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THE TOILER

JENNIE BAXTER: JOURNALIST

BY ROBERT BARR.

V.—The Prime Minister's Indiscretion.

(Copyright, 1901, by Robert Barr.)

"Then don't you think we might enact a romance in high life in this very room? It is high enough from the street to entitle it to be called a romance in high life." And the editor grinned un- usually, like an unwary man who hopes to relieve a dilemma by a poor joke. Jennie, however, did not laugh and did not look up at him, but continued to scribble shorthand notes on the paper before her.

"Ah, Mr. Hardwick!" she said, with a sigh. "I see you have discovered my secret, although I hoped to conceal it even from your alert eyes. I am, in- deed, in the situation of Ralph Rack- straw in 'Pinafore'—I love, and love, above my station—and now that you know half you may as well know all. It arose out of that unfortunate tall given by the Duchess of Chisel-



"Don't you think we might enact a romance in high life in this very room?" burst, which would mean me all the rest of my life, I fear," said Jennie, still without looking up.

Mr. Hardwick smothered an ejaculation and was glad that the girl's eyes were not upon him. There was a pause of a few moments' duration between them. He took the path that was left open to him, fondly flattering himself that while he had stumbled inadvertently upon her romance he had kept his own secret safe.

"I-I have no right to intrude on your confidence, Miss Baxter," he said finally with an effort, "and I hope you will excuse me for—"

"Oh, I have been sure for some days that you knew it!" interrupted the girl, looking up, but not at him. "I have been neglecting my work, I fear, and so you were quite right in speaking."

"No, your work is all right. It wasn't that exactly—but never mind. We won't speak of this any more, for I see it embarrasses you."

"Thank you, Mr. Hardwick," said Jennie, again bending her eyes on the desk before her.

The man saw the color come and go in her cheeks and thought he had never behind any one so entrancing. He rose quickly without making further at- tempt at explanation and left the room. One or two teardrops stained the paper on which the girl was scribbling. She did not like giving pain to any one, but could not hold herself to blame for what had happened. She made up her mind to leave the Daily Bugle and seek employment elsewhere; but next day Mr. Hardwick showed no trace of dis- appointment and spoke to her with that curt impersonality which had heretofore been his custom.

"Miss Baxter," he said, "have you been reading the newspapers with any degree of attention lately?"

"Yes, Mr. Hardwick."

"Have you been watching the drift of foreign politics?"

"Do you refer to that speech by the prime minister of Austria a week or two ago?"

"Yes, that is what I have in my mind. As you know, then, it amounted almost to a declaration of war against England—almost, but not quite. It was a case of saying too much or not saying enough. However, it was not followed up, and the premier has been as dumb as a graven image ever since England has many enemies in different parts of the world, but I must confess that this speech by the Austrian premier came as a surprise. There must have been something hidden which is not visible from the outside. The premier is too astute a man not to know exactly what his words meant, and he was un- der no delusion. It is a case, then, of when I was so quickly done for I

wonder what I was begun for." That is what all Europe is asking.

"Is it not generally supposed, Mr. Hardwick, that his object was to con- solidate Austria and Hungary? I un- derstood that local politics was at the bottom of his policy."

"Quite so, but the rousing of the war spirit in Austria and Hungary was un- usual, unless that spirit is given some- thing to do. It needs a war, not a threat of war, to consolidate Austria and Hungary. If the speech had been followed by hostile action or by another outbreak that would make war inevitable, I could understand it. The tone of the speech indicates that the prime minister meant business at the time he gave utterance to it. Something has oc- curred meanwhile to change the situa- tion, and what that something is all the newspapers in Europe have been trying to find out. We have had our regular Vienna representative at work ever since the words were uttered, and for the past two weeks he has been assist- ed by one of the cleverest men I could send him from London; but up to date, both have failed. Now I propose that you go quietly to Vienna. I shall not let either of the men know you are at work on the affair at which they have labored with such little success, for both are good men, and I do not want to discourage either of them. Still, above all things, I wish to have the solution of this mystery. So it oc- curred to me last night that you might succeed where others had failed. What do you think of it?"

