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SHE DID HIS BIDDING

Though It Was a Tax on Her Maidenly Modesty

By JUDSON ARMSTRONG

Sir John Throckmorton lay dying.

Sir John's only son had inherited from this ancestor a venturesome disposition. All his fathers efforts to keep him at home that he might live the regular Throckmorton life, taking care of the property, attending to the wants of his tenants, for excitement occasionally indulging in a fox hunt, were futile. Young Jack at eighteen went to America without his father's permission and remained there without his father's assistance. He enlisted in the United States cavalry, served three years as a private, then on being discharged turned cowboy. All his father knew about him was that he was living what the old man considered a disreputable life in the most barbarous part of the United States.

Sir John feebly called his nurse and said to her, "Tell Gladys that I wish to speak with her."

The nurse disappeared, and presently a girl between nineteen and twenty came into the room and, approaching the bed where the old man lay, placed her hand on his forehead, looking down on him tenderly.

"What is it, Sir John?" she said.

"Draw up a chair and sit down. I have something to say to you."

She did as he required, and he continued:

"I am preparing for my end. If you were a man instead of a woman I might leave things in better condition. But even in that case the landed property is entailed and at my death will belong to Jack. But it will be an encumbrance to him without my other property, which I desire shall go to you, who have been my only comfort since you came to me after Jack left.

"I have thought the matter out, so far as it can be thought out, and have formed a plan. It may seem a wild one, but it is the best I can do. I shall make a will, leaving the income on my securities to you so long as you live, and at your death the property to be divided among the tenants of the estate. But, in case you and Jack marry, the personal property shall be equally divided between you and him."

"Jack and I marry!" exclaimed the girl, catching her breath.

"Listen to me. I know what the influence of a good woman can accomplish. After I am gone go to America and find Jack. I leave the rest to you. You will know how to proceed. If you find that you and he can be happy together and a marriage between you results you will have repaid whatever I have done for you. In any event, you are provided for."

The girl sank down on her knees beside the invalid.

"Now go," he said presently, "and send a messenger to Mr. Goudy to come prepared to draw a will."

* * * * * * * *

Jack Throckmorton was sitting on a blanket with a number of other cowboys, their horses nibbling the grass near by, playing the American game of poker, when a man rode up and said to him: "There's a young lady wants to see you at the ranch house. She says she's from England and has a message for you."

Jack looked up at the man anxiously. He knew that his father was in bad health, and a message from England was to be dreaded. He threw down his cards, mounted his horse and rode to the house. A young girl sat on the veranda, and as he mounted the steps he raised his sombrero to her politely.

"John Throckmorton?" she asked, rising.

"I am."

"I am sorry to be obliged to announce to you the death of your father."

The young man stood, wrapped in his own thoughts, his own emotions and with bowed head. He was regretting that nature should have unfettered him to walk in the path that would have pleased the man who was now no more. Death often brings such regrets to those who are left behind. When he raised his head he saw two sympathetic eyes looking into his.

"I presume you wish to know who I am and how I came to bring you this message. I will not trespass upon your grief now by telling you all. It is for the present enough to say that I am Gladys Knowles. After you left England my mother died, and your father took me in to manage his household and be something of a companion for him. Before his death I promised him that I would come to America, find you and endeavor to induce you to return to England and assume the care of your estate. Without some one to attend to it others will soon possess it, and the tenants who have long lived under your father's beneficent administration will suffer."

"If you had come before father's death," he replied, "I would have gone back at once and remained there because it was his wish. I will go back now, get things in order and return. I could never be content to live the humdrum life of an English country gentleman."

"There is no hurry for your return. Your father left the estate in good hands, and you will find everything in order."

"And you?"

"Now that I am here I hope to see something of this life that so fascinates you."

"And I trust you will permit me to show my appreciation of your kindness to my father by furthering this intention."

