

Confessions of an Every-Day Wife

By Idah McGlone Gibson

THE QUARREL BEGINS

The lights and the gay company at the officers' quarters made me, for a time, forget that probably Theo was raging around like a bear with a sore head.

"Am I acting now?" I asked myself when I suddenly found I was quite happy, or were the events of the night before only affairs of passing consequence, instead of tragic import as I had thought them. All at once a great light broke upon me and I realized it was all just a part of life; of which joy and sorrow, loving and hating, smiling and grieving, are only incidents.

Then I remembered Eliene's speech: "How easy it is to be philosophical when you are happy." Anyway I am too young to be pessimistically philosophical, and I am going to drink this cup of life to its fullest, and no one, not even Toddy, shall have the right to mar any real happiness that may come to me.

"Ze Major say ze game is on ze table," said Valere. "I cannot play ze table games; I know not cards."

"My dear child, said Dick, "please understand he is asking us to eat venison steak and not to play bridge."

"Venison, bridge? Je ne sais pas."

"My dear, Dick will keep you forever saying Je ne sais pas if you follow his style of speech," said Eliene, commenting on Dick's slang.

I knew from Valere's smile that she did not even understand Eliene.

We all enjoyed the dinner very much and I ate more than at any time since I had been in New York. However a tiny worry about Theo would crop up in my mind now and then.

The Major seemed very reluctant to have us go, and I heard him accept Eliene's invitation to tea the next day. When we arrived home Father Symone seemed much pleased to think Eliene and I had gotten out of the house for a while, but Theo was sulking like a spoiled child.

"Sorry you weren't with us, Theo. A friend sent Major Gordon some venison and it was delicious. That is the reason he asked us to dinner."

"Was that the reason you accepted?" asked Theo of me.

Eliene looked at her brother somewhat contemptuously and said: "She accepted for the same reason we all did; not only for the venison, but for the Major's pleasant company. Don't be silly, Theo. Wasn't it funny, Margot to hear Valere say, 'I like ze fox when he trot, but you make him run.'"

Instead of smiling at this sally, Theo inquired sternly, as Eliene and her father left the room: "You people didn't dance did you, Margot?"

"Yes, we all danced."

"Do you think it quite respectful to mother's memory?"

"More respectful than your getting intoxicated last night. It seems to me, Theo, that you wish to do your grieving vicariously."

"Margot, you're always prating about the understanding of woman; but I have never found one that could accept an excuse for a slight folly in which she has no part."

"If you mean that I shall ever accept an excuse for your becoming beastly drunk, Theo, then I am not human."

"Oh, let's have peace and quietness, my head aches."

"Please remember, Theo, that you began it."

I do not know what Theo would have answered, for just then Eliene and Dad came back. She had evidently been talking to him about mother and explaining just what we did out at camp.

"I am rather glad you girls enjoyed yourselves tonight, and I am sure the braver thing to do is to take up life just where you left it when your mother was taken from us. I am sure that is as she would wish it, and after all that is all that matters. By the way, Margot, did Theo tell you we have already started him on his political career by installing him as my secretary at the Mayor's office? This gives him an extra \$1,500 a year, and I suggested that he turn it over to you to put by for a rainy day."

"Much she'd put by for a rainy day," said Theo. "No woman knows how to handle money, especially is she doesn't have to earn it."

"Let's see, Theo, how long since you commenced to earn a salary?" I asked gravely.

"About twelve hours, I should judge," said Eliene, with a laugh.

"Where do you get in on this?" asked Theo.

"Oh, I'm always in where Margot is."

I knew, however, from Theo's expression that if his mood didn't change I would never see any of that money.

Again I wished I hadn't been quite so extravagant with the lingerie, yet with careful economy I felt that I could get along to the end of the month, or until Theo received his salary, which of course I hoped he would divide with me. I had found out that while Theo, like most husbands, was very generous, he was not just.

I dreaded the interview I must have with him over this question of money. I knew that it had never occurred to him that marriage is a business partnership in which the husband is a sort of sales manager and a wife a kind of office manager and purchasing agent for the home. It never entered his head that a wife must have a stipulated amount out of which to take care of current expenses. Out of this, if her income is generous, she may open a savings account, but as a rule a young bride hesitates to ask of her lord and master anything for her own personal wants.

(Tomorrow—"A Husband's Money and His Wife.")

