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The Stolen Portemonnaie

She Forgave the Thief Twice

By LILLIAN SHARPE

A young lady sat in a waiting room at a railway station watching the clock as its hands moved slowly toward the time of departure of her train. Presently she turned to a satchel on the seat beside her, placed it on her lap, opened it and took out her portemonnaie, which she laid in the place where her satchel had been.

A young man with curly auburn hair and brown eyes was sitting at the other end of the seat and observed that the girl had forgotten to put her portemonnaie back into the satchel. He kept his eyes on her and it until suddenly a railroad official called.

"Train for Hampton."

The young lady started, glanced at the clock, saw that the hands stood at fifteen minutes before her train time, remembered that trains are opened to travelers some time before they leave and, grasping her satchel, hurried away. Seeing the words "Ticket Office" over a window, she remembered that she had forgotten to provide herself with a ticket and, turning aside, took position at the end of a line of several persons.

"If that isn't just like a woman!" said the man who had declared had stolen her portemonnaie and if he did it would be essential that he communicate with her. She gave him her name, Alice Deane, and her address. When Hampton was reached Mr. Meriweather handed Miss Deane off the train, and they parted. The next day the former received from the latter the amount he had expended for her ticket. Within a week Mr. Meriweather wrote Miss Deane that he had seen the man who sat beside her in the station, had shadowed him and learned where he lived. Should he have the fellow arrested? Miss Deane replied that if Mr. Meriweather could induce the thief to return a sample of ribbon there was in the portemonnaie he was welcome to the rest of the contents.

The next day Mr. Meriweather rang the doorbell of Miss Deane's home and sent up his card. She came down to receive him becomingly dressed, and as she entered the room he held out the missing sample. She received it with some surprise.

"So the man who stole my portemonnaie," she said, "was he who sat beside me in the station?"

"He was."

"And he was quite willing, I suppose, to give up the sample on condition that he might keep the other things?"

"Yes."

"That was very nice of him."

"Was there anything else in the portemonnaie that you especially desired?"

"No; there were only the money, a few addresses and the samples. The addresses I know, and the other samples I don't care for."

"The fellow seems quite willing to return everything except the money. He seems to have admired you."

"And yet he stole my portemonnaie?"

"You are wrong in permitting him to go free; you are encouraging vice."

"I do, indeed. I consider it my duty, being cognizant of his criminal act, to inform the police of it."

"And would he have to go to jail?"

"Yes; he would have to go to jail, and that would surely make a criminal of him for life."

"Don't do it."

"How would it do for him to come to you, confess his crime, restore the other articles and throw himself on your mercy? You could tell him how wicked he had been in picture to him his end if he continued in crime. Then you could forgive him, and he might hereafter live a blameless life."

"I think that would do very nicely. It would be infinitely preferable to sending him to jail."

Mr. Meriweather left after a two hours' visit, promising to propose the plan he had suggested to the thief and ask if he would consent to make restitution and ask forgiveness. Miss Deane would be advised of the result.

A few days later Mr. Meriweather called and handed Miss Deane the money that had been lost with her portemonnaie, saying that the heart of the thief was slowly softening and he thought that if he could be taken under her influence he might yet make a man of himself. There was another two hours' chat, after which Mr. Meriweather departed, intimating that he expected the next time he came to

bring the penitent with him. Nevertheless, he required several more calls, each lasting from two to three hours, before the gentleman assured the lady that the criminal was ready to confess his fault and ask forgiveness.

Meanwhile, as may be supposed, other matters than this proposed reformation engaged Mr. Meriweather. Miss Deane, after a visit to the night Miss Deane asked for her satchel, an estimable catch, and receive a short time Meriweather a that the next would call upon the remainder of the to a lecture on cease her for pointed time cing at the door ulster, wearing glasses, was ad idence. Miss D the stranger in s "Pardon me f He bowed his l "I have been first criminal ac I sincerely hop your last. You heart, and think make her by yo are forgiven."

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you must have been an expert at sleight of hand and contrived to get your pocketbook away from you. I was in the station and saw a man sitting beside you."

"How careless of me! Could you identify the man?"

"I think I could."

"What was he like?"

"Well, he was not a very attractive looking person, but I wouldn't have taken him for a thief."

"Did you notice his features?"

"I noticed one feature. He was a red headed chap."

The young lady cast a side glance at her companion's hair.

"Anything else?" she asked.

"Nothing special. He was looking at you admiringly. I wonder that he stole from you."

A girl can't help being pleased at admiration even from a thief. The young lady instinctively put her hand to her back hair.

Not long after this, when the train was nearing Hampton, Mr. Meriweather thought it better that he should have the young lady's address; he might meet the man who he declared had stolen her pocketbook and if he did it would be essential that he communicate with her. She gave him her name, Alice Deane, and her address. When Hampton was reached Mr. Meriweather handed Miss Deane off the train, and they parted. The next day the former received from the latter the amount he had expended for her ticket. Within a week Mr. Meriweather wrote Miss Deane that he had seen the man who sat beside her in the station, had shadowed him and learned where he lived. Should he have the fellow arrested? Miss Deane replied that if Mr. Meriweather could induce the thief to return a sample of ribbon there was in the pocketbook he was welcome to the rest of the contents.

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For Infants and the Kind You Have Bears the Signature of *Casto*

Cigars That

Ever smoke an Well, these Igorrotes pine Islands, make a one respect is like Christmas plum pudd week. It's fifteen in there to five inches li g, rolls the cig, and hour; then Misses Ig little lgs. take their t the fourth day it must dar attachment to ke tion. One smoke lik last some people a life

An Apolog

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The editor inserted t next day. "We extreme announce that the para last issue which stated Blazer was dead with tion."

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The postoffice authori ing attention to the fact lars of foreign lotteries and Denmark are passi the mails. Postmasters to send them back to origin. Letters from Can to be forwarded to the a these concerns, and no orders are to be made them.

Courage.

"Henry is a brave man. The other night his wife thought she heard a burglar."

"And he went down?"

"No. He had the courage to tell her he was afraid."

Away With Depression and Melancholy.

These two evils are the accompaniment of a disordered stomach and torpid liver and mean wretchedness to all whom they visit. The surest and speediest way to combat them is with Parnee's Vegetable Pills, which will regulate the healthful action of the stomach and bring relief. They have proved their usefulness in thousands of cases and will continue to give relief to the suffering who are wise enough to use them.

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