

he said quietly. "I am glad to be able to help you to find it."

"I cannot tell you how grateful I am," Hugh answered, all of a tremble with excitement. "I believe this letter is all important to someone very dear to me. No fee can half repay you for what you have done for me, but—"

"You must pay me none. My dear fellow, I could not take it if I wanted to. The laws of the Medes and Persians are not more stringent than doctors' etiquette. The little I have done for you I have done as a friend of McCarver's, and I hope some time you will let me say a friend of your own. An adventure like this helps to make friends."

WHILE he was speaking Hugh was writing a cheque. He blotted it and handed it to Dr. Allman.

"For any hospital you choose."

"A thousand guineas," cried the doctor in utter amazement, "this is absurd."

"Not in the least. I am a rich man, doctor. I may say a very rich man, who has made his money easily. I have always thought an hospital the greatest charity in the world. Once on a time I tried to be a doctor myself. You can't refuse to help your hospital."

"Well, if I must—and a thousand thanks. Now I will pack up and get out of the way, for I can see you are dying to read your letter."

To this Hugh had no objection, so he helped him to carry his apparatus downstairs and pack it safely into a cab. It was not till he got back to his studio and had locked the door behind him that he took the letter from his pocket and examined the seal and address. It was the seal of the Sternholts clearly impressed on red wax—a hand grasping a thunderbolt, with the motto, "quod volo id facio." The address was to "My dear wife, Margaret Darley," and on the left hand corner, three times underlined, the word "Urgent."

At this Hugh was sorely perplexed. Should he open the letter? Had he the right to open it?

His instinct, bred by the convention of honour, revolted against the unpardonable sin of breaking the seal or a letter addressed to another, especially the letter of a husband to his wife. But common sense urged him to put foolish scruples aside and open it at once.

The letter was urgent, more urgent than ever, doubtless by reason of the long delay. Mrs. Darley was not to be found. Further delay might be disastrous to her. Above all, he had the conviction that if she could be consulted she would trust him to open it.

He took the plunge, not breaking the seal, but slitting the top of the envelope with a penknife, and many a time afterwards he rejoiced that common sense had conquered his scruples.

There were two enclosures in the envelope—both written in a clear, bold hand on the thin paper typewriters use. Hugh saw at a glance that one was a short will; the other was a letter. He put the will aside and read the letter first.

"My very dear wife," it ran, "I hope you will know the secret this letter holds while I am alive to explain it. If not, I believe you will understand and forgive. It is the one, dearest, I have kept from you, and it was for your sake I kept it. I feared to transplant my sweet country flower from the quiet home, the secluded life she loved. I doubted—forgive me if I was wrong—but I doubted if you could love the Earl of Sternholt, as I knew you loved Vincent Darley. I remembered the poem you read that day, and what came to the Lord of Burleigh, so I led a double life. To the world I was the Earl of Sternholt, to you I was a husband. But our daughter, Sybil, must not be defrauded of her birthright. It is for this reason that I have put the letter where it is not likely to be lost or stolen. You alone shall know the secret of its hiding-place. I have had a curious feeling of late, dearest, that I have not long to live—a feeling that I trust we may laugh at in a little while when we read this letter together. But if you read

The
clean — pure — healthful

WRIGLEY'S
SPEARMINT

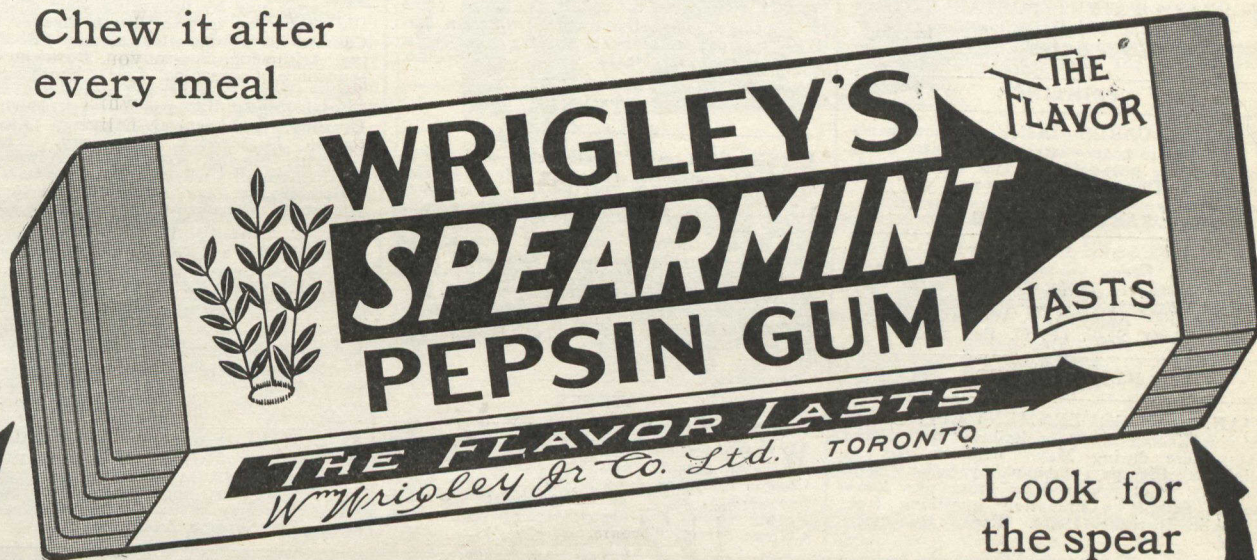
brightens and preserves teeth with pure mint leaf juice and "springy" chicle gum.

It sharpens appetite and aids digestion by improving salivary action---*offsetting hasty eating*. It relieves "overeaten" feelings, etc.

Gives hours of pleasure for less than a cent.

Is a low-priced remembrance to your family.

Chew it after
every meal



BUY IT BY THE BOX

—it costs less of any
dealer and stays fresh
until used.

Look for
the spear

ELECTRIC SERVICE

Means comfort, convenience, economy, and safety.

The home that is completely equipped with electrical devices is a happy one.

All the drudgery of housekeeping is eliminated by electricity.

You can wash, iron, sew, sweep, cook, keep cool in summer and warm in winter, by means of electrical apparatus designed especially to relieve you of unnecessary and fatiguing labor.

*At our showrooms all these devices are ready for your inspection.
Competent demonstrators will operate and explain them for you.*

The Toronto Electric Light Company, Limited

"At Your Service"

12 Adelaide Street East

Telephone Adelaide 404