The Bree Press Short Story

CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS

By Proderick | Hall

PROSVENOR CURTIS, parent and before bedtime Beth burst hi. "Dad, here banker, sat in his library looking is a perfect example of the good of no at the strangest promissory note keeping cash accounts. I told you I had he had ever held. It read: "I owe dad thirteen dollars, Well, I have eighteen." that-" seven dollars. I remember it. That night when I took the taxi from Elburn at six o'clock, and spent-oh, yes. Now it all comes back to me. Elignod: Beth

Grosvenor Curtis amiled as he recalled other notes hardly less fantastic. Theat he called, "Oh, Both."

A face appeared in the doorway. "You and June going to the only to-

"Yes, Dad. Do you mind?"

"And with this taken out?" Sie passed the girl the note. studied it long and attentively. 'Oht she exclaimed. "O-o-o-oh, yes. I remember now. No, there won't be enough.

You have enough money?"

afternoon." "This can run on of course. It doesn't name any fixed time for payment. I can advance you some more if you will need

We planned the concert for to-morrow

just what you are ready to say. Those

and kept it-how long?"

"About a week." -"You began one-three months ago and one the first of this month. How many

"I don't know, Dad. I lost the book." "Both, I wish I could find some way to although it came about in a way quite un- work. make you feel it a disgrace not to be able to account for money. Homehow money to get what your want always comes You sren't extravagant; you don't want two hard years, the berry husbness began double your allowance if you would give ever had brought; and a larger measure you don't know where your money goes or of marketing was a rush period, but for how much you have left. Have you the rest of the year the Hlythe Berry anything in the bank right now?"

have. I would guess about two dollars." farms. "I looked it up just before we closed. You were overdrawn twenty-eight cents." The Patch. She and June reamed the "I'll fix it to-morrow morning."

He is a menace to himself and all his them in, and Beth began it with a burs

Now he made a awift stroke. "Both." he excluimed, as she dodged him, "I'm sometimes sorry you've outgrown the spanking age. Go downstairs and ally.

She came behind him, kissed the middle it's all so simple. It's as though I were of his bald spot and was gone. He smiled set to teach some one, a grown person, to and then his face grow grave. He never put on a sweater and must say, 'Now, could quarrel with Beth and he was glad you will notice that this is the top and of it. She had been so much to him, so this the bottom.' I would get impatient; infinitely much, especially since her I couldn't help it. And father-well, mother's death. Besides, there was so he doesn't show it, but he feels impatient very little in her to criticize. Even her I know he does. Do you keep a cash for she was earning every cent of it.

On those accounts she had worked hard house last May. Things looked bad ther . too, -now and then! It was amusing, -of course the weather turned better and absurd, and pathetic to see her strugg'es we had a good year after all-but when with figures. She had a fashlon-of her I left we were pretty blue. Father had own of making subtractions which was given me some money, and I meant enough to make an accountant gnash his bring it all back with me except what teeth. Ralph Akley one of Beth's class- used for carfare, but I didn't. I was mates, was helping in the bank. If Mr. short, and money meant a lot just then. Grosvenor had caught Ralph making sub- So I said, 'I'm going to start right here. tractions in that first grade fashion of I'll know where my money goes to.' Since Beth's he would have first solemnly then Eve kept a cash account, and I've warned him; then, if he had persisted, he pever been so short as I was that one would have discharged the young man time."

