were favorable for James Wickersham, Republican, for re-election as delegate to congress, giving Wickersham a plurality of 34 over Charles Sulzer, Democrat.

### Oregon Ships Wheat to Maine.

Dufur, Or.—Central Oregon Tuesday made its first transcontinental shipment of grain when three cars filled with wheat were started from Boyd, Or., to Portland, Me.

# Doings of State Legislators

## Measure to Consolidate State Boards Makes Long Strides

Salem — Further progress in the economy and consolidation program was made in the house Wednesday. By unanimous vote the house adopted the resolutions committee's resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of five members to "examine all feasible plans, to receive, prepare and report bills looking toward the abolition, consolidation and merging of various states offices, boards and commissions in the interest of a more economical and efficient government."

Speaker Stanfield appointed on the committee Representatives Brownell, Thomas, Ritner, Portwood and Porter.

The resolution under which this action was taken was a substitute for Representative Brownell's resolution, debated on the floor of the house Tuesday, and providing for a consolidation program by the revision of the laws committee.

Chairman Stott and other members of the revision committee protested against the Brownell plan because, they explained, it would throw additional work on a committee that already is one of the hardest worked committees of the legislature.

The resolution seemed to be satisfactory all around, and members who discussed it insisted that the committee should get to work right away.

"I consider that I won my fight," commented Brownell. "What I want is an intelligent consolidation program."

In his argument on the floor Brownell said that he was willing to give his time and his clerk's time to the consolidation work, and it is apparent that the speaker has taken him at his word by making him chairman of the committee.

### Want Oregon Troops Returned.

Salem — After a deal of high-flung oratory, Democratic senators professing to believe that criticism of President Wilson was intended, the senate Monday adopted Senator Lewis' joint memorial asking the President for the speedy return of Oregon troops on the Mexican border.

What made the memorial obnoxious to Democratic political sensibilities appeared to be that it was addressed to the President, as well as a section reading: "Whereas, there is no imperative need for said members of the Oregon National Guard at said place, and it is the desire of the people of the state of Oregon that they be returned to their homes. . ."

Whatever it was, the charge was made, first by Senator Garland, then by Senator Wilbur, and finally by Senator Strayer, all Democrats, that there was political significance in the request for the return of the troops.

After an hour's talk, which sounded in spots like last fall's election campaigning, the memorial was adopted, 20 votes to 9. It now goes to the house.

### Rural Credits Act Causes Friction.

Salem — A lively fight is brewing over the enacting law which the present legisature must pass to put into effect the rural-credits amendment to the state constitution adpoted by the people last November. This amendment provides for a state bond issue of $18,000,000.

Senator Shanks, of Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties, introduced a bill that is now before the senate committee on argieulture and forestry that represents one view of the situation. This measure, of course, would leave the administration of the law with the State land board, as the amendment requires, but it puts certain restrictions upon the administrative power of the board and provides a superintendent for the direct supervision of the fund.

### Anti-Alien Law is Proposed.

Salem, Or.—Japanese ownership of land, so strenuous an issue in California a few years ago, is made an Oregon issue by Senate bill No. 61, introduced by Senator Wilbur. It prohibits aliens, who are not eligible for citizenship, including Japanese, Chinese and Hindus, from owning land in Oregon, or from leasing land for more than three years. Associations or corporations, a majority of whose stock is so owned, are subject to the same restriction. Land now owned by Japanese, Chinese or Hindus, is to escheat to the state on their death.

### Sterilization is Up Again.

Salem—The issue of sterilization, voted down by the 1913 legislature, has been brought before the present legislature by Farrell, of Multnomah, who introduced a bill in the senate providing for sterilization of sexual perverts and feeble-minded persons. Sexual perverts, under this bill, can be sterilized only upon their consent. After sterilization they may be paroled. Feeble-minded persons may be sterilized, after examination by a board of physicians and psychologists, upon the order of the county judge.

### Two Consolidations Urged.

Salem — Two more consolidation measures were introduced in the senate Tuesday. Both affect the dairy and food commissioner.

One, by Barrett, would combine the food and dairy commission with the state board of health. The present commissioner would be chief inspector or deputy state health officer for the remainder of his term.

