The Free Bress' Short Story

The Little Nook by the Staircase

By MARY DICKERSON DONAHEY

ING a ling ling," shrilled the the right people! And you say you feature writer of the Conway Daily Post. | will I get those right?" Polly stuck out an impudent pink tongue at it, for she was very busy. The next moment she felt still more desperate, for the voice of elderly Miss Switzer, society editor, was a more whoese, morging now and then into a sort of bark, as she said, "I've just been talking to the city editor, and he switched me to you. I'm afraid I can't come out to-day."

"Of course not, you poor dear. I'm so terribly sorry!" said Miss Polly with deep fervor. She was sorry not only for Miss Switser, who was a nice old lady written about and had not been able to shough fussy, but for herself. This do so. Amos was breathless from runmeant Polly would have to do society, uning back to tell her a name and then and goodness how she did despise it!

ding a special club program. Ah, that "Tareyy Browning," she read; "rose he did.

leading families."

thought that was a wonderful match!" be, but somebody would print it-she "Yes, I know, but I hear there are | might us well be the first! The rival clouds." said Miss Switzer .- "Now, 'my paper having no regular society editor dear, I must hang up. , I'm having a had sent an unhappy young man, who chill. Now, dear, be careful, don't mix was now moving around the group.

up to rearrange her schedule with Mr. in at a lovely picture, lit by fire and Merrick, city editor, who also mentioned candlelight, white wigs, black patches the Browning-Larimer gossip. He sug- set at angles to show off pretty lips or gested that she might come back with a lovely eyes, warm color in graceful cos-"scoop" about it. Getting exclusive news | tumes on men and women too. Polly

in a reporter's greatest joy! gravely. "That match seemed just perfeet to me. Wish I could patch it up The games were beginning! Now what 'myself!" Both she and Pop Merrick, as was Polly going to do? was so unlikely Polly could!

ing she started out to the Carsons' house. having slipped home to put on her very the stairway. best business clothes.

liked old Colonial fashions. Mrs. Carson, who loved it, liked to deck it in oldfireplaces held flaming logs and the only to you as it does to me! Don't send me lights were from many candles.

Big Ames, who was a sort of compompous and happy in a white wig, plum-colored livery, long black silk stockings, and buckled shoes,

"Mrs. Carson, she done say as how I'se matchin' de house." he announced. "You certainly do. Amos. You're as decorative as the portraits or the family silver. You are just the finishing tough!" 'Mrs. Carson came down, rustling in a dress of blue brocade that had once belonged to her own great-grandmother. Mr. Carson followed in the costume of that lady's husband, who had been pastor of a famous New York church in his

"He was a trifle larger than I my dear Miss Pepper. Mr. Carson explained, wiht a twinkle in his eye. "At least I do not think his wife had to do him in safety pins-if they had those convenient articles then, which I

And how I do smell of moth balls!" "You are both beautiful-the whole thing is!" said Polly enthusiastically. "You two and the house and Amos, are worth a dozen lessons in history! People looking at you can't help being interested in the past! How I wish all the school children in town could see the

house and you!' them, at least, to see," Mrs. Carson's indignant astonishment into a flushed kindly eyes glowed. "I never thought of and lovely face framed in a mop of curlit like that! Oh-our guests must be ar- ing golden hair.

"They are and how under the sun curled scornfully. The young man grew will I know them?" walled Polly. "I'm scarlet and looked more desperate and no Miss Switzer! I've been in town only

telephone in "the pepper pot," going to play the old-fashioned games tiny office of Pauline Pepper, of more than a hundred years ago. How

them until she was alone.

things," insisted Polly, stoutly,

agonized young man stood helpiessly by,

never will know the truth! Listen now

Post. You must have read my articles.

wrote up your own Bible class work

down along the docks, remember? Well

then! My editor sent me to see Joel

stories about working conditions among

girls in this town. It had to be done

secretly so that employers who are not

fair or kind would not get wind of it, so

they could stop us before we knew the

truth. Mr. Larimer, Semior, was espec-

his son took me it would be better, so

ing for the missing pair.

tray o' supper fer you."

while she crept back, to almost run into

"Oh, thanks, Amos, I'm not really hun-

gry. I've just lost my notes," stam-

corner spoke up, saving, "Nonsense! Of

haven't really eaten for a week and I'm

sure Joel hasn't either! Amos, what have you got? Turkey? Oysters? Beaten

biscuit? Pound cake? Lemon jelly!

