

The Woman In the Alcove

By ANNA KATHARINE GREEN.

Author of "The Millionaire Baby," "The Filigree Ball," "The House in the Mist," "The Amethyst Box," Etc.

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CONTINUED

No; Mr. Durand would never be completely exonerated till the true culprit was found and all explanations made. I had therefore been simply fighting his battles when I pointed out what I thought to be the weak place in their present theory, and, sore as I felt in contemplation of my seemingly heartless action, I was not the unimpressible, adde-pated nonentity I must have seemed to the inspector.

Yet my comfort was small and the effort it took to face Mr. Grey and my young patient was much greater than I had anticipated. I blushed as I approached to take my places at Miss Grey's bedside, and, had her father been as suspicious of me at that moment as I was of him, I am sure that I should have fared badly in his thoughts. But he was not on the watch for my emotions. He was simply relieved to see me back. I noticed this immediately; also that something had occurred during my absence which absorbed his thought and filled him with anxiety.

A Western Union envelope lay at his feet—proof that he had just received a telegram. This under ordinary circumstances would not have occasioned me a second thought, such a man being naturally the recipient of all sorts of communications from all parts of the world, but at this crisis, with the worm of a half stifled doubt still gnawing at my heart, everything that occurred to him took on importance and roused questions.

When he had left the room, Miss Grey nestled up to me with the seemingly ingenuous remark:

"Poor papa! Something disturbs him. He will not tell me what. I suppose he thinks I am not strong enough to share his troubles, but I shall be soon. Don't you see I am gaining every day?"

"Indeed I do," was my hearty response. In face of such a sweet confidence and open affection doubt vanished, and I was able to give all my thoughts to her.

"I wish papa felt as sure of this as you do," she said. "For some reason he does not seem to take any comfort from my improvement. When Dr. Freleigh says, 'Well, well, we are getting on finely today!' I notice that he does not look less anxious, nor does he even meet these encouraging words with a smile. Haven't you noticed it? He looks as careworn and troubled about me now as he did the first day I was taken sick. Why should he? Is it because he has lost so many children he cannot believe his good fortune at having the most insignificant of all left to him?"

"I do not know your father very well," I protested, "and cannot judge what is going on in his mind, but he must see that you are quite a different girl from what you were a week ago and that, if nothing unforeseen happens, your recovery will only be a matter of a week or two longer."

"Oh, how I love to hear you say that! To be well again! To read letters!" she murmured, "and to write them!" And I saw the delicate hand falter up to pinch the precious packet awaiting that happy hour. I did not like to discuss her father with her, so took this opportunity to turn the conversation aside into safer channels. But we had not proceeded far before Mr. Grey returned, and, taking his stand at the foot of the bed, remarked, after a moment's gloomy contemplation of his daughter's face:

"You are better today, the doctor says. I have just been telephoning to him. But do you feel well enough for me to leave you for a few days? There is a man I must see—must go to, if you have no dread of being left alone with your good nurse and the doctor's constant attendance."

Miss Grey looked startled. Doubtless she found it difficult to understand what man in this strange country could interest her father enough to induce him to leave her while he was yet laboring under such solicitude. But a smile speedily took the place of her look of surprised inquiry, and she affectionately exclaimed:

"Oh, I haven't the least dread in the world, not now. See, I can hold up my arms. Go, papa, go; it will give me a chance to surprise you with my good looks when you come back."

He turned abruptly away. He was suffering from an emotion deeper than he cared to acknowledge. But he gained control over himself speedily and, coming back, announced with forced decision:

"I shall have to go tonight. I have no choice. Promise me that you will not go back in my absence; that you will put all your mind into striving to get well."

"Indeed, I will," she answered, a little frightened by the feeling he showed. "Don't worry so much. I have more than one reason for living, papa."

He shook his head and went immediately to make his preparations for departure. His daughter gave one sob, then caught me by the hand.

"You look dumfounded," said she. "But never mind, we shall get on very well together. I have the most perfect confidence in you."

Was it my duty to let the inspector know that Mr. Grey anticipated absenting himself from the city for a

few days? I decided that I would only be impressing my own doubts upon him after a rebuke which should have allayed them.

Yet when Mr. Grey came to take his departure I wished that the inspector might have been a witness to his emotion, if only to give me one of his very excellent explanations. The parting was more like that of one who sees no immediate promise of return than of a traveler who intends to limit his stay to a few days. He looked her in the eyes and kissed her a dozen times, each time with an air of heartbreak which was good neither for her nor for himself, and when he finally tore himself away it was to look back at her from the door with an expression I was glad she did not see or it would certainly have interfered with the promise she had made to concentrate all her energies on getting well.

What was at the root of his extreme grief at leaving her? Did he fear the person he was going to meet or were his plans such as involved a much longer stay than he had mentioned? Did he even mean to return at all? Ah, that was the question! Did he intend to return or had I been the unconscious witness of a flight?

