

"Apple-Blossoms."

By F. J. Banman, Lowe Farm, Man.

There was a block on Twenty-third street and the car filled with office-workers and early-morning shoppers had stood motionless on the track twenty minutes waiting the signal to go ahead.

The passengers, nervously impatient of the long delay, fidgeted uneasily in their seats and craned their necks in futile attempts to see if the way was clear.

Reyburn, though seemingly indiffer-

ent, to the rapid flight of time, was inwardly fuming with impatience. He was due at an important meeting at his office at nine o'clock sharp, and it was now ten minutes after. An immense deal was to be considered, which, if carried through successfully, would add several thousands to his already large fortune.

To some men, the old-fashioned and conservative kind, the enterprise might seem a trifle "shady"; but to Reyburn

and his friends, all young and enthusiastic like himself, it seemed a splendid thing, with just risk enough about it to add zest to its successful accomplishment.

Suddenly the bell rang—the way was clear at last, and a wave of relief swept over the weary occupants of the car; but it ended in a nervous twitch—the car did not start. The motorman leaned, with exasperating carelessness, against the brake-handle waiting for a passenger, a girl who came running across the street and sprang up the steps, assisted by the friendly hand of the motorman. A man in the corner pushed back the doors and she entered, flushed and breathless, from her run, and bringing with her a breath of

fresh country air laden with the perfume of blossoming trees. Just a little country girl she was, with eyes as blue as the April skies above, and soft, sunny hair shaded, but not concealed, by the drooping white hat. Across one arm she carried a great spray of lovely pink and white apple-blossoms, whose fragrance, faint and delicious, fell upon the tired, irritated nerves of the passengers like a sweet and soothing incense.

For a moment she stood looking hesitatingly down the lines of closely-filled seats; not a place was vacant. But it was only for moment. A fierce, elderly man and a dapper young man on the opposite side sprang to their feet simultaneously. With shy smile and a quaint, little school-girl bow, she accepted the seat of the older man, while the younger one returned to his place, where he sat and stared at the girl with open admiration that Reyburn longed to kick him. But she seemed utterly oblivious of the existence of the dapper young man. Setting herself comfortable in her seat, with the branch of apple-blossoms resting across her knees, she began an interesting survey of the advertisements decorating the side of the car, while the other passengers looked admiringly and a little enviously at the picture of sweet, innocent girlhood.

As for Reyburn, cool-headed business man though he was, he felt irresistibly attracted by the girl from the moment she entered the car, and he gazed with almost reverent admiration of the lovely flower-like face. The fresh, sweet scent of the apple-blossoms brought back to him memories of the old country home where his boyhood had been passed, and as he recalled the old scenes to his mind there rose within him a bitter distaste for his present life, for the ceaseless grind and fret of money-making. The thought of what his mother would have said could she have known that the boy, of whom she had always been proud, was fast developing into a grasping money-lover, made him wince and brought the tears to his eyes. A sudden home sick longing for his old home and a sight of his mother's face came over him, and he would have given all his wealth, just to be at home again and to hear his mother's voice once more.

With an effort he roused himself from his dream and became aware that a pair of wonderful blue eyes were regarding him with pitying earnestness. As his eyes met hers she smiled, the frank, innocent smile of a child with the tender sympathy of a woman.

And to him that smile was an angel's blessing, and he vowed to himself that henceforth he would be a better man and would have nothing more to do with questionable enterprises, but would stick to the old methods, as his father before him had.

Just then the girl rang the bell and arose to leave the car. As she moved down the aisle, Reyburn looked at her almost imploringly, hoping for one last look from those tender blue eyes. But she did not glance toward him and his heart sank at the thought that he might never see her again.

Yes, it had come to that John Reyburn, who had been given up by mothers with marriageable daughters as a hardened bachelor had fallen hopelessly in love with a little country lassie of whose existence he did not dream half an hour before.

She was close to him now, and as she passed he felt something touch his hand like a caress, and then she was gone.

Looking down he saw a tiny cluster of apple-blossoms lying on his knee where she had dropped it—was it an accident or intention? His heart thrilled with delight at the latter thought. Glancing hastily around to see that no one was looking he pressed the fragrant blossoms to his lips, and pocket.

Then placed them carefully in his breast. The three men who had waited long and impatiently for Reyburn's arrival at his office were astonished and disgusted at his positive refusal to enter into their plans. What could have come over him? they indignantly inquired. He had been the keenest one



This is the Genuine Burlington Special.

Our very finest watch and the absolute peer of any watch made in the world today. It is, of course, impossible to give a full description here, but we submit this short outline so that you may have some idea of how this perfect masterpiece is constructed.

ADJUSTED TO TEMPERATURE The watch is put into a refrigerator and run for 24 hours, then it is put into an oven of 100 degrees temperature and run for 24 hours. Then it is run in normal temperature for 24 hours. This process is continued until the watch runs the same in all temperatures. Not 10 per cent of all watches made are adjusted to temperature.

ADJUSTED TO ISOCHRONISM A careful adjustment so that the speed of a watch when it is fully wound up is the same as when it is almost run down. Not more than four watches out of every one hundred watches made in the United States have this adjustment.

