CASTORIA

For Infants and Children

Bears the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. The Kind You Have Always Bought

In Use For Over 30 Years

CASTORIA

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

HIS EVIL GENIUS.

—:o:—

Oh! Geoff, dear, how I hate to see your head buried in those papers; to see that anxious, worried look on your your face, and to know what brought it there! If you would only give it up, and—and—"

"And what, dearest?" he replied, tearing his eyes for a moment from the latest tips and sporting intelligence, and letting them rest fondly on his young wife's pretty face. "What is the other grievance—a real one, or only imaginary like the first?"

"They are both very real troubles to me, dear," she replied, sadly. "Not grievances, but troubles. And they press upon my heart night and day. The first is your terrible mania for speculation—gambling, pure and simple, either horse racing or on the stock exchange; the other in the increasing influence which that man Sharp has over you. Week by week, day by day, I have seen it grow, and it makes my heart stand still with fear——"

"Fear?" echoed Geoffrey Grey, flushing deeply as he spoke. "Now, what on earth is there to be afraid of? Sharp is as good a fellow as ever breathed; he wouldn't hurt a fly, and I am quite capable of protecting myself——"

"Physically, yes," she replied, sadly, as she looked at the stalwart form and handsome face, "but not morally. Fred, Sharp is what men call a 'good fellow,' but what we women call a bad lot! He leads you on to gamble, he makes you fired with a mad desire for wealth hastily made. Sooner or later the end will come—ruin, real and complete, dismissal from your situation, bankruptcy—pray Heaven it may not be a prison cell. It is my love for you, Geoff, that makes my vision so clear. I see in Fred Sharp your black angel—the man who ere long will blind you so completely that you will be no longer able to distinguish right from wrong."

"You women are so fond of flying to conclusions," said he, irritably, because of the truth underlying her words, a truth he could not fail seeing in spite of himself; "and as usual you are all astray. The fact is that it cuts me to the quick, hurts my pride to see you shabbily dressed, to see you cramped up in a box of a place like this, to think of you forever as only the wife of a clerk. Oh! Violet, my mania for wealth is all for your sake, dearest, because I cannot bear to hide your beauty away in a cottage. I long to see you shine in the society nature intended for you, as you did in your father's house, as your sisters do in their wealthier husbands'. I alone am poor."

"And I fell in love with you poor. I married you poor. I desire no riches, only your love, Geoff—our own dear pretty little home, and a clear conscience—oh! if you would only set my heart at rest and be content—as I am—with your salary. Is—is that man coming to-night? Are you—are you going out with him? Geoffrey's eyes fell beneath her sweet, clear gaze and her heart sank. She was not one of the women that grudged her husband his club, or would have denied him the society of his old friends; but she saw the whirlpool bearing him off his feet and she seemed powerless to save him.

If Fred Sharp was his evil genius his wife was his good angel, and fair enough in appearamce to add strength to her pleadings; but for once her entreaties, her eloquence, her beauty, was wasted, for her husband buried himself in the paper again, a moody gloom upon his brow. The crisis she dreaded was at hand, and he meant to make one bid for fortune—then he would give it up forever. He shivered as he realized how many barques had been shipwrecked on the sea of speculation; but this one thing was so safe, so certain, there was no possibility of failure, or even then at the last moment he would draw back; but Fred Sharp had had a private tip—had seen with his own eyes—it was a dead certainty, and old Mason would not return for another week. He had control of all the cash, and £500 at that juncture would be turned into thousands before he had to account for it. But how late Sharp was. He said seven o'clock, and it was just on eight.

* * * *

"Come in—oh! I thought it was you."

"Stoppage on the line, horrid nuisance. Never mind, come along now, it's all right about that biz. You're a lucky fellow to be in it. You have the money all right, of course?"

"At the office," weakly, while a sense of awful depression seized him. "But, Sharp, my wife——"

"Oh! I forgot to ask about her, airily. "Pretty little woman; never saw a prettier, 'pon my honor. And just think what it means to her. Why, it's little less than a crime to keep a creature like her boxed up in a wretched little space like yours. Excuse plain speaking, old chap, but she'll be the happiest woman in England when you go to her and tell her how much you are worth. Show her your bank book—she's been used to better things than you can give her as yet, but we'll change all that."

