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TABLE TOP

by
Eden Phillpotts

A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE

"If you tell them that the treasure is yours, what will they say? What would any man say? If they are as honest as you believe, then they will say, 'All right Felice, go and get it.' However honest they may happen to be they will not fit out an expedition and incur great expenses and possible danger to help you find Benny's gold and diamonds. You cannot fit out an expedition. Only a rich man could enter on such adventure, and if Aylmer hears before you start that Felice Pardo is the sole member of the party who can profit, there is then nothing doing. How could it be otherwise?"

"What other way exists?" he said.

"What other honest way Mother?"

"Your duty to yourself and to me, because I am your good mother, is to avail yourself of this great chance put before you. And, to do so, you must first use your wits as you have never used them. You are a very clever man, but so far life has denied you any real opportunity to use your cleverness and reap the reward of it. Now life says 'Here is your chance at last Felice Pardo.' You have good ideas, clear vision, consciousness of the evils of poverty and the power of wealth.

"It is a matter for your conscience, then; and if conscience speaks a clear message, you must obey. The priest would tell you that."

"There may be nothing there," he answered. "Benny may have got his treasure after all, and found no temptation to come home again; or he may have been knocked on the head and his treasure taken from him. Think if I lost these valued friendships and all they may mean in the future, for a mare's nest, mother."

"You know nothing at all," she said, "and your words chill my heart. Your part is to hide your heart. If the expedition fails, none need ever know what was hidden in you and your friendships are left without a shadow upon them. You are none the worse. The future takes care of itself, and takes care of us too, if we face it like men. The future only tortures those who are frightened of it. You keep your secret hidden from them; until you are all home again perhaps. Then and only then you discover the truth, that everything belongs to you! You did not know it till you tell me about it. Even friendship is not lost if they do not put the treasure higher than friendship."

"You are tempting me to put the treasure higher than friendship," she said.

"Let us go to our beds, then," she concluded.

Her son made no reply and when night came both man and woman were kept awake by their thoughts. Anita blamed herself for not making a stronger case and winning him to her viewpoint from the first. She planned a stronger attack when morning came, convincing herself without the least difficulty that her opinion was right and just. It appeared that, as Jane Bradshaw before her, the peruvian put faith in the certainty of the treasure while Felice felt more disposed to doubt and share the incredulity of Tom Aylmer himself.

In Pardo, rival instincts fought for a decision, and it seemed that now one promised to conquer, while then the opposite secured an upper hand. He asked himself whether to get the better of the rich might be justified if, as a result, great powers should be secured to benefit the poor. Famous stories occurred to him of picturesque robbers in the past, who took from wealthy victims to better deserving people and achieved nothing but fame and good-

will as a result.

It was inevitable that he should juggle with values in such a mood and find deep temptation. He hoped presently that no treasure awaited the search; then he deceived himself for a little while by assuring his mind that to secure it and conceal his action from the rest would be impossible. But Anita had realized that also, and pointed the enterprise by every effort in his power, preserve the old amity with his friend's work for the common cause with all his might and only afterwards discover that the treasure belonged to him alone. So argued Felice until for weariness he slept; but with morning light he brought great happiness to Anita's mind.

"The treasure may most probably not exist at all," he said, "or, if it does, be of such a trifling value that the search for it must be the sole reward. And there are many such treasures of no intrinsic worth, mother, yet man's struggle and fight to reach them are of mighty worth and make man greater by the battle he has fought to find them. An old sailor, such as Benny Boss, no doubt imagined his little hoard represented great riches, whereas the truth may be that, even if found, it will not pay for the cost of finding it. That is for the future to tell. But if found, great or small, it is emphatically mine, and after long thinking through the night I am sure that it was meant to be mine—not for my own pleasure, but for my own duty."

"So long as you are clever on the main point, you can leave the details until you come to them," answered Signora Pardo. "Write to Aylmer and tell him to count upon you. And do not undervalue the treasure, for that is a matter for God to decide."

CHAPTER VIII PANDO SAYS "DO IT"

Felice destroyed the letter he was about to dispatch, and sent another instead.

