

Not the Meanest Man

By C. Courtenay Savage

PART II.

The following morning Mrs. Thompson remained in bed until she had finished breakfast. Nettie refused to allow her near the kitchen.

"You heard what the doctor said about resting?" Nettie asked.

"I don't want to rest but somehow I feel that he is right. I'm getting old, Nettie. I think I realized it for the first time this morning."

That afternoon Nettie harnessed one of the horses and took Mrs. Thompson to call on the Lumbards. They stayed more than two hours. Mrs. Lumbard showing John's mother the house with all its modern equipment. When they started home, Mrs. Thompson's eyes were brighter as if what she had seen had given her a broader outlook on life.

"That's a very comfortable porch," was the only comment she made. "I think I could take more rest if I had a place as nice as that."

"That evening after the supper dishes were washed, Nettie went to the barn in search of John. She was determined to speak to him on this matter even if she had to leave his home as a consequence."

"Mr. Thompson," she began her narrative with no introduction. "I want you to give me fifty dollars."

"Fifty dollars?" he said quickly.

"Yes. Your mother has to spend several hours a day resting and she needs clean, bright surroundings to take her mind from herself. I shall take the money over to Mr. Lombard and ask her as a favor to go to Rockland and buy three wicker chairs, some cushions and a rug like those she has. They're for the porch. Then I want you to let one of the hired men paint the porch to gowrow and clean up the front yard, bath and all."

John looked at her with wide, staring eyes.

"But my mother—" he commenced.

Nettie cut his words short. "The doctor told us both what rest and pleasant surroundings would do for her and it must be done. If you haven't the money, the house can't have a cheque. If you won't give me the money, I—I think I'll have to use my own."

She turned and looked out the big doorway, idly watching a passing automobile. For several minutes there was silence. When she looked again at the man she imagined she despised, knowledge that overwhelmed her consciousness and into her heart came a rushing wind.

Two years had coursed their way down John Thompson's sun-tanned cheeks.

"Nettie! Nettie! You believed it too!" He placed his hand on her shoulder and looked into her eyes.

"I'm not the meanest man, Nettie, even if they say so. Here in my barn I have every modern equipment while my home is old and habby. It isn't my wish to have it so. I don't want my mother in the kitchen doing a hired girl's work."

"She and Father were poor for years—but very, very happy. When riches came to her. Mother was afraid to change her manner of living. She felt that if she were to have luxuries, happiness might not come with them. She had always been happy at her work—she wanted to stay that way. When I wanted to put running water in the house, Mother objected. When I begged her to get a hired girl, she laughed and told me that she was still able to do her own work. She's been in a rut all these years and is afraid to get out. Can't you help her? Don't ask Mr. Lombard to buy the furniture. Take Mother and let her buy it herself."

"Would she help? Together they went over each detail of the new house. Nettie made a dozen practical suggestions, carried away with the enthusiasm with which John described his home."

During the next few days Mrs. Thompson was frankly annoyed. Purposely in her hearing, Nettie complained about the lack of facilities. Gradually, however, after she had heard Nettie wonder many times how it would be possible to work year after year in such a manner without becoming too tired to live, Mrs. Thompson, for the first time in her life, looked back over her toil-filled years and questioned if she had not been doing unnecessary work.

"Nettie," she said suddenly one evening, "I've been wondering if it would make a lot of work to put running water into the house."

"Of course it wouldn't," John answered before the girl could speak. "What if it did, if it would make you more comfortable?"

Gradually, very gradually, Nettie and John swung the conversation to the point where not only running water was being considered but also a new stove and bathroom.

"If necessary, you and Nettie could take a trip while the work was being done and I could get a woman to do the housework," John suggested.

"A trip? No. That you hear. I'll stay here and see they do it properly. It's my kitchen they're fixing over. But that idea of getting a woman to help with the work isn't bad, for I really am tired and I don't want Nettie to work. She's here to rest."

Nettie urged that the work be done at once, for even if John built the house he planned on the rise of ground a quarter of a mile away, the old farmhouse could be used as a tenant house and needed repairs.

John was quick to see the argument.

The new work was finished in less than two weeks' time and Mrs. Thompson admitted that she was more comfortable than ever before.

By a word here and a word there, John and Nettie sounded Mrs. Thompson on the prospect of a new home.