Starry-eyed, Lucy rushed out and

caught Polly in her arms. "You dar-

ling!" she whispered. The next minute

three happy young people were samp-

ling the goodies on Polly's tray, while

Amos hurried after reinforcements.

gested Lucy. The three, now warm

swell scoop for you! And a scoop

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK

FAMASTIC ADVENTURE

dian.

IN STONE "- ISTHE

TERM USED TO DESCRIBE

THE CATHEDRAL OF

SAINT BASIL,

MOSCOW -

IVAN THE

TERRIBLE

HAD THE

ARCHITECT

BLINDED SO THAT

HE MIGHT

PRODUCE TA

NEVER

OHE LIKE

does mean a lot to a poor reporter!"

Oh, my gracious! Hurry with more!"

Larimer, Senior, to get a series

"I'll tell you about those, and you watch us, too," said Mrs. Carson, "and for the names-why, look, here's a little nook by the stairs. It's quite screened by this tall chair, and the candlelight. is dim. You can see people as they come in, and as they come down with their wraps off. They won't be ant to see you.

while Amos can tell you who they are." The next hour was a busy one for both reporter and butler. To Polly the stairs seemed full of people she should have dashing again for the door to let in more. man of his sort would be. He helped Miss Switzer was giving directions people. Polly crept closer and closer to me get facts I never could have discovnow, while Polly scribbled fast. Yes, she the stairs and so became less and less ered without him! But he couldn't take knew about the pile of mail to be gone | conspicuous. Few people saw her at all! | me around. I have not been in town through, material-lots of it misspelled, After awhile the rush was over, so she long. Lots of people don't know me, but General stores unpunctuated, which would have to be couched down on her chair to sort out everyone knows him. We argued that if carefully edited. Two luncheons, a wed- descriptions and sort out her names.

was not so bad! The women's clubs color and white, with pink roses." Her "No one ever suspected you'd be Jeal-Polly respected and they were often in- pencil scopped as she recalled now beau- one. And I can tell you result now yo teresting, too. Oh, yes, she had quite tiful Lucy had looked, although paler needn't bet You'm a lucky girl; Joel's forgotten the costume party that Mrs. and thinner than usual. Surely Largy's so in love with you he doesn't know Careon, wife of the paster of Conway's brown eyes had looked strained and un- other girls exist. I'm no flirt but if I biggest church, was giving that evening happy! Joel Larimer, big, solid and were I can tell you it wouldn't have for her nieces who were visiting her handsome in his costume, which showed done me any good. He can't talk of from New York. Polly Pepper had been off his time figure to good advantage, anything but youl I've admired you FUR FARMS PROVIDE invited to that party, but of course she had been so silent and grave. Surely myself but I got bered to tears listening could not go. That is the penalty of he looked strained and worried, too! to your virtues. If you go on being angry working on a morning newspaper. You Perhaps something had gone wrong, for you'll be the sillest cruclest and most have only one evening a week to your- they had not even come together! Lucy unjust girl in all the world! So now, fish as a food for animals on fur farms self. Little Polly used that up going to had been with her parents, Joel Larimer you can go if you like. I'm through." Dr. Carson's church! Oh, well, this had been alone! Oh, dear, why do per- With a sob Polly withdrew her hands recent years. The vitamin and mineral made things better! She would see all feetly grand romances have to be broken and used them to extricate a handthe pretty costumes anyhow, and out a up? How under the sun would she find kerchief and mop away a few tears of slice of the Lady Baltimore cake for out the truth about it? Miss Switzer sheer excitement, latey Browning, howwhich pleasant Mrs. Carson was so fam- could have gone up to any one of half ever ereally-crying, collapsed on Joel's many Canadian for ranchers now classious! She realized that Miss Switzer was a dozen gossips, young, old and in between, and with a few hints, had the the parlors, if anyone chancel to look! At first fresh fish were used, but later I hear that the Browning-Larimer en- suspected it, at once. The only person gagement is off, and there won't be any Polly herself knew who could tell her wedding next June between our two anything was Joet Larimer himself. She could not ask him; nevertheless, she "Why, I must find out. Unpleasant news it might

up table decorations or put the wrong The flow of guests through the great front door had stopped. The double "All right," promised Polly. She went parlors were filled now, and Polly looked wondered if the original party, given by "I suppose so-but I don't like scoops Mrs. Carson's great-grandmother and her when they are unhappy ones," said Polly preacher husband, after which this was copied, could have been any lovelier.

