The Problem

By Ella Charlotte Hammond

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For six hours Eustace Warde had crouched in the long grass and shrubbery surrounding a pretty bungalow, moving from spot to spot cautiously, furtively. He was bent on a special mission, whose issues were vital and he dared not take any risk as to being discovered and defeated in his design.

"The sister was right," he soliloquized, feeling that he was handling a hard problem. "I haven't caught even a fleeting glimpse of the girl. She must be in the house, though, and, just as she wrote her sister, the place is guarded."

This latter fact was evident. Seated knitting in a rocking chair in the garden so as to command a perfect view of all the entrances and exits of the house, was a portly keen-eyed woman who swept the prospect with a probing glance every other minute. On the other side of the house, reclining on the grass, a gun by his side, was a man, past middle age, apparently the husband of the other watcher.

"He doesn't look as smart and vigilant as the woman," decided Warde. "Twice he has nodded. Ah! he is gone now. Dare I venture a rush for the house?"

Warde could distinctly catch the sound of muffled snoring. The man lay perfectly still, his face buried in his arms. Across a 40-foot space Warde glided. He darted through a doorway to find himself in a narrow hall. Then beyond its other end he made out a graceful feminine figure.

"Miss Alice Boyden?" he spoke in a low tone, and as he extended an envelope toward the amazed girl he added quickly: "From your sister at Melville."

The hands of Alice Boyden trembled as she opened the letter and hurriedly perused its inclosure. She was at once aroused to manifest animation and excitement. The young man pressed close to her side.

"Beyond the grove yonder," he said, "I have a horse and buggy. Don't delay. The man outside is asleep, the woman is on the other side of the house and cannot observe your escape. Come."

His frank, open face pleased her. Besides, did he not come from her sister, Lucia, and under the directions of Lucia's husband, who was a lawyer? And was she not practically a prisoner, surrounded she knew not by what sordid plots and plotters?

Her father had died leaving a fairly large estate. His half brother Hugo Blair, dominated the town. Through one of his creatures, a judge, Blair had been appointed guardian of Alice and had been given arbitrary charge of the estate. He did not intend that the rich pickings should escape his clutches.

In a vast flurry Alice followed the directions of her helper and guide. A great sigh of relief escaped her lips as they passed the sleeping sentinel in safety. They reached the grove. The color came back to that fair face, her shining eyes expressed her deep gratitude as the horse started up.

Warde took a lonely road but they were seen by quite a number of persons, and he urged the mettled steed to his best pace, fearing pursuit. It was just at dusk when they reached the end of the one traversed road in that wild district. Beyond it spread a 20-mile stretch of prairie, smooth as a floor. Twenty different trails had been broken through the high pampas grass. The horse was tired and Warde allowed him to rest. Then they resumed their journey.

"Look!" exclaimed Alice, an hour later.

Perhaps two miles distant, and seemingly directly on their trail, was an automobile. Its rapid puffing echoed faintly, but its lights flared like evil eyes probing to locate the refugees.

"It is Mr. Blair's machine!" fluttered Alice in terror. "He will overtake us. Oh, do not delay! Let us hurry forward."

Warde had halted the horse. Now he ran back about a hundred yards. He flared a dozen matches. He set the grass blazing in a dozen places. Then he leaped into the buggy and urged up the horse. He knew that the automobile would not dare dash into the advancing mass of flame, nor traverse the burned-over route where a spark might precipitate an explosion.

Warde was right. They reached Melville in safety. At once Alice was hurried to another town and placed in charge of a lady friend, and the lawyer prepared to legally dispute the jurisdiction of the scheming half uncle. He called upon Alice a few days later.

"I don't know what the result may be in the courts," he told Alice gravely. "It is a pity there is not some favored young man who could give you his name and his love. That would completely baffle Hugo Blair."

Alice blushed, and perhaps with reason. She had not ceased to think of the clever and self-possessed young man who had rescued her from the enemy. Craftily or incidentally, the lawyer sent Warde with a message one day. The wily lawyer smiled to himself as he noted the happy light in his young partner's eyes upon his return.

"I fancy the problem will soon be solved," he told his wife, and it was, for when Hugo Blair came upon the scene with all kinds of dreadful legal documents, he found it of no avail, for he had to deal with Alice's husband this time.

The Bath Habit.

In the eighteenth century the bath was a season's event, and soap was almost a thing unknown. It was scarcely ever used, or at least infrequently. It was by no means indispensable as a toilet necessity. And most of us can recall the time, muses an exchange, when Saturday night was religiously dedicated to the weekly bath. That is why we all appreciate the story of the woman who wrote her friend: "We just moved into a new apartment. It has the cutest bathtub. I can hardly wait until Saturday night."