At first she laughed at the idea but in a few weeks she had come to think that some day they might build.

Before the end of another week John showed his mother the cherished plans. His enthusiasm crept into his mother's heart as it had into Nettie's.

"Then it's decided, Mother? We may build up there on the knoll?"

"You may build at once—only build well, my son, build well!"

"Perhaps when it's finished you'll be busy work of excavating and laying the foundation for the new home went forward. In the swamp land, the soft maples were turning red; in the orchards the fruit was fast ripening for a plentiful harvest. Nettie was planning to go back soon to the city to settle down to her winter labors."

In the hush of twilight, she and John walked to the knoll where the new house was to stand. The foundation was nearly finished. The ground was littered with rough boards. At one end of the lot stood an orderly heap of lumber—the upright posts that would soon go into place. For a minute they stood in silence, each picturing the completed house.

"Perhaps when it's finished you'll ask me to come and see it? I feel as if it were mine, as if every bit of wood and stone were part of my being. Queer, isn't it, how you can really love a house?"

"It's real love, Nettie," John took her hands in his and drew her close to him. "When you wrote that you were coming here, I prayed that you would be just what you have been—an angel to unclash the door that led to my mother's happiness. The house will be finished at Christmas. May I come for you then? May I bring you here? I love you, Nettie. I love you beyond all the world."

"You—you—dearest man!" she sobbed and buried her head on his shoulder.

(The End.)

THE UNBOASTING ENGLISH.

Another U.S. Writer Pays Tribute to the British People.

H. H. Windsor, in an article in the Popular Mechanics Magazine of Chicago, pays the following tribute to Great Britain's war record:

"Of all people the English are least conceited. They have no pride for having done what the conscience of the nation understood to be the right thing to do. They never seek applause, nor are they swayed from a course deemed right for lack of it. It is a sterling quality which has often been mistaken for mere stubbornness. Among some other things we have discovered during the war, one is that the English are indomitably and persistently, for years, sowed seeds of suspicion and hate of the English throughout the world."

Because Germany was jealous of England she hated her; and hating her wanted all other countries to hate England also. And so around the world went an army of German spies whose mission was to spread a propaganda of hatred. Germany, ungrateful, had no cause for this.

English ports the world over were open freely to German ships to come and go and trade at will. England herself bought from Germany annually millions of dollars worth of German-made goods. In excess of what Germany bought from England. Germans in England were as free to work, travel, sell goods as any Englishman while the Englishman in Germany was subject to constant surveillance and in arriving at a German city must first of all file a lengthy report containing a personal history, the nature of his errand there and how many days he intended to remain in that place.

As we all know, it was a question of honor and not necessity which brought England into war immediately. She, too, with the exception of a strong navy, was entirely unprepared, and the world will never cease to owe a debt of gratitude to those brave men who, with only scanty supplies and scantier ammunition, held, actually by a thread, and at awful cost of life, the Hun line, while an army was gathered and munition works were being built. But for the English navy the war would have ended very differently. But for English ships, also, only thirty per cent of the American troops could have reached France.

Of all the great things of the war none is greater than the magnificent loyalty of the British Dominions and colonies to the mother country. While they might have remained aloof, without a moment's hesitation they united and heartily rallied to her aid. Of their best of life and treasure they sent from far-distant lands and climates, freely, voluntarily, uncomplainingly. It was a grand spectacle, a mighty tribute.

Because no press bureau was maintained to keep us constantly reminded, there are few of us who as yet begin to realize our debt to Great Britain in these things, with the story of our debt, and with that understanding will come a truer sense of our obligation.

Once more fruit growers are reminded that small apple trees can be protected from mice and rabbits by tying burlap paper around the trunk and covering the first 18 inches.

The Purchase of Stocks and Bonds

is made comfortably easy when our

PARTIAL PAYMENT PLAN

is used. This really helps you to save money as you put by just what you can spare from your regular earnings, making your monthly payments to us, the installments going towards the purchase of any selected dividend-paying stock. We invite you to write now for a free copy of our booklet entitled "Saving by the Partial Payment Plan," which fully explains our system.

H. M. Connolly & Co.

Members Montreal Stock Exchange

105-106 Transportation Building

MONTREAL P.Q.

