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AN ODD MEETING

With One Who Had Been In a Different Position

By MILDRED LOUISE DODGE

The social world is a boiling pot. That which is under goes to the top and after whirling about awhile sinks again. The loss of fortune among the aristocrats of Europe produces disastrous effects on the losers. There is little or no hope of its recovery, and they must drop to a lower scale. They can't bear to live among people who have considered them far better than themselves.

There is now an American colony in every capital in Europe, and those who are financially able to entertain and be entertained have an easier entrance to the one main social circle prevalent over by royalty than any other nationality, for the reason that since we have no titles in America no rank is expected of us. Some years ago a wealthy American gentleman named Tracy spent a month in Rome. His wife and daughter, Henrietta, had always moved in the upper circles of America, and, having friends in the



HE WAS LUIGI BRANDINI

Eternal City to introduce them, they soon found themselves in the swim there.

Henrietta Tracy was much sought after by Italians, who would have been glad to marry a beautiful American with a fortune. Her only object in accepting their attentions was a natural desire to see the world in Rome. One young man she fancied, but he was supposed to be perfectly independent financially and did not seem inclined to join the throng of her suitors.

But the lady was not sure that indifference was the cause of his standing aloof, though she did not know. There are young men who are either too proud to enter into a competition for the hand of a girl pursued by fortune hunters or too sensitive to pay attention to such. But this young man, Luigi Brandini, was not a pauper and no such motive could be attributed to him, though his estate was said to be involved in a law suit of many years standing.

Nevertheless Brandini showed Miss Tracy every attention he could without indicating that he was likely to become a suitor. The last time she saw him at a social function was a ball given at the Quirinal palace, where he was her partner more than once during the evening. He seemed gloomy, and Miss Tracy could not help wondering if her departure, which was to take place the next day, had anything to do with his depression. When she was leaving the palace the young man bid her goodnight and goodby with a far-away look in his eye that boded some impending calamity.

That was the last the Tracys saw of Rome for some time. From there they went to Berlin, thence to London and finally sailed from England to America.

Two years passed. One day Miss Tracy entered a restaurant in an American city with a party of friends for luncheon. When they were seated a waiter advanced with a napkin on his arm to serve them. Looking up at him Miss Tracy met his eye. The hot blood rushed to his cheeks and an expression of mingled pain and mortification showed itself in every feature of his face. The man recognized her as she recognized him. He was Luigi Brandini.

He turned and went away, and she saw him no more. Presently another waiter came and took the party's orders. It is needless to say that the luncheon had been spoiled for Miss Tracy. The face of one she had just met as a guest in the Quirinal palace in Rome changed to a waiter in an American restaurant was appalling.

Being ignorant of what had caused this downward course in the social scale on the part of Brandini, she wrote a friend who made Rome her residence and who had recently come to America for a visit. In reply she was informed that soon after her departure from Italy an important suit of many years' standing between Luigi Brandini and a cousin had been decided in the court of last appeal against Brandini and made him a pauper. He had disappeared from Rome, and no one knew where he had gone. Rumor had it that he had enlisted in the French foreign legion; that he had committed suicide; that a bandit who was terrorizing a province in Sicily under the name of Catania was Brandini. For awhile these wild rumors went from mouth to mouth; then the poor man was forgotten by the social world as completely as if an ocean had closed over him.

Miss Tracy read the information imparted, and her sympathies went out all the more to her former acquaintance, especially at learning that his fall was not attended with disgrace. It was hard for her to understand that helplessness under which gentlemen of Europe who were not born to work experience when they are thrown out upon the world. It does not exist—certainly not to so great an extent in America.

What could she do for Brandini? Nothing. The pride which had caused him to flee from such help as he might have received from his friends would prevent his accepting assistance from a woman he had known in that exclusive circle. One of the unseen advantages that beset the way of those who tread roseate paths had been suddenly exposed to her vision.

The only effort Miss Tracy felt herself in a position to make in Brandini's behalf was to inform her father of her meeting with the Italian, with a view to learning if anything could be done for him. Mr. Tracy was disposed to help one who had contributed to his and his daughter's pleasure in a foreign land. He went to the restaurant where Henrietta had seen Brandini, described him to the proprietor and was told that a man answering that description had left his service on the day Miss Tracy had met Brandini. The proprietor did not know where he had gone. That ended the matter for the time being and possibly forever.

But Fate, who delights in arranging all sorts of complications for us, was working the matter in his own peculiar fashion. Many a man's career has been determined by some slight incident such as missing a train, falling into a river or running up against some one turning a corner. In this case the agent through which fate worked was a newspaper.

