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Blanket Sail Saved Life of "Jeff" Davis

Use of a blanket as a sail once saved Jefferson Davis, later to be president of the southern Confederacy, from death at the hands of hostile Indians, a writer in the Kansas City Star recalls. He was Lieutenant Davis then and had been sent to superintend the cutting of timber on the banks of the Red Cedar river in northern Wisconsin. His task consisted mainly of cutting logs, dragging them to the water, fastening them together in rafts, and guiding them down the Chippewa river and thence to the Mississippi.

Once Davis' party, paddling along a stream, was halted by a party of Indians who demanded a trade of tobacco. Davis and his men paddled over to the bank to parley. Some one in the party discovered that the peaceful ones of the Indians were merely a cloak to hide their hostility and warned Davis of the danger. The soldiers hurriedly pushed out into the stream and the Indians followed. Realizing what little chance white men had against such experienced paddlers, Davis conceived the idea of rigging up a sail with a blanket. A strong wind made this rather dangerous, but as it was a chance between death from the Indians and possible death from drowning, they were willing to take the risk. The sail was quickly hoisted and it worked well. They soon sped on far ahead of their pursuers.

Happiness in Labor Great Joy of Life

I believe the right question to ask, respecting all ornament, is simply this: Was it done with enjoyment—was the carver happy while he was about it? It may be the hardest work possible, and the harder because so much pleasure was taken in it; but it must have been happy, too, or it will not be living. . . .

We are not sent into the world to do anything into which we cannot put our hearts. We have certain work to do for our bread, and that is to be done strenuously; other work to do for our delight, and that is to be done heartily; neither is to be done by halves and shifts, but with a will; and what is not worth this effort is not to be done at all. Perhaps all that we have to do is meant for nothing more than an exercise of the heart and of the will, and is useless in itself; but, at all events, the little use it has may well be spared if it is not worth putting our hands and our strength to.—John Ruskin, in "The Seven Lamps of Architecture."

Awaiting a Decision

A youngster visiting his indulgent aunt partook heartily of cream cake. When asked if he hadn't had all that was good for him, he replied that he didn't know.

"But what do you think?"

"It isn't any use thinkin'."

"Well, you're a funny boy," said his aunt. "When will you know?"

"In half-an-hour."

"And how will you know then?"

"Well, that's easy enough. If I'm not ill in half-an-hour, I'll be sorry I didn't take more, and if I'm ill I'll be sorry I took so much. That's the only way to tell."—Strey Stories.

KENT NEWS $1.50 PER YEAR.

How Phyllis Was Intrigued

By DOROTHY DOUGLAS

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FELIX DRAYTON was absolutely desperate. He had watched her through an entire summer, on trains, in swimming, had sat in the same ice cream emporium so close to her that he could watch the ice cream drifting down the glorious white throat—at least he could see the exterior effect of it—and yet he was quite unable to manage an introduction.

Then, one September morn, Felix awoke or awakened, whichever one does on a lovely morning, with an extraordinary feeling of optimism. He didn't know just why but none the less it was there.

And as he sprinted toward his train with a full 30 seconds to spare before it should chug into the station, he saw her emerge from the new photographic studio.

Felix had but the slightest acquaintance with the young photographer but he took full advantage of it now and dashed into the studio.

"I say, old chap," he asked breathlessly, "do tell me who the young lady is that just left here—even her name would shed a ray of light in my days."

Fred Groves laughed. Himself but recently engaged and hopeful of wedding bells in the near future, he fully sympathized with a fellow captive.

"Her name is Phyllis Atwood," he told Felix.

"Is there a chance in the world that you could manage—"

"This is a photographic studio—not a matrimonial agency," laughed Groves, "but—I am trying hard to build up a business here and if you will come in and sit for a portrait it might be that I can think of something—"

"I'll sit for ten and bring along my family and friends if you will effect an introduction—after that I'll do the rest." Felix heard his train chugging into the station. "I'll drop in for a sitting this afternoon—have to catch that train now." And off he dashed and hopped onto the last coach as it pulled out of the station.

"Phyllis," he muttered as he opened his morning paper, "I knew she would have the most wonderful name in the world." And then the breath nearly went out of his body in one great wave of joy for she herself had taken the other half of his seat.

He might just as well have saved two cents on his paper that Saturday morning for the print was all a jumble and he seemed utterly stupid with the delicacy of the scent the girl used and his eyes strayed eternally toward the little hands lying idly in her lap.

A scant few moments more and she was lost in the throng of human beings going officeward in the great city.

Felix dutifully sat for his photograph on his way home from business and questioned Groves about his plans.

"I will send your photograph to her by mistake and you will receive hers," said the photographer, "and you will both then come in in great indignation," he laughed, "and after that—the affair should roll along quite smoothly."

And Phyllis Atwood, ignorant of the intrigue that was going on behind her portrait, boarded the train for home a few evenings later in a feeling of utter despondency. She was wondering just why an unkind fate had played such a curious trick on her that she should have fallen in love with a man whom she didn't even know.

Usually during the course of a summer Phyllis enjoyed at least three exciting love affairs but this year there had been no heart in any of them—the men seemed but shells of what a man really ought to be. She was thinking so hard of the type he should be with deep red hair and serious blue eyes that she fell head first over a suitcase that had no right to be blocking the passage in the train.

Happy, happy tumble—Phyllis found herself caught firmly and apparently with a hold that promised to last forever, by the very red-haired man himself.

She sighed joyfully if one can sigh in that happy way and for a fleeting moment more let her head rest on the strong shoulder.

"Oh—you saved my life," she said swiftly, "or at least I might have had a bad bump."

"Thank goodness I was on the spot," said Felix fervently.

Of course they got off the train together and walked home through the dusk together and Phyllis found it necessary to slip a hand through the arm of Felix. He rejoiced exceedingly.

"I had planned everything—even the wedding," he was saying, "and could even picture us coming out of that wee church on the hill with a trail of pink-clad bridesmaids and you know—I have bought that little house on the Memory hill—just with the hope—"

Fred Groves came out of his studio as they were passing and gave them a swift smile.

"We will have all the wedding pictures taken by you," whispered Felix to him as they passed, "all the family groups—the bride and groom starting on their honeymoon and all the rest—"

And as they went on through the street so engrossed with one another that they might have been walking on air, Groves smiled—he knew love when he saw it.

Hawaii's Own

Botanists have discovered on the Hawaiian islands nearly 700 varieties of plants that are found nowhere else. The reason is apparently that the islands are far from other lands and have been isolated in this way for many geologic ages.

The Good Driver

A good driver is the fellow who is willing to give the other driver all the room he wants.—Knoxville Sentinel.

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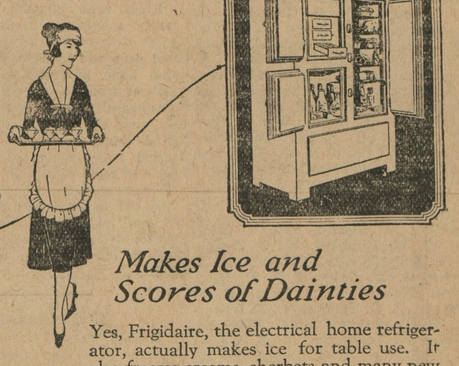

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