The Problem of Jimmy

By ELEANOR C. KOENIG

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JOHN RUTHERFORD wondered why, in the midst of his dilemma, he should pause to consider how charming a vision Miss Bryce was as she blew into the office like a fresh spring breeze. These unspoken poetic words were really his and, it may be added, they were quite contrary to his usual prosaic trend of thought. They were contrary, too, to his usual practice of ignoring just what Miss Bryce had on—the trim lines of her dark blue dress, the fall of lace against her white throat and the most becoming hat she wore.

She actually did not look sixteen, he thought, and thereupon felt a rather queer sensation in his throat. Foolish thoughts for a man of forty to be thinking, and a widower, too, with the ever increasing difficulty of trying to manage the proper upbringing of a seven-year-old boy, who, to use the expression of Mrs. Hills, his long-suffering nurse, was nothing less than a "wild colt."

This last thought led him straight back to his dilemma, which was the immediate and proper care of Jimmy, who was to be this very day deprived of Mrs. Hills' care.

On his desk lay the letter received from her this morning to the effect that she was bringing him back from Silver Sands Beach, whither they had been sent a month previously by Jimmy's father, in the hope that there Mrs. Hills might recuperate her flagging energy and Jimmy receive the benefit of the sea air.

The letter also recorded Mrs. Hills' absolute resignation from her arduous duties.

Somehow or other, Miss Bryce's bright "good morning" sent flying the dark clouds which had settled around this perplexed father, and furthered half-formed resolution to confide his difficulty to her. Come to think of it, he had confided quite a little in her of late. Perhaps he had better tell her his plans for the future; his settled determination to have a "real mother" for Jimmy and of the letter that was on its way to Miss Emily Stephens.

His mind conjured up a picture of Miss Stephens; not at all like Miss Bryce. Miss Bryce was small, with a little, round face. Miss Stephens stood five feet ten and, now that he thought of it, must wear at least a number eight shoe.

Miss Stephens was thirty-nine, a credit to her community, and a good woman. In short, she would instruct Jimmy in such a way as to raise him to self-respecting manhood.

Acting upon the impulse, he tapped on Miss Bryce's door, and, receiving encouragement from her bright smile, was soon outlining his purpose.

Miss Bryce knew Jimmy, but Mr. Rutherford did not know of the wonderful times she and Jimmy had had when he was away from the office. The instinctive motherhood in her had seen at a glance what Jimmy craved—companionship and understanding. There had been one glorious afternoon when Jimmy had sat unceremoniously on the floor and eaten popcorn, several conversations when a complete understanding had been established between them and a warm, throbbing mad love had, in some strange manner, sprung up for the child.

Strangely, too, she felt a mean little prick somewhere around the region of her heart when she heard of Miss Stephens. Then a deep look came into her eyes.

"Has Miss Stephens ever seen Jimmy?" she asked.

"No," Rutherford replied. "That's what bothers me. You see, Jimmy is what is termed 'wild,' and in my proposal to Miss Stephens I did not tell her of this. I am sort of wondering what she will think of him. I met her only last winter in California, and she struck me then as being a good, upright woman who would make a good mother."

"Then, in justice to them both, they should know each other thoroughly before you marry," said Miss Bryce, and mentally accused herself of meanness.

This suggestion accounted for the fact that a week later, the unsuspecting Jimmy was on his way to visit Miss Stephens for an indefinite period.

Meanwhile, Rutherford found himself reluctant to think of his approaching nuptials. Really, it was strange how thin and shadowy Miss Bryce was growing. Then one night when he had unexpectedly returned to the office he had found her face bowed on the desk, crying. What was the reason, he wondered then; and that night he had paced back and forth, calling himself a blind fool and hurling numerous other like epithets at himself.

The next morning he dreaded to go near the office and it was not until late in the afternoon that he ventured there. When he opened the door, he saw a strange sight. Miss Bryce sat in the big leather chair, reading out of a highly-colored book, and on her lap sat Jimmy, in utter content.

