

Paid in Full

By WALTER J. DELANEY

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For a dying man, Mark Walton was strangely jovial, cheery and reconciled. The flat had gone forth from his physician that his days were numbered, and when some twenty friends and relatives were invited to his home at a prescribed hour one afternoon, they stared at one another and then at the flower-decorated house, at an orchestra made up of violin, cello and sax in an alcove, and then through an open doorway into the capacious dining room, where a table was set gleaming with crystal and silver as though anticipatory of some rare festal occasion.

"I wonder what we are here for?" whispered a half-third cousin of their host to an equidistant relative. "Supposed it was to say good-by to a dying man," came the low-spoken response, "but the layout suggests a feast."

When dinner was announced and the guests trooped into the dining room they found Mr. Walton propped up in an invalid chair, pale and thin, but with a welcoming smile on his face. He remained at the table, but partook very sparingly of the meal, while urging his guests to enjoy a good dinner. He chatted familiarly with one and all of those present.

His niece, Estelle Bliss, a great favorite with the old man, sat at his right hand. The chair at his left was occupied by Alan Bruce. The latter was a young man in nowise related to Mr. Walton, but he had been a sort of occasional secretary for the latter off and on for a year.

"My friends," spoke Mr. Walton, when the sumptuous repast had been dispatched, "you include all the people, relatives and friends, for whom I have a warm sentiment of confidence and liking. I wish you to enjoy a pleasant evening—music and dancing and visiting together, and toward midnight when you have fully enjoyed yourselves I will meet you all in the library. There I wish to distribute my fortune among you."

There was a vast flutter among the throng. Suddenly vague hopes were raised. The envious ones looked at Estelle and Alan.

But all the innocent, gentle-hearted thought of Estelle was fidelity to this good old man, while Alan considered that he had been well paid for all he had done for a generous employer, and had no right to expect any share in the announced distribution.

"My physician, Mr. Walton," pursued, tells me I may live here a month. In another climate perhaps a half a year, so I am going away and you will probably never see me again. I want no squabbling over my small possessions when I am gone, but harmony and satisfaction among you all. I have converted my holdings into ready cash. Each of you will receive a sealed envelope containing what I have thought best and just to award you. I would prefer that none of you ever discloses the amount you have received.

Estelle and Alan drifted together, danced together, conversed together all the evening. They were very well acquainted and had become warm friends. When the good-night melody was played each one of the group passed into the library, received a sealed envelope, and Mr. Walton shook hands with them with a kindly word and they saw him for the last time, for he died on his journey South two days later.

Alan Bruce was startled and then mystified as he opened the envelope addressed to himself. It contained twenty one thousand dollar bills. In a corner of the envelope, however, wadded up as if it had got there accidentally, was a note, or rather what was left of it. The same bore an old date. The signature was torn off. It had been made out to "Robert Thorne," whoever he was, and was canceled by him. "Paid in full."

Alan placed the twenty thousand dollars in a safety deposit box and said nothing to anybody about it. But he did a deal of thinking. Somehow he felt that there must be some mistake. Had he got money intended for someone else. And then the mystery of the canceled note. He learned that it had leaked out that Estelle had received only five hundred dollars, and that many were cursing Mr. Walton for leaving so mean a pittance to his favorite niece. One day he met Estelle on the street.

"Mr. Bruce," she said, "I value your good opinion and I know you respected and esteemed Uncle Mark. People are condemning him because he left me only five hundred dollars. The truth is he acted most liberally, for we learned he had paid five thousand dollars father owed to a Mr. Thorne. Father is like another being since that terrible load is honorably lifted from his shoulders. Are you ill?"

No! Only electrified with a sudden illumination. In a flash Alan discerned that there had indeed been a mistake. The twenty thousand dollars and the canceled note were intended for Estelle and the five hundred dollars for himself!

He was so glad that this was reversed, so noble, so unselfish, that in her secret soul, Estelle Bliss held to the belief that he was the grandest man in the whole world. She was a waitress now, but oh, how joyfully she accepted Alan when he spoke of the love he could no longer restrain.

