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## A Victorious Defeat

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD

(© 1920, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Swathed in furs, her soft cheeks rosy with excitement and the tang of the crisp fall day, Margaret Demorest sat on the running board of her father's luxurious car, sipping gratefully aromatic coffee hot from the thermos bottle. She was thinking partly of the big game three hours away; partly of the momentous decision she had to make some time before her return.

She had steadily refused to wear any telltale colors or even flowers which might be construed to indicate a preference for either team, even though she sat with her father on the side held by his alma mater.

The decision was forced upon her, so to speak, by the odd coincidence that the two most persistent suitors for Margaret's fair hand were to play that afternoon on opposite sides—Perry Endicott as quarterback, Peter Spaulding as left tackle. Each had begged her to let him know on this occasion her answer to that most vital of all questions, "Would she marry him?"

Yet even in her heart of hearts Margaret could not choose. Both were friends for many years. Each offered her much besides his heart. Perry had more money, quantities of it, and was in a fair way to make more with a seat in the stock exchange awaiting him and any number of influential friends. Peter had less money, but was the descendant of a long line of successful professional men, and himself possessed the training and brains and instincts to carry on their traditions. And Margaret need never marry for money alone. Sometimes she wished that Perry was less handsome and debonair, or Peter less well got up and merry-eyed—anything to swing the balance.

She sighed as she settled back beneath the robes as the chauffeur swung the car back into the unbroken line of traffic headed for the greatest game of the season.

Wrapped in his blankets, Peter Spaulding sat huddled on the side lines waiting the umpire's whistle. He lifted his gaze to the colorful crowded stands opposite, where, rising tier on tier, massed the cheering, singing multitude, come to see him and a small handful of men defeat or go down under an equally meager group of opponents. Somewhere in that throng, he knew, sat the girl of his heart. He visualized her from her softly curling hair to her dainty little feet. What wouldn't he give to call her his!

And yet he realized that beyond question Perry Endicott, whom he would presently see out on the white lined field of battle, stood quite as high a chance as he of winning her. Well, she was a prize for some one and—the whistle gave the signal. Throwing off the blanket, Peter ran with his companions to position. The crowd of spectators waited alert, excited. The game was on.

At the end of the third period the teams stood tied. Margaret clasped and unclasped her fingers in the shelter of her huge muff. Her father, his cigar tipped at an angle which suggested jaunty hopes, was confident that the trick would be turned in the final period. If he was right, thought his daughter, Perry Endicott would come to her for his answer with all the subtle influence exerted by the man who has won.

Oddly enough, Peter at the same moment, surreptitiously nursing a strained ankle, was thinking the same thing.

And Margaret's father was right. In the midst of the pandemonium Margaret, her hands beating a tattoo with her muff on her mother's arm, saw the tumbling yellow ball picked up by a man she presently realized was Perry Endicott and borne, all obstacles swept away, behind the goal post 20 yards down the field.

"Touchdown! Touchdown! Touchdown! Endicott! Endicott! Rah! Rah! Rah! The crowd involuntarily brought to its feet when the ball first hit the ground, went wild. The last rays of the sun, setting red in the west, shone on thousands of waving flags and pennants and released balloons. Peggy clapped her gloves in ribbons.

"Wonderful, isn't it?" murmured Peggy's mother, a little later, as the triumphant stream of men flowed zig-zagging within the stadium in shouting, singing, hat-throwing ecstasy.

"Yes, indeed, it is!" agreed Margaret. She was telling herself that the decision had been taken out of her hands. There was no question as to whom she wished to marry.

"Let's hunt up Perry!" she said to

her father. "I should much rather see him than any of the other fellows."

"Great game, wasn't it?" he replied to their congratulations. "Well, the others didn't stand a show when they bucked up against our little team. What are your plans? The fellows are giving the team a sort of love feast, and I've got to be there, of course. I'll see you later somewhere."

With nothing more definite than that, he was off.

Peter they found an hour or so later. "Why, Peggy!" he cried, "and Mrs. Demorest! I've been hunting the whole place over for you. Great game, wasn't it? Sorry we lost, but the other team was a crackerjack and we were simply outplayed. Great stunt Perry pulled off! But let's forget about the game. Can't I take you out somewhere? How about dinner at the hotel? I reserved a table for just such an emergency."

Hours later he and Peggy stood apart from the crowd gathered about the mighty bonfire, sending skyward its smoky symbols of victory.

"Watching the other fellow's celebration isn't very cheering," he said. "Let's go." Wandering along the quieter paths of the back campus they found a deserted stone bench in the corner of the massive memorial arch.