A PARADISE FOR BIRDS

Palestine Abounds in Features of Scientific and Religious Interest.

Swarms of European birds visit Palestine in winter and many breed there. The cranes, as in Dante's fine line, still pass in winter, "trailing their long-drawn line across the sky," and in the spring the voice of the turtle is heard in the land.

The Holy Land is appropriately a stronghold of the pigeon family; turtle doves are found, the wood pigeon comes in myriads in winter, and the common pigeon, the true dove of Scripture, is still abundant, both wild and tame, throughout the country.

As a contrast to these, "every raven after his kind," the crow tribe of several species is in abundance, and birds of prey, from the great griffin culture, the "eagle" of Scripture, to the sparrowhawk, are a feature of the country.

In the deep tropical Jordan valley we find a sort of aviary of real tropical birds, which found there a refuge from the last glacial epoch—the lovely little sunbird, or "dericho" hummingbird, the land-feeding white-breasted kingfisher and a species of gregarious thrush.

On the coast is found the great Indian fishing owl, and among the rocks of Marsaba the monks have laid famed the orange-winged blackbird, which is really a starling of African type, as much out of its latitude as the hyrax. One of the birds peculiar to Palestine is the pygmy Mobite sparrow, which lives in reed beds, is one of the rarest birds in the world.

Reptiles abound, and even the Nile crocodile, the leviathan of the Bible, lingered long enough to give Tristram the chance of obtaining a specimen nearly 12 feet long, while in addition to the African cobra, we find the grass snake among the harmless species, and the wicked little horned viper lies in wait, as in olden times, to bite the heels of the horses.

As for the fish, they are as abundant and varied as ever, and it is interesting to note that the Sea of Galilee is still packed with them, and that the commonest kinds are of an African family, an interesting illustration of the scientific interest which unites with the religious to make Palestine among the most interesting of all countries.

Germans Had to Move.

Owing to the great damage which was caused by the Germans on their evacuation of the docks, it is difficult to differentiate between their deliberate work and the destruction resulting from the terrific bombing from the air during the last few months of the war. Information from various sources, however, makes it abundantly clear that the enemy's decision to give up the port of Bruges, as a repair base for submarines, was in the main due to his inability to defend it against the increasingly powerful attacks from the air.

The biggest explosion ever experienced in Bruges was caused by British airmen at La Brooise works, May 31, 1918. The concussion was felt all over the city, and the flames lit up the sky for many miles around. It is said that the explosion wrought so much destruction of valuable machinery that work was never properly resumed in these extensive factories.

The Raven's Warning.

Tradition has it that all the calamities which dog the footsteps of the ill-fated Austrian Royal family are foreshadowed by the appearance of a raven.

When the Archduke Maximilian departed for Mexico and execution—a raven followed him on the path; and when the Archduchess Christina left for her unhappy life in Spain a raven hovered over the carriage.

A whole flight of ravens is said to have hovered over the crowning of the late Francis Joseph, and one of the ill-omened birds dashed a peach from the hand of the Empress Elizabeth the day before she was murdered at Geneva.

More U. S. Settlers.

As shown by the report of the Department of the Interior on Immigration for the fiscal year 1917, the number of settlers from the United States who entered Canada at western points of entry during the year shows an increase of about 100 per cent. compared with the previous year.

BUILT "TRAIN SHEDS" IN WATER

GERMANS TRIED TO ROOF THE OCEAN.

Had Submarines in Concrete Sheds. But Had to Abandon Them Because of British Bombardment.

The Germans built great "train sheds" in the water to shelter their submarines at Bruges, Belgium, from bombs dropped from the air.

The sheds have concrete roofs 11 feet thick, and are of massive proportions. From early in 1917 until the Huns were forced to abandon Bruges altogether, 4,000 workmen were employed in building the great sheds for the undersea boats.

Hundreds of concrete pillars, each two feet thick and 25 feet high, supported the heavy roof. Eight of the sheds had been completed and the ninth was being built when the Germans decided to run along home.

In the very early days of the war the Germans clearly planned the harbors of Zebrugge and Ostend as permanent bases and repair stations for their submarines. The original boats being built at Hoboken works, near Antwerp. The first large repair works appear to have been situated at the Atelier de la Marine at Ostend, but it is probable that the docks at Bruges, which are connected with Zebrugge by a ship canal, were being developed at an early period of the war.

