Lending Library

MARGARET E. BANGETER

"You're an interesting girl," he said.

to know the nature of the ambitions and

arrasement she hruried on.

and more marvelous discoveries. I've

thought that was why you seemed so

anxious to read books on China, and-

There was a bright, intense expression

Henry Oibson was extremely interested.

"In a way," he said, "you're correct

about me. You've struck what might

ledger. But I am a salesman, And what

Furthermore, I am an explorer. And I

Leila leaned forward until her face

"Then," she said, "you'll know what

mean when I tell you about the am-

bitions that I've laid away in-in laven-

doling out books in a lending library.

When I was a little tot, a missionary

came to our church and conducted a

series of meetings. She was a foreign

missionary, and I still think she was the

most wonderful woman in the world.

scarcely more than a baby, to follow

her footsteps. She made me want to

be a foreign missionary—to carry God's

Word to distant-peoples. Through my

entire life-" Leila faltered for a moment

and then went on bravely. "I have

planned to go to the foreign field. But

when my parents were taken away I

was bewildered. I didn't know what to

do, or which way to turn. I hadn't any

and I was afraid that wasn't enough.

When my uncle offered me this job, of

Henley Gibson, also, was learning for-

ward. "I wonder." he said. "If you're"

really carnest in this business of being a

Quite unconsciously and with no spirit

of coquetry, Leila's fingers rested upon

She said, "Oh, indeed I'm as earmest-

Henley Gibson went on. "You have

security," he said, "in this little book-

lined corner of yours. You have peace

But if you're in carnest-" -

as earnest! Please go on."

marvelous discovery."

CHARLES CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

ANTIA MILINGTON sat alone in reason is a smy one. I haven't lived back-of the counter of her here long, myself, and the few people lending library and surveyed the I've met-of approximately my own age world of pameraby through a plate- seem so purposeless. Does that sound priggish? I don't mean it so. But glass window. "Nobody wants a book," she thought; was brought up on an isolated farm

ENUMEDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1900

and loneliness welled in her heart, "But and never knew many young people, and why should anyone want to read to- practically from the time I was born night, Here it is New Year's Eve, and I had to depend on my ideals and ameverybody's on the way to some party!" bitions for companionship. When I was It was quite true. The world seemed left to do for myself, an uncle who has bent on partying. Leila's window looked an interest in this hotel gave me a out upon the lobby of a hotel rather chance to run the lending library, and a guest family hotel, usually and even |-" she made a futile gesture with her that umpretentious place was thronged hands, "I put away the ideals and am- so I can close the lending library." with people scrayed in gala frocks and bitions and accepted the library with dinmer coats, none of them wanting a intense gratitude." book to read.

ed "I'm the only person who's at loose air of an invited guest—a staying guest, talking and planning to be done."

And then she laughed, wryly, real- "Incidentally, you're the most interesting ising that despite her lack of company girl I've met since I came back from she wasn't in the least at loose ends, my 16b; Say, I'm afraid I'm beginning for the hotel management had insisted to sound like a district attorney with my that her lending library be kept open questions, but I can't help being curious until mine-thirty. Edly, for want of something better to the ideals that didn't come true."

de Letla began to sort the filing cards | Leila Ellington said, "Of course, I'll little record box. The cards contained make it a fair exchange. Suppose you New Year's." the names of the regulars-clients who tell me about this job of yours-the one borrowed books at stated times. She that you will be returning to." was faintly amused to see how the books ran true to form. Her regulars you think it is?" he saked, and there didn't take liberties with their reading. was a gay twinkle in his eye. "How do 1st, 1940) is a Monday). They went in rather generally for de- I appear to the crowd? How am I finite types of literary entertainment, analyzed by the clever lady who lends

