

**THE TOP ROUND OF THE LADDER.**

(Original.)  
Camilla Deming was a country girl who went to the city to join in the literary scramble. Ambitious and possessing some means, she intended to eschew the drudgery of editorial work and strike at once into authorship. But one man in her native village was sufficiently intellectual to secure her friendship, Curtis Forster, a young physician who had studied his profession in town and returned to practice it in the country. He was plodding and practical. He strongly advised her to choose a role offering greater chances of success, that of wife and mother, with himself for the husband, and when she refused begged her if she were unsuccessful to consider the offer still open.

She had met with some success by writing stories for the country papers and began in her new field with others more finished, it is true, but the same simple work that had so pleased her neighbors. Occasionally she would dispose of one of them to a magazine, but at the end of a year after figuring up her net proceeds she had gained but a twentieth of her expenditures.

She had brought with her from the country a bit of editorial work, which had remained in the bottom of her trunk. Feeling that she should make an effort to add something to her income for the next year even if it were not by her chosen creative work, she took out this manuscript, smoothed the crumpled pages and looked it over. It consisted of a series of selections from the most affecting scenes in the works of Washington Irving, to each of which she had written a brief introduction, admirably imitating the author's style. It was accepted, and the book made a hit. The author's income for the year from this source was equal to her expenditures. Her publisher suggested the writing of another similar book made up of extracts from the humor of a noted author.

The publisher's suggestion was accompanied by so handsome an offer that she accepted. The second book was more popular than the first and the proceeds derived many times larger. Then commenced a scramble among publishers for the works of Camilla Deming. Success is gratifying in any form, and the young author was very much delighted with hers. She did not now consider her work merely editorial. At any rate, she saw in it an opening for her own creations. She had long had on hand a novel which from time to time she had submitted to publishers, then revised and retitled again, always with the same "Unavailable." Selecting one of her publishers who were now begging her for her work, she placed it in his hands, and it was published immediately.

About this time she received a note from Dr. Forster congratulating her on her progress. She replied in a vein of exultation, giving with charming naivete the remark of her last publisher, "You will soon be at the top of the ladder if you don't marry." Forster replied, "Marry and turn the ladder upside down." The novel was a success. Though not as successful as the two previous books, still it sold well. Camilla waited before entering upon any new work till this fact had been established, then went to her publisher for a conference. He told her that there was a demand for a work like her previous ones and suggested that she take up Thackeray and extract scenes as she had done with Irving.

Somehow the advice fell on Camilla like a wet blanket. She was at a turning point in her career. What should she do? She felt the need of some one in whom she had confidence to assist her in seeing the problem in its true light. Packing her belongings, she took a train for home. Arriving there, she sent for Dr. Forster, stated her case and asked his advice. He took a copy of each of her three books and promised to see her when he had carefully read them. In a few days he called upon her with his report, which she well knew would be the plain, unvarnished truth:

"The sale of your first two books was based on the genius of another. Publishers, in order to secure that which they were sure of selling, so flattered you that they partly convinced you that your success was largely due to your own effort. Your novel is pleasing, but not a work of genius."

Camilla drew a long sigh—the sigh of one bitterly disappointed. "Camilla," the doctor went on, "what is this you lament—that you are not pre-eminent in creating imaginary beings who are intended to move before us like real people, enact their triumphs and weep at their failures? It is a noble field, I admit, a field in which there have been but few real masters, but there is a nobler one. In it the characters are real and come from the great Creator. It is a field into which I would myself gladly enter if you would consent to enter it with me. If you will abandon the fictitious and take up the real, your characters will be a husband who adores you and children whose being is not the fanciful emanation of your brain, but a part of yourself. The scene of your romance will be a real home; the hopes, fears, success, failures of your story those of an actual united family."

Before he had finished the doctor had advanced and taken her in his arms. When he had concluded, Camilla pondered awhile, then, looking up with a smile and a twinkle, said: "You've turned the ladder upside down, and I'm on the top round."

JACQUELINE BARRINGTON.