British Bombing Campaign.

Largely owing to offensive naval operations off the Belgian coast, assisted by aircraft, the two harbors became exceedingly unhealthy shelters for such comparatively fragile craft as submarines, and after the bombardment of May, 1916, the large floating docks at Ostend were towed around to Zebrugge, and so up to Bruges.

Following up this initial victory, with great vigor, British airmen commenced, in January, 1917, an intensive bombing campaign, directed chiefly against the docks at Bruges, the lock-gates and harbor at Zebrugge, and the ship canal itself, which was, of course, the only outlet by which the submarines could gain access to the sea.

Some idea of the severity of these attacks may be gained from the fact that no fewer than 6,123 bombs were dropped upon Bruges docks alone, while a similarly large number were dropped upon Zebrugge and Ostend.

Apart from the immense and continuing damage caused to the Mole, sidings, quays, railways and shipping at Zebrugge, the lock-gates themselves—a singularly difficult target to hit, even from a low height—were kept practically always under repair. Indeed, on several occasions, as the result of direct hits by British airmen, one of the gates had to be removed by immediate floating cranes, and a spare gate fitted, the damaged gate being towed laboriously to Bruges for repair in drydock.

Germans Had to Move.

Owing to the great damage which was caused by the Germans on their evacuation of the docks, it is difficult to differentiate between their deliberate work and the destruction resulting from the terrific bombing from the air during the last few months of the war. Information from various sources, however, makes it abundantly clear that the enemy's decision to give up the port of Bruges, as a repair base for submarines, was in the main due to his inability to defend it against the increasingly powerful attacks from the air.

The biggest explosion ever experienced in Bruges was caused by British airmen at La Brooise works, May 31, 1918. The concussion was felt all over the city, and the flames lit up the sky for many miles around. It is said that the explosion wrought so much destruction of valuable machinery that work was never properly resumed in these extensive factories.

The Raven's Warning.

Tradition has it that all the calamities which dog the footsteps of the ill-fated Austrian Royal family are foreshadowed by the appearance of a raven.

When the Archduke Maximilian departed for Mexico and execution—a raven followed him on the path; and when the Archduchess Christina left for her unhappy life in Spain a raven hovered over the carriage.

A whole flight of ravens is said to have hovered over the crowning of the late Francis Joseph, and one of the ill-omened birds dashed a peach from the hand of the Empress Elizabeth the day before she was murdered at Geneva.

More U. S. Settlers.

As shown by the report of the Department of the Interior on Immigration for the fiscal year 1917, the number of settlers from the United States who entered Canada at western points of entry during the year shows an increase of about 100 per cent. compared with the previous year.



Forty Ways to Save Food

Here are forty ways in which housewives may save food:—

Eliminate the fourth meal. Practice the gospel of the clean plate.

Add to this gospel the gospel of the watched garbage pail. No matter how saving you have been you must be more vigilant.

By careful buying. 1—Look over the food in your pantry and ice box before you go market. Plan to use foods on hand before buying more.

2—Do not buy more fruits, vegetables and perishable foods than you can use within a short time.

3—Buy seasonable foods because your family needs them, and because their use means the saving of staples which can be shipped.

4—Take home everything you buy. Do not leave meat bones or trimmings for the butcher. Bones can be used in soups. Fats can be rendered out. Fish trimmings can be used for chowder.

By careful storage. 5—Sort fruits and vegetables, and use the imperfect ones first, so that they will not spoil, and then have to be thrown out.

6—Do not allow vegetables to wilt. 7—Keep milk in a cool place so it will not sour.

8—Remove meat from paper and keep in a cool place. 9—Keep butter or fat in a covered container to prevent absorption of odors and flavors.

10—Keep tea, coffee and spices in covered tins so they will not lose their strength.

11—Keep your bread box clean and dried so that bread will not become mouldy.

By careful preparation. 12—Do not burn food. 13—Make everything you cook taste good so that it will be eaten and relished.

14—Scraps out mixing bowls, and cooking utensils, so that good food is not left to go into the dish water. 15—Empty entirely such things as milk bottles, tin cans and paper bags. Do not leave bits of food to be thrown away.

