

The Man Who Played the Cyrenean.

George Wilson gulped down the feeling of regret and the shame the regret caused him, as he hurried from the window of the third floor to meet his mother, whom he had just seen approaching the door of the rather dingy tenement. It is a hard thing to regret the approach of one's own mother. He was ashamed of having felt the spasm of near dismay. Yet close figuring had shown him how a warmed-up and very light lunch this noon would fit into a programme resulting in the saving necessary to meet the rent collector next week. Besides, his oldest child, a miss of ten, had just begun to rebel from her youthful resentment of the changes which had brought her from the pleasant suburban rectory to what, borrowing the language of a citizen, she had once heard...

she dubbed a slum. And little Margaret was very fond of her grandmother, who never lost the opportunity to dwell on the terrific worldly come-down it had cost her son to give up the ministry and become a Catholic.

Yes George Wilson was a converted minister with a family untrained save for the business he had left, unused as yet to economies and hard work by which he must now earn the bread for the mouths he must feed. He was too proud to have his mother know just how things were with him. There must be chops for the luncheon and some other light extras. And fifteen cents was an item to be seriously considered.

Though Wilson's father had also been a minister, and had lived on a moderate salary, his mother had ever managed to maintain the bearing and air of a fine dame to the full degree required of the wife of the pastor of a country town's best church. George, having reached the head of the last flight of stairs, could hear the snif with which she met the odors of cooking in the halls of the building. Automatically he felt his collar to make sure that he was wearing the best frayed of his neckties. In another moment he had taken her in his arms and was expressing all the joy of seeing her, and of course, omitting to express by word or look any of the feelings with which that joy was mixed.

As he half carried her up the stairs, he discovered that her snif was not all of disgust. There were tears in her eyes. Hardly had he closed the door of the flat with the meager furnishings he had collected since leaving his amply furnished parsonage, when she began to weep.

"Oh, George—to think I have to come to such a place as this to see you!" she sobbed in genuine anguish of heart.

"It's not so bad as when I was in the settlement," he reminded her of days when he had been connected with an East Side mission in New York.

"But that was different," she reminded him in turn.

Yes, she thought with a gulp, that had been different. You were there, she went on, "to uplift the poor people of the slums. You were in it, but not of it. You were doing some good. Oh, George, if I could only think you were doing any good now, I could bear it better. But when I think of the place you might have by now, even the place you had—of the people you might be helping and uplifting and making better, of the place you might be having—" She broke off with another sob.

George gulped. He had never told her just what was doing to earn the "pittance" on which he lived. He never would. But the good he might have done! Inasmuch as he had been a high-minded clergyman, that was too broadminded to think that none of those ministers he had left to their good faith and their work were accomplishing any good for the people to whom they ministered. He knew he could never again believe as he had believed, as they believed. But he had done some good as a minister; and now—

He shuddered. The work he would do tomorrow; the work he would have done today, had there been any of it for him to do. What good did it do, save that it brought the few dollars to buy food for his family and to keep them under the poor shelter of a tenement's roof? The best he had ever thought of it was to bring a smile to a "tired face,"

Pains in the Back

Are symptoms of a weak, ailing or stagnant condition of the kidneys or liver, and are a warning to be extremely heedful to neglect, so important is a healthy action of these organs. They are commonly attacked by loss of energy, loss of courage, and sometimes by nervous prostration and depression.

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And he had dreamed of no work less than the saving of souls.

"Ready! Action!"

The crisp voice of the manager snapped out like a whip over the heads of the tired, disgruntled actors.

A woman, with long, blonde hair hanging over shoulder draped after the general accepted manner of two thousand years ago, interrupted a phrase. George Wilson shuddered as he had not supposed yesterday. The woman was representing St. Mary Magdalen.

It had been one of the bright ideas of that manager to present a Passion Play. Since Oberammergau was nearly six thousand miles away, and the production of the real Passion Play there some five years off, it was cheaper to fix up the landscape on the acres about the studio with papier-mache huts, where the results could not all be got by merely painted scenery. There was another difference the manager did not regard with consideration. The actors at Oberammergau are chosen for their pious worthiness, to take part in some great scene. It seemed to Wilson these had been chosen for their particular unworthiness. Whatever the result might be on a screen, the whole of the making of that screen had, to George Wilson's mind, taken the horrible appearance of a vast, continuous blasphemy. If there was another than himself to whom the events they tried to enact were sacred, he had not discovered the fact. Their talk at first had been sacrilegiously mirthful. Now, tired with a long day's work, they were cross and petulant and violent in speech at the every pretext.

"Now, Wilson," the manager bawled, interspersing the words with others that would not bear printing, "see if you can take the cross as it wasn't a bouquet being handed you across the footlights. I thought you were a parson once. You ought to know something about your Bible. It says to compel him to take it. If I have to waste another five hundred feet on you you'd better not show your head around here again. Now—"

"Ready! Action!"

Rage burned upon Wilson's face as the made-up soldier seized him roughly by the shoulder—rage at language such as no man ever used upon him before, rage that hurt the worst because he dared not express it. He must take Magrew's insults or there would be nothing at all for the mouths to eat, no roof at all over the heads of his wife and children. The rage burned out in utter dejection as he went through the motions of resistance and final yielding to the acted threats of the soldiers.

The good of this! His soul fairly cried within him. The good of being a part of this ghastly travesty of the most solemn event in the history of eternity! His brain whirled with indignation, outrage, misery. Through his mind came the memories of the quiet church, the pulpit in which he had stood and exhorted men to righteousness, the men coming afterward into the vestry to thank him for uplifting them. Perhaps that religion has been wrong; he could never think it the true one again. But—what of the thing he was doing now?

"That's a little more like it," the manager glowed with approving approval. But it did not win back the good-will of the troupe, who were having to do extra work because of his previous failure. The brilliant but ill-tempered star

COUGHED SO HARD

Would Turn Black In The Face.

SHE WAS CURED BY USING DR. WOOD'S Norway Pine Syrup.

Mrs. Ernest Adams, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., writes: "My little girl, six years old, had a dreadful hard cough. At night she would cough so hard she would get black in the face, and would cough for several hours before she could stop. We tried different kinds of medicines and had several doctors, but failed to do her any good. She could not sleep nor eat her cough was so bad, and she was simply wasting away. A friend advised me to try Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. I got a bottle and saw an improvement, and got another. Now I can only too glad to recommend it to all mothers."

Too much stress cannot be laid on the fact that a cough or cold should be cured immediately.

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup will cure the cough or cold and prove a preventative from all throat and lung troubles such as bronchitis, pneumonia and consumption.

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until she could think of nothing but relief at the darkness; she went white again as her shame was turned into sheer agony. George a moving-picture actor; George her brilliant son, who had already passed his father in importance of his parish at thirty—George letting those ruffians drag him about, beat him, curse him! George doing this for a living.

(To be continued.)

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Mrs. Crawford—I thought you were perfectly delighted with the Christmas present your wife gave you. Crawford—At the time I didn't know she'd had it changed.

W. H. O. Wilkinson, Stratford says:—"It affords me much pleasure to say that I experienced great relief from Muscular Rheumatism by using two boxes of Milburn's Rheumatic Pills. Price 50c a box."

"Remember, Johnny, if you are naughty, Santa Clause will not visit you." "I don't care. He's behind time anyhow. I saw a picture of him riding around in a sleigh instead of an automobile."

"Poor George!" Her sigh was half a sob. She had seen one of the actors in the mob-scene before Pilate's hall, who, but for the beard he wore, might almost have been taken for her son.

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