The Free Press Short Story

SHADOWS ON THE CURTAIN

By EARL SILVERS

Scarlet Club. The Sophomore who told ruling here at college that girls aren't me about it explained that Barrick was allowed in the dormitory at night?" really the most desirable man in the Freshman class, and that all of the other undergraduate clubs were eager to pledge him. 'At the conclusion of "rushing chaperon, Why?" week," however, he had definitely relected their invitations, announcing that he preferred to join the Scarlet Club. Although he walted until midnight for their bid, it did not come. The truth of the matter was that the members had not elected him.

The next day he appeared on the defiantly upon the college world; but duty." there was a puzzled light in his eyes and | The passed on down the campus path. a pledge button, as you can see," he an- there at ten o'clock at night.

but he answered quietly enough, "Such things aren't talked about, Barrick. 'I'm Forry if you're disappointed."

"Not half so sorry as I am." Barrick. "But you may be sorrier before this incident is ended."

· It was, of course, almost unheard effrontery for a Proshman to speak to a Sophomore in that way; but Livingstone was an easy-going chap, so he simply nodded noncommittally and passed on. A couple of nights later, when I was sitting on the steps of Willetts Hall, he

told me about it. As most of you know, I have been the night watchman at Raritan College for over thirty years. The boys call me General Cobb, although I am not a milltary officer. When Fred found me alone on the dormitory porch, he sat down beside me. "General," he asked, "do you know a Preshman named Hugh Barrick?"

"Just by sight," I answered. "Do you know him, Fred?"

"Not especially well." The Sophomore evenly. "I was impressed with him when Y first saw him; he is good looking, as light. you know; he has assurance and polse, and is just the type to make an excellent impression, Y believe, wherever he goes."

"Nothing wrong so far," I suggested. "No. Some of the fellows over at the Scarlet Club considered him just man we were looking for, and auggested that we rush him. So we had him to dinner, and he made a big hit."

"But for some reason he didn't altogether appeal to me. He told us that' his mother was dead and his father was an actor, and he said that he was going vaguely of perfume. out for dramatics here at college. He gave us some imitations of famous actors of a Junior named William Denman. and everybody thought he was great."

Bull nothing wrong," I but in "Y suppose not," agreed Fred, "but Y couldn't get it out of my head that he wasn't all that he pretended to be. About a week ago, when I was driving through Westville, where he lives, I stopped in at his high school and asked his principal about him."

"Anything happen, then?" "Well, the principal told me that Barrick was a real actor, and that he had all kinds of talent. Some of his teachers suspected that he cheated in his examinations, although they couldn't prove it. The principal seemed to think that he wasn't altogether to be trusted.

"And so, you blackballed him?" "No. I just said Y wasn't prepared to; do. and now I'm just a bit worried."

"Nonsensel" I said. "You're the president of the Sophomore class and a varsity football player in the bargain. his quarters and found Fred studying He's only a Preshman, and he can't do chemistry "Pred," I asked, taking the any harm to you.

"Maybe you're right, General!" Fred see this before?" stood up and yawned. "Forget what I course."

It seemed to me that Pred was unduly mine. How did you get hold of it?" concerned, and I- promptly forgot the incident. About two weeks later when last night," I explained, "and I found it why. I was again on the porch, Hugh Barrick on your table." himself came out of the dormitory and

en to me, and I encouraged him to task. Generall" "You're a Freshman, arent' you? Like It here?"

"In some ways, yes," he answered. "I've always wanted to come to college course not! What makes you think that, and be a campus leader. But I guess a General?" Preshman doesn't rate so high."