"My dear Tom," he wrote, "when I read your letter I laughed, and was in mind to tell you not to be an idiot, but keep your newly-acquired wealth in your pocket; yet on second thoughts, I think otherwise. There is plenty of buried treasure in the world, and no doubt we have enough information to be sure the waters of Lake Titicaca hide many priceless things that would make us all wonder if they were ever brought to the light again. Why then, should this industrious old treasure-hunter called 'Benny Boss' have failed in his quest? With the amount of detail you seem to have gleaned and the wonderful revelation of the parrot, it does, I think, look good enough. If you really want me to take part in your expedition and do everything I can to lend a hand and help you, of course you have only got to say the word."

"In any case, given a decent little ship, the business should not occupy very much time, and you can take it in your stride on your way back."

"At any rate if you are game to seek it, I'm game to help you do so. Write at once, or telegraph if you're in a hurry, and I will go up to Guayaquil in Ecuador, across to the Galepagos and meet you. By the time that you come I shall have gone into the matter of a ship and if you give me a free hand, I will have chartered a small steamer equal to our needs. I'll keep down expenses all I can, but the jaunt isn't going to be exactly cheap, and you must remember that even if we find 'Tabletop,' my photographs of the mysterious place and the honour of putting it on the map, may be all the advantages you will win for yourself."

"Things jog on here in a manner

quite satisfactory

Always, dear Tom, your Felice."

Jane approved this letter highly. "Mr. Pardo sounds a very sensible sort of man," she said "and he is practical. Tell him to get a ship and have her ready for sea by the time we arrive at the Galapagos."

"We've got to get there first," he said, "and we've also got to know where to make for. There is a swarm of islands to choose from, but the swaggers one is Albemarle. That's where Pardo will go. Very few are inhabited at all."

"They set about their preparations and six weeks later were on their way. Aylmer had hoped to hear again concerning the mine and had written to Jacob Fernandez on the subject, telling him also about the parrot."

He called before any answer to this letter reached him, and he guessed that the old man had left Panama and must be back in Lima.

Jane enjoyed her first taste of tropics and ocean, finding both a happy and impressive experience. She proved a good sailor and her only fear was that nautical like would make her too fat.

West of Ecuador, by nearly six hundred miles lay Galapagos, and the last lap of the journey took some days in a slow boat. But the volcanic nests of islets, though lacking in much charm for a chance visitor, could furnish both Tom and Jane with very potent attractions, since for the naturalist who loves birds, or plants, it offers something unique. Not only the gigantic tortoises that give the island their names, rejoiced the lovers; but for Jane the land birds were such as she had never seen.

Indeed, they cannot be seen, elsewhere and are peculiar to the islands. As for Tom, new plants confronted him on every side, as they had confronted a genius in days long past and led him to mighty confusions touching the origin and variation of species.

"Here is one thing worth visiting this grim place for alone," said Tom. "This is where the famous lichen orchilla, comes from. It is gathered and sent to England and makes a wonderful purple dye."

For Angus the craters that honey-combed the island—from mere blow holes to deep cuts of great size—impressed him most.

"If we ever find Tabletop," he told them, "it will be much on this pattern—low-lying in tremendously deep water, shrouded in mists and with an active or extinct volcano rising in the middle of it. And just as flora and fauna are extraordinary and unique here, so they may be still more extraordinary and unique there. These isolated places are links with life from the far past that have persisted and escaped the devastation man brings along with him."

It was to Charles Island and not Albemarle that the travellers had come, and at the little settlement of La Floreana, Felice Pardo awaited them.

He interested Jane very much, for she was immediately conscious of a mind cast in a different pattern from any she had yet met in her brief existence.

She had never known a foreigner very well before, and the mixed bloods that went to create Felice produced an intellect and outlook that gave her much to think about. She approached him cautiously and when an instinct of doubt and even aversion began to dawn in her, she blazed herself, not, in, and told herself that only a child or a savage, mistrusts the unknown.

He was clever and courteous, poured into her new knowledge of the world in which he lived, and obviously strove to please her; but she felt him to be radically different in essence from her own kind. She would never understand him, as she understood the simple natures of Tom or Angus. Yet he did not hide his enthusiasm or conceal his strong Socialistic convictions. He was quite honest in that matter.

"What I want to see before I die is a juster world, Miss Bradshaw; and that would also be a better world," he said.

She could not deny the force of that ambition and observed that Pardo's ideas were cast in a greater mould than those of her own, or of her friend's. Birds and plants and ruined cities seemed small things contrasted with the Peruvian's enthusiasms for humanity and it was the sharp contrasts, that Jane concluded, must make her feel uncomfortable in Felice's company.

