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His Recompense

By PERCIVAL LEE

"It has been my own fault and I must bear the brunt of it."

Thus said Gerald Thorne, glancing at a written paper. It was a note for five hundred dollars, signed by Alden Ross, bearing his own endorsement and Gerald had just paid it. Mentally he struggled with the conviction that he had been guilty of a serious error in judgment, leading up to the incident of the moment.

He had been secretary and adviser of Adam Wells until the latter died. They were related distantly, but the old man had learned to regard Gerald with almost fatherly consideration. There was another candidate for his favor—young Ross, the son of his oldest friend. Mr. Wells had practically adopted Ross. He had paid his way through college. He had started him in business. Alden had made a failure of both schooling and commercial life. The business he had invested in received little intelligent attention and he had proven a severe disappointment to his generous patron.

Now, thinking over all this, Gerald regretted that he had given way to an impulse born of sentiment and supposed duty. Upon his deathbed Mr. Wells had called him to his side.

"Gerald," he had said, "a will at my lawyer's office leaves you half of my estate. It is not large, and you deserve more. The will also names Alden as a beneficiary of the other half. I desire to rescind that will. Both of us have seen how incapable and irresponsible he is. He will squander the little I leave him. A part of his legacy is tied up in trust with yourself. The major part of the bequest, however, is for his free use. I wish you to make out a new will placing all of it in trust."

But Gerald Thorne did neglect it. He did it willfully by never attending to the proposed change of will. Mr. Wells weakened rapidly and forgot all about it. Gerald was glad. He liked Alden. He believed in his innate goodness of heart. He hoped to aid in steadying him down. Besides that, he did not wish it to be said that he had influenced Mr. Wells for his own benefit. Mr. Wells died and Alden Ross received a sum of several thousand dollars in liquid funds.

There was nothing bad about Alden except a heedless extravagance, and the frailty of being easily influenced by others. Within six months he had wasted all of his inheritance except the trust funds. He came to Gerald, penitent, avowing determined economy in the future and pleading for the advance of the interest on the trust fund.

"I can't do it," declared Gerald firmly. "for I am sacredly bound by my trust restrictions. I will loan you the money you need, however."

That was a bad start to make. Thenceforward Alden became an impatient debtor. On one occasion he got Gerald to endorse the five hundred dollar note for him. The outcome of this unwise action now confronted Gerald. He felt that he was in a measure an accessory in the idle uselessness of Alden and acted upon a sudden resolve. He left his office with the motive of seeking out Alden and having a thorough understanding with him. He made some inquiries and chanced upon a friend who had just seen Alden. "Hedger for the old picnic grounds," Gerald was advised. "The young people have set up their tennis nets there and Alden spends a lot of time in their company."

Gerald would have liked to do the same, had he the time to spare.

Particularly would he like to have been enticing had been Deane. Deane had been among those same "young people" recently he had met Alden frequently at the Deane home and had come to wonder if Alden was particularly interested in that direction.

Gerald came upon Alden, alone, in the park, at the end of his payment of the debt. Alden expressed penitence almost to the extent of tears.

"I don't want to upbraid you, Alden," said Gerald, "but your present delinquency really embarrasses me in a financial way. It is not that, however, that most troubles me. It is your persistent extravagance. Only by settling down can you hope to make even enough to live on."

"I see it all," declared Alden contritely, "and honest, Gerald, I am turning over a new leaf. I have had a talk with Edna. She has been a regular guardian angel to me and I have promised her to mend my ways."

A misty cloud seemed to darken all of hope in Gerald's heart. The words implied that his own affection for her had been in vain.

"Alden," he spoke with an effort, "I freely gave up half of the Wells fortune for you. I have borne sacrifices for you since. I shall surrender the interest I have in Miss Deane, and hope you will make her happy."

"Yes, you've given me the best you had," interrupted Alden forcibly, "but you can't give me Edna Deane. I suppose you knew that her helpful ways in my behalf have been inspired because I expect some day to make her sister Nellie my wife. You noble old hero! I would, indeed, be an ingrate if I did not mend my ways and make a man of myself!"

And earth and sky seemed to blaze with a new glory, as Gerald Thorne comprehended that he was at still hope on and was the charming girl he loved so devotedly.



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SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 16th July, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, 6 times per week on the Centerville Rural Route, No. 3, commencing at the pleasure of the Postmaster General.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Centerville and route offices and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

H. W. WOODS, Post Office Inspector, POST OFFICE INSPECTOR'S OFFICE, St. John, N.B., June 1st, 1920.



SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 23rd July, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, 3 times per week on the route Medford and Salmonhurst commencing at the pleasure of the Postmaster General.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Medford and Salmonhurst and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

H. W. WOODS, Post Office Inspector, POST OFFICE INSPECTOR'S OFFICE, St. John, N.B., June 11th, 1920.



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