A STORY OF AN ACTRESS, AN ACTOR AND TWO FRIENDS

Lesson Copyright, 1908, by Charles W. Hooks From the Play



HERE were long racks for hats just outside the door of the hotel dining room, and as I was endeavoring to find my own head gear in the midst of the great and varied assortment a man spoke my name in a tone of surprise.

"Upon my word," he exclaimed with unusual earnestness, "I'm glad to see you here!" I was glad to see him, too, though I might not have stated it in a manner so emphatic as his own. To me he was merely a friend unexpectedly met in a strange city; to him I certainly seemed to be something more. He was John M. Crawford, whom I have known intimately since our school days twenty-five years ago. We are both in business in New Haven, and one of us has been very prosperous, as anybody might guess from Crawford's aggressive and confident demeanor.
"I'm half way home," was my reply.

he.
"I'm half way home," was my reply.
"I had a bit of business in this city and stopped off for a day and a night."
"Well, I've a bit of business here, too," he said, "and you can help me out with it. It's not exactly in my line nor to my liking, but it's got to be done."

one."

Naturally I asked him what it was.
He led me to a retired spot in a corner
of the hotel office, and when we were
seated he pulled a folded piece of pink
paper from his pocket. I perceived immediately that it was a theatrical programme, a single sheet such as one will
see in "one night" towns. I looked at
Crawford in surprise, for he is not a
man who takes an interest in the drama.

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He held the programme up before my eyes and put his finger upon a name in the list of the performers. It was Wal-

the list of the performers. It was wallace Ford.

"Yes," said I; "he's an actor. His
mother told me last winter that he had
gone into the profession."

"She told me so, too" replied Crawford, "and I was sorry, though I have
no prejudice against the stage; none
whatever."

He spoke almost as if he were repelling an accusation.

"Well?" said I.

"This boy has got himself into trouble," said Crawford. "That's why I'm
here. His mother asked me to see what
I could do. She would have come herself, but she is not well enough to make
the journey."

wasn't Ford, of course, in those old days when Jack Crawford and I used to sharpen lead pencils for her and be darkly lealous of each other. We were never jealous of Ford, who was a much older boy and quite out of the field of rivalry as we viewed it then. But he was the candidate of fate, and to such there can be no opposition. He had "prospects" when he married Nelle, and they were no more than prospects when he died ten years later. He bequeathed them to his wife and his son. Some day they would get a share of a considerable estate, but it was a long time coming.

"So Wally Ford has got himself into trouble," said I. "Well, we'll get him out. That's all settled. Now, I'll hear the story."

"He's fallen in love with a girl in this company," said my friend. "She's older than he is, and—and quite out of





self, but she is not well enough to make the journey."

My sympathy as well as my curiosity was aroused. Nellie Ford was a school riend of mine many years ago, and she was the sort of sirl that one always renembers; her childish beauty and unfailing buoyancy of spirit seem to be a part of my own youth. Her name

entirely mercenary. You know Wally must get his money soon in the mere course of nature. Old Timothy Ford can't live forever. And this girl has found it out and has made up her mind to marry Wally. The boy has written to his mother, and she is fairly prostrated. So here I am."

"Have you seen him?" I asked.

"Yes. I had a talk with him this afternoon, and he is the most obstinkte young blunderhead that ever I encountered. Before I had fairly approached the subject he said he would throw me out of the window for venturing to hint that the young woman's past might be considered an obstacle. Well, you know me. I'll make an affidavit that no man lives who is more careful in the matter of a woman's good name."

"You may have been too careful," I suggested. "The boy should know the facts. He'll know them some day. Let's go and see him now together."

"It's too late," said Crawford. "He's gone to the theater. I'm to meet him afterward. Suppose we have a look at the play?"

I assented, and after we had smoked together for a little while we strolled over to the theater.

The play was a sort of sentimental comedy by an English dramatist; a very good pleee of work, it seemed to me. I had heard of it, but had never seen it performed and was ignorant of the story which it presented. Its leading idea was that a very good fellow upon his deathbed had put his motherless boy into the care of his best friend, who had accepted the trust with the highest resolve to execute it faithfully. Three other men who had known and loved the father were colleagues in this great and difficult task of bringing the orphan through all perils which might beset him up to a noble and honorable manhood.

At the rise of the curtain the youth is supposed to have attained his twenty-first birthday, and the story of his guardianship is disclosed to the audience in the first act, together with the facts that the four protectors have led a gay life in their time and that the boy shows signs of a tendency to do likewise.

Wally Ford played the part of they





WALLY FORD STRODE IN.

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the dramatic profession in a very lurid capacity, and she is spoken of as having seen "a great deal of the world."

The youth in the play is totally blind and deaf so far as the adventures is concerned. He won't hear a word said against her. He asserts his own judgment with the explosive confidence appropriate to his years and will listen to no warning from the older and wiser men who have reared him for his father's sake and would make any sacrifice to shield him from disaster.

I beheld this plot unfolding before me with a slowly growing wonder at the amazing coincidence which was involved. "How long," I whispered to Crawford, "has Wally been playing this part?"

"All the season." he replied.

