Madame Bo-Peep

By O. Henry

"Aunt Ellen," said Octavia, cheerfully, as she threw her black kid gloves carefully at the dignified Persian cat on the window-seat "I'm a pauper."

"You are so extreme in your statements, Octavia, dear," said Aunt Ellen, mildly, looking up from her paper. "If you find yourself temporarily in need of some small change for bonbons, you will find my purse in the drawer of the writing desk."

Octavia Beaupree removed her hat and seated herself on a footstool near her aunt's chair, clasping her hands about her knees. Her slim and flexible figure, clad in a modish mourning costume, accommodated itself easily and gracefully to the trying position. Her bright and youthful face, with its pair of sparkling, life-enamoured eyes, tried to compose itself to the seriousness that the occasion seemed to demand.

"You good auntie, it isn't a case of bonbons; it is abject, staring, unpicturesque poverty, with ready-made clothes, gasolined gloves, and probably one o'clock dinners all waiting with the traditional wolf at the door. I've just come from my lawyer, auntie, and, 'Please, ma'am, I ain't got nothink 't all. Flowers, lady? Buttonhole, gentleman? Pencils, sir, three for five, to help a poor widow?' Do I do it nicely, or, as a bread-winner accomplishment, were my lessons in elocution entirely wasted?"

"Do be serious, my dear," said Aunt Ellen, letting her paper fall to the floor, "long enough to tell me what you mean. Colonel Beaupree's estate——"

"Colonel Beaupree's estate," interrupted Octavia, emphasizing her words with appropriate dramatic gestures, "is of Spanish castellar architecture. Colonel Beaupree's resources are—wind. Colonel Beaupree's stocks are—water. Colonel Beaupree's income is—all in. The statement lacks the legal technicalities to which I have been listening for an hour, but that is what it means when translated."

"Octavia!" Aunt Ellen was now visibly possessed by consternation. "I can hardly believe it. And it was the impression that he was worth a million. And the De Peysters themselves introduced him!"

Octavia rippled out a laugh, and then became properly grave.

"De mortuis nil nisi bonum—not even the rest of it. The dear old colonel—what a gold brick he was, after all! I paid for my bargain fairly—I'm all here, am I not? — items: eyes, fingers, toes, youth, old family, unquestionable position in society as called for in the contract—no wild-cat stock here." Octavia picked up the morning paper from the floor. "But I'm not going to 'quail'—isn't that what the call it when you rail at Fortune because you've lost the game?" She turned the pages of the paper calmly. 'Society's doings'—that's done. Here's my page—the wish column. A Vin Dresser could not be said to 'want' for anything, of course. Chambermaids, cooks, canvassers, stenographers——"

"Dear," said Aunt Ellen, with a little tremor in her voice, "please do not talk in that way. Even if your affairs are in so unfortunate a condition, there is my three thousand——"

Octavia sprang up lithely, and deposited a smart kiss on the delicate cheek of the prim little elderly maid.

"Blessed auntie, your three thousand is just sufficient to insure your Hyson to be free from willow leaves and keep the Persian in sterilized cream. I know I'd be welcome, but I prefer to strike bottom like Beelzebub rather than hang around like the Péri listening to the music from the side entrance. I'm going to earn my own living. There's nothing else to do. I'm a—Oh, oh, oh!—I had forgotten. There's one thing saved from the wreck. It's a corral—no, a ranch, let me see—Texas: an asset, dear old Mr. Bannister called it. How pleased he was to show me something he could describe as unencumbered! I've a description of it among these stupid papers he made me bring away with me from his office. I'll try to find it."

Octavia found her shopping-bag, and drew from it a long envelope filled with typewritten documents.

"A ranch in Texas," sighed Aunt Ellen. "It sounds to me more like a liability than an asset. Those are the places where the centipedes are found, and cowboys, and fandangos."

"'The Rancho de las Sombras,'" read Octavia from a sheet of violently purple typewriting, "'is situated one hundred and ten miles southeast of San Antinio, and thirty-eight miles from its nearest railroad station, Nopal, on the I. and G.N. Ranch, consists of 7,680 acres of well-watered land, with title conferred by State patents, and twenty-two sections, or 14,080 acres, partly under yearly running lease and partly bought under State's twenty-year-purchase act. Eight thousand graded merino sheep, with the necessary equipment of horses, vehicles and general ranch paraphernalia. Ranch-house built of brick, with six rooms comfortably furnished according to the requirements of the climate. All within a strong barbed-wire fence.

"'The present ranch manager seems to be competent and reliable and is rapidly placing upon a paying basis a business that, in other hands, had been allowed to suffer from neglect and misconduct.