"You'll come out all right," I said, "if you play the game." He looked at rumor, of course." me curiously, but made no answer. After a minute or two, he went inside again. He had impressed me as a rather nice young - fellow and I found it hard to ed up to the athletic field, figuring that understand Fred Livingstone's antagon- if he had broken the rules, my words im. Y actually felt a little corry that would warm him. The profile I had seen

**************************** rumor spread around the, A few nights later, when I was standcampus, as such things do, that ing at the entrance of the King's Build-Pred Livingstone's vote was all ing, Barrick joined me again. "Good eventhat had kept Hugh Barrick out of the ing. General!" he said. "Isn't there

> allowed upstairs in the dorm at any time, except when accompanied by a

"It's this way." he stated reluctantly. Last night I was coming home from down town-it was about ten o'clock. I guess-when I haw a girl outlined on the shade of one of the windows in Willetts Hall."

"Which room was it?" I asked. "The north corner room on the second campus minus a pledge button of any floor," he said. "I don't know who lives kind. He held his head high and gazed there, but-well, at least I've done my

a pleasant one. Early in the afternoon dered what it was all about. The north he happened to meet Fred Livingstone room on the second floor was occupied at the entrance to the old King's Build- by Fred Livingstone, and I could not ing. Barrick halted. "I'm not wearing pulto conceive of Pred having a girl up

nounced bluntly. "Perhaps you can tell I't was possible, of course, that Barrick me why I wasn't elected to the Scarlet may have been mistaken, but he could not have told me a story like that with-Pred was surprised for a moment by out some basis of fact. The only thing the directness of the Preshman's attack; I could do was to keep my eye on the dormitory and await developments. About five years before we had had a rathe nhappy experience in Willetts Hall, and

sald the dean had ruled that anyone breaking that particular regulation would be expelled from college. So far as I knew, Fred Livingstone was a fine, upstanding young man, Since the time of his entrance, no one had uttered a word of criticism against him, the more I thought about the matter the stronger became my conviction that Barrick had either imagined the shadow

on the curtain or was attempting to arouse my suspicion without just reason I kept my eyes open, however, and about ten-thirty the next night, when I was returning from a tour of inspection of the college buildings, I glanced up at the end room on the second floor There, outlined against one of the drawn shades was the unquestionable profile of

There was no denying this. She wa hatless, apparently, for I could see her hair, which was curly. As I looked, she raised her arms and held them out in rested his elbows on his knees and spoke front of her, then she shook her head, stood up, and passed out of the circle of

> For a moment, I was unable to believe my eyes; but the evidence was clearly before me. Deeply puzzled, I hastened across the campus and entered the dormitory. No one passed me on the stairs, but when I opened the door of Livingstone's room, the study was described. glanced hastly into the bedroom. No one was there, but I found on the centre table a girl's compact. Unquestionably some one had been in the study and had left the compact. The air smelled

> I went across the hall to the quarters He was lying half saleep on the window seat, but he sat up and greeted me pleasantly enough. "Hello, General!

> What's on your mind?" "I'm looking for Pred Livingstone," I explained. "Have you seen him?" "Not since this afternoon," answered

> Denman, and grinned. "Y think he has a girl friend down town and is probably there. Anything wrong?"

"No," I answered "I just wanted ask him about something."

Returning to the porch, I waited Pred to return, but at eleven-thirty he not come back and I was forced leave for my round of inspection. When I reached the porch again, his room was anyway, I decided that the Scarlet Club dark and I judged that he had gone to jot the semester.

I was frankly purchid-as-to what Somehow, the affair was inconsisvote. Somehow, Barrick heard about it, tent with all that I had known of Fred. and so I decided to wait for another few days before reporting to the dean.

The next afternoon I dropped in at compact from my pocket, "did you ever

He was suddenly embarracied, and his fold you. Things will be all right, of face grew red. "Yes," he answered, sheepishly, "it belongs to a friend of

"I was wandering around the dorm "Oh," he smiled relievedly, "it was "It's a fine night," he de- left in my pocket a couple of days ago,

and I put it there on the table to take It was the first time he had ever spor- back, but forgot all about it. Thanks, I handed it over. "Sure your girl

friend wasnt up here, Pred?" He looked at me doubtfully.

"I've heard, indirectly, that there's be:n a girl in the dorm." I said, "but it's just

"None around here," he announced positively.