"Why, Jimmy, what does this mean?" asked Rutherford.

"Miss Stephens didn't like me and I didn't like her," said Jimmy, "and I like Miss Bryce and want her for my mother."

Which assertion was borne out by a letter that had arrived earlier in the day and which was lying on John Rutherford's desk.

This letter settled forever the question of Miss Stephens, and Rutherford read it with a shining face.

At any rate, Jimmy had found a real mother.

"Hard" and "Soft" Water

Hard water is water which contains dissolved in it certain substances which interfere with the action of soap by forming with it an insoluble compound or curd. The hardness of natural waters is principally due to the salts of calcium and magnesium, especially calcium carbonate, which produces temporary hardness, removable by boiling, and calcium sulphate, which causes permanent hardness. Soft water is characterized by the practical absence of substances which prevent the formation of lather with soaps.

Old Ram Discovered Youth Will Be Served

Not long ago the Companion printed a story by Mr. C. A. Stephens entitled "Cephas Tyrannus." The story reminded a reader of an experience that a cousin of his had with a ram that must certainly have been an offspring of old Cephas. The ram was past middle age, was large and heavy and had a wicked set of horns that he used at every opportunity. He became so dangerous that he finally had to be confined by himself in a small enclosure.

My cousin, writes our correspondent, had obtained a younger and smaller ram for breeding purposes, and the sight of the newcomer filled the old ram with deepest hatred. He was never able to get at him, though he often put the enclosure to a severe test when the young ram would come in sight.

The end of the jealousy came suddenly one day when the gate of his pen was inadvertently left open. The old ram gave one angry blat and tore through the opening, making for his enemy, who was feeding with the ewes about 200 yards away. At the sport of defiance the entire herd looked up, and the ewes took to their heels. Not so their new lord, however. He stood his ground, braced all four feet and lowered his head to meet the oncoming rush. As the two collided there was a crash that was heard in the next field. The impact threw the old ram clear over the youngster's back, and like Cephas, when he landed some five feet to the rear, he lay quite still. Examination showed that his neck was broken. The young ram appeared dazed for a moment or two; then he leisurely trotted off to join the ewes at their new feeding place.—Youth's Companion.

Musk Ox Well Equipped to Cope With Enemies

The musk ox which makes its home in the northern part of Canada is a connecting link between wild cattle and sheep. Its horns are similar to the cape buffalo and its flesh tastes like beef. It has next its body a dense coat of soft, clean woolly hair, and through this grows a rain coat of very long, straight brown hair like that of the Tibetan yak, says the Winnipeg Free Press.

It has a tail so short and small that the animal seems tailless. Their horns meet in a broad base over the top of the skull, drop far down, then sharply curve upward for several inches, terminating in sharp points. They are specially designed for puncturing the vitals of wolves and polar bears. The musk ox lives and thrives even up to the farthest north for hoofed animals.

Pretty Legend of Crosses

Near the place where the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny mountains unite there is, in Patrick county, Va., a spur of the Blue Ridge called "Bull mountain." On the side of this mountain, and nowhere else in the world, there are found the famous "fairy stones." The mountaineers explain it by legends worthy of the myth-making Greeks. One story says "that ages ago, when the red men were masters here, these stones were showered down by the Great Spirit as a sign of salvation coming to the savage race." But the generally accepted legend—that one from which the name comes—is this: "When Christ was crucified on Calvary elfin messengers carried the news to all parts of the world. When the tidings of woe reached the fairies in the rugged mountains they ceased their merrymaking and at once began to make these crosses as fuementos of the sad event."

Peacock and Turkey

"Look at me," said the peacock, spreading his tail and strutting grandly about; "am I not handsome?"

"Yes," replied the turkey, "in your own eyes, but I put up a perpetual thanksgiving that I was not hatched so vain as you."

"I should think thanksgiving was rather a tender subject with you," rejoined the peacock, pluming himself.

"Not at all," said the farmer, who had been listening to this interchange of civilities; "he is a tender subject for Thanksgiving!" And so saying, he caught up the turkey and carried him off to market.

