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at eight o'clock. Election of officers
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C. H. BURTT,
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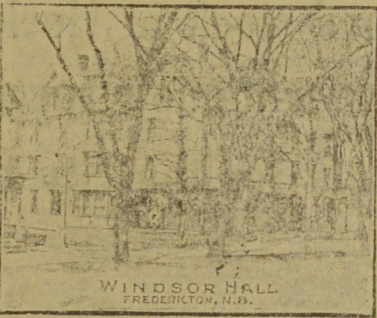
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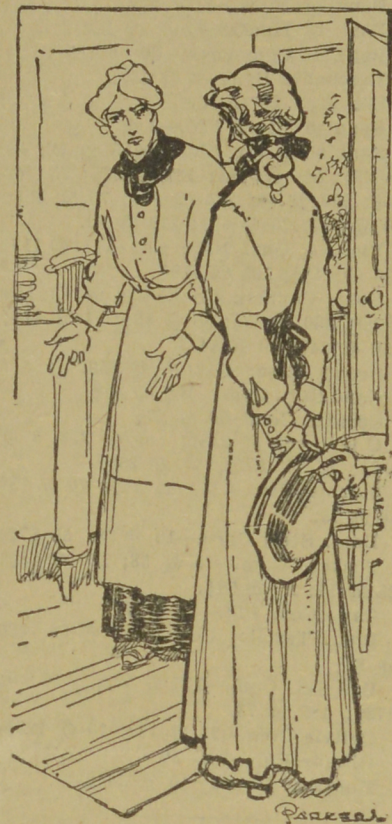
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WASHINGTON'S
CAFE
YORK STREETA GIRL
OF THE
LIMBERLOSTBy
GENE STRATTON-PORTERCopyright, 1908, by Doubleday, Page
& Co.(Continued)
"Humph! First time I ever knew
you to be stumped by \$20, Elnora,"
said Sinton, patting her hand.
"It's the first time you ever knew me
to want money," answered Elnora.
"This is different from anything that
ever happened to me. Oh, how can I
get it, Uncle Wesley?""Drive to town with me in the morn-
ing and I'll draw it from the bank for
you. I owe you every cent of it.""You know you don't owe me a pen-
ny, and I wouldn't touch one from you
unless I really could earn it. For any-
thing that's past I owe you and Aunt
Margaret for all the home life and love
I've ever known. I know how you
work, and I'll not take your money.""Just a loan, Elnora; just a loan for a
little while until you can earn it.
You can be proud with all the rest of
the world, but there's no secrets be-
tween us. Is there, Elnora?""No," said Elnora, "there are none.
You and Aunt Margaret have given me
all the love there has been in my life.
That is the one reason above all others
why you shall not give me charity. I
won't touch your money, but I'll win
some way. First I'm going home and
try mother. It's just possible I could
find secondhand books, and perhaps
all the tuition need not be paid at once.
Maybe they would accept it quarterly.
But, oh, Uncle Wesley, you and Aunt
Margaret keep on loving me. I'm so
lonely, and no one else cares."Wesley Sinton's jaws met with a
click. He swallowed hard on bitter
words and changed the thing he would
have said three times before it became
articulate."Elnora," he said at last, "if it hadn't
been for one thing I'd have tried to
take legal steps to make you ours when
you were three years old. Maggie said
then it wasn't any use, but I've always
held on. You see, I was the first man
there, honey, and there are things, you
see, that you can't ever make anybody
else understand. She loved him, El-
nora. She just made an idol of him.
There was that oozy green hole, with
the thick scum broke and two or three
big bubbles slowly rising that were the
breath of his body. There she was in
spasms of agony and beside her the
great heavy log she'd tried to throw
him. I can't ever forgive her for turn-
ing against you and spoiling your child-
hood as she has, but I couldn't forgive
anybody else for abusing her. Maggie
has got no mercy on her, but Maggie
didn't see what I did, and I've never
tried to make it very clear to her. You
be a patient girl and wait a little long-
er. After all, she's your mother, and
you're all she's got but a memory, and
it might do her good to let her know
that she was fooled in that.""It would kill her!" cried the girl
swiftly. "Uncle Wesley, it would kill
her! What do you mean?""Nothing," said Wesley Sinton sooth-
ly. "Nothing, honey. That was
just one of them fool things a man
says when he is trying his best to be
wise. You see she loved him mightily,
and they'd been married only a year,
and what she was loving was what she
thought he was. She hadn't really got
acquainted with the man yet. If it
had been even one more year she could
have borne it and you'd have got just-
ice. Having been a teacher, she was
better educated and smarter than the
rest of us, and so she was more sensi-
tive like. She can't understand she
was loving a dream. So I say it might
do her good if somebody that knew
could tell her, but I swear to gracious
I never could. I've heard her out at
the edge of that quagmire calling in
them wild spells of hers off and on for
the last sixteen years and imploring
the swamp to give him back to her,
and I've got out of bed when I was
pretty tired and come down to see she
didn't go in herself or harm you. What
she feels is too deep for me. I've got
to respect her grief, and I can't get
over it. Go home and tell your ma,
honey, and ask her nice and kind to
help you. If she won't, then you got
to swallow that little lump of pride in
your neck and come to Aunt Maggie,
like you been a-coming all your life.""I'll ask mother, but I can't take
your money, Uncle Wesley, indeed I
can't. I'll wait a year and earn some
and enter next year.""There's one thing you don't consid-
er, Elnora," said the man earnestly.
"And that's what you are to Maggie.
She's a little like your ma. She hasn't
given up to it, and she's struggling on
brave, but when we buried our second
little girl the light went out of Mag-
gie's eyes, and it's not come back. The
only time I ever see a hint of it is
when she thinks she's done something
that makes you happy, Elnora. Now,
you go easy about refusing her any-
thing she wants to do for you.""Uncle Wesley, you are a dear," said
Elnora—"just a dear! If I can't pos-
sibly get that money any way else on
earth I'll come and borrow it of you,
and then I'll pay it back if I dig ferns
from the swamp and sell them from
door to door in the city. I'll even
plant them, so that they will be sure
to come up in the spring. I have been
sort of panic stricken all day and
couldn't think. I can gather nuts andsell them. Freckles sold moths and
butterflies, and I've a lot collected.
Of course I am going back tomorrow.
I can find a way to get the books.
Don't you worry about me. I am all
right."As Elnora neared her own door her
mother said:"What kept you so? I expected you
an hour ago."Elnora looked into her mother's face
and smiled. It was a queer sort of a
little smile and would have reached
the depths with any normal mother."I see you've been bawling," said
Mrs. Comstock. "I thought you'd get
your fill in a hurry. That's why I
wouldn't go to any expense. If we
keep out of the poorhouse we have to
cut the corners close. It's likely thisBrushwood road tax will eat up all
we've saved in years. Where the land
tax is to come from I don't know. It
gets bigger every year. If they are
going to dredge the swamp ditch
again they'll just have to take the
land to pay for it. I can't, that's all."Elnora again smiled that pitiful
smile."Do you think I didn't know that I
was funny and would be laughed at?"
she asked."Funny!" cried Mrs. Comstock hotly.
"Yes, funny—a regular caricature,"
answered Elnora. "But there's al-
ways two sides. The professor said
in the algebra class that he never had
a better solution and explanation than
mine of the proposition he gave me,
which scored one for me in spite of
my clothes."

