

THE NIGHT COURT OF NEW YORK CITY

by Ruth Comfort Mitchell

"Call Rosa Costara!" Insolent, she comes.
The watchers, practised, keen, turn down their thumbs.
The walk, the talk, the face, that sea-shell tint,
It is old stuff; they read her like coarse print.
Here is no hapless innocence way-laid.
This is a stolid worker at her trade.
Listening, she yawns, half smiling, undismayed.
Shrugging a little at the law's delay,
Bored and impatient to be on her way.
It is her eighth conviction. Out beyond the rail
A lady novelist in search of types turns pale,
She meant to write of them just as she found them.
And with no tears or maudlin glamor or rounth them,
In forcible, virile words, harsh, true, words, without shame,
Calling an ugly thing boldly, an ugly name;
Sympathy, velvet glove, on purposes, iron hand,
But the eighth conviction! All the phrases she had planned,
Fail: "Sullen," "vengeful," no, she isn't that.
No, the pink face beneath the hectic hat,
Gives back her own aghast and sickened stare
With a detached and rather cheerful air,
And then the little novelist sees red
From her chaste heart all clemency is fled.
"O, loathsome, venomous, off with her head,
Call Rosa Costara." But before you stop
And shelve your decent rage,
Let's call the cop.
Let's call the plainclothes cop who brought her in,
The weary-eyed night watchman of the law,
A shuffling person with a hanging jaw,
Loose-lipped and sallow, rather vague of chin
Comes rubber-heeling at his Honor's rap.
He set and baited and then sprung the trap—
The trap—by his unsavory report.
Let's ask him why, but first
Let's call the court.
Not only the grim figure in the chair,
Sphinx-like, above the waste and wreckage there,
Skeptical, weary of the re-told tale,
But the whole humming hive—the false, the frail,
An old young woman with a weasel face,
A lying witness waiting in his place,
Two ferret lawyers nosing out a case,
Reporters questioning a Mexican,
Sobbing her sily heart out for her man,
Planning to feature her "Tone, desperate, pretty,"
Yes, call the court. But wait.
Let's call the city.
Call the community! Call up, call down,
Call all the speeding, mad, unheeding town!
Call rags and tags and then call velvet gown!
Go, summon them from tenements and clubs,
On office floors and over steaming tubs!
Then to the push carts and the limousines!
Arouse the lecture room, the cabaret!
Confound them with a trumpet blast and say,
"Are you so dull, so dead and blind indeed,
That you mistake the harvest for the seed?"
Condemn them for—but stay!
Let's call the code.
That facile thing they've fashioned to their mode;
Smug sophistries that smother and befool,
That numb and stupid; that clumsy thing
That measures mountains with a three-foot rule,
And plumbs the ocean with a pudding string—
The little, brittle code. Here is the root.
Far out of sight and buried safe and deep,
And Rosa Costara is the bitter fruit.
On every limb and leaf, death, ruin, creep.
So lady novelist go home again,
Rub biting acid on your pen.
Look back and out and up and in, and then
Write that it is no job for pruning shears.
Tell them to dig for years and years and years
The twined and twisted roots. Blot out the page;
Invert the blundering order of the age;
Reverse the scheme; the last shall be the first.
The lying dying code! On down the

line,
The city and the court, the cop. Assign the guilt, the shame, the blame!
Sling, lash and spur;
Call each and all! Call us! And THEN—call her!

The mere arraignment in the night courts of New York, in ninety nine cases out of a hundred, means conviction.—The Medico-Legal Journal, New York.

It has been said, "Courts for cowards were erected; churches built to please the priest." Who was it changed the definition of a court from "A place where justice is dealt out judiciously" to "A place where injustice is dealt out judiciously"? Law is one thing, decisions are another; construed in text books, misconstrued by and in courts. Are there no shot and shell for the vulture breed that sucks at the nation's heart? But there is a fleet for a foreign strand, and the foe is lord at home! Yes, vice, greed and crime! Bigotry, superstition and hypocrisy!
In the heart of the city that has no pity,
The current of vice had proved too strong;
So the poor little girls just drifted along—
She's just a lost sister, and nobody's missed her etc.—"In the Heart of the City that Has No Heart"—The \$10,000 Ballad.)