As for Aylmer and Maine, they welcomed their friend gladly enough, and for them a new sensation attended their reunion. They both felt it, yet neither could put it into words or explain it to one another. Something had happened to Pardo and they were conscious of the change, yet could point to no definite symptoms. He was always somewhat unfathomable and his intervals of gloom were apt to engulf him like a cloud and obscure him from them; but out of these he would usually emerge in riotous spirits and take his unconscious place as the mental stimulus of the others.

(To be continued)

Exchange: Even if there was such a thing as anti-worry insurance, we would have to worry about paying the premiums.

Magna Carta Service at South Porcupine

Drumhead Service Under Auspices of the Canadian Legion.

South Porcupine, June 18.—(Special to The Advance)—A large number of South Porcupine citizens took part in the Drumhead Service held in the ball park on Sunday afternoon, under the auspices and direction of the Canadian Legion.

An impressive procession headed by Zone Commander Neame and President T. Wilson and the Porcupine Pipe Band left the school grounds at 2.30 p.m. to march to the ball park. Following the band in formation were: Dome Brownes; Dome Girl Guides; South Porcupine Girl Guides; Legion Ladies; Canadian Legionnaires of Timmins; Porcupine Branch of the Canadian Legion; the Gold Belt Band; D troop of the Algonquin Rifles; Dome Scouts; South Porcupine Scouts; Dome Cubs; South Porcupine Cubs; Schumacher Fire Brigade; South Porcupine Fire Brigade; L.O.O.M.; Kiwanians.

The Union Jack was unfurled by a Scout Colour Party and all sang "O Canada," followed by the Last Post, one minute silence, and Reveille. Hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past" was sung and prayer was offered by Archdeacon Woodall, first for the King, secondly for "This Good Land", and thirdly "Thanks for the Motherland and Empire" (Loud speaker attachment loaned by Porcupine Hardware).

Zone Commander Austin Neame gave a short address on the meaning of the Magna Carta, which is the foundation of liberty, and personal freedom. "Freedom cannot be bought" said Mr. Neame, "and is leased only so long as the 'rent' is paid. This rent, he said was: Order and respect for law; use of restraint; and self-discipline; every holder of the franchise must use his vote; to take citizenship as a public and personal affair; to defend our freedom as a duty, from enemy without or within.

Falling the payment, the heritage is lost, said Mr. Neame. Reading of Scripture by Archdeacon Woodall followed, and a hymn "I Need Thee Every Hour" was sung before Rev. J. A. Lytle gave a short address. Mr. Lytle spoke of the new spirit of democracy which has arisen since the world is face to face with Dictatorships and Nationalism. "Defend democracy from such dangers," said Mr. Lytle. "God must take control, spiritualizing our democracy—turn thought and interest to a religious form of government—thereby preserving true democracy which will make us learn to live together in peace."

The hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers" was sung before Archdeacon Woodall gave his talk. "As free citizens in a free country we come today to show our faith in God and our gratitude to Him for His mercies to us through past ages. We are thinking of the great Charter which is the foundation of all our liberties and our freedom. United States 'hats off' to Magna Carta" was a headline recently in an Old Country newspaper—At the New York World's Fair one Hall, "the Hall of Democracy" has a copy of

the Magna Carta of England, and as the crowds come in (200,000 on the first day) they take off their hats to that Great Charter of Liberty, as a tribute from the newest Democracy to the Mother of all Democracies."

Magna Charter stands for Freedom of religious liberty, freedom of education, freedom of speech, freedom of justice, and today freedom of the press. Quoting those two well-known clauses from Magna Carta relating to imprisonment of a free man, and to right and justice, the Archdeacon concluded with a reference to the responsibility of the individual for its continuance and defence.

After Benediction the whole gathering stood at attention while "God Save the King" was sung.

Camp for Crippled Children to Open on June 22nd

Three New Cabins Have Been Added to Equipment Near Collingwood.

Collingwood, Ont., June 19.—Three new cabins have been built, considerable improvement has been made to the landscape and a new department of Occupational Therapy has opened at the Blue Mountain Camp for crippled children, five miles west of Collingwood. The camp, which is one of the activities of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children is now in its third year. Six permanent buildings have been erected on the camp property.