Old Mrs. Cahill, for instance, eighty books?" if she was a day and rustling in her stiff Victorian silks, always asked for a brank new romance. She actually devoured novels that was as light as meringue. Miss Flint, the smart young and I haven't felt so, either, because of adian Active Service Force were the stylist in the city's largest department the books you take from my shop. It's beloved filibeg. However, this garment store, invariably took out heavy tomes on financial conditions and economics and merchandising. Sally Boris, the shoulders and in the set of your chin." pretty high-school girl who, by accepted standards, should have been asking for the same type of books Mrs. Cahill read, was literally living in a nearly exhausted the library's supply of

So it went. The boy who appeared to be entirely frivolous, like a collar ad. wanted book after book on engineering and mechanics. And the young hushand, devoted to his wife and family, was enthrailed by adventures, involving international politics. It was only Henley Gibson - Leila's fingers were oddly gentle as she touched the card that held his signature—looked like an explorer. He was big and handsome and bronged and rather silent and wore the nicest out-of-doorsy sort of clothes. And the books that he read were books on far places: books on Asia, mostly; on the interior of China; the Gobi Delsert; the great famine belts.

With a start Leila Ellington glanced up, for somebody was entering her shop, in his eyes. And yet for all the brightwith an almost guilty movement she ness there was a gravity in his manner. sirpped the card she was holding back into the record box.

"Oh, Mr. Gibson," she exclaimed, "I be called near truths. I don't sit at a didn't expect to see you to-night. Or," desk and add figures and write in a she added, "anyone else, for that matter, It's New Year's Eve, and the whole world I sell is the biggest thing in the world.

is celebrating." The young man smiled at the lugu- do go to far places and in each of the brious expression of Lella's face. When far places that I've visited I've made a he smiled he was very attractive.

"I'm not a great hand at celebrating. Miss Ellington," he said. "I'm rather a was quite close to Henley's face. solitary chap, I'm afraid. I've grown unaccustomed to our big cities and their crowds and their brand of excitement. ... I wonder if you have a book for der. I didn't plan to spend my life me. preferably on-"

Leila finished the sentence for him. "On China!" she said, and wondered why she had ceased to feel depressed, why her heart was singing. "You see, I know what you want. Yes, I have a splendid new book on the Orient. It She gave me the desire, though I was was published to-day."

"Henley Gibson laughed. "Right-o!" he exclaimed. "Yes, you're probably one of the few women in the world who remember a man's baste and cater to it. By the by, Miss Ellington, do you mind if I ask you a question? You're not so journer, in a strange city. So why aren't you celebrating the coming of the

Letla, her eyes on the young man's special training. I only possessed a call handsome face, mentally echoed his words. She found it hard to think of this especial customer of hers as a stranger. He had been coming to the library for-was it five or six months? and he and his literary wants had taken a real place in her life.

missionary, or if you're taking it out in talking. Because if you're just talking "Maybe when you've been here a bit I'm going to pick up my book and say longer you'll feel 'loss solitary." good-night, Miss Ellington, and repair to my room and read in the new year.

"But," said Henley Gibson, "I' won't. My stay in your town is nearly over. In inci, I'm leaving in a few weeks. But you're not answering my question. Miss Ellington. Why aren't you being festive the sleeve of the young man's tweed coal. on New Year's Eve?"

Leals felt as if her heart were sinking to the bottom of her boots. So this obserming man was going away probably forever. She said slowly:

I think find a sublime contentment and the peace that passeth all understanding. But you might meet with harship and fear and even death." Lette said, sourcely breathing, "I'd be

willing to face anything." Henley Githeon had risen to his feet And as he stood erect, turned away from

the shop's plate-glass window, the shift-

ing throng in the hotel lobby making a tapestry behind him, he resembled (or so Lella thought) a young knight starting on a crusade. When he spoke there was a depth and richness to his voice. Miss Ellington," he said. "No, Leila; when you were guessing about my profession. I said you'd hit on half truths. I am a salesman, and what I sell is the story of the Master's life and His love. The price I ask is faith. I am an explorer. I go into the far places seeking human souls that have gone undiscovered, and I find them and they are marvelous. I'm a foreign missionary, Lella and I return to my field of en-It was an odd moment for Lella