JURY AWARDS \$5 DAMAGES

Famous Point Anne Case Closed at Assize Last Evening

The now famous case of Joe Gage vs. Chief Reid at the assize ended last night at the court house, when the jury awarded \$5 damages to the plaintiff, Mr. Justice Britton reserved judgment as to costs, of which there are two sets in this case, because of the former trial which was set aside.

Mr. Porter yesterday afternoon sprung a surprise on the counsel for the plaintiff, Mr. J. E. McKenzie of Toronto, when he put in no evidence in defence. Neither Chief Reid nor Joe Gage attended the trial.

It will be remembered that Joe Gage of Point Anne was convicted in police court in 1914 of having "illegally" sold a quantity of liquor for sale. Gage disappeared and long afterward was located at Orillia. Chief Reid of that place had him taken into custody on behalf of the East Hastings Inspector and Joe Gage was brought to Belleville jail and locked up to serve his term. The counsel for the defence claimed that Gage was falsely arrested, falsely imprisoned and persecuted.

The trial held before Judge Middleton here was set aside and the present trial resulted.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM BROTHER OFFICER

Mayor Ketcheson today received the following congratulatory letter in reference to his son, Lieut. David Vanderwater Ketcheson has won while serving with the Expeditionary force. First winning a commission on the field and secondly by being awarded a military cross.

Regret very much to learn that he has since been wounded but trust he will have a speedy recovery so as to be of still greater service to his country.

Examples such as these should be an incentive to many young men who have not as yet answered the call.

WOMEN'S RIFLE CLUB

- Miss Thompson—97
- Miss McCarthy—96
- Miss Jenkins—96
- Mrs. Hyman—96
- Miss Wallbridge—92
- Mrs. Sandford—89
- Miss Rathbun—87

Asthma Cannot Last when the greatest of all asthma specifics is used. Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy assuredly deserves this exalted title. It has countless cures to its credit which other preparations had failed to benefit. It brings help to even the most severe cases and brings the patient to a condition of blessed relief. Surely suffering from asthma is needless when a remedy like this is so easily secured.

The following letter has been received from Sergt. Harry Burke by his mother:

January 12, 1917.
Dear Mother—Just a few lines to let you know I am feeling fine, hoping all are the same. Well we got over here after trying five drafts. Government representatives who in your last letter you were worried

LETTERS FROM OUR SOLDIER BOYS

Mr. E. B. Mullett, Benjamin St., has received the following graphic letter from his old friend, Pte. J. R. Pake:

Pte. J. R. Pake, 513314, Draft 10, C. A. S. C. Army P. O., London, Feb. 27, 1917.

Dear Uncle—I have written you twice since I came over here, but have received no answer so I guess the German Subs, must have got them as they have been doing a whole lot of Hellish work this winter.

We are out of quarantine now and have been to London on six days leave. London is a wonderful town I thoroughly enjoyed my visit there I was through the House of Parliament, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey where I attended divine service as also I did in St. Pauls. I was also fortunate enough to be shown through part of Buckingham Palace and saw the guard change at White Hall a wonderful sight from a military point of view. Best of all, though I happened to be on Trafalgar Square when the Lord Mayor in his robes of state together with the leading citizens of London were celebrating the victory war loan. There were over half a million people there of course I was through the principal parks, museums, etc., but did not have time to take in much of the East end as I would very much liked to do. I like England fine although food is getting scarce over here we get no luxuries such as sugar or potatoes now and our bread is the war loaf about 60 per cent flour and the rest some kind of dope. It is very good though. We use margarine instead of butter, but lots of meat and rice and some beans. I have been warned for France, many in two days or it may be a month I am all ready and eager to get over there. Our Draft has the distinction of being the best drilled draft of the Army Service Corp that has been in England. This is a soldier's country no civilians here except old men, boys and cripples. Lots of the women are doing war work too, they fire loc motives, drive coal wagons, automobiles, conductors on buses, porters in hotels, work on farms and everything you could think of.

Bill, my brother went to France the day before I went to London, they would not let me go to see him nor let him come to see me I surely felt pretty bad about it, but all a soldier can do is, do as he is told. If it had been in Canada I am afraid I would have gone anyway, but we can't pull off those kind of stunts over here.

