

Because She Was a Girl

Mrs. Torrance was sitting near the library window, holding a silk skirt and rubbing a spot on it with some kind of smelling salt from a bottle. The light from the window made her hair blue—it was not red hair, but iridescently dark until the light struck it. The library itself was in confusion, and the French poodle wandered about, disconsolately, alternately sniffing and whining. One would say the odor offended him, or else that his heart was wrenched by a secret sorrow. A tear rolled down Mrs. Torrance's cheek. The dog whined again. The cleansing process went on in loud silence.

Then there was a quick step on the stair, the sound of a step missed, and a knee bumped, than with the irritation and pain still in her face, a girl flung into the room with, "I always fall up your stairs. It's such a bad habit—burts, too!"

And she drew her knee up and rubbed it as she sat among the pillows on the couch.

She was slender and small, with brown eyes and the hair that goes with it braided and done round and round in the back in a fashion quite her own. She was decidedly pretty, and the rather dark look around her eyes, and the red tinge to the lids, seemed of recent and unusual occurrence. Mrs. Torrance nodded good-morning, and the dog sniffed at her skirt.

"If you had come a little earlier you would have been in time for the funeral," this was Mrs. Torrance's sympathetic rejoinder.

"What funeral?" asked Belle, suspending her rubbing.

"Chi-chi's," Mrs. Torrance answered. "She died in the night. I did what I could for her, but now she's dead and I'll never find another cat like her. Olive has been so lonesome—she's been hunting around, hunting for her. I've been crying all the morning."

Silence, then a queer voice from Belle Garner, as she picked up a pillow and held it up before her eyes.

"It's awfully sorry, but really I'm just the wrong person to have around if you feel miserable. I've been crying myself all morning, and came around here for comfort."

"Is that so?"—the falling tear was whisked away—"What about?"

"Oh, I didn't intend to tell you, only I thought it would brace me up a little just to see you. Let's talk about Chi-chi," Belle answered with frank tears starting out of her eyes at the remembrance of her wrongs.

"Yes, poor Chi-chi. I brought that piece of Japanese embroidery to wrap her up in, but I thought, after all, what's the use of putting it into the ground. Marie thinks she can make two pillow covers out of it, and when your maid wants to sew, why let her, I say, don't you?"

Belle didn't answer. She was thinking against her will of something else. Presently Mrs. Torrance looked up.

"Why what's the matter, child? You're crying—tell me all about it."

"Oh, I'm not," Belle answered with the tears rolling down her cheeks.

"I'm not crying, only—only—only—here she jumped up and walked around the room with her head turned away from her friend and her hands clinched. She stopped by a window and took hold of the string. "Only my engagement is broken—and—and—I'm unhappy."

"If she had not had on a hat with a tall brim she would probably have glanced her face against the pane and wept aloud; but as it was, she could see only within four inches of the glass, and that probably saved a scene. She stood there, twisting the cord and trying to explain. Her voice was so queer, so high and strained, it made her angry at herself, but it refused to be controlled.

"Yes, it's broken—I got a letter this morning—I shall never forget nor forgive. I can't help it if other people think I'm nice and fall in love with me. I never should have told about B-Bobby Gaines if he hadn't asked. And now—she stopped and wiped her eyes.

"Did you break it or did he?" The spot on the dress was forgotten, and the cleansing rag was suspended in the air. Mrs. Torrance's face was full of interest and concern. The dog lay down with a grunt in a patch of sunlight, sneezed a long sigh, and then sneezed. The combination of cleaning rag and woman's tears pained him. "Well, I broke it—he broke it—I don't know which. Anyway it's broken."

"What are you crying for?" demanded Mrs. Torrance. "Because you are not going to be married, or because you care for him?"

"Oh, pooh! Not going to be married? You don't suppose I care for him?" Belle turned suddenly and glared at Mrs. Torrance. "I can tell you of now, and four years that are just waiting a good opportunity to propose. No one I care for has ever broken my heart. It's all over now, and I'm glad that it is. And Belle turned again to the window and began to sob bitterly. "I don't cry. It will be all right in a few days. He will come 'round, and I'll be glad to see him, and having to see him, I don't do anything but cry and cry just like a born idiot—just—just—just—her head down in her friend's lap and sobbed—"just like this!"

Mrs. Torrance patted her round young shoulders and looked with unseeing eyes out of the window. The dog came in quietly and rubbed up against them; then, finding himself unnoticed, sat up on his hind feet and waved his front ones.

"Silence—then, "You did right, child; just as I wish I had done, twenty years ago."

QUARANTINE IS FEARED

London, Jan. 31.—The manager of one of the largest transatlantic lines was asked today if he expected an unusual number of Americans to be present in London at the time of the coronation of King Edward. He said: "No. By May I fear we shall have such a smallpox scare and epidemic that London will be in quarantine when King Edward is crowned."

That this is by no means a pessimistic forecast is evidenced by the fact that the line referred to began this week to have the crews of its ships vaccinated before leaving London for New York. Other lines are following its example, fearing that any day the American authorities may place London shipping under an embargo on account of smallpox.

The vaccination of the crews is only a preliminary to the same operation in the case of passengers, the English shipping firms or agent having no desire to undergo the financial loss which would be involved by the detention of vessels having on board unvaccinated passengers or crews. In this respect the shipping interests are ahead of the United States Consulate which up to the present time has taken no steps to protect health at the home ports.