Yet Beth was splendidly capable in plenty of other ways. She had done good had never worrried one moment about melts?" Beth's choice of friends. Instictively. drawn to her. Ralph he had come to it, or thought I had put it and it wasn't nevertheless. know through his calls at the house, and there. Ralph was a fine fellow making good in his bank work. June Blythe was another. was here now, a fine, who'esome girl. - All this spoke well for Beth. Any father | moil the visit a little bit-

day. If you need any be'p, I'll holp you but your cash must be balanced. When your balances stop, your allowance stops." He was in the midst of his meditations

"I just found five dollars in my dress pocket in the closet. Think of the fur

"Completely. But there is was, right in my pocket where I must have put it. "Both," he was again trying to be do it." serious, "you ought to be ushamed. It is not a thing to be clated over, it is a thing to be ashamed of-that you did not know June needs some good within five dollars how much money you had. Do you remember the parable of the Ten Virgins? to far as we know, "Yes, Dad. Twelve or thirteen dollars." they were all alike in goodness, social position, manners, beauty, charm of per- of all the New Year's tokens that came sonality; but five of them lost out because to Grosvenor Curtis, parent and banker, they were just what the lible says they was a little book stamped in gold upon were, foolish. They did not prepare to the cover with the words, Personal Cash. errect the most common, ordinary em- The first entry, under the heading, Re-

"Not to know how much money one has is just as bad. It may even be immoral: One is certain-" "But, Daddy, how can you talk that

way? I was prepared surely when I had five dollars more thun-" He caught her and klased her good-"You began one last New Year's Day, night. "Both," he exclaimed, "are you ever going to keep a cash account? If

> father troubles you, as the widow troubled the unjust judge?' "I really am, Dad. You'll see I will." Before the year wits out she really did;

not for your own good then because your

When Mr/ Hlythe, had been forced by uncertain health to stop teaching, he had bought a little berry farm. After one o Patch was the scene of far less hard "I don't know, Dad. Yes, I think I labor than were the surrounding dairy

fields and the woods, canoed on the little "I fixed it. I put in your next week's river, took long rides in the cheap little ollowance. But the person who is cares car, and talked of a thousand subjects endlessly. Cash accounts was one. come up one afternoon when a rain kept of remorseful confession. "There is not

In late October, Beth was a guest

"Dad, I don't doubt I am all that, but one thing that would please father as if I were keepling a cash account do you much us to have me keep accounts know what I'd be on the edge of? straight, and I don't. I I've tried so many times and falled, Y am just dis-Her father had been earefully rolling couraged. But father is right-it has his paper into the form of a policeman's to be learned. What would I do if he

"Won't your father help you with your

*Oh, yes. Oh, yes, indeed. Only to him

"Yes. I have for five months now. "My, that's some record!

Well-I-Oh, well I can tell you no began when I came home from you

"How much were you short then?"

"Oh, four or five dollars." she had done fair work in algebra and like that? I might just as well ask,

She and Beth had been bosom friends "I had slipped a bill, thought I had. Here is a new book of adventure by his -while Mr. Blythe had been superintendent into my dress pocket. The dress was favorite author, and upstairs lies a Latin of the Dumfries Schools. Since he had hanging in your closet, but the next dictionary and a geometry. "I'll just read been compelled to take, outdoor work, morning the money was not there; Jio I a chapter," the young fellow tells himself June had been back often on visits. She must have been mistaken. I did not te'l and does not reslize he has yielded to you about it because I thought it might temptation. When two hours have passed

Both had ceased to hear and an ex- while upstairs his work waits. would be, if she could account for her pression of sudden horror had crossed money. Was it kindness or his own weak- her face. The next instant she was fly- such things temptations. The girl, howness, to just let matters drift? Ought he ing toward her room. . Here's your ever, who keeps munching candy when not to say: "Bring me your balances every money," she exclaimed, as she returned, she knows it will do her harm and ner-

when downstairs he heard the plane, and of course, but the money is yours; and I fascinating story is doing that which all descended to take part in some rounds the took it right out of your pocket. Or no," shirkers are doing the world over. Sayfor a new explanation had mashed upon ing no to these petty things is that Finally the girls' decided to wash their her mind, "maybe I didn't. Maybe you which gives you the moral fibre to, resist and he returned to the library, Just made the inlatake and allowed the bill bly templations.

into my pocket. The dresses were hang-

ing side by side." They stared at each other and then burst out hughing. "Think, June! thief, just a common thicf-excepting that I didn't mean to be; and stealing from my best friend at that."

