

The Promoter's Wife

BY JANE PHELPS

NEIL HAS THE OFFER OF TWO POSITIONS

CHAPTER CXXIII.

After Mr. Frederick left I tidied up. Nell insisted upon drying the dishes. Then we sat in the living room talking of our guest, his kindness, and the feeling of security he had left behind as far as the immediate future was concerned.

Nell had told him in reply to his questions—that it had taken every cent we had in the world to pay our debts. We were poorer than when as boy and girl we started out together. We had worn our clothes until now I was really shabby, although I had insisted that Nell be properly dressed because of his position. We lived in a rented house, not even owning the furniture. We were both over thirty years old, and save for unhappy experiences Nell had nothing to show for the years of hard work. When I thought of this I wondered that he was as cheerful as he was; that he did not more of ten give way to discouragement.

"What are you going to do now, still live out here?" Mr. Frederick asked.

"Yes, Bab likes it, it is good for Robert, and we can live more cheaply. Quite a consideration."

"Have you decided what you will do?" I looked in amazement from one to the other. Was Nell to lose his place with Frederick? I was soon enlightened. Mr. Frederick had seen my look of surprise, and added: "Hast' he told you, Barbara? Chase has offered him a fine position, at a much larger salary than the position with me warrants. My resources have been pretty well drained, and my western interests have suffered by my long absence—he was one of the government's dollar a year men. I should like to meet Chase's figures but can't."

"Yes, I have decided. I said nothing to Bab because there was nothing to say. I shall remain with you as long as you can find a place for me."

"Thank you Forbes. I never needed faithful service as I do now. Such service may mean the saving of my fortune—what is left, and my business. I know of no one else whom I could leave in charge. I shall have to depend as entirely upon you for this eastern end as I have during the war. My time must be spent on the coast. I am almost ashamed to offer you the salary I have decided I can pay at the present. It's mighty little considering how you have saved for me the past two years."

"Not entirely for you," Nell smilingly replied. "Uncle Sam was my employer too, and he urged me on you know."

"Can you live on five thousand a year for a time until I can get my affairs back on a paying basis—paying for me." He looked from one to the other of us, as if I too might have something to say.

"I both can and will. And Mr. Frederick I never have been able to tell you one-half of how grateful I am to you, to express my feelings for what you have done for us. I am not going to try now. But if you had offered me one thousand I should have taken it and remained with you."

"I believe it, Forbes. Although you aren't being quite fair to yourself in sticking to me. Chase offered him ten thousand, Barbara."

I gasped. Anton Chase was one of the big manufacturers of the country. That he had offered Neil, a man who had been accused of being dishonest only a few years before, a position of trust proved how thoroughly Nell had rehabilitated himself in the business world. That he had said nothing to me of the offer proved how truly he recognized the help Frederick had given to him, and his determination to prove his gratitude.

"Aren't you proud of your husband?" he continued lightly, the situation was becoming tense with feeling. "I should be if I were in your place. But you must talk it over with him Barbara. It will mean quite a difference to you as well as

to him," he added without giving me time to reply to his question.

"Indeed I am proud of him. And I need no time to talk it over. He has done exactly right in every particular. We shall feel very wealthy now with the salary you offer, because it will be ours to use as we please. We don't owe a penny, and so can begin to live riotously."

"You are a real wife Barbara. If more men married women like you there would be fewer divorces; fewer unhappy homes. God bless you both," he finished solemnly for him, then said goodbye, leaving my cheeks still burning because of his compliment.

"Frederick is right, Bab. You are a true helpmeet," Nell said as we turned back into the house when we could no longer see Mr. Frederick or his car.

PLANNING A NEW LIFE

CHAPTER CXXIV.

Nell had kept the faith. Never had I been so proud of my husband, never loved him so dearly as when he had sacrificed the larger opportunity because he thought it not right to leave the man who had befriended him, but who would have still been his friend had he done so. The last vestige of working for his own selfish aggrandizement had disappeared. He was a man to be proud of, to love.

"Why didn't you tell me of Chase's offer?" I asked later in the evening.

"Because I had decided not to accept it, and discussion was useless."

"But Nell it shows you are—that you have reinstated yourself, doesn't it dear?" I seldom mentioned that time of trouble.

"Yes, Bab. If only I could forget it myself. I feel so small so mean when I think that I once put my ambition before family, friends, even honesty. I have tried to make recompense, if I live long enough I may cease to think of that time with such poignant regrets. I hope so."

