## **MARGUERITE'S SECRET**

STATES OF THE ST

"Forrest will bring over your riding horse and your own little sailboat."

"And here, Margaret, it will be two months before the first quarter's rent is due on Plover's Point, and you may need tunds. Take this, my dear." And he placed in her hand a pocketbook containing a check for tive hundred dollars, and also several bank notes of smaller value. Margaret, who did not know as yet what the book contained, feeelyed it in the same meek, thankful spirit.

"Houston, growing uneasy upon the subject of Franky, said:

"I hope you are not writing to Franky, Margaret!"

"No, Mrs. Houston, I am not.' "If not to Franky, to whom, then? for they have just left you. Come! this is getting interesting! Who is your correspondent, little one? Your old duenna insists upon knowing."

Margaret turned pale, but remained silent.
"Dear me, how mysterious you are! My

received it in the same meek, thankful spirit.

"And now let us rejoin Mrs. Houston Ralph, who thinks it unkind that I should thus, on the last day of our stay, keep his promised bride away from nim."

The next morning Ar. Helmstedt and Ralph Houston took leave of their friends and departed together for the Northern seat of war.

Margaret bore her triple with a for.

Northern seat of war.

Margaret bore her trials with a fortitude and resignation wonderful when found in one so young. The recent and sudden decease of her idolized mother, the departure of her father and her lover to meet the toils, privations, and dangers of a desperate war, and above all, the undivided responsibility of a dread secret. cangers of a desperate war, and above all, the undivided responsibility of a dread secret—a fatal secret, weighing upon her bosom—were enough, combined, to crush the spirit of any human being less firm, patient, and courageous than this young creature; and even such as she was, the burden oppressed, overshadowed, and subdued her soul to a seriousness almost falling to gloom.

subdued her soul to a seriousness almost falling to gloom.

Mrs. Houston, to do that superficial little lady justice, applied herself with more earnestness than any one would have given her credit for possessing, to the delicate and difficult task of consoling the orphan. And her advantages for doing this were excellent.

Buzzard's Bluff was a fine, pleasant, cheerful residence. It was, in fact, a high, grassy, rolling hill, rising gradually from the water's edge, and, far behind, crowned with the dense primitive forest. Upon the brow of this green hill, against the background of the green forest, stood the white dwelling, fronting the water. It was a large brick edifice covered with white stucco, relieved by many green Venetian window-blinds, and presenting a very gay and bright aspect. Its style of architecture was very simple, being that in which ninety-nine out of a hundred of the better sort of country houses in that neighborhood were then built. The mansion consisted of a square central edifice, of two storeys, with a wide hall running through the middle of each story from front to back, and having four spacious rooms on each floor. This main edifice was continued by a long black building.

And it was flanked on the right by a tasteful wing, having a peaked roof.

Such words are absurd between you and me, Maggie. Come, I will leave you now to finish your letter, and return to you by and by:

"And then she left the room, thinking within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought my within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought my within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought within hersel

This main edifice was continued by a long black building.

And it was flanked on the right by a tasteful wing, having a peaked roof with a gable-end front, one large, double window below, and a fanlight above. There were also side windows and a side door opening inta a flower garden. The whole wing, walls, windows and roof was completely covered with creeping vines, cape jessamine, clematis, honeysuckles. runnig roses, etc., that gove portions of the mansion the appearance of a beautiful summer house. This contained two large rooms, divided by a short passage, and had been given up entirely to the use of Ralph. The front room, with the large seaward widow, he had occupied as a private sitting, reading, writing and lounging parlor; the back room was his aleeping chamber. A staircase in the abort dividing passage led up into the room in the roof, lighted by two opposite gable fanlights, where he stowed his guns, gamebags, fishing tackle, etc.

