

GREAT RICHES

by Mabel Howe Farnham

SYNOPSIS: James Stimson, III with whom the Stimson line ends in the East and his Aunt Sarah involved in various speculations which succeed in reducing their ample income to \$1,500 a year. College is out of the question. James knows Stimson is in the office of his grandfather's former partner, Judge Holcomb—in the Judge's subordinate delight and that of his colored office boy Nappy.

Chapter 12 FIRST LIGHT

THE moment inevitably came when James was twenty-one if the Judge and Nappy had not taught him all they knew they had taught him a very great deal.

A little later arrived the great day when James took his examinations for admission to the bar and passed with brilliant ease.

This was followed by the even greater day when the Judge strutted about Topeka with James in his wake and called upon the Governor and other notables of lesser importance and allowed them the favor of a handshake with the coming wonder of the state of Kansas.

The Judge had been for years a power in politics in his state and he was noted for never forgetting a favor good or bad. As he kept his own district firmly under his thumb and never asked for office for himself the eminent statesmen in Topeka, naturally enough, were more than anxious to keep on his good side.

Moreover, the Judge was an old and experienced campaigner and brimming over with picturesque bits of news so the reporters always laid themselves out to get in his good graces—and anyway it was dull that day in Topeka and the old timers and the G.A.R. were sure to be interested in the news of ex-Governor Stimson's grandson and namesake.

Therefore it came about that James was not only greeted warmly and made much of by every person worthy of political note in Topeka, but got a whole column interview in the two leading papers, each column ending with the prediction that Mr. Stimson was unquestionably destined to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious grandfather.

Everyone was so exceedingly kind and James so excited that he quite forgot to be shy. Yet he remained sufficiently modest to make a good impression upon practically everyone he met.

But afterwards in executive session in his committee room, the Honorable Joseph Henderson of El Dorado, chairman of the Ways and Means (and one of the shrewdest of politicians and best judges of characters in a state where they raise shrewd politicians as casually as corn or potatoes) was not overly enthusiastic.

"Seems to me the Judge is riding that youngster for a fall," said the Honorable Joseph tipping his chair comfortably back. "The boy is likable enough but he's not the man his granddaddy was. He's got a weak mouth—sort of."

"He passed first in his examinations with thirty competitors, most of them college graduates," said the Honorable Lem Smith of Wichita, quoting the Judge. "And you know the Judge is the surest picker of campaign material of any man in this state. He says the kid can talk forty ways for Sundays already. There's no denying the power of a silvery tongue. Look at Bryan."

"BRYAN hasn't a weak mouth. Doubtless this James Brewster Stimson the third is a bright boy but I've seen too many bright lights in my day flare up and go out."

Then he added thoughtfully, half to himself, "Perhaps if he marries the right girl—" and left his sentence unfinished. Ten minutes afterwards he had forgotten all about James. The incident is worthy of record because a week or two later Miss Julia Pratt said practically the same thing and her friends and intimates jumped at it.

"James may be a genius," argued Miss Julia heatedly to her fellow devotees of the Thursday Whist Club, "but I've lived a matter of fifty odd years and I've never yet heard of any geniuses who were noted for their money sense or common sense either."

"It's my belief that James is the sort that never will know which side his bread's buttered on. He's a nice boy and I'd be the last to deny that he's got his share of brains. But he's not a strong character. You only have to take a good look at him to see that."

"But he's so like his grandfather," began Mrs. Millard. "James is hardly more than a boy yet. All the Stimsons were—"

"The trouble is," broke in Miss Julia, "that Sarah's gone around so long saying that James is every inch

a Stimson that it's never occurred to any of you that he isn't James. As much Molly's son as Jim's; more to my way of thinking. And if Jim had been a little stronger himself he wouldn't have laid down and died of the smallpox just because—"

"This was heresy and everyone talked at once for a few minutes. But presently the conversation came back to Dr. Jim's son. Miss Julia repeated in detail the story which James had told on himself of buying the paper on the wall from a departing upper classman.

"This brought forth much laughter and inspired other stories. As a climax Miss Julia stated definitely that even the Judge admitted that James was not interested in money making."

"The Judge," Miss Julia said scornfully, "actually seems to think that this shows further proof of James' superiority. He says that any dirty little foreigner with a pack on his back can make a fortune in this country if that's all he's interested in. I never heard of such nonsense."

"He said as much to me," Mrs. Millard put in. "At least he said that no man ever became famous who cared about money and that Dickens was wrong in stating that genius was an infinite capacity for taking pains. I gathered that the Judge believes that genius consists in being born without the common acquisitive instinct. I suppose he had James in mind."

"Of course he had. James hasn't the slightest trace of an acquisitive instinct, so James must be a genius. The Judge made up that theory to fit the case. If ever I saw a man be sootted—"

SOMEONE suggested here that they had better go on with their whist. They did. But the idea that James Stimson was an impractical, irresponsible dreamer when it came to making money or getting on in the world was lodged in the minds of the leaders of New Concord society, never to be entirely uprooted.

At the same time the most of them stuck to it that James was uncommonly bright with a gift for oratory that might make him famous almost overnight.

Both assumptions were presumptuous. James' acquisitive instinct was perhaps a small part of him. He was never half so interested in money making as in other things but he was no fool about money and was meticulously honorable about paying his bills and living within his income.

On the other hand he was no brighter probably than half a dozen of his young friends. His small gift of oratory was entirely undeveloped and he could only talk at all to more than half a dozen at a time when he was excited, angry, or wrought up.

