

ESTABLISHED 1855.



THE REAL AGATHA

BY EDITH HUNTINGTON MASON
PICTURES BY WELLS WALTERS FREY CAMPBELL ALESHIRE WILSON

CHAPTER V.

Alone, I sat for a moment speechless with astonishment, as the secretary left the room, and as I took my way slowly and thoughtfully upstairs, I resolved that this was another thing that I would not tell Vincent; he would be far more likely to ridicule me than to thank me for my effort in his behalf.

Some time after this, on a perfect day, Agatha Third and I had spent almost every hour since the dinner in her company. I may remark—had planned a little excursion which would keep us outdoors all day. We were going on a picnic up the little river. Have you ever tried a picnic for two? Given the right companion and a day like that, I'd warrant it to cure any attack of the blues. Agatha Third had assured me that the prettiest spot for a picnic was a little island in the center of the stream where the current ran broad and deep, about three miles below the castle.

"The day was fair, the girl was fairer, and the moments were full of joy to me. We had crossed a little bridge about a mile from the castle and were proceeding up the left bank of the river when a sudden turn of the stream brought two others of our party into view. On the opposite bank a young man in high boots, knickerbockers, white shirt with sleeves rolled up, and a farmer's broad-brimmed hat of straw. He was busy over a broken fishing rod which he was trying to mend. In the center of the stream, where the current ran swift and dangerously deep, a girl stood on a large bowler, fishing. Other bowlers at intervals between the one she was standing on and the shore where Vincent was indicated the means by which she had attained her precarious position. I recognized the girl as Agatha Second, and smiled pityingly as I thought of poor Vincent, invariably wasting his time with the wrong Agatha.

"Hullo!" they cried, cheerfully, and we waved our hands and asked them what luck they had. This isn't a lady's safe question to ask a fisherman, but I notice that people who are not fishing themselves invariably ask great questions in asking it. Vincent said he hadn't caught any fish, and asked if I'd landed mine yet. Just like his impudence! He'd say anything if he thought it was funny, no matter how it might annoy other people.

Just as I was thinking of some retort polite enough to utter aloud, Agatha Second's rod began to bend and jerk, and immediately she would have been going on that in my excitement I forgot what I was about to say. I am a fisherman of some skill myself. Well, the pole began to bend and the Agatha on the rock began to scream, and Vincent shouted directions from the bank—"Easy there, easy," he entreated her, "give him more line, Aggie, more line."

"I can't!" she screamed at the top of her voice; "something's caught, and he pulls so!"

"The reel!" I shouted, jumping up and down. "The reel! Press the knob and let her go!"

I knew in a moment the sort she had. It was just like mine, a patent one with a spring reel—mine often stuck that way. All this time the fish was leaping about, sometimes jumping out of the water so that you would see him, and he was big, big fellow.

"Let me alone, I can do it myself," cried the girl, as Vincent started to help her, but even as she spoke her trim little foot slipped on the wet stone, and, losing her balance completely, she fell backward into the deep water, while the rod disappeared upstream.

In a moment Vincent was running at top speed along the bank till he came to a little point of land where stood the darling girl must have. As she approached he leaped into the water, and, striking diagonally upstream, seized her by her clothing, and fighting his way back, safely gained the point of land. Meantime I had run up the river toward a boat that I had observed near the bank. Jumping in I soon reached the spot where by the unconscious form of Agatha Second. I was dimly aware of the fact that Agatha Third had never stopped screaming and was now running up and down on the opposite bank sobbing and wringing her hands. When I reached Wilfred he was anxiously bending over the girl, but apparently without the slightest idea of what to do.

I immediately felt to chafing her hands and resorting to the other well-known expedients for reviving the drowned, and to enable her to breathe more freely I removed the light-fitting stick of her sailor suit. It was not long before she began to regain consciousness, and it was at this moment that I made a most amazing discovery, for around the neck of the girl I saw a little silver chain, and on it was strung a heavy gold ring set with a large cross of old-fashioned emeralds.

I called to Vincent, and as I pointed at the magnificent and telltale piece of jewelry we both gazed at it speechless with surprise at discovering in such a manner the secret of the Honorable Agatha's identity. Before she had quite regained her consciousness I had requested her deities, and when she was able to stand we wrapped her in our coats and carried her to the boat. There wasn't room in it for more than two, so I made Vincent get in with me and row back to the castle. In the boat I saw Agatha Third and I both left us. Agatha Third and I both left us. Agatha Third and I both left us.