"I don't like to take the money," probested June. "Don't like -- why it's yours."

"Maybe. But I didn't keep accounts either and "Oh, it's yours all right. I only wonder how many other folks I have been

stealing from. Dad, of course, andwell, the houskeepert Do you suppose I have been robbing her?" one cent except this five dollars, and even

"That's just it. I don't know anything about it. That's what father always has

"Couldn't you do it?" "I'm too discouraged over to start again. The only way that I could hold

Ap idea flashed through lieth's head "Halph Akley maybe would," she said and he helps in the bank."

This will explain why the most value ccipts, was: "Nov. 1. Allowance, \$75.00." The first entry under the heading, Expenditures, was: "Nov. 2. Toothbrush, 45c." After the last entry appeared in a different hand these words:

The undersigned has examined the foregoing accounts and certifies them to be correct. Sluned: Ralph M. Akley,

Certified Public Accountant-some

Complete in itself, Mother Graves Worm Exterminator does not require the

MELPING THE DAIRY BUSINESS

The Hon, T. L. Kennedy, Ontario Minlater of Agriculture, addressing the Toronto Milk Producers' Association a short time ago, suggested the sending of representatives of Ontario farmers into neighboring States and Provinces to study and find out how things are done

If such representatives are sent, would be well that they confer with the dairy authorities of the United States

Translating consumption of butter, ice cream, cheese and other milk products into raw milk required on the basis of universally accepted tables, the consump tion of milk per capita in the wet year Oh, on the coming New Year's Day, cast 1017 was 754.8 lbs. In the dry year 1029, it had reached 937.3 16s.' an increase of

According to an accepted estimate, it roughage (hay, grass, sllage etc.) to maintain a cow in health and weight and produce 100 lbs. of milk. To produce the extra milk consumed in 1929 over 1917, it required on this basis 72.2 lbs. of grain for each mun, woman, and child there was needed to feed the dairy cowa 8.748.000.000 pounds of grain and 23,113,-

In the year 1917, according to the Bureau of International Revenues United States, the grain used in the brewing and distilling plants of the United States amounted to 6,202,000,000 lbs.

To make the moral plain, it should be said that the prohibition law has been followed by an increase in the consumption of milk and milk products of 28 per cent per head, and in the demand for grain to the extent of 2,500,000,000 lbs. more and distilleries of the United States in

LITTLE TEMPTATIONS

that it seems silly to call them by that name. The onen box of chocolates is a good example. "I ought not to eat another," cries a girl as the box is passed Beth nodded. "What ever does become to her, but even as she speaks, she is pickwork in history, and most surprisingly, of it? Where does it go when it's short ing out the largest. There is no exaggeration in that "I ought not." Already geometry. Better than 'all the rest, he "Where does the white go when the snow she has indulged herself to the limit of safety. A sick headache on the morrow, "Well, this I think was lost outright, doing her work under difficulties, or being she seemed drawn to the finest and best I must have dropped it down town some- completely incapacitated are among the among her schoolmates and they seemed where, because looked where I had put possibilities, but she eats the chocolate,

A book on the living room table may "Yes, mine goes that way, too. I never be a temptation to the student whose next day's lessons are waiting for him however, he is likely still to be reading,

To tome of you it seems absurd to call haps incapacitate her for doing the next "My money!" June stared at a five- day's work, is in just the same place as "Yes. It's yours. Not the same bill boy who neglects his school work for a

NEW YEAR'S APPEAL

Oh, voiceless Ups, manswering eyes, what would I give to hear The tones that twelve short months ago wished me a happy year,

Could we have know, could I have know what bitter mockery. year from that glad New Year's Day, the words would seem to mel Brother beloved, had it been in my poor INWET to KEVE.

clod knows I would have died, ere you had filled a drunkard's grave.