Now, during the month that Margaret had passed at the Point, Ralph had gradually removed his personal effects from this wing, had caused both parlor and the chamber to be newly papered, painted and furnished, and then expressed his

But on Tuesday morning, after Mr. Helmstert and Ralph Houston had de-parted, Mrs. Houston and her maids went busily to work and refreshed the pretty rooms of the ing white lace curtains to hanging white lace curtains to the windows, white lace valances to the toi-let table and tester, etc., and transfig-uring the neatly-kept bachelor's apart-ments into a lady's charming littly bou-

the flowers in the white vases upon front room mantelpiece, and the books from Mrs. Houston's own rary upon the centre table, the lady, in her eagerness to surprise and please, hurried away to seek Margaret and introduce her to her de-Margaret and introduce her to her delightful apartments. She tripped swiftly and softly up the stairs, and into the room, where she surprised Margaret, quite absorbed in some work at ner quite absorbed in some work at ner love," led her into the pretty wing ap-

writing-desk.

"Oh, you are busy! Whom are you writing to, my dear?" she inquired, eagerly, hastening to the side of the gui and looking over her shoulder.

She meant nothing, or next to nothing—it was her heedless, impulsive way. She was in a hurry, and did not top to remember that the question was rude, even when Margaret, with a sudden blush, reversed her sheet of paper, and, keeping her hand pressed down upon it, arose in agitation.

arose in agitation.

"Why, how startled you are, my dear!
How nervous you must be! I ought not to have come upon you so suddenly. But to whom are you writing, my dear!"

"To—a—correspondent, Mrs. Houston."

"Dear me, how mysterious you are! My curiosity is growing irresistible! Who is it?"

Margaret suddenly burst into tears.
This brought the heedless little lady
to her senses. She hastened to soothe

to her senses. She hastened to soone and apologize.

"Why, Margaret, my dear child! Why, Margaret! Dear me, how sorry I am! I am very sorry, Margaret! What a thoughtless chatterbox I am of my age! But then I was only teasing you to rouse you a little, my dear! I did not mean to hurt you! And then I had such a pleasant surerise for you. Forgive me!"

ant surprise for you. Forgive me!"

Margaret slipped her left hand into
Mrs. Houston's (her right was still pressed upon the letter), and said:
"Forgive me. It is I who am nervous

and irritable and require sufferance. You are very, very kind to me in all things, and I feel it." The little lady stooped and kissed her,

saying:
"Such words are absurd between you

"Such words are absurd between you and me, Maggie. Come, I will leave you now to finish your letter, and return to you by and by."
"And then she left the room, thinking within herself: "The sensitive little creature! Who would have thought my heedless words would have distressed her so?" I did not care about knowing to

Meanwhile Margaret Helmstedt had started up, closed the door and turned the key, and, clasping her pale face between her hands, began pacing the floor and exclaiming at intervals:

"Oh, Heaven of heavens, how nearly all had been lost! Oh, I am unfit, I am unfit for this dreadful trust. To think that I should have sat down for the purpose of writing to him, and left the door unfastened! Farewell to fiberty and frankness! I am given over to bonds, to vigilance and secretiveness forever! Oh, mother! my mother! I will be true to you! Oh, our Father who are in heaven, help me to be firm and wise and true!"

She came back at last, and sat down

She came back at last, and sat down She came back at last, and sat down to her writing desk, and finished her letter. Then opening her pocketbook, she took out the cheque for five hundred dollars, drawn by her father, in her favor, on a Baltimore bank, inclosed it in the letter, sealed and directed it, and placed it in the sanctity of her bosom.

it, and placed it in the sanctity of her bosom.

Then folding her arms upon her writing desk, she dropped her head upon them, and in that attitude of dejection remained until the ringing of the supper bell aroused her.

Colonel Houston, who was waiting for her in the hall, received her with his old school courtesy, drew her hand within his arm and led her out upon the lawn, where, under the shade of a gignatic chestnut tree, the tea table was set—its snowy drapery and glistening service making a pleasant contrast to the vivid green verdure of the lawn upon which it stood. Old Colonel and Mrs. Compton and Nellie formed a pleasing group around the table. Col. Houston handed Margaret to her place, and took his own seat.

"My dear, I am going to send Lemuel."

"I thank you, Mrs. Houston," said Houston,

Accordingly, the first evening of Margaret.

Accordingly, the first evening of Margarets arrival she had been accommodated with a pleasant chamber on the second floor front of the main building.

But on Tuesday morning, after Mr.

Helmster and Palph March 1988 and sink upon the converged to the main which is the converged to the main which is the converged to t ton.