Some eighteen months after Miss Tracy's meeting with Brandini in a restaurant she advertised for a chauffeur. Receiving several replies, she appointed a day and an hour when the applicants for the position might present themselves for inspection. When she entered the room where they were assembled and cast her eye over them whom should she see among the number but Luigi Brandini. His mortification was apparent in his scarlet face. He made a movement to retire, but changed his mind. It was too late.

Miss Tracy questioned the men one after another, dismissing them as soon as examined until she came to Brandini. The two stood alone together, Brandini looking as if he would like to escape. Miss Tracy looked as if she would like to prevent him from doing so.

For a moment she hesitated whether to speak to him as a former friend or as an applicant for the position of chauffeur. She decided on the latter course.

"Your name?" she asked.
"Giovanni Riedonna."
"How much experience have you had in running automobiles?"
"None whatever, signora. I am sure I would not suit you. I should not have answered your advertisement."
"Nevertheless I like your appearance and think that, after a little practice, you will be able to drive my auto very well. You are engaged?"
"Pardon me, signora. I am quite sure I should not be able to." He stopped, bowed his head and fixed his eyes on the floor.

"Signor Brandini," said the lady, "you are among friends."

"There was no reply to this. He did not even raise his eyes."
"You Roman," she continued, "were very kind to us when we were in Italy. My father, my mother and I were indebted to you among others for a very pleasant sojourn in your Italian capital. Perhaps my father may be able to help you out of this quagmire into which you have fallen."

He raised his eyes to hers.
"I wish you would consult him in reference to my affairs. He would consider it a favor if you would permit him through you to return some of the favors received from your countrymen while we were in Rome."

"There is nothing he can do for me, signora."

"You mean that your ancestral pride will not permit you to accept anything at his hands. In that you are wrong. Indeed, you are absurd. You need some one to throw a switch to turn the ralls of fate and place you on the main track."

"Signora, you are apt at condensing the expression of ideas."

"Give me your address."

He acceded to her request, and she secured a promise from him to answer any communication that might be sent to him. Then she permitted him to depart.

That was some years ago. Now Luigi Brandini is a member of the Italian parliament, and his wife, formerly Miss Tracy, is prominent in Roman social life and, possessing a fortune, can afford certain important charities. The Romans have often tried to learn where Brandini passed those years that he was lost to Rome, but have never succeeded. Of all concerned the Tracy family are the only ones who know that the legislator once swung a napkin in an American restaurant.

ANTICIPATING HER BLUFF.

The Landlord Profits by the Experience of Other Springs.

"I have called to collect the rent," said the landlord.

"Yes," replied the lady of the house, "come in. Now, before I give you this money this month, I—"

"Just a minute, madam," said the landlord. "I can save your time for you. I know the parlor isn't fit for a pig to live in; the dining room wall paper is a shock to people of refinement; the kitchen walls are a disgrace, and the back porch is a menace to life and limb. I'm also aware that you won't stay here another month unless the barber shop wall paper in the back bedroom is changed to something in a delicate pink, and I'm next to the fact that you're ashamed to have people look at such gas fixtures as I have provided. This spring I'm going to paint the front and back porches and let it go at that."

"Thank you very much," said the lady meekly. "You have saved me a lot of trouble. That is all we really expected to have done, but I was afraid that I should have to make the same old bluff to get that much out of you."

—Detroit Free Press.

A Real Treasure.

After addressing a woman's cooking club a famous lecturer was besieged by the members, who questioned him about his own household and about his kitchen in particular.

"Are you satisfied with your cook?" some one asked him.

"Yes, indeed," was the reply.

"Is she economical?"

"Very."

"Can she bake pies and bread?"

"The best in the land."

"Is she neat about her work?"

"As tidy as a pin and as attractive in appearance as one would care to see."

"How about her disposition?"

"I think it is about perfect."

"Bosh!" exclaimed one of the matrons who had been having trouble with her cook. "It's a wonder you don't marry the girl."

With a satisfied smile the lecturer replied:

"That's exactly what I did. My wife does her own cooking." — Youngstown Telegram.

His Twenty Dollar Egg.

A hen on the farm of Henry J. Jost, assistant prosecuting attorney, laid her first egg the other day. Incidentally it was the first egg laid by any member of the flock, and Mr. Jost took his account book down from his shelf and figured just what that egg cost him.

