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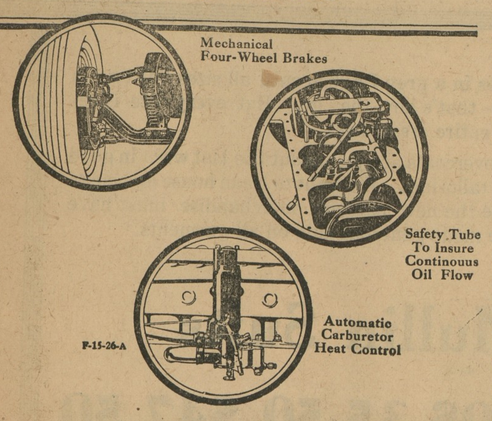

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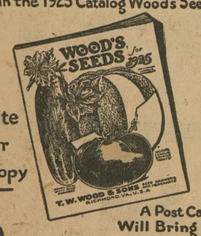

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The Message of the Violets

By CECELIA FARWELL

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WE WERE wrapped loosely in soft tissue and laid in a big white box. It was damp and dark and cool in the box, like the night-time when we nestled down under our big green leaves and went to sleep under the stars.

When the box was opened I heard a soft voice exclaim, "Oh! Violets!" and we were gathered up, so gently that not a petal was crushed, and pressed against a girl's face.

Something damp fell on one of my petals—tears—though I heard a soft, happy laugh. She laid us down ever so carefully and picked up a little square of stiff paper, giving a quick little gasp, "Oh!" There was a new note in it. She sat down by the table and was very still for a long time, only her hand touching us lightly, lovingly. My tiny violet heart thrilled at her caress, though I did not understand.

Then, slowly, hesitatingly, she reached toward the telephone that stood on the table behind our box, but drew it back quickly. I wondered. She leaned over us and I felt her lips touch me gently; it was as if she whispered into my ear, "Why not?" She took up the instrument, but her voice trembled as she called a number.

We all kept very still, not even a rustle among us, but we sent out our sweet perfume to her, for somehow, we knew that she needed us. We could hear every word when a man's voice answered.

"Hello."

"Mr. Graham?" The soft voice did not tremble now.

"Hello—what—why—it is Elizabeth!" There was amazement and joy in the tones.

"Yes. I—I wanted to—to thank you for the violets."

"To thank me—Elizabeth—I don't understand."

"They came—addressed to me, and your card. I wanted to—to thank you, that was all."

Then the man said a very strange thing. We heard him plainly, and so did Elizabeth, but instead of putting that instrument down in a hurry, so that she could not hear another word, she just held part of it close against her shoulder, so that no sound could go into it, and laughed. What the man had said was: "Well, I'll be d——d!"

Then he added quickly, and I didn't like the tone of it, for it sounded jealous, and from what Elizabeth had said I did not think that he had any right to be jealous: "Say, Elizabeth, are you in the habit of getting flowers from Lister's?"

"No. I have never had any from there before."

"Oh—I thought maybe they had put my card in the wrong box."

"Then they were not for me?" Her voice sounded a little tired.

"No—yes—wait a moment, Elizabeth—don't hang up.

"Of course it was a mistake—I wouldn't have dared. But—listen, Elizabeth—of—I can't tell you by telephone—may I come up and tell you how it happened?"

His voice was eager, but Elizabeth's sounded just like a frosty morning: "I don't think that is necessary. It was a mistake, I understand."

After a long time the door opened and a young man came in—a tall young man, with gray eyes that smile. He wasn't the least handsome, just big—but his eyes made up for everything.

Elizabeth stood very still by the table. He came over and laid his hand on hers, which rested lightly on us, but she slipped hers from under it. He gathered some of us up in his hands, tenderly, and held us out to her, but she shook her head, and said, sadly: "They are not for me."

He laid us back carefully, and said slowly: "It is eight months since I have sent you violets, Elizabeth—but I have—wanted to—every day.

"This morning I stopped in at Campbell's. I had promised—Margie—some roses. As I waited for the man I remembered that I had always sent you violets from Campbell's and, somehow, I didn't want to—send—flowers to any one else—from there. So I went on—to Lister's. I was thinking of you, you see, and the violets.

"I didn't intend to order violets—but I did. I remembered, after I went out. The man had looked at me sort of surprised when I said to him, "You will send them right up?' and he answered, 'They will be delivered immediately.' I didn't know that I had written a downtown address. My heart had written it for me. So, you see, dear, they are for you."

He gathered some of us into his hands again and held them out to her. This time she took them in both hands.

And when he saw that there were tears in her eyes he took her into his arms.

After a long moment she said in a sort of gasping whisper: "But Margie?"

