The Tale of a Rat

BY IRENE CURRIE LOVE

In Canada West Monthly.

sketch appears below, is well known water-god, a Neptune. As soon as it to Londoners, being a daughter of was light, I arose, and clad only in my Police Magistrate Love. Miss Love, baby blue pajamas, I hied me to the who is a graduate of Toronto Univer- bathroom. sity, was for some time on the staff of The Advertiser, where she secured holding responsible positions on the tin tub, and there, sitting in the tub, Toronto World, Toronto Star and of Canada West, through whose courtesy this story is used.

He was usually the gayest and most debonair of all the happy tribe of firummers, and so it was with some concern that we saw him come in without a smile and seat himself heavily on one of the desks, omitting his customary slap on the back, and his irritating roar, "Hello, how's tricks?"

cheerless silence which the drummer did not seem inclined to break, someone said, "Anything the matter with

"Only the rottenest trip I ever had in my life," he growled. "Business bad?"

against a week of one-night stands? been waiting for a bath. I come to thoroughly satisfactory. Seven long days of tank towns, where you and you say I can have a bath in you couldn't get anything fit to eat or the morning. Morning comes, I go drink, and where there wasn't enough to the bathroom and what do I find? hot water for a decent wash, much A rat, the size of a dog, running up less a bath?"

drummer believes that cleanliness it?" comes way before godliness, and is the object of much good-natured chaffing 'Why don't you turn the water on and over his carefully-manicured hands, drown the brute? Indeed, it is even whispered that he indulges in face massages. A stain on his little finger peeves him beyond tered, 'Call the proprietor.' expression and not to be able to have a daily bath-why, it's an outrage!

"the worst is yet to come. I'd been He's asleep. travelling out in the Canadian West, succeeded in making bath tubs the vogue, don't you know?

"That made it all the worse when I struck the tank town circuit, with won't stand for it.' dirtier every minute.

feel on a train when there is no parlor I could work up on a minute's nocar on board, nothing but the festive tice. day coach, with squalling babies and "Y-yes sir.' he stammered, and crumby kids who start to eat as soon heard him tell the porter to go tell the as they get on the train and only stop proprietor that a lunatic in pale blue when they get off. The smoking car was pajamas was down there threatening dirtier than the day coach and full to wreck the hotel. In a few minutes man entered life with every question heartedly with an archdeacon whose of a bunch of rubes who smoked two-down came the gentleman himself, fer cigars and I was sure the sorest purple with rage and blue with cold. Frenchman entered life to investigate outbids a duchess in her own draw-ful; it is the supreme test of men and thing in seven counties when at last That color combination may not listen matters that were still open ques- ing-room for a piece of Sevres offered women. If we wrong it, and despise

the next town.' 'A hotel, with a real bathtub, where fy sounds like a steam engine. we can get a really truly bath?' It sure did sound good to me, and all the way him to me. Well, sir, what do you standpoint or another, and it is in- conditions a reaction is almost bound child. over there L just wallower, in my want?" thoughts, in a large white bathtub. a vat of hot water.

so I made right for the hotel and sail- bath this morning, and when I went to ing majestically up to the clerk, I the bathroom, what did I find? A United States only by adoption. She demanded of him in lordly tones, rat, the size of a horse, standing on its is really a South American with 'Have you a bathtub?'

"'We have,' he assured me, pride.

"'Then lead me to it,' I purred. bath?' he asked. "'Both,' I snapped, 'but a bath be-

fore anything.' don't think you can yet a bath until drown the-brute?"

tomorrow morning.' I had-but what's the use? You know him what I could do. my angelic disposition. I just looked sadly, mournfully and reproach- shook the dust of the town from my fully at him and sighed, wearily, 'Show heels and beat it back to Winnipeg. me a room.'

of soap and water. I fell asleep and bar.

WOMAN AND HER CAREER.

If women could lead their own

Miss Irene C. Love, whose clever dreamed that I was a merman,

"It was a dirty, dark little hole in the wall, with a filthy, old-fashioned making faces at me, was a rat. Now rat! It's got me going every time.