"A hundred times, at least," said I. "A hundred times he has held up this mimilery of folly to the eyes of the multitude,

adventuress?"
"No." said he; "not really."
"Well, neither is Wally in love with
this girl. He is suffering from a species
of self hypnosis. He is under the influence of a delusion. We must wake him
""

a conviction into the head of an obstinate boy.

Wally started at the sight of me, and there was an added defiance in his manner when he returned my greeting. I hastened to assure him that my presence in the city was entirely accidental, and he said, with a withering glance at Crawford, that he was glad to hear it.

There is really no use in setting down here what we said to him that night. It would have been just the same if we had read to him out of the city directory. My statement that the very part he played should teach him prudence and respect for the judgment of his elders nearly procured me some broken bones. Did I venture to compare Miss Hartington with the woman of the drama? Oh, dear, no; not for the world. Still there was a faint basis for comparison in the fact that she was five years older than himself.

"Miss Hartington is but twenty-six," said he. "She is two years older than I am."

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'And," he added, "you would hardly urge the difference in our ages as a reason for my delay. It is a reason for my delay is the my delay is the my delay is the my delay is the my delay is the

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injustice, yet withal sustained by some insterior strength which I had taken to be sheer pugnacity.

Now she was transformed. She held her head high; her eyes shone; there was the magic of renewed youth in her face.

"Wally," she cried, "read that?"

And she gave him a telegram, so long that it filled two sheets. The boy got about half way through it, and then he selzed her hand, exclaiming:

"Splendid! Splendid! This is the change of a lifetime. This so mighty, mighty glaf for you."

She looked at him intently, lovingly-yes, by all that's odd, the woman loved him.

"It's the chance of a lifetime for both of us," she said, paying no more attention to Crawford and me than if we had been two dummies. "Wally, this ofter-miraculous as if the sky should rain roses"—
""Or dollars," said he.

"This part that is offered me," she continued, "is all that I ask. If I cannot make my way with this, I am content to fall. But I was not content to live this life of mine and have nothing, absolutely nothing; no smallest desire granted, massingle gream of good fortune between my cradle and my grave. Wally, I was not strong enough to live a life all loss and still de right. But now, now! Now I can do it. I can say to you what I should have said long ago, that—that you must not think of me any more."

She had been at a high pitch of courage up to that list sendence, but she could not the said, but the boy knew her better, and suddenly his face grew startlingly white, "Do you mean," he cried, "that you will break with me?"

"Yes, yes," she answered, and she waved her hand toward Crawford and me. "Ask them. They know. They'll tell.

""Yes, yes," she answered, and she waved her hand toward Crawford and me. "Ask them. They know. They'll tell."

love my work. You shall see."
And in the midst of this outburst she vanished from the room.
Wally's face, which had been so pale, now flamed with rage.
"You, you!" he shouted, striking up to us. "You have done this. You have bought her. You have wrecked my life."
I think he was upon the point of striking Crawford, but instead he turned upon his heel and left us.
Crawford sank into a chair and slid lower and lower in it till I thought he would slide off upon the floor.
"The boy is crazy." said I. "This ig undoubtedly genuine. The girl has got a fine engagement, and her good luck has given her the strength to do right, just as she said. But to accuse us of getting this engagement for her."
"I did it." said he. "She doesn't know it but I did. I telegraphed to a fellow in. Now York and used money and all that. By George, she has got a shanes. I know, for I paid for it. And somehow. I'm ashamed. It's like some blasted congriguers, and yet it's for the good of both of them."
"But how did you know she'd give him "You don't understand women." said."

"TWELVE O'CLOCK."

The wooden horse neighs loudly; The dolls all laugh and sing; The wee tin soldiers march and drill And shout like anything!

The golliwog is mounted
Upon the tin gee-gee
And cries out to the donkey:
"Come. Have a race with me!"

The big wax doll smiles sweetly And smooths her satin frock,

When midnight comes the toys And have some jolly fun, And round about the nursery They scamper and they run.

FACTS AND **FUN** THE WOMEN AND

...... THE SEAL; An Aquatic Mammal

Twould be a great mistake to class every creature that lives in the sea as a fish or a reptile. Perhaps when you have been at the zoo in summer you and hundreds of other children have gathered around a lig water tank to watch the keeper feed the seals with fish and have seen the seals themselves make a sudden spring the seals themselves make a sudden spring the seals the seals with fish and have seen the seals themselves make a sudden spring the seals the seals with fish and have seen the seals the seals the seals with fish and have seen the seals the seal of the seals the seal of the se



THE SWIMMING TANK.

with their clumsy bodies, many a time splashing water over everything around and giving some of the boys and girls a good ducking. Sometimes the water splashes all over your mother's best hat, too, and then your mother does not

house with people. The seal's nostrils are so arranged that when it is on land atoms of food in the water. A mammal is a creature that does not lay eggs and suckles its young till they are old enough to feed themselves. Now, though the seal lives in the sea most of the time and swims naturally faster than many fishes do, it is yet a mammal. It is in truth a quadruped with fins instead of feet. Hence it is called "pinniped," or "fin footed." Both its fore and hind legs are inclosed nearly their whole length in the skin of its body, so that you see only the fin feet. But the legs are sure enough there.