The board would have authority to employ as many deputies or clerks as necessary for the food inspection work.

### 8-Hour Bill Appears.

Salem—Senator Gill Wednesday introduced the expected eight-hour law for women. His measure, S. B. 78, changes the word "ten" to "eight" in the 1909 law fixing the hours of day work for women, and reduces from 60 to 48 the number of hours a week that women employes may work. The ruling of the Industrial Welfare commission permitting women to work 54 hours a week would be superseded by this amendment.

## $1,8000,000 Road Fund Bill Passes to Equal Government Aid

Salem—Most of the important business of the house the latter part of the week was transacted in committees.

The judiciary committee conducted an open hearing on a number of bills intended to improve the operation of the initiative and referendum; the consolidation commttee conferred with Governor Withycombe to gain his views on the work expected of them; the committee on alcoholic traffic held an informal meeting to consider the "bone-dry" prohibition bill, and many other committees held both day and night sessions to consider questions of varying degrees of importance.

The house passed Representative Bean's bill authorizing the State board of control to issue bonds, if necessary, to match the Federal appropriation of $1,800,000 for road improvement work in Oregon. The expenditure is to be spread over a period of five years, and the state need bond itself only enough to complete the $1,800,000 fund if that amount is not available from other sources. The government requires the state to spend dollar for dollar.

Proposed increases in automobile license fees and on gasoline distribution, it is believed, will go far toward meeting the government's requirements.

### Boycott Meets Opposition.

Salem—The proposed anti-picketing, anti-banner and anti-boycott measure asked by the Employers' association and Portland business interests, with an emergency clause attached, has hit a snag in the Multnomah delegation. For a time Friday it looked as if all further consideration of the measure would be indefinitely postponed, which would be equivalent to killing it off, so far as the delegation is concerned.

Senator Orton even made a motion to that effect, but Senator Moser interposed the suggestion that District Attorney Evans, Sheriff Hurlburt, Chief of Police Clark, Mayor Albee and Municipal Judge Langguth be invited to appear before the delegation at 8 o'clock Friday night and explain why the present law providing penalties for intimidation or force to prevent a person from continuing or accepting employment cannot be enforced.

### Prison Held Unfit.

Salem — The penitentiary, state training school and tuberculosis sanatorium main buildings are antiquated, unfit, and have outlived their usefulness; the building at the training school is like a prison, with narrow windows, dingy rooms, no cheerfulness — a relic of poor methods in reformatory plans for children. These are assertions which were offered by Governor Withycombe in discussing some phases of the situation at the institutions around Salem, and incidentally commenting upon the recent report of the committee named to survey the boy's and girls' state schools here.

### Strict Anti-Boycott Bill Presented.

Salem—An anti-picketing, anti-banner, anti-boycott measure, submitted by Thomas McCusker, of the Employers' association, was put up to the Multnomah delegation for approval by Representative Kubli, of Multnomah, at a special meeting of the delegation at noon Monday. It carries an emergency clause.

After considerable discussion, the delegation decided to take a day to think it over.

The measure is based on the present law prohibiting use of force or intimidation to prevent any person from continuing at work, or from accepting employment. It goes much further, however, by prohibiting picketing of any kind, peaceable or otherwise.

### Fraternal Societies Heard.

Salem—The joint insurance committee of the house and senate gave the fraternal societies a hearing Thursday on the recommendations made by the Insurance Code commission to amend the present law relative to the regulation of fraternal societies. Representatives of many societies were present. Except for one society, they favored the recommendations. The committee reserved final decision.

There will be a hearing immediately on life insurance.

### Schools Lose Funds.

Salem — The long-expected fight over state appropriations to sectarian institutions broke unceremoniously in the house Friday, and the house went decisively on record against such appropriations.

The question arose over the favorable report of the committee on health and public morals on Representative Bowman's bill prohibiting further appropriations to sectarian institutions.

### Water-Power Bill is Urged.

Salem—Senator John Gill has introducted in the senate a joint memorial to congress urging the enactment of water power legislation by that body. The memorial, which was referred to the committee on resolutions, asks for legislation to develop the water resources of the Nation, but speaks especially of Oregon and other Western states.