"Pray, excuse me," said Margaret, em-

barrassed.

This answer surprised the family group, who had, however, the tact to withdraw their attention and change the subject.

After tea, an hour or two was spent After tea, an hour or two was spent upon the pleasant lawn, strolling through the groves, or down to the silvery beach, and watching the monotonous motion of the sea, the occasional leap and plunge of the fish, the solitary flight of a laggard water fowl, and perhaps the distant appearance of a sail.

At last, when the full moon was high in the heavens, the family returned to the house.

Mrs. Houston took Margaret's arm,

love," led her into the propriated to her. The rooms were ill

propriated to her.

The rooms were illuminated by a shaded alabaster lamp that diffused a sort of tender moonlight tone over the bright carpet and chair and sofa covers, and the marble topped tables, and white lace window curtains of the boudoir, and fell softly upon the pure white draperies of the sleeping room beyond. Hildreth, in her neat, sober gown of gray stuff, and her apron, neckhandkerchief and turban of white linen, stood in attendance.

arose in agitation.

"Why, how startled you are, my dear! How nervous you must be! I ought not to have come upon you so suddenly but to have come upon you so suddenly." "To—a—correspondent, Mrs. Houston."

"Why, just look there, now! See what a good hand I am at guessing, for I even judged as much! But who is your correspondent, then, my dear!"

"A—friend, Mrs. Houston."

"Good, again! I had imagined so, since you have no enemies, my child. But who then is this friend, you little rustic? You have not even acquaintances to write letters to, much less friends, bunless it is Franky! Ah, by the way, don't write to Franky, Margaret! He could not bear it now."

Margaret made no comment, and Mrs.

"I understand, also, that your father that is not since in the base of his matter, and I shall, therefore, immediately after break. Hall, therefore, immediately after break in stall, in the sace—and now she prometris deemed and not seen her faithful nurse for a month—that is, not since a month—that is, not since a month—that is, not since in the prove ther, scarcely able to refrain from bursting into tears.

Mrs. Houston interfered.

"Now, my dear Margaret, here are your servants; little boudoir and chamber, I flatter myself, as can be found in Maryland—connected with the house, yet entirely separate and private. And here are your servants; littlered will occupy the room in the food above, and Forrest has a quarter in the prove there, within easy soud of your bell. Your boat is secure in the boat house below, and your horse is in the best stall, in the stable."

"I thank you, dear Mrs. Houston."

"I therefore, immediately after break individual to the village to make inquiries at the post office." And having strength the receives at the post office." And having strength the receives at the post office." And having strength the resolution, the lady, still struggling with her feelings for

has assigned you a very liberal income. Consequently, my dear, you are in all things as independent as a little queen in her palace. Consider also, dear Margaret, that it is a great accession of happiness to us all to have you here, and we should wish to have as much of your company as possible. Therefore, when you are inclined to society, come among us; at all other times, you can retire to this, your castle. And at all times and seasons our house and servants are at your orders, Margaret; for you know that as the bride of our eldest son and heiryou are in some sort our Princess of Wales," she concluded, playfully.

"I thank you, dear Mrs. Houston," again said the young girl. Her thought were too gravely preoccupied to give much attention to the prattle of the lady.

lady.

"And, by the way, Margaret, where is your letter, my dear? I shall despatch Lemuel early in the morning."

"You are very considerate, Mrs. Houston, but I do not purpose to send it by

ton, but I do not purpose to send it ny Lemuel."

"As you please, my dear. Good night," she said, kissing the maiden with sincere affection, notwithstanding that, as she left the room, her baffled curiosity induced her to murmur:

"There is some ill mystery, that I am constrained to discover, connected with that letter."

Miss Helmstedt, left to herself, directed Hildreth to secure the doors communicating with the main building, and then go and call Forest to her presence. "I shall not tax you much, Forrest." she said, "though to-night I have to require rather an arduous service of you."

you."
"Nothing is too hard that I do for you. Miss Margaret," replied Forrest.
"Listen then—to-night, after you are sure that all the family are retired, and there is no possibility of your being observed, take my horse from the stable and ride, as for your life, to Belleview, and put this carefully in the postoffice," she said, drawing the letter from her bosom and placing it in the hand of Forrest.