"Well, well," said the peacock, "I'm glad I'm too handsome to eat, and that fine feathers don't always make fine birds, according to the cook."—St. Nicholas Magazine.

Meant All She Said

They were evidently married and must have disagreed before they came to the lecture the other evening. For every once in a while she would deliver some cutting remark to him. But the best came when he shifted his chair so that it was directly in front of her. But he still tried to be polite. "Is it hard for you to look over my shoulder in public?" he asked.

"No," was the cutting answer, "not a bit harder than it is overlooking your faults in private."—Indianapolis News.

"Silver" Foxes

The name silver fox, as commonly used by furriers, includes the dark phases of the ordinary red fox, variously called silver gray, silver black, or black. The color of the red fox of the Northeastern states and of its allies of the colder part of North America varies from red to black, and these extremes with the gradations between them form four more or less distinct phases, known respectively as red, cross or patch, silver and black.

Organization of Scientists

The Royal society grew out of two small groups of friends, who met occasionally in London and Oxford to discuss scientific questions, about the middle of the Seventeenth century. These were organized into a definite society in 1660, and two years later the society was granted a charter by Charles II and incorporated as the Royal society. Its early meetings took place in Gresham college, and afterwards in Crane court. In 1782 the place of meeting was transferred to Somerset house, and in 1857 to Burlington house, London.—London Mail.

A GREATER WESTERN MARYLAND COLLEGE

The General Education Board of New York City The (Rockefeller Foundation) has announced a conditional gift of $125,000 to Western Maryland College, to be applied to endowment. The condition attached to the gift is that the College is to raise $375,000 additional for endowment, making a total of $500,000 for endowment including the Rockefeller donation. The Maryland Legislature has also made an appropriation of $125,000 for a building, conditioned on the College raising additional endowment. In other words, a total of $250,000 is to be given the institution provided the institution raises additional endowment to the amount of $375,000. Three years are given in which the conditions may be met.

This is a distinct challenge to the friends of the College. The Board of Trustees, at a meeting held recently, accepted the conditional gifts and authorized a campaign to be put on to raise the amount necessary to meet the conditions imposed by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Maryland Legislature. This campaign will likely be carried on in May of this year. The friends of the institution are much encouraged at the prospect of a successful campaign for funds. Western Maryland College has had a remarkable history and has done a great work in education for the citizens of Maryland and other States. The institution is making great strides along all lines, and the outcome of this campaign will place the institution in the forefront among the colleges of the country.

To Stock Kent Streams

The United States Department of Fisheries will shortly stock a number of streams in Kent and Queen Anne's counties with game fish which in a short while will afford excellent sport for anglers. The principal fish to be distributed in the ponds and headwaters of the rivers making into the two counties will be the big mouth bas and crappie. Sometime ago Dr. H. Childs Hughes, a devotee of hook and line fishing, received from the government a number of what is known as Mississippi cat fish, which grew to enormous size, some of them weighing as much as 35 pounds. These fish were liberated in the headwaters of the Chester River and last year several were caught in nets, some of which weighed as much as ten pounds. It is said that the waters of the rivers and ponds in the two counties afford excellent propagation grounds for almost all kinds of fish.

The Nation's Colossal Wealth

The wealth of the Untied States at the end of December, 1922, on the best estimates available of all property classified by the Census Bureau, was placed today at $320,803,862,000. This was an increase of 72.2 per cent, for the decade, since in 1912 the census found the nation's wealth to be $186,299,664,000.

The wealth of Maryland is put at $3,990,730,000

The item of greatest value in national wealth was real estate and its improvements subject to taxation, found to be worth $155,908,625,000. The second item in size was the grouped valuation of the clothing, furniture, vehicles and like property of individuals, which totaled $39,816.001,000.

Third was the value of manufastured products on hand and in distribution, placed at $28,422,848,000, while the next largest item was $20,505,819,000, representing real property and its improvements listed by the States as exempt from taxation.