### First Bill is Signed.

Salem—Gov. Withycombe Thursday signed house bill No. 50, the first bill to be signed by the executive at this session. It was introduced by the joint ways and means committee and provides an appropriation of $25,000 as a part of the expenses of the legislative assembly.

### Port Orford Asks Naval Base.

Salem — Representative Tichenor wants Uncle Sam to establish a naval base at Port Orford. He offered the legislature a joint memorial to congress asking that a Federal appropriation be made for that purpose. Tichenor lives at Port Orford.

### Appointments Are Delayed.

Salem—Governor Withycombe announces that appointments to boards, commissions, etc., that might be made during the present session will be held in abeyance unitl after the sesison.

# PRUDENCE of the PARSONAGE

By ETHEL HUESTON

(Bobbs-Merrill, Copyright, 1916)

Prudence and Fairy entertain the good ladies of the congregation and the result is rather disastrous for Prudence.

Mr. Starr, a widower Methodist minister, has been assigned to the congregation at Mount Mark, Iowa. He and his daughter Prudence—she is nineteen and the eldest of five girls—have come on ahead to get the new parsonage ready for the younger members of the family. The whole town, especially the Methodist element, is very curious about the strangers, and individually members of the church call at the parsonage and "pump" the girls for all they're worth. But the Starrs soon adjust themselves to their new surroundings—and after much preparation, Prudence and Fairy are going to entertain the Ladies' Aid society. Some of the members are arriving now.

CHAPTER III—Continued.

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"Not on your life," said Carol promptly and emphatically; "he's worse than Prudence. Like as not he'd give me a good thrashing into the bargain. No—I'm strong for Prudence when it comes to punishment—in preference to father, I mean. I can't seem to be fond of any kind of punishment from anybody."

For a while Carol was much depressed, but by nature she was a buoyant soul, and her spirits were presently soaring again.

In the meantime, the Ladies of the Aid society continued to arrive. Prudence and Fairy, freshly gowned and smiling-faced, received them with cordiality and many merry words. It was not difficult for them; they had been reared in the hospitable atmosphere of Methodist parsonages, where, if you have but two dishes of oatmeal, the outsider is welcome to one. That is Carol's description of parsonage life.

But Prudence was concerned to observe that a big easy chair placed well back in a secluded corner, seemed to be giving dissatisfaction. It was Mrs. Adams who sat there first. She squirmed quite a little, and seemed to be gripping the arms of the chair with unnecessary fervor. Presently she stammered an excuse, and, rising, went into the other room. After that, Mrs. Miller, then Mrs. Jack, Mrs. Norey, and Mrs. Beed, in turn, sat there—and did not stay. Prudence was quite agonized. Had the awful twins filled it with needles for the reception of the poor Ladies? At first opportunity she hurried into the secluded corner, intent upon trying the chair for herself. She sat down anxiously. Then she gasped and clutched frantically at the arm of the chair. For she discovered at once to her dismay that the chair was bottomless, and that only by hanging on for her life could she keep from dropping through.

Up rose Prudence, conscientiously pulling after her the thin cushion which had concealed the chair's shortcoming. "Look, Fairy!" she cried. "Did you take the bottom out of this chair? It must have been horribly uncomfortable for those who have sat there! However did it happen?"

Fairy was frankly amazed, and a little inclined to be amused.

"Ask the twins," she said tersely; "I know nothing about it."

At that moment, the luckless Carol went running through the hall. Prudence knew it was she, without seeing, because she had a peculiar skipping run that was quite characteristic and unmistakable.

"Carol!" she called.

And Carol paused.

"Carol!" more imperatively.

Then Carol slowly opened the door—she was a parsonage girl and rose to the occasion. She smiled winsomely—Carol was nearly always winsome.

"How do you do?" she said brightly. "Isn't it a lovely day? Did you call me, Prudence?"

"Yes. Do you know where the bottom of that chair has gone?"

"Why no, Prudence—gracious! That chair!—why, I didn't know you were going to bring that chair in here. Why—oh, I am so sorry! Why in the world didn't you tell us beforehand?"

Some of the Ladies smiled. Others lifted their brows and shoulders in a mildly suggestive way, that Prudence, after nineteen years in the parsonage, had learned to know and dread.