"Well, I wouldn't brag on myself."

"That was poor taste," admitted El-
nora; "but, you see, it is a case of
whistling to keep up my courage. I
honestly could see that I would have"I haven't a cent, and can't get one!"
looked just as well as the rest of
them if I had been dressed as they
were. We can't afford that, so I have
to find something else to brace me.
It was pretty bad, mother.""Well, I'm glad you got enough of
it!""Oh, but I haven't!" hurried on El-
nora. "I just got a start. The hard-
est is over. Tomorrow they won't be
surprised. They will know what to
expect. I am sorry to hear about the
dredge. Is it really going through?""Yes. I got my notification today.
The tax will be something enormous.
I don't know as I can spare you, even
if you are willing to be a laughing
stock for the town.""I have had two startling pieces of
news today," said Elnora. "I did not
know I would need any money. I
thought the city furnished the books,
and there is an out of town tuition
also. I need \$10 in the morning. Will
you please let me have it?""Ten dollars!" cried Mrs. Comstock.
"Ten dollars! Why don't you say a
hundred and be done with it? I could
get one as easy as the other. I knew
what you would run into! But you are
so bulldog stubborn and set in your
way I thought I would just let you
try the world a little and see how you
liked it!"Elnora pushed back her chair and
looked at her mother."Do you mean to say," she deman-
ed, "that you knew, when you let me
go into a city classroom and reveal
the fact before all of them, that I ex-
pected to have my books handed out
to me? Do you mean to say that you
knew I had to pay for them?"Mrs. Comstock evaded the direct
question."Anybody but an idiot mooning over
a book or wasting time prowling the
woods would have known you had to
pay. Of course, I knew you would
come home blubbing! But you don't
get a penny! I haven't a cent, and
can't get one! Have your way if you
are determined, but I think you will
find the road pretty rocky.""Swampy, you mean, mother," cor-
rected Elnora. She arose white and
trembling. "Perhaps some day God
will teach me how to understand you.
He knows I do not now. You can't
possibly realize just what you let me
go through today, or how you let me
go, but I'll tell you this. You under-
stand enough that if you had the mon-
ey and would offer it to me I wouldn't
touch it now. And I'll tell you this
much more. I'll get it myself. I'll
raise it and do it some honest way. I
am going back tomorrow, the next
day and the next. You need not come
out. I'll do the night work and hoe
the turnips."

(To be Continued)

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