The old man looked at her wistfully uneasily, drew a deep sigh, bowed reve-ently, put the letter in his pocket, and at a sign from his mistress, left th

soom.

But that night at 11 o'clock, Nellie, vatching from her window, saw Miss delmstedt's messenger ride away over the hills through the moonlight.

CHAPTER XI.

"You, sir! I want to see you! Come hither!" sai: Mrs. Houston, as she stood upon the back piazza, early the next morning, and beckoned Forrest to

her presence.

The old man bowed in his deferential manner, advanced and stood hat in hand before the little lady.

"Where did you go last night after we had all retired?"

Forrest bowed again, humbly and de-

we had all retried?"
Forrest bowed again, humbly and depreciatingly, but remained silent.
"Did you hear me speak to you?" inquired Mrs. Houston, impatiently.
The old man bowed once more very meekly, and answered:
"I went after no harm, mistress."
"Nor after any good, I'll venture to say!—but this is not the point, sir. I ask you where you went! and I intend to have an answer."
"I begs your pardon sincere, mistress, but mus' veeline for to 'form you."
"You old villain! Do you dare to defy me here on my own premises? I'll see about this!" exclaimed the lady, in a voice more shrill than ladylike, as with a flushed face and excited air she turned into the house to summon Colonel Houston.

But she was intercepted by Margaret, who had heard the voice, and now came from her own apartment and stood before her.
"Stay. Mrs. Houston, I sent Forrest."

"Stay, Mrs. Houston, I sent Forrest away on an errand last night, and if he declined to inform you whither he went, it was from no disrespect to you; but from fidelity to me. I had enjoined him not to speak to anyone of his errand," she said, in a voice and manner so respectful as to take away everything offensive from her words.

"You did! Now then where did you send him, Margaret? I am your guardian, and I have a right to know."

"You must forgive me, Mrs. Houston, if I deeline to inform you," replied the maiden, firmly, though still very respectfully.

"I know, however. It was to mail that letter."

"You must draw your own conclusions." Stay, Mrs. Houston, I sent Forrest

this wing, had caused both parlor and the chamber to be newly papered, painted and furnished, and then expressed his wish that upon his departure for the most separated, beautiful and desirable portion of the establishment, might be given up to the exclusive use of his affanced bride.

Mrs. Houston consented, with the proviso that he should not vacate the proviso that he should not vacate the proviso that he should not vacate the for camp.

"I thank you, Mrs. Houston," said

"I know, however. It was to mail that letter! "You must draw your own conclusions, dear madam." "You must draw your own conclusions, dear madam." "You must draw your own conclusions, dear madam." And I will put on my bonnet and drive over to the post office, and deanand of the post off

see Margaret grow pale and sink upon the corner of the hall settee. Mrs. Houston hesitated between her curiosity and anger on the one hand, and her pity on the other. Finally she made a compromise. Coming to Mar-garet's side, she said:

"Maggie, I am treated abominably, standing as I do in your mother's place toward you, and being as I am your guardian—abominably! Now, I am sure I do not wish to pry into your correguardan—abominably: Now, I am sure I do not wish to pry into your corre spondence, unless it is an improper one. "Mrs. Houston, my mother's daughter could not have an improper correspondence, as you should be the first to feel assured."

if this correspondence were proper, you would not be so solicitous to conceal it

from me."

It occurred to Margaret to reply:
"Mrs. Houston, suppose that I were writing sentimental letters to a female friend, which might not be really wrong, yet which I should not like to expose to your ridicule, would I not, in such a case, even though it were a proper correspondence, be solicitous to conceal it from you?"—but her exact truthfulness prevented her from putting this suppo-sitious case, and as she did not in any other manner reply, Mrs. Houston con-tinued:

tinued:
"So you see, Margaret, that you force me to investigate this matter, and I shall, therefore, immediately after breakfast, proceed to the village to make inquiries at the post office." And having announced this resolution, the lady, still struggling with her feelings of displeasure, left the hall.