Learn When to Be Silent.

The union of good talker and listener is irresistible. Tact should teach us when to be silent. We have made progress when we realize that it is unnecessary to continually be explaining everything in detail. We flee from the statistical fiend, and the too personal "I"-in-conversation, persistently reiterating the "I have done" and "I have not done" an attitude significant perhaps of women's penchant for failing to grasp ideas in a large way.

The Parson's Reproof.

"Ordinarily I should hesitate to criticize one of my flock," said Parson Brown from the pulpit as he glared reprovingly at the 100-pound member in the front pew who had suddenly wakened from his little nap with a snort. "But in the language of the father in the beautiful parable of the prodigal son, I feel like saying, 'Bring hither the fatted calf and kill it.'"

Learn to Do Without.

One of the arts of life is to learn how to do without. Few of us have everything we consider desirable and if we grumble at every little deprivation we make ourselves miserable and our associates uncomfortable. To learn to do without and yet be cheery and happy, goes far toward making life a success.

Proverbs Circulate.

Proverbs undoubtedly have a tendency to travel. They are carried from one land to another by emigrants, tourists, missionaries, tradesmen and seamen, but many which are closely similar doubtless owe their origin to no common stock, but to the common experience of mankind.

Origin of One Proverb.

One obtains historical glimpses in proverbs. The familiar "robbing Peter to pay Paul" is said to derive its origin from the fact that in the reign of Edward VI the lands of St. Peter at Westminster were appropriated to raise money for the repair of St. Paul's.

Original Source.

Examiner—"You are quite sure that this is a purely original composition you have handed in? I must say the wording sounds strangely familiar." Plagiarist—"Possibly you have run across some of the words in the dictionary."—Judge.

European Bee Superstition.

A prevalent superstition in parts of Europe is that bees will either fly away or die on the occasion of a death in the family unless someone knocks at their hive and tells them about it.

Just a Business Deal.

Dorothy said to her mother: "I went three errands yesterday, and you promised me two cents, but if you haven't any change today we'll settle it for one cent."

That's All We Need.

We could all be better, we think, if only the people around us would alter their ways and give us a chance. We hunger and thirst after righteousness—in our neighbors.

Almost Stopped.

Farmer Hayes—"That Jones boy who used to work for you wants me to give him a job. Is he steady?" Farmer Steele—"Well, if he was any steadier he'd be motionless."

Packed By Machinery.

Currants from Greece are now packed by machinery in a manner which is far more cleanly and economical than the old "hand methods." The latter have always been questionable.

Some Have That Gift.

"Oratory," said Uncle Eben, "is a fine thing. Some men is such great persuaders dat dey don't have to do no work nor give up no money deirse'fs."

Transportation in Hankow.

Within foreign concessions of Hankow there are 2,357 licensed jinrikshas, 67 public carriages and 83 private motorcars.

Keep Working.

"It's all right to keep hopin' foh de best," said Uncle Eben, "but you got ter be busy as well as wistful."

Kerosene.

It is believed that kerosene was first used for lighting in 1820.

Optimistic Thought.

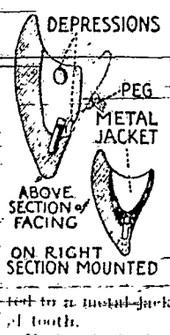
False rumors are sparks which if fanned die out of themselves.

The Scrap Book

FACING FITTED TO JACKET

Value of Invention by New York Dentist Will Not Need a Great Deal of Explanation.

A porcelain jacket crown for a tooth is commonly preferred to a gold crown particularly if the artificial member is conspicuously situated, but the former is costly and difficult to mount. As a substitute for the common type of porcelain jacket crown a New York dentist has invented a force fit by which occasional persons were formerly submitted in Japan.



tooth to a metal jacket set on the natural tooth.

Each of these facings is provided with four depressions on its inner surface, and protruding near the cutting end is a T-shaped anchor. After a facing of the desired color and shape has been selected it is held next to the tooth to be crowned while a wax jacket is fashioned around the latter the wax filling the depressions in the facing and enclosing the anchor. Then the facing and wax jacket are removed and placed in a plaster mold after which the wax is melted and metal cast in its place. In this comparatively simple manner a perfectly fitting jacket with a well matched facing is produced.

NAME LINKED WITH SORROW

Duties of Adjutant General McCain Compel Him to Send Out Information That Must Sadden.

