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Incognito and Incognita

By ELINOR MARSH

"Is Miss Watriss at home?" asked a middle aged man of a maid who answered his call at the front door of a handsome country residence.

"I'll see, sir."

The gentleman dropped a card on the salver the maid held to him, bearing the name of Alonzo Tewkesbury and she took it upstairs, while the gentleman stepped into a reception room.

Mr. Tewkesbury had complained to his friend Mrs. Sanson that he had neglected to marry during the youthful mating period and had before him the prospect of living all his life without a companion or a home. Mrs. Sanson had replied that she had a woman friend who had a similar prospect before her.

"You are both well off," she said, "in this world's goods and would make a good match."

This led to an arrangement made by Mrs. Sanson, with a view to bringing the parties together, and Mr. Tewkesbury was making his first call on Miss Watriss.

Presently a woman, plainly but neatly dressed, came down with the card in her hand and said:

"Mr. Tewkesbury, I am Miss Watriss' housekeeper, Mrs. Hawkins. Miss Watriss has been unavoidably called away. She has commissioned me to say to you that she may return any time during the day and if you will await her coming she will be glad to see you. I am directed to do what I can to enable you to fill in the time. We have a fine library, and I can furnish you with the late magazines."

"I'm glad," said Mr. Tewkesbury thoughtfully. "Are you in Miss Watriss' confidence?"

"Somewhat."

"Are you aware of the object of this call?"

"I am."

"Then I know of no better way to pass the time than for you to tell me something about Miss Watriss."

"Miss Watriss is simply a woman like any other woman. She is neither very good nor very bad. She has a good income, but finds it difficult to live within it."

"Then you think she desires to add to it?"

"Most assuredly. Miss Watriss is practical. She knows that much more can be done with a union of two incomes than with one. The party of the second part would share in this advantage."

"She is right in that. This romance of marrying without giving due consideration to such matters pertains to the young and foolish."

"It is well that you look at it in that light. This proposed marriage is, I take it, on the same order as European marriages where romance is made subservient to common sense."

"That's it. There is too much romance and too little sense in American marriages. Besides, a man of forty and a woman of thirty-five? Can't go about a courtesan as a couple in their teens."

"Are there any other questions you would like to ask?"

"You are very kind to furnish me with this information."

"Not at all. Miss Watriss told me before she left to answer truthfully any questions you might ask and to tell you especially that which she would not like to say herself, that one of the considerations in making the proposed match would be a matter of money. Her income is six thousand a year."

"That will be satisfactory to me. You may say to Miss Watriss for me that my income from my business and other sources varies from five to fifteen thousand, a business income being nearly always uncertain."

"Don't you think that it would be a good idea for you to see Miss Watriss without her knowing that you are Mr. Tewkesbury?"

"A splendid idea! But how could it be accomplished?"

"Men are very stupid about such things. You have only to tell some friend who knows Miss Watriss to introduce you as Mr. Jones."

"Good! Thanks for the suggestion. Perhaps I'd better not wait for Miss Watriss to return. I'll have a look at her, as you suggest. You won't give me away in this matter, will you?"

"Oh, no! I think you are entitled to see the lady you think of proposing to incog before proceeding in the matter."

"And Miss Watriss should see me incog, too, shouldn't she?"

"Oh, Miss Watriss is perfectly able to form and carry out her own plans. I wouldn't think of suggesting anything to her."

"Well, I'll bid you good morning. Much obliged for the idea you have given me."

Mr. Tewkesbury took his leave and straightway went to Mrs. Sanson.

"Do you think you could bring Miss Watriss here to meet me as Mr. Jones without her suspecting that I'm Sam Tewkesbury?"

"Of course I can."

"Then please do so."

A few days later Mr. Tewkesbury received a telephone message from Mrs. Sanson that Miss Watriss was with her and for him to come over. He went and found Miss Watriss' housekeeper.

"Stung!" he exclaimed.

"I don't need to see you incog," she said, "for I have already seen you."

The match was made.

QUEEREST OF SEA MAMMALS

The Grotesque Walrus Has a Strong Maternal Instinct.