I left him to his studies and wander-"Fred had kept him out of the Scarlet on the shade was still a mystery for daddy?" which Y could find no solution. It oc-

curred to me that possibly Hugh Barrick might be mixed up in it some way. He Newfoundland's People might have induced a girl acquaintance of his to come to Fred's room and stand in the light, although that seemed hardly

saw Fred pull down the shades; then I and it was after nine o'clock when I returned to Willetts Hall. Struck by an impulse, I mounted the stairs quietly and opened the door of William Denman's room. William had gone out, so I sat down on his cot and decided to wait.

The dormitory was quiet. Far down the hall some one strummed for a time on a mandolin and then desisted. Pinally the clock on the mantel struck ten, and I had just about decided to go out to the campus when I heard soft footneps approaching. Some one camb down the corridor, opened the door of Livingstone's room, and closed it.

I crossed the corridor and pushed open the door of the corner room. Seated on light, I discovered a girl; and I am forced to admit that my heart missed a had set foot on Newfoundland and beat. Her face was turned toward me. a pretty face with red line and a pert

"Well," I said sharply, "what are you doing here?"

Unexpectedly, she turned away from me and covered her take with her hands Y had no intention of letting her go however, and I crossed the room a stood over her. "Have you been here

before?" I demanded. "Yes," she said, still not looking at me: "but Fred said it would be all right." I stood glaring at her and finally my eves rested on her shoes. Suddenly I saw a great light-for they were the thoes of a man. "Oh!" I snapped. Domestic Money Orders Reaching down, I snatched the wig from

girl, of course. It was Hugh Barrick. Knowing that the deception was up, he rose to his feet and confronted me. His face was pale and his hands were trembling. "What are you going to do

with me?" he demanded

what you have to say." Livingstone kept me out of the Scarlet scribed by liw, at an office other than Club and this was the way I planned to that on which drawn or the office of get back at him."

"Why this way?" I asked.

"I told you I was interested in dramatics. All through high school I took the part of girls, and people said that f could easily be mistaken for one. had brought my costumes and make-up to college, but no one knew it. So when I read, about that dormitory ruling, I hought I might come here a counte of times and stand in front of the shade. If you saw the shadow, Fred would be in wrong even if he denied it. And Y figured that if you caught me here, you pictures was made in May, 1895, at 158 wouldn't recognize me."

"I mightn't have," I said, "if it hadn' been for your shoes."

He looken down ruefully. bother to change. But if I had, you would have been deceived." assumed a note of pride. "I'm a character netor," he finished.

"An actor, perhaps," I corrected him, 'but without character." He nodded unhappily. "What are vo going to do with me. General?" he ask

to look up hopefully, "If I say nothing

"Yes." he replied, tensely

character."

eyes met mine without wavering. help me, General, I will." he said.

We let it go at that; and when the corridor was clear, he hurried back his room, three doors away, and changed into a man's costume. He has worn it ever since, for he is a member of the Junior class now, and report has it that he will be on the honor roll at the end

For Frost little and Chilblains,-Chilblains come from undue exposure clush and cold and frost-bite from the icy winds of winter. In the treatment of either an excellent preparation is Dr Thomas' Eclectric Oil, as it counteracts the inflammation and relieves the pain. The action of the oil is prompt and its application is extremely simple.

One morning Rastus didn't show un

"What reason by that that you shou

"Well you bod, buss I was elected to office and I'se busy this mornin'." "Elected to an office the night you were taken into the order?" "Yes, sir. I was appointed the Grand

"That's a pretty high office for a new man, ban't ft?" "No sir. Grand Exalted Ruler ob de Universe is de bery lowest office what dev

Exalted Ruler of de Universe."

is in dl. lodge."

IIIS ADVICE

married your mother and became your

"Don't do it, Mr. Smith."