There is one officer in the United States army whose name is bound to become associated with grief and sorrow in thousands of American homes before the end of the war. This is Maj. Gen. Henry P. McCain, adjutant general of the army, whose name is signed to dispatches notifying relatives of soldiers of casualties at the front.

After the sinking of the Cunard liner Tuscania by a German U-boat more than 100 death messages were sent out with General McCain's signature. After the first serious clash between American and German forces it is probable that the messages will go out in thousands.

One of the many unusual conditions brought about by the war is that General McCain, whose lot it is thus to impart grief and sorrow wholesale, is one of the most humane, tender hearted officers in the service. The story of Lincoln and the pig that stuck in the mud would apply to McCain. He might ride on and let the pig stay, as Lincoln did but he, too, would turn back eventually and help the pig out. His mind would not be at ease otherwise.

Japanese Influence Spreading.

As a symptom of the recent rapid development of Japan's commercial interests in Shanghai, Japanese lighting companies are now supplying a large proportion of the electric lamps for the city which were formerly imported chiefly from the General Electric company in this country. The fact is pointed out in the report of the Japanese consul-general at that point, who also states that at the close of 1917 there were 14,000 Japanese resident at the Chinese port and more than 100 new Japanese concerns were established in the year covered his survey. During 1917 the Mitsui bank and the Mitsubishi banking department opened branches in Shanghai, following the examples set by the Bank of Taiwan, the Yokohama Specie bank and the Sumitomo bank.

Prize Hard Luck Story.

A Washington organist thinks he has a prize hard luck story. When he was selected in the draft and was asked his occupation he said he was a pipe organist and he was put down as a pipe fitter. In due time he reported at a camp for duty and was set to pipe fitting. When he confessed ignorance he was accused of being a slacker and was passed to another officer, who delivered a lecture on the importance of doing one's duty, etc. The young man couldn't interrupt and had to listen to a long talk designed to strike terror to his soul. He got a chance to explain finally, through the intervention of another officer, and then was rejected for having a weak heart.

Irreverent Robbie.

Two little boys were having an animated argument about the prowess of their respective fathers with the bow and arrow.

Finally little Robbie said decisively: "Oh, I know my father can shoot higher than yours. He shot so high the other day that God said: 'Cut it out!'"

No Credit to Them.

"Blithers seems to think a lot of his ancestors."

"So he does. I guess it's just as well for his peace of mind that his ancestors are dead."

"Why so?"

"They probably wouldn't reciprocate."

Surpasses Words.

"Does your grocer attempt to explain high prices?"

"He did at first. Now he merely shudders as he accepts the money, and I groan."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Which Kind of Parlor?

The building trade today is largely using methods in use in the days of the Pharaohs, said the principal architect of the office of works, at the Royal Sanitary Institute in England, recently. "The parlor question," he went on, "is a difficult one. Some people prefer one large, pleasant room to a pokey living room and small parlor. Others urge that the parlor is necessary for children to do their lessons in, to accommodate the piano and household goods, and also the coffin in the event of a death in the family."

Trial by Ordeal.

If a theft takes place in a Japanese household, all servants are required to write a certain word with the same brush. The confidence is supposed to betray its workings in the waves of the ideographs written. Tracing an ideograph involves such an effort of muscular directness and undivided attention that this device often leads to the discovery of the guilty party. The test is at all events, more humane than the ordeal of boiling water, to which accused persons were formerly submitted in Japan.

New Pleurisy Treatment.

Doctor Auld tells in the British Medical Journal of a chill and fever, resembling malaria which he brought on by administering a platinum compound and which upon subsiding left the patient in a markedly improved condition. He tried the treatment in cases of pleurisy with good result. It is especially adapted to sluggish cases of localized infection with low fever.

Self Restraint Valuable.

For want of self restraint many men are engaged all their lives in fighting with difficulties of their own making, and rendering success impossible by their own cross grained ungentleness; whilst others, who may be much less gifted, make their way and achieve success by simply patient equanimity and self-control.—Samuel Smiles.

Young European Capital.

Helsingfors, the capital of Finland, is among the youngest of the European capitals, for it is but little over a hundred years since Czar Alexander I, shortly after the annexation of the grand duchy by Russia, transferred the capital thither from Abo, which was, in his opinion, too near Sweden.

Intelligent Insects.

The arts of weaving and rope and netmaking are practiced by some of the lower forms of life, notably among caterpillars and spiders. The weaver birds of Africa and India which are a species of finch, construct wonderful nests out of leaves by sewing them together.

Platinum in Spain.