"I want to ask you something, Peggy," he began as they sat down. "Before you ask it, let me tell you that I think I know what you are going to say, and—well, I decided this afternoon what my answer would be."

Peter looked startled. That did not seem favorable. How could any one, especially a young, impressionable girl, do anything else than decide in favor of the hero of the day?

"Margaret," he said huskily, "I know that means but one thing. And I had hoped—"

Margaret threw back her head and laughed a low, delicious laugh. "Peter, you old silly, what do you suppose happened when every one was shouting for Perry? I found all of a sudden that I wasn't a bit glad his side had won, because I was being so sorry that you had lost. And so I knew—"

"Oh, my little sweetheart," breathed Peter, longing to hear the words he hoped were coming.

"That I—I love you," she whispered. Peter gathered her close in his sheltering arms and kissed her.

"Besides," added Peggy, when she had the chance, "the kind of man you want to spend your life with is the one who takes being beaten better than the other man takes being victorious."

"I wish," said Peter softly, "that every defeat of my life could be turned into such a glorious victory!"

### BABEL TOWER MERE MYTH

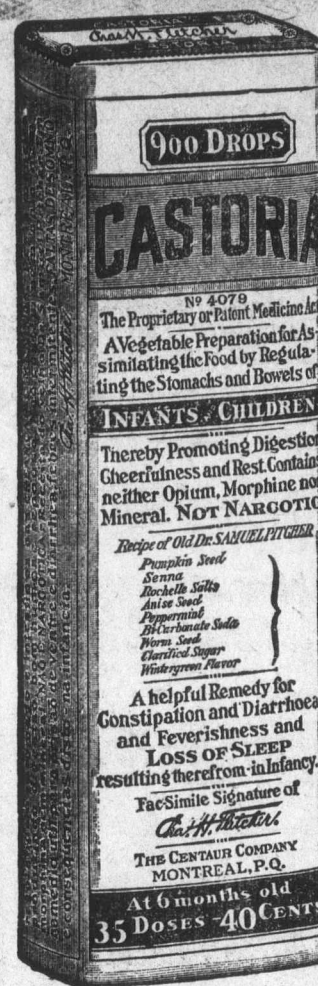
Ascribed to Fact That City of Babylon Had a Great Population of Many Tribes.

The story of the tower of Babel and the confusion of tongues while still taught in many Sunday schools as a literal and historical fact, is generally conceded by theological leaders to be just what science has discovered it to be—a myth and folk lore, based on a very small foundation of fact.

The tower in reality was the temple tower north of Marduk temple, and was but 275 feet in height, being built of six platforms or stages, the lower being the highest, with 121 feet to its crest, the second 63 feet high and the remaining four but 22 feet in height. At the time it was built it probably was the highest building in the world, and the Babylonians were not slow in bragging about it. The Jews, active enemies, probably seized on this to tell the story of the "false god worshippers" trying to reach heaven. The power of Babelion passed with the success of Sennacherib, and later, some time between 1110 B. C. and 1004 B. C., an Elamite sought to rebuild the city, and his plans included several towers.

By this time the city had a great population of many tribes, and Sumerian, Akkadian, Chaldean, Aramaean, Iranian and Hittite were spoken by those affiliated with each of the various races. A Jewish poet observing this, wrote the story, and to give it color, declared the name "Babel" meant "confusion" of tongues. In reality, it means "Gate of God," from the words "bab," meaning "gate," and "il," meaning a god.—Detroit News.

Internal parasites in the shape of worms in the stomach and bowels of children sap their vitality and retard physical development. They keep the child in a constant state of unrest and, if not attended to, endanger life. The child can be spared much suffering and the mother much anxiety by using a reliable worm remedy such as Miller's Worm Powders, which are sure death to worms.



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Following are some examples.—Cushy, meaning a soft job.

Conchy, meaning a conscientious objector.

Bud, meaning a close friend or companion.

Eyewash, meaning humbug.

Fed up, meaning to have a sufficiency.

Funkhole, meaning Government job.

Hot stuff, meaning an unscrupulous or formidable person.

Cut no ice, meaning to fall flat.

Movies, meaning moving pictures.

The push, meaning outkicked.

Strafe, meaning vent or hatred.

Tophole, meaning feeling fine.

Umpteen, meaning an unknown number.

The wind up, meaning to show fear.

Old bean, meaning the head.

Bus meaning an airplane.

Brass hat, meaning a staff officer.

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