16—Save water in which rice and vegetables have been cooked and use for soups.

17—Use outside leaves of cabbage and lettuce for "shredded" salads, soups, or "stuffed" leaves.

18—Use apple parings and cores for apple jelly or for vinegar.

19—Dry celery leaves and parsley and save for seasonings.

20—Use sour milk in baking and for cottage cheese or salad dressing.

21—Make peaches of fruit and vegetable chutney.

22—Try out chicken fat and other fat trimmings for use in cooking.

23—Strain and save all drippings. 24—Try to cook only the amount of food needed for a meal, unless you wish more for a special purpose.

When Food is on the Table. 25—Cut the bread at the table so there will be no extra slices to be "used" somehow.

26—Serve small portions and allow second helpings.

27—Give a person opportunity to say whether food shall be served to him or not. Do not serve any one food which he does not like and will not eat.

28—In serving meat, do not serve fat which will not be eaten. Cut it off and leave it on serving plate, to be tried out later for cooking. Save steak bones or serving plate.

29—Serve smaller amounts of salad dressing.

After The Meal. 30—Save small amounts of meat for sandwiches or to season vegetables or casserole dishes.

31—Save left over vegetables for salads, soups or seasonings.

32—Save fruit juices for ices, gelatin desserts or puddings.

33—Save liquids from vegetables for soups.

34—Save crumbs from bread board. 35—Save left over biscuits, muffins or bits of bread. Dry and make crumbs for baking or for scalloped dishes.

36—Save cake crumbs for puddings or dark cake.

37—Cook soft eggs until hard and use in salads, sandwiches or with potatoes.

38—Save cold cereals for thickening soups, for puddings, muffins, bread, or to be sliced when cold and sautéed.

39—Save bits of fruit for fruit salad or mixed fruit desserts.

40—Put away all left overs carefully so as to prevent spoilage.

Your Storeroom. Have your store room as far from the furnace as possible, and see that it has at least one window. The window should be easy to open and shut, and for proper ventilation it should be closed during the day in warm weather and opened at night. In cold weather it should be opened during the day and closed at night.

Collect your boxes, barrels, crates and bins and clean them well. They should not be put on the floor, but raised on slats so that air can

Brave Tars Fight AS SHIP EXPLODES

CREW OF DUNRAVEN BATTLES U-BOAT TILL AID COMES

Submarine Quits on Approach of British and American Destroyers, Who Rescue the Wounded.

The loss of the British decoy ship Dunraven in a desperate battle with a German submarine, the story of which has now been made public by the British Admiralty, constitutes one of the most daring and heroic episodes of the anti-submarine war. With their vessel ablaze, the boxes of cordite and shells exploding every few minutes, the after-gun crew stuck to their guns until the magazine exploded and blew them and their gun into the air. Meanwhile the battle with the submarine was fiercely waged.

This action took place in August, 1917. The vessel was one of the decoys which was commanded by Capt. Gordon Campbell, who had previously won the Victoria Cross by heroic and successful work in decoying submarines to their destruction. In her role of an armed British merchant ship, the Dunraven was zigzagging her course in the lanes hunted by the submarines when a U-boat opened fire upon her at 5,000 yards. The Dunraven returned the fire with her merchant ship gun and reduced her speed to enable the Hun to overtake her. To coax him on wireless signals were sent out reading, "Help! Come quickly! Submarine chasing and shelling me."

U-Boat Steams Up Closely.

Finally, when the submarine's shells began falling, the Dunraven stopped and the usual "panic party" was abandoned. The Dunraven was then on fire aft and the submarine closed in to a distance of 400 yards, but was partly obscured from view by dense clouds of smoke issuing from the Dunraven's stern.

Although he knew that the magazine must explode if he waited, and that a gun and a gun's crew lay concealed over the magazine, Captain Campbell reserved his fire until the submarine had passed clear of the smoke. A moment later there was a heavy explosion and the Dunraven's gun and its crew were blown into the air. The concussion started the fire gongs at the remaining gun positions. The screens hiding the guns were dropped and the only gun that could be brought to bear opened fire. The submarine commenced to submerge. Knowing that a torpedo would surely follow, Capt. Campbell had all the wounded brought up and concealed in cabins. The after part of the Dunraven was a mass of flame, but the crew fought the fire with hose, while wireless signals were sent out warning all other vessels to keep below the horizon so as not to interrupt the final phase of the fight.

