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Tom Faxon's Transformation

By ESTHER VANDEVEER

When Colonel Bankhead of the British army went to fight with the allies in Belgium his daughter, Gladys, insisted on going also to the front as a nurse. The colonel endeavored to persuade her, but she was a girl of strong will and strong character, and his objections proved futile.

About the time the war broke out Thomas Faxon, an American, came of age. His mother, a widow, had previously had the whiphand of him, for his fortune had been left to her in trust for him until he should attain his majority. Meanwhile Mrs. Faxon continued to regard her son as a child, and when he was twelve years of age he was in care of a nurse who the moment he started in for some boyish sport that would soil his clothes or by which he might possibly get hurt would clap her hands on him and drag him away.

Tommy, as he was called, while he occasionally rebelled against such treatment, could not help being lamentably affected by it. Indeed, so incidentally did he appear that no one would suspect there was a spark of manliness in him. However, Tommy became the possessor of his estate just before the war broke out abroad, snuffing the air of liberty and of battle at the same time. He resolved to go abroad and see what was going on. So accustomed was he to obeying his mother that it was with great difficulty that he broke away from her, but once the breach had been effected he struck out with what manliness there was naturally in him, mingled with the feminine effects of his training.

One day Tom turned up on the northern coast of France occupied by the English army. He told a soldier that he wanted to enlist. The man looked at the immaculately dressed Tommy, with difficulty repressing a smile at his spats and kid gloves, and pointed to the quarters of Colonel Bankhead. Tommy proceeded there and found the colonel with his daughter, who was in Red Cross uniform.

"I want to be a soldier," said Tom. The colonel looked at him in surprise, asked him if he knew anything about soldiering and when answered in the negative told him he had better go to England and enlist there to be trained. This didn't please Tommy, and he declined the advice. Then spoke up Miss Bankhead:

"I think the gentleman would be of more use as a Red Cross nurse."

Now, Miss Bankhead was a very comely young woman, and Tommy, who was like a bird that had just left the paternal nest, was ready to wing in any direction that pleased his fancy.

"Thank you very much," he said, with a low bow. "Can you tell me where to go to work?"

"Come with me."

When Tommy was put to work nursing the sick and wounded it was remarked that he should don the uniform of the women nurses. It was laughable to see him perform his duties, but in time he grew accustomed to them, taking his instructions from Miss Gladys, with whom he at once became violently enamored. She laughed at him, but at the same time soothed him.

bullets came Tom did not see that he was the only nurse left on the field. Then, turning and seeing what had happened, he took the wounded boy in his arms and started with him for cover.

Now, the soldier weighed pretty nearly as much as Tom, and Tom staggered under the load. The boy begged his rescuer to drop him and save himself, but Tom staggered on amid the storm of bullets and finally entered the British lines in no worse condition than a bullet in the fleshy part of his leg, from which streamed the red blood.

Tom put down his burden and, not heeding a cheer that greeted his feat, turned fiercely toward the enemy. Near by he saw a regiment rallying forth on a bayonet charge.

"I want a gun!" cried Tom, the hot blood boiling in his veins. "Where can I get a gun?"

"Take mine," said a wounded soldier.

Tom seized the piece and ran like a deer to the advancing regiment and fell into its ranks. When he came in from a bayonet charge he was carried part way, being faint from loss of blood flowing from a wound of which he was ignorant.

Such deeds usually become quickly known. Miss Bankhead heard of Tom's exploit and reported it to her father, the colonel. Tom soon stood upon his legs again and was ordered to report at regimental headquarters.

"You have accomplished a feat," said the colonel, "worthy of the Victoria cross. Enlist at once if you choose, and I will recommend you for a commission and the cross as well."

"I don't care for the cross, colonel," said Tom. "I want your daughter."

"We will see about that at some other time."

But Tom and Gladys found time to plight their troth, and Tom became a captain in the defense of Calais.

A Trick With Words.

An extraordinary memory was that of Dr. Addison Alexander of Princeton Theological seminary. His memory was not only tenacious of facts, but of mere words. For the amusement of young people he would sometimes say, "Now I am going to talk 'without thinking.'" He would then pour forth period after period of strange words and incongruous images harmonious and even rhythmic in sound, but wholly destitute of sense. If that seems an easy trick try to suspend your reason and give free rein to your fancy in periods that shall be grammatically correct and yet without meaning.—Youth's Companion.

A Rothschild Arsenal.

The Austrian Rothschilds are the only members of the family to manufacture armaments. As proprietor of the Wittkowitz iron works in Moravia, Baron Louis de Rothschild, the head of the Austrian branch, furnishes the army with metal for its guns and the navy with armor plates. These huge works, the technical organization of which is perfect in every detail, have grown out of a small foundry purchased by the late Baron Albert de Rothschild. The development of the Austrian railway system is also closely connected with the Rothschilds. They financed the two largest lines in the empire—the north and south lines—and still hold a good portion of the shares.

AVARICE.

Cultivate thrift, but do not let avarice grip you. Avarice has ruined more men than prodigality, and the blindest thoughtlessness of expenditure has not destroyed so many fortunes as the calculating but insatiable lust for accumulation.

IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Ivy Wingo, Cincinnati Reds' New Backstop.