pertinent young reporters, laughed. It against the curve of the stairway, quite The young woman hastily departed to leading a levely young girl. Her rosebegin her uncongesial task. That even- colored brocade skirts billowed out right beside Polly's head as she sank down on

Polly did not notice the pair until The parsonage had been built as a gift | she heard a tense, unhappy voice say to the church by a very rich man who "Lucy, I'm sorry, but I had to talk to you, this is the only chance T've had, You must reconsider, dear. You must! Our happiness, it must mean as much

> "You haven't considered our happiness so much." Pain too was in the tight little voice. "Can you explain as I ask-

"Not now dear. I've explained to you ed Lucy. that I promised. I can't break a prom-

"A promise to another girl!" flared

"Oh, no, no, I've told you that! When you understand, you'll laugh at all this if you persist in breaking our engagement now, that may be too late. Don't be stubborn now, dear, when so

much is at stake!" "Why did he have to say "stubborn"! Pully could have beaten him. How was she, now to get safely away? Eavesdropping! How she scorned it! Before she could escape, she heard something

that made her stay. "Stubborn!" flared Miss Lucy. "That's a nice word from you to me! . What about yourself? I've asked you and asked you and you won't tell a thing, or explain a bit, yet I've heard over and over on the best authority, that you've been seen' running around with a pretty little blond girl-that she's been alone

with you in your office-" "Oh, my goodness gracious Agnes! exploded a horrified voice that sent, both agitated lovers jumping. "That was I!" "Maybe we can arrange for many of Brown eyes and gray looked down with

Miss Lascy turned whiter and her line

unhappy than ever. "You great big ninny!" went on Miss Pepper with emphasis. 'Oh, I know TWENTY NEW WAR FACTORIES

pected anything like this would turn up? Like a rolling snowball rapidly in-I'm the girl you heard about, Miss Browning, and it's all true as far as it creasing in size as it swiftly gathers momentum Britain's industrial war outgoes. Now you just stay right there and listen to me." For Miss Browning was dreamed of in September, 1939. showing every sign of leaving. Instead, she gave a amothered scream of indig-

nation, for two strong little hands had and at the end of 1939 was ten times greater than in a comparable period shot through the banisters and caught the last war. During 1940 the output "Let me go at once, you horrid little of guns will exceed the height of flirt, you spy!" cried the beautiful Lacy, final period of the maximum producwho now was on the verge of an agony tion effort attained in the last war.

Twenty new Government ordnance of tears and did not want to give way to factories, to cost £ 46,000,000, have "I won't, and I'm neither of those put in hand since Ceptember 3rd, and The 300 contractors' factories have been extended at a cost of £10,000,000:

In the last war Britain's contribution served. not knowing exactly what to do in this in transport vehicles was about 40,000; unheard-of situation. "Don't you make in-the first year of this war her contribution to Allied mobility will exceed

-I'm Pauline Pepper, on the staff of the Between the outbreak of war and end of 1939, nearly £ 250,000,000 worth of contracts had been placed by the Ministry of Supply, excluding "continuing" contracts for raw materials This is where most of the money is going: Raw materials, textiles and

bather £ 73 millions medical aid. Ouns, small arms, am-50 millions Optical and scionlifte in-

The Minister of Supply, Mr Leslie Burgin, referred recently to his Minis-

MARKET FOR FISH

shoulder. They were is full sight from ty fish as an important food item "Quick, whisk her down into my cubby in Prince Edward Island a quantity of hole here. I'll clear out," commanded hake was canned especially for fur farm Polly. Young Mr. Lastimer did succeed lise. Now a new development is reported in getting his flancee to shelter. Polly in Nova Scotia, where quick freezing kindly blew out the nearest candles as methods are playing a part in the preshe decamped. She hastened to the paration of fish food for fur ranches. crowd in the parlors, where she suc- Cod and haddock trimmings are comceeded in Reoping back a party out hunt- pressed into block and frozen by the gutck freezing method. Then they are She had dropped her notes on the wrapped in oiled paper and preserved floor! She must have those! After a for side for fur-raising establishments. In Alberta, large quantities of course Amos, bearing a full tray. He helped fish, otherwise most unsaleable, are being her to announce her presence by saving utilized by the fox and mink ranches.

loudly, "Mis' Carson knowed you'd go New Brunswick is using herring and early, so she done sent me wid dis vere several other varieties of fish for fur farms. On the west coast, British Columbla fur ranches are providing a market for salmon trimmings and waste previously of little value as far as mar-A very happy voice from her dark keting was concerned.