We sure went through a lot of hardships and though it killed some of the boys it left me hard as iron and tough as wire. I am not afraid of anything in France. I have not heard from Bill since he went over and am kind of worried as he surely went into an awful hole, but hope he will have his usual good luck. Well Uncle Edd. I guess this is all for now I think. If the Lord spares me I will see you before next Xmas. Lots of love to all of you, J. R. P. Write soon.

P.S. I wrote this just before dinner and it is evening now I must tell you a little excitement we had at dinner time as we were lined up in front of the cook tent with our mess tins waiting for our rations we heard a great noise above us and looking up not over two hundred feet above our heads we saw a great black German aeroplane, you should have seen us scatter. He surely did not have any bombs left or he would have fixed some of us (some little village not far from here has very likely some sorrowful homes to night, but we will never know much about it as those kind of things are kept as secret as possible) Just as he flashed by zing zing along came four of our machines after him, hot foot and they got him too within half an hour, out on the Channel. There are a half a dozen aeroplanes buzzing around here yet looking for more of them. These German air raids are simply murder they come or attempt to come nearly every Sunday and manage (if they get by) to kill or maim a few working girls or Sunday School kids sometimes a few unarmed soldiers on a church parade. Never mind we will give them theirs before they are six months older.

about me coming over here. What do you want to worry about, for sure I will be alright. I would like to come over here and stop at that like some of the tender feet we have not for mine, I am going to see it and don't worry I will be back. Well Dear Mother this is the way I feel and can't help it they don't know how the boys feel over here all anxious to get to the front as soon as possible. I don't think you would be satisfied if I came over here and came home without seeing the front and all the rest of the boys doing their bit. Dear Mother be game and I will, I am no coward, not born that way.

Well this is some country more like Canada than England the towns and villages are more modern, that is in the south. Oh! but the people are swell, be in uniform and that is all there is to it.

Yesterday I was on the plains of Harve Plure where in, twelve hundred and twenty, King James the I and William the conqueror fought their battle some relic. I cannot explain the sights there are to be seen just the same as in the 12th century, not a bit modernized. I like this far better than England all the boys are happy just as happy going to the trenches as coming, but all they are looking for is Fritz.

Well it is very muggy now, but we don't mind as we have lots of warm clothes and a sheepskin jacket. How is Belleville just the same? Give all the boys my regards and don't forget Wardhaugh and Bill Kelleghee, tell Bill not to get too many white fish. How is Father and all the rest.

I was in Le Harve, France and saw two Belleville boys Belnap from across the Bay and J. Blaylock from St. Belleville. You see them all over here also Morley Taylor who used to keep the Albion Hotel.

Well I guess I will close for now your loving son, Harry, No. 636661, Canadian, B. E. F., 3rd Battalion, France.

JAPAN AND DEMOCRACY

Excellent Address by Dr Daniel Norman Before Canadian Club Last Evening.

An excellent address was delivered by Dr. Daniel Norman (of Toronto University) on the subject, "Japan in Relation to World Democracy and the Allies," before the Canadian Club last evening at the High School. In the absence of Rev. C. G. Smith, President of the Club Mr. D. V. Sinclair acted as chairman.

The speaker briefly contrasted autocracy in government with democracy, and defined a democratic state as "a means to the end of opportunity for development of individual character." Liberty of the subject was described as a by-product of democracy. Dr. Norman referred to the first signs of democracy in the Anglo-Saxon people (instanced by jury and municipal government). The revolution of 1688 ended autocracy in England and democratic principles began to prevail. A century later similar political changes took place in France, the Netherlands and Scandinavia. The Germanic states in Central Europe were unable to throw off their autocratic government.

Japan was many centuries under a military dictatorship and the Emperors (who claimed divine descent) were kept in seclusion. About the middle of the 19th century the Japanese dictator began to make treaties with Western nations, first with the United States and later with Great Britain. The Japanese people resented this and put away the last of the dictators. The Emperor began to exercise absolute authority. Shortly after, commissions were sent to Western countries to study conditions there. One commission reported in favor of the German constitution (of Bismark) giving the Emperor supreme power, and the Japanese Emperor in 1889 granted such a constitution. Another commission reported in favor of the German system of education, the result being that German professors were brought over to Japan to organize their national school system, medical colleges and universities. Japan also adopted conscription, the German system of military service.

