

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1923

The Breaking Point

By Mary Roberts Rinehart

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(Conclusion.)
Later he elaborated on that. He had kept the faith. He had run with courage the race that was set before him. He had stayed up at night and fought for them. But he couldn't fight against them.
Dick went downstairs again and shutting himself in his office, fell to pacing the floor. David was right, the thing was breaking him. Very seriously now he contemplated abandoning the town, taking David with him, and claiming his estate. They could travel then; he could get consultants in Europe; there were baths there, and treatments.
The doorbell rang. He heard Minnie's voice in the hall, not too friendly, and her tap at the door.
"Some one in the waiting room," she called.
When he opened the connecting door, he found Elizabeth beyond it, a pale and frightened Elizabeth, breathless, and very still. It was a perceptible moment before he could control his voice enough to speak. Then:
"I suppose you want to see David."

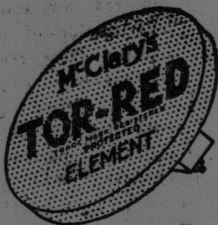


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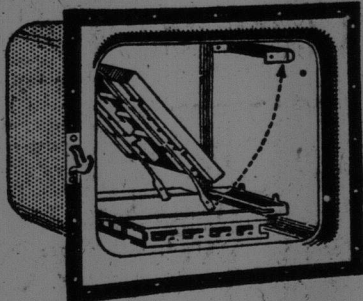
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"You've been to church, and you've been thinking things over, I know. I was there. I heard it all, peace on earth, good will to men. Bosh. Peace, when there is no peace. Good will! I don't want your peace and good will." She looked up at him timidly.
"You don't want to be friends, then?"
"No. A thousand times, no," he said violently. Then, more gently: "I'm making a fool of myself. I want your peace and good will, Elizabeth. God knows I need them."

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"You frighten me, Dick," she said, slowly. "I didn't come to bring forgiveness, if that is what you mean. I came."
"Don't tell me that you came to ask it. That would be more than I can bear."
"Will you listen to me for a moment, Dick? I don't want to go on at explaining things, and I'm nervous. I suppose you can see that." She tried to smile at him. "A—A little, work; a little sleep, a little love, that's life, isn't it?"
He was watching her intently.
"Work and trouble, and a long sleep at the end for which let us be duly thankful—that's life, too. Love? Not every one gets love."
Hopelessness and despair overwhelmed her. He was making it hard for her, impossible. She could not go on. "I did not come with peace," she said tremulously, "but if you don't want it, I don't blame you. You are wrong if you think I came to forgive you."
She was stumbling toward the door. "Elizabeth, what did bring you?"
She turned to him, with her hand on the door knob.
"I came because I wanted to see you again."
He strode after her and catching her by the arm, turned her until he faced her.
"And why did you want to see me again? You can't still care for me. You know the story. You know I was here and didn't see you. You've seen Leslie Ward. You know my past. What you don't know—"
He looked down into her eyes. "A little work, a little sleep, a little love," he repeated. "What did you mean by that?"
"Just that," she said simply. "Only not a little love, Dick. Maybe you don't want me now. I don't know. I have suffered so much that I'm not sure of anything."
"Want you?" he said. "More than anything on this earth."
Bassett was at his desk in the office. It was late at night, and the night editor, seeing him reading the early edition, his feet on his desk, carried over his coffee and doughnuts and joined him.
"Some time," he said, "I'm going to get that Clark story out of you. If it wasn't you who turned up the confession, I'll eat it."
Bassett yawned. "Have it your own way," he said indifferently.
"You were shielding somebody, weren't you? No? What's the answer?"
Bassett made no reply. He picked up the paper and pointed to an item with the end of his pencil.
"Seen this?"
The night editor read it with bewilderment. He glanced up.
"What's that got to do with the Clark case?"
"Nothing. Nice people, though. Know them both."
When the night editor walked away, rather affronted, Bassett took up the paper and re-read the paragraph.
"Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wheeler, of Haverly, announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth, to Doctor Richard Livingston."
He sat for a long time, staring at it.
(The End.)

MILLIONAIRE RECLUSE DIES OF HUNGER AMID RICHES
London, May 10.—(By mail.)—Gottlieb Stauffer, a millionaire, was found dead from starvation in his large, beautifully furnished chateau, of which he occupied only one filthy room, reports the Geneva correspondent of The London Daily Express. He starved to death under his bed and check books and wads of notes were scattered about the room.
Stauffer lived alone in this single room, while the dust of years accumulated on the treasures in other rooms of his magnificent chateau. He owned many blocks of buildings in Geneva, but was never seen, and was only known by reputation as a recluse.
At one time he owned a racing stud, and several of his horses won important races at Lucerne. Stauffer had no relations. He was unmarried, and his heirs are unknown.

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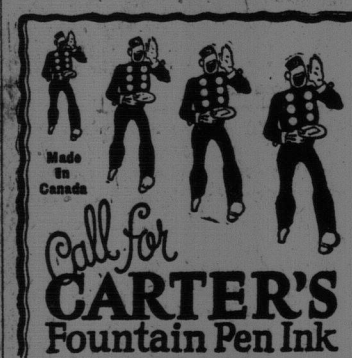
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TO ROTARY CONVENTION.

