

GREAT RICHES

by Mabel Howe Farnham

SYNOPSIS: It is obvious to all of New Concord that the wrong thing is being done for the rocks and it is getting the town, because Miss Julia and others were responsible for handing James over to Jane in the first place. Jane has made James feel like a fool; now she has attacked him bitterly because he has retained a shady divorce case which might have made him a hot toe, and she has done it in front of her pompous father, who agrees with every word she says.

Chapter 36 FAMILY QUARREL

JANE turned to Mr. Northrup.

"That's James' own particular method of setting the world on fire," she went on bitterly. "Or perhaps he did it just to spite me because I wanted to have the house re-decorated and the two front bedrooms thrown into one. That would cost a trifling three or four hundred dollars, but we could not afford it. But of course we can afford to throw away thousands and work for nothing, thanks to you, Father, thanks to you."

"I'm sure that James must have acted thoughtlessly and without due deliberation," said Mr. Northrup slowly and impressively, as was his custom. "But I can assure him that I have known Mr. Preston in a business way for years and that there is no one among all my acquaintances in whom I have more confidence."

"Mr. Preston is, I should say, above suspicion, like Caesar's wife, quite above suspicion. Therefore, my boy, though I respect you for your scruples, I assure you you may take the case with a clear conscience."

"It's too late now. I have definitely and positively refused to have anything to do with it."

"That's too bad, too bad indeed. But Mr. Preston is still in the city I believe, and he has always claimed to be indebted to me for a small favor I did for him years ago—nothing of any moment, but one he made much of. I am certain that a word from me letting him know that you had er . . . reconsidered your decision would set matters right in no time . . . in no time at all!"

"Oh, Father, you are such an angel! What in the world would we helpless babes in the Woods ever do without you?"

James sank lower in his chair, grateful for the kindly darkness. He had come home emotionally and mentally exhausted after a long hard day in court. It was just his damnable luck that Mr. Northrup and Jane had to hear of this Preston offer, but naturally . . .

"Well, aren't you going to answer Father? Going to thank him?" snapped Jane.

"It is not necessary for James to thank me nor did I expect any gratitude," said Mr. Northrup stiffly. "I am only too happy to exert what little influence I have in his behalf. Only too happy, I assure you both."

"Thank you just the same, Mr. Northrup, but from what Preston told me himself, I am perfectly certain that while he may be above reproach in his business relations his private life is quite a different matter. This divorce of his is an ugly thing and it is sure to prove both a legal and social scandal."

"Even if I wanted to get into it the Judge wouldn't stand for it. He's very strict about divorce cases and only let me take Sally's because I have known her all my life and know that her brute of a husband would have killed her if they had gone on living together."

"BUT my dear boy, wouldn't it be at least be somewhat wiser to first investigate matters a little more extensively—I might even say intensively—and have facts rather than conjectures on which to base a refusal? I have found it an excellent rule, a most excellent rule not . . ."

"There's no use arguing with James when he drags in the Judge," Jane broke in cuttingly. "Everybody in town but James knows that the Judge is a doddering feeble-minded old bore who should have been in his grave ten years ago. But because the old half-wit still goes on telling James how smart he is James still thinks him a perfect marvel of intelligence."

"The Judge, my dear, has been a very clever man in his day, a very clever man, and it is altogether meritorious of James to accord his benefactor the deference and respect to which his years and attainments entitle him. But on the other hand, I agree with you, Jane, that

the Judge perhaps . . . er, let us say, has outlived his usefulness, yes, somewhat outlived his usefulness.

"Would it not be kinder, my boy, and for the old man's own best interest for you to encourage him to stay more at home and enjoy the rest he has so richly earned, while you quietly assert yourself and take the reins in your own hands? I may even say it appears to me your clear and unquestioned duty to do what ever is best for your firm, regardless of the Judge's opposition. That's the entire matter in a nut shell. You must do whatever is best for the firm."

"The Judge is still pretty keen if he is eighty," said James angrily. "You'll admit his name is still a power."

"And you still think it wise to refuse this chance to make several thousand dollars rather than go contrary to . . . er a stubborn old man's entirely unreasonable opposition?"

"Mr. Northrup, I haven't talked this case over with the Judge. It wasn't necessary. But I don't fight women. Why . . . even if I tried to and did my best I . . . just couldn't. If you were a lawyer perhaps I could make you understand better. The way I am made I just have to be interested in a case, be sure I'm right, before I can do any decent work on it—especially when it comes to pleading."

"If I got up in court and tried to blacken the name of a poor old defenseless woman, who had never done me any harm, just to make a few dirty pieces of silver, the words would stick in my throat. Can't you and Jane understand? Can't you see that I'd rather starve than make money that way? And that even if I wouldn't, even if I tried, I could not succeed in doing it?"

IT WAS seldom that James explained himself so fully or tried to justify himself in any argument with Jane, but he still had a vague hope left that if Jane could once be made to understand, if he were only clever enough to put things so that she could understand, matters would once more be righted between them.

"You know you won't starve," said Jane cruelly, "not as long as Father is alive."

James did not answer, but got up abruptly and went for a walk. In spite of himself and in spite of their frequency, Jane's jeers never failed to hurt.

Why was it that nothing he did any more seemed to please her? He had tried so hard this last year or two to make himself over and be all the things Jane most desired. He had worked like a dog trying to make more money.

Thirty-two hundred dollars wasn't bad for a young lawyer in a town of the size of New Concord, but Jane considered it nothing at all. Just as she considered that case he won against Miller and Babcock a mere picaresque affair because his foe was small, although they were two of the biggest lawyers in Topeka and even the Judge hadn't thought he had a ghost of a chance against them.