The walruses, or "sea horses" of the old navigators, are the strangest and most grotesque of all sea mammals. Their large, rugged heads, armed with two long ivory tusks, and their huge swollen bodies covered with hairless, wrinkled and warty skin, give them a formidable appearance unlike that of any other mammal. They are much larger than most seals, the old males weighing from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds and the females about two-thirds as much.

Walruses have a strongly developed maternal instinct and show great devotion and disregard of their own safety in defending the young. The Eskimos at Cape Vancouver, Bering sea, hunt them in frail skin covered kayaks, using ivory or bone pointed spears and sealskin floats.

Several hunters told me of exciting and dangerous encounters they had experienced with mother walruses. If the young are attacked or even approached the mother does not hesitate to charge furiously. The hunters confess that on such occasions there is no option but to paddle for one's life.

Occasionally an old walrus is unusually vindictive and, after forcing a hunter to take refuge on the ice, will remain patrolling the vicinity for a long time, roaring and menacing the object of her anger. — National Geographic Magazine.

SEEING MOTION PICTURES.

Some Advice on How to Avoid Suffering From Eye Strain.

Many persons cannot attend motion pictures because of the annoying after effects on the eyes. Some suffer from eye strain and others are subject to severe headaches. The relief, in most cases, consists in perfectly fitted glasses, according to the Popular Science Monthly. The picture may not be quite so sharp, but this is more than compensated for by the increased comfort.

For persons with very sensitive eyes a colored glass, either amber, yellowish green or amethyst, may afford immediate relief. Several varieties of colored glass have been put on the market, and there are so many shades available that some suitable color can be secured. A subdued light in the theater has a much less irritating effect than a dark theater where the only light is reflected from the screen.

It is also advisable for those who are liable to suffer after viewing the pictures to avoid sitting in a place where it is necessary to look upward, as the additional strain becomes very tiresome and frequently leaves a severe headache. In the majority of cases, however, if glasses are correctly fitted to a person he or she stands a good chance of enjoying motion pictures without any attendant ill results.

Inertia of Bodies.

Lay a visiting card on the tip of the left forefinger and on it place a penny. A quick flick of the end with the right second finger will remove the card without disturbing the coin. Another trick which illustrates the inertia of bodies is to knock away the bottom of a pile of checkers without upsetting the pile. This is effected quite easily with the help of a flat ruler. The remaining checkers are removed successively by a number of smart blows.

Primitive Reptiles.

The tuatara, or tuatara, is an almost extinct lizard-like reptile (Sphenodon punctatum), now found only on certain rocky islets in the bay of Plenty, northern New Zealand. It is of great scientific interest for the reason that it is the only surviving representative of the order of prosaurops, or primitive reptiles, and is therefore a sort of "living fossil." It was formerly hunted for food, but is now protected by law in New Zealand.

Power of a River.

There are more spindles turned in the mills of Lawrence by the power of the Merrimack river than are turned by any other river in any other city in the world. Four hundred acres of mills, employing 40,000 hands, put out 2,000,000 tons of woven fabrics each year. — Exchange.

Mutual Discontent.

First Clubwoman—No; I am not going to the annual dinner. The committee always puts me beside the most uninteresting people. Second Clubwoman—That's just my experience. We were sitting together last year, weren't we? —London Opinion.

What's In a Name?

Old Gent—What's your name, my little man? The Little Man—They call me "Coms" at school, sir. Old Gent—Good gracious! And why? The Little Man (cheerfully)—'Cause I'm always at the foot of the class, sir. —London Telegraph.

Room For Reconciliation.

"We can file a cross bill," explained the lawyer.

"Not too cross," cautioned the wife. "I still love my husband." —Pittsburgh Post.

Corrected.

Mr. Giggis—I kept like a log last night. Mrs. Giggis—A log? You sleep like a whole sawmill. —Chicago News.

Steadfast purpose shapes destiny and destroys doubt.

