MR. CUPID, TAILOR AND HABERDASHER

(By Allan P. Ames.)

Unger the circumstances, Mrs. Massinger's error was quite natural. four-mile tramp through the brush had deprived an old camping suit of its last sartorial reminiscence, while a two-weeks' growth of beard completed a disguise as unflattering as it was effective. When I realized the contrast between me and the resplendent group around her table my courage wavered and then, at the sight of one among them whose favor I prized above all others', beat a full retreat. In an access of weak vanity I let the mistake stand-and reaped the consequences.

Primarily, however, the fault was neither mine nor Mrs. Massinger's, but her husband's. When he urged me to put in a few days at his Adirondack camp I had accepted, without knowing more about the place than its location, and forgetting his habit of disparaging his own

hospitality.

"If you're up in the woods this summer," he had said, "don't fail to drop in at our shack. You'll find things rather unconventional; but if you don't mind roughing it, I can promise you some of the best fishing south of the St. Lawrence.

Remembering that Massinger knew what good fishing was, when, early in July, I found myself the sole survivor of the party with which I had entered the mountains, I packed a modest bag and started to drive over to his lake. Expecting to n.cet no one but John and a few of his male friends, I was dressed for ccmfort and convenience only. Stained and shapeless tweeds, an old flannel shirt, a leaky felt hat, and high shees laced over trouser-bottoms, completed a costume in which no man tries or expects to look his best. Becoming cramped by long sitting in the the limit; but I had gone too far to replied; but, without noticing her bear with me while I put another jolting buckboard and being shown a turn back now; therefore I only in- manner, he turned and began berating question of far more importance: Was trail that cut off two-thirds of the clined my head a second time and me for causing the accident. remaining distance, I left the vehicle backed through the door into the wel- | "Here, that il do, I interrupted at lake merely for the occasion, or was to follow the corduroy road and come refuge of the kitchen. plunged into the forest to finish the journey afoot.

the sun was still above the horizon, I stepped out of the woods into the midst of a group of buildings that would have done credit to the most I was entitled; but until then I con- mersion had not quenched my wrath luxurious summer resort between Ear cluded to remain incognito and obey it wiped out all remembrance of the Harbor and Palm Beach. The main orders. structure was of rough-hewn logs, but but, on second thought, endurable, not have shown more amazement if I lacking not one attribute of com- Far down in my heart even lurked a had struck him in the face. Ire gasp- tion," I persisted. "What made you Near at hand were a stable and carriage house and a separate might give me power to foil any plan canoe, while his monocle, which has cottage for the servants, while about of conquest that might be planned survived all previous vicissitudes, for from the water and stood on fifty yards distant appeared through for that moonlit eve. the trees a palatial boat house. All

called his "shack."

one can appreciate the sensation stepping out of the primeval forest the chorus of frogs and insects along effect, which the ferocity of his crim- hands went out in a guesture of prointo a twentieth-century house party the wooded shore. in all the bravery of evening attire, the shelter of the tall trees the wa- dicrously belied. His former dig- she implored. Never had woman's beauty flashed ters lay unruffled. The light canoe nity was so totally colipsed that in you are doing? This is not the time. with such dazzling splendor, nor well-scarcely rippled the glassy surface. spite of myself I laughed aloud. Yes, Look at us!" groomed men appeared so gallant. As I stood, dumb and staring, on the puerile as the impulse was, I to mar the glistening silence. could not bring myself in such

could be expected of the rest? Massinger himself was not there. Moreover, the curtains were drawn and the room dimly lighted, so that until the butler pointed me out to Mrs. careless inspection, remarked, loud to my harassed soul. enough for all to hear:

"It's only the new guide,

We needed another, and John promised to send one over from Lake 'Rough-appearing fellows, aren't

remarked a man at her left perfect distinctness. as careless of my presence as though I had been a dog or a horse.

were more refined. was beginning to wonder how when a new voice called me back:

I nodded silently.

"I can't get the hang of the beastcraft myself," replied the man. "It's quite unlike rowing or punt- George recalled his faithful pursuit Rotten mess I'm in. Here Miss Ten Brocck has consented to let have perceived it," said he, "you me take her out on the lake after must know what I am after. Tell me dinner, and I am obliged to get somebody to paddle.'