But he could stand Jane's sneers at himself—he was used to those—if she would only let the old Judge alone. It was true that the old man in his fudginess might appear at times a little foolish to critical eyes eager to pick a fault, but God knows he himself and Jane too should be the last to criticize his old friend no matter what he did or became.

What hurt him most was that Jane was forever insinuating that the Judge never had amounted to much. He was glad that her father had at least admitted that the Judge had been a clever man in his day.

What did Jane mean by it any way? Was it her method of telling him that she thought the Judge was a fool because he had once predicted that James Stinson was something of a genius and destined to make a name in the world? Yes, that was it. He believed that was it.

It was Jane's subtle way of telling him he was a failure. Jane believed that he and the Judge between them had tricked her into marriage with a man destined for failure from the beginning.

God knows it was hard on Jane, a woman who was meant to run with the hare, to be tied to a tortoise, but if she would only give him time . . .

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Jane, Monday, offers James some insulting advice.

HOMEMAKERS DAY SET FOR TUESDAY AT LOCAL CHURCH

Fourth Annual Jackson County Meeting Scheduled by Demonstration Agent—Discuss Projects

The fourth annual Jackson County Home-makers Day will be held next Tuesday, April 30, at the First Presbyterian church, Medford, Oregon. Mrs. Mabel C. Mack, county home demonstration agent, announced today.

This annual meeting is attended by delegates and members of the 18 home extension groups of the county, and other groups cooperating on the home economics extension program. The purpose of the meeting is for these representatives to discuss the program of the past year with the extension specialists and then to make recommendations for extension projects to be included in the county program for the coming year.

Program drawn
Program plans for the day have been practically completed by Mrs. Mack and the county extension committee composed of Miss Alice Hanley, Medford; Mrs. Effie Birdseye, Rogue River; Mrs. Bertha Glasgow, Medford; Mrs. Rita Myers, Eagle

Point; Mrs. Bertha Young, Eagle Point; Mrs. Maude Port, Applegate; Mrs. Susie Meisel, Phoenix; and Mrs. Mabel Thornton, Fish Lake.

Miss Claribel Nye, state leader of home economics extension, of Corvallis also conferred with Mrs. Mack last Monday on program plans. The program will start promptly at 9:45 a. m. with Mrs. Effie Birdseye of Rogue River, presiding. Mrs. Birdseye is president of the state home economic extension council, and vice-chairman of the Jackson county extension committee. The morning session will include talks by nationally prominent speakers. Including Miss Miriam Birdseye, extension specialist in nutrition from Washington, D. C. and Dr. C. E. Ladd, dean of the school of agriculture and school of home economics, Cornell university.

Luncheon at Noon
The noon luncheon will be served by the Women's association of the Presbyterian church.

The afternoon session will include discussion groups on projects in: organization and administration, clothing and textiles, foods and nutrition, child development and parent education, recreation and dramatics. These groups will make recommendations for the year's program, and present them to the entire assembly at the closing session.

Reports already received from home extension units on the appointment of delegates indicate a large attendance. Mrs. Mack stated, there were over 100 home-makers in attendance last year, and a larger number is expected this year. Anyone interested in the home economics extension work is invited to attend.

Ask's Mooney's Freedom
SACRAMENTO, Calif., April 26.—(AP)—Jim Brennan, San Francisco assemblyman and chief deputy in the prosecution of Warren K. Billings, introduced a resolution in the lower house today asking that Gov. Merriam commute the sentences of Billings and Tom Mooney to the time served.

Pennsylvania, according to latest statistics from the biological survey of the U. S. department of agriculture, is the champion state in number of hunters.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

DIFFICULT DECISIONS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



IN PLAYING CATCH WITH THE BOOK YOU ARE RETURNING TO A NEIGHBOR FOR YOUR MOTHER, YOU MISS WHILE CROSSING A MUD PUDDLE

4-26

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GLUYAS WILLIAMS

S-MATTER POP—



4-25



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THE NEBBES—Don't Cry, Little Girl



4-26



By Sol Hess

RAILWAY EXPRESS SEES INCREASE IN BUSINESS

DENVER, April 26.—(AP)—L. O. Head, president of the Railway Express Agency, said today his firm expects to re-employ during 1935 every man and woman who has been placed on the furloughed list. He said that 20,000 employees were dropped from the payroll in 1932, but business is increasing and many already have been put back to work.

MILK ADMINISTRATOR SELECTION TO WAIT

PORTLAND, Ore., April 26.—(AP)—The newly reorganized Oregon milk control board announced after its meeting here late yesterday that its administrator may not be selected before the next meeting in May. E. G. Harlan, chairman and administrator of the old milk board, has resigned. Edgar W. Smith of Portland is the new chairman.

Legumes will not add nitrogen to the soil unless the entire plant is plowed under at maturity, agricultural experiments here show.

6 NEW FEDERAL JAILS JUSTICE DEPT. PLEA

WASHINGTON, April 26.—(AP)—Attorney-General Cummings today said the justice department had asked nearly \$4,000,000 of public works funds for erection of six new federal jails.

These are planned in Kentucky, Minnesota, Arkansas, Montana, Texas and California. The cost is estimated at from \$700,000 to \$425,000 each.

Address to Wed.
LOS ANGELES, April 26.—(AP)—Ada Williams Ince, screen actress and former wife of William T. Ince, son of the late film producer, and Ray E. Dodge, one-time Olympic middle-distance track star, will be married May 4. Invitations to the wedding were issued today.

In the two-day battle of Shiloh in Tennessee during the war between the states, the Union lost 13,047 men and the Confederacy 10,699.

BRINGING UP FATHER



4-24



By George McManus