

**IT WAS THE PROFESSOR'S SCHEME**

By FENTON BRIGHT

(Copyright by W. O. Chapman.)

"WHY don't I go to work, boss? Because there ain't no human being what will give me work. You wouldn't believe me if I was to tell you that I'm a Yale graduate, and that my folks was as white as the driven snow, would you? Say, make it a dollar and I'll tell you my story."

"Thanks, boss. Well, then, my name's Theodore Van Trump, and I belong to one of the best families of Boston. And when I fell into love with Marian Richards there wasn't a happier man this side of the Common. The only fly in the ointment was Jim Burley, my rival. He wasn't a college man like me, but he had the rocks, and I hadn't."

"She couldn't decide which one of us she'd take. 'I love you both,' she said. 'I love you both equal. If I've got to decide I'll die an old maid. Can't one of you boys make me take you?'"

"That suits me," says Jim. "Same here," I allowed. "But how are we going to do it?" asks Jim. "Let's fight for it," says I. "Right," answers Jim, and we set to that night."

"It was a closed and locked empty room, and the key was put on the floor before the door, and the one that first grabbed it meant 'I've had enough.' A sanguinary battle it was, gentlemen. We fought thirty-seven rounds by daylight and eighteen more by candlelight. And when it was over neither of us would have recognized the other. But neither of us grabbed the key."

"I guess that won't do," panted Jim, as he looked at me out of the corner of his mouth from the floor. "Same here," I answered, out of my forehead. You see our features had become displaced, gentlemen. "Let's grab the key together," Jim suggests. "That suits me," I answered. And so we did."

"Jim challenged me to a duel. We went into the woods and shot at each other at ten paces, then five, then three. We drilled each other like slaves, but we couldn't kill each other. "This won't do either," says Jim to me as we lay side by side in the hospital ward. "I agree," says I. "Make it another dollar, gentlemen? No? All right, suit yourselves, then."

"Well, sir, we tried all ways, including going up in bursting balloons and eloping with Marian. Neither of us could bring it off. When Jim had Marian half way to the altar I butted in and forbade the bans. When I got Marian down a rope ladder, Jim was waiting below with an ax to chop the rope before I reached the ground. And all the time Marian would have taken either of us; didn't care which. In fact, so long as it wasn't anybody else."

"Jim comes to me one day. 'I got it,' he says. 'Got what?' asks I. 'It,' says Jim, displaying a vial. 'This was given to me by Professor MacStart,' he says, 'and it's going to solve our problem. Let's go to Marian's home and we'll all talk it over together.'"

"When we got there Marian welcomed us like kings. 'Have you decided which of you it's to be?' she asks. 'I'm sort of getting tired of waiting, and it's only fair to tell you that there's a third party just butted in. Not that I care for him as I do you boys, but I can't wait for you for ever.'"

"That's all right," says Jim. "My friend Professor MacStart has agreed to help us out of our difficulties. It's a duel," he says."

"Not for me," says I. "I've fought you enough duels, Jim, and you know we're so evenly matched that neither of us could best the other, not even in a spelling bee."

"This is different," says Jim. "I have here a vial. It contains two doses of stuff. Inside one of these doses is a single drop of Professor MacStart's famous mixture for turning white people black."

"I never heard of such a thing," says Marian. "Who wants to turn white people black?"

"That's just the point; nobody does usually," says Jim. "However, this is a case in point. This single drop of Professor MacStart's famous mixture won't mix. It's just a drop, floating in the center of the bottle. It can't be seen, heard, smelled, touched, or tasted. Now, if we divide the contents of this here vial, one of us must get the drop and one won't. It can't be divided. It's an original molecule!"

"I'm beginning to get you now," says I. "The winner is the one what turns black, and he gets Miss Marian."

"Never!" screamed Marian. "I'm going to marry the loser. No black fellows for mine."

"The winner is the loser," explains Jim Burley. "In six to eight hours the winning loser, what was white, turns completely black, for keeps. The loser is the winner. He marries Miss Marian."

"Not before I've had time to see he doesn't turn black, too," says Marian.

"He won't," says Jim, patientlike. "You see, he won't swallow the drop, and he begins to uncork the vial. 'Are you ready, Theodore?' he asks."

"Entirely so," says I. "You see, I loved the girl well enough to be will-

ing to turn black if I couldn't have her. "Then come on," says Jim, pointing out the stuff into two glasses. "Now they happened to be there ought to have puzzled me at the time, but it didn't. 'I think I've divided fair,' says Jim, 'and you can take whichever glass you want.'"

"I'll take the one nearest you," says I. "Here's health, anyhow." And so we drank. You won't make it another dollar, gentlemen? All right; just as you please, of course."

"We went home. All that night I kept feeling myself to see if I was black, but I felt just the same. I guessed I'd won then and went to sleep peacefully. When I woke in the morning I went over to my shaving mirror. I was as black as the ace of spades, gentlemen. And it wouldn't wash off."

"Well, sir, you can guess how I felt. Jim Burley had got her for sure. What riled me more than anything else was my having took the glass nearest him. If I'd taken the other one I'd have been white instead of black. Now I was black instead of white. I tell you, gentlemen, it made me sick."

"I thought of all the trouble I'd had, getting my face bunged up by Jim, and then drilled full of holes, and falling nine hundred feet out of a blazing balloon, just as if I'd been a 'movie' actor instead of an ordinary decent, self-respecting citizen, and it got me sore."

"I had a try at salves and turpentine, but it seemed to have settled too deep for anything to be of much use. I thought of telephoning Marian to take me anyhow, but I knew that wouldn't go. Jim had won her in a fair fight, and—well, I had to knuckle under."