Naturally, at this, I stared hard over and took her hand. at the speaker. Even without hearconcrete form. I remembered him craft lurched wildly, and before then as the Northumberland baronet could catch my balance, upset who had been pursuing her from dumped us into the lake. to house and from shore to mountain that summer, with a perse- of the canoe, and when I rose and

verance worthy of success. talking to her neighbor, apparently unconscious of the smile her suitor's frank admission had sent flickering around the table. Her manner might stroke a damp, curly head hobbed up mean everything or nothing, but the right before me. It was Miss Ten Englishman's was alarmingly like the Broeck, and, although she gave no assurance of a man who, if he had evidence of needing to be rescued, I

Miss Ten Broeck. "Hurry and get ready, for we must be out in time



This beautiful life-size Group, the Nativity, is carred in wood, beautifully painted, and s now offered for sale. For particulars apply to

CHARLES F. MOWBRAY,

34 Wilton Avenue, TORONTO.

scenery, strained my self-control. to "I'm not frightened," she calmly

fore me and inventing a complete bio- I'm perfectly a de to get her ashore ly Arriving about seven o'clock, while graphy to satisfy her questions, I and without any help from you, eithpondered in vain to find some avenue er. of escape. When my luggage arrived I could assume the footing to which able heat; for while the sudden immean and guilty joy because Fate ed and almost lost his hold on the choose me instead of him?"

this made up what John Massinger sun had set and the afterglow was "Why, fellow, you are impudent!" he fading. Sir George and Miss Ten stammered. "How dare you lay a Yet even this unexpected magnifi- Broeck were waiting, the former im- hand on this lady? Remove your cence failed to prepare me for the patient to embark. The canoe they arm, instantly!" surprise of the interior. As luck selected was a sumptuous affair, broad The retort i had framed was equalhad it, the door of the dining-room enough amidships to enable two to ly vigorous, but before it had passed say?" she inquired at length; but her stood open onto the long verandah, sit side by side, and of this feature my lips he turned his face full into eyes sank beheath my eager scratiny. and, mistaking it for the main en- they took immediate advantage, set- the moonlight and instantly my retling themselves comfortably among sentment died. the rugs and cushions in the bottom. tered his thin, straw-colored hair

George cautioned; and, though I moment I realized that so far as apthreshold, uncertain whether to ad- say it, my best in canoeing is some- pearances went we were at last on vance or withdraw, one face shown thing to brag of. The blade never an equal footing. When a man is hour," she begged, "until we are able out from the circle about the table left the lake, and not a drop splashed up to his neck in water it matters to get dry clothes and make our-

The twilight lingered in until it plight to meet its owner before the was impossible to say just when the "Oh, I guess not. I think too much rivals with whom she was surround- day ended and the night began, for of the lady's safety." With this I before the transformation was com- slid my arm into a firmer hold plete the full moon showed pale above about her waist. the tree-tops, growing gradually smaller and more luminous until it Miss Ten Broeck her first opportunity tended to be a guide?' ruled the heavens. As they watched to hear my voice. That she found it it rise, Sir George and the girl stop- familiar I knew at once by the way ped talking and even I laid the pad- she started and the intentness with Massinger I escaped their notice al- dle across the thwarts and let the which she scanned my dripping fea-She, after a moment's soothing beauty of the night sink in- tures. She said nothing, however,

Just Englishman doubtless figured on per- supporting arm, in a manner that to show him the way to the kitchen, mitting his companion just enough me at least, indicated satisfaction Thompson, and see that he gets some | rapt contemplation to perfect a frame with the existing arrangement. of mind most favorable to his pur. again it was in tones which on shore for this lady's safety and do not ' she explained to the guests. would have been inaudible three feet require your assistance, he retorted, away, but on that breathless stretch glaring so absurdly that I could

of water, even though they faced in not repress a smile. 'Yes; but well set up. He looks the opposite direction, every sylla- Then, for the first time, the lady strong enough to portage a canal able came back to the stern with took a hand. "Gentlemen, isn't this

his theme; the situation was intro- you can probably find enough to do arms around my neck, and -"You "He'd be quite good looking," said duction enough. From a few stereo- getting me ashore." one of the young women, "if his face typed praises of the present scene he home and thence to his family and much of this I could stand, when the those tenderly intimate topics a grave butler motioned me toward man brings forward when he is bent the kitchen. Glad of the opportun- on fixing a girl's interest in himity to retire and collect my scatter- self. He did it well, too confoundeded wits, I was hastening after him, ly well! and as I recognized the trend of his remarks I fidgeted with "One moment, my good fellow. Can impotent rage. Her face I could not you handle a canoe?" titude, as she sat carelessly training time nor place for pleasantry," he Sir one hand in the water, to indicate a responded angrily. "Will you, or Why, of course he can, Sir one hand in the water, to indicate a responded angrily. "Will you, or orge," laughed the hostess. "What distaste for either existing circum- will you not, command this fellow be the use of a guide who stances or the end she must have

foreseen The climax came sooner than I exsince their first meeting; "You must -don't you understand-Aldine?"