"He had done what he could," I quoted. "Do you remember that passage in the Bible. No one could more than you have. No more could be required. Let us not talk about it again Nell. Let us begin now after the war to live a new life. So many have been changed by what has happened dear; many more than we imagine will begin to count their real living from the time we demobilized. We will do so too. We have each other, our health, our duties every day and five thousand a year. Why Nell we have so much for which to be thankful that we should be ashamed to allow a single regret to enter our minds now that we have really done all humanely possible to make things right, denied ourselves in every way to make good. Try and be happy now dear—for my sake, and for Robert."

"I will, Bab! You have the right idea. Powers has been mighty nice to me lately, and has asked after you every time I have seen him. He's the kind who has no use for the man who isn't straight, but who is willing to help a man who tries to do right I guess. I know you felt awfully hurt at one time because they dropped us. I imagine they would not do it now."

"No, I don't think they would. But I have no social aspirations Nell, not of the kind I used to have. A few friends, as father said, and those in our own walk of life, those right here where we live, are all I crave now. What I do want is to own a home. Suppose we save enough to buy a lot and then as soon as we can build a nice little home of our own, and furnish it. That would be heavenly."

"The very thing that has been in my mind. But you have been so economical, so willing to go without I thought I would not mention it for a while. You need clothes, and a rest from housework. I feel guilty when I see you working so hard."

"Well you needn't! haven't you worked hard too? I'll get a new hat or two and a hat. But I can wear very simple things down here. They won't cost much. Suppose we walk around tomorrow night after you come home and commence looking for a lot."

"All right. It suits me." The next afternoon the postman brought me a letter in a strange but somewhat faintly familiar handwriting. It was from Blanche Orton. She was in Italy, but had been there most of the time during the war, "doing my bit as best I could" she said. Then she told me her news:

"I am to be married, to Count—He is charming, about my age, and while his fortune has been diminished by the war, he still has enough and my dear Mrs. Forbes I love him and my dear Mrs. Forbes I love him I can see you smile. I know you must think of me as the most mercenary creature alive. I used to be. But no one could go through this war and not lose something of selfishness."

"I often think of you, of your husband. He was one of the cleverest men I ever have known. And you— I haven't words to say what I think of you. He will some day find a chance to come into his own again, then you will have your reward. I saw a man from New York the other day who told me of what he had done through the war, how he worked, and through the war, how he worked, and that he had paid his debts in full. I have always felt guilty because of the part I played (for money) although I never knew that stock was sold without investigating the properties. I tell you this because I want you to think as well of me as you can."

"Remember me to your dear husband, kiss that darling little boy of yours for me. I sign myself for the last time, Blanche Orton."

A VISIT FROM TOWN FRIENDS

CHAPTER CXXV.

"I've had a letter from a Countess," I said to Nell when he came home. "That she is Countess—now," mentioning the name of an Italian well known for family and wealth.

"What do you mean?" Blanche Orton had married him by this time. Want



Let Nature Clear Your Blood

With pure, rich blood—a healthy stomach—and an active liver—you may laugh at disease, and you may have all three by taking

Dr. Wilson's HERBINE BITTERS

This splendid blood medicine—made of old-fashioned herbs—gives the system a regular "spring house-cleaning"—regulates and howels—cleanses the blood of all poisonous matter—tones up the nerves—and gives strength, vigor and a feeling of good cheer to the whole system.

At most stores. 50c. a bottle; Family size, five times as large, \$1. The Brayley Drug Company, Limited, St. John, N.B.

to read her letter?"

"Well I am glad for her. I haven't much use for the nobility but from what I have heard of him is a decent sort considering."

"Oh, you American men! I never heard one of you praise a foreigner until we went to war, and now, unless it is because of their fighting you damn them with half praise."

"Blanche was a good sort." He paid no attention to what I had said. "I hope she will be happy. I fancy she never was with Orton. And Bab she tells the truth. She never knew that I accepted them. She wouldn't have helped me had she known."

"I am so glad she didn't know. I can feel kindly toward her now that I know that. I hope too that she will be happy." Then I gave expression to a thought which often came to my mind when I saw married people who were evidently mismatched, and so unhappy. "It must be dreadful for a woman to live out her life with a man for whom she does not care; to live always without love, or loving."

"It is as dreadful as you say for either man or woman," he returned. "And a good many live always without knowing anything of the happiness we, and others enjoy together."

We talked of Mrs. Orton, now a Countess, all through dinner. Then we took our walk to investigate the vacant lots in town. The place was so small, because of restrictions, that we could walk all over it in an hour, so we took Robert along. He was delighted that we talked of buying a lot and building a house of our 'very own' as he expressed it. He adored the place, and was very happy in his school.