"I am willing to try," said Miss Baxter, as there flashed across her mind an idea that here was a case in which Princess von Steinheim could be of the greatest assistance to her.

"It has been thought," went on the editor, "that the emperor is extremely averse to having trouble with England or any other country. Still, if that were really the case, it would be a pity that there should be formed after this inter- prete address of the premier; but this man still holds his office, and there has been neither explanation nor apology from court or cabinet. I am convinced that there is something behind all this, a wheel within a wheel of some sort, because the day after the speech there came a rumour of some kind in the court at Vienna, and if we could publish the full details such an article would give us a European reputation. When could you be ready to begin your journey, Miss Baxter?"

"I am ready now."

"Well, in an affair like this it is best to lose no time. You can leave to- morrow, then, if you wish."

"Oh, certainly, but I must leave the office at once, and you must get some one to finish the work I am on."

"I will attend to that," said the editor.

Thus relieved, Jennie betook herself to a telegraph office. She knew that if she wrote a letter to the premier that was now in Vienna she would probably herself reach that city as soon as her note, so she telegraphed that something important was on hand which would take her to Vienna by next day's Orient express and intimated that it was a matter in which she might need the as- sistance of the princess. Then she in- formed her to pack up. That evening there came an answering tele- gram from Vienna. The princess asked her to bring her ball dress and all the rest of her finery. The lady added that she herself would be at the railway sta- tion and asked Jennie to telegraph to her on route. It was made up her mind to leave the Daily Bugle and seek employment elsewhere; but next day Mr. Hardwick showed no trace of dis- appointment and spoke to her with that curt impersonality which had heretofore been his custom.

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"I don't pretend to understand diplo- macy," continued Jennie, blushing slightly as she remembered Lord Donal and it seemed that the same thought struck the princess at the same mo- ment, for she looked quizzically at Jen- nie and burst out into a laugh.

"You may laugh, but I tell you that this is a serious business. They say it only needed a second 'new mill' speech from the premier to have England an- swer most politely in words of honey, and next instant the two countries would have been at each other's throat."

"Suppose we write to Lord Donal in St. Petersburg," suggested the princess, still laughing, "and ask him to come to Vienna and help us? He understands all about diplomacy. By the way, Jen- nie, did Lord Donal ever find out who he met at the ball that night?"

"No, he didn't," answered Jennie shortly.

"Don't you ever intend to let him know? Are you going to leave the romance unfinished, like one of Henry James' novels?"

"Isn't it a romance. It is simply a very distressing incident which I have been trying to forget ever since. It is all very well for you to laugh, but if you ever mention the subject again I'll leave you and go to a hotel."

"I want to discover why the premier did not follow up his speech with an- other. He must have known when he spoke how his words would be taken in England. Therefore it is thought that he had some plans which unforeseen circumstances intervening have nullified. I want to know what those un- foreseen circumstances were. For the past fortnight The Daily Bugle has had two men here in Vienna trying to throw some light on the dark recesses of diplomacy. Up to date they have failed, but at any moment they may succeed. It was because they failed that I am sent here. Now, have you anything to suggest, Madame in Prin- cessa?"

"I suggest, Jennie, that we put our heads together and learn all that those clever diplomatists wish to hide. Have you no plans yourself?"

"I have no very definite plan, but I have a general scheme. These men I spoke of are trying to discover what other plans are being concocted. All the officials are on their guard. They are highly placed and are not likely to be got at by bribery. They are clever, alert men of the world, so bookwinking their is out of the question; therefore, I think, you two fellow journalists have a difficult task before them."

"But it is the same task that you have before you. Why is it not as difficult for you, Jennie, as for them?"

