HAMLET AND THE LADY

By MARY MORISON

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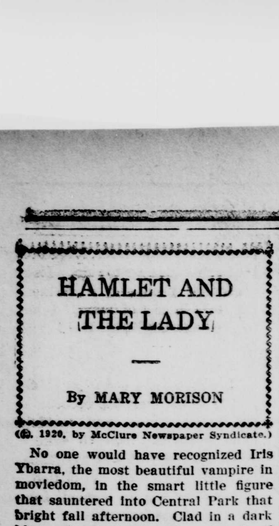
No one would have recognized Iris Ybarra, the most beautiful vampire in moviedom, in the smart little figure that sauntered into Central Park that bright fall afternoon. Clad in a dark blue suit of simple cut, a bunch of fragrant violets pinned at her belt, she looked like sweet sixteen personified—a figure of "Spring" that has lost her way on the yearly calendar, arriving in our autumnal world too late for practical use.

Iris sat down on a bench in the warm sunlight and smiled at the babies in their carriages. Every lady smiled back at Iris. But finally they all went home—and then Iris' attention centered itself on the tragic face of a man seated on an adjoining bench. He had not noticed the babies with their smiles. All the afternoon he had been sitting there, eyeing a coin held listlessly in his hand, and at this moment, with a defiant toss of his head, he was flipping it up in the air. He leaned forward to see how it fell.

"Tails," Iris heard him mutter. "I'll make it two out of three."

He tossed again. Before he could pick up the silver piece Iris was at his elbow, her face all puckered up with friendly concern.

"Oh, don't decide it that way," she cried. The man looked up in amazement, but she rushed on impetuously,



Iris Shook Her Head.

her hand on his arm—"Of course, I do not know what your trouble is, but I know you are planning something desperate. Don't decide it by the toss of a coin. It seems too—well—too ungodly, if you will forgive the term."

The man gave a bitter little laugh. "It's all right for you to talk that way, lady. But what do you know about real ungodliness—or real trouble, for that matter? You have probably never been closer to it than disappointment in your new winter hat or the inconvenience of having your motor break down at the wrong time. I guess you have never had to do a thing you didn't want to do in your whole life."

Iris could have told him to the contrary, but she let it pass. "Is it money you need?" she asked.

"Bless your dear little heart, no," answered the man. "I make money enough at the damned thing. But what is it to you, if I may ask? Is it your business in life to go around rescuing poor desperadoes from themselves?"

"Well—er—hardly," said Iris. "But you see, today I'm not working."

"I'm afraid I do not get you," he answered.

"Do you ever go to the movies?" The man nodded. "Well, that's my business in life"—and she smiled at him naively.

"I've probably seen you then," he returned. "You do some sort of a Mary Pickford stunt, I'll wager. You look the part, all right. Congratulations!"

"Don't bother with congratulations," said Iris. "I'm no Mary Pickford. I'm Iris Ybarra, the vampire. Oh, why—" she cried passionately, "why did you remind me of it today, when I was out on a holiday, pretending I had never spent hour upon hour wrecking a home and spoiling one man's life after another? I did so want to be a nice little woman's-place-is-in-the-home-sort of person this afternoon."

"Good lord!" exclaimed the man, "Isn't that funny!" and he went off into peals of laughter.

"Well, I'm glad you think it is such a joke," snapped Iris. "You look almost human when you laugh. When I saw you flipping that coin around you looked like a tragic muse—for all the world like Hamlet, the melancholy Dane, and——"

The man stopped laughing abruptly. "Say that again!" he cried. "Hamlet, if it were only true!"

Iris was too amazed to reply and he went on—"Listen, Miss Vampire, and I'll tell you something I have never told anybody else. All my life it has been my ambition to play Hamlet—it's almost an obsession, I want to so much."

"Who are you?" asked Iris.

"I am Cyril Smith, the leading man of the Gaiety Girls, and I make my living by jokes. Jokes—how I hate them! I was tossing that coin to see whether I should sign a contract for this winter and live through those songs and dances and jokes again.

"You seem to want to solve my problems, so I'll leave it to you instead of the coin. To sign or not to sign, that is the question!"