(To be continued)

AT R. McKAY & CO'S,

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1908 HAMILTON'S MOST PROGRESSIVE STORE

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#### Commencement of the Second Week of the JUNE CLEARING SALE

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Dainty All-overs, in Swiss and Cambric, 18 inches wide, all good designs, suitable for children's dresses, etc., worth up to 60c yard, clearing at 25c yard Embroidered Handkerchiefs 3 for 25c

Embroidered Handkerchiefs 2 for 25c 500 dozen of very fine Swiss Handkerchiefs, in the hemstitched and scolloped edge, fine, dainty patterns, regularly 20 and 25c, on sale 2 for .... 25c

Irish Linen Handkerchiefs 5c Each 

#### Big June Sale of Fine Dress Materials Monday Sale of Fine Black Mohairs, Worth Regularly \$1.00 and \$1.25, Sale Price 59c Yard

Never before have we made a better offer from our dress goods section. Black, rich, Silk Finished Mohairs on sale Monday at a big reduction, take advantage of this splendid bargain, at per yard . . . . . 59e

Rich Cream Panamas and Serges 

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| 1 | Special Bargains for Men.   |
|---|---|
|   | A large shipment of Men's Black Cashmere Embroidered Socks, the regular price is 40 and 50c, Monday will sell for |
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| ١ | Soft Front Shirts in fancy stripes, odd sizes, regular price \$1.25 and \$1.50 Monday                             |
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### **Special June Values for Monday**

Remnants 8½c . 814c yard

Napkins 60c Dozen Sheeting Specials Covers 37c

72-inch Tambour Dresser Covers, dainty patterns, regular 65c, for .. 37c Bath Towels 15c

Extra Size Bath Towels, close, aborbent weave, regular 20c, for . 15c

Mill ends of Fly Net, in red, pink and yellow worth 8c, special 21/4c yard

Tea Toweling 41/2c 17-inch Check Tea Toweling, clean, absorbent weave, special .. . . . 41/2e

#### Specials in the Baby Department THIRD FLOOR

50c Pinafores for 19c

These are new and very dainty little Pinafores for children aged 1, 2 and 3 years, are made of fine English Nainsook, trimmed with fine cluster tucks and embroidery. These are this season's goods, on sale Monday at 19e

75c Bonnets for 49c

All of this season's 75c Children's Bonnets go on sale on Monday at 49c. Every style is represented in this lot, consisting of the very much desired Dutch Bonnet, also the flared frill and lace ruche.

75c Bonnets for 49c

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Two Hammock Snaps

\$2.25 for \$1.68 This is a splendid strong ham-mock for strenuous use. Let the children romp in it. Made with-out a valance. In greens and reds, full length, double reinforced bed. Strong cords.

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20c Cretounes at 10c 31 inch width, English Cretonne in fast colors, suitable for sum-ner coverings and hangings. 40c Cushion Covers at 23c

Made of plain crass times, neat hemmed frill, full size. Splen did for summer use, for covers, over good cushion. O limited number to be sold. \$5.00 Lace Curtains \$2.78

A handsome, dainty lace Curtain in a fine lacey net. The designs are most pleasing, 3½ yds. long, full width, will wear and laundar well avidth.

### Special June Sale of Rugs, Mats and Matting

Clearing line Axminster Hearth Rugs, full size, splendid patterns; worth \$3.00, Monday's price . \$2.25 Smyrna Hearth Rugs \$2.75

Axminster Hearth Rugs \$2.25

Clearing line Smyrna Hearth Rugs, size 30 x 60 inches, choice range patterns and colorings; worth \$3.75, Monday's price . \$2.75 Moravian Hearth Rugs \$1.49

Clearing line Moravian Hearth Rugs, size 36 x 63 inches, reversible, oriental designs; worth \$2.50, Monday's price \$1.49 Wilton Hearth Rugs \$2.98

Clearing line Moravian Door Mats, full size, oriental designs, reversible; worth 50c, Monday's price .... 33c Axminster Door Mats 49c Clearing line Axminster Door M fringed ends, choice colorings; w 75c, Monday's price 490

Moravian Door Mats 33c

Tapestry Sample Ends 65c Clearing line Tapestry Sample Ends 1½ yards long; worth \$1.25, Monday's price

Clearing line Wilton Hearth Rugs, size 27 x 54 inches, elegant colorings, newest atterns; worth \$4.00, Monday's price \$2.98 day's price \$2.98

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June 12th ... Empress of Britain
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July 10th ... Empress of Britain ... June 25th
RATES—According to steamer. First-cabin, 515.0 up; second-cabin, \$42.5 up; steerage, 327.50 and \$28.75.