Reaching her in about three steps to machinery. and grabbing her by the wrist, I After about ten minutes of glum, yanked her back to the door of the bathroom and inquired, 'Do you see the tub and mewing at me?"

the water on and drown the brute?"

"Oh, good enough, as far as orders clerk and related my tale of woe, patch of the company's business. The chased an additional 25-ton electric went, but say, did you ever butt up thusly, 'Young man, for centuries I've results are reported to have been locomotive for freight service, and two and down the tub and barking at Here, everyone chortled, for the me. What are you going to do about

"The clerk looked up indifferently.

"Gasping for breath, choking with rage and reaching out for air, I stut-

"I can't,' expostulated the clerk. pany in November, 1908, and March, Montreal locomotive works. 'It's as much as my job is worth to 1969. "Cut out the laugh," he continued, call him at this hour in the morning.

"'I don't care if he's dead,' I roared, where the 'blawsted remittance man,' I'd wake him, anyway, and what's Andover, N. B. If he has done nothing else, has more, I'll stay right here in this office until you get him.'

dressed like that,' he remonstrated. 'I Ont.

Not a bathtub in the whole outfit and whippersnapper. You get that pro- with culverts. I was getting hotter, madder and prietor down here P. D. Q. or I'll beat your brains out,' I yelled, giving as "My hair was full of dust, and my good an imitation of Tommy Burns eyes of cinders-you know how you before he was licked by the dinge as

someone said: 'There's a real hotel in good to you, but I tell you, it's got "I pricked up my ears and yelled, ing with rage and emitting short, puf-

"Where is he," he rumbled, 'show

playing tag with a carload of soap and your caravanseral, weary and worn (Cassell. 6s.) and sad, unshaven, unwashed, and un-"It was late when we got into town, shorn. I was told I might wave a hind legs in the tub and neighing with at me. Now, str, WHAT are you going to do about it?

"Say, I want to tell you right now life. If there was anything in the with the lighting arrangements in the it and if there are any depths hotter bathroom and all the servants are in than those to which he consigned me,

"That got me going. You know "I glared at him. I had visions of I'm not a dead one when it comes to leaping the desk and throttling him- cussing, so I just let out a few to show

"Then I went up, packed my grip, Say, come on out and have a drink. thought about that bath. I reveled of an elephant, stamping up and down in it. I disported myself, in fancy, the tub, trumpeting at me, I get dry," playfully as any child, in a Paradise and the drummer led the way to the

ELECTRIC POWER FROM PEAT.

lives, what would they do with them? attitude noted above has been There are several pretty stories going maintained by the majority of long as the apparition lasted." But to prove the failure of young women those by whom America should to find satisfaction in their efforts to be guided in such matters, the lead independent lives. An artistic utilization of low grade fuels as life, or a scientific one, or one entirely sources of producer gas has made given to charity or even a life that considerable progress in Europe, where wields political power, can never real the necessity for more considerable progress of producer gas nas made. She is in favor of the American has taught him things that he would specified to the necessity for more considerable progress of producer gas nas made. wields political power, can never real-the necessity for more economical the minor characters, is "complete ly satisfy a woman's heart. What ways of using raw materials has arisen transformation of the idea of martacle presented in history by Queen when in America the use of coal at the riage." Still Daphne is willing to Elizabeth, for al her masculine ways, mines for producing electric energy in marry the handsome young Englishher learning and pretended plety and quantities to be transmitted to distant man, and in the moment of her first her undoubted political power and centres of consumption is still a dream rush of happiness, as she is walking to be realized in the future, entirely We cannot fail to believe there trustworthy reports come from Swemust have been moments in her splen- den, Germany and other countries of Madeleine: "Her eyes were raised and did, yet unhappy life, when she would Northern Europe that peat is actually fixed, as though on some sight in front have gladly exchanged her exalted being tried successfully, in plants built of them. The bitterness, the anguish rank and glory to be a happy wife at the bog, as a source of producer gas one might almost call it, of her exposi- for use in internal-combustion engines- pression, the horror in the eyes, as of tion. Mr. Boyesen tells us that wo- to generate electricity for lighting, man's dream of independence is "like traction and manufacturing purposes, the blue flower of the German ro- in towns miles away. Moreover, some mancers, which is always alluring of the plants which are so operated you from a distance, whose fragrance are built in units of 150-horsepower, eyes, never dreaming that she, too, intoxicates you, but which vanishes from between your fingers if you endeavor to pluck it." After all, the lidea that such installations must be story or and Roger are settled best way to succeed in living one's only for large units and great total afterwards she and Roger are settled own life is to lead it contentedly and current production. Such reports have usefully in that sphere into which it has pleased God to call us, and not to spend it in worrying and repining because it was not cast somewhere else, or in vain attempts to free ourselves from the duties and responsibilities nature has imposed upon us—Charles—ton News and Courier.