Twenty minutes later another torpedo struck the ship aft the engine room. Another "panic party" was sent away in the boat, leaving the ship apparently abandoned with the British flag flying and her guns unmasked, but Captain Campbell and a handful of officers and men had remained on board and lay hidden for nearly an hour while the submarine commander held off watching the burning ship through his periscope.

Shelled for Twenty Minutes.

During all that time boxes of cordite and shells were exploding every few minutes and the fire was blazing furiously. Eventually the submarine emerged astern where no guns could be brought to bear upon her, and shelled the Dunraven for twenty minutes. The U-boat then steamed past the ship 150 yards off and Campbell fired one of his torpedoes at her but missed by a few inches. A second torpedo also missed. The submarine was planning to jump overboard and leave one gun crew for a final attempt to sink the U-boat when British and American destroyers arrived on the scene. The Dunraven's wounded were transferred, her gunners recalled and the fire extinguished. The Dunraven, in a sinking condition was taken in tow, but the weather grew worse and on the following morning she sank with her officers flying.

The Czechs and Slovaks.

The Czechs and Slovaks are in effect the same race, with only slight difference in language, and political division between them was erected only in 1967, when to divide the energies of the people, the Slovaks were put under Hungarian rule. The Czechs and Slovaks have for many years chafed under and resisted Austrian and Hungarian rule. The Czechs inhabit Bohemia, Moravia and Austrian Silesia, crown lands of the Austrian empire lying between Austria proper and the south of the German empire. The Slovaks live in the upper region of Hungary, adjoining the Czechs to the east and southeast. The Czechs are one of the most highly civilized people in the world and economically the most prosperous of the Austrian empire.

Our mistakes contribute much to the wisdom of others.

LIFE IN MESOPOTAMIA

Soil and Climate Ideal and No One Has to Work Hard.

Seekers of "soft snaps" are turning their wistful optics on Mesopotamia, which seems to have maintained Utopian conditions in spite of Turkish oppression. Prince Raphael Emmanuel, son of a Chaldean high priest, who has been lecturing in this country, is largely responsible for their wistful attitude. According to the prince's fascinating account of his native land, the soil is so rich that it is only necessary to work four months in the year. Then there are the additional lures of beautiful climate and comfortable habits and customs which add a potent charm to inherent laziness. The Kansas City Star reports him as saying:

There is no money in Mesopotamia. There is need for none. We pay no taxes, neither do we pay tribute. Wheat, fruit and skins are the only medium of exchange. We have no policemen, no courts, no judges. The people do not know their names. They would not understand the meaning of fighting for liberty, as they always have been free.

There is no record of time in Mesopotamia. We never know what day of the week it is and do not care. Clocks or watches are unknown; my people would not know what to do with them. Time is told by the height of the sun and servants arise by the cock-crow as they did in the days of Jesus.

We raise the finest tobacco in Mesopotamia, but we do not chew it or smoke cigars. The men smoke cigarettes or pipes. Our women do not smoke. There are no saloons in Mesopotamia. My people make wine, but is not the fermented kind that you have here. It is only used on occasions, however, and then it is not considered proper for women to drink it.

SIAM'S NEW FLAG

Changed Into a Tri-Color to Commemorate Joining Allies.

Siam has a new flag. To commemorate the entry of his country into the war against Germany, King Maha Vajiravudh decided to modify the flag by adding blue to it, in order that it might be a tri-color like the flags of the other allies.

"This addition," says the royal decree, "will serve as a token of equality and honesty between Siam and her allies, for it is a sign of the alliance of the world against barbarism. Besides the color blue recalls the birthday of his Majesty and is used especially for him. It seems good to him to make it figure in the national flag."

By the terms of this decree the new flag has five horizontal stripes—red, white, blue, white, red. The width of the blue stripe is three-sevenths of the total breadth, and that of each of the red and white stripes is one-seventh.

This flag is called the "Thong Trai Rong," and is flown upon all merchant vessels and ashore in Siamese territory. Vessels in the Government service fly the same flag, but with an anchor, a wheel and a crown, in yellow, in the middle. Those of the royal Siamese navy carry in the middle a red disc on which is a white elephant.