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THE ROW UPON THE STAIRS Says Mistress Bell to Mistress Todd,
Ye'd better clean the stairs!
Ye've missed yor turn for monny a week,
The neybars a' did theirs!
Says Mistress Todd to Mistress Bell,
'Aw teel ye, Mistress Bell,
Ye'd better mind yor awn affairs,
An' clean the stairs yorsel.

KORUS. Oh, what tungs I' the row upon the stairs, Clitterin, ciatterin, scandal an' clash I' the row upon the stairs. Says Mistrees Todd, "When it suits me To think that it's me turn; Ye've a vast a cheek te order me, Thor's not a wummin born That keeps a cleaner hoose than me; An mark ye, Mistrees Bell, Ef ye'd ony de the syem as me Ye'd gan an clean yorsel."

Says Mistress Bell, "Ye clarty fah,
We was't that stole the beef?"
"What de ye say?" cries Mistress Todd,
"De ye mean that aw'm a thle?"
Le's heh the sixpense that aw lent
Te treat Meg Smith wi' gin;
An' where's the blanket that ye gat
The last time ye lay in?"

Says Mistress Bell. "Ye knaa yorsel, The sixpense lang been pald, An' the rangry blanket that ye lent Was ne use then ye said." "A rangry blanket, Mistress Bell." Cries Mistress Todd. "What cheek! Yor dorty stockin' had two holes Full twice the size last week."

"My holey stockings," cries Mistress Bell,
"Looks better on the street,
Than yer gud man's awd blutcher beut,
Ye weer te hide yor feet,
The earrings ye gas frae the Jew
On tick the tushor day,
'll be like the fine manadge man's shawl
The syem as gien away."

Says Mistress Todd, "Ye greet skyt gob, Ye'd better bad yor jaw,"
The very shift upon yor back
Belangs the wife belaw."
"I strue, thor is no doot,"
Last neet ye fuddled wi' Bob the Snob
The time yor man was oot."

"Oh, Mistress Bell," says Mistress Todd,
"Ye brazind lukin" slut,
Ye may tawk away-te clean the stairs
Aw'll nivor stir a foot!
Afore aw'd life a skoorin' cloot.
The mucky stairs te clean,
Aw'd see them turn as black as ye,
Ye pawnshop lukin' queen."

THREE DROWNING ACCIDENTS

Pearce, Alberta. Pearce, Alberta.

Fort William, June 26.—William McRae, who was working on the Grand Trunk Pacific budge at West Fort William, fell off the bridge this morning and was drowned. He was un-

married.

Pierson, Man., June 26.—Thomas
Bright, a bachelor farmer, who has
lived here for twenty-five years, was
found drowned in a pond near his home

found drowned in a pond near his nome last night.

Pearce, Alta, June 26.—Bernard Laing, fifteen years of age, was drowned in Belly River about 1.30 to-day while bathing. His seven-year-old brother, who was with him, was unable to render any assistance.

Sentence Sermons. The greedy are always needy.
Life is the mill in which men are made.

They are richest who give the world most refreshing.

They are richest who give the world most refreshing.

Making a name for gold does not make a golden name.

Truth rists on facts, but her face reaches higher realms.

Hope and aspiration joined make the energy of any life.

It often takes a great load to get a man down on his knees.

The failure to be feared is that of fearing to begin lest you fail.

That is a good lesson on patience which is learned through pain.

An appetite for flattery attracts our foes and repels our friends.

Lots of people think that jeering at others justifies them for never trying.

ng. Pride simply is the dread of

When duty calls from ease it al-ways will be found easier to obey than For one man who desires to double his worth you will find a hundred passionately anxious to double their we-"th.

mon to every pneumatic

Unfortunately a man's obituary notice always comes too late to get him a job. Unless a man knows his own mind he can't expect to have his own way.

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