The Reaction.

The Reaction.

The Reaction.

There are many things about English provincial life which the young lish provincial life which the young have stirred to renewed activity those who have seen the possibilities of using peat as a supplementary fuel—Enginery fue



for help. Just disappearing round the lisions; 4 to being caught between Lake Erie Railway shall equip its cars corner was a chambermaid, so I called cars; 8 to falls; 2 to being run over; with airbrakes, her, saying, 'Come hither, little one,' and one each to falling material, to

The installation of the telephone on the Michigan Central Railway, bethat rat, the size of a kitten, sitting in tween Windsor, Ont., and Buffalo, N. "She snickered, 'Why don't you turn are made with the principal points on the line and the system will be used in July, 1908. "I flung her from me and marching as a subsidiary agent to the telegraph down to the office, went up to the system for the more expeditious dis-

Commission Orders.

Dismissing application of Byron Telephone Company for leave to install

Authorizing Caradoc-Ekfrid Tele-M. C. R. in Ekfrid Township, Ont. Temporarily approving agreements

Authorizing G. T. R. to construct

During March 30 railway employees | Directing that M. C. R. provide that were killed and 23 injured in the bell circuit of automatic bell at Queen Toronto World, Toronto Star and I've never had the D. Ts., but if I did, course of their work on Canadian rail- street crossing, Tilbury, Ont., be ex-Love is United States representative I'd bet all I have that they'd take the ways. Of the fatalities, 8 each were tended, so that bell will ring when form of rats. Lizards, pink or green, due to being run over and to falling trains are 2,200 feet from the crossnever fizzed on me worth a cent, and I material; 5 each to collisions and to ing; and that highway at fourth concould go to bed with snakes. But a explosions of dynamite; 2 to boiler ex- cession road crossing be diverted, so as plosion, and 1 each to a fall and to to cross the railway at right angles. "One look at His Ratship and I being caught between cars. Of the Extending for one month time withdashed madly out into the hall, looking other accidents, 11 were due to col- in which Chatham, Wallaceburg and

> Dismissing complaint of E. B. Sutwas in no mood for trifling, being struck by a passing object and ton, alleging excessive freight rates charged by C. P. R. on brick in carloads, from Milton, to Bala Falls, Ont. Dismissing application of E. S. Brennan, of Hamilton, Ont., for order directing G. T. R. to refund \$73 89. al-Y., was completed May 4. Connections leged overcharge on shipment 17 cars of lumber from Wiarton to Hamilton,

> > The Chatham, Wallaceburg and Lake Erie Railway is reported to have purstorage batteries; to have contracted to equip its entire stock of cars with Westinghouse automatic airbrakes, and to change two of its single-end cars to double-end ones.

The C. P. R. between April 8 and May 13, received additions to rolling stock as follows: 4 locomotives, 170 30ton box cars, 6 baggage and smoking phone Company to erect wires across cars, 272 stock cars, 4 baggage and express cars, and 2 dining cars, from its Angus, Montreal, shops; 8 vans of four telephone companies entered from its Farnham, Que., shops; and into with the Bell Telephone Com- 9 Pacific type locomotives from the

T. C. Frew, a native of Guelph, Authorizing Andover and Perth Elec- Ont., has been appointed general tric Light Commissioners to erect freight and passenger agent, Beaumont wires across C. P. R. at Perth and and Great Northern Railway, Onalaska, Texas.