"'This property was secured by Colonel Beaupree in a deal with a Western irrigation syndicate, and the title to it seems to be perfect. With careful management and the natural increase of land values, it ought to be made the foundation for a comfortable fortune for its owner.'"

When Octavia ceased reading Aunt Ellen uttered something a near a sniff as her breeding permitted.

"The prospectus," she said, with a compromising metropolitan suspicion "doesn't mention the centipedes, or the Indians. And you never did like mutton, Octavia. I don't see what advantage you can derive from this—desert."

But Octavia was in a trance. Her eyes were steadily regarding something quite beyond their focus. Her lips were parted, and her face was lighted by the kindling furor of the explorer, the ardent, stirring disquiet of the adventurer. Suddenly she clasped her hands together exultantly.

"The problem solves itself, auntie," she cried. "I'm going to that ranch. I'm going to live on it. I'm going to learn to like mutton, and even concede the good qualities of centipedes—at a respectful distance. It's just what I need. It's a new life that comes when my old one is just ending. It's a release, auntie; it isn't a narrowing. Think of the gallops over those leagues of prairies, with the wind tugging at the roots of your hair the contributed thoroughness to the stopping of the eviction policy.

over again the stories of the growing grass and the little wild flowers without names! Glorious is what it will be. Shall I be a shepherdess with a Watteau hat, and a crook to keep the bad wolves from the lambs, or a typical Western ranch girl, with short hair, like the pictures of her in the Sunday papers? I think the latter. And they'll have me photographed, too, with the wild-cats I've slain, single-handed, perching from my saddle horn. From the Four Hundred to the Flocks! Just the way they'll head the articles. They'll print photographs of Mr. Van Dresser's mansion and the church where I was married. They won't have my picture, but they'll get an artist to draw it. I'll write and write, and I'll grow my hair long and wooly, and I'll grow my name—Octavia!" Aunt Ellen condensed into the one word all the protests she was unable to utter.

"Don't say a word, auntie. I'm going. I'll see the sky at night fit down on the world like a big butter-dish cover, and I'll make friends again with the stars that I haven't had a chat with since I was a wee child. I wish to go. I'm tired of all this. I'm glad I haven't any money. I could bless Colonel Beaupree for that ranch, and forgive him for all his bubbles. What a the life will be rough and lonely! I—I deserve it. I shut my heart to everything except that miserable ambition. I—oh, I wish to go away, and forget—forget!"

Octavia swerved suddenly to her knees, laid her flushed face in her aunt's lap, and shook with turbulent sobs.

Aunt Ellen bent over her, and smoothed the coppery-brown hair.

"I didn't know," she said, gently; "I didn't know—that. Who was it, dear?"

(Continued in Next Week's Issue.)

MANY WOMEN SUFFER AGONY FROM BACKACHE

Women are the greatest sufferers from weak, lame and aching backs owing to the continual stooping, bending and lifting so necessary to attend to their household duties.

Doan's Kidney Pills will give perfect relief and comfort to all women who suffer from backaches, or other kidney troubles, and make their household duties a pleasure instead of a burden.

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

Mrs. Edward Michon, 148 Cardigan St., Guelph, Ont., writes:—"I have been in a terrible condition on account of having such awful pains in my back. In fact I was so bad I would have to cease my washing several times before I could finish it.

Since taking Doan's Kidney Pills I have found great benefit, and cannot recommend them too highly."

200,000 POUNDS RENTS UNPAID

Instituted by the Secretary for Scotland, a Rents Commission, consisting of Lord Constable (chairman, Mr. James Steel, M.A., representing factors and houseowners, and Councillor P. J. Dollan, representing tenants, opened an inquiry at Glasgow into the difficulties in carrying out the Rents Restriction Acts in Scotland.

Mr. Robert Crawford, president of the Glasgow Property Owners' and Factors' Association, dealing with the situation at Clydebank, estimated arrears of rent to date at £200,000, and said he would not be surprised if they proved to be greater. There was also a very large amount of arrears of rates, and owners who were asked to pay rates and who were not getting rents felt that they had a special hardship in that respect.

Mr. James B. Stewart, a house factor, declared that 1,200 tenants on the books of his firm were in arrears at Clydebank. On a recent Saturday it was the worst collecting day in his experience, and he attributed the cause to the stopping of the eviction policy.

Home-baking—Home ties

Home-baking makes children healthy and happy. It gives them pleasant memories of home in after years.

