

PLACES FOR TWO

By MILDRED WHITE.

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Sarah drew aside the ruffled curtain to look down the country road. It was not a cheery outlook, with rain making pools of the deep worn ruts, and somber clouds turning the twilight to darkness. But Sarah took in the view philosophically, just as she took the cheerlessness and somberness of her own life.

Time had been, years ago, when the roadside cottage was a house of mirth, merry with young people's laughter and comfortable with the protecting presence of the old.

Sarah's parents had long since passed to their reward, while the sisters, who were all older than she, lived in various distant homes, more or less selfishly absorbed in their own families. Sarah had clung to the old place, at first through duty to her older invalids, then because there was no place else to go.

She managed to keep the cottage heated and comfortable; to tend and sing over the vegetables in her garden to keep there, aside, a little plot of flowers with which to cheer the sick or rejoice, perhaps, in some affair of the living.

Sarah was always glad when the stories ended happily, and sometimes, after she had laid the paper aside, she would sit in the cozy, silent room before the fire, picturing to herself a romance which might have been her own. Sarah was sixty now—a good, wholesome, pink-cheeked sixty—but she had put her hope of love aside.

She lighted another yellow shaded lamp in the small yellow dining room and moved about setting the supper table.

She smiled with a sort of weary amusement as she put down a second cup and plate opposite her own, then added a knife and fork for company.

For twenty years Sarah had been doing this same useless thing. It seemed less like being alone to see that other place ready—and waiting, almost as if the door might open at any moment to admit her companion. Then when the supper was quite ready Sarah went out to the stable to shut up old Moll for the night.

Moll was the white horse, and Sarah's desolation so preyed upon her out there in the rain and the darkness that she was tempted to linger beside old Moll, just to feel the comfort of a living presence. And as she stumbled up the steps of the back porch she came all at once face to face with the human presence of a smilingly apologetic and very old man.

Raindrops were gleaming on his white beard, rivulets ran from the brim of his felt hat.

"Beg pardon, ma'am," said the old man gently, "but I reckon I've come pretty far in the storm and can't get out to where I was goin'. Kin I dry up a spell by your fire which shines through the window? It looks mighty fine, I must say." And as the old man's request was coupled with a very evident shiver, Sarah's protective heart immediately responded.

"Go right in ahead of me," she said cordially; "it ain't no time for formalities."

But when the old man was rid of his overcoat and was resting in Sarah's father's arm chair he smiled again in his deprecatory way and took a card from his pocket.

"That's my name," he said, "Ebenzer Styles. Reckon you're acquainted with young E. Styles? Well, he's my son."

"Eben Styles," Sarah repeated, averted, "the lawyer down to the village—him, your son? Hadn't you better telephone to keep him from worryin' for fear you ain't coming back."

The old man sadly shook his head.

"The only thing that'll worry Eben or leastways Eb's wife," he said slowly, "is the fear that I will come back. Seems I kind of make 'em shamed all the time. Eb's wife she ain't been used to my kind. An' reckon—"

The wrinkled face lit up with grim humor. "Reckon I don't never want to get used to her kind. So when I telephone 'em it'll be just to say that I ain't goin' back."

"But what," asked Sarah wonderingly, "do you go in to do?"

"That," Ebenzer Styles replied, "will be decided later. I've sold property, an' I get my interest regular from the money what I sold 'em for."

"Just now, then," Sarah said briskly, "come an' have a little supper."

The old man looked hesitatingly at the table laid so neatly for two. "You was expectin' company," he said; "ain't I puttin' somebody out?"

"For twenty years," she said, "I bin expectin' somebody, an' until tonight nobody ever came."

Long the man and woman sat in the sunshine of the yellow lamp, with the storm but an echo outside, pouring into each other's sympathetic and understanding ears a story of lonely years past.

"For being with just folks," Ebenzer told her, "can't always keep one from bein' lonesome; why, when I used to walk up here an' sit to the side of the road a-watchin' an' watchin' you in your garden, seemed you must be like—ma. Seemed it'd be mighty nice if I could work beside you there. But land!" he exclaimed, "you will think I'm queer goin' on like this."