As he spoke her name he reached Did I wait to see whether he would ing his title I should have placed him be allowed to hold it? Never! The as an Englishman. He could not act and the "Aldine" together provhave been far from thirty-five; and ed the last straw upon my fast-weakas I took in the perfect fit of his ening powers of endurance. With an dinner coat, his breadth of shoulder incoherent protest on my lips I and his ruddy, clean-shaven visage, knocked the paddle out of the way ealousy assailed me in a new and and sprang forward. The cranky

Because I was standing. I fell clear shook the water from my eyes I Miss Ten Broeck, however, was found it floating, bottom up, beyond my reach. Fearful lest the might be entangled under it, I swam with all my strength. At the second not already won, never dreamed of hastily thrust a hand under her shoulder and belned her reach the cance. "All, right, then," he continued, Barely had I secured a hold on the sing me, but locking toward pointed bow when around from the coolness that provoked my boundless opposite side came the Englishman, admiration. But the moment we beready, for we must be out in time splashing like a side wheeler, and, regan to wade she burst out to see the moon rise."

The thought of myself, unshaven and ready well cared for, seized her by "Now, sir, what does it and ready well cared for, seized her by "Now, sir, what does it and ready well cared for, seized her by "Now, sir, what does it and ready well cared for, seized her by "Now, sir, what does it and ready well cared for, seized her by "Now, sir, what does it and the seize of the seiz

last, growing weary of his abuse. it one that you meant to last?" While eating what the cook set be- "1 may have tip od the lady out, but

1 may have spoken with consider-The situation was trying, assumed role. The baronet could him.

The plunge had plas-Not a sound broke the stillness but down over his forehead with a meek my bedraggled figure-suddenly Even beyond son visage and bristling mustache lu- test. "Oh, stop! "Paddle as quietly as you can," Sir I laughed; and no wonder, for at that | "I want my answer," I repeated to little how he is clothed.

"Take my hands off?" I chuckled.

The opening of this dispute gave nor did she move, except to settle It was a spell soon broken. The back almost imperceptibly against my

But it was far otherwise with Sir When they began to speak George. "I tell you I am responsible

a poor place for a quarrel? I'm not He wasted no words leading up to much of a swimmer; and both of

"Put. " cried the baronet, "I passed to the beauties of his English fuse to let you place yourself under body else, in the smartest clothes obligation to this man when I am that were ever turned out of quite able to care for you myself. Poole's." You don't seem to realize that his clumsiness is responsible for our pre-

"Wasn't it you, Sir George, who proposed coming out here?" quired, with a lurking smile. "Miss Ten Broeck, this is not the

to release vou?" The climax came sooner than i care told militory.

Pet there's ful of chips.

Peted. In meaning accents Sir asked, plaintively. "But there's ful of chips.

Peter in the faithful nursuit room for you both. Please do some- | "Couldn't you find drier ones?" thing, one of you. This water is so These wet ones make the fire smoke would go to Mr. Lowry, the organ- light a boy's heart about the tree

> "It is evident that you do not trust | But never mind, do not start dignity. "Since you refuse my aid, hands are stiff and blue with cold; evening.

If he had been wearing a hat, I am | Poor Sonny, found none, so he replaced his eveglass instead and, letting go of the canoe, struck out for the shore. I shouted, "You're headed

wrong; the camp's in the opposite But he swam steadily heedless of the warning. Th point he sought was half a away, while the boat-house lay tant barely a hundred yards, though others hidden from sight by the canoe. "Don't worry about him," said Miss "He looks Ten Broeck, unfeelingly.

like a strong swimmer; and a good, long soaking in this mountain lake water will certainly improve his tem-Until our feet touched the pebbly bottom she remained silent, seconding my efforts with an intelligence and

gan to wade she burst out with the "Now, sir, what does it all mean?"

"Pefore I answer that." said I. the choice you made back there in the "What choice?" she asked innocent-

"That which led me to infer that you consider me a more desirable protector than the Englishman. Why did you send him away?

"I didn't. He swam off of his own accord, in a huff. You saw

"That's not answering my ques-As I repeated the query we stepped

sook the shelter of an amazed eye-|clean strip of beach near the boat-When I reached the boat house the brow and dropped into the lake. house. The air was se much warmer than the water that the change was extremely grateful. The moon streamed in Aldine's face as I confronted her and waited.

"Well, what do you want me "You know very well."

Her look traveled down her limp and dripping dress, then rested or her "Don't you see what

Aldine stubbornly.