Geoffrey's heart was heavy as lead, but his very power of speech seemed affected, his free will gone—lost in the subtle influence his evil genius exerted over him.

The evening was passed in different places—but the society was all the same, the conversation all on the same subject—and the papers were scanned by eager, burning eyes, and the voice kept whispering in his ear that before another week had fled that 500 would be 5,000—old Mason would never know anything about it—he should buy a partnership in some first rate firm.

And so the roseate dream went on, night passed, and Sharp, eager for the money called at the office for it almost as soon as Geoffrey reached there himself.

Just as he was handing the notes over a terrible revulsion of feeling set in. Confidential clerk; one who had been in the same office for 15 years; trusted by old Mason as his own son would have been.

"Good heavens, Sharp," he said, almost ghastly in his pallor, "If—if it fails; if there is any mistake, nothing can save me. It's—it's not my money. I—feel like a thief."

He was a thief; but Sharp's airy answer reassured him.

"Nonsense! You are only borrowing it. Think of this day week, lucky dog"—with a facetious poke in the ribs. "I tell you you are the only friend in the world I'd have let in this; it's too good, you know. Tomorrow the shares will be bounding up like wild fire."

How Geoffrey lived through the day and night he could not tell. His head seemed in a whirl; everything was confused and blurred. Sharp did not look in that evening and the next morning's papers had said things were unchanged.

Twenty-four hours later an unlookd for catastrophe happened. Some hideous blunder had sent the shares down; down, down; but they never reached the level of Geoffrey's heart, for that was trampled to the earth—crushed with the impending doom which no power of his could now avert. He would ere long be lodged in a felon's cell, sent there by his own act and deed, Sharp merely showing the way.

Sharp had absconded—just as poor Violet had told him a hundred times would be the case sooner or later—and he carried with him the reputations and situations of scores of men, who all, like Geoffrey Grey, had listened to his specious stories and risked their honor on the fairy tales he had told them.

If Geoffrey could have called back that one week by the sacrifice of his right hand, by years of penance, he would have sacrificed them freely; but the past can never be recalled. He had stolen, embezzled his employer's money—he didn't deceive himself any longer with the specious word "borrowed"—and the brand of thief would be stamped on his brow forever!

He was so new to crime that he could not hide the fearful agitation which never left him, and gradually his fellow clerks shrank away from him whispering among themselves, and he knew they had guessed his secret. Some one knew the money had been paid in but was not entered in the ledger—everyone would be a witness against him and see his degradation!

Could he live to face it? Sometimes he thought not! Then again, he set his teeth and asked himself if he were coward enough to leave poor Violet alone and disgraced in the world. Woman's love! He had often heard of it, and his wife's love for him was so great that she would meet him at the prison gates when the time was up, and never utter one word of reproach for the havoc he had made of her life. God bless her? Oh! if he could ever atone, ever retrieve! But it was too late! How clearly he saw then, with a felon's cell awaiting him, the truth and beauty of the words she had so often said to him:

"It is not wealth and luxury that bring happiness, Geoff, dear. It is true love, sufficient for the daily wants, a contented mind, and a clear conscience. All the rest is superfluous."

A clear conscience! Would to Heaven he had it! It was worth every other thing in the whole world. Aye, he realized it all too well, when he had lost it forever.

* * * *

The time hurried on. Everything seemed dim and blurred. Mr. Mason come back, and Geoffrey's very face and manner condemned him. It was impossible not to see something was wrong; and the face, hitherto always so pleasant and genial, became white and stern as he found out what had happened. The receipts and the entries in the ledger did not correspond. Some one had been tampering with the figures. Did Mr. Grey suspect any one?

No! but every one else down to the office boy suspected Mr. Grey!

He had been so strange—ill, they thought at first—now merely a thief!"