On all sides in the United Kingdom alarming precautions are on foot to deal with the outbreak. The total of smallpox cases in London now amounts to only about 900, but the cases are so scattered that they create the greatest anxiety.

Medical men point out that the danger lies not so much in the proportion to the population as in the proportion to the usual smallpox figures of the metropolis, which, generally scarcely amount to a score per annum.

JAPANESE LITERATURE

Seattle, Jan. 31.—If the mission on which H. Hoshi, editor of the New York "Japan and American," is now going to his native soil proves successful, he anticipates accomplishing more for the Japanese people than any other person in its history. He aims at a literary revolution that will not stop short of the universal substitution of the letters of the Roman alphabet for Chinese characters in writing the Japanese language.

Mr. Hoshi arrived in the city yesterday and is a guest at the Rainier Grand. He is accompanied by two close friends, Dr. J. Sugimoto, a graduate of the Boston university of pharmaceuticals, and T. Uyeda, manager of a large Japanese club at Brooklyn, N. Y. They expect to sail for Tokyo within a few days, and will not return to this country until next April.

"I am going to Japan on some very important matters," said Mr. Hoshi last night, "not the least of which will be an endeavor to have the letters of the Roman alphabet officially substituted for the Chinese characters now used in writing the Japanese language. If it can be accomplished, this substitution will mean more for the people of Japan than could be told in a single edition of any newspaper in the United States."

"I began the publication of my paper last July. It is a monthly, very broad in the scope of subjects treated. I have a circulation of about 4,000 in America and 3,000 in Japan. This idea of a substitution of alphabets occurred to me a long time ago, when I was a student at college, and I have been waiting my chance to start the ball rolling. Part of the paper is published in the English language and part of it in Japanese, only Roman letters being used, and each edition being accompanied by what you would call a key. The change is popular in Japan and I have been in daily receipt of letters from the leading men of Japan, encouraging me to go ahead along those lines."

"It is also my purpose on this trip to arrange all details necessary for the establishing of New York of the press association, which will furnish news to about thirty Japanese papers. It will be something in the nature of your Associated Press. Very important matters will be cabled and general news will be sent by mail. The Japanese are all eager to know what is going on in America, as they look on your country as being in the forefront of enlightenment."

"When I return I shall also establish a Japanese-American bureau of information, the object of which shall be to furnish residents of this country with commercial and industrial statistics regarding Japan, and vice versa. I have already started work on a directory of the principal business houses in all lines in the principal cities of America, and when it is completed I anticipate a large sale for the work in Japan. It was the demand for it that caused me to begin the work of compiling this directory—I am simply following out the work in accordance with the law of supply and demand. I think it will be a profitable business venture."

"All evening my friends and I have been walking around the town. I suppose you would call it 'taking in the town.' We have seen many things here that interest us very much. Seattle is a large and important city now, vastly different from what it was when I passed through here six years ago. The establishment of a regular line of steamers to Japan, I think, has had a vast deal to do with the growth of commerce at this point. If this Alaska gold excitement keeps up, I should not be surprised to see Seattle twice its present size within a few years."

Mr. Hoshi has a copy of his magazine with him. It is a beautiful piece of work typographically, and is printed on super-calendered paper. Many illustrations embellish its pages, among them being a two-column cut of President David Starr Jordan, of Stanford university. Dr. Jordan also contributes two articles to the current number, one on "Salmon and Trout in Japan," and another a letter praising the youthful editor for his efforts to substitute the Roman for the Chinese alphabet in writing the Japanese language.

"Your efforts deserve success and probably will be rewarded," writes the noted scientist, "and your name may some day be enrolled on the book of fame as one of the great benefactors of your country. It is to the English language and the English people that Japan must look for upliftment, not to the Chinese."

For four years Mr. Hoshi was a student at Columbia university, graduating with the degree of master of arts. He speaks and writes several modern languages in addition to English and Japanese.

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SOCIETIES

THE REGULAR COMMUNICATION OF Yukon Lodge No. 79, A. F. & A. M., will be held at Masonic hall, Mission street, monthly, Thursday on or before full moon, at 8:00 p. m.

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There are now three incoming mails on the river between Dawson and Selkirk, a consignee having left each of the three stations, Stewart, Selwyn and Selkirk, at seven o'clock this morning. The mail leaving Stewart this morning should arrive between seven and eight o'clock tonight. The mail that should have left here Saturday but didn't for lack of horses to haul it, will get away tomorrow morning.

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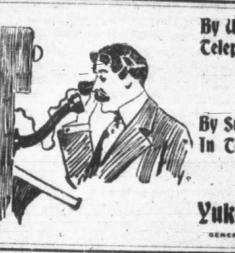
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THE PLATFORM

1. An honest administration; economy consistent with progression.
2. The general improvement of the city streets, lighting, sidewalks, etc., consistent with a reasonable expenditure.
3. No salaries for aldermen.
4. Civic control of saloon licenses.
5. Civic control of franchises of the Telephone Co., Electric Light Co., Water Co. and all similar franchises.
6. The proper carrying out of the health ordinance.
7. Proper regulations regarding taxation, thereby securing the equal distribution of taxes.
8. A complete and thorough system of fire inspection.
9. The appointment of all city officials and the awarding of all contracts in the best interests of Dawson, regardless of political or other influences, and that all contracts be let by tender to the lowest responsible bidder and a bond taken for the due performance of same.
10. Absolute control of all affairs which should properly come under city government.
11. That we will request the Government at Ottawa to abolish the liquor permit system.

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