

# THE JINX WAS ROUTED

BY MYRENE M. GARRISON.

## PART II.

But next day when Sally saw Abner coming in from work, long before quitting time, she had a hunch that Mr. Jinx was still on the job.

"Daisy stepped into a post-hole and broke her leg," Abner announced tragically.

Sally felt as sorry as Abner looked, but this was no time to show it. "Of course it's too bad, but since it's happened, you'd better get right after the butcher and put her out of her misery," she urged briskly.

Abner stared at her reproachfully. "It's awful!" he shuddered.

"It's a blessing it wasn't the heifer," Sally persisted. "Daisy's really out-lived her usefulness. Her milk isn't as good as it was and she doesn't give as much as she should to be profitable."

When Abner turned silently away, Sally's eyes filled with tears. "He thinks I'm hard-hearted, but if I'd said a word, he'd be raving wild."

The next few days Daisy kept Abner busy disposing of her. "Her beef and her hide'll go a long way toward paying for a young cow, and I'll make up the difference with the extra butter," she planned cheerfully. Sally really felt quite elated over her skirmish with Abner's jinx this time.

As time went on the viewed her experiment with deep satisfaction. She found less and less reason to conceal her affection and Abner thrived under its manifestation.

She kept the matter of the unhandy old house in the background. "Next spring he'll build, perhaps," she thought cheerfully. Since she had installed some of her own conveniences she got on nicely. Though she had never mentioned her objection to carrying water, Abner saw to it himself, always keeping her supplied.

One day she did voice her fear of a fire with such poor water supply. "The chimneys look dangerous to me. I wish you'd have 'em pulled down ever before cold weather. I'm afraid to trust a big fire up them. Those old shingles would burn like tinder." She glanced up at them anxiously.

"Those chimneys are like a singed cat, better'n they look," grinned Abner.

Sally stood at the gate until he was ready to go back to the field. For some reason she could not throw off her forebodings. When she turned to go in a long, weird screech pierced her ears. "Of course it's the wind whistling through the bricks," she muttered, her vaguely apprehensive eyes on the roof.

"It almost seems as if Abner's jinx was after me," she shrugged. "I won't give him the satisfaction of seeing me worry about anything! Abner's lived with those chimneys long enough to know them."

Some days later Sally saw Abner stamping up the back walk. She smiled indulgently at his boyish rage, ready to give him a wallop.

"That drove of hogs I bought the other day is possessed!" Abner stormed.

"I've heard of such," Sally remarked demurely.

"I turned them into the bottom field to hog down the rest of the corn. What do you think they've done?"

"Couldn't guess."

"Et the geese! every tarmal one of them! I come on them in the act. It's awful!" he shuddered.

"The greedy cannibals!" cried Sally. "It's horrible; but now they're gone, I'm free to admit I never liked geese. There used to be lots of huckleberries on that little island before the geese took to nesting there. Maybe the bushes will sprout up again," she said hopefully.

Abner scowled. "Mother sold a lot of geese feathers, so did Mandy. They brought good money. The island isn't worth a picayune for anything else," he declared. "I'll have to get rid of these hogs, too. I couldn't abide the sight of them after this. There's always something—"

"Careful!" Sally covered his lips with one hand and smoothed his wrinkled forehead with the other.

Abner's gloom subsided. "I didn't name no names," he grinned sheepishly.

A few days later Abner came home with a piece of news that set Sally rejoicing. "Clark introduced me to a stranger who began right away, 'I read of the encounter on your place, Mr. Reedy, and noted that you own a small island, now uninhabited. I've been looking for a quiet place, where I can write undisturbed. From all accounts this suits my purpose. I'll either buy it outright or rent it as you decide.' I told him there wasn't any house on it but he said he'd put up a tent. I didn't know what to say. I took him down the creek road where he could see the island and he offered me \$300 a year for it and he offered to take up with his hands. 'Of course you took up with his offer?'"

"No. I told him I'd talk it over with you." The island isn't worth so much. I'd be ashamed to take that the rent of it."

