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Chestertown, Maryland

Great Queen of Song Attempted Too Much

The failure of many artistes who remain unknown comes from the fact that they do not know in what direction their power lies. The failures of great artistes nearly always come from their lack of knowledge of their own limitations. Few can, indeed, go on for long years with a record like that of Madame Adelina Patti, of whom it is said that she had but one real failure in her artistic life. She was over fifty years old and had been a leading opera singer for over thirty years when, attracted by the opportunities which the role of Carmen gives, she undertook to sing it at Covent Garden, London. With her voice still beautiful, her stage technique at its strongest and her immense popularity, even she could not adapt herself to a role that was conceived for a different type of voice and a different type of person. She, the greatest singer of the century, failed to do what scores of lesser artistes were doing well, and what had proved the inspiration of some of those who were nearest to her in greatness.

Shark Good Eating

Shark meat has grown in favor among the native population of Bermuda until it is now their favorite delicacy.

More than 200 kinds of fish can be caught in the warm waters around Bermuda and all are edible. Fishermen find, however, that young sharks are most in demand. These average about four feet in length and are caught alive just beyond the six-mile coral reef that surrounds the islands.

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The Boss on the Scene

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD

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IN ALL his fifteen years of running a dude ranch Jim Stanley had never concerned himself over any of his guests beyond their actual welfare and entertainment until Daphne Fremont started in making miserable the life of Jim's nephew, Brent Burgess.

Brent was an intermittent cowpuncher who turned to in the summer time and helped his uncle pack outfits for the dude camping trips. A nice-looking boy, but tremendously bashful. "Woman shy," his uncle called him, and was glad of it. Nothing was worse in his opinion than a cowboy who fell heavily for casual summer flirtations.

Daphne, so far from flirting with Brent, seemed to have singled him out not exactly for ridicule, perhaps, but for a certain persistent teasing. And Jim had seen the lad flush rosily at some sally of hers or clench his fist while his eyes flashed.

Funny, too, for Daphne was a good sort even if somewhat over-indulged by her father, who had been a friend of Jim's for many years. Jim had welcomed the advent of this particular party, who proved to be a very decent crowd of young people with an older woman in the capacity of that old-fashioned creature, the chaperon.

It was to Mrs. Mortimer that he finally spoke about Brent.

"Miss Daphne rags him continually," he said. "The boy actually goes white when she appears. Have you noticed it?"

Mrs. Mortimer nodded.

"If it had been that fellow the boys call Redhead," ruminated Stanley, "I could understand it. There Miss Dahpne surely would have met her match."

"I would take Daphne to task," said Mrs. Mortimer thoughtfully, "but opposition of any sort has always acted as a spur rather than a check. I think that there must be something behind it all that we don't know."

Now had it not been for an episode the next morning of which Jim was an involuntary witness, he might have decided to let the matter run its course. Every summer had an end. In fact, he had rather come to the conclusion overnight that he was a sentimental old fool making mountains out of mole hills.

Shortly after breakfast he sauntered down towards the corral to see how the horses were bearing up under tenderfoot riders. Rounding the corner of the ice house, he came suddenly upon Brent and Daphne engaged in what was evidently a heated conversation.

Brent, standing stiffly, awkwardly, with his hands behind him, was unmistakably resenting whatever Daphne was saying.

"No Easterner would be so stupid!" was all Jim actually overheard for, as he appeared, both started and Brent, looking punished, turned away.

"Do you think, Miss Daphne," questioned Jim, quite as if unaware that he had interrupted a little drama, "that a three-days' trip to Lupin lake in the Pass sounds very interesting?"

"I sure do, Mr. Stanley," replied Daphne, with a similar effort to meet his casualness. "Everybody going?"

Three days with Redhead assigned as her guide, pondered Jim, would make her see the light. Would bring her to appreciate a fellow of Brent's caliber. The crimson-haired Jake Rogers was retained on the V Bar ranch for other sterling qualities than his abilities to esquire ladies. In a good mood, he did his clumsy best. In a bad one, he was as full of mischief as he could manage without being fired.

Brent he turned over to Daphne's cousin, a mildly pretty girl, incurably afraid of snakes, grades and thundershowers.

Evening of the second day of the expedition found the party camped under the pines beside lovely Lake Lupin. A semicircle of small peak tents was pitched around a central camp fire of mammoth logs. Horses and cook tent and quarters for the men were dimly distinguishable in the forest gloom at the rear.

Jim, wandering down to the fringe of sand at the lake's edge to smoke a cigar in the solitude he loved, was surprised to hear voices.

"Why did you plague me so, if you really cared, Daphne?"

"Because"—the voice was muffled as if it came from the depths of some one's shoulder—"you acted as if you loved me but would never believe I loved you. It made me so raging mad to have you sure I was only flirting!"

"How could I think otherwise? Not until today, when that fool Jake was careless enough to let you take that precipice on the outside, did I realize that I simply must take a chance on your allowing me to look out for you the rest of my life."