The C. P. R. between April 8 and branch line to the Empire Manufactur- May 18, ordered rolling stock as fol-"'You can't stay in this office, ing Company's premises at London, lows: 4 store supply cars, 2 horse care, 54 box cars, 1 stock car, I Hart ballast Authorizing Ekfrid Township to car and 1 locomotive, at its Angus, everything but the tank in full view. "Stand for it, you infernal little cross G. T. R. east of Glencoe, Ont., Montreal, shops, and 32 vans at its Farnham, Que., shops.

A Plea Against Divorce

Ward's Latest Novel.

Taine said that the young Englishdefinitely settled, while a young pomposity accentuates his plety. She Marriage is mysterious and wonder-Turner left at the post. He was boil- is distinctly French, and the last ques- she not merely fails to fit in with the Daphne is not convinced by this letter tion that it is willing to regard as a quiet, decorous scheme of things, but from her dead friend, but she deterchose jugee is marriage. Book after has no desire whatever to modify her mines to go to England and see what book attacks this institution from one exuberant personality. Under these can be done for the father of her teresting to find Mrs. Humphrey Ward to set in, and a certain Mrs. Fairmile, "'Sir,' I began, 'last night I entered in the line of defence with "Daphne" who had once been engaged to Roger,

The Law That Suits. Daphne Floyd is a daughter of the

Spanish blood in her veins. But she is typically twentieth-century American in her views of marriage, and, as she has millions of dollars and won-"Do you wish a room or merely a that I take off my hat to the propried derful dark eyes, people are more than tor of that hotel. Gad! I never heard willing to listen to her. Roger Barnes, such a picturesque vocabulary in my typically English, handsome, looking for a rich heiress to compensate for Well, I'm serry,' temporized the bright lexicon of cuss words that he his father's sudden loss of fortune, atclerk, but something's gone wrong omitted to call me, I never heard about tracts her from the very beginning. Barnes, however, is prejudiced against the national taste for diworce, and exbed, so there isn't any possibility of I don't want to know about them. He presses his displeasure with stiff comfixing up things tonight. Moreover, finished up by demanding furiously, posure. I don't know why you should there's no hot water and in short, I 'Why don't you turn the water on and talk in that way," Daphne protests, her liberty as an American citizen, Madeleine's divorced husband had "All night long I lay there and Every time I think of that rat, the size committed suicide, and sometimes, like of the money settled on him by the emerged, thrown out upon the shadows by the sun-finger-the countenance of a handsome young Jew, as Rembrandt had once conceived it. Rare and high intelligence, melancholy, and premonition-they were there embodied, so

invisible combat with the dead. Ghost-Driven.

She is in favor of the American beside her fiancee, she meets her friend one ghost-led, ghost-driven, drew an exclamation from Roger." goes her own way, with bright, clear

Review of Mrs. Humphrey and its traditions fail to impress her at the beginning, and end by boring her, Ancestral portraits, grotesquely restored, irritate her into the brutality of truthfulness. She quarrels wholetions. This century, it would seem, by a well-known dealer. In short, it, we mutilate the divine in ourselves." helps it considerably. Daphne begins to read things like this in an American quarterly: "All forms of contract is a clergyman, and he discusses the -in business, education, religion or

law—suffer from the weakness and view, and then Roger himself comes Next Bank of Commerce, agent. ywt blindness of the persons making them into the room, and she begins to un--the marriage contract as much as derstand the full measure of what she any other. The dictates of humanity has done: "She looked at him. In her and common sense alike show that the nature the great deeps were breaking latter and most important contract up. She saw him as she had seen him should no more be perpetual than any in her first youth. And, at last, what of the others." The thing is obvious. she had done was plain to her." After Roger is beginning to be in the way, a little Roger stammers out his point is beginning to be symbolic of the of view—what it has all meant to him, whole tiresome antediluvian county. what it will mean to him-during the Roger must go.