"As nearly as I can estimate," said he, "I am out just \$20 for that egg. I have been feeding those chickens all winter, and now, at last, I am rewarded. Occasions when I could sit down to a banquet that cost \$20 a plate have been rare with me, but I can claim to have eaten a twenty dollar breakfast this morning. Some of my friends have insisted that I should have had the egg framed, but I ate it and got at least \$20 worth of enjoyment out of the meal." — Kansas City Journal.

Deplorable Result.

A public house in a Yorkshire district displays in one of its windows this notice: "Football Results Received Here." Into this haven one evening a man entered, supporting a young man whose figure testified to the fact that he had been engaged in some violent encounter.

"To receive further results here, I see," said the former.

"Yes, we do," replied the barman.

"Well, here's one true the futbol match. Ye might keep him till he comes to himself!" — Farm and Home (England).

Non-Pickable Pocket.

A non-pickable pocket is the latest English invention. Jewelry and valuables, it is claimed by the inventor, can be carried in this pocket without the slightest fear of robbery by pick-pockets. The pocket can be applied alike to coat, vest or trousers, but more particularly to the latter.

The device consists of a separate pocket beneath the ordinary trousers pocket. The under pocket has its opening normally closed by press buttons or other fastenings, which are concealed by a flap stitched to the pocket opening.

This is arranged to be tucked away inside the first or ordinary pocket, to the lower side of which it is secured by other fastenings. The outer portion of the flap is made of similar material to the garment, which presents the appearance of having, in the case of trousers, an ordinary side seam pocket.

Were Clever Smugglers.

English smuggling has stories as amusing as the recent Italian incident. There is, for instance, that of the gloves on which duty was never paid. An agent bought the consignment abroad and shipped over only the left-hand glove to England. These were duly seized by the customs and eventually put up for sale. No one wanted odd gloves, and it was easy for those in the plot to acquire them at a nominal price. Then, after a suitable interval, the right-hand gloves came over, similarly sold and—found their long-lost partners.

Bring Windsor Castle Up-to-Date.

A new suite of apartments for the Prince of Wales has been prepared recently at Windsor Castle. The provision of these rooms is part of an extensive scheme of alterations and improvements which is now approaching realization. Notable among the improvements are developments in keeping with the spirit of the times. So comprehensive are the changes that it is now considered that little structural alteration will be necessary for some years to come.

OVERCOAT WEATHER

The Weather Man says "rain and snow much colder and freezing"—just a melee of all sorts of weather. But never mind—we've been expecting just such conditions and have made ample provision for your comfort and appearance. Here are

Handsome, Warm And Stylish Overcoats

They'll knock out old Winter, but spare your pocket-book.

That's one great feature about this store—your pocket-book is always safe from lack.

You're sure of best goods—new goods—dependable, satisfactory clothing—and the more you investigate and compare the more our money-saving prices stand out in your favor. Overcoats Medium or Long cut—Tailoring and the fabric the best—perfect in every detail.

\$9.00, \$12.50, \$16.00, and \$19.00

Now, where's the Man that can't be Overcoat satisfied here? Your pleasure in buying is part of our profit.



JOHN McLAUCHLAN Co., Ltd.

HARTLAND AND WOODSTOCK

CENTREVILLE ANNOUNCEMENT

December 2nd, 1912

We desire to announce to the general public and to the people of Centreville and surrounding country in particular that we have this day purchased the stock, fixtures and good will in trade of G. C. Richardson, Druggist, of this place.

We hope we may be favored with the trade of all Mr. Richardson's customers during the past and of many new ones during the years to come.

It will always be our desire to make this business fill the wants of the people, and in this way have the same success as the Woodstock store.

In closing we shall request that you watch this space next issue for our Christmas announcement.

Yours very respectfully

OUR AIM } STEVENS Bros. } YOUR WISH
The Best Drugs } J. C. STEVENS, Manager } Lowest Prices

Hartland Farmer's Exchange

ESTABLISHED 1891

Special Bargains in Ladies' Sweater Coats, Underclothing and stockings. Ladies' and Girls' Cloth Coats left over from last season will be closed out regardless of cost. Call early the assortment is good.

Millinery Sale

21 Felt Hats will be closed out at extremely low prices. Large assortment to select from. This is your opportunity to get an up to date hat very reasonably.

Stock Reducing Sale!

Big Bargains for Next Two Weeks.

Fall and Winter Suits, Sweaters and Overcoats

My stock of General Merchandise is very complete and I ask your examination of quality, style and price.

Farm Produce of All Kinds Wanted Highest Cash Price for Hay

Let me know what you have and I will look at it and quote a price. I also ask you to bear in mind that I have a Furniture Store full to the doors with all staple goods. Prices low as the lowest. Have also a big line of Framed Pictures and Picture Moulding.

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