Iris considered, and then—"Well, I signed my contract for vamping yesterday—and jokes are not a patch on housewrecking."

"All right, lady," said he, "jokes it is."

Iris Ybarra and Cyril Smith looked at each other in the deepening shadows of Central Park. Across the Mall a big hotel loomed up invitingly, its hundreds of windows aglow, shining down on them like hundreds of friendly little stars. A sudden idea flashed into Cyril Smith's mind.

"I say—do you like tea?" he asked.

"I do," answered the vampire, emphatically, "although the public likes to think of me imbibing highballs by the dozen."

Across the tea table, half an hour later, Cyril Smith had another idea. Life was moving fast for the matinee idol.

He kept it to himself for a few minutes, while the orchestra played the soft strains of "La Boheme" and their teacups were exchanged for raspberry colored ices. Then he burst forth—

"Don't think I'm crazy, lady," said Cyril Smith. "But, are you married?"

Iris shook her head negatively.

"Well—er—have you anything against getting married?" he continued.

"A vampire's place is in the home," she answered demurely.

"My home?" he asked.

This time Iris Ybarra gave her head a decided nod in the right direction.

TELEPHONE RATES GOVERNED BY COST OF PRODUCING SERVICE

IT IS AN UNCHANGEABLE law of trade that the price at which any service can be continuously sold is governed by the cost at which it can be continuously produced.

THERE IS NOTHING IN THE TELEPHONE BUSINESS THAT EXCEPTS IT FROM THIS LAW.

IT IS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE that this company has been subjected for the last several years to constantly rising costs. Particularly from the date this country entered the war our company, like practically every other public utility, has been struggling under this steadily increasing burden.

THE MATERIALS WE NEED have been scarce and expensive; the cost of labor has been going up; and in the face of such conditions the demands for service have reached the point where our resources and facilities are strained to the utmost.

WE CANNOT DO AS a private industry might—arbitrarily raise prices or suspend operations until conditions become more nearly normal. We must stand ready at all times to serve the public, to make needed extensions to our plant and equipment and to meet the demands for more and more service.

WE WELCOME THESE obligations, but we have now reached a point where it has become our duty to ask the Public Service Commission for such rates as will enable us to continue doing business and to provide sufficient revenue for the operations of the future.

THE CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC TELEPHONE COMPANY OF BALTIMORE CITY

RETURN TO THE BEGINNING?

Hard to Foretell Result of Changes Which the Old World Is Facing Today.

That this has been a time to disembarrass ourselves of superfluities and get down to essentials is so obvious that we don't need to have it pointed out to us, yet there is a good deal of preachment on the subject, according to "The Point of View," in Scribner's. It is entertaining to get the different points of view. One woman writer is jubilant over the promise of a new Utopia, a simple world of few or no servants, few clothes (and those made very short in the skirts), moderate food and modest entertainments; in short, a general reduction of the cares of the body. "Oh, destiny," she cries, "help us to recover our lost democratic simplicity!"

Another, more radical, quotes those who say that we must "dip into the primeval," that all our "miserable little civilization" must go, and we must find ourselves back at the beginning of things, hoping, after some eons, to climb up again—presumably—the perfect civilization. According to this melancholy prophet all that the world has painfully learned through the eons of the past is to go to the scrap heap; not only the civilization of the body, but the civilization of the soul. I don't believe it! Mortify the flesh as we may and must, our souls and minds are not going to the scrap heap. When, indeed, has the spirit of mankind ever mounted higher than in the wreck of so much that has been dear? No, we may be obliged, and doubtless to our souls' good, to bake and brew—did I say brew? The expression is archaic and will soon become obsolete in our bone-dry age—to cook, then, to sweep and dust, to wash and iron and sew, but in relearning these household arts we shall also practice the virtues of thrift, of perseverance and energy and self-sacrifice; and the high virtue of patriotism will become more than ever a part of the texture of our souls. Nor shall the civilization of the intellect perish. Only we shall not have time for the unessential or the unworthy.