Jim drew back as softly as a deer. Daphne had made Brent suffer because she loved him. The way of a maid with a man! Well, the lad was every bit as well born as Daphne. He had had his four years at the university. As for money, whatever his uncle had would some day be his.

Just for the moment, however, up here in the cool mountains, with a young moon setting aslant the black lodge pole pines, the lap of water the only sound save for an occasional stirring of the night wind, money or birth or education seemed less important than love.

Land of Many Languages

The principal languages of Switzerland are German, spoken by 71 per cent of the people; French, by 21 per cent, and Italian, by 6 per cent. Other languages are Romanshe and Ladin. By the federal constitution of 1848 and 1874 German, French and Italian are recognized as national languages, so that debates in the federal parliament may be carried on in any of the three, while federal laws and decrees appear also in the three languages. The old dialects of Romanshe and Ladin do not have any political recognition by the confederation.

Soothe Doomed Shark by Tickling Its Hide

Few of us would like to tackle the tiger of the seas in his native haunts, but the brown men of Aitutaki in the Southern seas have no such scruples. There, in the calm emerald waters of the lagoon, fringed about with waving palms, are great hollows in the coral rocks; here, during the hottest hours of the day, the sharks love to bask in the welcome shade.

Ten feet of shark lies snug within the shadow, only a slowly waving tail proclaiming his presence. Then out from the beach creeps a canoe, with a rope of sinnet ready coiled. Silently the Kanakas paddle to the spot, where deep down in the clear water that slaty-gray tail moves slowly.

Poised for a moment while he inhales a deep breath, the brown man waits, the loop of the rope over his arm. Then, in a beautiful curve, he dives. Now he is beside the shark and his hand softly rubs the rasping hide. The shark likes it.

Suddenly the noose is fixed over the flukes of the tail, and a brown form is seen scrambling quickly over the gunwale of the canoe.

Then comes a rapid paddling of the frail craft, the line is hauled in and the shark is effectively dispatched with a blow of a club.

Difficulties of Life Have Their Purposes

Very rare are those who have always had their every wish fulfilled or forestalled; but even these should not be envied.

Man is not made to live in perpetual sunshine, and would very soon tire of having all he desires, without having to wait and work for the materialization of his longings. The greater the ease of obtaining what he wants—the sooner it would pall upon him.

Life's difficulties and prolonged trials, says the London Chronicle, are a test of character. If we had no difficulties to overcome and our patience were not tried, we might continue to exist—but our claim to be called "men" and "women" would be slender.

Though we often groan under its weight, we should "respect the burden," and thus retain our cheerfulness and serenity.

Houses in Patriotic Hues

With all the house painting now going on so busily in city and country, the elders who as boys or girls lived on a farm will smile as they contrast the quiet colors used today with the vivid ones common to their youth. Blue and red were favorite colors then. They were the cheapest paints the farmers could buy and mix, except for a standard white.

Barn doors were invariably one of these two colors. A blue pump clashed with the green grass in the door yard. A blue wooden weathervane rooster swung lazily on a red-roofed barn. Houses were mostly white, but for many years blue and red trimmings were much in favor. In many sections the countryside presented a decidedly patriotic appearance.

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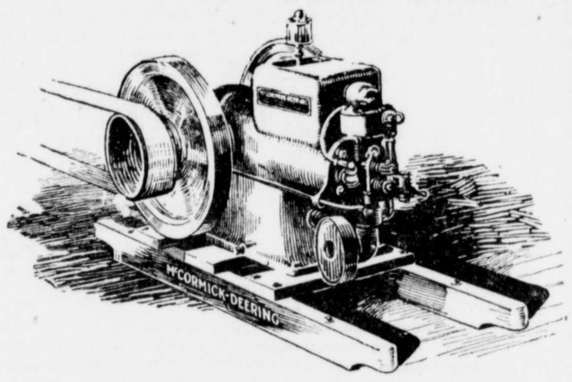

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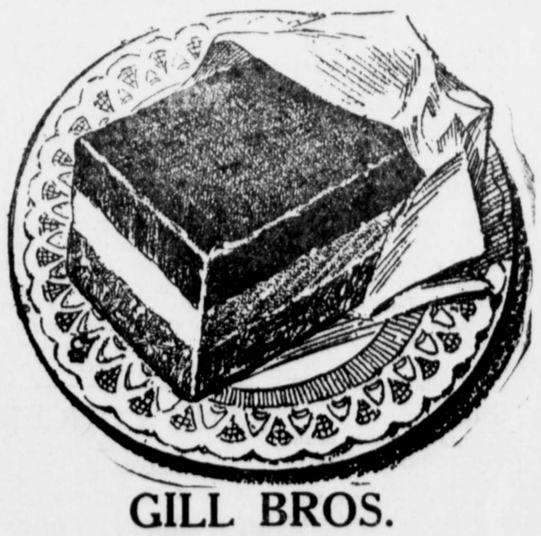

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