CHAPTER XVII.

FEW days later three men were closeted in the district attorney's office. Two of them were officials—the district attorney himself and our old friend the inspector. The third was the detective, Sweetwater, chosen by them to keep watch on Mr. Grey.

Sweetwater had just come to town. This was evident from the grip sack he had set down in a corner on entering; also from a certain tousled appearance which bespoke hasty rising and but few facilities for proper attention to his person. These details counted little, however, in the astonishment created by his manner. For a hardy chap he looked strangely nervous and indisposed—so much so that after the first short greeting the inspector asked him what was up and if he had had another Fairbrother house experience.

He replied with a decided no; that it was not his adventure which had upset him, but the news he had to bring. Here he glanced at every door and window, and then, leaning forward over the table at which the two officials sat, he brought his head as near to them as possible and whispered five words.

They produced a most unhappy sensation. Both the men, hardened as they were by duties which soon sap the sensibilities, started and turned as pale as the speaker himself. Then the district attorney, with one glance at the inspector, rose and locked the door. It was a prelude to this tale which I give, not as it came from his mouth,



"I want you to get me a room at a very quiet hotel."

but as it was afterward related to me. The language, I fear, is mostly my own.

The detective had just been with Mr. Grey to the coast of Maine. Why there will presently appear. His task had been to follow this gentleman, and follow him he did.

Mr. Grey was a very stately man, difficult of approach, and was absorbed besides by some overwhelming care. But this fellow was one in a thousand and somehow during the trip he managed to do him some little service, which drew the attention of the great man to himself. This done, he so improved his opportunity that the two were soon on the best of terms, and he learned that the Englishman was without a valet, and, being unaccustomed to move about without one, felt the awkwardness of his position very much. This gave Sweetwater his cue, and when he found that the services of such a man were wanted only during the present trip and for the handling of affairs quite apart from personal attendance upon the gentleman himself, he showed such an honest desire to fill the place, and made out to give such a good account of himself, that he found himself engaged for the work before reaching C—.

This was a great stroke of luck, he thought, but he little knew how big a stroke of into what a series of adventures it was going to lead him.

Once on the platform of the small station at which Mr. Grey had bidden him to stop, he noticed two things—the utter helplessness of the man in all practical matters and his extreme anxiety to see all that was going on about him without being himself seen. There was method in this curiosity, too much method. Women did not interest him in the least. They could pass and repass without arousing his attention, but the moment a man stepped his way, he shrank from him only to betray the greatest curiosity concerning him the moment he felt it safe to turn and observe him. All of which convinced Sweetwater that the Englishman's errand was in connection with a man whom he equally dreaded and desired to meet.

Of this he was made absolutely certain a little later. As they were leaving the depot with the rest of the arrivals Mr. Grey said:

"I want you to get me a room at a very quiet hotel. This done, you are to hunt up the man whose name you will find written in this paper, and when you have found him make up your mind how it will be possible for me to get a good look at him without his getting any sort of a look at me. Do this and you will earn a week's salary in one day."

Sweetwater, with his head in air and his heart on fire for matters were looking very promising indeed—took the paper and put it in his pocket; then he began to hunt for a hotel. Not till he had found what he wished and installed the Englishman in his room did he venture to open the precious memorandum and read the name he had been speculating over for an hour. It was not the one he had anticipated, but it came near to it. It was that of James Wellgood.

Satisfied now that he had a ticklish matter to handle, he prepared for it, with his usual enthusiasm and circumspection.

Sauntering out into the street, he strolled first toward the postoffice. The train on which he had just come had been a mail train, and he calculated that he would find half the town there.

His calculation was a correct one. The store was crowded with people. Taking his place in the line drawn up before the postoffice window, he awaited his turn and when it came shouted out the name which was his one tall-tail—James Wellgood.

The man behind the boxes was used to the name and reached out a hand toward a box unusually well stacked, but stopped halfway there and gave Sweetwater a sharp look.

"Who are you?" he asked.

"A stranger," that young man put in volubly, "looking for James Wellgood. I thought perhaps you could tell me where to find him. I see that his letters pass through this office."

"You're taking up another man's time," complained the postmaster. He probably alluded to the man whose elbow Sweetwater felt boring into his back. "Ask Dick over there; he knows him."

The detective was glad enough to escape and ask Dick. But he was better pleased yet when Dick, a fellow with a squint whose hand was always in the sugar, told him that Mr. Wellgood would probably be in his mail in a few minutes. "That is his buggy standing before the drug store on the opposite side of the way."

So, he had netted Jones' quondam waiter at the first cast! "Lucky!" was what he said to himself. "Still lucky!"