"Just then I heard a ring at the door of my apartment. I went and opened it. An ugly-looking black hiker was standing there."

"What do you want, you black loafer?" I roared, for I wasn't feeling very kindly toward the colored race, just then. He looks to me. "What, you too?" he roars. And then I saw that it was Jim."

"Come in!" I says, frostily, but still glad at heart. But he didn't need the invitation, but just pushed me into my room and pulled the door to after him. And he burst into a roar of laughter."

"I don't see nothing funny in your remarks," says I. But Jim only laughs the louder. "Have you tried turpentine?" he asks."

"I have, and likewise suds, benzine and gasoline," I answers, humbly. Then the laughing fit took hold of me as well. "Say, Jim, you do look like a peach," I says. "Do you think Miss Marian will marry you now?"

"That drop must have divided," says Jim. "Well, there's no hope for either of us now, Theodore."

"I dunno," says I. "I guess it's up to us to commit suicide, if we ain't death-proof, but there's one thing to do first, and that's to bash up Professor MacStart."

"I'm with you there," I says. "When do we begin?"

"Right now," he says; and then the telephone rang. "Excuse me," says I. "I'll go with you," says Jim, kind of suspicious."

"It was from Marian. 'Congratulate me, boys,' she says. 'I guess you're together. I'm telephoning you from Atlantic City. The professor and I were married at six this morning.'"

"I don't know that I need to say any more, gentlemen. I've been searching for the professor ever since, but I've never found him. In the intervals I've been searching for something to take the color off. I never found that either. Jim and I at last started to work our way through the states to find MacStart. He started from San Francisco and I from New York. I don't know how far he's got, but I've reached Jersey City, as you see, and I hope to make Philadelphia by the end of the year. You don't think it's worth another dollar to help me on my way after my telling you this? Oh, all right, suit yourselves, gentlemen."

**HOME POINTERS**  
(From School of Home Economics)

Do you know that you are not really well fed, no matter how much meat and potatoes you eat, unless you have at least one green vegetable a day?

Baking soda, often used with green vegetables to set the color and make more tender, kills some of the vitamins.

Rayon require special care in laundering. As with silk it should not be rubbed directly with soap, but treated with a solution of mild soap dissolved in lukewarm water before put with materials to be washed. It is then washed with a gentle, squeezing motion, wrapped in a soft towel to absorb excess moisture and ironed with a moderately hot iron.

The greasy condition of doughnuts is removed by plunging them quickly into hot water immediately after they are fried.

One heaping tablespoonful is equal to three level tablespoonfuls, and one rounding tablespoonful is equal to two level tablespoonfuls.

Pruning the loganberry down to six canes to the hill leaves hardly enough bearing surface unless the soil lacks moisture and the berries fail to size up, says the Oregon experiment station. Eight to 12 canes are usually needed, and there are probably 10 to 12 in the average cluster. The small branches off the main canes are usually poor bearers. The first few buds may bear fruit but it is safer to cut off these side shoots unless a definite injury forced them out near the ground. The length to which the canes are cut back depends upon the amount of soil moisture in late season. If plenty of moisture is assured the canes are cut longer and more bearing surface is allowed.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon For the County of Columbia

Alma Urie, (Plaintiff),  
SUMMONS  
vs.  
Charles H. Urie, Defendant.  
To Charles H. Urie:

In the name of the State of Oregon you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit on or before the 12th day of March, 1927, and if you fail to answer or otherwise appear, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint, to-wit: for the dissolution of the bonds of matrimony between plaintiff and defendant, and for such other and further relief as to the Court may seem just and meet.

Service of this summons is made upon you by publication thereof in pursuance of an order of the Honorable J. E. Eakin, Judge of the above entitled Court, made, dated and entered on the 25th day of January, 1927, ordering such publication in the Vernonia Eagle once each week for six successive weeks, the first publication there-of being on the 27th day of January, 1927, and the last publication on the 10th day of March, 1927.

J. Mason Dillard, Attorney for plaintiff.—Postoffice address 404 Failing Bldg., Portland, Oregon. P24A7

**NOTICE OF BOND SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the undersigned until the hour of 8 o'clock p. m. March, 14, 1927 and immediately thereafter opened by the City Council for \$4,128.39 par value Improvement Bonds of the City of Vernonia, Oregon, (Bancroft bonds). Said bonds to be indenominations of five hundred dollars (\$500) each, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent (6%) per annum, to bear date February 1, 1927, and to mature ten (10) years from date of issuance, subject to redemption, however, at any semi-annual coupon date at or after one (1) year from date, principal and interest payable at the Fiscal Agency of the State of Oregon in New York City.

Bids must be unconditional and accompanied by certified check in the amount of \$206.00.

The council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

D. B. Reasoner,  
City Recorder. 302

**Brown Truck and Transfer**

Local and Long Distance Hauling.

Ice and Cold Storage

Storage for Furniture and Baggage

Tel. No. 683. Office Corner Bridge and Weed Ave.

**Sale Ends Saturday March 5.**

The posters circulated were incorrect as to the date. Take advantage of the bargains right now.

MEN'S SPRING HATS Largest assortment of Men's SPRING CAPS

MEN'S SUITS, LADES' AND MEN'S WALKOVER SHOES in Vernonia, from 89c to \$3.50

**The Peoples Store**

Fada Atwater Kent

**Fenner Radio Shop**

Sets - Service - Accessories

**BATTERY CHARGING**

Come in and See Our Line of

**Sheet Music**

NEW MUSIC EVERY WEEK

Strings and Violin Accessories

**Normal Business During March can be had by the right sort of advertising**



We invite you to make use of our plentiful supply of cuts.

**Vernonia Eagle**