"And where is the chair-bottom now?" she inquired. "And why did you take it?"

"Why, we wanted to make—"

"You and Lark?"

"Well, yes—but it was really all my fault, you know. We wanted to make a seat up high in the peach tree, and the bottom off the chair was just fine. It's a perfectly adorable seat," brightening, but sobering again as she realized the gravity of the occasion. "And we put the cushion in the chair so that it wouldn't be noticed. We never use that chair, you know. I'm so sorry about it."

Carol was really quite crushed, but true to her parsonage training, she struggled valiantly and presently brought forth a crumpled and sickly smile.

But Prudence smiled at her kindly. "That wasn't very naughty, Carol," she said frankly. "It's true that we seldom use that chair. And we ought to have locked." She glanced reproachfully at Fairy. "It is strange that in dusting it, Fairy—but never mind. You may go now, Carol. It is all right."

Then she apologized gently to the Ladies, and the conversation went on, but Prudence was uncomfortably conscious of keen and quizzical eyes turned her way. Evidently they thought she was too lenient.

"Well, it wasn't very naughty," she thought wretchedly. "How can I pretend it was terribly bad, when I feel in my heart that it wasn't!"

The meeting progressed, and the business was presently disposed of. So far, things were not too seriously bad, and Prudence sighed in great relief. Then the Ladies took out their sewing, and began industriously working at many articles, designed for the clothing of a lot of young Methodists confined in an orphans' home in Chicago. And they talked together pleasantly and gayly. And Prudence and Fairy felt that the cloud was lifted.

But soon it settled again, dark and lowering. Prudence heard Lark running through the hall and her soul misgave her. Why was Lark going upstairs? To be sure, her mission might be innocent, but Prudence dared not run the risk. Fortunately she was sitting near the door.

"Lark!" she called softly. Lark stopped abruptly, and something fell to the floor.

"Lark!"

The Ladies smiled, and Miss Carr, laughing lightly, said, "She is an attentive creature, isn't she?"

Prudence would gladly have flown out into the hall to settle this matter, but she realized that she was on exhibition. Had she done so, the Ladies would have set her down forever after as thoroughly incompetent—she could not go! But Lark must come to her.

"Lark!" This was Prudence's most awful voice, and Lark was bound to heed.

"Oh, Prue," she said plaintively, "I'll be there in a minute. Can't you wait just five minutes? Let me run upstairs first, won't you? Then I'll come gladly! Won't that do?"

Her voice was hopeful. But Prudence replied with dangerous calm:

"Come at once, Lark."

"All right, then," and added threateningly, "but you'll wish I hadn't."

Then Lark opened the door—a woeful figure! In one hand she carried an empty shoe box. And her face was

"Isn't That a Handsome Venus?"

streaked with good rich Iowa mud. Her clothes were plastered with it. One shoe was caked from the sole to the very top button, and a great gash in her stocking revealed a generous portion of round, white leg.

Poor Prudence! At that moment she would have exchanged the whole parsonage, bathroom, electric lights and all, for a tiny log cabin in the heart of a great forest, where she and Lark might be alone together.

And Fairy laughed. Prudence looked at her with tears in her eyes, and then turned to the wretched girl.

"What have you been doing, Lark?"

The heartbreak expressed in the face of Lark would have made the angels weep. Beneath the smudges of mud on her cheeks she was pallid, and, try as she would, she could not keep her chin from trembling ominously. Her voice, when she was able to speak, was barely recognizable.

"We—we—we are making—mud images, Prudence. It—it was awfully messy, I know, but—they say—it is such a good—and useful thing to do. We—we didn't expect—the—the Ladies to see us."

"Mud images!" gasped Prudence, and even Fairy stared incredulously. "Where in the world did you get hold of an idea like that?"

"It—it was in that—that Mother's Home Friend paper you take, Prudence." Prudence blushed guiltily. "It was modeling in clay, but—we haven't any clay, and—the mud is very nice, but—oh, I know I look just—horrible. I—I—Connie pushed me in the—puddle—for fun." Another appealing glance into her sister's face, and Lark plunged on, bent on smoothing matters if she could. "Carol is—is just fine at it, really. She—she's making a Venus de Milo, and it's good. But we can't remember whether her arm is off at the elbow or below the shoulder—" An enormous gulp, and by furious blinking Lark managed to crowd back the tears that would slip to the edge of her lashes. "I—I'm very sorry, Prudence."