"A fellow can have some fun in a place like this! New York is all right when you're grown up, but there's no place for a fellow to play," he said as we stopped to look at a lot Nell had heard was for sale.

"He's right!" Nell said to me.

"Only I don't know that New York is so good for grown ups either. Someway one gets nearer to the real things of life if they have room to breathe, instead of being cooped up between rows of brick and stone."

"I think so too, Nell. One seems nearer God down here."

"Are you going to buy this lot," Robert interrupted. "We are only looking about tonight. We won't do in a hurry—we can't. We have to save money for it first."

"Will it take long?" disappointment in his voice.

"Not very if we all help."

"I'll help all I can dad. Can I have a workshop in the attic like Tom Smith has?"

"You shall have a work shop some where if we build a house. He was very ingenious, and Nell encouraged him in every way.

I think we were all a bit excited over the thought of owning a home once more. For before we went to war, we had looked through several magazines which had plans for inexpensive houses, and talked excitedly of how we should like one or the other of them.

"It's innocent amusement, anyway," Nell declared when I laughed at our enthusiasm.

When we reached home we were surprised to see a big touring car in front of the house. Lorraine Mor-ton and Ned Rayburn were sitting on the porch, waiting for us.

"We knew you hadn't gone far, because the door was unlocked. Think of living in a place where one could go out without locking everything up!" Lorraine said as she followed us into the house. It had been some time since I had seen her, so leaving Ned and Nell to smoke, I carried her off into my bedroom to gossip. I told her all about Blanche Orton, and she gave me the gossip of town friends. She had been to an affair to Mrs. Powers and had heard the hostess say that there wasn't a man in town he respected more than he did Neil Forbes. It made me so happy to hear such things. Nell had been publicly censured; it was good to know his worth was also publicly recognized. They remained until late, I fixed a chafing dish supper, and we told them of our plans.

"You can't find two lots can you?" Ned Rayburn asked while Lorraine blushed. "Lorraine and I may like a summer home near you. So amid congratulations and expressions of pleasure they left us."

"I'm glad for Lorraine. It's time she was married," Nell said yawning. "She'll not be so conventional

GRAY HAIR

Dr. Tremain's Natural Hair Restorative, used as directed, is guaranteed to restore gray hair to its natural color or money refunded. Positively not a dye and non-injurious. Price \$1.00. For sale in Charlottetown, at Reddin Bros., Druggists.

TO DO RIGHT BRINGS PEACE AND HAPPINESS

CHAPTER CXXVI.

The summer came and went. Our garden was a constant source of pleasure as well as profit. Robert helped me before and after school and through the vacation with my flowers and they also were cared for as they should be. Nell rose early and worked an hour in the garden before he went into town. He was happier, healthier than he had been since the first years of our marriage and did not hesitate to say so. We had bought a lot, and were paying for it as fast as possible. We had decided upon a plan for our house, and were so happy over it that we often laughed at ourselves for being so foolish. "Just like a couple of kids," Nell declared.

Ned Rayburn had bought the lot next us, and they would also build a house which would look well next to us. I had cautioned them about building too elaborately or we should be dwarfed. Many evenings that winter we gave to talking of our new home, or our plans for Robert and his little sister who had arrived in the late autumn, and whom Robert adored.

Nell was making good in adjusting the affairs of the business, "getting on its feet again," he said. Mr. Frederick had not come East for months. He left everything to Nell. This entire confidence he displayed did more to give Nell back his self respect than any other thing could have done. He was growing brighter, more like his old self. Some of the 'boyishness' was noticeable at times, and I fairly gloated over it. It was the old Nell I had married coming back to me, the best part of him.

By spring we had paid for the lot, and started building. What a constant source of pleasure it was to watch the little home grow. Every night when dinner was over Nell and I walked over to see what had been accomplished during the day. It made no difference that I had taken Elsie in her go cart over in the morning. I was just as interested in going again. It seemed to me that never was a home so longingly looked for, so eagerly awaited as was that six room house on Long Is-land. We were to pay a little down, then some as rent, the rest on a mortgage which Ned Rayburn had taken at 5 per cent. That made it easy for us, and allowed us to buy what was necessary to furnish it. We moved in for Christmas. And never were two people more thankful than were Nell and I.

"It's quite different from the New York home," he said on Christmas morning. "It was our present to each other."

"But I shall love it far more, Nell. We are going to be so happy here. And when it is all paid for we will buy better furniture. One piece at a time until we have it all to our liking."

"What a little executive you are," he answered smiling, and bending down to kiss me. "Here is a letter from Frederick. I forgot it for a moment. The postman just left it."

We stood together as he opened it. I read it with him, then he read it aloud while we both let fall a few grateful tears.