Ellington to glance at her wrist watch, but she did. She said slowly and irrelevantly: 'Do you know, it's nine-thirty, "Let's slip away from here, you and from Moscow, the Scandinavian countries efforts to win unbelievers. Since we

me," he said. "Let's find a place are quietly doing all they can to aid know their state better than they do Henley Officen sat down in the lend- we can have something to eat. Let's Finland without actually sending military themselves we are to persist in working ing library's extra chair. He had the talk and make plans. There's so much assistance.

IT WORKS

Try it on your friends some time. She: "So next year is leap year again." He: "Yes, next year Christmas will be on a Wednesday and New Year's Day will be on a Monday." She: "Aw, g'wan. Christmas is al-

He: "Let's look at the calendar." (They look at the calendar and find Henley Gibson chuckled. "What do that Christmas (in 1940) is on a Wedneeday, and that New Year's Day (Jan.

CLUNG TO THE KILT

Leila said slowly, 'T've thought from Although the kilt is no longer fashionthe first time I saw you that your work able fighting garb in the British Army. wasn't a cut and dried affair. I've told it is known that one Scottish unit sailmyself that you were out of the ordinary; | ing with the First Divsion of the Canin the very air-your career! It's in the will later be discarded for the new battle strength with which you carry your uniform in order to establish and maintain a standard in dress.

Henley Gibson spoke with no sense of At the moment an carnest battle-bybandying. "I'm no end flattered," he letter is being carried on in the columns said, "that you've thought about me at of London papers regarding the merits all, Miss Ellington, because in the last or otherwise of the kilt, the majority of world of inspiring poetry. She had several weeks I've done more than a participants in the controversy being little thinking and speculating about medical men. All of them are positively pro or con with no sympathy for the Leila was flushing, but despite her em- opposition.

In the midst of this battle of the post "I mean," she said, "you don't appear an interlude was furnished by a present to be the kind of man to spend his life day Fraser, who furnished an extract in an office behind a desk juggling from an ancestor's diary, written durfigures or writing items into a ledger or ing winter operations at Quebec. The balancing sets of books. You don't look officer ancestor, one of Fraser's Regilike a salesman, either-hot in the or- ment, wrote of the distress caused by dinary sense. You might perhaps-" she lack of trousers in "this terrible climhesitated ever so slightly, "sell big things, ate." He added that the Ursuline Nuns But not shoes or soap or magazines or had been generous in knitting long neckties. I've told myself that you were woollen hose for the comfort of the an explorer-that you went to far places | Scots soldiers.



John Nygaardsvoll, of Norway, leading loved His own people and greatly desired light in the attempt to organise a Scan- their salvation. They were to Him as dinavian bloc to obtain material aid for sheep without a shepherd. His heart Finland in its gallant fight against the was full of pity for them even though Soviet Russian invasion. Despite frowns their unbelief was so stubborn. We are of Nazi dislpeasure and implied threats not to be too easily discouraged in ou

Twenty Years Ago

Thursday, January 1st, 1920

Leap Year opens to-day. Rev. J. C. Wilson, B.A., has received

Church, with a stipend of 92,500. The reports at the annual meeting to see in a man so much like themof the Methodist Sunday School showed selves the Son of God and their very encouraging results. The mission- Redeemer. Had they been wise they ary collections totalled \$229.98. Frank Kennedy resigned as Superinten- They are not the first, however, who

dent, and Mr. H. P. Moore was elected have allowed unreasoned prejudice to and accepted, with the understanding seal them in unbelief. For the very 'that Mr. Kennedy was to be associated realism of the high priesthood of Jesus Nominations" for Reeve. Council and tempted as we are, yet without sin (Heb.