Mostly of British Descent Newfoundland is unique in that practically 98 per cent of its population is native born and of British descent. Nevertheless, I kept a strict watch has no racial problems to contend with for there has been little or no immi gration except from English-speaking countries. Worthy descendants of Eng-Scotch and Irish ploneers, the Newfoundlanders have become moulded into a distinct type, asserts a writer the Montreal Herald. To John and Sebastian Cabot, those

> intrepld adventurers from Bristo Town, who may be regarded as the actual discoverers of the North American continent, goes the credit for discovering Newfoundland. Under letters patent of Henry VII, they set sail in two small vessels from the port of Bristol in the spring of 1407. Following a due westerly course they came in June to Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador. Though Columbus had pioneered the western seas tive years before and touched at the islands known as the West Indies, he did no specced in reaching the mainland until Angust, 1498-a year after the Cabets Labrador. And just as Columbus was deprived of the honor of having his name affixed to the great continent to which he had pointed the path, so John Osbot on his return home merely reported the discovery of "Newfoundland"-and Newfoundland It has remained to this day. Nor does the reward received at the hand of his royal patron seem at all adequate to our advanced ideas of compensation, for the event is briefly chronicled by the following entry in the accounts of the privy purse expenditure: "1407, August 10th, to hym that found this New

Paid at Full Face Value

the girl's head. The person was not a Under the postal laws and regulations an original domestic money order must be puld at its full face value drawn or at the office of lasue, at any day of the month in which issued. For "Pirst," I answered, "I want to hear the first thirty days after issue, any He smiled weakly and wet his parched continental United States and drawn lame. The fee charged in such case is the same fee as is charged for the is-

Any post office money order is entitled to payment at its full face value without uny deduction for fees at the main office, any classified station or eny branch office. The term "branch office" upplies to offices located in drug stores and other places of business.

The First Movies

The first public showing of moving Broadway, New York city. The subfect was a boxing bout between Griffe and Barnett and lasted about four real movie stars for many years ture. Blanche Bayllas and William Courtenay were the stars in the first picture play, "Miss Jerry," made in 1864. Terry Ramsaye in his history of the industry, "A Million and One Nights," mays that John Bunny was among the. earliest players really starred, his first appearance being in 1910. Other early stars were Mary Pickford, Mabel Normand, Arthur Johnson, James Kirkwood, Henry Walthall, etc.

Eyes Plentiful, No Hone Every year Egypt exports hundreds of millions of eggs to other, countries. "That from now on you will let up yet hens with chicks are almost neverseen in Cairo. The explanation is that eggs are artificially hatched by a He drew back his shoulders, and his system that has not changed in 4,000 years. The eggs lie for a while in steamly ashes, deep down in the hatching pits. Later they are put beneath black cupolas of Nile mud. lying on camel dung and covered with palm leaves. The system is so accurate that attendants can tell to the bour when the chicks will hatch.

Gambling in Law Suite

In Sixteenth century France, gambling is law sults was bot uncommon. writes O. C. Lawrence, Wollaston, Mass, in Collier's Magazine. One man would bring a civil action against auother, usually without justification, for the purpose of selling the case, when he had the advantage, to a professional plaintiff who would camble on wisning it through the inimitable lying of his own staff of "witnesses."

Rapida Run Upstream

It is true that the rapids in the for work until quite late. His boss asked Bt. John flver in Canada run upstream twice every 24 hours. The St. "Well, you see, boas, I was taken into John river emptles into the Bay of Fundy, which is noted for its remarkable tides. When the tide is conting in. the rapids are running unstream. In some years, in the spring, the tide has been known to have a daily variation in some parts of the bay of nearly 80 feet.

> First Axaless is New World It is said that Fiffse Langlois, who arrived with the French Colonists in on a visit and saw azalens booming in his parents' garden. On his return to Mobile he brought seeds and planted them. By the end of the French perlod uzalens had spread over the town. These are believed to be the first azaleas planted in the New world

CANADA'S HOMES

A study of Canadian homes based on the last Dominion census reveals that the English eccentric. One day he over great majority of Canadian rural families heard two servants disputing as to which live in owned homes, but in urban areas should wash the hall, each insisting that it along to you? paying tenants are somewhat more num- It was not part of her duties. The clergyerous than owners. In rural areas 78.83 | man called them in and sent each away per cent, of all homes were owned as on an improvised errand. When they compared with 45.55 per cent, in urban returned they found the reverend gentle-

Dominion numbered 2,252,729. In Canada the six-room house is more ling so menial a task. common than any other size, but it is not typical in all parts of the country. Nearly duty Peggy; nor yours, Jane; so it must 66 per cent. of the Canadian households be mine, I suppose." occupy from four to seven rooms and almost 20 per cent. live in three rooms larly, without dispute. or fewer. Only 31/2 per cent. live in homes of more than ten rooms.