"Because I propose to work with peo- ple who are not on their guard, and there is where you can help me, if you are not shocked at my proposal. Each official has a wife, or at least most of them have. Some of these wives, in all probability, possess the information that we would like to get. Women will talk more freely with women than men will with men. Now, I propose to leave the officials severely alone and to interview the wives."

"The princess clapped her hands in a fervent and excited way. "The women of Vienna are the greatest gossipers I ever heard chattering together. I have never taken any interest in politics, otherwise I suppose I might have become possessed of some important gov- ernment secrets. Now, Jennie, I'll tell you what I propose doing. I shall give a formal dinner Thursday afternoon. I shall invite to that ten or a dozen or two dozen or three dozen wives of high placed officials about the court. My husband will like that, because he is always complaining that I do not pay enough attention to the ladies of the political circle of Vienna. He takes a great interest in politics, you know. If I discover nothing at the first meet- ing, we will have another and an- other and another until we do. We are sure to invite the right woman on one occasion or another, and when we find her I'll warrant the secret will soon be long to us. Ah, here we are at home, more about the dinner. 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R-I-P-A-N-S

The simplest remedy for indigestion, constipation, biliousness and the many ailments arising from a disordered stomach, liver or bowels is Ripans Tablets. They go straight to the seat of the trouble, relieve the distress, cleanse and cure the affected parts, and give the system a general toning up.

At Druggists
The Five-Cent packs are enough for an ordinary occasion. The family bottle, 50 cents, contains a supply for a year.



Carter's Teething Powders

THE BEST FOR TEETHING BABIES

We wish YOU a MERRY XMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

CARTER'S LUNG BALSAM
Cures Croup, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Asthma, and all Lung Affections.

CARTER'S WORM POWDERS
A safe and effective remedy for worms in children and adults.

CARTER'S HEADACHE POWDERS
Cure all Headaches—will cure you.

"Health and Vigor depend upon the quality and quantity of the blood." HUMANITARIAN

The liver is the great excretory organ of the body, and when it fails to perform its office, the accumulation and the blood become poisonous, causing many unpleasant symptoms, such as: dull, heavy, languid feeling; indigestion; constipation; dizziness; spots in front of the eyes; and a general feeling of malaise.

If these symptoms are not dealt with faithfully, they become aggravated and as to induce serious illness. To relieve all these and cure permanently.

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Stomach and Constipation Bitters

Have long been recognized as the sovereign treatment. These are made from the formula of an eminent Canadian physician who has used the prescription in his practice for many years with most satisfactory results.

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THE MUSE OF LABOR

I come, O heroes, to the world gone wrong;
I bring the hope of nations; and I bear
The warm first rush of rapture in my song.
The faint first light of morning on my hair.

I look upon the ages from a tower;
I am the Muse of the Fraternal State;
No hand can hold me from my crowning hour;
My song is Freedom, my step is Fate.

The toilers go on broken at the heart;
But what avail! the builders have no shame
No share in all the glory of their hands.

I have descended from Alectryon;
I am the Muse of Labor and of Mirth;
I come to break the chain of infancy
That binds the child's mind to the earth.

I have descended from the Hidden Place,
To make dumb spirits speak and dead
feet start;
I feel the wind of battles in my face,
I bear the song of nations in my heart.

I stand by Him, the Hero of the Cross,
To hurl down traitors that mispend
His bread;
I teach the stars of mystery and loss
To shake the kingdom of the living dead.

I wear the flower of Christ for a crown;
I seize the sun and give to each a name;
And through the hushed Eternity bend
down.

To strengthen gods and keep their souls
from blame,
I come to overthrow the ancient wrong,
To let the joy of nations rise again;
I am Unashamed Service, I am Song,
I am the Hope that feeds the hearts of men.

I am the Vision in the world-widow,
And where I pass the feet of Beauty
burn;
And when I set the bugle to my lips,
The youth of work-worn races will return.