"It isn't what it's worth to you. It's what it's worth to him. Rent it for

a year, anyway. A writer ought to be better than a lot of gabbling geese. I can sell him things to eat. Looks as if the hogs brought luck after all," Sally laughed.

"You turn everything into luck," Abner smiled fondly, and her heart swelled. She had vanquished the jinx at last.

One evening in late October Sally was waiting Abner's return from town. Tempting odors rose from the belated meal. Sally, in her low rocker beside the kitchen stove, mused happily of garnered stores, bursting granaries, and shelves of preserves, jams and jellies. Turkeys were fattening, chickens swarmed over the fields, next week they would butcher a young porker. "I wouldn't give anywhere else but on a farm," she whispered contentedly.

Something flickered past her window. "There's Abner now," she said, drawing the teakettle forward and placing the plates in the warming closet.

There was no sound of an approaching car. "Thought it was his light. Must have been mistaken," muttered Sally, peering through the window.

"What could make those strange shadows?"

Sally opened the door. A crackling sound above her head chilled her blood. She stepped out onto the grass and in growing terror stared upward.

Crackle, snap, crackle! Tongues of flame curled along the eaves. A boiler flare leaped from the gaping chimney.

A sinister force held her for a moment, then she threw up both hands in a wild gesture of defiance and writhing across the blazing roof.

There was no time to give the alarm—neighbors would soon be summoned by the flames. Would Abner never come!

Breaking from the horrid spell, Sally ran inside. The water bucket was nearly empty, waiting for Abner to refill. There was no water nearer than the spring. The house was doomed. She'd save what she could of the contents. It seemed ages of pulling, dragging pushing furniture out into the orchard beyond the danger line.

Panting, strangled by smoke, Sally sobbed "Oh, Abner! Abner!" A weird, wailing, almost human cry mocked her. Wind and flame, in close embrace, danced with wild abandon.

Sally could no longer breathe the acrid smoke. "The jinx! I'll get my jellies. I can't get to them. Mandy knew best. She placated him." Sally stumbled to the heap in the orchard just as Abner's car came roaring up the road. Other lights were now leaping toward the burning house. She closed her eyes.

"Sally!" Abner called hoarsely. "I'm all right," Sally managed to say, and then, for the first time in her life, she fainted.

When Sally came to, she found herself in her own bed. Slowly the events of the evening marshaled themselves. Tears welled up in her eyes and rolled down her cheeks.

"Poor Abner! He'll never get over it," she half sobbed.

A quick step, Abner's step, set her heart pounding. "I won't give in!" she whispered. "I won't!" With every muscle tense she braced herself to meet Abner's dismal surrender to his old enemy.

Sally's eyes widened, her breath came fast. Abner was smiling, actually smiling! His arms shot out and held her close. "Dear Sally," he whispered.

"Didn't the house burn up?" Sally faltered in utter bewilderment.

"To the ground, but you're all right, so I should worry! I'm fairly bustin' with pride of you, Sally. You saved everything worth saving. The boys got the rest out. They're hauling the stuff over here now."

Sally drew a long breath. She couldn't keep her eyes off Abner's radiant face.

"They're going to break ground for our new house on the knob Monday. We'll get the foundation laid, then we'll take the winter to plan the inside. It's got to be as handy for you as we can make it, I'll tell the world!"

Sally's last anxiety vanished. The jinx was lost in the holocaust.

(The End.)

## Britain Appoints Woman Broadcasting Governor.

Mrs. Ethel Snowden, wife of Philip Snowden, former Laborite Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been appointed one of the governors of the broadcasting organization which the government is taking over from the private British Broadcasting Company from January 1 for a consideration of \$2,100,000. Mrs. Snowden is one of Great Britain's leading feminists. She also is an author of note and an effective public speaker.

Her new post carries a salary of \$3,500 a year and among the other governors are Sir John Nairne, a director of the Bank of England, and some other prominent persons, with the Earl of Clarendon as chairman.

Minard's Liniment for chapped hands.