ADJUSTED TO POSITION Adjusting a watch so it runs the same in various positions. You can easily see if a watch is to run absolutely accurate the friction of the bearings must be exactly the same for different positions. This adjustment is never attempted on more than a very, very minute percentage of all watches made in the United States.

THE JEWELS used are the finest grade of selected genuine imported ruby and sapphire jewels, absolutely flawless. Nineteen of these chosen gems protect every point. It is well understood in the railroad business that 19 jewels is the proper number for maximum efficiency. Nineteen jewels is regarded by experts as the best number for a perfect watch, more jewels often being a source of complication rather than service. The smaller size ladies' watch has 17 jewels, giving this watch the protection needed for a lifetime of service.

DOUBLE JEWELS—that is, bearings with two jewels each are used in the Burlington. A watch so jeweled requires very much less attention than watches jeweled in any other way.

MAIN SPRING The two points in which Americans have yet to compete with the Swiss are mainspring and hairspring. Although watch springs are made now in almost all parts of the world, no one has ever been able to equal these Swiss springs. The strain is almost absolutely constant, no matter whether the watch is fully wound or is nearly run down. The Swiss springs used in the Burlington Watch do not crystallize with usage and breakage is very rare. These springs will run a watch from 32 to 36 hours.

SWISS BREGUET HAIRSPRING are imported for the same reason as the important mainspring. They are far better than any other hairspring made.

THE U SPRING REGULATOR allows adjustments to the smallest fraction of a second.

FACTORY FITTED Every Burlington Special movement is fitted into the case right at the factory, where the movement was made—into a case made for that watch. No looseness or wearing of parts against the sides of the case. No rattle or jar.

OUR DIRECT GUARANTEE means that we will make good on any just complaint either as to workmanship or material, in either watch or case, at any time, without red tape or formality. Note, we do not say within ten or twenty years, but at any time. Our guarantee, of course, does not include cleaning or breakages caused by carelessness or accidents, or tinkering with the watch; but, if anything is found wrong with the watch in any way, we will replace the part complained of, or we will repair the watch free of charge, or we will give you a new watch absolutely new as you may elect. Note: This guarantee is good for 25 years, yes, and longer than 25 years, for any length of time if anything is found wrong with the material—absolutely without restriction.

WRITE TODAY for our Free Watch Book explaining every detail of the Burlington Watch.

SMASHING WATCH OFFER!

Our great fight against the Watch Trust is now on. We are determined to maintain our independent Burlington line. And so we are making this offer—the most startling, the most overwhelming offer ever known in the whole history of the watch industry. A more liberal offer to you, the consumer, than any other concern would dare to make to the biggest wholesalers.

Trust Prices Smashed

At last! An absolutely perfect watch, the magnificent Burlington Special, at a price and on terms within the reach of all. For we are waging the fiercest battle against trust methods ever known in the history of this country. We will NOT be bound by any system, no matter how powerful. We call the great factories a trust because they have perfected a system of contracts and agreements with dealers everywhere, which enables them to fix prices and control trade. We do not say that the Watch Trust is illegal. But we do insist that their system of "quiet" agreements and price-boosting contracts is very, very unfair.

The Watch Trust has cornered the dealers, but we are determined to win this fight no matter what it costs. So we have decided to offer our very finest watch, the unparalleled Burlington Special, direct to the public on a staggering offer which must simply annihilate unfair competition.

Here Is Our Offer You may get our finest watch at the anti-trust price and besides, if you act at once, you may secure the splendid Burlington Special at the no-dealer price, without profits added—exactly the same price which the wholesale jeweler himself must pay. Think—the quality watch, the world's masterpiece of watch manufacture, for less than half the price usually asked for watches even approaching this one in quality.

AND WITHOUT MONEY DOWN—We will send the watch to any responsible person without asking you for a single cent in advance. There are no formalities. There is not the slightest obligation on your part of any kind or nature except to compare it carefully with any watch you ever saw, no matter what the price. Then, if not satisfactory, you may return it to us at our expense. But if you find this watch the most stupendous bargain you ever dreamed of, just slip the watch into your pocket and pay us the Rock-Bottom price, either in cash or on terms of \$2.50 a month, just as you prefer.

Write NOW for the Free Watch Book at once. If you would like to own a good watch—if you ever expect to own one, you should send for this great book without an instant's delay. You ought to know the facts about these inside prices. You ought to be able to judge watch values for yourself. Be direct to the consumer. No obligations. Just send us a postal or letter, or your name and address on this coupon. The Watch Book and full particulars will be sent you at once, FREE, prepaid.

Watch Book Free Our remarkable Watch Book now sent free on request. We are determined that the public shall be posted on the startling conditions existing in the watch industry throughout the entire country. We want the public to know the real truth, the inside truth about watch prices and watch values. The Secret selling methods, price-boosting contracts, "quiet" agreements to uphold prices—all are completely explained in this book. Besides, we tell you the whole story of our great anti-trust fight and our \$1,000 challenge to giant competitors.

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