In the Maritime Provinces, urban

homes, such as in Halifax and Saint

John centre around six rooms, while the rural homes are larger on the average than in any other part of Canada Pive-room homes are the most numerous in urban Quebec but in rural Quebec there is no definite favor for any special size. Both rural and urban Ontario homes characteristically include rooms, the outstanding exception being Ottawa, where seven-room houses are most numerous. Over 60 per cent. of prairie rural homes contain four rooms or fewer, while the number of such homes in Ontario is less than 23 per cent Four-room homes dominate in both rural

Many mothers have reason to bless Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator, because it has relieved the little ones of suffering and made them healthy.

and urban areas of British Columbia.

DUTY

communities. All households in the man diligently mopping the hall. Both good earnestly protested against his perform-

> "Pooh! Pooh!" he sald, "it's not your Thereafter the hall was cleaned regu- view. Therefore I will be charifable and

MEXICAN RABBITS

A Mexican and an American worked together in a mine in Kansas. On several occasions the Méxican had rabbi for dinner, and shared it with his work-

One day the American asked: "Where do you'ret rabbits, Jose? Y can't find

"My wife she get um." Jose replied 'Ever' night they come 'round the house and make noise. She shoot um." "Noise? Rabbits don't make a noise. "Sure," asserted Jose, positively, "Go. 'Mcow, meow.' "

JUST WHOY

Customer-"I want to buy some rouge and face powder." Clerk-"For your wife, sir, or to match your coat lapel?"

GETTING ALONG WITH MY NEIGHBORS

Somewhere I have found this creed of

I believe in the good will of my neighing to mine, to do what is right and

I believe that I do not fully understand my differing neighbor's point of view. Therefore I will seek diligently and sympathetically to do so. I believe that he does not fully understand my point of

patient. I believe that I have more defects in manner, speech, disposition and temperament than I can detect or am willing to own. Therefore it ill becomes me to

be too sharp a critic of my fellows. I believe that the happiness and success of my neighbor are as important as my own. Therefore I will seek in behalf of others the same things that I seek for myself. I will seek to be fair to people of other nations, to free my mind from harrow prejudice, and to grant to other peoples and races the same rights and privileges that I claim for my country. I will further seek to establish methods by which reason and the spirit of good will may be used to adjudicate differences among nations, confident that peace on earth can be maintained among men of good will.

"A sense of proportion is essential to the effective attainment of any great objective."-Franklin D. Roosevelt.





· GRAIN GROWING .

HENRY: "lames, I can remember Dad tell ing us that, in his day, they used to thresh their grain with a flail. We couldn't get along that way nowadays; there's too much." lames: "You're right, Henry. We must have mechanical help to produce grain at a profit in these days. But I'm in favour of employing as many men as we can."

point of view. Our local Bank of Montreal manager tells me that, if the security is all necessary modern implements. By the way, our loan at the Bank has been paid off in full and the manager has promised to ad-

vance money against the sale of our wheat to pay for harvest labour. We couldn't get along without the Bank's co-operation. It will be helping us, as usual, when we need money in the spring for seeding-and for that new birn we'll have to build one of these days."

HENRY: "That's every sensible Canadian's Some of the Bank's services to Grain Grow-'ers: Business chequing accounts; savings accounts; money orders and travellers cheques; right, his Bank is willing to lend money for the cashing of grain tickets and cheques, banking by mail; safekeeping of securities; loans for planting, harvesting and farm

MONTREAL

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