**Farm and Garden**

**WINTERING BEES.**

Packing Colonies in Straw in an Open Storm Shed.

At the back side of the bee building at the Montana experiment station and running the length of it is a room with a dirt floor fitted up with two skeleton shelves of 2 by 4 so that some forty or fifty colonies of bees may be wintered under as nearly normal conditions as possible, with the entrances connected with the outside, permitting the bees to fly at will.

Above these rooms in the gable roof is ample storage room for empty hives and for surplus combs when not in use for the honey harvest.

During the first two winters prior to the erection of this bee house experiments were carried on in outdoor wintering and in packing a number of colonies in straw under one roof. The experiments during the last two years were not only modified by the indoor wintering with packing only above the colonies, but also by packing colonies in straw in an open shed against the side of the house. (See the accompanying figures.)



SHELTER FOR BEEHIVES.

Outdoor wintering is usually accomplished in chaff hives, and one great objection is the expensiveness of these hives. Otherwise, since it is the most normal condition for bees, this method is to be recommended for inexperienced beekeepers. The feature of these chaff hives is a double wall with from three to eight inches of space between the walls on all sides, including the bottom, filled with some nonconductor of heat like straw, chaff, paper or ground cork. The effect of this packing is to retain the heat and at the same time permit the moisture produced by the bees to pass off.

To further permit moisture to escape the oil or carriage cloth quilt used in summer is removed and a canvas quilt placed over the frames. Above this newspapers, a piece of old quilting or a chaff tray may be used to retain the heat. Then above this material to retain the heat there should be an open space with free ventilation, accomplished by auger holes through the gable ends of the roof. The roof and whole hive should be thoroughly painted and the hive placed several inches off the ground to prevent freezing and thawing and the attendant soaking up of water. The entrance formed by a bridge passageway through the packing at the usual place is contracted to

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HIVES IN PLACE.

[Ready for a winter protection of boards and straw to be put across the front.] an inch or so for the winter. There should be in most instances no trouble in wintering bees so packed if they are stored in numbers and with plenty of stores.—Montana Experimental Station.

**Dried Leaves Useful.**  
Plenty of dried leaves should be gathered for bedding and to bank up cellars and pits, suggests American Cultivator. Bog hay is also good for this purpose. In some localities large areas of brook hay and bog hay have this year not been considered worth cutting for stock, but now that work is not so pressing some farmers could find time to cut this grass for bedding and mulch. Simply mow it, leave it for a day or two, then turn the swaths, and next day it will be cured well enough for these purposes.

**An Osage Hedge.**  
An osage hedge if trimmed up five or six feet may be converted into a first class hog and cattle tight fence by adding about six barbed wires, writes a farmer in Iowa Homestead. In a year or two when the branches grow out again over the wire it makes an impregnable barrier to live stock's exit or entrance.

**Care of the Horses.**  
Since your horse does for you the work you cannot do yourself you are under obligation to do for your horse the work your horse cannot do for himself—eat and brush him.—Farm Journal.

**Telltale Bibles.**  
A dealer in secondhand books advertised the other day for old Bibles belonging to the families that have lately come into prominence. "Do they want them as heirlooms?" asked a customer who had read the advertisement. "Not a bit of it," said the dealer. "They want the Bibles because they contain a record of births; consequently they reveal ages—women's ages, presumably. Very often dealers in old books are asked to look up inconvenient documentary evidence of that kind. Before days of affluence the family Bibles got lost in the shuffle of moving around. Nobody thought much about the loss then, but with the advent of prosperity the books could easily be come a source of mortification to many women if they happened to fall into the hands of malicious persons; hence the frantic attempts to gather all such records into the family."—New York Post.

**WANTED**—Reliable, energetic man to sell lubricating oils, greases and paints in Marion and adjoining counties. Salary or commission.  
**FAIRFAX REFINING CO.**  
CLEVELAND, OHIO.

