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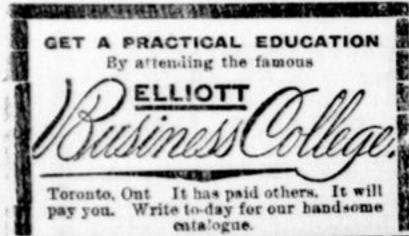
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DURHAM. ONTARIO

THE MAN FROM BRODNEY'S

Continued from page 3. tor. He's supposed to fell us when to go home and all that sort or thing, you know."

Deppingham, phlegmatic soul, was forever disturbing Saunders with calls to duty, although Saunders was brutish enough in his British way to maintain-in confidence, of course-that he was in the employ of Lady Deppingham or no one at all. Nevertheless he always lived under the shadow of duty. At any moment his lordship was liable to send for him to ask the time of day or some equally important question. And this brings us to the hour when Saunders unfolded his star-

tling solution to the problem that confronted them all. First he confided in Britt soberly, sagely and in perfect good faith. Britt was bowled over. He stared at Saunders and gasped. Nearly two minutes elapsed before he could find words to reply, which proves conclusively that it must have been something of a shock to him. When at last he did

express himself, however, there was nothing that could have been left unsaid-absolutely nothing. He went so far as to call Saunders a doddering fool and a great many other things that Saunders had not in the least expected.

The Englishman was stubborn. They had it back and forth, from legal and other points of view, and finally Britt gave in to his colleague, reserving the right to laugh when it was all over. Saunders, with a determination that surprised even himself, called for a conference of all parties in Wyckholme's study at 4 o'clock.

ders?" demanded Deppingham, with a wide yawn. Saunders looked hurt. "It is high time we were discussing some way out of our difficulties," he said. "But five weeks remain before our stay is over. The apparent impossibility of marriage between Lady Deppingham and Mr. Browne naturally throws our joint cause into jeopardy. There would be no controversy,

of course, if the terms of the will could be carried out in that respect. The islanders understand our position and seem secure in their rights. They imagine that they have us beaten on the face of things. Now, the thing for us to do is to get married." He came to this conclusion with

startling abruptness. Four of his hearers stared at him in blank astonish-"Get married?" murmured first one,

then another. "Are you crazy?" demanded Browne. Britt was grinning broadly.

"Certainly not!" snapped Saunders. "Oh, by Jove!" exclaimed Deppingham, relieved. "I see. You mean you contemplate getting married. I congratulate you. You gave me quite a wock, Saund"-

"I don't mean anything of the sort, my lord," said Saunders, getting very red in the face. Miss Pelham looked up from her notebook quickly. He winked at her, and her ladyship saw him do it. "I mean that it is high time that Lady Deppingham and Mr. amy?" Browne were getting married. We haven't much time to spare. It"-

"Good Lord!" gasped Bobby Browne. "You are crazy, after all."

air," said Britt coolly.

is the matter with you?" roared Dep- says that Agnes Ruthven shall be his

"My lord, I am here to act as your He can be a polygamist if he likes." legal adviser," said Saunders, with dignity. "May I be permitted to pro- doesn't specify. But, my dear Saun-

"Rather queer legal advice, 'pon my client in this plan."

strongly attracted by this time. "If man can have as many wives as he there is anything more to be learned likes. Well, that's all very well for concerning matrimony I'd like to know Mr. Browne. But isn't it also a fact

"Yes, Mr. Saunders, you may pro- that a woman can have no more than ceed," said Lady Agnes, passing a one husband? Lady Deppingham has hand over her bewildered eyes.

"Thank you, my lady. Well, here it without first getting rid of this one." is in a nutshell: I have not spoken of "Saunders," said Deppingham, arisit before, but you and Mr. Browne can ing and lighting a fresh cigarette, "you very easily comply with the provisions have gone clean ouft. You're loony of the will. You can be married at with love. You've got marriage on the any time. Now, I"-

"And where do I come in?" demand- one for it." ed Deppingham sarcastically.