"Very well, Lark, you may go. I do not really object to your modeling in mud, I am sure. I am sorry you look so disreputable. You must change your shoes and stockings at once, and then you can go on with your modeling. But there must be no more pushing and chasing. I'll see Connie about that tonight. Now go." And Lark was swift to avail herself of the permission.

Followed a quiet hour, and then the Ladies put aside their sewing and walked about the room, chatting in little groups. With a significant glance to Fairy, Prudence walked calmly to the double doors between the dining room and the sitting room. The eyes of the Ladies followed her with interest, and even enthusiasm. They were hungry. Prudence slowly opened wide the doors, and—stood amazed! The Ladies clustered about her, and stood amazed also. The dining room was there, and the table! But the appearance of the place was vastly different! The snowy cloth was draped artistically over a picture on the wall, the lowest edges well above the floor. The plates and trays, napkin-covered, were safely stowed away on the floor in distant corners. The kitchen scrub bucket had been brought in and turned upside down, to afford a fitting resting place for the borrowed punch bowl, full to overflowing with fragrant lemonade.

And at the table were three dirty, disheveled little figures, bending seriously over piles of mud. A not-unrecognizable Venus de Milo occupied the center of the table. Connie was painstakingly at work on some animal, a dog perhaps, or possibly an elephant. And—

The three young modelers looked up in exclamatory consternation as the doors opened.

"Oh, are you ready?" cried Carol. "How time has flown! We had no idea you'd be ready so soon. Oh, we are sorry, Prudence. We intended to have everything fixed properly for you again. We needed a flat place for our modeling. It's a shame, that's what it is. Isn't that a handsome Venus? I did that!—If you'll just shut the door one minute, Prudence, we'll have everything exactly as you left it. And we're as sorry as we can be. You can have my Venus for a centerpiece, if you like."

Prudence silently closed the doors, and the Ladies, laughing significantly, drew away.

"Don't you think, my dear," began Mrs. Prentiss too sweetly, "that they are a little more than you can manage? Don't you really think an older woman is needed?"

"I do not think so," cried Fairy, before her sister could speak, "no older woman could be kinder, or sweeter, or more patient and helpful than Prue."

"Undoubtedly true! But something more is needed, I am afraid! It appears that girls are a little more disorderly than in my own young days! Perhaps I do not judge advisedly, but it seems to me they are a little—unmanageable."

Don't you think that Mr. Starr would save Prudence much worry and responsibility if he gave a little less time to his personal duties and a little more to helping her manage the youngsters?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## REALLY NO TROUBLE AT ALL

### Druggist Found It Easy to Decipher Handwriting That Had Proved Puzzle to Drummer.

John Carpetbags was one of the most successful travelers on the road. On one occasion he was sent out by his people to try to get an order from a big firm which gave all its orders to a rival firm.

Such were his persuasive powers that within half an hour he had secured a big order in the handwriting of the senior partner.

Unfortunately, this gentleman possessed such an atrocious style of caligraphy that not a word was legible. However, Carpetbags remembered that druggists can usually read anything in the way of handwriting, because of their wide experience with doctors' prescriptions. So he handed in the letter to the local druggist.

"I wonder if you can read that?" he asked.

The druggist took it and returned to the back of the shop. Ten minutes later he reappeared with a small bottle wrapped in paper and sealed.

"Oh, yes, sir! It was quite easy! Here's your medicine! Fifty cents, please!"

### Time for Silence.

The mother of little Jack remarked that she must write to grandma. Jack offered to do this for her. So mother said she would lie down and take a nap. Noticing how quiet Jack was, she asked him if he had finished his letter. His reply was, "Sh, sh, mother, you will wake yourself up."

### Out of the Calculation.

"Do you think there are people up in Mars?"

"What difference does it make?" rejoined Senator Sorghum. "Even if there are they are too distant to vote or even drag us into diplomatic controversy."

### Grasping Opportunity.

"Jane, there is a friend of mine who is very anxious to know if you will marry him."

"Tell him of course I will. Who is he?"