CANADIAN SALT

Commercial production of common salt (sodium chloride), in Canada according to the latest completed data for 1938, totalled 440,045 tons, valued at \$1,912,913. In the preceding year, the production amounted to 458.957 tons at a value of \$1,799,465. In 1938 salt was produced in Nova Scotla Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta, 88 per cent, of the "Let's take her to the office. Joe," sug--total output, or 388,130 tons, having been contributed by Ontario. Statistics of friends forever, rode through the snowy Canadian salt production represent the recovery of salt from brine wells, with "I'm about as happy as you two," said the exception of Nova Scotia, where the Polly when she thanked them and bade output comes entirely from the underthem good night, "only I did sacrifice ground mining of rocksalt deposits."

"What on earth is a scoop?" demand- to Polly, now standing on the pavement, "I'll give you a scoop," she said. "You "Why, a story you can print in your can announce in the paper to-morrow paper before any other paper prints it." that the wedding of Lucy Browning and "Just wait!" Lucy turned to whisper | Joel Larimer, that was to take place in to Joel, and then leaned out of the car June, has been set for early March!"

By R. J SCOTT

WEIGHT - 83/4 POUND

TEA AND COFFEE

CONTAIN THE SAME

STIMULANT - CALLED

CAFFEME BECAUSE

IT WAS DISCOVERED

A POUND OF

FIRST IN COFFEE-

DRY TEA LEAVES

CONTAINS ABOUT

TWICE'NS MUCH

CAFFEINE AS A

POLIND OF COFFEE BEANS

COFFEE ONE: POURD

GARBAGE FEED CONTROL

The feeding of swine with garwige, swill, meat scraps, offsl, or veretable refuse, either raw or cooked, obtained whoput has already reached figures hardly where than on the premises where fed, is prohibited in Canada unless a license Output of shells has been doubled, has first been obtained from the Veterinary Director General, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, The enforcement of this regulation is believed to have a direct effect in preventing outbreaks of hog cholers and infestation with trichinae, as all garbage fed under license is required to be thoroughly cooked and the premises must be maintained in a sanitary condition. Inspections are also made of unlicensed premises to ensure that the regulations are being of

ACCIDENTS AND COMPENSATION

There were 5.542 accidents reported to The Workmen's Compensation Board during January, this being 404 more than luring the month of December, and 1,026 more than during January a year ago.

The total benefits awarded amounted to \$594,519.69, of which \$488,435.08 Wast for compensation and \$100.048.31 for

GREAT SCHEME

Strolling along the boardwalk, a man dropped a quarter through a crack in the planking. A friend came along a minute later and found him squatting 12 millions down, industriously poking a five-dollar bill through the treacherous cranny. "I'm trying to make it worth my while to tear up this board!"

IN THE LONG AGO

'Can't stop here, lady," said the con-

The best way buy Groceries



ou filos by telephone because the grocer takes. to wait to get served -- a particular care of his "telophone enstomers": their continued patronuge depends on his good service. A tele-

phone in your

home aaves

You get good value when precious time and trouble, too, There a no need telephone order gets immediate attention. The small cost of a telephone pays for itself

many times over in convenience and pleasure.

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PEACHES Queen's Royal BLUEBERRIES

PEACH JAM PRUNES 80-90's

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DATES

PEANUT BUTTER RAISINS 2 lbs. 19c Our Own- 2 lbs. 25c Australian 2 lbs. 21c

SALADA Tea 1/4-lb. 37c 1/2-lb. 39c pkg. 37c pkg. 39c Butter Bars McCormick's 2 16. 27c CHOCOLATES Chocolate Ib.

SODAS Weston's Golden Brown Plain or Salted

CATSUP Tiger Tomato DOMESTIC

IOc 13c

MANY FLOWERS

cake 4C Naphtha

P. & G. SOAP

CODFISH Bar 4C Boneless

MATCHES Pontiac 300s FLOOR WAX Shinola Soap Flakes Economie

SUPER SUDS YOU SURPRISE Laundry Soap PURE LARD

Seedless

5 for 23c

New Fresh CARROTS, per bunch

8c

GRAPEFRUIT

Fresh White CELERY HEARTS