Fredericton, N.B.—Fredericton Rotarians are to be represented at the big St. Louis Convention this month by four of their number, Ald. R. L. Phillips, J. F. McMurray, R. B. Vandine and Mayor J. A. Reid. This party will proceed to St. Louis independently of the rest of the contingent from the Maritime Provinces which will travel via C. N. R. a special car leaving Halifax on the 14th. By going to Boston the night before the Fredericton Rotarians can save one day, joining the Boston Rotarian contingent at the Hub after spending two days there. They will reach St. Louis on the following Sunday.



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FIRST CONQUEST OF HYDROGEN

Unique Celebration at Tuilleries Marks Initial Flight of Noted Physicist.

Paris, June 7.—Into a sky now completely conquered by the modern airplane a little balloon recently was sent up from the gardens of the Tuilleries before a curious crowd which tried to reconstruct a similar but epoch-making scene enacted on the same spot a hundred and forty years ago. The little balloon was a replica of that in which Jacques Alexandre Charles, the noted physicist, first demonstrated the possibilities of hydrogen as a medium of air transport by himself making a successful flight before an incredulous populace.

The centenary of M. Charles' death was celebrated May 18. In that connection Andre Serph, a descendant of the scientist, gives an interesting account of Charles' life and work in "Les Annales."
He was born in 1746 and died April 7, 1826. He was one of the first inventors to make successful flights in a balloon. In 1783, six years before the Revolution, the Montgolfier brothers, Etienne and Joseph, the latter, the inventor of the parachute, made successful flights in a fire-balloon. The balloon of Charles was filled with hydrogen gas. His flight was the first successful one in a balloon of this kind.
Charles' first ascent was in August, 1783. This first "aerostatic globe" exploded in November of the same year, and on the first of December he was ready to make another attempt. This flight of December 1, 1783, is the one for which he is famous. He went up from the Tuilleries where a crowd of four hundred thousand spectators had gathered to watch him.
The first thing he did was to wave some banners, and this part of the flight is the one that has been reproduced in so many of the old prints. He ascended to a height of almost two miles and landed at Nesles, where a small monument now marks the exact spot of the landing. The "car" in which he went up may still be seen at Arts and Crafts Museum.

Louis XVI gave Charles a pension and rooms at the Louvre. He was associated with the Academy of Sciences, and at the time of his death was librarian at the institute. He was buried at Saint-Germain-des-Pres. Mme. Charles was the "Elvire" of Lamartine's poem, "Le Lac."

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Treasure Hunters On Spring Quests For Pirate Gold

Recent Expedition Claims to Have Found Hiding Place of Morgan's Gems, Bullion on Nova Scotia Isle.

London, May 20.—(By mail.)—The last few months have, to those in the know, been full of projects for treasure-seeking expeditions, writes a correspondent to The London Daily Express. The life stories of more than one of the old time pirates and buccanniers are now being scanned by venturesome folk who hope to discover clues to the hidden hoards which no self-respecting sea-rover failed to leave behind him.

An expedition has recently returned to New Jersey, claiming to have discovered the hiding-place of a great hoard of gold, silver and precious stones, secreted upon Oak Island, Nova Scotia, by the notorious Morgan. With the assistance of a chart they discovered traces of a massively built subterranean vault, some 200 feet below the surface of the earth, and it was owing only to the lack of suitable tools that they were unable to break into this ingenious safe and bring to light the glittering treasures which they have no doubt lie anxiously awaiting them.

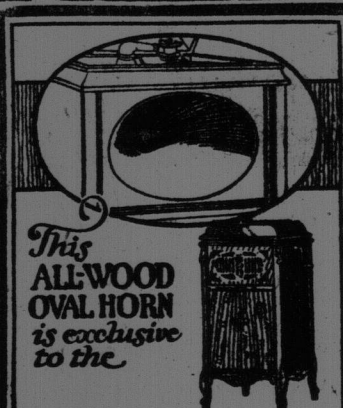
Traces of the long-lost hoard of Jean Lafitte—who was more "freeder" than thief—have been lately discovered. Pots containing gold coins have been found on Hunter Island, in the Bay of Mexico, and two young Americans last summer were frightened almost out of their wits while digging near by at what they said was the ghost of a pirate whose bones they had unearthed.

Those who desire to go hunting for pirate gold could not do better for a first attempt than make a journey to Cocos Island. Judging from old chronicles, there seems to be little doubt that several hoards were hidden there.

Captain Davis, who gave evidence at the trial of Captain Kidd at the Old Bailey, buried his ship with 40,000 pieces of eight, silver bars and ingots of gold, and with other ships weighted down with plunder sailed to this island. So rich were the prizes taken by these cheerful cutthroats that in one case Sharp mistook silver in the hold of a vessel for lead and had bullets made of it. One pirate gave a wedge of silver to a friend for a drink of rum. The wedge was later sold in Bristol for £70.

In 1904 two parties were at work at the same time on this island, one under Arnold Gray.

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