Sauntering to the door, he watched for the owner of that buggy. He had learned, as such fellows do, that there was a secret hue and cry after this very man by the New York police, that he was supposed by some to be Sears himself. In this way he would soon be looking upon the very man whose steps he had followed through the Fairbrother house a few nights before and through whose resolute net he had very nearly run the risk of a hanging death from starvation.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Do You Think For Yourself?

Or do you open your mouth like a young bird and rattle down whatever food or medicine may be offered you?

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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

Municipality of the Village of Sutton

At an adjourned regular and monthly session of the Municipal Council of the village of Sutton, held in the town hall in said village on Monday the fourteenth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and eight, at the ordinary hour of meetings of said council, in conformity with the provisions of the municipal code of the Province of Quebec, at which meeting were present Messrs. Leon E. Dyer, Frank L. Safford, George N. Thompson, James H. Smith, Moise Bonneau, Lewis L. Jenne and Adam G. Eastman, all Councillors under the presidency of the Mayor.

It was ordained and resolved by By-law as follows, to-wit:

BY-LAW NO. 39

A By-law to provide for the granting of aid to the C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. for the construction and establishment of a plant for the manufacturing and making of light veneer in the municipality of the village of Sutton, and to raise the funds necessary for that purpose.

Whereas the said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., a body politic and corporate according to the laws of the State of Vermont, one of the United States of America, and having their principal place of business at Richford in the said State of Vermont, have proposed to establish a veneer mill in the municipality of the said village of Sutton, for the manufacture of light beech, birch and maple veneer.

Whereas the said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., upon the giving and granting to them of a bonus of three thousand dollars in cash, an exemption of taxes for a term of ten years on all lands, buildings and fixed machinery to be used directly for the purpose of their manufacturing enterprise, as well as what land they require for their said purposes to the extent of five acres and free water for the same length of time, and a railway siding to connect said buildings with the Canadian Pacific Railway, will carry out the following obligations, to-wit:

1. They will construct and erect buildings to be used for manufacturing purposes, the actual dimensions and material to be determined later, but in extent to be about as follows: Main factory building of wood, two stories high, with a basement, one hundred and sixty feet in length and sixty-five feet wide, another building forty by sixty feet to be used as an engine room, detached from the first named building, a saw building twenty-eight by thirty-two feet, the value of which, including the machinery to be placed therein, will not be less than twenty thousand dollars.

2. They will after the first year employ on an average seventy-five persons, about forty per cent. of whom will be men, the balance boys and girls; and will pay at least the sum of two hundred thousand dollars in wages of operatives during the ten years from the date of the payment to them of the said bonus of three thousand dollars, that is to say, that during said term of ten years they will pay an average amount for such wages each year the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

3. They will give, grant and consent to the fulfillment of said obligations to and in favor of the said Corporation of the Village of Sutton, upon the payment to them of said bonus of three thousand dollars; hypothecary securities by means of a first mortgage upon all of the said land and buildings to be hereafter thereon constructed.

And whereas said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. propose to cause said buildings to be erected as soon as practical, and they desire to have advances made by said Council from time to time as the work progresses from said sum of three thousand dollars, which advances shall be made in proportion to the actual amount of expense put into construction of foundations and buildings, these advances to be determined by said Council.

And whereas—the opinion of the said Council of the Corporation of the said Village of Sutton, the building and operating of such a factory as proposed would be highly advantageous to the inhabitants of said village, and they are sufficiently interested therein to warrant the granting of such aid towards such enterprise.

Therefore it is hereby ordained and enacted as follows, to-wit:

1. That said several obligations herebefore recited subject to the conditions attached thereto are hereby accepted, and the Mayor of this Council be and is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into an agreement in authentic form in the name of and on behalf of this Municipality with the said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., embodying the said agreements and binding them under promise of the execution of said hypothecary security before mentioned, to faithfully—on their part—carry out, execute and perform each, all and every of said propositions and agreements herebefore recited and providing in said written agreement to be executed as aforesaid for the payment to them, said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., of the said bonus of three thousand dollars upon the conditions herebefore set forth and expressed.

2. That in consequence said sum of three thousand dollars shall be and is hereby given and granted to said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. by this municipality for the purpose of aiding them in

the building of said manufacturing establishment and its continued operation to be paid in the manner and under the conditions expressed herebefore and set forth and to be embodied in the written agreement as provided in the preceding paragraph hereof.

3. That in addition to the cash bonus aforesaid, the land required for said manufactory and its purposes and a railway siding connecting with the Canadian Pacific Railway be and is also hereby given and granted to said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. under the same conditions as above expressed. The rental for the rails of said siding to be paid by C. C. Manuel & Sons Co.

4. That in consequence also of the establishment of said industry the lands and the buildings to be erected thereon together with all fixed machinery shall be and are hereby exempted from municipal taxation and water rates during the term of ten years above stated.