We two were all alone on earth; dearly we loved each other. And fondly I believed the world held no one like my brother,

That morn he left me smiling, a gay

light-hearted boy, Proudly I watched his parting stopsmy heart so full of lov: Itls kluses thrilled upon my ups, and a the merry day and no form, no face like his, among my callers gay.

But, oh, that night, that bitter night alst and many another. With reeling step and reckless air brought home to me my brother. The heart can never break, I know, else mine had broken then, With faltering tongue and foolish buigh

was this my mun of men? At nest I thought, "The silly boy, thinks he my love to test?" and turning said "On such a theme, my dear one, do not lest." But, oh, the voice that answered me

Was-that my brother's voice?

my immost heart rejoice.

The tones that till this hour had made

The blow with crushing force had fallen for he in early years, Knoeling beside our mother's grave, had vowed with many tears, so drop of he accurred thing his lips That none in home of his should touch

the desoluting glass. That bowed my darling's noble head, us with the morn he came,

And with his arms about me told. I seem Of the dark eyes, the laughing voice that bade him break that yow. Enchantress with golden hair, and softly

hold you guilty of his blood, who forged those dreadful tles.

To me it seems the mark of Cain is One glass, the first, God pardon me, but oh, I dannot say, Forgive me, Lord, as I forgive the ruin wrought that day. Hand soft and white held forth to him the poisoned, sparkling wind, Though all that shameful New Year's Day. O brother, brother mine!

The first swift maddabing glass bath filled with flood of fire his brain, Reason and will alike were bound as With the old year my happiness for ever

for though he nobly strove, the bond grew stronger day by day. Oh, girls, oh, gay, light-hearted girls,

you, if you as I, Murdered by wine accursed Nor taste again, for, oh, 'twould seem too

like a brother's blood Let no man, lured by deed of yours, for-

And many an aching heart-will bless, and many a bitter tear Be spared to those who dread the day

Poolan Balm promotes charm and beauty. It is unrivalled in its-inngicut effect on the skin. Bwiftly absorbed by the tissues, it leaves never a vestige of stickiness. Delightfully cool to the skin. Stimulating and invigorating. Boftens and makes the hands flawlessly white. Subtly fragrant. Imparts youth and loveliness to the complexion. Persian Balm is the inevitable choice of the

A physician advised a patient to take a walk on an empty stomach, and the invalid feebly asked, "Whose stomach?"



COTTON PLAY SUIT Small boys are usually kept in cotton suits that launder, and for this reason the suits should be simple, of fast material, and unshrinkable. A good quality cotton twill is combined with a heavy linen in this trim suit for convenient patch pockets trim the blouse and inserted pockets are at-the sides of the trousers. Sleeves may be

Community Servant

THE FREE PRESS, like every other community newspaper, puts forth an effort to diligently serve the town it represents. But it can only be representative of the town in a co-operative way. It may be freely quoted in other papers. It may be widely read even outside its own community, but its representation of Acton cannot be complete unless it carries messages of other business activities of the community. To give the greatest service has been the constant aim of THE FREE PRESS. The success attained we are content to leave to your judgment.

Have You a Message?

Mr. Advertiser, have you a message to give each week to these host of readers? Is there any reason why these readers should be your customers? Are you enthusiastic about the service your business place is able to render these customers? Have you a message that these readers will – appreciate hearing about?

We Have the Means!

THE FREE PRESS, Acton's home and community newspaper, is the best means of getting that message to the readers you want to interest. We lay no claim to being the best or greatest, but we willingly invite comparisons. The improvements and growth have been steady accomplishments with the one thought of service to the community in mind.

We Have the Facilities May We Serve You?

Reader Interest Quality in Workmanship A Willingness to Serve

Make Your Comparisons as You Will-We'll be Content with Your Decision

The Acton Free Press

Constantly Striving to Maintain Leadership for Acton with a Representative Newspaper