Yes! they all had something to say, some proof to give of his iniquity, and to save his life he could not utter one word in his own defence—in fact, there was nothing to be said—he was guily; he would not add a tissue of lies to his other enormities, nor would he stoop so low as to try and throw his sins on to innocent shoulders.

It was terrible being taken through the streets to prison, terrible standing in the dock, terrible to hear his counsel plead for him, and to hear him tell of the sudden temptation, and to hear himself condemned to five years penal servitude!

But most dreadful of all was it to see Violet, his wife—with the pallor of death on her beautiful face, and to hear her sweet lips murmur:

"It was only you I wanted, Geoff, dear—not luxury, not wealth, not a grand house and jewelry. If I had wanted them, I should have married Mr. Watson, the millionaire, who asked me a week before you did; it is the knowledge that you did it for my sake that is killing me."

* * * *

"Come in."

The words were uttered drowsily as as Geoffrey Gray opened his eyes and saw his wife standing by his side.

"There is a knock at the the front door, Geoff, darling," she whispered, hurriedly; "It is Mr. Sharp. Geoff—my sweetheart—my husband, there is still time to draw back; but I fear the crisis really is here—your sleep has been troubled—you have muttered some strange things, Geoff, I went up to my bedroom, and I knelt down and prayed to God that you might be kept from sin, and that the craze for speculation might burn itself out."

He was wide awake then—wide, wide awake, and he looked from the sweet, anxious face of his wife to the crafty crocodile smile of his evil genius, as Mr. Sharp began his apology for being so late.

"Was kept in the city—very sorry, really couldn't help myself. You will excuse me, I'm sure, Mrs. Grey, for taking your husband out tonight, but we have most important business to transact together——"

Violet's breath came quick and hard; she did not speak, although her lips moved, but she kept her eyes on her husband's face and sent up one last prayer for help—help that no human being could give her.

Geoffrey's hand wandered mechanically to his breast pocket, where there was a thick, soft packet or roll of paper—bank notes paid to him that afternoon after office hours; notes belonging to Mr. Mason, his employer; notes that Sharp knew he expected to receive that day, and had wrung a promise from him should be entrusted to him to put on "a dead certainty."

"I'm very sorry, Sharp," said Geoffrey, slowly; "but our little business is 'off' now and forever. I've done with speculating. It costs too much. I can't afford it on a clerk's salary. And I feel sure Mr. Mason would prefer choosing his own investments; I don't mean to choose them for him."

With a snarl like an angry terrier the tempter went away. He was beaten—by a woman who didn'd know enough about business to indorse a check properly. No! but she knew right from wrong—she knew what real love was; she knew victory from defeat; and as she shed tears of joy on Geoffrey's breast when the front door slammed behind his black angel, banished forever from that house and its owner's presence, she heard Geoffrey's dream and realized that it had been sent in answer to her prayers to pull back the slipping feet just on the edge of the precipice; and that night, perhaps, Geoffrey Grey and his wife were the two happiest people in the whole of London.

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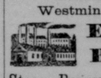
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&c., for Fall and Winter Trade, of best quality and at lowest possible price, consisting of GALLOWAY, FOX, BEAR AND GOAT ROBES, GOLF SHAWLS, PLUSH AND WOOL ROBES.

5A HORSE BLANKETS from the cheapest to the best grades. Also a full line of HARNESS AND SADDLERY, TRUNKS, DRESS SUIT CASES

and everything belonging to a first-class harness establishment. Soliciting a share of your patronage, I am yours to serve.

J. WALTER SHUNK,

41 East Main St., Westminster, Md.

jan 11 02 1y

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters of administration on the estate of

L. ELIZABETH KOONS,

late of Carroll county, deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated, to the subscriber, on or before the 27th day of May, 1903, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 27th day of October, 1902.

CHARLES F. KOONS,

nov 1 4t Administrator.

Reifsnider & Grimes,

Attorneys-at-Law, and Solicitors in Chancery,

232 East Main St., Westminster

We have this day formed a co-partnership for the practice of Law, under the firm name of Reifsnider & Grimes. All business entrusted to us will receive prompt and carefull attention. Office 232 E. Main Street, Westminster, Md.