The great influence of Germany in Japan was partially overcome by the presence in the East of British Government representatives who were men of ability virtue and honor

Japanese residents of Britain began to be enthusiastic with regard to the British people and British institutions English speaking missionaries in Japan used their influence to have unjust treaties set aside, and as the first power to abolish the old treaty and make equitable commercial arrangements with Japan. All these things went far toward bringing about close relations between Japan and Britain.

The speaker referred to the alliance made 16 years ago by Britain and reviewed some of the great results of it in the present war, notably the capture of German possessions in the East. He also related how, when the Russians were forced to retire before the Germans in 1915 Japan supplied Russia with military equipment, of all kinds, food, clothing, etc. Japanese officers went over to train the Russian forces.

Japan is poor in natural resources yet her people have invested large sums in British war loans. This is evidence of the mutual confidence existing between the two nations.

The speaker said that the Japanese have a growing connection of the responsibility of the people regarding their government, a great step towards democracy. The spread of Christianity has been a great influence in the direction of democracy. Elections are carried on in Japan strictly in accordance with law. Dr. Norman read some excellent rules that Japanese voters must obey. The speaker, who resided twenty years in Japan, related a number of personal experiences, all indicating the high intelligence, integrity and industry of the Japanese people. At the conclusion of his address a hearty vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Norman, on motion of Mr. C. M. Reid, seconded by Mr. Thos. Ritchie.

Fourteen Austrian merchant vessels in American ports, with a tonnage of over 67,000, were taken over recently by the Government coincident with the announcement that Austria had broken diplomatic relations.

Premier Lvov, of Russia, commenting on America's entrance into the war, termed it an event whose importance it was impossible to exaggerate. He said he was convinced it would materially hasten the triumph of the Allies.

John Kerman who is dead at Grimsby, was one of the pioneers in the raising of tomatoes under glass and made Grimsby hot-house tomatoes famous.

philosophy. She seldom appears in public, and when she does, she wears a heavy veil so as to make herself unrecognizable.

The United States, as a part of its co-operation with the Allies, may retaliate against Argentina's wheat embargo, by refusing to supply her with coal.

Three armed patrol boats to guard shipping and river front property night and day were placed in commission by Police Commissioner Cozens, of Detroit.

Three hundred and fifty of the young men of Guelph who signed the National Service cards several months ago received letters from the military authorities that their services were required for overseas service, and asking them to report at once to Lieut.-Col. Mutrie.

H. Beckman, student pastor for two years of St. Pauls Evangelical Lutheran Church, Galt, has accepted a call to become the regular pastor of the congregation.

Peter Borman, proprietor of the Brown House, Brighton, Ont., was convicted of having and giving liquor in a place not his private residence and was fined \$200 and costs.

On a charge of drunkenness, Earl Carmichael, 18, of Woodstock, was fined \$10 and on a second charge of having liquor, a penalty of \$200 or three months in jail was imposed.

Gideon Moreau, aged 35, and his two sons, aged four and two years, were burned to death last night in their home at 2051 Harbor St., Montreal, Mrs. Moreau was out and so escaped.

Strachan Johnson of the legal firm of Thompson, Tilley & Johnson of Toronto, has been appointed solicitor for the Department of Railways and Canals, in preparing the consolidation of the Railway Act Bill.

Three Austrians were brought to North Bay from Sturgeon Falls by C.P.R. policemen, charged with molesting trouble among the railway's employees at that point. They were sentenced to six months at the Burwash farm.

Capt. S. E. McOgney, chaplain of the 215th Batt., who will go as a private if not allowed to go as a chaplain, has tendered his resignation as rector of Trinity Anglican Church, Brantford, but the congregation will not accept it.

Creation of a General Munitions Board is announced by the U. S. Council of National Defence. It will be headed by Frank E. Scott, a Cleveland manufacturer, and will be charged with supplying the army and navy with munitions and equipment.

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