A Woman's Rights

By ETHEL HOLMES

Miss Elinor Bates was preparing her trousseau for her marriage with Jack Weatherly when she received a note from him calling the affair off. He gave no excuse, but Elinor knew that he had never been known to stick to one girl for any length of time and felt sure that she had been replaced.

Miss Bates was a native of South Carolina, but had spent ten of her twenty years in the north, where she had imbibed the ideas of the new woman. Her grandfather had fought a duel, and in her family the code was considered the only way of settling unpleasant affairs. These two conditions a belief in the right of an injured person to demand satisfaction from the injurer and the elevation of women to the privileges of men, decided her to send a challenge to Mr. Weatherly.

Jack was dressing for dinner when he received Elinor's note, for she had not gone so far as to send a second and, laying it open on the dresser, remained, finishing making a bow of his neckle at the same time. When he had finished both he lighted a cigarette and, throwing himself into an easy chair, gave himself up to thought.

Now, the reason for his breaking with Elinor was that the income to support her was to come from his father, who had agreed to give him \$5,000 a year, and he had at the last moment changed his mind. Jack, thinking that an explanation of this would only serve to irritate Elinor against his father, chose another course.

Jack, who did not consider that truth had any more place in love affairs than in a statement of a woman's age, replied to the challenge by saying that he would never fight a duel. On this account he must decline to render Miss Bates what he must confess was his right to demand and to receive.

When Elinor received this letter she saw at once that her effort to punish her recalcitrant lover had failed. Had she been a man she might have published him as a poltroon and a coward with effect, but should she do so as a woman she would only make herself ridiculous. Nobody would blame him for refusing to fight a woman.

Women had horsewhipped men, who had flitted them, and it seemed to Elinor that this would be the natural consequence in her case. It would be following in the course of men too. Men who had refused to fight men had been horsewhipped by the challenger. But Elinor hoped by a threat to produce results without taking such drastic measures. She wrote Jack another note stating that she proposed to horsewhip him the next time she met him.

This, she thought, would bring him to terms. There could be no greater dread for a man than to stand in the face of a gathering crowd and receive a dressing from a woman. Miss Bates was forced to admit that this was not the same relative position as between two men, for Jack would not be privileged to strike back.

Jack thought over this new phase of the case and made up his mind to make no reply. He dearly loved the girl who was trying to punish him for a crime he had not committed and which pained him as much as it pained her.

Elinor provided herself with a whip. She endeavored to secure the traditional "cowhide" that had been used by her ancestors on those who refused to fight, but she failed to do so. However, she procured a good, stout whip and slung it about her waist under her coat. She selected it on account of the color of its handle, which harmonized with that of the costume she intended to wear when she did the whipping.

To be candid, Miss Bates shrunk from publicity as much as she presumed her recalcitrant lover would shrink from it. In this she weakened. Instead of waiting till she met him in a crowd she went one morning to the Weatherly residence, which stood back from the street and was partly hidden by shrubbery. Entering the grounds, she concealed herself behind foliage and waited for Jack to appear. Presently he emerged from a side door and was making his way to the garage when Elinor pounced upon him.

Elinor had made a mistake in notifying him of her intention to horsewhip him. It enabled him to prepare himself for the encounter. As soon as she began to rain blows upon him he drew from his pocket a yard of satin ribbon and returned blow for blow with it.

Mr. Weatherly senior was in his accustomed seat in the library reading the morning paper when hearing the sound of Elinor's whip on Jack's coat and trousers, he looked out through the window.

Raising the sash, he watched the light for a few moments, then cried out to be informed what it meant.

Elinor censored her blows and said: "Your son has treated me abominably, and I am punishing him as he deserves."

"Jack, you young rascal, what does this mean?"

"It means, father, that I couldn't marry without the income you promised me, and really it was you and not I who is blameable if any one is."

"Elinor!" said the old man thoughtfully. "How much was I to give you?"

"Fifty thousand a year."

"Well, sir, do your duty, and I'll do mine."

It was all made up then and there, and the settlement was made five minutes before the wedding.

SWISS CHEESE STONE

Material of Which Native Houses in Bermuda Are Built.