## "Snowflurries."

Winter, that brisk dame, to-day  
Came to clean our smoky town,  
Dusted off the sooty gray,  
Swept our steps and highways down,  
And hustled on her way.

With a rag of snowcloth, she  
Reminded our small world here  
In three blustery minutes. See  
How the air is polished clear!  
How our streets shine magically!

I should like to visit her  
In her northern home, I'm told  
The house is set in leagues of fir,  
The grounds are lustrous to behold,  
The sky is jeweled, and her good air,

Old Man Winter (so they say)  
Sits at the window of the north  
Plucking goose-down night and day  
For summer pillows. Some flots  
forth  
Glistening or softly gray.

To clothe the hillside, ledge andlea  
In sapphire light, and smooth the  
streams—  
To exquisite serenity  
That whosoever looks on, dreams  
Their white unworled poetry.

—Tsantio (Trogons for Beaver).

## Color on the Deck.

The sky, a pale, pale blue, seemed to have in its depths a faint rose, as if somewhere far off behind it a vivid dawn were shining. Perhaps some distant sunrise was being faintly reflected. The white posts that ranged the length of the deck rail caught the elusive tint and became some of them, almost a delicate lavender rose. Others remained pure white and as the boat rose and fell, shadows shifted over them, giving soft blurs of gray, or leaving them brilliantly white. Patches of sunlight sprinkled the floorboards turning their dullness into gold. Where the sun touched the tan and maroon base, it became a brilliant orange with a line of velvety red. The sail cloth sheathing flared by the sun turned creamy, and here and there through-gaps, the indigo of the ocean showed. The glass encasing the electric light bulbs took on opalescent tones. A basket by a steamer chair showed touches of green and purple.

One by one, passengers appeared, a woman in a bright blue dress; another in a red hat and with a green book. (Had it been a green hat and a red book, might one call her literary?) A child flashed by in vivid red.

The deck was no longer somber, its hidden beauties had revealed themselves.

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Canada's imports from Cuba are listed under the agricultural and vegetable products class and the item of sugar almost accounts for the total, which has been increasing of recent years. In the last three fiscal years have been respectively 170,617,055 lbs. worth \$9,462,254; 173,783,614 lbs. worth \$6,498,955; and 412,742,601 lbs. worth \$9,966,526.

A prediction of a greater importation of Canadian wheat into Cuba was recently made by J. E. Gonzales, purchasing agent for the Government of Cuba, who was recently in Montreal buying Canadian goods for his country. Canadian hard spring wheat is preferred to all other varieties in Cuba, he states, and it will be only a few years before the annual consumption of Canadian grain will assume much larger proportions. A project is on foot to erect large flour mills at Havana, and when these are finished the demand for Canadian hard wheat will be more than quadrupled. When in the Canadian metropolis Mr. Gonzales arranged for the purchase of \$3,725,000 worth of potatoes for later delivery.

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## CANADA-CUBA TRADE PROSPECTS GOOD

### DOMINION BUYS MORE THAN SHE SELLS.

### Time Ripe for Canadian Business Men to Enter Wholeheartedly into Cuban Market.

Marked evidence has been given lately of a keen desire on the part of Cuba to extend its trade with Canada. Dr. A. F. Sainz de la Pena, senior Cuban consul in Canada, has announced that Cuba will open more consular offices in the Dominion, these in all probability to be located in Winnipeg and Quebec in the near future. At the same time he is working energetically for a "Canadian Week" in Cuba, a suggestion which has elicited inquiries from all parts of the Dominion. Should this materialize men prominent in all branches of Canadian trade will be invited to accompany him to Cuba, where every opportunity will be extended to get as close as possible in touch with conditions. They will be permitted to take along with them as many samples of Canadian products as they desire and these will be displayed to the fullest advantage.

Such evidence of an anxiety to further develop trade with the Dominion is very gratifying, and particularly so because there exists a need for a stimulation of export trade from Canada to Cuba to adjust the balance of trade. Cuba is one of the few countries from which Canada buys to a greater extent than she sells, and this has consistently been the case for some time. In the fiscal year 1924 Canada purchased from Cuba to the extent of \$19,781,047, while selling to that country only to the value of \$6,776,605. In 1925 the Dominion's purchases were \$7,798,128 and her sales \$7,142,406. In the last fiscal year Canada bought from Cuba to the value of \$11,063,284 and sold to that country to the extent of \$8,524,713.