As we returned I did a great deal of thinking. So it was Agatha Second, after all, who was the real Honorable Agatha. For certainly her possession of the Wyckhoff ring, mentioned in the

volume down just where I had found it, I jumped behind the bushes. The owner of the book was looking for her property. On she came, running slowly and glancing eagerly from side to side of the pathway. As she came opposite me she stopped and snatched up the book, and when she had run back again the conviction that the Honorable Agatha was no other than Agatha Fourth was forced in upon me.

So roused was I by this event that I turned my steps homeward at once. Suspicion had now fallen on every one of the six Agathas, but this—this was the most convincing of proofs! That night I could hardly wait for the end of the evening, so that I could drag Vincent into my room and disclose to him my final and greatest discovery. It was so full of excitement over it, besides feeling a certain pride in my wit and sagacity which had led to the discovery of so many important clues, that I was rather disappointed when the identity of our fair but mysterious hostess.

The next morning when she came down to breakfast I inquired with great concern as to the effects of the accident of the day previous. She replied most kindly that she felt very nearly as well as ever and thanked me earnestly for my share in her rescue. In fact, her gratitude was so profuse as to make me uncomfortable, and I protested volubly that what I had done was nothing. Nevertheless, from that day on Agatha Second clung to me in a manner that was almost touching. Vincent, to my surprise, instead of taking advantage of his part as hero, seemed rather anxious to avoid the girl, whereas, before our mutual discovery, he had seemed to be quite taken with her. Although his conduct was a puzzle to me, yet I could only rejoice that it was so, for it left the field absolutely free to me, and I felt as each day passed, though there was a flattering chorus of protests when I made this announcement.

It was the first Sunday after the accident and the fourth of our stay. We had breakfasted at eight and were sitting around aimlessly waiting until it was time to go to church.

When it was finally time to get ready my head ached from the sun for I had been sitting without my hat, and I decided that I would not go that morning. Vincent, however, was a flattering chorus of protests when I made this announcement.

"I shall go," said Vincent, positively, just as if anyone had disputed it. "I always go, don't I Miss Marsh?" appealing to the secretary who was present, but who, of course, had been rather left out of the conversation.

"Yes," she answered, smiling at him faintly. "You always do—ever since you've known that is. You're a saint, Lord Wilfred." But she laughed as she said it, and Vincent, for no reason at all, looked pleased.

Then the girls all went into the house to change their frocks and Vincent, too, had to go and get himself rigged out in all the swiftness of his Bond street afternoon thoughts.

"Are you going to ride or walk?" I asked him as he came downstairs ahead of the young ladies.

"Walk," he said. "It's such a ripping day the girls thought they'd like it. The phaeton is coming for us after church. What's the matter with you? We shall miss you."

"Oh, just a bit of my feed this morning. But, my boy, do you realize that you're going to church all alone by yourself with six girls, the prettiest in England?"

"The secretary is going with us this morning," I said to him admiringly.

"You're a wonderful fellow," I told him; "I couldn't manage seven of them at once to save my skin. It keeps me busy enough when I take 'em one at a time."

At this moment the girls trooped down stairs, and they were fully aware of the admiration in the eyes of Vincent and myself. And that admiration was perfectly excusable, for the six Agathas were looking unusually lovely in their flowered frocks, big white hats, and the dainty parasols to match the wide sashes, and I should have been hard put to it to say which was the best dressed. But as they filed out of the door I saw Vincent look longest at the secretary, who walked a little behind the others, her plain, dark blue silk gown and little round straw hat with the pink roses being a conspicuous contrast to the frills and furbelows of the six Agathas. I thought I had never seen her look so well, and she passed us down without so much as a glance in our direction, though Vincent's gaze, I thought, was a trifle rude.

They had been gone some 15 minutes when it occurred to me that it might do my head good to go out and get some fresh air. Besides which I had begun to regret that I had permitted Vincent to go to church the only one of such a galaxy of beauties. So I put on my hat and strode out over the lawn and down the long drive, and before I knew it I had reached the bottom of the hilly road and had set out over the fields. The church party had gone by the way of the path over the fields, for that was a shorter route than the main road.

As I walked quickly along the well-beaten path between the thickets I stopped suddenly and stooped to pick up a small dust-covered object which proved to be a prayer book. "One of those careless girls has dropped it," I said to myself, for they had all carried them. Opening it to find the owner's name, I was much agitated to read on the flyleaf this inscription: "To my daughter Agatha, from her father, Fletcher Boyd, and the date, 1890. It was, then, a gift which Fletcher Boyd had made to his daughter only two years before his death.