"But can't you wait, only half an selves a little less like scarecrows?'

"Clothes? Clothes be hanged! don't want you to love my clothes. Suddenly Aldine's whole manner changed. She advanced a step and returned a steady gaze. "Was that the reason you dressed so and pre-

How I longed to dignify my silly to him. artifice with the romantic explanation she was so ready to accept. A simple "Yes" would have done it.

"No!" I shouted desperately, fighting down the temptation. wasn't the reason. I wore disreputable duds because I expected a rough fisherman's camp like the one I had left; and when in the midst of all that glitter I found you -I was ashamed, yes, afraid, to let you see me. So when nobody recognized me-not even you-and Mrs Massinger mistook me for a guide, I let you think so. * Aldine, could you ever love such a

vain, weak fool as that?" Heaven bless the girl! Her answer was a low, sweet laugh, two cool, wet dear old simpleton! I'd rather love you, in rags, than Sir George, or any-

KARL'S QUEST

It was Christmas eve, and regular winter weather, and the snow was flying thick and fast. Poor old or Granny, with tears rolling down "I'll see that a Santa Claus in full her wrinkled cheeks, stood poking at rigging goes to that house to-night, Don't you see him fussing around the the smouldering fire, which would or I'll not enjoy Christmas myself.' "I'm sure he wouldn't even if I not be coaxed into a blaze, just as told him to; so what's the use?" she 'Karl entered and threw down an arm- giving pails of candy and nuts to the

so that it makes Sonny cough worse. me," said Sir George, with returning for them now, for your poor little kind. you.

on his miserable thought Santa Claus was coming he had insisted upon her placing by the chimney piece, when she hadn't enough covering to keep his poor little sick, shivering body warm, and was racking her brain how to get nourishment for him. "Say, Granna," said Karl, after

crying, and had been asked the question, "Had he seen anything of Santa Claus while he was picking chips?"-"Sav Granny, I don't lieve Santa Claus knows where we live, do you? You've always told us how good and kind he is; and if he knew how Sonny wants him, and where we live, I'm sure he come down the chimney to-night. Don't believe he knows where

And Granny shook her head said, sorrowfully: "I am afraid that's it, my hov."

The idea struck Karl to go, and sneak in to see if he could catch a glimpse of Santa Claus, for he was bent on showing him where he lived. There was a lump in Granny's throat, and before she could regain her composure he had grabbed his

cap and was gone. "Oh, well," thought she, "let him Perhaps he will get a sight of the wonderful tree, at any rate.'

When Karl got there he crept into the entry and peeped in. The organ was pealing forth, and the children were singing at the tops of their voices that all-inspiring carol: "There's a wonderful tree, a wonder-

The happy children rejoice to see, Spreading its branches year by year, It comes from the forest to flourish here.

It was just about time for the distribution of gifts, and Miss Courtright, who was on the tree committee, had occasion to come out into the vestibule to get a basket, when she spied his ragged little figure. Miss Courtright had the most gracious, winning smile. No creature could resist her gentle manner, and she drew the little shivering form

"Oh, won't you come in," said she,

"and look at the pretty tree?" "Don't want to see no tree," said Karl. "Ain't Santa Claus in there?

I'm looking for him-want to speak "Won't you tell me what you want to say to Santa Claus? He was so

busy that he could not even get around to our festival to-night." Disappointment was written in every feature of his little face as he

"Oh, pshaw! I wanted to tell him where we live, 'cause he never seems to find our place, and Sonny is sick and wants him so bad.

"Poor little credulous creature!" thought Miss Courtright as she listened to the childish words, after obtaining from him the street and number of his home, which she promised to give to Santa Claus that night when she got home, for was sure that she would find him trimming the tree for little Margaret she told him.

Just then the children were singing: "Then spread thy branches, beautiful

And bring some dainty gift to me-" and she remembered that the time for the bed. Just then he awoke, ca the distribution of gifts was aping out:

"He has come! He has come, Grant out of the has come." him inside, she hastened to pick ny, ain't he?' some of the goodies from the tree for the little fellow, but when she came back he was gone.