Sarah's eyes were visionary. "You watched me?" she asked slowly, "in my garden?"

Ebenzer nodded.

"My, you are like ma," he said admiringly.

"And this was Sarah's romance.

BEAVERS DO MUCH MISCHIEF

Property Owners in the Adirondacks Are Uneasy Over the Situation They Have Created.

Because the limited intelligence of the beaver goes no farther than its own immediate purposes, owners of property in the Adirondacks are wishing that the beaver was less industrious and seriously wondering what is to be done to stop the increasing number of these willing workers from decreasing the value and beauty of this famous region. The forest rangers of the conservation commission, says a writer in the Albany Journal, last summer estimated the undesirable results that had followed the building of nearly 900 beaver dams, and found that an area of about 8081 acres had been flooded, and something like \$51,000 worth of good merchantable standing timber was being destroyed. Considering that the number of beavers, now estimated at about 18,000 is believed to be increasing about 3,000 a year, the damage bids fair to become a serious problem. Not only do they destroy valuable timber, but they are steadily changing the character of the Adirondack scenery along the water courses and altering the shore line of the lakes; yet the region without any beavers at all would not be the Adirondacks as nature made it and as those who now go there to enjoy its beauty like to find it. Time was when the beavers seemed likely to vanish, and the state took them under its protection; now the danger seems to be that they are so well protected that they will eventually "come back" in numbers out of proportion to the normal population of beavers when the Adirondacks were subject to the conditions of life in a wild country.


LONG PUZZLE TO SCIENTISTS

Strange Work Left by Mound Builders Never Has Had Anything Like Satisfactory Explanation.

The Serpent Effigy mound, near Chillicothe, Ohio, the strangest earthwork left by the Mound Builders, is one of the most striking and puzzling creations that is to be found in the Scioto River valley. Over all the mound is more than 1,300 feet long, and depicts a serpent of several convolutions, jaws extended, and an oval within the grasp of the huge jaws. The groundwork is from two to four feet in height, and from three or four to 20 feet in thickness. Within the oval, beyond the extended jaws, archeologists have found an altar of stones and copper ornaments.

An old Indian fighter who died in the West several years ago, nearly 100 years old, declared he had heard a story in his younger days of a tribe of strange Indians in the Scioto valley who each year held a fall festival and gave a great powwow on a snake's back. He said he never could understand the meaning of the story until later in life when he heard of the Mound Builders. His recollection of the story had been given to students of the mounds, might have served to give them new theories on which to base their research work. He said the strange race were supposed to sacrifice a certain number of children born under the first full moon of spring. For this the Mound Builders might have used the stone altar which has been found.

YOUR RED CROSS



The American Red Cross, by its Congressional charter, is officially designated:

To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, in accordance with the conventions of Geneva.

To act in matters of voluntary relief and as a medium of communication between the American people and their Army and Navy.

To continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods and other great calamities.

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BATCH OF SMILES

Boils.
Knecker—The sorehead boils.
Bocker—And the soreheart boils together.—New York Sun.

A Clean Sweep.
Vacationist—You say the city takes everything you raise. Farmer—Yes! And that includes the help we raise.

A Lady Candidate.
"Was the candidate ruffled?"
"No, she wore a severely tailored model."

Aqueous.
She—They say he's quite devoted to aquatic sports. He—Yes, he drinks like a fish, you know.

Visually Evident.
She (at swell function)—I barely got here.
He (observantly)—So I see.

A Past Joy.
"Pa, what is alcoholic content?"
"Alas, my son, it is something no more to be felt."

Might Prejudice Him.
"Does your fiancée know that you are a poet?"
"Yes, but I am trying to keep it from her father."

Fitting Theft.
"Where did the other actor steal your thunder?"
"In his lightning change."

By Wear.
Dilks—"That's a worsted suit you're wearing, isn't it?"
Dabbs (fighting the H. C. L., proudly)—"Badly."

A Mix-Up.
John Alden approached Priscilla.
"Are you sure you are the right nominating committee?" she asked.

The Doctor—Wrong Ring.
"Hello! Yes, I can come immediately. What seems to be the trouble?"
"Engine trouble."