When a native of Bermuda decides that he wants to build a house he goes to some quarry where the soft, rich, creamy coral sandstone has been stripped of its thin earth covering and begins sawing. He or some one employed by him, with a long, coarse-toothed saw, cuts out blocks of stone measuring about two feet long, one foot wide and six inches thick. As soon as he has quarried enough of these blocks he allows them to stand in the open air for a few weeks to harden, for when first cut they are as full of holes as a Swiss cheese and almost as soft.

The hardening period over, the blocks are placed one on top of another to form the walls and one beside another on a supporting framework, overlapping a little at their upper and lower edges to make the roof.

When the building has been erected the Bermudian covers his outside walls and roof with a thick coat of whitewash, which hides all the cracks and joints and holes in the stone and gives the house a smooth, beautiful finish which is very pleasant to the eye and just as pleasant to the sense of touch. Even the big chimneys, the porches and the fences are built of the same stone.

These white roofs have another important office, for the rain that falls upon them as it runs off is caught and led into cisterns. It is easy to understand how important this is when one learns that there are no streams or wells in Bermuda and that the islanders are thus entirely dependent on these cisterns for their water supply. — Joseph Lauren in St. Nicholas.

YANKEE CURIOSITY.

How Ben Franklin Used to Save Time and Avert Questions.

The Yankee is proverbially inquisitive, and Charles H. Sherrill recalls in "French Memories of Eighteenth Century America" some amusing comments reported by the Marquis de Chastellux, which show that the reputation was well deserved more than a century ago.

"He says," declares Chastellux, repeating a traveler's tale, "that the Americans are the most inquisitive people he has ever seen. Their curiosity is punished almost to impiety. When he asked his way they only answered, 'You apparently come from Philadelphia.' When almost famished he asked for food. Instead of serving him they said: 'You seem to be in a great hurry. Is there anything new in the north?'"

"He also relates that Mr. Franklin (who possessed a sense of humor in addition to that habitual calm which so surprised the Europeans), whenever he was traveling in Connecticut, a notation for its curiosity, was accustomed on entering an inn to call all the family together and announce in a loud tone: 'I am Benjamin Franklin. I was born in Boston, and I am a printer by trade. I am coming from Philadelphia, and I am going back there at such and such a time. I do not know anything new, and now, my friends, will you tell me what you can give me for supper?'"

Meadow Blackberries.

That the author of "Lorna Doone" was one of the best fruit growers in England is brought out by Hilda George Hawthorne in an article on Blackberries which she contributes to St. Nicholas. Indeed, it was of his fruit that he loved most to talk, according to Miss Hawthorne. Of his willows he said of himself at all it was very difficult to get him to say a word, for he was shy and modest to a high degree. (He tried to make him talk about his bees he would always slip, quickly away, or something about peaches or strawberries or plums, or he would ask you to come out to see his garden and wander there happily, pruning shrubs in hand, exchanging out his prize fruits and setting you just what must be done to bring each type to perfection.)

All Happens in a Second.

"A second is the smallest division of time in general use, and when we consider that in one year there are about 31,556,000 of these periods it would certainly seem as if it was enough for all practical purposes. But, after all, a good deal can happen in a second.

A light wave, for instance, passes through a distance of about 186,000 miles in this length of time. The earth in itself moves in its orbit at a rate of about twenty miles a second.

A tuning fork of the French standard vibrates 870 times per second to produce the note A on the treble staff.

Saving Talk.

"Do you believe in telepathy?" "You mean," responded Miss Cayenne, "the art of communicating thought without audible speech?" "Something like that."

"I am not sure whether it could be made to work or not. But I know a number of people who ought to try it." —Washington Star.

Encourages Fine Buildings.

Our city planners might well imitate the example of Buenos Aires, which every year exempts from taxation the most beautiful building erected within the preceding twelve months and awards a medal to the architect. —Tenth's Companion.

The Stepper.

Little—He wore my shoes and stepped on his heart, and it stopped the bus. Tottie—I'm not surprised, darling; he would stop a clock. —London Star.

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