CHAS. T. REIFSNIDER, Jr.

E. OLIVER GRIMES, Jr.

Westminster, Md. December 21st, 1899.

GEORGE O. BRILHART,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

WESTMINSTER, MD.

Office with Chas. E. Fink, Esq., Court St.

Residence New Windsor, oct 18

NO BOY KNOWS.

—:o:—

There are many things that boys may know—
Why this and that are thus and so—
Who made the world in the dark and lit
The great sun up to lighten it;
Boys know new things every day,
When they study or when they play,
When they idle, or sow or reap—
But no boy knows when he goes to sleep.

Boys who listen—or should, at least—
May know that the round old earth rolls East;
And know that the ice and the snow and the rain,
Ever repeating their parts again,
Are all just water the sunbeams first
Sip from the earth in their endless thirst,
And pour again till the low streams leap—
But no boy knows when he goes to sleep.

A boy may know what a long glad while
It has been to him since the dawn's first smile,
When forth he fared in the realm divine
Of brook-laced woodland and spun sunshine,
He may know each call of his truant mates,
And the paths they went, and the pasture gates
Of the cross-lots home through the dusk so deep—
But no boy knows when he goes to sleep.

O, I have followed me o'er and o'er,
From the flagrant drowse on the parlor floor,
To the pleading voice of the mother when
I even doubted I heard it then—
To the sense of a kiss, and a moonlit room,
And dewy odors of locust bloom,
A sweet white cot, and a cricket's cheep—
But no boy knows when he goes to sleep.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

Cure For Love.

Here is an old-fashioned cure for love which is said to be infallible: Make 10 ounces of dislike, 1 pound of resolution, 3 grains of common sense, 2 ounces of experience, a large sprig of time, 3 quarts of cooling water of consideration; set them over the fire of love, sweeten with the sugar of forgetfulness, skim with the spoon of melancholy and put in the bottom of your heart. Cork with the cork of a clear conscience, and you will quickly find ease and be restored to your common sense again. These things can be had of the apothecary, at the house of understanding, next door to reason on prudence street, in the village of contentment.

It is said that the world cannot expect to see a great general oftener than about once in a century. This country seems to have outgrown that rule, for certainly the great "Captains of Industry" have all the qualities of generalship, and the roll of their names goes up into the seventies. Five of them are described in the November Cosmopolitan—James R. Keene, the masterful strategist of Wall Street; Robert Hoe, who has advanced the art of printing as far as Gutenberg himself did in his day; Winfield Scott Stratton, the carpenter, who uncovered the riches of the Colorado mountains; Tom Johnson, the singular compound of idealism and business, and Ferdinand William Roebling, who can cross the continent by five different routes without ever losing sight of the wires by which he has bound the most distant communities together.

An excellent glycerine ointment for chapped hands is made by melting with a gentle heat 2 ounces of sweet oil of almonds, half an ounce of spermaceti and 1 dram of white wax. When melted, remove from the stove and add an ounce of glycerine and stir until the mixture is cold. The ointment can be scented with any perfume to suit the fancy. Keep it in wide-necked bottles.

"Uncle John," begins little Willie, "mamma says you fell in love with Aunt Mary at first sight."

"I did, Willie," acknowledges Uncle John.

"And then," continues Willie, with a glance at the features of Aunt Mary, "I suppose you quit looking at her right away?"

Ascum—"How is that new patent medicine of yours selling?"

Fakem—"We haven't begun to manufacture it yet. We're busy now getting up the testimonials from prominent men who have been cured by it."

"It was a glorious meeting," said the first citizen. "It was the first gun of the campaign."

"A machine gun?" inquired his friend.

It's all well enough to look out for No. 1, but the widow believes in looking out for No. 2.

The simplest cure for dyspepsia is a tea cup of hot water taken each morning before breakfast.

A woman's stationery does not always indicate her station in life.

The average woman's words don't have as much weight as her biscuits.

If some men had to live by their wits they would starve to death.

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