Miss Knowles had traced Throckmorton to the sheep ranch where he was employed, forming her own plan of procedure on the way. He was naturally curious to know what disposition his father had made of his unentailed property, but she told him that she had not seen the will, which was true literally, though not in spirit.

The young English girl, used to country life, took readily to that on a western sheep ranch. She had brought with her funds from the Throckmorton estate for young Sir John's immediate use, which made him financially independent. They rode together in the country roundabout and visited many places remarkable for beautiful and curious scenery. Sir John was drawn to her in this: She had acted the part toward his father that he should have acted himself. She made no attempt to induce him to decide upon his return to settle to the life he had inherited. Indeed, she sympathized with him in his taste for the freer life of a ranchman. She even suggested to him that he might spend a part of his time on his estate in England and a part in America. He would be able to buy and stock a ranch and could appoint a manager for both properties with whom to leave either when he should wish to be absent from it.

A month passed, and neither Sir John nor Miss Knowles made any move to return to England. They were together constantly, for since her coming he had thrown off the cowboy and resumed the gentleman. Miss Knowles was not beautiful, but in a country where woman stands almost without other members of her sex she seems beautiful, being placed in contrast with the rough men. But there is something in character that will win in the end where the most perfect beauty will fail. Every day the young man spent in the girl's company he was lifted out of his former self, and every day while this change was going on she felt more resigned to carrying out her benefactor's dying wish.

At last one day while they were riding on horseback together Sir John said to her:

"If you will marry me I will go back to England to remain there."

At this Gladys became very serious.

"I heard," she said to him, "before leaving England that your father had selected a wife for you, and I am of the opinion that when you see her—well, you will find that he has made it a condition of your inheriting his unentailed property that you shall marry this woman."

"In that event I'll cut the whole matter!" cried Sir John. "But father couldn't deprive me of the landed property, for it is entailed."

"But you could do nothing with it without an income from the other property."

Sir John was disturbed. He could not urge Gladys to marry a mere cowboy. And the prospect of keeping a wife on his entailed property was not encouraging.

"You may find the girl to your taste," said Gladys.

"Not I. I shall remain here. If I can't marry you I'll marry no one."

Gladys reasoned with him, reminding him that she had come to America at his father's request to induce him to return to his duties in England, and she would not relinquish her design.

"Why didn't father take it into his head that I should marry you?" he asked.

"Your father loved me as his daughter. You must remember that he did not approve of your living—

"A disreputable life. No; I don't wonder that he should not have cared to inflict so worthless a chap on you. But surely he provided for you?"

"He did."

Gladys insisted on Sir John's going to England, learning how matters stood and then making up his mind what his future course would be. Having secured his promise to follow her, she set out for the coast and sailed for home.

So averse was the young man to going under the circumstances that he might not have done so for a long while had not Gladys drawn him in her wake. Not long after her departure he began his journey eastward with the intention of pressing his suit in the hope that there might be enough in his entailed property to induce her to marry him. Upon reaching home the first person he saw was Gladys.

"I have returned to learn if it is possible for me to renew the offer I made you in America when I supposed that I had inherited all my father's property."

"Have you seen the will?" she asked.

"No. I arrived only this evening. I have not had time to see Mr. Goudy. I shall know all tomorrow. If I can renew my offer to you I will come and see you again. If not I will do what I must do here and then return to America."

When next the young man saw Gladys he had read his father's will. He met her with delight; she met him with a blush.

"Why did you keep your secret so long?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied, "how I have ever been so immodest as to carry out your father's wishes at all."