With Quaker Flour, home-baking is easy. It is good for pies and cakes, as well as bread. Because every sack is of the same high quality, you can rely on perfect results every time.

Quaker Flour

Always the Same-Always the Best

Deal with the dealer who sells Quaker Flour. If you do not know his name, write us and we will direct you.

A Product of The Quaker Mills, Peterborough and Saskatoon 265

MAN AND WIFE GET 30-YEAR SENTENCES

Found Guilty of Hiring Out 13-Year-Old Niece to Orientals.

Hartford, Conn.—Except life sentences for murder, the heaviest penalties in recent memory were imposed on John Oakes and his wife, Pearl Wright Oakes, of Houlton, Maine, when Superior Court Judge Newell S. Jennings sent the pair to prison for 29 to 30 years for jointly betraying Mrs. Oakes' thirteen-yearold niece, Dorothy Wright and hiring her out to Chinese and Japanese.

Although the man broke somewhat, the woman, who is 23 years old maintained her half sneering sang-froid.

When Assistant State's Attorney L. Gideon started to make a recommendation for a long sentence, Judge Jennings waived him aside saying it was unnecessary.

To the prisoners, Judge Jennings said:

"From the evidence in this case I am convinced that you two persons are not, never have been, and never will be fit to associate with civilized people, and so far as I am able I am going to separate you from the society of decent people. Your sentences each are not less than 29 nor more than 30 years in state prison."

A Japanese butler and two Chinamen, who have been in jail for two months were sent needed by [illegible] to [illegible] and to [illegible] in jail for misconduct and two other charges [illegible] charged because of doubtful identification.

A RARE SPECIES

Victoria, B.C.—While Victorians have been assured that it would be almost impossible to find a mate for Ursus Kermodei, the famous white bear, from among bruin's own kind, when she is housed in the new thousand-dollar home which the city is erecting at Beacon Hill Park, a Customs officer, Joseph McPhee, stationed at the Butedale Cannery, Princess Royal Island comes forward with a report that other bears of the same species are at large on Royal Island. He believes there are also some on Gribble Island, adjoining.

These white bears, of a small size, with teeth differing considerably from the polar bear, and particularly small ears, have a limited habitat, but according to Mr. McPhee, are by no means uncommon on the island and some have been observed as having grown to considerable size.

The eminent zoologist, Dr. W. T. Hornaday, of New York, who has been so anxious to purchase Ursus Kermodei, which the city refuses to part with, definitely established the species, and since then the greatest interest has been aroused to capture live specimens. According to the isolated and rugged character of the islands it is almost impossible to capture the animals alive.

Ursus appears to thrive in captivity, but he's going to lose all the fine thick fur of his coat, just the same, because he's not yet accustomed to a diet of milk and dog biscuits. It is expected that it will grow a fine new coat within a few months' time.

COLLEGE BOYS DOING CROSS WORD PUZZLES IN LATIN

London.—Bright young men at Oxford and Cambridge are cudgeling their brains these days over cross word puzzles in Latin. Soon after the craze hit England the aristocratic Morning Post, which [illegible] most of the [illegible] of the public schools and universities had forgotten their classics [illegible] there was not enough interest displayed even among the paper's cultivated clientele [illegible]

[illegible] which contains one of which offers as much as 2500 pounds to the ultimate winner. The first two rounds showed conclusively that the people of north England and Scotland are [illegible]

A PRISON IN MID-OCEAN

Wonders of a Sea of Many Secrets.

As if an enormous giant had put his finger into the sea and stirred it round, the entire North Atlantic Ocean slowly revolves in the direction of the clock's hands. In the centre is the Sargasso Sea, a gigantic collection of floating islands, made of seaweed and inhabited by countless living things.

Nobody knows how Herodotus, in ancient times came by the alarming stories he told of this mysterious region, for it is only during recent years that it has been properly charted.

[illegible] Columbus and his men [illegible] out of [illegible] and the [illegible] condemned [illegible] prison, close [illegible] barriers for [illegible] miles. But a storm [illegible] carried the ship [illegible] small [illegible] the fishery [illegible] are mostly olive brown [illegible] with blotches of white. The [illegible] sources of supply have been [illegible] the Gulf of Mexico and [illegible] Caribbean Sea.

[illegible] not like this strange [illegible] almost like [illegible] bosom of the Atlantic [illegible] to be the home of bar[illegible]

[illegible] birds always hovering about, [illegible] fish diving in the patches [illegible] which is the [illegible] world.