"Yor forget us, Mr. Saunders."

"I hear no objection from the heirs," remarked Saunders meaningly, whereupon Lady Agnes and Bobby came out pacify the ruffled stenographer. of their stupor and protested vigor-

"Miss Pelham," said Britt, breaking denly inspired. in sharply, "I trust you are getting all of this down. I wish to warn you, ladies and gentlemen, that I expect to overthrow the will on the ground that there is insanity on both sides. You'll oblige me by uttering just what you

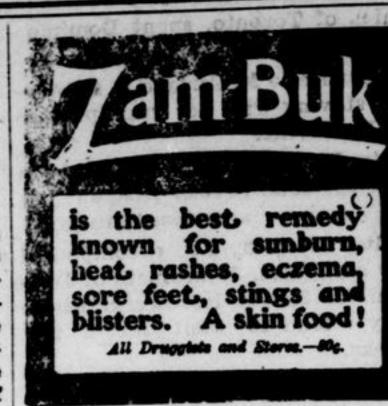
"My plan is very simple," began Saunders helplessly.

"Demmed simple," growled Depping-

"We are living on an island where polygamy is practiced and tolerated. Why can't we take advantage of the custom and beat the natives at their own game? That's the ticket!"

Of course this proposition, simple as it sounded, brought forth a storm of laughter and expostulation, but Saunders held his ground.

"You have only to embrace Mohammedanism or paganism, or whatever it is, temporarily-just long enough to get married and comply with the terms. Then, I dare say, you could reume your Christian doctrine once



more, after a few weeks, I'd say, and

"I pay Lady Deppingham the compliment by saying that it would be most difficult for me to become a Christian again," said Browne smoothly, bowing to the flushed Englishwo-

"How very sweet of you!" she said, with a grimace which made Drusilla shiver with annoyance.

"You don't need to live together, of course," floundered Saunders, getting rather beyond his depth. "Well, that's a concession on your

part," said Mrs. Browne, a flash in her "I never heard of such an asinine proposition," sputtered Deppingham.

Saunders went completely under at "On the other hand," he hastened to remark, "I'm sure it would be quite

legal if you did live to"-"Stop him, for heaven's sake!" screamed Lady Agnes, bursting into

uncontrollable laughter. "Stop him? Why?" demanded her husband, suddenly seeing what he re-"Now, what's it all about, Saungarded as a rare joke. "Let's hear him out. By Jove, there's more to it than I thought. Go on, Saunders."

"Of course if you are going to be nasty about it"- began Saunders in a huff. "I can't see anything nasty about it," said Browne. "I'll admit that our wife and our husband may decide to be stubborn and unreasonable, but it

sounds rather attractive to me." "Robert!" from his wife. "He's only joking, Mrs. Browne," explained Deppingham magnanimously. "Now, let me understand you, Saunders. You say they can be married according to the customs-which, take it, are the laws-of the islanders. Your plan provides Browne with two

There's nothing to compel Mrs. Browne to marry me." "But, my lord," said Saunders, "doesn't the plan give Lady Deppingham two husbands? It's quite a fair

charming wives and gives me but one.

"It would make Lord Deppingham my husband-in-law, I imagine," said Drusilla quaintly. "I've always had a

horror of husbands-in-law." "And you would be my wife-in-law," supplemented Lady Agnes. "How in-

"Saunders," said Deppingham sober-"I must oppose your plan. It's quite unfair to two innocent and uninvolved parties. What have we done that we should be exempt from polyg-

"You are not exempt?" exclaimed the harassed solicitor. "You are merely not obliged to; that's all. You can do as you choose about it, I'm sure. I'm sorry my plan causes so much levity. "Open the window and give some It is meant for the good of our cause. The will doesn't say how many wives "See here, Saunders, what the devil Mr. Browne shall have. It simply wife. He isn't restricted, you know.