Sir John and his wife now live half the year on their estate in England and the other half on their ranch in America, though sometimes he visits his American property, leaving her to manage his English estate during his absence. But with a growing family he spends less time each year on his ranch and is beginning to consider giving it up entirely.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEW YORK—The vivid ardor of the war, declared by Speyer & Co. against Benjamin F. Yoakum, over the Frisco receivership, cooled considerably after James Speyer had conferred with his St. Louis counsel, Frederick W. Lehmann, who arrived from St. Louis. Benjamin F. Yoakum and the head of the Speyer firm were in a long conference at a prominent down town club. The conference appeared to be entirely harmonious and at its close, it was understood that Speyer & Co. had compromised its demand that one or both of the so-called Yoakum receivers be ousted and a Speyer man substituted. It was accepted that both the Yoakum and the Speyer sides had agreed to act in harmony on the plan of asking the court merely for the appointment of a third receiver, friendly to the Speyer firm.

WASHINGTON — On a "second thought" the subcommittee on finance of the senate has decided that flour and meats shall remain on the free list as in the Underwood bill. At the same time the "raw materials" that enter into their production—wheat and oats and cattle, sheep and hogs—will enter the United States market free. Under the Underwood bill as it stands now cattle, hogs and sheep are taxed 10 per cent and wheat and oats 10 cents a bushel. Just about the time that the announcement of this important change was being made, the department of agriculture was issuing a statement which forecasted that the price of beef and other meats of this country will increase steadily unless the American people learn to conserve the supply.

LEAVENWORTH, KAN. — Five of the most prominent men confined in the United States penitentiary, here, among them three well-known Indianapolis men, will be free again within a few days. Word was received from the department of justice that favorable action had been taken on the applications of Paul C. Gall, Harry Prinzler and Max R. Emmerich of Indianapolis. George W. Steck of St. Louis and W. J. Hogue of San Angeles, Tex. Emmerich, Gall and Prinzler are serving sentences for obtaining $40,000 illegally from the Capital National bank of Indianapolis, where Emmerich formerly was employed.

PITTSBURGH, PA.—A great gathering of representative citizens and men of note gathered at McCreery's to bid Godspeed to George W. Guthrie, the newly appointed ambassador to Japan and to welcome Viscount Chinda the Japanese ambassador to this country, and Secretary of State William J. Bryan. Mr. Bryan arrived from Washington at a late hour and made a short speech in which he lauded the new ambassador to Japan and the Japanese minister to the United States, Viscount Chinda.

LAWRENCEBURG, IND — Unusual significance attaches to the coming Fourth of July at Harrison, located on both sides of the Ohio and Indiana boundary, for on that day the day the 2,000 inhabitants and all who gether for a general homecoming will celebrate the centennial of the founding of the town. Governor Cox and Representative Allen of Ohio are scheduled among the speakers, and preparations are under way for a celebration that will be remembered for half a century to come.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.—While large, enthusiastic crowds thronged the streets to cheer the overthrow of the Good Government organization, which has ruled city politics since the recall of Mayor Harper five years ago, the posting of bulletins announced the election to the mayoralty of Police Judge H. H. Rose, an independent candidate, who ran without the support of any of the six newspapers of the city.

WASHINGTON—The latent Japanese issue which confronts the United States over the California alien land law was revived by the presentation of the second Japanese note in the controversy. Viscount Chinda, the Japanese ambassador, handed to Mr. Bryan a long communication from his government in which a fresh appeal is made to the United States for the nullification of the California statute.

PARIS, FRANCE — Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary was made a grand officer of the Legion of Honor by President Poincare. The Franco-American committee gave a dinner in the explorer's honor at the Pre Catelan, a fashionable restaurant in the Bolds de Boulogne. It was a brilliant function.

LONDON, ENG. — Many Servians were killed in a serious encounter between Servian and Bulgarian troops near the small town of Makres. News of the encounter came in a special dispatch to the Belgrade Mail Journal, forwarded here.

NEW YORK—The body of Benjamin C. Gibson, a Columbia university student, was picked up up in the East river. It it believed he committed suicide while mentally unbalanced.

TRICKY ANIMALS.

Some Are Simply Fakers, While Others Are Real Criminals.