"Well," thought Miss Courtright, And while she was hurrying about

well-provided-for children she thought out the little scheme of how out heart and soul into anything of this

And not an hour had elapsed before there is nothing more I can do. Good and, anyhow, Sonny is crying for her plan was on foot. Mr. Lowry and unpacking baskets and boxes a was hurrying down town, buying up loading the old table with go toys to add to Santa's pack, and Christmas cheer. sure he would have made a most straw bed! Little did he know how Miss Courtright was gathering up And there was a nice new war handsome how; but the hand that it was breaking old Granny's heart warm shoes and clothing of all des-shoulder shawl for Granny, whi went involuntarily to his forehead when he kept asking her if she criptions for the boys and dear old Miss Courtright put tenderly arou Granny, while Dinan, the cook, was her bent form, while she quietly slip this year to fill the little torn boot hurrying about, packing a basket full ped a roll of money into the of turkey, pie, cake, pudding, nuts, old withered hand; a soft lace candies and everything else that is which gave the old lady a sense

> While all this was in progress dear ed for years; a woollen dress old Granny had tucked Karl in for the night as best she could and sat | And so Sonny's dream was real watching poor Sonny tossing rest-jed, and Miss Courtright never he had heard Sonny whimpering and lessly and trying to still his fretful a happier Christmas. yearnings for Santa Claus to come. At length he fell into a quiet sleep, and dreamed a little dream.

He thought he heard a sudden noise, which there really was, for are few and drug stores not at a Miss Courtright's sleigh, full of boxes should provide themselves with just drawn up at the door. He would heard nothing of their entering, but reduce sprains, and when taken heard the sound of a horn and jingle of bells and the shuffling of heavy boots, and, looking up, saw coming down the rickety back stairs Santa Claus with a big pack on his back

₽ 1905 ₽ Circumcision of our Lord. M. Octave of St. Stephen. Octave of St. John Evangelist. W. Octave of Holy Innocents. Vigil of Epiphany. EPIPHANY-Holy Day of Obligation. Of the Octave. First Sunday After Epiphany First Sunday after Epiphany. Su. M. T. W. T. Of the Octave. Of the Octave. Of the Octave. Of the Octave. Octave of the Epiphany. W. S. Hilary. Second Sunday After Epiphany Holy Name of Jesus M. T. W. S. Marcellus. Pope M. S. Anthony. Abbot. St Peter's Chair at Rome. S. Canute. SS. Fabian and Sebastian. S. Agnes. Third Sunday After Epiphany Feast of the Holy Family. Espousels of the B. V. Mary. S. Timothy. Conversion of St. Paul. S. Polycarp. S. Vitalian. S. John Chrysostom. Fourth Sunday After Epiphany S. Francis de Sales. S. Felix IV. Pope. S. Peter Nolasco. 125 Courses by mail-courses for every boy and girl, man and woman in Canada-Education brings success-study at hor THE your spare time. Learn while you are earning. PEOPLE'S Canadian Correspondence College, Limited COLLEGE TORONTO, CAN.

31 DAYS

January

HOLY INFANCY

Educational

St. Michael's IN APPILIATION WITH College

Under the special patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto, and directed by the Basilian Fathers.

Full Classical, Scientific and Commercial Courses

Special courses for students preparing or University Matriculation and Non-

Professional Certificates. TERMS, WHEN PAID IN ADVANCE : Board and Tuition, per year ... \$160 Day Pupils.....

for further particulars apply to REV. J. R. TEEFY, President

oretto Abbey... WELLINCTON PLACE, TORON . O. O.

course of instruction comprises every to the education of young ladies. Circular with full information terms. &c., may be had by addressing

> LADY SUPERIOR, TOROS

In the ACADEM C DEPARTMENT special attent

around and place their presents

"Yes, my child, he has come," sa

Miss Courtright, bending over his and stroking the sunny curls from hi "Yes, he has come, an hot brow. he never will go by your house again

fireplace, filling that little boot?"
While little Sonny and Karl wer watching the bustling about of Sant Claus, placing drums, rocking horses, tops and all kinds of things that deist, who was just the one to enter Miss Courtright's maid was giving her attention to making Granny con fortable, while Miss Courtright herself was piling more fuel on the fir

dignity which she had not experies warm shoes.

A Medicine for the Miner's Pack Prospectors and others going the mining regions where docto should provide themselves with and bundles, Santa Claus and all, had supply of Dr. Thomas' Eclectric O It will offset the effects of exposur went on dreaming. He thought he ternally will prevent and cure cold and sore throat, and as a lubrican will keep the muscles in good coudi

"Sweet Heart of my Lord Jes meanly clad, paddling a rival's boat the other arm.

"Does all what mean?"

"This silly masquerade. When did nearby church rang out for the chilled dren's Christmas festival.

"This silly masquerade. When did nearby church rang out for the chilled dren's Christmas festival.

"Does all what mean?"

"This silly masquerade. When did nearby church rang out for the chilled dren's Christmas festival.

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."

"This silly masquerade will hold nearby church range of the chilled dren's Christmas festival."