Platinum deposits in the south of Spain, in a mountainous region known as the Serrania de Ronda are reported to be extensive. The 12 or 14 rivers of the district may profitably be dredged for platinum gravel for some years to come.

Salvationists Raise Silk Worms.

An annual silk camp for the cultivation of the silkworm has been established by the Salvation Army in a 10,000-acre mulberry forest near Lahore, India.

Crisp Criticism of Gossip.

Gossip is a sort of smoke that comes from the dirty tobacco-pipes of those who diffuse it; it proves nothing but the bad taste of the smoker.—George Eliot.

To Complete the Illusion.

She—"No, you are too poor. If I washed dishes for a man it might make him look upon me as a servant." He—"Oh, no; you'll have to break them to do that."

Danger to Ojibway Finger.

An Ojibway Indian would not point his finger at the moon, as fair Luna would consider it a great insult and instantly bite off the offending member.

Phosphate Mines Developed.

Tunis has attained second rank to the United States for the production of phosphate, through the development of mines discovered a few years ago.

Too Much Thought of Self.

"Sometimes," said Uncle Eben, "a man thinks so much about his own comfort dat he makes hisse'f pufficklv miserable."

Turtle Eggs.

The eggs of the turtle vary in number from 60 to 100, and at first they resemble damp parchment in their texture.

Optimistic Thought.

A good judge will decide according to justice and right in preference to strict law.

When They Are Satisfied.

A woman never feels dressed up unless she feels uncomfortable.—Idaho Statesman.

Listen Well.

Listen well to the words of a few men, and to the men of few words.

FLYER SPENDS 80 HOURS ON WRECK

Rescued Man Gives Thrilling Story of His Perils.

ALMOST GONE WHEN SAVED

Ensign Stone and Companion Cling to Wrecked Seaplane for 80 Hours in English Channel Without Food or Water—One of Most Remarkable Incidents of Seaplane Patrol Co-operating With Convoys.

A full report of the rescue of Ensign E A Stone U S naval reserve force, who, with a companion, clung to a wrecked seaplane for 80 hours in the English Channel without food and water before being picked up by a trawler, was received by the committee on public information from its representative in London.

Ensign Stone was given up for drowned several weeks ago, but after five weeks in a hospital he has returned to London. The perils through which the two men passed safely constitute one of the thrilling incidents of the seaplane patrol cooperating with the fleet convoys.

"I left our station in a British seaplane as pilot," said Ensign Stone, "with Sub-Lieut Eric Moore of the Royal naval air service as observer, at 7 a. m. Our duty was to convoy patrol. When two hours out having met our ship coming from the westward, we thought we sighted a periscope ahead and turned off in pursuit. We lost our course. Our engine 'dropped load' and at half past eleven o'clock forced us to land on the surface in a rough sea.

Released Carrier Pigeons.

"We had no life or radio aero to call for assistance, so we released our two carrier pigeons. We tied a message with our position and the word 'sinking' on each. The first, the blue barred one flew straight off and reached home. But the other, which was white-checked lit on our machine and would not budge until Moore threw our navigation clock at him, which probably upset him so that he failed us.

"Heavy seas smashed our tail planes, which kept settling. I saw that they were pulling the machines down by the rear turning her over. At half-past two p. m. we capsized, climbing up the nose and 'over the top' to the underside of the pontoons.

"Our emergency ration had been in the observer's seat at the back, but we had been so busy trying to repair the motor and save ourselves from turning over that we did not remember this until too late. From now on for nearly four days, until picked up by a trawler, we were continually soaked and lashed by seas and with nothing to eat or drink. We had nothing to cling to, and so to keep from being washed overboard we got upon the same pontoon and hugged our arms about one another's bodies for the whole time.

"We suffered from thirst. I had a craving for canned peaches. Twice a drizzle came on, wetting the pontoon. We turned on our stomachs and lapped up the moisture, but the paint came off with salt and nauseated us.

Tins of Biscuit Float By.

"Our limbs grew numb. From time to time the wreckage from torpedoed ships would pass. Once two full biscuit tins came close enough to swim for, but then, in our weakened state, we knew that we would drown if we tried to get them. We did haul in a third tin and broke it open. It was filled with tobacco.

"We sighted a trawler about six o'clock on Tuesday evening. We waved at her for half an hour before she changed her course. We were both too weak to stand up and signal. We could only rise on our knees. Moore's hands were too swollen to hold a handkerchief, but I had kept my gloves on and was able to do so. The trawler moved warily around us, but finally threw life preservers at the end of a line. I yelled that we were too weak to grasp it. She finally hove to, lowered a boat and lifted us on board.