"Dear Friends: I wish you a very merry Christmas. I have planned for you to receive this on that day. I enclose a contract for next year for you Forbes; and a check for the wife and children. Buy them something they want, but don't really use. Barbara has gone without the prettiest things women love so long, get her something really foolish—as the may think. Now I have something to tell you. Robert said I should be third with him because I had no boy of my own. I shall look after him, his education, etc. And if he outlives me make him my heir. I shall never marry." There was much more, but of interest only to us, until the close when he said:

"Many men have gone through the deep water Forbes, you among them. But I am proud to call you my friend; proud to have you associated in business with me. Experience is a hard teacher, but sometimes her work is so well done that one forgets the hardness in time because of the results. I believe you are a better, a bigger man, because of what happened. Then he closed all as a merry Christmas and closed.

"Hain't you better look at the contract?" I asked as Nell stood holding it in his hand. It was for ten thousand dollars, because you are worth it to the business, not because of friendship," he had added, so making Nell supremely happy.

The check for me, and mine was for five hundred dollars. I wanted to put it toward the house, but Nell said "no" he would buy me the brooch I had so admired in a jeweler's window the last time I was in town. And for Robert he bought him a meccano outfit he long had desired.

"Right living, doing all one can seem to bring its own reward," Nell said as we sat together after the children were in bed. "I thank God every day of my life that he gave me the chance to be a man in spite of my mistakes."

"And I thank Him for you, my babies, and my beautiful home," and so we bid each other good night on our first Christmas in our new home. A happy, thankful, man and woman; a loving husband and wife.

HERMETICALLY sealed in its wax-wrapped package, air-tight and impurity-proof—

WRIGLEY'S

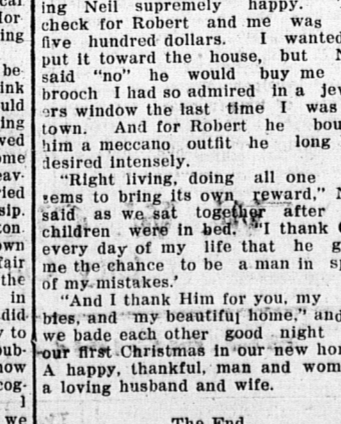
Helps teeth, breath, appetite, digestion

HERMETICALLY sealed in its wax-wrapped package, air-tight and impurity-proof—

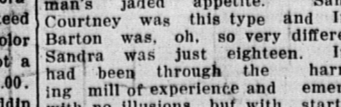
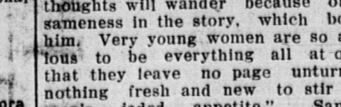
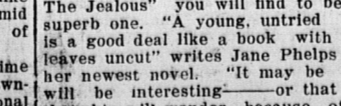
WRIGLEY'S

is hygienic and wholesome. The goodly that's good for young and old.