[illegible] the center of their floating home. One great side little animal is conspicuous owing to the [illegible] portuguese man-of-war [illegible] and [illegible] the frog fish [illegible] seen near British coasts [illegible] its nest [illegible] bound [illegible] by [illegible] its own manufacture, this singular creature combines all the characteristics of an animal, a fish, and a bird.

A short-tailed crab of the shellless type swarms on the Sargasso weed and is blotched with white to match the light patches on its surroundings. These and many more peculiar creatures will be examined by Professor Beebe, of New York, who recently set out to explore this little known region.

[illegible] ambition of the expedition is to capture a monster squid, a terrifying fish of the cuttlefish family, with black eyes at least twelve inches in diameter and a body eighty feet in length. So far, the only authentic information about these flying Dreadnoughts has been obtained from the stomachs of [illegible] sperm whales.

Cubic blocks of undigested cuttlefish five feet square have been brought up by sperm whales when harpooned. And claws as powerful as those of a tiger were found on another deep-sea monster ejected from a whale's stomach. The body of these giants, one of which the explorers hope to capture, is wrapped in a loose mantle from an opening in which emerges the evil-looking head with its sharp, parrot beak.

The Sargasso monster is the [illegible] of the ocean and, like its [illegible] counterpart on land, is said [illegible] even when not hungry—for the pleasure of killing.

CONGENITAL RARITY IN LONDON HOSPITAL

Two Babies Have Bones So Brittle They Break at Slightest Pressure.

London, Ont.—Two months ago a child was born in London suffering from what is said to be one of the most rare diseases the world knows. Its academic name is "osteogenesis imperfecta." Interpreted, this means brittle bones—so in fact that they break with the slightest pressure or movement of the body.

[illegible] now, with the birth nineteen days ago of another infant suffering from the same disease, physicians marvel at a remarkable coincidence.

The first child was born with a broken rib. Now it has broken arms and legs. The second baby had both arms and legs broken and two rib bones fractured. At the first feeble motion of the limbs, the bones snapped and brittle as ice canes cracked. Many other bones went likewise.

[illegible] confined in the Children's War Memorial Hospital, where they are receiving similar [illegible] Everything possible is being done to overcome the abnormality but physicians hold little hope for recovery.

[illegible] a few other cases of this [illegible] in North America are known to London medical men. This type of bone [illegible] has been common in Russia and [illegible] although climatic conditions according to physicians, have [illegible] with the prevalency. The two children reported in London [illegible] in the same month, is [illegible] coincidence, they say.

DISCLOSES PRINCE

Found on Park Bench [illegible] of Bavarian Nobility.

A dirty tramp in [illegible] by the police in the [illegible] morning on a park [illegible] was later identified by his passport and other documents as Alexander Hohenlohe Oehringen, [illegible] the highest Bavarian nobility.

The Prince came here last year [illegible] to have his expensive teeth [illegible] being unable to pay his bill. [illegible] successively was turned [illegible] cheaper lodgings for similar reason.

[illegible] a poor laundress, pitying [illegible] gave him food and shelter [illegible] recently.

The Prince tried to find a wealthy [illegible] on becoming a [illegible] with the aid of a local [illegible] but the attempt failed. [illegible] arrested the Prince was penniless. He will be deported to Austria. The Prince was formerly a colonel in a Bavarian cavalry regiment. He was divorced twice. In marrying a woman of bourgeois [illegible] he had to renounce his princely rank, and was given the [illegible] of Baron Gabelstein. Last year he barely escaped arrest in Austria [illegible] swindling an unemployed bank [illegible] out of $360.

BULLDOGS GET NAME RIGHTLY

In the old days butchers used certain ferocious and tenacious dogs to [illegible] and hold bulls ready for the [illegible] Hence the name "bulldog" which has been handed down [illegible] dog could with apparent [illegible] and hold a large animal [illegible] the nose and either hold him [illegible] or drag his head to [illegible] at the order of the master.

"I'm always so proud of my snowy bed linen"

—says Mrs. Experience

"When guests come, especially! My sheets and pillow cases are so snowy-white, and have that fresh, sweet smell of perfect cleanliness.

"And I change them often, too, because they're really easy to wash—the way I wash them—with Sunlight Soap.

"The pure Sunlight suds quickly search the dirt right out, and leave every single thread sweet and clean. Only a light rubbing may perhaps be necessary at times. Then a good rinse and everything is as spotlessly white as your heart could wish.

"For clothes, dishes and general housework I always use Sunlight. Every bit of Sunlight is pure, cleansing soap, and so it is really economical—and my, how it does clean! Sunlight is so easy on the hands, too!" Lever Brothers Limited, the largest soap firm in the world, make Sunlight.

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