Fitting One.
"What key would you pitch this military march in?"
"Any, so it is a major key."

In the Shadow.
"Do you know Quarterly?"
"Not at all; I've only met him when he was with his wife."—Life.

His Nature.
"That man is always thinking of apartments." "I suppose he is of a room-hating disposition."

The Case.
"In these days if you want a home, sweet home, you must see sharp."
"Yes, or it will be a flat."

Sometimes.
"Practice makes perfect."
"Takes a long time, though, on the piano."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Naturally So.
"Surf bathing always continues in high style, doesn't it?"
"Yes, it is awfully swell."

Doubtful.
"Do you really believe the witness is telling the naked truth?"
"Well, that is a bare inference."

She Knows.
Jane—"What is the best time to get married?"
Aunt Jane—"The first chance you get."

Explained.
"Walter, this coffee is nothing but mud." "Yes, sir; it was ground this morning."

Embellishes It.
"Agnes is an awful gossip. She tells all she hears." "Oh, she tells a lot more than that."


Always Him Leap.
Hewitt—"The frog would a wooling go."
Jewett—"Why not? It is always leap year for the frog."

A Practical Girl.
"I offered to marry him on condition."
"That your father consents?"
"No, that Harold finds a flat."

The Magic Distance.
Guest—You advertised a magnificent view.
Proprietor—Yes, you can see three miles out at sea.

Loss Almost Total.
First Professor—I lost half of my week's wages yesterday. Second Ditto—What did you do with the other \$27?
But Daddy Couldn't.
Little Betty-Lou watched her father as he worked with his automobile, and was particularly interested in the fact that he was being annoyed by flies that persistently alighted on his neck and face. Finally one persistent insect found lodgment on his nose and Betty-Lou felt galled on to offer a suggestion, which she did in this wise: "Oh, daddy! Can't you shimmy that fly off your face?"
Took All Precautions.
"Yes, my house is fully covered by insurance," said the proud new owner. "It's protected against everything imaginable, including explosions of some brew."—Kansas City Star.

All The Family



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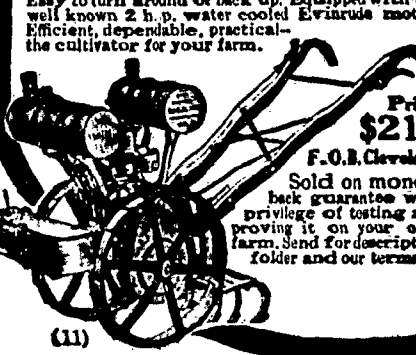
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JOKE ON BOTH "CHAPPIES"

Some Particulars About Their English Raiment With Which They Were Not Acquainted.

It isn't exactly their swell brand of golf that entitles them to be so decidedly English in their apparel, but they've a "fawney" for the English raiment just the same.

"How do you like my English cap, old chap?" one of them asked.

"It's a turtle, old dear, but it isn't quite so English as mine," the other said.

"Oh, mine is, quite."
"No, not nearly."
And so they compared caps. But when they looked at the names of the makers it was discovered by the "decidedly English" follower that his cap had been made in New York. The other bore a London label—and, of course, you understand, old chap, it was quite a "lawf."

And the funny feature of it all is that the New York cap was made to appeal to the English trade, while the London cap was designed to catch the fancy of the Yank.

FIRST AID TRAINING TO MEN AND WOMEN

American Red Cross Is Teaching Hundreds of Thousands Life-Saving Methods.

The purpose of instruction in First Aid to the injured offered by the American Red Cross is to train men and women to administer First Aid treatment promptly and intelligently when emergencies demand it. First Aid treatment is not intended to take the place of a physician's service. A surgeon should always be summoned as a precautionary measure where there is an injury of any consequence, but when one cannot be secured a few minutes' delay may mean a fatality. In such a case a person trained in First Aid is invaluable not only to the individual, but through him to the community in which he lives.

There is perhaps no way of ascertaining the number of deaths or serious disabilities which result from lack of proper safeguards or prompt emergency treatment. It is safe to assert they number thousands daily. There can be no doubt that the application of First Aid methods to each case would immeasurably lighten the country's toll of suffering and death.