School Board resulted in acclamations 4: 15) 16). That-He was a Man among for Reeve and Council and five nominees for School Board, with three to be 5: 1, 2). elected. Reeve, George Barber; Councillors, Wm. Arnold, Dr. H. A. Coxe, John Leishman and William Ritchie. The ballot for the School Board will bear the following names: Stephen Cordiner, Rev. I. M. Moyer, James Symon D. C. Russell, C. C. Speight,

town and tanneries' teams. The tanneries won, with a score of 8-7. On Tuesday evening Rockwood Juniors

vanguished Acton Juniors in a score

BLOW-In ...ton, on Monday, December 29th, 1919, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Blow, a daughter.

VARNER - At the residence of her Napanee, on Christmas Day, Melissa Garrison, widow of the late A. C. Colebrook, and mother of Mrs. L. B. Shorey, Acton.

New American Mystery Plane



Streamlined as a bullet, the new Vultee Vanguard plane, designed as an interceptor-pursuit ship, is shown in flight at Los Angeles. The greatest secrecy, is maintained about the testing of this plane, which, it is said, will travel at better than 400 miles an hour. It is powered by an air-cooled radial engine of radically new design. The ship is all-metal and designed so that it can be manufactured rapidly in large numbers.



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The Sunday School Lesson

FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

PRINNDS AND POES OF THE KINGDOM Golden Text.-Ye are my friends,

ye do the things which I command you. -John 15: 14. Lesson Text.-Matthew 13: 54-58; 14:

1-4; 15: 29-31. Time.-A.D. 29. Place.-Macherus. Exposition.—L. The Difficulties Before

the King, 13: 64-58.

Jesus' own country was Nazareth and its environs as is evident from Mark 6 t and John 4: 43. His own countrymer had rejected Him once (Luke 4: 16-30). He is determined that they shall hear Pictured at his desk here is Premier His offers again. After all, our Lord

> Naturally they were astounded at His wisdom and His mighty works. They said, "Is not this the carpenter's son?" (v. 55). They were familiar with Him and His brothers and sisters. Four brothers are named and a plurality of sisters are mentioned. It was evidently quite s familiar family. That they were in the presence of something phenomenal was apparent. They allowed their ment. The result was that they refused could have gloried in the discovery. lies in the fact that He was in all points men qualified Him to be chosen (Het

Their unbelief rendered Him helpless. "He did not many mighty works there pecause of their unbelief." He did some, as the parallel passage in Mark 6: 5 indicates, but they were little compared to what might have been done. This is still our Lord's greatest obstacle. People On Priday evening a hotly-contested are content to sing hymns and attend game of hockey was played between the religious services, but they are not as enthusiastic to become great believers. Great believing makes great Christians. A strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ enabled Paul to battle the "wild beasts" at Ephesus; it enabled Morrison to seek the conquest of China; it enabled Carry to open India to the Gospel, and it empowered Livingstone to lighten darkest Africa. The day of great believers needs to be brought back (Matt. 17: 20).

II. The Fear of an Apostate King.

At last the report of Jesus' mighty deeds reaches the palace, and the court is agitated. The conscience-smitten king is struck with abject terror. His sins come out of their graves to haunt him. "This is John the Baptist." he cries, "he is risen from the dead." This had first been suggested by others (Luke 9: 7); but Herod's guilty conscience had readily taken it up. There had been other explanations of Jesus' power quite as plausible (Luke 9: 8) and Herod had been in deep perplexity and agitation about it, and longing to see Jesus, and have all the terrible uncertainty settled (Luke 9: 9). But conscience asserted its sway and Herod settled down to this, "John whom I beheaded, he is risen" (Mark 6: 14-16). John will indeed rise to accuse Herod, as will every sin that is not covered with the atoning blood, to accuse every sinner. The royal murderer was having a foretaste of hell. Herod's present agitation soon passed away (Luke 23: 3), but the remorse to come will be endless (Mark 9: 45, 46). -

