

LIVING AND THE DEAD

By JOHN M'FEE.

As he bolted from the ferry and lunged himself into the cab, Lieutenant Barker felt all the exhilaration of heroism. He was just home from the Philippines and his mind was burdened with a message from a dead comrade to his wife—and that wife Barker's old and lost sweetheart.

His telegram had prepared the way and he was admitted at once. Mrs. Moffat came to him almost as soon as he reached the parlor. She held out her hand and threw back her head in the manner so characteristic of her girlhood days that the young officer was startled at the small change time had made with her.

"I am very glad to see you," she said simply. "And I am only sorry that your visit must be so brief. Must it be so?"

"Yes," he replied. "I must go to Washington at once—to report. I am sorry, too, because I would like to renew old acquaintance. I came here first, even before I fulfilled my duty to the government because I was charged with a message from my friend—your husband—a last message given on his deathbed."

"Yes," was all she said, and her expression was so imperturbable that the officer paused and glanced at her keenly.

The lieutenant took a packet of papers from his breast pocket.

"George asked me to give these papers to you," he said, "and as his friend—and—and—yours, I undertook the commission. I was with him when he died and—you know—this comradeship is a very close tie." He ended weakly and wiped his face.

"Is there nothing else?" she asked.

"Did he leave no verbal message?"

Barker went white to his fingertips. There was something else, but how could he tell this splendid woman, whom he loved better—aye, a thousand times better—than the man who had married her, that her husband died with the name of another woman on his lips? And she had asked him



She Walked to the Window.

for the burning words which should have come from her dying husband's lips, but which had welled up for another woman.

"A lie is always bad," he said to himself, "but this time the truth is impossible. I cannot—I will not—hurt both the living and the dead—the living woman whom I love and the dead man who was my friend."

"Mrs. Moffat—Ethel," he said, gravely, taking her hand in his, "your name was last on George's lips. He said: 'Tell her, Phil, that my last thought was of her and that she was the only woman in the world for me.'"

The woman paled under her splendid self-control and the tears came into her eyes. She turned and walked to the window and for a long time looked into the street.

"Mrs. Moffat," he said. "I must go. My train leaves in half an hour. Good-by."

She turned and came slowly back to him—so close that he could feel the warmth of her body. Her eyes were steady as they looked into his.

"Phil," she said, "you lied to me just now. Oh, you men are wonderful in your loyalty and devotion. I know all about George and his relations with the Gordon woman. I know that he died with her name on his lips and not mine. No matter how—I know it. I do not blame you for lying about it. You thought to protect his memory and save me pain. I honor you for it."

"But, Phil, there is another lie that was told—for a different purpose. He—George, my husband, your friend—lied to me to steal me from you. He lied about you and, heaven help me, I believed his lying tongue and married him. I knew he had lied before we had been married a month, and he knew that I knew it. I could not undo the past, but I could not help hating and despising him—and he knew it and he loved the Gordon woman—and—oh, God, can't you see the living hell it has been!"

"Is it too late?" he asked, holding out his arms.

The color came to her face in a crimson flood and the tears welled to her eyes as she swayed toward him and he gathered her into his strong embrace.

Pretty soon she looked up with a roguish twinkle in her eye.

"Are you not afraid you will miss your train?" she asked.

He stopped to gather toll from the red lips.

"I am not afraid of anything—now," he said.

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Miss Myrtle Cothrum, of Russellville, Ala., says: "For nearly a year, I suffered with terrible backache, pains in my limbs, and my head ached nearly all the time. Our family doctor treated me, but only gave me temporary relief. I was certainly in bad health. My school teacher advised me to

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July 29, 1913.

Home Town Helps

EVERYTHING IN THE PLANTING

Trees Designed to Grace Streets Must Be Put Down With the Utmost Attention to Detail.

Now that street planting season is at hand it is pertinent to put forth our annual warning about hasty and careless planting of street trees. Owing to the narrowness of the parkways, street trees do not have one-fourth the chance of growth and development found in the open field, and therefore most excellent preparations should be made. Dig all holes for trees both large and deep—it matters little how large—all trees will thrive better with increased size of hole. Nature has been compacting the soil for millions of years; after being dug up it will take many years to again become as hard as before even though no fertilizer or other subject is mixed with the soil before replacing in the hole. Well-rotted stable manure is always a good material to mix with the soil whether the latter be light or heavy in texture. The nearer either extreme it comes, the greater such need. Refill the hole, settle with water and in a few days or a week plant your tree. During a street tree convention the veteran J. H. Reed said: "If I had a dollar to spend for a tree, I would rather put a 10 cent tree in a 90-cent hole than a 90-cent tree in a 10-cent hole."