The dissemination of First Aid training and information has already produced a far-reaching and beneficial influence in the prevention of accidents on railroads, in mines and in great industrial concerns.

The benefit of a widespread knowledge of First Aid in the event of a great disaster, such as a train wreck, an explosion, an earthquake, etc., is obvious. Laymen who have had First Aid training can render efficient assistance. Many lives may depend upon such emergency care.

Red Cross First Aid work includes (1) the formation and conduct, through Red Cross chapters, of classes for instruction in accident prevention and First Aid to the injured among men and women in all communities and in every industry; (2) the introduction of courses of instruction in high schools and colleges.

The Red Cross is prepared to supply First Aid books and equipment at reasonable prices.

Every person in his own interest, receive Red Cross First Aid instruction. Information about the course and instruction classes may be had at the nearest chapter headquarters.

MUSCLE NOT PROPERLY APPLIED.

Every day evidence appears that the American male is physically more powerful than his ancestors. The burglar who entered an apartment on Central Park West carried off not merely the little valuables, but also a safe weighing 400 pounds. Two thieves who operated in a restaurant in business hours abandoned the old school method of snatching the money from the till and took the cash register intact. Not a week passes but some warehouse reports the theft of a dozen barrels of whisky each of which weighs at least 350 pounds. School playgrounds, the baseball fields and the gymnasiums seem to have done wonders for the biceps of our youth in certain lines. But why is it, when an effort is made to divert some of this magnificent strength to commonplace work, that an apparent disintegration of muscle ensues?—New York Sun.

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ICE CUT WITH A GAS-DRIVEN SAW.

For the purpose of cutting ice expeditiously during the last winter, there was devised a saw of an automobile type power plant and a circular saw at the end of an adjustable arm, so that the saw can be raised and lowered to the desired degree. The saw is pushed along on steel runners, the operator behind furnishing the motive power. A double lever arrangement just over the handle bars serves to control the raising and lowering of the saw. The portable saw in question cuts the ice into 20-foot squares. These squares are guided through the water to a gang of four circular saws, which cut the squares into the regulation sized cakes.

WOULDN'T HAVE DARED TO SAY IT.

A recent bride received many telegrams of congratulation on the eventful day, but there was one in particular, which was out of the ordinary. Her sister lives in New York and came on to Brockton for the wedding. In the evening the following telegram was received from her sister's "hubby" in New York:

"Congratulations on having taken my wife from me if only for a day. If you keep her there, will consider the marriage a great success. Heartiest condolences to F— in having joined the family. He doesn't know what he is up against and my great consolation is that I have a fellow sufferer who can sympathize with me regularly."

At first Mrs. M—was angry, but finally consented to have it read.—Brockton Enterprise.


RED CROSS EXTENDS RELIEF TO POLAND

More than \$5,000,000 has been spent by the American Red Cross in aiding the stricken people of Poland. The organization has nursed the sick, fed the starving, clothed the naked, sheltered the homeless, schooled the children and cared for the orphans there. It has conducted a relentless fight against typhus, cholera and other terrible diseases. So today millions of men and women in that resurrected nation speak in grateful appreciation of "The Greatest Mother in the World."

Nearly 200 American Red Cross workers are now engaged in relief activities in Poland. Four large relief bases are in operation and eleven mobile units are in the field. During the last twelve months this organization was largely instrumental in the re-establishment of a million refugees at a cost for general relief of more than \$1,000,000. Last winter one-half million war orphans were aided materially, and since then a series of large orphanages have been established to give them permanent care.

But for American Red Cross aid, officials of Poland declared recently, millions of people in that country would have perished of disease, exposure or starvation the last eighteen months. And the work there must be kept up for another year.

QUALTOP BEVERAGES



JAPAN'S TRADE WITH NORTH AMERICA.

Japan's trade with North America for the first quarter of this year amounted to 201,824,000 yen in exports and 276,934,000 yen in imports, the balance being 75,110,000 yen. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the figures show an increase of 114,343,000 yen in exports and of 102,744,000 yen in imports. The principal article for export was raw silk, while principal imports comprised raw cotton and iron.—East and West News.

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