John was a model court prescher. It mattered not to him that his hearer was a king. All he saw was a sinner. A sinner who wore a crown was to John not essentially different from any other sinner. John did not mince words, he will save the royal adulterer if he can; and pointing at Herodias he thundered, "It is not lawful for thee to have her." Brave, faithful servant of God. Such men are needed in every age. But John got the prison and the headsman's block for his earthly reward (cf. Matt. 5: 11, 12: Luke 6: 26). John lost his head, but he saved himself from the awful guilt and condemnation of the messenger of God who is recreant to his trust (Exra 3: 18). Herod had a wholesome fear of John. The latter had awakened that awe in the bosom of the former that righteous and holy men often inspire in the hearts of those who would do them harm (Mark 6: 20; comp. 1 Kings 21": 20). Herod was touched and listened to him gladly. But he did not give up his sin, and so there could be no doubt as to what the ultimate outcome would be There is no hope for the man who is simply interested in the truth and listens to it gladly, but who does not forsake

III. The Friend of the King, 15: 29-

Leaving Nasareth, Jesus came to the shores of the Sea of Galliee. There He renewed the tokens of His power and goodness. They brought unto Him the "lame, blind, dumb, maimed and many

in hope. They were not disappointed. What they saw led them to "glorify the God of Minel" (v. 31).

Such was the grace of Christ that IS admits all who will put faith in Him. It was not impressive that sinners, outcasts and disease worried people were His followers. They were not a body to be admired. The proud Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees would - have scorned such a poor and unclean mob.

THE GENERAL PRAYS

A certain Canadian, one-time aviator in the world war, was in attendance upon some official business in China's capital, and in the course of his visit had an opportunty to meet General and Madame Chiang Kai-shek. Unable finish the matter they had in hand, Madame Chiang extended an invitation that he have their evening meal with

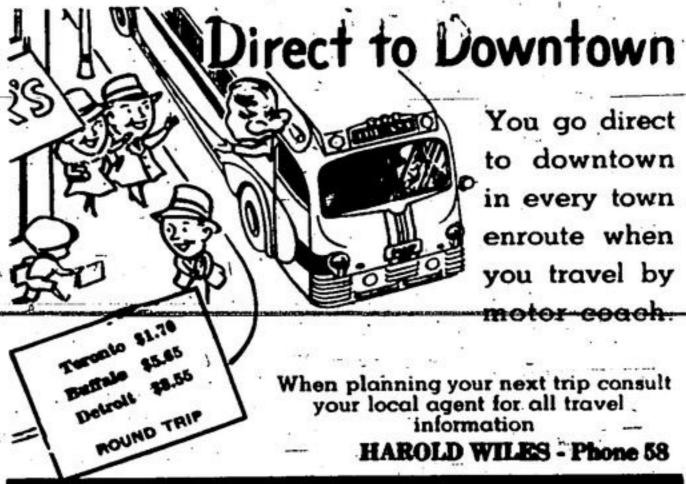
As he prepared to go, General Chiang said, "Must you go immediately? We would be happy if you would stay and ioin us in our evening devotions."

The general began by reading some sortoture. Then the three joined in prayer, the general leading.

Says the Canadian: "I never expect to hear such a prayer again in all my life. The general began with a simple expression of thanks for their personal safety. Then he added thanks for the courage of the nation under fire. Then he prayed for strength for the men in the field and along the firing lines; he prayed for strength for himself, and added a most earnest plea for guidance and wisdom, that he should not fail the

"But the most amazing thing in his prayer was a plea that God would help him, and help China, not to hate the Japanese people. He prayed for the Japanese Christians, and all the suffering multitudes of Japan whose impoverishment was making the war on Chine

"In the simplest and humblest terms he laid himself at the service of the Almighty God, and begged that he might know the Divine will and do it on the morrow."Dr. Roy L. Smith, in the Christian Advocate.



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