"Moore lost six toes from gangrene in hospital. My feet turned black, but decay didn't set in."

Every machine from the seaplane base and those from a station on the French coast had searched continuously for the aviators after the blue pigeon arrived, as did all the patrols and destroyers in the area.

Ensign Stone is a native of Norfolk, Va., born July 10, 1891. His mother, Mrs. Clara Stone, lives at the Red Gate apartments, Norfolk.

National Acre Plan.

Here is the "National acre" plan, the newest plan for farmers to help fight the Huns:

Set aside one acre of your farm to be planted and cultivated as the "National acre," the proceeds of which are to be used in buying thrift stamps. The idea is spreading over Georgia and South Carolina.

Cows Drunk on Apple Pulp.

Apple pulp shipped from a cider mill at Yakima, Wash., and fed as an experiment to dairy-cows on a Tieton ranch a few days ago made the animals so drunk that few of them were able to stand up and many of them staggered about like intoxicated men.

Ruthenians.

Ruthenian is the name given to Christian inhabitants of what was formerly known as "Little Russia," living in what is eastern Austria, and also in southeastern Poland. They use the ancient Greek liturgy translated into the old Slavonic tongue, though Roman Catholics professing obedience to the See of Rome. They have a married secular clergy, following what is known as the use of St. Basil. It should, however, be noted that the name is sometimes loosely applied in Canada to several Russian sects living in the West.

Testing Pleurisy With Coins.

A novel method of diagnosing pleurisy is described by P. Lereboullet in the Paris Medical. The examiner applies his ear to the patient's chest, closing his other ear, while coins are clinked at the patient's back. The sound of the coins coming through a healthy, normally aerated lung seems distant and dull, while through an affected lung, through solid or homogeneous tissue a clear, silvery, metallic ring is heard.

Truly King of Birds.

"Our national bird, the bald eagle, wild in its native haunts, is so large, so majestic, and flies with an evidence of so enormous strength, that one is impressed with the thought that here is the king of birds," writes T. Gilbert Pearson of the Audubon society. "On one occasion while eating my lunch in the shade of a little bush on a Southern prairie, I saw one carry off a lamb."

Advice for Letter Writers.

When sending a stamp in a letter instead of moistening one corner and sticking it to the paper, moisten a small spot in the center of the stamp and then affix it to your letter. The removal of a small part of the adhesive substance from the center in no way impairs the usefulness of the stamp; whereas it is often torn if the corner is fastened.

First Artesian Well.

The first artesian well to be bored in Europe of which data is available is the tube well at Grenelle, in France, which was sunk by the French government between 1834 and 1842, in the hope of obtaining a sufficient supply of water for Paris. The depth is 1,798 feet, at which level a prolific supply of water was reached.

Writer's Cramp.

Writer's cramp is a disease to which those who do much writing are liable toward middle age, and a person afflicted with it has no complete control over the muscles of the thumb, middle and forefinger. The typewriter has proved the best resource of those who suffer from the ailment.

Sing Care Away.

Someone has said that we can sing away our cares more easily than we can reason them away, and that is lucky for those of you girls whose logic is not your strong point. Whether your voice is weak or strong, try singing as a cure for the blues.

No Happy Medium.

Said the almost philosopher: "The fellow who used to hide his light under a bushel is now either unable to buy a bushel or has become so wealthy that he advertises that light with an outfit of star shells and skysearchers."

First-Known Envelope.

The first envelope of which there is any knowledge inclosed a letter sent in 1696, by Sir William Turnbull to Sir James Oglive. The epistle, with its coverings, is still preserved in the British museum.

On to Him.

"I can't live properly on $75 a week," complained the young man. "Yes, you can," said his guardian. "The real trouble is you want to live improperly."

Favors Absolute Abstention.

A recent report of British experts favors absolute abstention from strong drink, but supports the use of light wines and liquors.

Safety First in Canoes.

Rule 41144—When it is necessary for two persons to change seats in a canoe, run the canoe to the bank and let one of the occupants step out on dry land.—Rochester Herald.

Spurgeon's Philosophy.

To get, we must give; to accumulate, we must scatter; to make ourselves happy, we must make others happy.—C. H. Spurgeon.

Valuable to Cotton Growers.

A machine has been invented for chopping out young cotton plants, at the same time the crop is being cultivated.

Great Iceland Coal Fields.

The Iceland coal fields will supply 180,000,000 tons equal in quality to the Scottish coal.

China's Big Canal.

The Imperial Canal of China has a total length of 2,100 miles, which exceeds that of any other in the world.