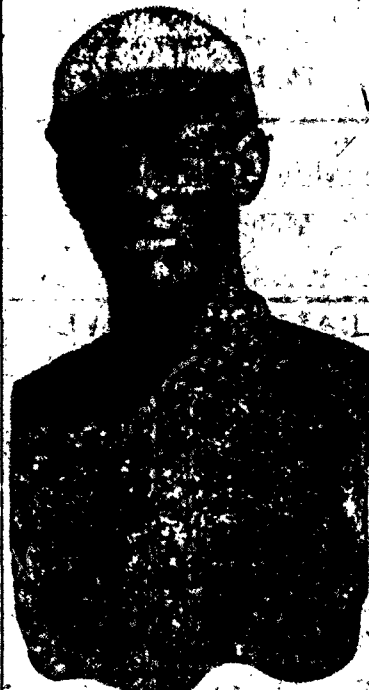


Photo by American Press Association.

Discussing the backstop men in the big baseball league, a student of the game says that Ivy Wingo, who played with the St. Louis Nationals last year, should have a good season with the Cincinnati Reds. Wingo was second string catcher to Snyder of St. Louis last year, but now that he is with the Reds as first catcher he should shine. Wingo is one of the best in the older organization, but was unfortunate to be on the same team with the best catcher in the National league. With plenty of work behind the bat Wingo should be up to his best form.

New Jumping Star.

The performances of William H. Taylor of the Illinois Athletic club as a practically unknown athlete who established two National Amateur Athletic Union records in the indoor meet recently held in Madison Square Garden, New York city, and defeated Veteran Platt Adams in both contests have been pronounced phenomenal by coaches and close followers of amateur athletics. In the standing high jump the Illinois star cleared the bar at five feet four inches, beating the former mark by two inches, but one and one-quarter inches lower than the world's record held by R. C. Ewry. Taylor followed by leaping eleven feet two inches in the standing long jump without weights. This record beats the former mark by half an inch. Ewry holds the world's record at eleven feet four and seven-eighths inches.

Maisel Fast on Base.

From first to second or from second to third Fritz Maisel of the Yankees is the fastest man in baseball, a full step faster than Cobb or Lohert or Milan, says a writer in the Chicago Tribune.

"Which is the hardest to steal, second or third?" he was asked. "Third," was his reply. "It's just a matter of walking down and stopping at second base."

Asked what percentage of steals he was able to put over—that is, the number of times he was able to arrive safely out of a certain number of starts—Maisel said, "The only time I kept track was through two weeks when I started sixteen times and stole four times bases, which is fair enough."

Condition Counts With Coopers.

Willie Hoppe, the world's greatest billiard player, says it is just as necessary for a billiard player to keep in condition as it is for a boxer to be in shape for a hard bout. Hoppe claims that if one's physical condition is good one's nerves are bound to be steady. It is clean living that makes the star more certainly than in any other branch of sport and in this respect Hoppe holds to a rigid discipline. Every day he takes a long walk, and this, in connection with the fact that he has never in his life touched any kind of intoxicating drink and never smoked, keeps him in the best of condition at all times.

Big Motor Race Scheduled.

A road race for a prize of \$25,000, the largest purse ever offered for an event of its kind, will be run over the Vanderbilt and Grand Prix courses at San Francisco in October of this year by the racing committee of the Pan-Pacific exposition. The race will be called the Grand American sweepstakes and will be open to the drivers and cars of the world. No special displacement rules will be established and, if the present plan is announced by William L. Hudson, chairman of the racing committee, the carried out, such the racing regulations that prevail in grand prize events will hold.

Mercutio Is A Modern Yacht.

George A. Ketchum, former owner of the world's famous trotting stallion Crecoeta, is an enthusiastic yachtsman and has recently built a power boat cruiser named Mercutio. An interesting racing rule will adorn the cabin of the Ketchum yacht. This is a shoe worn by Crecoeta when he broke the world's trotting record on Aug. 2, 1901, by traveling the Columbus track in 2:06. The shoe has been gold plated and suitably inscribed.

Spontaneous Combustion.

Spontaneous combustion can only occur when oxidation causes the temperature to rise to the ignition point of the material. Spontaneous combustion of the human body is impossible on account of the heat regulating effect of the 75 or 80 per cent of water contained. The enormous heat necessary to dry the tissues sufficiently to destroy life long before ignition could take place. An old idea was that the alcohol in a confirmed drunkard might promote combustion, but Liebig showed that even if the body could give off inflammable vapor and this could become ignited the body itself would not be set on fire.

New Red Herring Catch.

The first red herring was accidentally produced in England many years ago by a fisherman who, having a surplus of fresh herring, hung them up in a smoky shed to dry and then forgot all about them. When he looked at them some time after he found that they had changed in color. The king, to whom the fishes were presented, was so interested that he gave permission to the fisherman to exhibit them around the country as strange monsters.—London Express.

Figures of Speech.

Gotcha—I ran into a burglar last night.

Jake—How'd he manage to get away from you?

Gotcha—He went through me.—Datmouth Jack o' Lantern.

No Harm Done.

"We've been having a regular clearance at home," explained Mr. X, at the office, "throwing all sorts of old things away. I put one of my wedding presents on the fire this morning."

"Did you really?" asked a horrified colleague. "What was it?"

"A copper kettle," replied X.—London Mail.

NOTABLES IN THE LIMELIGHT

General Radko-Dimitroff, Russian Army Leader.



General Radko-Dimitroff, Russian Army Leader.

HINTS FOR THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE

Caster When Your House Furniture Moving Day.



A household in which a woman is a busy housewife, it is a household in which the woman is a busy housewife. The hints for the busy housewife are as follows: 1. Buy a pot roast of beef and put it into the bean pot. Place it on top of the stove with a little cold water and let it boil. 2. Buy a pot roast of beef and put it into the bean pot. Place it on top of the stove with a little cold water and let it boil. 3. Buy a pot roast of beef and put it into the bean pot. Place it on top of the stove with a little cold water and let it boil.

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