**LADY WANTED**  
Finest industrious woman wanted to introduce our large line of fancy and staple dress goods, waists, trimmings, etc., among friends, neighbors and townpeople. We also manufacture a full line of perfumes and toilet articles, no soap should be able to earn \$20 or more weekly. Dealings direct from the mills our prices are low and patterns exclusive. No money required. Write us for full particulars.  
**Standard Dress Goods Co.**  
Department 9, Blington, N. Y.

**WANTED**—Second hand bags and burlap any kind, any quantity, anywhere; we pay freight.  
**Richmond Bag Company, Richmond, Va.**

**Administrator's Sale.**  
Notice is hereby given that I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the home place, of the late Martha Jackson, on Monday, Feb. 15th, 1909 at 2 o'clock P. M., a quantity of corn, fodder, hay, three mules, several boxes, quantity of farming utensils, wagons, buggies, household furniture, etc., all of which belong to the estate of Martha Jackson, deceased.  
**William S. Jackson, Administrator.**

**SEWING MACHINES**—When you are in need of a Sewing Machine, why not buy the best? The Singer or Wheeler & Wilson cheap for cash or on easy terms. Your credit is good with me. All kinds of repair work done promptly! Needles, oil and fixtures always in stock.  
**J. C. McCormac.**

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We have opened up a novelty shop and are prepared to do all kinds of scroll and turned work, such as Columns, Balusters, Brackets, Etc., also Mantels, Grills, Etc., and all kinds of

**GIN REPAIRING**

such as Sharpening, Saws, Refilling Brushes Babiting, Balancing, Etc.

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DILLON S. C.

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**PRACTICALLY FREE**

We issue cards with numbers running from 5c. up, and when cash purchases or paid on account amount to \$3.50 you hand in the card with 31c, and we have issued you a one thousand dollar accident policy from United States Health and Accident Insurance Co. of Saginaw, Mich. good for one year.

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RATES:

4 Suits per month, - - -	\$1.00
1 Suit pressing, - - - -	.50
1 Suit cleaning, - - - -	.75
1 pr. Pants pressing, - - -	.2
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1 Coat cleaning, - - - -	.50

Monthly Club rates in advance. Clothes called for and delivered to Club members.

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Game, Oysters, and Fish are served in every style.

When housekeepers want meals served at their homes, ring 132, give your orders and McCall will do the rest.

All orders will be filled in a satisfactory manner.

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Results are what the farmer is looking for. Read the following and judge for yourself.

Acme Manufacturing Co.,  
Wilmington, N. C.  
Sumter, S. C., Jan. 16th, 1909

Gentlemen:—  
In answer to your inquiry, I would say that I have used your Quick Step Fertilizers (8-4-4) on my farms for two years past. I used it for both cotton and corn, and it gave splendid satisfaction. Quick Step is a fine fertilizer. In fact I do not think there is any better fertilizer on the market. I have also recommended it to several parties who have used it and all of them have been highly pleased with it. I expect to use it again this year. Knowing the high character of the fertilizer and the excellent results obtained from its use, I give me pleasure to recommend it.

Yours Very Truly,  
**A. C. DURANT.**

Mr. Durant is one of the largest, most successful and intelligent farmers in South Carolina. There are hundreds of others who will give the same testimony.

Made only by  
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Our fertilizers are sold by reliable dealers everywhere. If your dealer will not supply you, write us.

**Making More Money Out of Cotton Crops**  
is merely a question of using enough of the right kind of fertilizers.

**Virginia-Carolina Fertilizers**  
are the right kind.  
The cotton plant cannot feed on barren land. Study your soil. Find out what it lacks. Then apply the necessary fertilization and the results will surprise you.

See what Mr. W. C. Hays of Smith Station, Ala., did. He says: "I planted about 30 acres of some 'gray sandy land' that had been in cultivation for over 20 years, and used 300 pounds of Virginia-Carolina Fertilizers per acre, and I expect to gather 50 bales from the 30 acres." This is why we say it is the right kind. We have hundreds of letters like this, and even stronger, in praise of Virginia-Carolina Fertilizer for cotton.

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**Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co.**

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