The Flavour Lasts

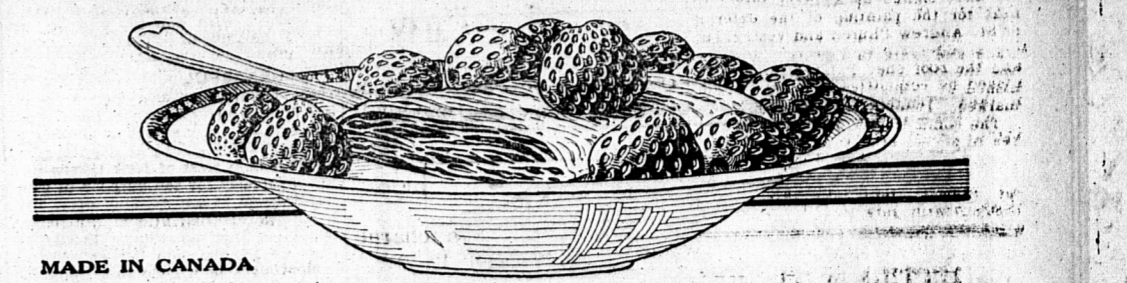


Made in Canada



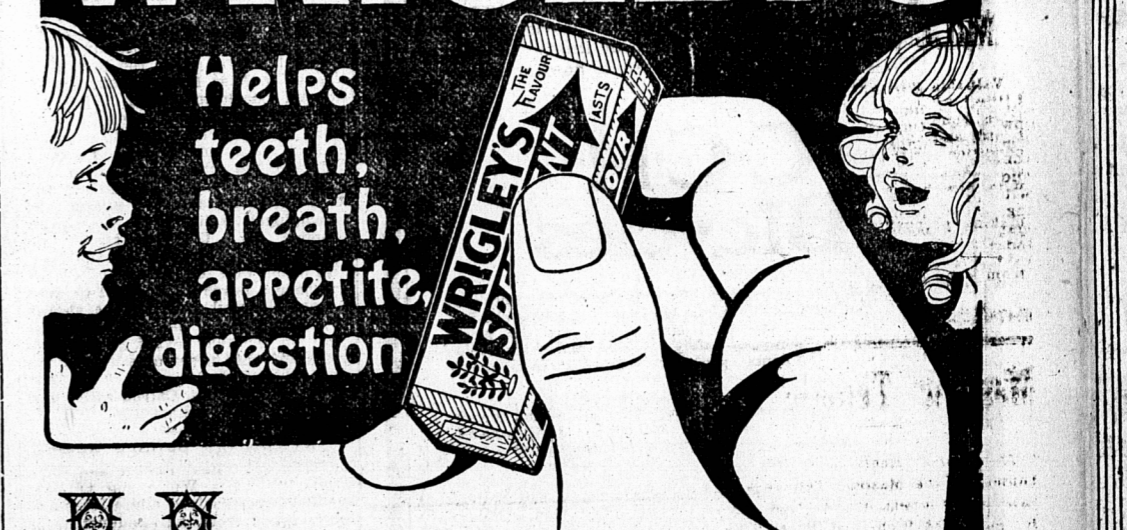
YOUR GRIP ON LIFE

depends on the grip you have on sane food habits. You can strengthen your grip on life and health by eating Shredded Wheat Biscuit. It is delicious with berries and other fruits—a wholesome and nourishing diet for the Summer days. A welcome relief from the heavy Winter foods—easily prepared, costs but a few cents.



MADE IN CANADA

WRIGLEY'S



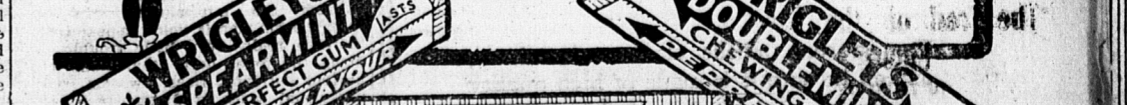
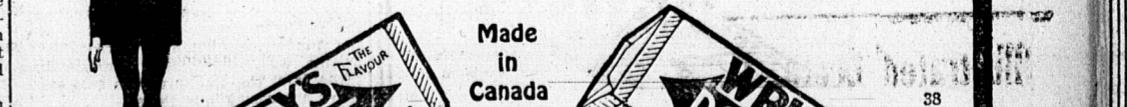
HERMETICALLY sealed in its wax-wrapped package, air-tight and impurity-proof—

WRIGLEY'S

is hygienic and wholesome. The goodly that's good for young and old.

The Flavour Lasts

Be sure to get WRIGLEY'S Look for the name.



Royal Victoria College
MONTREAL
A RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN STUDENTS ATTENDING MCGILL UNIVERSITY
(Founded and endowed by the late Rt. Hon. Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal)
Courses leading to degrees in Arts, separate in the main from those for men, but under identical conditions; and to degrees in music.
Applications for residence should be made early as accommodation in the College is limited.
For prospectus and information apply to The Warden.

THE HIGHEST PROFESSION
For a woman is that of nurse.
Perhaps you have longed to become a nurse but have lacked the means.
We can enable you to qualify without leaving your home for all kinds of practical nursing.
Write for full particulars.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING
Dep. 25 Fort-Charlotte, Canada

John H. Mosier, attorney and oil man of Muskogee, Okla., was in Kansas City recently with a new Indian story. An Indian soldier, home on a furlough, was walking down main street at Muskogee when a white man who knew him stopped him and said: "Well, John, I see you have become a soldier."

"Yes, me soldier," replied the Indian.

"How do you like being a soldier, John?"

"No lik-um."

"What's the matter?"

"Too much salute—not enough shoot."

"Of course you know what you are fighting for, John?"

"Yes, me know," answered the Indian.

"Well, what are you fighting for, John?"

"Make whole world Democratic party," answered the Indian.

DR. DEVAN'S FRENCH PILLS FOR WOMEN
A new, reliable, and safe medicine for all the ailments of women. Sold at all drug stores, or mailed to any address on receipt of 25c. in stamps. Price 50c. per box. Sold by Geo. E. Hughes.

PHOSPHONOL FOR MEN
Vitality, for Nerve and Brain; increases energy; a tonic—will build you up. 25c. per box. Sold at drug stores, or by mail on receipt of price. This is the best of all. Sold by Geo. E. Hughes.