In natural history the seal is classed as an aquatic carnivorous mammal—that is, a mammal that lives in the NFAR AND SAP.

NEAR AND SAP. hat, too, and then your mother does not laugh so much.

A fish lays eggs from which its young are hatched and they immediately begin to feed upon the animalcules and atoms of food in the water. A mammal is a creature that does not lay eggs and suckles its young till they are old enough to feed themselves. Now, though the seal lives in the sea most of the time and swims naturally faster than many fishes do, it is yet a mammal. It is in truth a quadruped with fins instead of feet. Hence it is called "pinniped," or "fin footed." Both its fore and hind legs are inclosed nearly their whole length in the skin of its body, so that you see only the fin feet, but the legs are sure enough there.

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has been one of the sights of the Golden Gate city. In Bering sea in the summer they may be seen by the hundreds playing in the water. But there are only hundreds now where there were formerly millions. They have been killed off to make sealskin garments for ladies. Sea lions, bears, elephants and leopards are varieties of seals, each so called because of some resemblance in the shape of its head or the spots on its coat to the animal it is named for.

For an animal a seal has a very large brain. If it lived on land, where we could become well acquainted with it, we would find it to be quite as intelligent and teachable as a dog. It can be easily educated to perform many







even in a ship, many miles from home and lose it in the ocean, thinking it could fish for itself. But in these in-stances the affectionate animal always finds it way back again, exactly as a horse will do.

Dickie Dawdle-so Makes Fun of Rhyming Joe.



and he must lecture on the prodigious strength, wonderful sagacity and extreme docility of the animal, proving the latter quality by laying down and letting the elephant walk over him. It always amuses a company to show them Jingo.

"Dear, dear me: I'll never try to walk on stilts again as long as ever I live. I don't care if the little boys de call me 'Short Legs.'"

Two boys are required to personate "Jingo." One represents his fore and the other his hind legs. The first boy stoops, steadying himself by placing his hands on his knees, the second boy stooping also to the same level, with his hands on the first boy's thighs. A quilt, doubled three or four times, is now placed on the backs of the boys, which serves to form the back of the elephant. A large blanket or traveling shawl is then thrown over them, one end of which is twisted to represent the trunk of the animal, the other end serving in a similar manner to represent his tail. Two paper cones form the tusks, and the elephant is complete. A bright and witty boy should be selected to play the part of keeper, real donkey the other day at the zoo.

"Dear, dear me: Til never try to "Pear, dear me: Til never try to "Stand the altitude as this again as long as ever I live. I don't care if the little boys de call me 'Stort Legs.'"

A Young Financier.

Aunty—A penny for your thoughts.

Little Nephew—I was thinking that if I kept quiet and pretended to be world by his genius. Neither Napoleon. While is twisted to represent the trunk of the animal, the other end serving in a similar manner to represent his tail. Two paper cones form the tusks, and the elephant is complete. A bright and witty boy should be selected to play the part of keeper, real don't be discouraged.

"Dear, dear me: Til never try to want and set the animal, proving the latter quality by laying down and letting the elephant walk over him. It always amuses a company to show the many to show them Jingo.

Dunces That Have Risen to Fame.

That it is not always the sharpest boy who makes the most olive in many instances. Often a dull world by his genius. Neither Napoleon. When we will be solved in many instances. Often a dull world by his genius. Neither Napoleon. When we will be many in the latter was thinking by has in after years a

NEAR AND FAR.

The St. Petersburg Messenger of Trade and Industry boasts that the characteristic feature of last year was the almost total suspension of the import of chemical products and the very perceptible decrease in their price, due to the growth of competition and improvements in Russian manufacture.

After Jan 1, 1908, the use of white or yellow phosphorus in match making will be illegal in Germany. This action

of the reichstag was due to the injurious effect of phosphorus on workers in match factories.

Each year about 100 sea vessels are lost without record.

The possession of an automobile multiplies the contents and sphere of a man's life by more than six if he previously kept a horse and by much more if he did not.

Freight charges on exports and im-

THE JINGO JOKE.

Two boys are required to persona

ten young Chinese students to take occurses in American colleges. They will be under the care of a Chinese student of the fiber industries of the islands. There is a platinum famine, and industry demands loudly the discovery of new deposits of the precious metal.

An epidemic of diphtheria in the schools of Passaic, N. J., is said to have resulted from the promiscuous use of lead pencils.

The government of China has appropriate from the promiscuous use of lead pencils.

The government of China has approved the action of the governor of Special commissioner for the Philadelphia, special commissioner for the Philadelphia and the discourse in American colleges. They will be under the care of the fiber industries of the islands, for which \$500,000 has been appropriated. He predicts a vast trade in thes fabrical the dark trade in the stands and the section of a chinese students in the fiber industries of the islands, for which \$500,000 has been appropriated. He predicts a vast trade in thes fabrical the dark trade in the stands and the extension of a chinese students in the fiber industries of the islands, for which \$500,000 has been appropriated. He predicts a vast trade