But this emergency comes home to many women who are no longer able to perform hard manual labor. Servantless, they flock to the hotels, which become veritable "Old Ladies' Homes." Foregathering in these places of refuge, they think sometimes, but less often than one would imagine, of their household treasures—the old mahogany, the china, the pictures, the family clock, which has passed the time of day with three or four generations, all now packed away in the storage warehouses.

CHUMS OF BOYHOOD RALLY TO LOWDEN

Sunrise, Minn., Birthplace of Illinois Governor, Backs Him for President.

THE LOWDEN SWIMMING HOLE

Early Friends of Governor See Village Famous as Cradle of President —"Born in Sunrise and Been Awake Ever Since."

Sunrise, Minn., a sleepy little village with a population of 200, has found a place in the political sun. Politics has put the village on the map and it expects to stay there. For Gov. Frank O. Lowden of Illinois, one of the leading candidates for the Republican presidential nomination, was born in Sunrise fifty-nine years ago. His boyhood chums and neighbors are conscious of the fame thrust upon them. Perhaps the most enthusiastic Lowden-for-president club in the country is the one that meets in Sunrise, now in the village hall, now in Andrew Lind's general store.

It is many years since the Lowdens made their home in Sunrise—more than half a century, in fact—but the village has never forgotten the family, least of all "little Frank." The old shed where Lorenzo Lowden, the governor's father, had his blacksmith shop, still stands. It is the property of the Lowden children, used only for storage purposes—and for the ghost games which, the folk say, were started by Frank Lowden. The Lowden home still stands, too. It is an old-fashioned dwelling that occupies a rise of ground two miles from the village. There is a third building in Sunrise that figured in the governor's boyhood. That is the schoolhouse. Lorenzo Lowden helped to build it so his boy could have a schooling. The one-room structure is but a stone's throw from the blacksmith shop. It is no longer a school, having been succeeded by a more modern building, but is now the village hall. A picture of the Illinois governor hangs on the wall, and under its roof the Lowden club holds meetings.

The Sunrise folk are full of stories about Frank Lowden.

"He was a studious child," said Henry Voss, one of the governor's schoolmates. "After he had learned to read he used to walk back and forth between the school and home, a distance of two miles, carrying a book before his face. The boys would speak to him and he wouldn't answer. If we annoyed him when he was interested he would stop and trounce us. Or," Voss added, with a twinkle, "at least he'd try to."

In a bend of the river near town is he swimming hole where Frank's areer was almost cut short. The boy was passionately fond of the water and in the spring could scarcely wait for the ice to go out.

"See right over there in the center?" asked Voss. "That's where Frank nearly drowned. Trying to do what the older and stronger boys did he got up on the springboard and plunged off in ten feet of water. Theo. Voss saw his head bob up, go down, come up a second time and again disappear. Theo dived in, a few feet down the current, caught him by the hair and dragged him ashore. We poured the water out of him and in a few minutes he was as right as ever."

"Lowden's swimming hole" is still popular with the boys of the neighborhood.

Many of the governor's old friends are now at North Branch, ten miles from Sunrise. Among them is S. W. Runyan, who had something to do with Frank's education.

"I taught Frank to hunt squirrels," said Runyan. "We covered many a mile of this country with our gun and dogs."

The Lowdens left Sunrise in the late sixties. The last picture of Frank's boyhood that remains with the old residents is that of a sturdy little chap, dressed for travel, marching off down the road behind the "prairie schooner" that bore all the Lowden effects to their new home in Iowa. There was nothing forlorn about the picture. The boy was cheerful, wideawake and on the lookout for something to do. Alertness was characteristic of him.

Said Henry Voss, the village philosopher, speaking of his old friend:

"Frank was born here in Sunrise, and it kind of appears that he has been awake ever since."

FARMERS TO PUSH LOWDEN

Harvey J. Sconce Quits Agricultural Post to Work for Governor.

Harvey J. Sconce, a former baseball star of the University of Illinois, has resigned as president of the Illinois Agricultural association to devote his entire time to organization work among the farmers of the middle West in the interest of Gov. Frank O. Lowden's candidacy for president. He will make a tour of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and other states, talking to the farmers.