"There are crooks among animals, just as among men," said a nature student. "Take, for example, the horse. A horse looks very noble, very honest, eh? Yet time and again a horse will feign lameness in one leg or the other because he knows that when he's lame his boss will let him loaf.

"One responsible writer tells about a chimpanzee that they once fed on cake and wine when he had a cold. The rascal fakes up a bad cough in the hope of getting more wine and cake.

"Many birds are tricky and some are notorious thieves, particularly the raven and the crow. But the cuckoo is the worst. The cuckoo is too flighty a lady to be willing to sit in a nest and hatch out eggs, so she lays in the nests of other birds, one here and one there, and, by Jove, to complete the deception she abstracts an egg from the nest she lays in so that the addition of her own egg won't be noticed.

"A criminal—not a common crook—is the Australian parrot. Once a vegetarian, this foul bird now lights on a sheep's back and, standing where the sheep cannot reach him, he hacks his way down to the liver, which he eats. Sheep murdered by parrots for their liver constitute one of the grave losses of Australian farming." — New York Tribune.

FOREIGN BORN WOMEN.

How They May Become Naturalized, Married or Single.

A foreign born unmarried woman may become a citizen by being naturalized. To do this she must be twenty one years of age and have lived five years in this country, one full year of which has been lived in the state in which she makes her application. Or she can marry a man who is a citizen, for the wife's citizenship follows the husband, and she continues to retain her citizenship if she continues to reside in the United States, unless she renounces the sovereignty of the United States.

A foreign born woman living in the United States whose husband is a foreigner, who refuses to become naturalized, cannot become a citizen unless separated from him by divorce or death.

A native born woman who marries a foreigner loses her citizenship during the time of the married relation, but upon the death of her husband or divorce from him she may resume her citizenship by registering, within one year with the American consul in the country of her residence a declaration that she desires to do so, or she may resume it by returning to the United States to reside.—New York Post.

A War Trick of the Great Hannibal.

When Hannibal, the great Carthaginian, was fighting Eumenes of Pergamos with a fleet of very inferior strength he hit upon an artifice which would scarcely be sanctioned by the laws of what we are pleased to call civilized warfare. He discovered by means of a bogus message under a flag of truce on which ship the king was. He then caused poisonous snakes to be inclosed in earthen jars. These he distributed among several ships and ordered them to close up on the king's galley. In the melee that followed the jars were flung unto the deck. The curious bombs were greeted at first with ridicule, which soon changed to panic when the nature of their contents made itself manifest. The galley was extricated from the fight as soon as possible, and the captains of the others, believing that the king had taken flight, followed suit, with the result that Hannibal gained a complete victory.

Entomological.

Charles had heard much at home and at school about the best way to insure good health and, although only nine years old, had taken great interest in the subject. The other day he told his mother that he wanted to go to a lecture that night. Much amused, she asked him what it was about.

"You know, mother, it is about how to take care of yourself. I can't think of the name of it, but you know."

"Maybe I do," she said, "but I can't tell unless you give me a better idea about it."

"Well, mother," he said thoughtfully, "it is about two bugs and a locust."

For a moment she was at sea, and then it dawned upon her that his "two bugs and a locust" was tuberculosis.—New York Post.

Complaint.

"You are always complaining about the taxpayer."

"Yes. I sympathize with the masses."

"How much do you pay in the way of taxes?"

"My dear sir, that has nothing to do with the case. The man who is paying a whole lot of taxes is usually so busy that he hasn't time to do his own complaining."—Washington Star.

The Great of the Earth.

Men who are occupied in the restoration of health to other men by the joint exertion of skill and humanity are above all the great of the earth. They even partake of divinity, since to preserve and renew is almost as great as to create.—Voltaire.

Queenly Enough.

"Why do you call the damsel a queen? She isn't related to royalty."

"With a face and figure like that she doesn't have to be related to royalty."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

We can conquer nature only by obeying her.—Bacon.

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