I was wild with excitement in a minute. I would keep the book and some time when all the girls were gathered together I would announce that I had it in my possession and see if one of them did not betray herself by asking me for it. But Fate decreed that I should make my test of the prayer book more speedily, for I spied in the distance the white figure of a girl hastening back. The path was dusty and the sun was shining brightly in her face, so I trusted she had not seen me, and putting the little



AGATHA FIFTH.

welfare of this boy was to me. Somehow, Vincent represents to me the things I might have been, and am not; he represents the first flush of my own youth. And now that I had wasted those opportunities to lead the life of a gentleman and a scholar, I found a certain joy in again experiencing those first throbs of living that had been mine, in the person and in the face of young Vincent.

As he stood before me, glowing with feeling, I felt that it was for me to wipe that look from his face, cruel as it seemed, and my anger at the woman who had so deceived the boy by withholding from him the knowledge that she was married helped me to do the deed.

"The Revival of Business." "Nothing so clearly demonstrates the vitality of our country as the revival of business through the operation of the Republican policy, as the recent safe passage of the tariff bill through the House of Representatives, which, if approved, will be the most important measure of the past. We congratulate the people upon this renewed evidence of our country's vitality and confidence in the true principle of protection, the true principle of manufacturing."

Recent Republican Legislation. "Since the election of William McKinley in 1896 the people of this country have been governed through decisive majorities, the control and direction of national legislation has been in the hands of progressive measures adopted at recent sessions of Congress have demonstrated the ability of the Republican leadership in the legislative department to keep step in the forward march toward better government and more efficient administration of the Government."

Republican Pledges for the Future. "The Republican Party declares unequivocally for a revision of the tariff by a special session of Congress immediately following the inauguration of the next President, and commends the steps already taken to this end in the protection of the people's interests by investigating the operation and effect of existing schedules. In all tariff legislation the true principle of protection is best maintained by the imposition of such duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to American industries."

Equality of Opportunity. "Under the guidance of Republican principles the American people have become the richest nation in the world. Our wealth exceeds that of England and all her colonies, and that of France and Germany combined. When the Republican Party was born the total wealth of the country was \$16,000,000,000. It has leaped to \$110,000,000,000 in a generation. Britain has never had so much wealth as we have in 500 years."

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REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

Full Text of Declaration Adopted at Chicago.

STANDS BY THE ROOSEVELT POLICIES

Promise of Tariff Revision, the Injunction Question, and the Currency Question, Paramount Issues.

Following is the text of the platform adopted by the Republican convention at Chicago, last week:

"Once more the Republican Party, in national convention assembled, submits its cause to the people. This great movement, which has done so much for the preservation of the Union, restored credit, expanded the national domain, established a sound financial system, and given to the nation her seat of honor, in the course of the world, now meets the new problems of government with the same courage and capacity with which it solved the old."

Republican Under Roosevelt.

"This is the greatest era of American advancement; the Republican Party has reached its highest service under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt. His administration is an epoch in American history. In no other period since national sovereignty was won under Washington or preserved under Lincoln, has there been such mighty progress in those ideals of government which mean justice, equality and fair dealing among men. The highest aspirations of the American people have found a voice in the policies of the President. The best aims and noblest purposes of all his countrymen, American motives, the noblest sense of duty and obligation, conscience and courage in public station and in private life have become cardinal principles of political faith; capital and labor have been brought into closer relation of confidence and interdependence; and the abuse of wealth, the tyranny of power and all the evils of privilege and favoritism have been put to scorn by the simple, many virtues of justice and fair play."

Postal Savings.

"We favor the establishment of a postal savings bank system for the benefit of the people and the encouragement of thrift."

Trusts.

"The Republican Party passed the Sherman anti-trust law, and enforced it after energetic opposition, and it has been a wholesome instrument for good in the history of the country. But experience has shown that its effectiveness can be strengthened by its real object being further attained by amendments which will give to the Federal Government greater supervision and control over the operations of the trusts. The management of the class of corporations engaged in interstate commerce having power and opportunity to effect monopolies."

Railroads.

"We approve the enactment of the railroad rate law, and the vigorous enforcement of the present administration of the statute against rebates and discriminations, as a result of which the advantages formerly possessed by the great shipper of the small shipper have substantially disappeared. And in this connection we commend the appropriation by the present Congress to enable the Interstate Commerce Commission to thoroughly investigate and give publicity to the abuses of interstate railroads."

Railroad and Government Employees.

"The enactment in constitutional form at the present session of Congress of a law which will secure the passage and enforcement of the safety appliance statutes, as well as the additional protection secured by the enactment of laws by which engineers and firemen, the reduction in the hours of labor of trainmen and the reduction of the hours of labor of telegraphers, the successful arbitration between interstate railroads and their employees, and the limitation of the power of litigation of compensation for injured employees of the Government, are among the most commendable accomplishments of the present administration. But there is another work in this direction yet to be done, and the Republican Party pledges itself to continue to every cause that makes for safety and the betterment of conditions among the workers of the country, so much to the progress and welfare of the country."