Women Leaders of Nation, in Conference, Indorse Interchurch World Movement Aims



1. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. 2. Mme. Grouitch. 3. Mrs. Josephus Daniels. 4. Mrs. Robert Lansing.

Efficiency Plank in New Religious Program for America and Her Missions Meets Enthusiastic Approval Throughout Three-day Convention at Washington.

Big Budget for Babies Chief Recommendation — Women in Cities Urged to Help Obtain Co-operation of Civic and Legislative Child Welfare Bodies.

The tremendous appeal made to the women of America by war-stricken children and by children in need the world over was illustrated recently at a conference of church women assembled at Washington.

That there would be much more attention to and adequate legislation concerning the problems of children has long been prophesied as a result of granting suffrage to women. The emphasis placed upon the needs of the little folks all over the world by these representative women, who came to Washington from every part of the United States, called together by the Interchurch World Movement, bore witness to the fact that American women are first of all maternal.

The power of women to mold public sentiment and, once started, to push through the matters closest to their consciences cannot be overestimated in these reconstruction days. In matters at home and overseas what the women of this country decide must be done will be done not by their efforts alone, but by the combined efforts of their fathers, husbands, brothers and sons.

Mrs. Wilson Presides.

Answering the call to gather in Washington, arrangements for the conference having been made by a committee of which Mrs. Woodrow Wilson is chairman, the women assembled represented all the Protestant churches now co-operating in the Interchurch Movement. Among the notable members in the sessions were Mrs Robert Lansing, Mrs. Josephus Daniels, Mrs. David Houston, Mrs. Franklin K. Lane, Mrs. A. S. Burleson, Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, Mme. Grouitch of Serbia, Mme. Pauaretoff of Bulgaria and Mme. Marc Peter of Switzerland. In all there were 302 delegates present, representing twenty-one denominations.

Throughout the sessions of the conference, which extended over three days, the enthusiastic approval of the aims of the Interchurch organization was continually evident. The fact that by co-ordination much more efficiency in working methods for all churches could be obtained made a very definite appeal. Putting churches on a more businesslike basis might be thought an odd platform upon which to unite women of the various denominations, but the day is gone when business methods and efficiency have no charm for the feminine sex. Due to the efficiency plank in the Interchurch platform, first of all, the organization was indorsed and recommended to the church women of America.

Big Budget for Babies.

A big budget for babies was the first recommendation to the women of the mission boards of the churches. This applied especially to the children in the war-stricken countries, but as well to children in need all over the globe. Women were also asked to support the Industrial Department of the Interchurch World Movement and the program of organized motherhood for the children of the world. Church women in the various cities of the country were urged to assist in obtaining co-operation with industrial, civic and legislative child welfare. They were called upon to remember that the constant attention of every woman citizen is imperative for the protection of children.

The appeal of the children of our own land and those millions of others throughout the world left orphaned because of war, pestilence or famine comes with double force to the followers of Him who said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these ye have done it unto Me." And the women of America, in indorsing the program of the Interchurch organization, have put their mother hearts behind the movement and added the power of their intelligent co-operation.

MILLION DELEGATES TO ATTEND 2,000 MEETINGS TO DISCUSS INTERCHURCH PLANS

Bulk of Counties in the United States Will Have Conferences to Solve Problems of Unchurched Areas, Wasteful Duplications and Underpaid Preachers.

A method of holding meetings of Protestant church representatives in about 2,000 county seats in the United States, involving a total attendance of anywhere from a million to a million and a half delegates, has been evolved by the Interchurch World Movement of North America, according to an announcement just made at Interchurch headquarters, at 45 West Eighteenth street, New York City.

The original plan to hold all of these two thousand and odd meetings simultaneously throughout the country was abandoned as unpractical. But they will take place as nearly simultaneously as possible, all but a very few being scheduled to be held between April 5 and 17.

The meeting place will in most cases be the county seat, and the attendance will be composed of the membership of the Protestant churches of the county.

The conferences will last one day only. During that day will be presented the whole program of the Interchurch World Movement for promoting co-operation in missionary and general church activities among the Protestant churches. Time will also be given to discussion of the local problems in each county as revealed by the Interchurch Movement's survey of religious conditions throughout the United States.

