Bongoline.

The Story of an Advertisement.

By W. Freeman.



nipeg, January, 1911.

he succeeded in ridding

orst incumbrance—his

rose he lay inertly on moment, his hands

In the deepening twi-

noted a tiny ripple at

he dived, and he had

fearful blow on a hid-

now streamed through

ed the surface of the g himself he spread

with all the energy of

pable swam to where

l in midstream. He

aught him in a strong

from his wound al-

lful overhand strokes.

rightened and gasping, and dragged himself

er, faint from loss of

ess from sudden exa little to one of the

es. But even as he

ard, his arms relaxed, pped from the limb. ent carried him twice

en flung him out, like

e, to where in mid-

leapt and danced in

diligent search for

amp, but it will never

already it is sunk in

Alpine Journal, 1910."

of the ocean. Last

earch was going for-

d an experience from

im many days to re-

turning home about

lantern in his hand,

upon an old coat, a

boots. The moment

e knew them for his

was something gey onight." he groaned,

red for Magnus. It's

o' man to explain

o' Providence, but

that this nameless

in boy. I know it, I

I'm just like a man

en a' the lichts are

e what to dae or

! Magnus! Magnus!

e sun behind a cloud

in see the raindrops

. In a moment they

re they come across

neart is wae!"

elder offered a safe he made directly to-

but he struck for

HE car, with a hiccough, came to an abrupt halt by the side of the road. I was alone, and because the machine was new, unfamiliar

with its mechanism.

I climbed down, and had been tinkering about for ten minutes without the slightest success, when a gate on my right clanged, and a stoutly-built man of about fifty, with rubicund cheeks, diminutive whiskers, and a general air of having himself and the universe well in hand, approached.

"In difficulties?" he inquired.

"Don't quite know what to make of her-hey!'

"Not exactly," I confessed.

"Better let me send my chauffeur" (he pronounced it "shuffer") to overhaul the works; he's somewhere about here. And while he's doing it come in and make yourself comfortable."

"I am extremely grateful," I said, as indeed I was, "and if it isn't trespassing on your kindness too much-

"Lord, no! I'm in the mood to offer the hand of friendship to all creation just now. What do you think of our decorations?"

He had led me though the gate, and we faced a big, sober stone building, decked with strings of flags and Chinese lanterns. The effect was startling-as startling as the spectacle of a bishop in tights and spangles.

"Very fine!" I said. My host turned to send a boy who was passing with a message to the chauffeur. Then he looked at me again and smiled.

"Considerin' how the thing ended, it's not surprisin,' is it? And it was a bully advertisement while it lasted!"

"True," I said. I had not the slightest idea as to his meaning, but illumination might come to me, as to the lanterns, in due course.

He led the way into the house. Here also the flag-and-lantern combination prevailed. In a snug little smokingroom he produced chairs, cigars, a syphon, and an open tantalus.
"Now," he said, "did you know what I

was drivin' at, or was it swank?"
"Swank," I admitted.

"Thought so. Then, sir, your ignorance is amazin'!"

"I am only just home from South

Africa," I said meekly. "Then, since you're my guest till the car's repaired, perhaps you'll allow me

to improve your education." I expressed my gratitude, wondering meanwhile at the accent, that was neither English nor American, but an un-

equal mixture of both. "Very well, then. When I tell you that my name is Bosking, I suppose I needn't offer a visitin' card as well?"

he remarked.
"'Bosking's Beneficent Bongoline,'" I

murmured. "Exactly! 'May be taken internally

and externally with confidence and pleasure from the age of eight months to eighty years.' That's me!

A memory of certain painfully vivid advertisements crossed my mind. My host chuckled, and bent to select a cigar. Through the window we had a distant glimpse of the road. Already it was strewn with disconnected fragments of my car, among which the chauffeur

was grovelling happily. "You must understand," said Mr. Bosking, leaning back in his chair, "that I came from New York about six years ago with the notion of galvanising this blessed little backyard of a country into appreciating the beauties of Bongoline. Mamie came with me. She's my adopted daughter (her mother refused me nine times, and then married a brute who broke her heart)-and a peach! She was nearly fifteen at the time, and I reckoned that if she was going to be left anything of a pile, she ought to have an education to match. I'd heard that Paris was the only place that could give

the final polish, and I shipped her over with an old lady who called herself a Marquise to lay in the latest thing in accomplishments, while I stayed here to try and lick a little business into a big one. My, but you're a conservative crowd where a novelty's concerned! However, by the time Mamie was twenty, Bongoline was just beginning to be talked about, and I'd got a factory running in the north, and a wholesale

"I'd been over to Paris a good many

depot in London.

times to see Mamie, and I'd bought this house and fitted it up in style against the time when she would be coming back for good. Last Christmas she camethe finished article!"

Mr. Bosking stared gloomily into the fire for several moments. Then the gravity of his face relaxed a little.

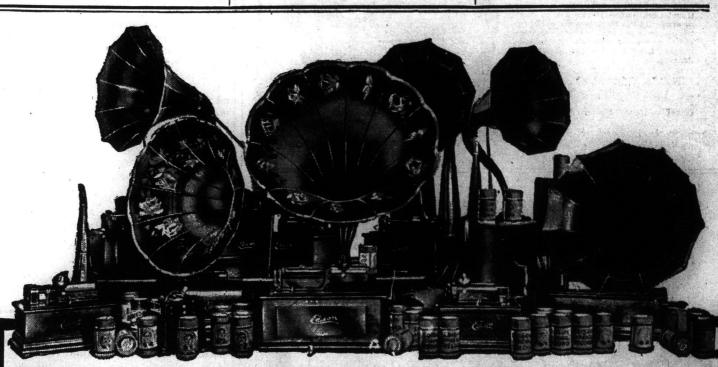
"You'll believe me when I say that don't set myself up to be a critic of Society. I'm an ignorant man myself, but that's no reason why Mamie shouldn't speak French and German. But they'd taught her a darn sight too much. A princess couldn't have turned up her nose in the style Mamie did when she saw the house and furniture, and watched the way I dressed, and fed, and spoke! And as for Bongo-

line, she said the mere sound of the word made her ill, and she wouldn't touch a bottle of it if she were at the point of death! That trade of any sort was vulgar and debasin,' and that dealin' in a patent medicine was the most vulgar and debasin' of all! Lord-but she said what she thought, forgettin' that she owed every blessed thing, schoolin' in clooded to Bongoline!"

He took his cigar from his mouth, and right at all! But I put up with that, and more, without grumblin', thinkin "It warn't right, you know, it warn't contemplated it thoughtfully.

perhaps that things would improve, until after Easter, when, havin' gone on a yachtin' tour with some of her highclass friends, she comes back again

of Any of These



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the fence. Truly, like April weather, ong of the robin and are not more wel-

ts of Punch, famous the hunting-field.

that most men are regardless of soiled