people?" rding-house." ted five seconds to s G. Hopkins and ight.

orrow morning," he u know whether I 'll be frank and tell who can show some ng in the meantime

his hat and walked The uncertainty of was not displeaswould either be a place somewhere rest approach to a hummed a tune as ne city.

erience in his life it of an iron bedm at half-past six ing and began to ly novel to breakin a dining-room r young men who ks, and young wobeen typists, and ous ages who were, rts of things. An in an electric car novation. Surely, g upon him fast. said the manager.

y-five shimngs a ing a little too ex-

prove your worth,

that evening when to the boardingis mind the things all day. He was apability. He had nged books, cared the manager's posted them. s, posted them, handed messages

tudied letter files, inth of a card inpeople wanted to hard to think of

these things, over radually he began did some of them. ocket. He handed who smiled and ous about young payers.

was a business He had earned working at a job 1. He felt absurdthat the world of rious and interestt the manufacturies of hardware people who needed v did, was not so At any rate, amused him he t. If he got tired ugh to go back to

that Hopkins was no scheme for the nd. He had not r the purpose of did he intend to . He was not a He was just plain oing what suited own business.

before he realized ing a millionaire y back into some of his brain. At s hours, he could t it, but that was v life was strange im some amusehis sister might is lawyers, or his new environment o him, he thought

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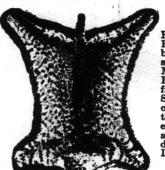
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OUR SCHOOL



## The North-western School of Taxidermy, 5011 Elwood Bldg., Omaha, Nebr., U.S.

less about the old. He almost looked upon it as a past, for the new side of the world was infinitely vast and took much time to explore.

There were fellow-clerks who lunched with him and called him Jimmy, or Hopkins, or Hop. There were important persons of the firm, the manager, the customers, the office-boys, the places to seemed as if his fellow-boarders really which he was sent on errands, the cught to know about it. But instead, banks, the lunch place, the street crowds, he saved up the news and confided it, as the groaning underground trains, the boarding-house, the lodgers-a myriad of things all new and absorbing. A man simply did not have time to think about his mere millions. Here, for instance, was a perfect museum of humanity, called a boarding-house, with a wide variety of exhibits. Some of them were teachers, he learned, some clerked, or sold goods, or kept books. One of them gave music lessons. Another wrote things. They were a new people to Hopkins-people with purposes, and ambitions, and hopes and disappointments. And most of them talked about what they did, so that he learned about them amazingly fast.

Living on twenty-five shillings a week became a financial hobby. He had virtually dared himself to do it. "If I'm going to play the game, I'll play the game, that's all," said Hopkins. "While I'm playing it I'll do it on a twenty-five shilling limit." So he never sent for money, or drew on an account that was almost at his ellow. Out of the balance, after his board was paid, he found that he could buy magazines and newspapers, and pay car-fares. He did not try to save. Nothing of that sort entered his head until the firm raised his salary. He had been a business man for nearly

six months when that happened. "Hopkins," said the manager, "We are going to give you thirty shillings a week. You seem to take an interest in your work. We want to make you more interested. We'll put you in the stock

department for a while." Thirty! Whew! When Hopkins went heartily:

home that night he had a desire to run tnat almost overpowered him. It seemed as if his feelings could only find expression in a wild sprint through the streets. He had earned a rise! He was

getting on in the world. Almost irresistible was the impluse to blurt it out at the dinner-table. It

they sat on the front porch, to the girl with the brown eyes. Who was she? Oh, a pleasant girl to talk to. By day she typed letters in a lawyer's office. Her mother lived in the country. At odd times, when there was enough left, she sent a little money home, because it was needed there. She was so different from the girls he knew in the days when he was J. Graham Hopkins that at first he decided she was a shy little thing. But the shyness began to melt when they exchanged opinions on the serious affairs of life and discovered that they were on a common field of battle.

True, for a while Hopkins felt the hypocrisy of his part, but gradually that perception was dulled as the new order of things became more real to him. He found the girl interesting, at first because hers was a typical struggle with fortune. She was quiet and brave and unassuming, but she had a world of ambition. All the sincerity of her nature went into her work, unromantic as it the world. He liked to talk to her because the spirit of her sincerity seemed | like children. to infuse him and made him seem more like a real toiler himself.

"I got a rise to-day," he said awk-

wardiy. The girl's eyes brightened.

"Did you? Isn't that fine!" she said. "I'll get thirty shillings now; I'm in the stock department," he added.

He thought he detected a fleeting wist fulness in her glance, but she said

"I am glad you got it. I think you worked hard for it."

"Oh, I worked hard enough, I expect," he corroborated. "But it's good fun, at that. I think I'll begin to save now."

She laughed and nodded. "I've been saving ever since I worked," she said. "It's not so hard as you'd think."

But he knew that the savings were not for herself, and that it was hard. She never complained about it. however. and he liked her for that. For awhile they talked about their miniature finances until he completely forgot that he was an interloper among the toilers. Then he took what struck him as a daring step.

"It's pretty warm, Miss Blachard," he ventured. "Would-would you like to come and have an ice?"

As the words left his lips a vision of J. Graham Hopkins, millionaire, rose for an instant before him. It mocked him and put a feeling of foolishness into his heart. He wondered if she, too, could see it, and if sne had the measure of his hypocrisy. But she was merely looking at him frankly and shaking her head reprovingly.

"I thought you were going to save," she laughed.

"so I am," he said stoutly. "You see if I don't. But I want to celebrate muat rise just a little bit, you know."

She nodded understandingly, rose, and seemed. She wanted to get ahead in they strolled down the street to a little shop, where they revelled in ice-cream

> Hopkins began to work harder now, partly because he was developing a real interest in the hardware business and kins. partly because he wanted to earn that thirty shillings. The vision of J. Graham visited him less frequently. He thought seldom of the days that seemed now so long past. Occasionally he would chuckle as a motor rolled past, or when he encountered some other reminder, for he was able to observe these things customers. So he made him a city sales-

without envy, knowing that they were his when he chose to have them. But it was really satisfying just to be Jim-my Hopkins, earning thirty shillings a week and starting an account in the savings bank. It was the only bank account in which he had ever taken a live interest. He watched it grow with euriosity and granification. He did not permit himself to reflect that it was an absurdity, viewed in the light of the true order of things. He liked it because it represented his own endeavor. He was independent; standing squarely on his own feet! He was never troubled by longings for the old luxuries. He did not bother his head by comparing his attic bedroom with a Park Lane mansion. He never sighed because he could not afford the opera. He had grown into his new life almost without effort. It was only at the rare times when he mentally stood aside and inspected himself that there seemed to be anything incongruous

Nobody in the boarding-house paid much attention to him, or to the girl who wrote letters in the lawyer's office. They were allowed to drift into an unoptrusive comradeship almost without notice. Her own little story he had gathered scrap by scrap. As for his, to confess that he was J. Graham Hopkins would have seemed like an intrusion. Sometimes his conscience pricked him, and he wondered if he had gained a confidence under a false pretence. But it was partly her fault if he had, because she had a way of making him believe that Jimmy Hopkins was a real person in his own right, and not a materialisation of the spirit of J. Graham Hop-

When Hopkins received another and unexpected advance in the hardware business, the effect of it was paradoxical. The manager discovered that the young man in the stock department, when called upon in emergencies, had a knack of getting along amazingly well with