USE OF CAVALRY IN BATTLE

Roman and Greek Charioteers Were Formidable Foemen—German Tribes Disdained the Saddle.

In the old days when the Romans and Greeks fought furious battles, the charioteers drove their cars in all directions, hurled their javelins, and by the din and clatter of horses and wheels commonly threw the ranks of the enemy into disorder, and, making their way among the squadrons of the enemy's cavalry, leaped down from their chariots and fought on foot. The charioteers then withdrew, little by little, from the fight, and placed their chariots in such a way that if they were hard pressed they could readily retreat to their own side. Thus in battle they afforded the mobility of cavalry to the steadiness of infantry. Daily practice enabled them to pull up their horses when going at full speed on a steep slope, or run out on the pole and stand on the yoke, and to get nimbly back into the chariot.

With the introduction of cavalry in the later iron age came larger horses, but their use for this purpose seems to have been restricted to isolated areas. There is no doubt that the west German tribes, as late as the campaign of Caesar in Gaul, used only the shaggy pony. It is said in cavalry actions they held it disgraceful and slothful to use any kind of saddle, and instead of charging in squadrons they dismounted and fought on foot. As far as England is concerned, the art of riding seems to have been introduced by the Normans. The Saxons appear to have been but indifferent horsemen.

NOT A FEMINE ATTRIBUTE

Idea That Skirts Especially Pertain to the Weaker Sex is Completely Misleading.

If there is one thing presumably certain on this earth, in the opinion of most of us, it is that skirts are essentially feminine, and that the special feature of masculine attire is a bifurcated garment. But nothing is further from the truth. To this day the majority of the male element of the human race, so far as it wears clothes at all, is skirted. And in past times, not so very long ago, a gown down to the feet was the correct wear of respectability in civilized Europe. An anecdote told of St. Louis, king of France, illustrates this well. That monarch was the stoutest of warriors, a man whom to one knowing anything about world greatness of achieving of being effeminate, but on one occasion he seriously offered to exchange costumes with a richly dressed female relative who had blamed him for wearing the unpretentious garments he usually affected, which she said were unsuitable to a king. But she thought his gown was too plain for her, so declined the offer. Now, it is impossible to imagine a man like Louis even suggesting such a thing if the dress of men and women had not been practically identical, except for war and hunting. Indeed a glance at old pictures confirms this impression.

How Sardines Are Taken.

Sardines are taken in a peculiar way. A small-meshed net made of very fine blue thread is dropped into the water astern of a rowing boat. Two men pull the boat steadily along, while a third stands up and throws bait on each side of the net.

As the sardines try to pass through the meshes to reach the bait they are caught by the gills. Every now and again the men "haul in," detach the entangled fish, then cast out the net once more. Sometimes as many as five or six thousand fishes per day are thus taken, and the catch brings high prices.

But the value of these is discounted by the growing rust of bait. For this purpose salted cod's roe is used. It has to be obtained from Norway, and the price rises continually. The sardine does not mind this. Being somewhat of an epicure, it insists upon cod's roe or nothing.

Cost him what it may, the Breton fisher must bait with cod's roe or he will get no sardines.

Ants That Plant.

A species of ants living on the semi-arid plains of Texas cultivate areas of grass about their dwellings. On the cultivated space, which may have an area of ten to fifteen feet, only one kind of grass is allowed to grow, and it is said that the seeds of this grass are planted by the ants. Roads are laid out regularly, radiating from the hill across the plain, and the shoots of undesirable plants are promptly nibbled off as fast as they appear among the crops. When the harvest of the protected grass is ripe the ants collect the seeds and convey them along a radiating highway to the little rooms in their hills. Interesting and wonderful is the economy of these tiny insects. They may, when the colonies are large and numerous enough, do considerable damage to grain in fields where their mounds are reared and the clearings made.

Hope for Poets.