NEED FOR INDIVIDUAL WORK

Civic Organizations Have a Great Part to Perform in Creating a City Beautiful.

A great part of the task of bringing back the country into the town must necessarily be done by local public authority. To influence them to do the work courageously needs the formation of a strong and sound public opinion. We have to create an enlightened sentiment, which will give full weight to the value of human health and happiness. After all, a man is worth more than a bank vault. The making of good and healthy men and women is the first consideration of all.

But public authorities alone must not be relied upon to do the work. The machinery of governments is too slow, complicated, and heavy to do that is required in the best way. We need also the inspiring effect of individual work in voluntary organizations. These pioneer the way long ahead of the possible action of public authorities. They find out what is wanted to be done and how to do it. They educate all of us who take any part in the work, however small the part may be. They create the very public opinion we need in order to bring about in our cities a full reunion of country delights with town advantages.

VINE ALWAYS A BEAUTIFIER

Harshness of Architecture Relieved by Soft Folds and Twinings Designed by Nature.

A house very often reminds one of a huge box set down in the midst of a landscape with which it is wholly out of harmony. To overcome the effect of its rising too abruptly from the site, one should plant shrubs about the foundation, to fill in the hard angle between ground and walls. To tie the house to the ground, in effect, to cover the corners and other straight lines, thereby relieving the architecture of its harshness, softening and harmonizing all, this is the mission of the vine—nature's mantle of perfection hiding the huge piles of ugliness reared by man, and which he has deluded himself into believing are masterpieces of art. Very few are, however, masterpieces in the eyes of those who know, and the vine, like the mantle of charity, covers a multitude of sins.

Danger in Town Wells.

At Towson, Md., a strenuous campaign is being waged against typhoid, with the result that of 134 wells in the town only four are to be left open by the board of health. Is it wonderful when such shocking conditions can develop that the United States ranks far below other civilized countries in its typhoid record?

Some of the condemned wells may still be used for cattle provided the pumps are kept locked when the trough is full. Violation of this rule will be punished by "denaturing" the water with coal oil. Water is the best of drinks, but it can be as dangerous as any and it seems an almost impossible thing to persuade the public to take the simple precaution of boiling all drinking water or else sticking to tea and coffee.—Springfield Republican.

Garden Wrinkles.

Do you desire a long season of lilies of the valley? Then, plant clumps on each of the four sides of the house and your desire will be gratified in a very simple fashion. Those on the south side will bloom first. The others will come along in succession as the weather warms up, those on the north side flowering last. Mignonette makes an excellent house plant, if seeds are sown in pots late in the summer.—Exchange.

The Song and the Singer.

Weary and fretful faces
Were about me everywhere
In the overcrowded street-car,
With its hot and stifling air.
Faces that seemed, I fancied,
To ask, "Is life worth while?"
Too tired, with day's work over,
To ever try to smile.

A man in the farther corner
All at once began to sing,
His song was as sweet and simple
As that of birds in spring.
Grim faces brightened to hear it,
And the music of its strain
Made glad the hearts that heard it
As parched fields re-joice in rain.

The song of the unknown singer
Was like a cool, sweet wind
That blows through the dusty city
And leaves its spell behind.
It told of the kiss of welcome
That waits at home's open door,
And the faces of those who listened
Grew bright and glad once more.

O comrade mine, when weary
With the burden and heat of day,
Let's sing like the wayside singer,
And sing our cares away.
Let's learn, for the sake of others,
A song that is blithe with cheer,
And hope that a smile, as we sing it,
May take the place of a tear.
—Eben E. Rexford.

Normal Weight of a Child.

The average weight of a boy at birth is 7½ pounds, of a girl, seven pounds. Whatever the weight, the child loses the first three or four days but should regain its weight by the fourteenth day; then the weekly gain should be from five to eight ounces, until the fifth month, when it falls to 3½ to seven ounces. The child's weight should be doubled at five months and trebled at fifteen months. A small book in which the weights are entered will prevent mistakes and be interesting later.—Progressive Farmer.

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