The Great Temptation

"No," said the woman who was telling the story. "I did not have the time to do as I did — I took the time. There was plenty of good reasons why I should have taken it.

"At least 17 insistent duties glared at me from various corners of the house. They glared at me accusingly, as one who would willingly neglect them. They glared at me indignantly, as one who lightly assumed duties with no idea of discharging them. They glared at me pityingly, as one who had been slackly brought up and didn't know any better. But I turned my back on them all, dressed the children and went.

"This is why I went. I had taken a perfectly green girl from the intelligence office and trained her steadily for two months. I had trained her so that she understood what I was saying and could do the housework more than fairly well. Any one who has trained a green girl for two months at a stretch knows that a rest cure is due the trainer, but I'll never be able to introduce rest cures into my curriculum, so I didn't feel abused.

"And then one Thursday evening a tall, gaunt woman with a fairly good knowledge of English appeared and Stasia and she went up to Stasia's room. When they reappeared Auntie Wandaluski—for that was the gaunt one's name—held Stasia's papier mache suit case in her hand. Stasia, clutching her month's pay, acquired but two hours previously, brought up the rear.

Stasia was about to leave, at once!

"No, the work was not too hard. No, she didn't want more money. She was about to be married, and, as the girl next door expressed it, I didn't even know she 'was keepin' company.'

"She went in the middle of the spring cleaning. She went when a sister-in-law whom I had never met was on her way from the Pacific coast to visit me. The three intelligence offices which constituted the first aid to the suburbs could send me no one for a [illegible] I went to bed discouraged and woke up sick.

"It was as I drank the tea that the great temptation reared its head. 'Isn't it a lovely day?' said the great temptation, enticingly. 'You ought to be out of doors on such a day. Oh, well, I know the work isn't done and you have no girl, but the work will keep and the world is full of girls.'

"At this point the duties that I have mentioned before stalked from their respective corners and tried the effect of withering the great temptation, but it was waterproof.

"'How fresh is the smell of the lake air!' it went on. 'How pleasant is the beach! How much good it would do the children!'

"I had put the dishes to soak right after breakfast; that was all I had done. That was all I was going to do. I ran upstairs and dressed myself and the children [illegible] to [illegible] furious [illegible] to the lake shore. As I turned the corner and looked back at the house a city glare of at me from my bedroom window. 'Going away for the day, and not a single bed made!' it shrieked after me. I made no defense. I had none to make.

"The faults of the girl in question may have been legion, but it was truthful. The lake was blue, the air delicious, the atmosphere invigorating and smelled [illegible] people about. [illegible]

[illegible]

"I am sure you [illegible] the story that I made up [illegible] to myself [illegible] but it is true, isn't it?

"As I sit [illegible] the door [illegible] the house [illegible] behind her came [illegible] Brady [illegible] girl was going [illegible] husband's people [illegible] four months; I could have [illegible] that period if I wanted her, but I [illegible] would like to return to my first mistress in September.

"Wonder [illegible] her? I had difficulty to [illegible] throwing my arms around her. I promptly arranged for her to come next day.

"After this masterly achievement I went inside my house, donned an apron and worked like one possessed.

"'How did you dodge the headache?' asked my husband at dinner. 'I thought you were in for a regular old timer when I left this morning.'

"'I was,' I answered. Then I told him the story of the great temptation.

"I don't exactly know myself what the moral of this tale is. Many good housekeepers would say that it has none, that it was, in fact, highly unmoral in its lesson of rewarded shiftlessness. But I don't know."

Mercy an Arab Showed.

Abd-El-Kader, who died in 1883, is one of the noted patriots of Algiers. In 1833 when the Arabs rose up and tried to free themselves from the French Abd-El-Kader as sultan led his people against the French armies.

For fourteen years the war was waged, and though he had but few followers, his methods of attack and ingenious maneuvers, together with the wonderful power he held over his people, made it necessary for the French to send one hundred thousand soldiers into that country before they could conquer it. Before Abd-El-Kader's time the Arabs killed their prisoners. He treated them kindly, as guests, sending them money, clothes and food. Some women were once captured and brought to him, and as he set them free he exclaimed:

"Lions attack strong animals; jackals fall upon the weak."

Useful Article Missing.

Dr. William Tindall says that the published accounts of the reputed antagonism of a member of congress to the use of the toothbrush reminds him of an incident which occurred a number of years ago on a steamboat which ran from Galveston to Houston.

One morning, while the passengers were at breakfast, one of the travelers, who was somewhat belated in perfecting his toilet, and who, obviously, was one of those who are somewhat unfamiliar with the etiquette of the toothbrush, appeared at the door of his stateroom, which opened into the hall that served as a dining room, and called out with a drawl such as might have been expected from a primitive denizen of the back country: "Say, cap'n, whar'l I find the toothbrush that belongs to the boat?"

GOOD FRIEND OF THE FARMER

Valuable Work Done by Humble Earthworm Has Not Been Sufficiently Appreciated.

The humble earthworm is one of man's best friends. The farmer and the gardener could not spare him. Dr. J Newton Friend tells about him in Science Progress. From Dr. Friend's observations it appears that worms aerate the soil in a variety of ways.