Water Carriers Generally.

"The same wise policy which has induced the Republican Party to maintain protection to American labor, to establish an eight-hour day in the mines and in all public works, to increase the list of employees who shall have preferred claims for wages under the bankruptcy law, to create a child labor statute for the District of Columbia, to direct an investigation into the condition of working women, to limit the power of litigation of compensation for injured employees of the Government, are among the most commendable accomplishments of the present administration. But there is another work in this direction yet to be done, and the Republican Party pledges itself to continue to every cause that makes for safety and the betterment of conditions among the workers of the country, so much to the progress and welfare of the country."

Merchant Marine.

"We adhere to the Republican doctrine of encouragement to American shipping and the protection of the flag of the country, so essential to national defense, the enlargement of our foreign trade, the industrial prosperity of our own people."

Veterans of the Wars.

"Another Republican policy which merits the ever-maturing attention of the country is that of generous provision for those who have fought the country's battles and for the widows and orphans of those who have fallen. We commend the increase in the widows' pensions by the present Congress and declare for a limitation of the power of litigation to the end that the people's gratitude may grow even as the memories of heroic sacrifice grow more sacred with the passing years."

Civil Service.

"We reaffirm our former declaration that the civil service laws enacted by the present Congress and the Republican Party shall continue to be maintained and obeyed."

Bar of Mines and Mining.

"In the interest of the great mineral industries of our country we earnestly favor the establishment of a Bureau of Mines and Mining."

Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippines.

"The American Government, in Republican hands, has freely given peace and protection to Porto Rico and the Philippines under our flag. The present conditions in Cuba vindicate the wisdom of this policy, and the Republican Party and this imperishable bond of mutual interest, and the hope is now expressed that the Cuban people will soon again be ready to assume complete sovereignty over their land. In Porto Rico the Government has the privilege of becoming naturalized."

The American Farmer.

"Among those whose welfare is as vital to the progress of the whole country as that of the wage earner is the American farmer. The prosperity of the country rests peculiarly on the prosperity of agriculture. The Republican Party during the last twelve years has accomplished extraordinary work in bringing the resources of the national Government to the aid of the farmer, not only in advancing agriculture itself, but increasing the conveniences of rural life. Free rural mail delivery has been established; it now reaches every farm; and we favor its extension until every community in the land receives the full benefits of the postal service. We recognize the social and economic advantages of good country roads, maintained more and more largely at public expense, and less and less at the expense of the abutting owner. In this work we commend the growing practice of the Government to encourage the efforts of the national agricultural department by experiments and otherwise to make known the wisdom of the best methods of rural construction."

Rights of the Negro.

"The Republican Party has been for more than fifty years the consistent friend of the American Negro. It gave him freedom and citizenship. It wrote the Constitution of the Nation, the aim

New Mexico and Arizona.

"We favor the immediate admission of the territories of New Mexico and Arizona as separate states in the Union."

Lincoln Centenary.

"Feb. 12, 1909, will be the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, an immortal spirit whose fame has brightened the pages of our history for years, and whose name stands among the first of those given to the world by a great Republic. We recommend that this centenary be celebrated throughout the confines of the nation, by all the people thereof; and especially by the schools, as an exercise to stir the patriotism of the youth of the land."

Democratic Incapable for Government.

"We call the attention of the American people to the fact that none of the great measures here advocated by the Republican Party could be enacted by the Democratic administration here proposed could be taken under a Democratic administration or under one in which party responsibility is divided. The continuance of present policies, therefore, absolutely requires the continuance of power of the party which believes in them and which possesses the capacity to put them into operation."

Differences Between Parties Defined.

"Beyond all platform declaration there are fundamental differences between the Republican Party and its chief opponents. The Republican Party stands for the other worthy of public trust. In history, the difference between Democracy and Republicanism is the difference between the currency, the other for honest currency; the one for free silver, the other for gold; the one for protection in trade, the other for protection; the one for the contraction of American influence, the other for its expansion; the one for a policy of new expansion every position taken on the great issues before the people, the other has stood for a policy of contraction. The difference between Democracy and Republicanism is that one means advancement, the other means stagnation; one means free wages, the other means confidence and thrift. In principle the difference between Democracy and Republicanism is that one stands for vacillation and timidity in government, the other for strength and purpose; one stands for obstruction, the other for construction; one promises, the other performs; one finds fault, the other finds work."

The Army and Navy.

