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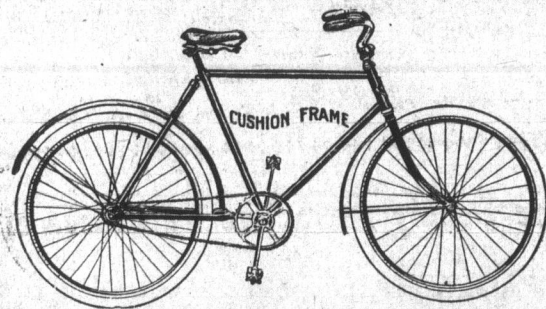
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ADVERTISE IN THE PLANET

His Clever Ally

W. CRAWFORD SHERLOCK.

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"Now, Tip, something must be done, but how I'm going to do it is more than I know."

Jim Granville stretched his great length on the grass beneath an old oak tree and addressed his fox terrier, who surveyed his master with evident interest and understanding. There was a frown on the broad forehead of the young man and a troubled look in his big brown eyes. Tip sat on his haunches, wagging his diminutive stump of a tail vigorously, one eye fixed intently on his master's face, while with the other he watched the movements of a squirrel on an over-hanging branch.

"I'm in love, Tip," continued Granville, flicking the ashes from his cigar with an impatient gesture. "You know what that means, old fellow, since you've been paying your addresses to that little spaniel of Miss Browning's. Yet you can't understand why I don't tell the girl so and settle the whole matter, do you? Tip, canine affairs are different from human affairs. Men have responsibilities, and dogs don't. That's the whole difference in a nutshell."

Tip gave a short bark, as if he fully comprehended the distinction, and Granville went on: "I have a pretty good income, Tip, but it is not big enough to support two establishments. If I get married, my mother would have to live with us, and you know from your own experiences that she is a woman of decided convictions."

Tip shuddered at the remembrance of a whipping he had received for the slight offense of chewing up one of Mrs. Granville's gloves in a moment of absentmindedness and then hung his head.

"Well, Miss Browning also has decided views on certain questions of life, and she and my mother disagree upon almost every subject. The nat-



IN THE CENTER OF THE CLEARING STOOD WENTWORTH AND MRS. GRANVILLE.

ural result of bringing such opposite natures together and compelling them to live beneath the same roof would be trouble, Tip, serious trouble too. I would have to side with my wife against my mother or I would have to side with my mother against my wife. In either case my position would be decidedly unpleasant. I don't expect you to fully understand this, old fellow. You were separated from your mother when you were too young to comprehend the meaning of filial affection. But human beings are quite different and have a certain duty to perform in looking after their maternal relations. Now, these are the facts in the case, Tip, and something must be done, but I don't know what it is to be."

The squirrel had disappeared from view, and Tip fixed his undivided attention upon his master, evidently meditating deeply over the perplexing problem. The stumpy tail ceased its pendulum-like motions, and his sharp ears were pricked up in an attitude of earnest attention.

"This crisis has come upon us suddenly, my boy," pursued Granville after a few moments of silence. "Things were running along all right, and there was no necessity for immediate action until this big fellow from California—Wentworth's his name—came upon the scene. He's been showing Miss Browning the most decided attention. Took her out three times last week in his auto and twice to the theater. In fact, every time I went there she was out with this confounded Wentworth, and I haven't had a chance to say a word to her since he came."

The terrier whined sympathetically, and his master continued:

"He's twice as old as she is, Tip, but that doesn't make any difference in these days, when men of seventy marry women of twenty. There ought to be a law passed that would prevent people from marrying when there is more than five years difference in their ages, and if I ever go to congress I'll introduce such a measure. That won't help me now, though, and if I don't make a move he'll win out and leave me at the post. There you are, Tip. I've unburdened my secret soul to you,

the only friend in whom I can confide, and I look to you to straighten this tangle out for me."

If the fly that hovered about Tip's head had been Wentworth, Granville's anxiety would have been at an end. After making sure that his winged tormentor would worry him no more Tip glanced around and espied the squirrel several rods away, engaged in making his morning meal from some crumbs that had been left in the woods. Forgetting his master's troubles, Tip dashed off in pursuit, leaving Granville to solve the question that so greatly perplexed him. The young man, left to his own devices, lighted a fresh cigar and began a mental calculation as to the length of time that must elapse before he could hope for sufficient income wherewith to maintain his mother and wife in separate homes, provided, of course, that Wentworth did not succeed in carrying off Miss Browning before his eyes.

The calculation was interrupted by a series of ear splitting yelps, and Granville, fearing his pet had come to grief, arose and hurried down the path along which Tip had disappeared. As he reached a clearing a hundred yards or so away he stopped short, his eyes resting upon a curious scene.

In the center of the clearing stood Wentworth and Mrs. Granville. The former had one arm around the latter's waist, while, with his walking stick in his disengaged hand, he was vigorously perusing the furious rushes of the enraged Tip.

"I'm so glad you've come, Jim," cried Mrs. Granville as her son drew near. "You are just in time."

"It looks as if I'm around at the wrong time," grimly returned the young man as he proceeded to calm the excited Tip. "I don't quite understand what it all means. I didn't know you knew Mr. Wentworth."

"Not know Tom Wentworth?" exclaimed Mrs. Granville in surprise. "Why, I've known him ever since I was a child. He's Catherine Browning's uncle, you know, and while he was in the house he found me out, and renewed our old friendship. Tom and me—a pretty flush had crept into Mrs. Granville's cheeks, and her forty-five years of life seemed to dwindle perceptibly—that he has cared for me ever since he has known me, and he has persuaded me to go back to California with him if you have no objections, Jim. What do you say?"

"I won't stand in the way of your happiness, mother," declared Granville with an emphasis that Mrs. Granville did not understand until Wentworth enlightened her.

"I knew Jim would be all right," observed the big Californian jovially. "He's been making some plans for himself, and I think we'd better make a double wedding of it."

"You're a clever ally, Tip, even if you're only a dog," remarked Granville as he walked toward Miss Browning's home. "That wild bolt of yours brought about a solution of the whole matter."

Marsh Cup Water Plant. The plant that I found in the Hudson bay region which is most worthy of notice grows in the mossy meadows, in places where there is little or no grass. It is remarkable for two reasons—the beauty of its flower and its water containing properties. The leaves, which grow flat upon the ground, are broad and green. The bell of the flower seems adapted as a natural reservoir for water, of which, from a large one, there can easily be obtained as much as an Egyptian coffee cup will hold. But the beauty of it was that in the early autumn, when the nights were frosty, but the heat still excessive by day, the water it contained was always iced, for these charming flower bells are evidently constructed to resist frost, and as they close in toward the top they protect from the rays of the sun the lump of clear ice formed within the calyx at night. The result of this was that often when toiling along at midday, hot and weary, through a stagnant swamp all I had to do to slake my thirst was to pluck a few of these miraculous flowers to obtain so many small cups full of delicious water, each with a little lump of ice floating on the top.—Blackwood's Magazine.

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