I am Religion, and the church I build
Stands on the sacred flesh with passion
packed;
In me the ancient gospel is fulfilled—
In me the symbol rises into fact.

I am the maker of the People's bread,
I bear the little heroisms of the day;
Yet in the mystery of my song I tread
The endless heavens and show the stars
their way.
—Edwin Markham.

SOCIALIST MEETINGS

Rev. J. T. Sunderland delivered an address before Socialists, League No. 2 at Bromley Hall on the evening of the 14th inst.

On the subject of "Peace on Earth." He dealt with the awful wastes and burdens of war and the military system, which in Europe required the maintenance of armies amounting to the aggregate of 24,000,000 men.

Provision of war and payment of the debts incurred in past conflicts absorbed six-tenths of the national resources of Britain. War was infinitely worse than anarchism. It raised up false ideals of heroism and national greatness. The Crimean war had been admitted to be a blunder. Her long would it be before the South African war was classed in the same category.

Moral heroism was a far superior and more valuable quality than brute courage. The way to obtain peace was not, as had been stated, to prepare for war, but to prepare for peace. In communities where every citizen went armed, bloodshed was of frequent occurrence.

To create an army and navy was the surest means of precipitating war. Wars were promoted by the military class from selfish motives with a view to personal advancement. He anticipated that the principle of arbitration as a means of settling international disputes would gradually gain ground, and that the Hague Arbitration Court would be extensively resorted to for that purpose.

At the conclusion of the lecture several of the comrades expressed their concurrence with the sentiments of the speaker and drew attention to the fact that the desire of the capitalist class to find new fields for exploitation was the great cause of wars of aggression, which would not cease until Socialism was established.

An Evening with Bellamy was the subject of an interesting and forcible address by John A. Kelly before Social League No. 5 at Social Hall, Bloor street west, on the 19th inst. The speaker outlined the main features of the cooperative commonwealth, as presented in Bellamy's "Looking Backward," and contended that the programme of Socialism was a practical and attainable one.

He alluded to the marvels effected by modern science, which had made what were formerly regarded as the dreams of visionaries, accomplished realities. The transformation which was going on before our eyes as the result of scientific discoveries applied to the purposes of every-day life, would have been deemed incredible a generation ago. The same attention devoted to the social problem would in like manner transform society and bring Socialism into operation.

The regular weekly meetings of League No. 60 will be resumed every Monday evening after the new year.

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FURS

If For a Lady

Choose an Alaska Sable Muff—our extra special line at **10.00**

Or an Alaska Sable Scarf—our special value at **5.00**

If For a Gentleman

Choose a pair of Otter—Persian Lamb or Electric Seal Gauntlets **8.00 to 25.00**

Or a Persian Lamb—Seal or Otter Cap—**7.50 to 30.00**

Furs are always acceptable for a man or woman and our collection is the finest in the Dominion.

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Thompson Bros., 225 Queen East
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When you are buying a FUR HAT, either soft or stiff, see to it that the genuine Union Label is on it. If a retailer has loose labels in his possession and offers to put one in a hat for you, do not patronize him. He has not any right to have loose labels, not patronize him. He has not any right to have loose labels, not patronize him. He has not any right to have loose labels, not patronize him.

JOHN A. MOFFITT, President, Orange, N.J.
JOHN PHILLIPS, Secretary, 72 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

From Tom Barton's Column, in the Star. A legal decision of the highest importance to trades unions has just been rendered in the courts of Great Britain. The decision is important from the fact that it is the opinion of some of the best authorities on questions affecting the legal relations of employers and employees, the decision in question will stand as a landmark in the settlement of questions where the issues involved are of a similar character to that in the suit which has just been decided. The result in the case referred to is regarded as a signal victory for trades unions.