In burrowing through the soil the worms render it more porous and permeable to gases, not merely by virtue of the air spaces formed, but by reason of the fact that the soil is thus continually kept in gentle motion. Again, the soil passing through the bodies of worms is enriched in a finer condition, being ground by attrition through the intestines. Darwin estimated that no fewer than [illegible] tons of soil annually pass through the bodies of worms for every acre.

Further, worms breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, and the latter gas, as is well known, readily dissolves in water, forming an acid solution which will render alkaline carbonates and insoluble oxides—e. g., iron—soluble.

Worms [illegible] also aid in producing soluble [illegible] of iron in the soil which other [illegible] acids—[illegible] given [illegible] by parasites.

Germany Orders Angry.

An angry controversy is raging in German military circles about a remarkable entertainment given a few days ago at the "Landwehr officers'" casino in the [illegible] barracks. The latter usually attends this entertainment, but this [illegible] owing to the death of the Grand Duke of Luxemburg, he sent his son, Prince Elliot Friedrich.

The chief feature was a "cancan dance." An officer in uniform led in a "lady" and danced with her in a very lively ultra-modern style. The "lady" then disrobed on the stage and turned out to be one of the officers.

Prince Elliot Friedrich applauded this entertainment, but some senior officers were highly indignant and complained that the kaiser's uniform was degraded. They were all the angrier because several privates were present as ticket takers, doorkeepers, etc., and these, for the first time in their lives, were seen laughing at the antics of their superiors.

HAVE THREE KINDS OF MONEY

Venezuelan Monetary Standards Must Be Extremely Puzzlinz to Newcomer and Visitor.

There are at present in daily use in Venezuela three different systems of monetary standards. One is that based on the bolivar (equal to 19.3 cents) as the unit. This is in use by the government in its reports and transactions and is the official system, if it may be so called. Quotations in this system are in bolivars and centimos, a bolivar being divided into 100 centimos, although the smaller coin in this system has a value of 5 centimos.

The second system has the "peso fuerte" or "dollar" as its unit, the units being commonly referred to simply as "fuertes." This "fuerte" is taken to be equal to 5 bolivars and to be divided into 100 centavos.

The third system has the "peso macuquina," usually simply termed "pesos," as its unit. This "peso" has a value of 4 bolivars and is considered to be equal to 80 centavos, and to be divided into 8 reals, while the "fuerte" is considered to have 10 reals.

Some few of the mercantile houses keep their accounts with their customers in "fuertes," but most of the establishments render their bills in the "peso."

When accounts kept in the last two units are paid, they are transformed into bolivars by manipulating by five or four, as the case may be, payments being made by Venezuelan currency, coined gold and silver on the bolivar basis, or bank notes issued on the same system, although some foreign gold is in general acceptance at conventional rates.

Among the humbler classes making their purchases at the market, an article which would be worth 75 centimos of a bolivar, or 15 centavos of a "fuerte," will almost invariably be quoted at "a real and a half," or a purchase will be actually paid for by offering 6 bolivars, 62½ centimos in coin, while the seller has stated the value to be "13¼ reals."

TO ADVERTISE CHURCH WORK

Congregational Ministers of Philadelphia Plan Extensive Use of the Newspapers.

Indorsing church advertising in the newspapers, the Philadelphia association of Congregational Ministers, which was merged into the Association of Congregational Churches, passed resolutions appointing a committee which will advertise each individual church in the local newspapers.

The Rev. Edwin H. Romig, pastor of the First Congregational church, was appointed chairman of the publicity committee which is now a permanent institution.

In the course of his remarks, Dr. Romig pledged himself to newspaper advertising, which, he said, must be done. The lack of interest in religious affairs he attributed to the fact that the church is not enough before the public eye, and appealed to his audience to finance the campaign as a business venture.—Philadelphia Evening Times.

TOWERED OVER SHIP'S MASTS

Commanders of Vessels Supply New Information as to Height of Atlantic Waves.

It is very doubtful if the log of any naval vessel of the world contains records equal to those of the line. Lieut. Commander C. H. Woolward has stated that he never expected to bring [illegible] through the immense waves. [illegible] the billow, which [illegible] the vessel [illegible] of [illegible] that the little craft [illegible] at this [illegible] miles.

Just [illegible] when the commanders of the little gunboats estimated that the mile wave of its height and blowing precedently 50 miles an hour the Roe's steering gear gave way and she dropped into the trough of the sea. This little vessel's masts are 80 feet high from the water line, says the Christian Herald, and although it has been stated that the highest waves yet recorded up at the Atlantic ocean was not more than 30 feet in height, Commander Woolward's estimate that the waves of the recent storm overtopped his masts by several feet has been borne out by the officers not only of the smaller ships but even of the battleship Delaware.

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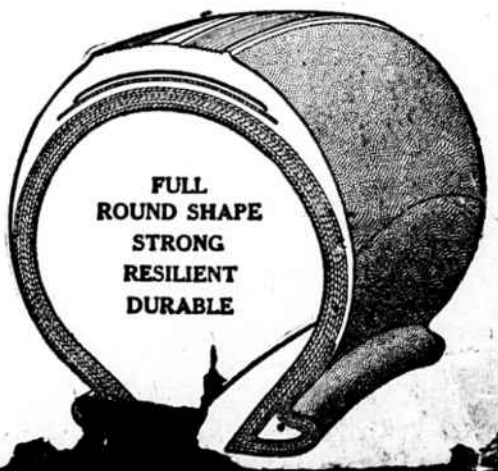

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