### Cuba An Important Customer.

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## It Will Delight You

# "SATAVA"

# TEA

Perfectly balanced—superb in flavour.

IDEAL Fashions-2  
by  
Fashionable Hamilton



### A Chinese Lady's Day.

My Dear one,  
The hours of one day are as like each other as are twin blossoms from the pear-tree. The mornings are passed in the duties that come to all women in the care of a household, and the afternoons I am on the terrace with thy sister.

Mah-li and I take our embroidery and sit upon the terrace, where we pass long hours watching the people in the valley below. The faint blue smoke curls from a thousand dwellings, and we try to imagine the lives of those who dwell beneath the roof-trees. We see the peasants in their rich fields; watch them dragging the rice mud from the bottoms of the canal for fertilizing; hear the shrill whistle of the duck man as, with long ducks homeward or sends them over the fields to search for insects. We see the wedding procession far below, and can but faintly follow the great covered chair of the bride and the train or servants carrying the possessions of the new home.

The summer wanes and the autumn is upon us with all its mists and shadows of purple and grey. The camphor trees look from the distance like great balls of fire, and the eucalyptus tree, in its dress of brilliant yellow, is a daily painted court lady. From "My Lady of the Chinese Courtyard," by Elizabeth Cooper.

### Epidemic Depletes Oaks of English Countryside.

The mysterious epidemic which has attacked and is rapidly depleting the oaks for which England is famous is engaging the attention of research workers on the Forestry Commission. It is feared that in another twenty years the magnificent oaks planted in the seventeenth century will be completely wiped out, so great has been the depletion during the war and since then by epidemic. Mildew, together with the royer moth, is held responsible for the southern countries and killed some of the noblest of the British oaks. Other forces are also at work threatening the most characteristic tree of the English countryside. Iron, stone, brick, concrete and cheaper wood have so far displaced oak as building material, and the oak tree takes so long to come to maturity that private enterprise cannot plant oaks as a commercial proposition. The only oaks now being grown are those replanted by the Forestry Commission.

### The Coincidence.

"Where are you going?" a young woman asked a shipmate, the second day out.  
"Across the ocean," replied the other.  
"That's a coincidence! So am I."

I see him living o'er and o'er  
So much that I was scolded for.  
That maddening indifference to  
The little things he ought to do  
Should be corrected, but I know  
I did, as he does, long ago.

That love of laughter and of mirth  
Came with him on his day of birth.  
In many a fault and many a whim  
I see myself reborn in him.  
And it's unfair to scold a lad  
For merely being like his dad.

In High Regions.  
Great things are done when men and mountains meet;  
These are not done by jostling in the street.

Explained.  
Farmer (using telephone)—Send me over a bushel of oats.  
Clerk—Surely. For whom?  
"Don't try to joke with me—for my horse."

For Colds—Minard's Liniment.

## INCIDENTS IN COLOR

The lakes, like three blue beads, were strung at the throat of the hill. They were round and pellucid under the laced fingers of the trees, and as calm as the sky arched far above them. Everything there was held in a lovely stillness—the slender birches whitely streaked against green woods beyond, the tattered sprays of russet maple leaves, the broad scrubbling of mauve shadows along the dim and curving lines of the shore. Everything was quiet and tranquil, with the quietness and tranquillity that belong to early dawn and early dusk when things are scarcely awake and barely asleep.

Now and then a bird veered low, and its shadow, faint and minute, slid like a grey leaf across the blue water. And once the pines on the top of the hill moved suddenly and restlessly—tapering pines cut sharply into the sky and vented deep to stand against the tearing winds from the sea; a little ragged and a little old, but proud in their solitude. And twice the bank of flying geese stabbed the silence and drew long threads of echoes from behind the hill. The sun dropped lower and lower, until the silver