INFORMATION FOR INCOME TAX PAYERS

The following statement is issued by Collector of Internal Revenue, Galen L. Tait, of the district of Maryland.

Millions of forms for filing returns of income by individuals and corporations have been sent to taxpayers who filed similar returns in 1924. Failure to receive a form, does not relieve the taxpayer of his obligation to file a return and pay the tax on time. Copies of the forms may be obtained at the office of Collector of Internal Revenue Galen L. Tait, Custom House, Baltimore, Maryland, and branch office, 1422 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. To avoid penalty, the return must be filed with the collector of Internal Revenue for the district in which the taxpayer lives or has his principal place of business on or before midnight of March 15, 1925.

Individuals, whose net income for 1924 was derived chiefly from salary or wages, and $5000 or less, are required to file their returns on Form 1040A. Individuals whose net income, regardless of amount, was derived from a business or profession, including farming, are required to use the larger form 1040. The use of Form 1040 is required also in cases where the net income was in excess of $5000, regardless of whether from salary business, profession or other taxable sources.

Many corporations engaged in special kinds of business, such as manufacturing tobacco or oleomargarine, dealing in narcotics or spirituous liquors, etc., are required to mak special reports. Corporations subject to sales tax or occupational tax also have their particular forms to fill out. A domestic corporation must file annually, during July, a return on Form 707 showing the fair market value of its capital stock for the preceding year ending June 30. In the case of a foreign corporation doing business in the United States, it is required to file a return on Form 708 during July, reporting the average amount of capital employed in the transaction of business in the United States during the preceding fiscal year.

The forms required from corporations in general for income tax purpose may be divided into two classes those required in connection with their own income and those required with respect to the income of other taxpayers. Some of the forms required to be filed by corporations in connection with ther own incomes are as follows: Form 1120, if the corporation files on a calendar year basis, on Form 1120A if it files on a fiscal year basis. Life insurance companies file on Form 1120L. A subsidiary or affiliated corporation whose net income is included in a consolidated return filed by the parent corporation must make an information return on Form 1122. A certificate of inventory on Form 1126 must be filed by an corporation engaged in a trade or business in which the production, purchase, or sale of merchandise of any kind is an income-producing factor.

Ownership certificates on Form 1000 are required to be filed by nonresident foreign corporations in collecting interest on bonds or similar obligations owned by them issued by domestic or resident corporations. Ownership and exemption certificates Form 1086 are used by foreign corporations having offices in the United States, in order that no tax may be withheld at the source from their incomes.

The following are some of the forms that are filed by corporations in connection with the income of other taxpayers: Forms 1012 and 1013 which are required of debtor corporations, or corporations acting as paying agents or collecting agents in behalf of debtor corporations. A corporation which acts as a fiduciary in cases where the income tax of the estate or trust is to be paid by the beneficiary must make a return on Form 1041. Form 1042 is filed by corporations who pay at the source the income tax on salaries, wages, etc., paid to nonresident alien taxpayers.

Reports of income payments of $1000 or more of salaries and wages are required to be filed on Forms 1096 and 1099 by a corporation which pays such income. These returns are carefully checked with the returns of the recipients. Lists of dividend payments on stock of domestic and resident corporations must be filed on Form 1097 by dividend-paying corporations.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAYS KEEP THE SCHOOL OPEN

Reports have reached the State Department of Health of the inclination in some places to close a school whenever a case of scarlet fever occurs among the pupils. As the members of the State Board of Health urge the apposite precedure and are convinced that all classes in a community are better protected by keeping the schools open, and by having the children regularly inspected each morning, so that any one who show suspicious symptoms may be referred immeidately to their family physician, or to the local Health Officer, the accompanying statement was prepared by Dr. R. H. Riley, Chief of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, in order that parents may understand the reason for this recommendation.

"Scarlet fever," Dr. Riley says, "is an exceedingly treacherous disease. Not only because it is often fatal but also because of the possibility of serious after-effects. If neglected, even a mild case—one diagnosed as scarlatina—may have a disastrous after-effect on the heart, the kidneys, the nose, ears, tonsils, glands of the neck, or joints.