"You're right," said Britt. "The will ders, you are overlooking your own

"I don't qu'te understand, Mr. Britt." "Please let him explain," put in Mrs. "As I understand the laws on this Browne, whose sense of humor was island-the church laws, at least-a

one husband. She can't take another

brain. I'd advise you to take some

"Do you mean that for me, Lord "Yes, and I?" added Mrs. Browne. Deppingham?" demanded Miss Pelham sharply. She glared at him and then "I include Mrs. Browne," amended slammed her notebook on the table. Deppingham. "Are we to be assas- "You can josh Mr. Saunders, but you sinated? By Jove, clever idea of yours, can't josh me. I'm sick of this job. Saunders! Simplifies matters tremen. Get somebody else to do your work after this. I'm through."

"Oh!" exclaimed every one, in panic. It took nearly ten minutes to "Perhaps we could arrange for a di-

vorce all round." cried Saunders, sud-"On what grounds?" laughed Browne.

"Give me time," said the lawyer. "It's barely possible that there is no divorce law in Japat," remarked Britt, enjoying his confrere's misery.

"Are you quite sure?" "Reasonably. If there was such a law I'll bet my head two-thirds of the men in Aratat would be getting rid of their wives before night."

"I'm tired," said Lady Deppingham suddenly. She yawned and stretched her arms. "It's been very entertaining. Saunders, but really I think we'd better dress for dinner. Come, Mr. Browne. Shall we look for the prin-

spare Deppingham's life."

Deppingham's wife," very prettily and airily. Mrs. Browne laughed with amazing good grace, but there was a new expression in her eyes.

"With pleasure, if you'll promise to

plan? It's only a subterfuge"-"Heartily!" she exclaimed, with one of her rarest laughs. "The only objection that I can see to it is that it leaves out my husband and Mrs. Browne. They are very nice people, Saunders, and you should be more considerate of them. Come, Mr. Browne." She took the American's arm and gayly danced from the room. Lord Deppingham's eyes glowed with pride in his charming wife as he followed with the heartsick Drusilla.

"I would have won them over if Britt had not interfered," almost



Genevra gently waved her handkerchief. wailed little Mr. Saunders, his eyes glazed with mortification, .

"I'm getting to hate that man," said Miss Pelham loyally. "And the others! They give me a pain! Don't mind them, Tommy, dear."

Lady Deppingham and Browne came upon the princess quite unexpectedly. She was in the upper gallery, leaning against the stone rail and gazing steadily through the fieldglasses in the direction of the bungalow. They held back and watched her, unseen. The soft light of early evening fell upon her figure as she stood erect, lithe and sinuous, in the open space between the ivy clad posts.

Genevra smiled securely in her supposed aloofness from the world. Then, suddenly moved by a strange impulse, she gently waved her handkerchief as If in greeting to some one far off in the gloaming. The action was a mischievous one, no doubt, and it had its consequences-rather sudden and startling, if the observers were to judge by her subsequent movements. She lowered the glass instantly. There was a quick catch in her breath, as if a laugh had been checked; confusion swept over her, and she drew back into the shadows as a guilty child might have done. They distinctly heard her murmur as she crossed the flags and disappeared through the Fiench window without seeing them:

"Oh, dear, what a crazy thing to do!" Genevra, peering through the glasses, had discovered the figure of Chase on the bungalow porch. She was amused to find that he, from his distant post, was also regarding the chateau through a pair of glasses. A spirit of adventure, risk, mischief, as uncontrolled as breath itself, impelled her to flaunt her handkerchief. That treacherous spirit deserted her most shamelessly when her startled eyes saw that he was waving a response. She lay awake for a long time that night wondering what he would think of her for that wretched bit of frivolity. Then at last a new thought came to her relief, but it did not give her the peace of mind that she desired.

He may have mistaken her for Lady Deppingham,

(To be continued)

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