But no matter. The good ladies of New Concord had come to a decision. A little later Miss Julia made the remark to which all this has been preamble. "Well," said Miss Julia, absent tramping her partner's knee, "it seems to me there is just one thing we can do to help James amount to something and that is to find him a practical common sense wife."

As has been previously stated the members of the Thursday Whist Club jumped at it. It brought a new interest in their rather dull lives. They agreed that Miss Julia's idle remark was inspired.

The burning question of who would make the best and most thoroughly competent wife for James remained unsettled though not undiscussed, until the second year after he had been admitted to the bar and had been promised a junior partnership in the firm of Stimson and Holcomb as soon as he had earned it. The Judge, in spite of his affection, was far too shrewd to make things too easy for his favorite. As James' clientele was as yet confined largely to those Nappy rounded up and brought in to him and as he could not, to save his soul, charge a darkey a large fee, it seemed for a while as if his fate might remain unsettled for many years longer.

The ladies, however, were not discouraged. They told themselves they had expected to wait. Meanwhile, the matter offered neverending subject for discussion and pleasurable weighing of pros and cons. The mothers with marriageable daughters naturally enough never mentioned their names—that, of course, would have been considered the height of indelicacy—but there was not a girl of anywhere near suitable age or condition in New Concord who was not at one time or another under consideration.

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James' and Mabel's marriage brokers get to work, Monday.

RECOGNITION FOR ALICE M. BIRNEY, P. T. A. FOUNDER

Contributed

The name of Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney, author and reformer stands in the list of ten American women whose names have been submitted for the 8th quinquennial election to the Hall of Fame of New York University. Mrs. Birney, the founder, in 1897 of what is now the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was one who, to use the words of another, "broke the path which has grown to the highway we now pass."

On Feb. 17, 1897 the National Congress of Mothers was organized by a group of women led by Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney. The organizers both men and women, persons of affairs, representing the philanthropic, religious, social and political interests of the nation, realized that while mothers have ever determined the character of young children, they have failed lacking guidance and means of cooperation to exert the influence upon the race, which might be possible, were conditions beyond the home brought under at least partial control.

It was the original aim of Mrs. Birney to secure such control and to carry mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in home, school, church or state.

Prominent men, including Theodore Roosevelt, were proud to accept

places on the advisory board. Mrs. Birney's "beautiful dream" regarded by many at first as Utopian beyond hope of realization became a powerful influence throughout America. The national congress expanded rapidly, the growth being phenomenal. From a small group of women in Washington, D. C. thirty-eight years ago to a membership of one and one-half million in over 26,000 local units holding the same high purpose and blocking themselves to fulfill the highest dreams of this brave founder. Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney, who by her untiring efforts has won, for herself, eligibility to election to the Hall of Fame.

UCLA DEBATERS TAKE COAST CHAMPIONSHIP

WALLA WALLA, March 29.—(AP)—University of California at Los Angeles this morning won the debating championship of the Pacific Pacific league with a second three to two decision over the University of Southern California duo, giving the winners two decisions out of three contests with the Trojans.



AUTOIST LUCKY IN DROP OFF BRIDGE

ASTORIA, Ore., March 29.—(AP)—Details of his desperate escape from a submerged automobile after it had crashed through the gates of an open draw bridge were recounted today by Edward J. Laney of Astoria as he received treatment for slight injuries.

Laney's car skidded through the protecting gates of the Lewis and Clark bridge on the Oregon Coast highway and plunged 25 feet down into 15 feet of water, narrowly missing the tug Chief, of Portland, which was going through the open draw. Struggling frantically, Laney managed to free himself and reach the surface of the river, where he was picked up by the tug. He was taken to the same hospital in which Mrs. Laney became a mother three days ago.

SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



DURING THE MUDDY SEASON, WHEN CAREFUL HOUSEHOLDERS LEAVE THEIR RUBBERS ON THEIR DOORSTEPS, FRED PERLEY ACQUIRED A PUPPY AND A LOT OF TROUBLE

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By C. M. Payne



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By Hal Forrest



By Edwin Alton



By George McManus



By George McManus

STATE WILL REDUCE BIG BOND DEBT LOAD ON FIRST OF APRIL

SALEM, March 29.—(AP)—The first day of next month State Treasurer Rufus C. Holman will deposit in New York city the sum of \$1,237,600 to retire state highway bonds, and the further sum of \$377,745 to pay interest on \$24,966,750 of such bonds, not including bonds issued in connection with construction of the coast bridges, the treasurer reported here today.

and \$549,003 interest on such bonds. It was stated the payment on the principal of the highway bonds would reduce the aggregate of such bonds outstanding to \$23,929,250, as compared to \$26,060,750 in September, 1924. The amount of highway bonds outstanding is the lowest since 1920.

Of the veterans' state aid bonds there will remain after the April installment, \$24,875,000 outstanding, compared to \$28,000,000 in September, 1928.

Lawnmowers — time to get them sharpened and repaired, called for and delivered, Medford Cycles, 23 N. Fr. Phone 281.

Phone 542 We'll haul away refuse, City Sanitary Dept.

BRINGING UP FRIEND



MR. BEN ZEEN IS IN THE PARLOR NOW GO IN AND ENTERTAIN HIM



YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD YOURSELF



LISTEN - DON'T THINK FOR ONE MINUTE THAT IT'S A SECRET