Father and Child. Daphne is very rich, and six months'

domicile in the United States will give "as though all our American views are though Roger will remain bound as an rather painfully for his words. "It's a wrong! Each nation arranges these Englishman. Cruelty—there had been things for itself. You have the laws an arranged fall in the presence of a that suit you; you must allow us those paid witness—and "indignities" are that suit us." Daphne is very sure quite sufficient for the American court about this right of individuality, of which gives the custody of Roger's mare and more and mo which her friend Madeleine Verrier is only child to the woman who had deat once the champion and victim. serted him. And now for the Englishman, who refuses to touch a farthing another Banquo, he forces his way millionaire, his little daughter Beatty back to her: "Suddenly Mrs. Verrier becomes the central thought of his started in her chair. A face had life. He must get Beatty, at any price he must get Beatty, even if he has to kidnap her by force, and can be mended, but they can't—they smuggle her across the Canadian can't, indeed. It would be foolish to frontier. He is planning to do this when the news is brought to him of Roger, neither single nor together, can in the world. He is no longer the Daphne takes no heed of her friend's easy-going, pleasant young Englishman, a little prejudiced, perhaps, but amiable and well-meaning. He has grown old in these brief years. Life find it difficult to put into words. Somehow or other, by some process the secret mechanism of which is hidden from him, the man's whole life has been twisted and broken, and then flung away, to piece itself together as best it can. Roger cannot begin again. And Daphine?

The Divine in Ourselves. She, too, begins dimly to realize that t is hard to begin again, that the roots of life are too complicated to be carelessly transplanted. But she is very rich and very proud, and so she endures in silence, keeping as close as she can to her divorced-widowed days, and because the ordinary wires friend, Madeleine. Mrs. Verrier dies in a hotel opposite to the Falls of Niagara, where her husband had killed himself because of the wrong that she had done him. "Daphne, darling," the dying woman writes, "it was I who

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Roger's Point of View.

She is Mrs. Floyd now, and a mutual friend. Herbert French, is puzzled by her card when it is handed to him. He matter with her from his point of two years which the doctors have given him to live.

"Yes, I know, you didn't understand what you were doing. But you see, Daphne, marriage is —." He sought rather painfully for his words. "It's a big thing. If it doesn't make us, it ruins us; I didn't marry you for the best of reasons; but I was very fond the sought of the state of the sought reasons; but I was very fond the sought reasons. The sought reasons reaso of you-honor bright! I loved you in more and more. I should have been a decent fellow if you'd stuck to me. had all sorts of plans; you might have taught me anything. I was a fool about Chloe Fairmile, but there was nothing in it, you know there wasn't. And now it's all rooted up and done with. Women like to think such things try."

begin again. It would be wise on the part of the numerous clever writers who air their quite logical and doctrin-Mrs. Aubrey le Blond, who

has climbed many mountains, says that a climb of many hours becomes no more "Only a short time ago the mother of one of our members, who is nearer 80 than 70, did an expedition of fourteen or fifteen hours in the snow without turning a hair." When the German Emperor was the

guest of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Eckarstan for deer shooting he spoke every day to his entourage at Berlin over a special telephone line. This wire, 40 miles long, was specially laid at great expense to suit the Kaiser's convenience for a few did not carry the voice clearly enough.

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fatiguing than a hard game of tennis. HOOKE, city passenger and ticket agent, or E. RUSE, depot agent.

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Depart—6:35 a.m., 188:10 p.m., STRATFORD BRANCH.

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Depart-8:30 a.m., 4:50 p.m.
Trains marked * run daily. Those no?
narked, daily, except Sunday. CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY. Arrive from the east—*11:25 a.m., 16:30 p.m., †7:02 p.m., *10:52 p.m. Arrive from the west—*4:45 a.m., †12:38 p.m., *5:35 p.m. Depart for the east—*4:55 a.m., †7:46 a.m., †12:45 p.m., *5:42 p.m. Depart for the west—*11:33 a.m., †7:10 p.m., *11 p.m. *Daily. †Daily. †2.00 p.m., *11 p.m.

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