The first group of the 160 crippled children who will be taken to Blue Mountain Camp this summer, will open camp on June 22. There will be four camp parties of three weeks each. Crippled children from many points in Ontario will participate in the camp program.

The three new cabins erected this year are gifts of friends of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children. The Rameses Shrine erected one of the cabins. A second cabin was built by Wm. Speers, potentate of the Rameses Shrine. The third cabin is the gift of Mrs. May C. Stubbs in memory of her late husband, Harry Stubbs, who was interested in children's charities.

An anonymous friend has built new walks around the camp, erected a summer house and a flag pole, and has made considerable improvement to the landscape.

The supervisor of this year's camp will be Miss Elise Hubbard, Reg. N. The new department of Occupational Therapy will be under the direction of Miss D. Bolton of Toronto. A Toronto firm has generously assisted in providing equipment for training in weaving, glove-making, basketry, etc.

A group of boys from Wellesey School, Toronto, are planning to complete the building of a model yacht, which will be launched at Camp. Other boys are planning to build bird houses.

Special games, such as badminton and ping pong will be played under careful supervision for the purpose of strengthening muscles. The children will swim in Nottawasaga Bay.

Visitors will be welcome at Blue Mountain Camp any time after June 22nd, Reg. W. Hopper, Executive Secretary of the Ontario Society said

New Buffet Coach on Swastika Line of T. & N. O. Ry.

Entirely Built in the T. & N. O.'s Own Shops at North Bay.

North Bay, June 17.—From an old standard wooden railway coach, T. & N. O. shop workers have reconstructed a beautiful new buffet-coach, which is the first of its kind on the line.

The car is soon to go in service on the Nipissing Central branch of the railway between Swastika and Noranda and if it proves successful more of its type will be added to the equipment.

Entirely Home-Made
"All we had to buy was the cash register and the stove," said Frank Foster, superintendent of motive power and car equipment for the railway, under whose direction the car was reconstructed. Every part of the coach from the comfortable red and blue leather stools to the shiny stainless steel lunch-counter equipment came from the hands of the railways skilled workmen.

The car is in two sections. At one end are comfortable blue-plush seats for 30 persons and the other section has the galley and lunch counter.

Light meals, lunches, and refreshments will be served on the car at all times by an experienced chef.

The coach is decorated in red and blue, the standard T. & N. O. colours. Large round, bevelled glass mirrors on the end walls of the two compartments add to the beauty of the decorations.

Smart Lunch Bar
The lunch counter section seats 10 people. It is equipped with an L-shaped bar which is topped with blue "marbleum" trimmed with stainless steel hardware. Under the counter there are small inset shelves for parcels, hand bags or purses.

The seats are of the high-stool type, with low backs. They are built of steel and upholstered with red and blue leather. The floor covering is of red marbleum.

From the exterior the coach resembles any of the railway's front end equipment. It is finished in Pullman green, with the usual red and gold name panel on the side.

Grab-irons, steps and other safety equipment are painted bright yellow.



Time Marches on

Health protection has greatly advanced in the past few years, and the care of the eyes is no exception.

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an innovation by A. H. Cavanagh, general manager of the railway. The T. & N. O. is probably the first line in North America to paint the safety equipment a light colour so that it can easily be seen in the dark.

"The whole coach," said Mr. Foster, "was developed in our offices." The railway's draftsmen planned the buffet car's interior and all its fittings and equipment. Then an old car was taken and completely reconstructed to make one of the smartest pieces of railway equipment in the country.

Perth Expositor: She was only a dictator's daughter, but she didn't mind being encircled.

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Treasurer's Sale of Land for Taxes
TOWN OF TIMMINS
District of Cochrane

To Wit:
By virtue of a warrant issued by the Mayor of the Town of Timmins bearing date the ninth day of March, 1939, sale of lands in arrears of taxes in the Town of Timmins will be held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Timmins, at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon on the sixth day of July, 1939, unless the taxes and costs are sooner paid. Notice is hereby given that the list of lands for sale for arrears of taxes is being published in the Ontario Gazette on the first day of April, 1939, on the sixth day of May, 1939, and on the third day of June 1939, and that copies of the said list may be had at my office.

Treasurer's Office, this 18th day of March 1939.
A. L. SHAW, Treasurer

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