"The child or adult who contracts scarlet fever should have the most careful medical and nursing attention during the entire course of the disease. The disease develops in from two to seven days after exposure to the infection. It takes from three to six weeks for it to run its course, and the patient should be carefully isolated from contact with other members of the family, or with neighbors and friends, during the entire time. Even after the patient is convalescent, it is not safe for him to mingle with other people until there are no longer any signs of the disease. Dischargeing ears are especially active means of infecting others

"The person who cares for a patient suffering from scarlet fever, should wear a washable cover-all apron or gown, and a washable head covering—a cap of some sort. These should be left inside the sick room if the mother or nurse has to come out of the room and prepare the meals or to mingle in other ways with members of the family.

"Soap and water are good disinfectants, and the hands and face of the mother or nurse should be washed carefully and well each time she leaves the sick room. Discharges from the eyes, ears, nose, throat or from any open sores on the patient, should be caught on pieces of paper or soft cloth and burned.

"There was a marked increase in scarlet fever in 1924 as compared with 1923 in the counties of Maryland, with 1851 cases reported in 1924, and 1586 in 1923. In January of the current year, 215 cases were reported as compared with 238 for the corresponding month last year.

"It is much safer to keep the schools open because it is possible in that way to keep track of the children; to detect the onset of suspicious symptoms promptly, and to see that precautionary measures are put into effect without the delay that so often arises when children are not so carefully watched.

"Through the work of two Chicago physicians, Dr. G. F. Dick and Dr. Gladys Dick a scarlet fever anti-toxin has been found during the last year that has been used with marked success in a number of cases. It is used in the same way that diphtheria anti-toxin is employed and its especial value is in decreasing the disastrous after-effects referred to above. It is hoped that the utilization of the same principle in immunizing persons against scarlet fever will eventually result in making the disease much less of a menace than it is now.

In the meanwhile, the disease has to be fought with the weapons at present at our command—isolation of the sick, the best medical and nursing care, disinfection of discharges, and no mingling of sick and well, until all danger of spreading the infection is over."—From the State Board of Health.

Worton

Miss Hope Meeks, one of our teachers who has been quite sick with grippe has recovered and is back to work.

The Ladies Aid met at the Church Hall on Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. P. B. Rasin, who has been sick is better at this writing.

Mr. George T. Williams has had a radio installed on trial by Mr. W. P. Newnam.

Mr. Rasin Gears has been spending a few days with his sister, Mrs. Joseph Luyer.

The Cross Word Social held in the Hall on Friday evening was enjoyed very much by the young folks.

George Rasin, Jr., has the mumps.

Farmers, List Your Repair Needs

It would be hard to find a farmer who at some time or another had not lost valuable time waiting for necessary repair parts. Take this territory and total up the time lost in this way and it will astonish you. And all because repairs are not ordered as early as they should be.

There is no better time than right now—just before the busiest season on the farm—to go over your machines carefully, make a list of repairs you are likely to need and send it to us. With this list in our hands, we can order our stock so as to be prepared to meet every call promptly.

Repair part service is a necessary part of our business. We realize what it means to you in time and money to get what you need at once. Help us to help you by making up your list now and sending it in to us.

PAUL COMEGYS

Millington, Maryland

ANOUNCEMENT.

Thomas F. Healey, wishes to announce to his many friends and clients that he will return to Chestertown, Md. on or about December first to resume the general practise of the law, and that his office will be located in the Copeland Building, Cross and Park Row.

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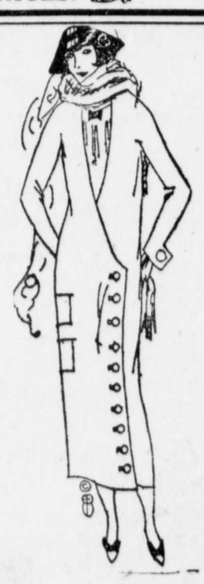
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