"The 60th Congress passed many commendable acts increasing the efficiency of the army and navy; namely, the authorization of a new integral part of the national establishment; authorizing joint maneuvers of the army and navy; the construction of new battleships, ten torpedo boat destroyers, eight submarines, and the strength of the navy. Although at peace with all the world, and secure in the consolidated peace of the people, we do not desire and will not provoke a war with any other country, we nevertheless declare our unalterable determination to defend our territory and a policy of this Republic ready at all times to defend her traditional doctrines and assure her approval of the highest respect for the tranquility among the nations."

Attention of American Citizen Abroad.

"We commend the vigorous efforts made by the administration to protect American citizens abroad, and we declare ourselves to insist upon the just and equal protection of all our citizens abroad. It is the unquestioned duty of the Government to procure for all our citizens, without distinction, the rights of travel and sojourn in all countries, and we declare ourselves in favor of all proper efforts tending to that end."

Extension of Foreign Commerce.

"Under the administration of the Republican Party, foreign commerce of the United States has experienced a remarkable growth until it has a present annual valuation of approximately \$1,000,000,000. We commend the vigorous efforts of the administration to give employment to a vast amount of labor and capital which would otherwise be idle. It has invited the secretary of state to South America and Mexico a new era of partnership in the history of the world which is bringing us into close touch with our twenty sister American Republics. We commend the historical heritage, a Republican form of government and offering us a limitless field of legitimate commercial expansion."

Arbitration and the Hague Treaties.

"The conspicuous contributions of American statesmanship to the great cause of international peace so signally demonstrated by the Hague conferences are an occasion for just pride and gratification. At the last session of the Senate, the ratification of the Hague conventions were ratified, establishing the rights of neutrals, laws of war on land, restriction of submarine warfare, limitation of the power of collection of the contractual debts governing the opening of hostilities, the laws of Geneva, and in many ways lessening the evils of war and promoting the peaceful settlement of international controversies. At the same session twelve arbitration conventions with great nations were confirmed, and extradition treaties and international treaties of supreme importance were ratified. We endorse such achievements and commend the ability of our people to perform and proclaim the obligation of further strengthening the bonds which unite us with all the nations of the world."

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THE NEWSPAPER AS IT IS.

Details About Its Needs, Its Resources and Its Ways of Making a Living.

Newspaper making, like government, is first of all a business. Statesmanship is the ability to make compromises; government is regulated by the necessities even more than by the ideals of the people. Newspaper making is no better and no worse. Ideas are essential to a proper grasp of the public, but plans, as well as sagacity, well-directed hard work, and comprehensive recognition of the demands of the public make the nation's newspapers what they are, the great power in the national life, says a writer in Appleton's Magazine.

The American people form the jury that passes on all newspapers, the jury that every newspaper makes for itself. It may be met, sooner or later. It may be said that newspapers print much matter that may be useless and worthless. Any newspaper doing this soon finds itself behind in the race of competition; the people decide what they wish, and will have it. Newspapers simply meet the demand of the age, in size and quality, as well as in the number of papers. The demand for the newspaper is not a demand for a style of shoes. The people know what best fits their own feet.

The value of a paper's advertising depends on the character of its circulation, that is, whether it is a home-read paper, or one read only in street cars and other public places. The most prosperous papers in the United States are those that get into the home. The women of the household are the buyers of the family supplies, if not actually their ideas prevail. To reach them is the aim of every newspaper advertiser who has anything to sell which can be used in the home.

Reaching for Home Circulation.

This reaching for home circulation is the part of publishers and advertisers has the important effect of raising the tone of the papers. The advertising columns of a newspaper are a public place, which a man may enter by paying a fee. It is the aim of the average editor to keep objectionable advertising out of his paper; and the public would scarcely believe how large a quantity is excluded.

As evidence that the cleanest advertising pays best, one may consider the success of the papers of the great city dairies. They are the great dry goods merchants. Their advertising is as timely and as accurate as that of any other advertiser. Their returns are commensurate with their outlay; otherwise they would not spend as much as they do for a single day's advertising, for the merchant is no philanthropist in his advertising.

Having attained his circulation by conducting a clean and able paper, and having gained sufficient advertising to make the paper pay, the publisher has achieved one of the most difficult feats in modern business. He must make the paper pay for itself, and, upon his manner of making them, of dressing up the raw material depends his success. First of all, there are two sides to every story, and that the under dog may have some weight, it is well to print no piece of news that might injure an innocent person. He must give equal prominence to the statements of both parties to the meetings of both sides, and the utterances of both candidates. The most successful newspapers of the United States today are conducted along those lines. The day of the party organ has passed.