The case was that of the Glamorgan Coal Company, in which no less than 74 coal mining companies were the plaintiffs, against the South Wales Miners' Federation, defendants. The suit was to recover compensation from the Federation for losses incurred through the action of the Miners' Federation in proclaiming certain days as holidays to be observed by the miners. Judge Bigham, the presiding judge in the court in which the suit was tried, gave a very elaborate and broad-minded set of definitions as to the legal rights of employers and employees, making it clear that the Federation was on the point of "injury" to the employers as the result of the observance of the holidays proclaimed by the Federation exclusively to organize.

The judge declared in very precise and far-reaching terms the undoubted legal right of employees to organize themselves into a federation, and that such a federation, for the purpose of protecting the coal companies, was "for the purpose of protecting the miners." It might be true that the coal companies were "injured" by such action, but that was not the purpose of the Federation Executive in advising the men to cease work. The point is a very nice one, but in its legal aspect it is very wide and far-reaching in consequences. As having a bearing upon, and illustrating, this point of "intentional injury," and "injury not intentional," attention has been called to the case of a company of traders, who by a certain course of action, brought absolute ruin to another trader. This result, however, was ascribed to the effects of lawful competition in trading.

What is lawful for a trading company under the general law of competition must also be regarded as lawful for a trade union, which, in effect, is competing for certain advantages for its members. Otherwise, the position would be that there is one law for the employer and another for the employee.

A CHANCE FOR ORGANIZER FLEET

The Telegram publishes the following letter from a distinguished class of workers who would better their condition by organizing:

"The present has been described as Canada's growing time, and, judging by the business activity seen on all sides in Toronto, the term is appropriately used. I believe that the volume of business done by the wholesale houses this year is greater than that of any former year. I am sorry to say that there is a class of men who, while contributing to the general activity and bearing their share of the extra work necessitated, are not enjoying the slightest benefit from the good times. This is a class of men who are paid five and six dollars per week for heavy work requiring some skill and entailing some responsibility. My pay is eight dollars per week. I am an active, strong and hardy man and a quick worker. I have for months been worked to the extreme limit of my endurance, so that, although my home is not more than 20 minutes' walk from the warehouse, I am compelled to husband my strength by riding both ways in the cars. We have been frugal, had no contingent expenses lately, such as sickness, in fact no expense outside of actual living expenses, including a very limited supply of clothing, and on this 18th day of December all we have on hand to last until December 31st (next pay) is \$7.31. And this is the happy holiday season and glorious growing time.

Perhaps if you kindly insert this hurriedly written letter in the Telegram it may cause some of those who are reaping the benefit of the 'growing time' to sprout a little growth in the wages of their deserving employees."

Kind words produce their own image in men's souls, and a beautiful image it is. They soothe and comfort the bearer. They shame him out of his unkindly feelings. Few of us have begun to use them in such abundance as they ought to be used.

Your Xmas Presents EASY PAYMENTS D. MORRISON'S 326 Queen St. West

We have a host of useful things suitable for Xmas presents which we have secured specially for the Xmas trade. We place special emphasis on our Fur Department. We are showing:



Ladies' Ruffs, 1.50 to 15.00
Ladies' Capelines, 7.50 to 18.00

Men's Suits, double and single-breasted, 7.50 to 15.00
Boys' Suits, in all styles - 2.50 to 7.00

LADIES' COATS, 2 or full length, 6.95 to 15.00
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266 Queen Street West. Opposite John St. Fire Hall.

Comfortable and Pretty

Slippers in great profusion of colors, styles, and qualities for Children, Boys and Girls, Misses, Ladies, and Men.
Ladies' evening slippers, in patent leather and vicci kid, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 straps. Prices from 1.00 to 5.00.
Ladies' comfortable house slippers, in vicci kid, quilted satin, and felt. Prices from 25c. to 1.25.
Men's pullman slippers in chocolate and black vicci kid, all sizes at 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2.00, and 2.50.
Men's carpets and velvets at 35c., 50c., 75c. and 1.00.
Misses, Boys, and Children's in felt and carpet.

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Accept no excuse for its absence. Quit buying the product of Convict or Scab Labor.

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