No Sidestepping of Problems.

It will be, it is said, a very exceptional county that does not hear some more or less unpalatable truths concerning unchurched areas, or wasteful competition, or underpaid and absentee preachers. Not many counties, it is stated, are able to show an average ministerial salary higher than the average for the whole United States, which is $937, while barely one-third of the entire Protestant population of the United States, according to estimates made by the Interchurch survey, has an opportunity for regular church attendance.

Besides a full consideration of local problems, the program at the county conferences will present the outstanding results of the world-wide survey of religious, social and economic conditions made by the Interchurch Movement, the material for which has been gathered from every corner of the earth. Special emphasis will also be laid on the place of prayer in Christian life, the importance of assisting young people in the right choice of their life work and the duty of laying aside a definite proportion of income for religious purposes. Lantern slides will be freely used to illustrate the various addresses.

The conferences will be managed by local committees, and the various topics under discussion will be handled by teams of from five to eight men and women, recognized as church leaders in the county or state. Each team will be responsible for conducting the conferences in eight counties.

Big Educational Campaign Prepared.

This series of conferences represents only an intermediate stage in a great campaign of intensive education in practical Christianity preparatory to the united appeal for missionary funds and workers which will be held by the Protestant denominations co-operating in the Interchurch Movement between April 25 and May 2. The teams that will address the county conferences were themselves trained as a "faculty" of specialists in the various aspects of the Movement at a series of state and pastors' conferences. Similarly, those who attend the county conferences will in turn form a "faculty" for interpreting the message of the Interchurch Movement to their local churches.

Thus it is expected that before April 20 the ideal of church co-operation advocated by the Interchurch World Movement, in place of church competition, and the program of evangelization that goes with it, will be familiar to every one of the fifty million Protestants in the United States.

Ireland Again.

Two Irishmen were walking along one of the main thoroughfares in Glasgow when they noticed a large placard in the window of a shop with the words: "Butter! Butter!! Butter!!!" in large type written on it.

"Pat," said Mike, "what is the meaning of them big strokes after the words?"

"Och, ye ignoramus," says Pat "sure they are meant for shillelahs to show it's Irish butter."—London Ideas.

Business Training.

Serious consideration is being given to the need of higher commercial training when London university proposes to collect $2,500,000 to establish a course in commerce, that is to say, to create a commercial faculty, scholarships, traveling clerkships, erect buildings and get a library. The need of higher commercial training impresses the British.

MINISTERS NEED FREE HOSPITALS

Survey by Interchurch World Movement Reveals Pulpit's Poverty.

$1,242 HIGH AVERAGE SALARY FOR PROTESTANT PREACHERS

Clinics and Homes for Aged and Infirm and Better Salaries for Pastors Are Part of New Co-operation Program.

As a result of the campaign now being made by the Interchurch World Movement the combined Protestant churches of America will provide many more hospitals, clinics and homes for the aged and infirm. An interesting feature of these Protestant hospitals will be free treatment for ministers, as recent surveys made by the Interchurch organization have made the need for special dispensations very obvious.

The following startling facts were divulged as to the average salaries in the various denominations. Starting with the highest, the average for Episcopal ministers is $1,242; the average for Presbyterian (North), $1,177; for the United Presbyterians, $1,096; for the Reformed Church (Dutch), $1,170; for the Methodist Episcopal (North), $1,176; Congregational, $1,042, and for the Baptists (Northern), $950.

With government experts announcing that $1,500 is the lowest salary upon which a family can be decently maintained and suggesting budgets for none lower, ministers have a discouraging outlook. Such things as hospital bills are almost impossible to meet, and yet every normal family has some illness in its midst every year. Accordingly the Interchurch Movement, while on its way to obtain higher averages in salaries, will assist by providing free care in its institutions.

Alienists' Test.

It is a common thing for an alienist to demand a specimen of handwriting in order to help him determine whether his patient has delusions, is insane, or is carried away by certain emotions or any abnormality. And there is a reason for this. It has been proved many times that there is a distinct relation between the nerves of the brain and those of the hand, so that a man's writing reflects his mental temperament.

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