The world's literary circles are considerably wrought up at present over a Chinese poet who wrote his verses 3,000 years ago and who, therefore, is now a long time dead.

This should encourage all living poets. In order to be poets they must be poor and suffer the rebuffs of crude, heartless editors, but think of the happiness it must be to know that one will be remembered 3,000 years after one is dead.

MISSED THAT DAY OF REST

Tim Herlihy Naturally Dissatisfied at His Loss of That Much-Prized "Vacation."

"Now, I don't think Timmy'll be staying long on this new job he's took up wid," said Mrs. Herlihy. "Tis too hard for him. Sure he gets no rist at all from Monday mornin' till Saturday night, and 'tis not what the man's used to."

"He has his Sundays to rist in," hazarded the caller, boldly.

"An' what o' that?" said Mrs. Herlihy. "On Sunday he has to go to church, an' tak the children to their grandmama's an' visit wid his cousins an' all—'tis no rist at all."

"Twas wan day out of ivery fortnight he had wid the ould job, wa'n't it?" queried the caller.

"It was," said Mrs. Herlihy, "an' 'twas a grand vacation he had. I'd save ivery bit o' the washin' an' he'd wring it out fine, an' hang it on the line for me; thin he'd saw 'n' split wood enough to last till the next vacation day, an' he'd bate ivery mat in the house an' shine up the faucets an' the b'iler, an' wash the windys, an' there'd always be some little extra help, drivin' nails or the like, he'd give me."

"An' whin he'd go to his bed at night he'd never fall to say to me, 'Well, Celia, my vacation day is over, but I feel like it's made me ready to go back to wurk to-morrow,' he'd say."—Youth's Companion.

GIRLS HELPED BY DANCING

English Medical Officer of Health Makes Significant Statement in a Recent Report.

That twice as many girls as boys squint is one of the conclusions arrived at by Dr. W. H. Hamer, medical officer of health.

In his report on London school children, he attributes girls' poorer eyesight to sewing classes in school in the late afternoon while the light is at its worst, and when, in the winter months, artificial light has to be used. Girls, however, according to Dr. Hamer, have better teeth than boys, due to the fact that it is easier to persuade the former to use a tooth-brush than the latter. Girls suffer, because of lack of outdoor games and sports, more than boys from heart defects and anaemia.

But, in spite of all these disadvantages, the police and department of London girls is superior to that of boys. Country boys and girls both fall short of the London girl in this respect.

Particularly noticeable is the graceful arch of her instep, due to her love of dancing. This, and the teaching of dancing, is said to have greatly helped, if it has not saved, the situation in regard to physical development.—London Tit-Bits.

Money in Seaweed.

All along the coast of Norway seaweed is gathered and burned. This seaweed grows in vegetable forests, and is not of the common grass variety. In fact, there are actual trees of it five or six feet high, with stems like ropes and leaves tough as leather. They begin to sprout early in the year and cover the ocean bed with a dense, impenetrable brush. As a source of income the seaweed industry now surpasses the fisheries, and it is more valuable than agriculture, even in one of the leading farming districts of Norway. Owners of land abutting on the seashore reap a great harvest.

After the weeds have been burned the ashes are exported to England, where valuable chemical substances are extracted from them. The most important of these products is iodine.

Detour When Necessary.

Many people flatly refuse to take detours. The consequence is they remain right where they are. Either they do not possess the necessary patience and energy or they have an inflated notion that they can disregard life's laws. Of course you can sit down and fossilize wherever you want to so long as you don't impede the progress of others. But people who want to get on in life take the detours and make the most of them. They are no fonder of life's grades and dangerous ditches than other people, but they want to get somewhere. So they make the venture. And when they keep their eyes and ears open, and keep control of their progress there is little danger of falling in safe conduct. Meanwhile they are adapting themselves to circumstances and getting a grip on the world. They are learning how the people who always live on the detour have to struggle to get along. The knowledge will be helpful in the days that are to be.

Lost Honors Magellan Won.