5. That the said corporation of the village of Sutton shall have the right at the end of each year, dating from the payment of the said bonus and the execution of said mortgage to examine by and through its Council and officials the books of said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co.; here, referring to pay rolls of operatives, for the purpose of ascertaining if the conditions of the present by-law have been fulfilled and effectively carried out.

6. That if at any time after the plant is in actual operation, C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. wish to have the property released from said encumbrance they may do so by causing to be placed with the Secretary-Treasurer of the village of Sutton such proportion of five thousand dollars as the time which the plant has not been in operation at the time of making said deposit bears to the whole time of ten years. In case of such deposit being made the said corporation of the village of Sutton is to refund to said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. annually in such proportion as one year bears to the remaining time of the ten year contract when such deposit was made, together with interest annually at 4 1/2 % on such amount of deposit as is held by said Corporation, providing that the conditions have been fulfilled.

7. That there shall be borrowed upon the credit of said Municipality of the Corporation of the village of Sutton for the purposes aforesaid, the sum of five thousand dollars by the issue of debentures of said Municipality for an equal amount; that each said debenture shall be for the sum of one hundred dollars and shall be payable at the office of the Eastern Townships Bank in Sutton, to the bearer thereof, within twenty-five years from its date, and bear interest at the rate of 4 1/2 per centum per annum or at a lower rate if possible, payable semi-annually; that coupons to the amount of the half yearly interest signed by the Mayor and counter-signed by the Secretary-Treasurer and payable to bearer at the periods indicated for such payment of interest, shall be annexed to said debentures for the said semi-annual interest and that the Mayor of said Municipality be and is hereby authorized to sign said debentures and the Secretary-Treasurer to countersign the same and to affix thereon the seal of said village of Sutton.

8. That a sinking fund shall be created for the payment of the interest on said debentures and two per centum per annum on the amount thereof, each year, over and above such interest and that for this purpose, a special tax of the total sum of three hundred and twenty-five dollars be, and is hereby imposed annually upon the immovable taxable property in said Municipality of the village of Sutton for so long as may be necessary; which said tax shall be distributed according to the valuation roll of said Municipality then in force and collected in the same manner as ordinary taxes.

9. That the present by-law shall be published in the usual manner and submitted for approval to the municipal electors of this municipality, who are proprietors, in the manner prescribed by law, and to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

(Signed) LEON E. DYER, Mayor.

C. U. R. TARTRE, Sec.-Treas.

I, the undersigned C. U. R. Tartre, Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal Council of the village of Sutton, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the by-law No. 39 passed and carried by said Municipal Council of the village of Sutton, on the fourteenth day of September instant.

Date at Sutton, P. Q., this sixteenth day of September, One thousand nine hundred and eight.

(Signed) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.

(True Copy) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.

(Signed) LEON E. DYER, Mayor.

C. U. R. TARTRE, Sec.-Treas.

I, the undersigned C. U. R. Tartre, Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal Council of the village of Sutton, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the by-law No. 39 passed and carried by said Municipal Council of the village of Sutton, on the fourteenth day of September instant.

Date at Sutton, P. Q., this sixteenth day of September, One thousand nine hundred and eight.

(Signed) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.

(True Copy) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.

(Signed) LEON E. DYER, Mayor.

C. U. R. TARTRE, Sec.-Treas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby given by the undersigned C. U. R. Tartre, Secretary-Treasurer of the said Municipality of the Village of Sutton, that the Municipal Council of said Municipality, at an adjourned regular session thereof, held on Monday, the fourteenth day of September instant, 1908, has passed a By-law, called By-law No. 39, to provide for the granting of aid to the C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. for the construction and establishment of a plant for the manufacturing and making up of light veneer in the Municipality of the Village of Sutton, and to raise the funds necessary for that purpose.

That said By-law No. 39 was ordered by resolution of said Council to

be submitted to said municipal electors, who are proprietors, for the purpose of approving or disapproving the same.

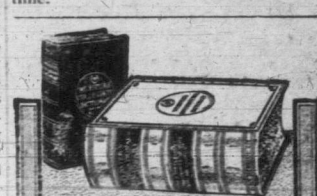
And that in consequence thereof, a meeting of all municipal electors, who are proprietors, of the said Village of Sutton, is hereby convened to be held in the Town Hall, in said Village of Sutton, on THURSDAY, the Eighth day of October now next, 1908, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the said purpose of approving or disapproving said By-law No. 39, as provided by law.

Given at Sutton, Que., this sixteenth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and eight.

(Signed) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.

(True copy) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.

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QUARTERLY DIVIDEND NO. 103.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of eight per cent. per annum upon the paid-up capital stock of this Bank has been declared for the quarter ending September 30th, 1908, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office and Branches on and after first day of October next. The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 30th September, both days inclusive. By order of the Board,
J. MACKINSON, General Manager.
Sherbrooke, Sept. 1st, 1908.