He laughed happidly. "Oh, Margie will be all right. She doesn't really want me—she just wanted the last new man—I was it! She'll probably break the engagement because I did not send those roses!"

Then he gathered up a double-handful of violets and lifted them above her head, letting them fall in a shower over her brown hair. But she gathered up every one, carefully, exclaiming: "Oh, my precious flowers—my dear little violets that have brought me such happiness. I must get some water for them—I want them to live forever!"

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Water Front Farm, small or medium size, on the Chesapeake Bay, Chester or Sassafras Rivers. Must be a real water front and priced right. Give description of buildings, location, quality of land and lowest price. Address all letters to C. E. J., Lock Box 22. Marshallton, Del. o11-tf

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This is the season for coughs and colds. Just try Toulsons Laxative Cold Tablets with a bottle of Toulsons Cough Syrup.

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TO ALL THE CHILDREN AND GROWN UPS

The Citizens Bank, of Chestertown, wishes each of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. We want you, one and all, TO JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS CLUB. We want every child in Kent County to be a part owner in this Bank and we have for every boy and girl a CHRISTMAS GIFT. You can join this club any day in the year. If you have nothing with which to join now, still you can each become a member. THE CITIZENS BANK will give to each boy and girl everywhere a shining new quarter for a first deposit in the bank book which you can get at the Bank. Then add your pennies, dimes and quarters throughout the year and see how much it will amount to by the 10th of next December when you can withdraw it. The smallest, the largest, the youngest, the oldest will all be treated alike. We shall be as proud of your savings and earnings as will you and as OLD KRIS will be as he watches you throughout the year. This is the Bank of GOOD CHEER and we want the young people in this county to begin to be thrifty, saving and looking ahead. SAVE WITH AN OBJECT. If you wish pocket money for next CHRISTMAS this is the way to have it. If you wish to buy a calf, or chickens, ducks and turkeys or if you want a special sum for a special purpose this is the way to get it.

Get your bank book from Mr. Connelly or Miss Shinn. Get the NEW QUARTER, put it in yourself. Then watch it grow.

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A THRICE HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Of Chestertown, Maryland

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A Pleasant Habit

MAKING THE WEEKLY CHRISTMAS CLUB DEPOSIT soon gets to be a pleasant habit—for you and for us. You and your friends are very cordially invited to join our

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Simply make the first payment and you "belong." Keep up the convenient weekly (or monthly) deposits, and on December 6, 1925, you will get the money back in a lump sum—INCREASED BY INTEREST.

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JOIN NOW

We will be glad to explain this or any of the other services we have to offer.

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Chestertown, Maryland

Harrison W. Vickers, Solicitor.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Catherine Bailey Shelton
versus
Benjamin F. Shelton

In the Circuit Court for Kent County, In Equity, No. 2325.

The object of the Bill filed in the above entitled case is to procure a decree for divorce a vinculo matrimonii for the Plaintiff, a resident of Kent County, Maryland, from the Defendant, a non-resident of the State of Maryland.

The Bill states:

1. That on the 26th day of November, 1908, Catherine Bailey Shelton was married to her husband, Benjamin F. Shelton, at Smyrna, Delaware, by a minister of the Gospel. The certificate of marriage is herewith filed as Complainant's Exhibit No. 1.

2. That after their marriage they lived together at Golt's Station, Kent County, Maryland, for a period of about five years.

3. That your Complainant, Catherine Bailey Shelton, is now, and has always been a resident of Kent County, State of Maryland. That at the present time her husband, Benjamin F. Shelton, is a resident of Newcastle, Delaware.

4. That although the conduct of your Oratrix towards her husband the Said Benjamin F. Shelton, has always been kind and affectionate and above reproach, the said Benjamin F. Shelton has, without any just cause or reason, abandoned and deserted her and has declared his intention to live with her no longer, and that such abandonment has continued uninterruptedly for a period of more than three years, is deliberate and final, and the separation of the parties beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation.

5. That there has been one child born to them as a result of said marriage but said child died when six months old.

6. That ever since the abandonment of your Oratrix by her husband, the said Benjamin F. Shelton, he has never provided for her support and maintenance.

It is thereupon this 7th day of January A. D. 1925, ordered by the Circuit Court for Kent County, in Equity, that the Plaintiff, by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in some newspaper published in said Kent County, once in each of four successive weeks before the 9th day of February next; giving notice to the said Benjamin F. Shelton, non-resident defendant, warning him to appear in this Court in person, or by Solicitor, on or before the 23rd day of February next, to show cause, if any he has, why a decree ought not to be passed as prayed.

ROBERT R. AYRES, Clerk.

True Copy—Test:

j10-4t ROBERT R. AYRES, Clerk.

KENT NEWS $1.50 PER YEAR.

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