An astrologer deprived Ruy Faleiro, the famous Spanish astronomer, of sharing joint honors with Ferdinand Magellan in the discovery of the Pacific ocean and the straits of Magellan. He had joint contract with Magellan from Charles V under which the two were to have one-twenty-fifth of the clear profits of the journey as well as governorship of all the lands discovered on the trip, with the rank of adelantados. This was to be theirs for life and then handed down to their heirs forever. Before the date of sailing Faleiro had his horoscope cast. The astrologer said that this told him the trip would be fatal, and Faleiro stayed behind when Magellan and his five ships sailed from Seville, Spain.

To Renovate Old Oil Paintings.

When old oil paintings have become dark and cracked they may be made to look like new by the following process, says the Illustrated World: Pour alcohol in a dish and put the picture over it, face downward. The fumes of the alcohol dissolve the paint of the picture, the cracks close up and the color becomes more fresh. Caution is absolutely necessary, as the paint may become so soft as to run together, thus spoiling the whole picture.

Peculiar Strike.

One of the novel strikes on record was that of smugglers which occurred on the German-Polish frontier some years ago. Extensive smuggling operations were being carried on, principally through women who crossed into Germany two or three times a day in ragged clothing, returning in costumes of the latest fashion. From the smuggling organization the women received less than 50 cents a day, so they struck for higher wages, and won.

Bird of Marked Peculiarities.

The yellow-breasted chat is an eccentric bird both when it is singing and in flying. When these birds sing their musical effort seems to require a great deal of flirting of the tail and twisting of the head; and even when they are flying their tail jerks up and down, giving them a strange appearance. The song of this bird is scarcely worthy of the name, having been called a "series of grotesque syllables."

First Opera in England.

In 1658 there was produced "The Siege of Rhodes: Made a Representation by the Art of Perspectives in Scenes and the story sung in recitative Music," which a writer in the Dictionary of National Biography characterized as "in some respects the most epoch-making play in the language." It was virtually the first opera produced in England.

New Wax From South America.

A wax used for candles in Colombia, as yet unknown to the outside world, is obtained from the leaves of the wax palm of the Andes. It has a melting point as high as 93 degrees Cent., while that of carnauba wax from Brazil is 84 degrees, and that of candella wax from Mexico is only about 70 degrees.

International Courtesy.

Foreign vessels entering United States ports are obliged to display only the flag of the country to which they belong. It is customary, however, for steamers to carry the United States flag at the forepeak when entering United States ports, but this is merely a matter of international courtesy and is not compulsory.

Watch as Compass.

To use the watch as a compass, bring the watch into a position so that the hour hand is pointing toward the sun. The south then lies midway between whatever hour it may be and the numeral XII on the dial of the watch.

New and Old Books.

In science, read, by preference, the newest works; in literature, the oldest. The classic literature is always modern. New books revive and re-decorate old ideas; old books suggest and invigorate new ideas.—Butler Lytton.

Good Reason.

Jud Timkins says he's got to send his boy to college for the reason that the youngster has gotten to be so smart that a college is the only place he'll find anybody with brains enough to give him an argument.

Keep Money From the Heart.

Money in the hand is a good thing if it isn't allowed to get into the heart. If it is only in the hand it is kept in circulation; if allowed to get into the heart it is hoarded away.

Using a Doorway.

The unused doorway makes an effective hoarse. The door should be locked and treated as the back of the case. Shelves can be set in the entire door space or the lower half.

Hardened in Life's Crucible.

No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty; none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned.—Lincoln.

A Mellowed Mood.

Jud Timkins says he doesn't want to be made younger, for the reason that he doesn't want to be bothered trouncing any more baseball umpires.

And Succeeding.

Most of the economic sorrow which a nation suffers arises from the greed of men trying to sneak selfish advantages over others for profit.

How Would You Like It?

Preparatory to giving the elephant in captivity his bath his body is gone over entirely with a sheet of sandpaper.

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For the Telephone Girl—"I Hear You Calling Me."—Boston Transcript.

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