INDIAN CHIEF IN TROUBLE AT CAUGHNAWANZA

Montreal, Aug. 1.—Fearing that a riot might follow a hearing that was to take place against an Indian Chief the Court House was cleared by a postponement of the case today. Counsel for both sides of the controversy decided after a look at the gathering that discretion was the better part of valor. Including all the Chiefs of the Caughnawanza Reservation invaded the precincts of the court house today where Peter Delisle, Chief of the reservation, and Mayor of Caughnawanza was to have appeared on a charge of inciting three or more of the Indians to riot last March. After two hours waiting the case was called and put off until next Wednesday.

The accused Chief got into trouble over the alterations to be made to the Catholic Church at Caughnawanza which the Chief declares was ceded to the Indians more than two hundred years ago in a ruling by a noted General at that time.

The complainant contends that the church is supreme in spiritual matters over the Indians. The Rev. Father Gras, Cure of the reservation, called for tenders to improve the church and the material for the purpose was placed at Caughnawanza. One night all the lumber was thrown into the river and so the contemplated improvements had to be abandoned.

Trouble broke out again last week at a burial at Caughnawanza. The grave was dug but during the night some one shovelled the earth back. When the burial was to take place the priest found there was no open grave for the body, and once again a place was made ready.

JUST PIKERS

Toledo, O., Aug. 1.—Ten-cent limit poker isn't gambling, according to Municipal Judge Howell who made this ruling today.

The judge discharged seven card players arraigned before him. This was when he learned that a dime had been the limit of ante and wagers.

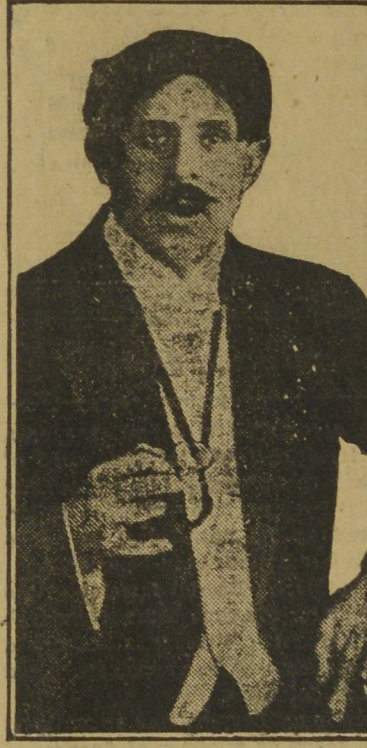
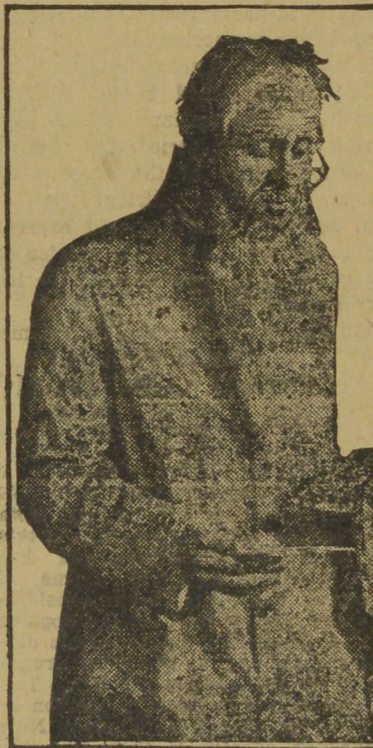
"If all those who play for a 10-cent limit were arrested the line-up in this court would look like a parade," the judge added.

After a man has lived in one neighborhood forty years you can't tell him anything.

Every time a new barber comes to town all the bald-headed men drop in to see if he can suggest something that will make the hair grow.

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On the third afternoon at Chautauqua Mr. Parmenter will entertain with a completely new repertoire. He has just returned from France where he has been helping keep up the spirits of the boys who are waiting to come back home. His work was such a success in the foreign encampments that it was with great difficulty that he was able to secure his release to keep his contract with the Chautauqua Association. One might almost say that he stepped off the deck of the steamer to the Chautauqua platform, for he came directly from his trip abroad to the Chautauqua circuit. Hear him in his versatile program on the third afternoon of Chautauqua.

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ought to be easy.

Los Angeles, July 31.—Police expect to pick up the scent of last night's burglars. They stole ten pounds of Limburger cheese.

MARRY IN HASTE, ETC.

Boston, July 31.—Mrs. Mary Beach and E. E. Ellis were married here today following a courtship which began 50 years ago.

IMMERSION—CONVERSION

Ocean City, Aug. 1.—Announcement has been made here that those so desiring may go in their bathing suits to the Baptist church services in the Park Theatre, on the boardwalk, Sunday mornings. The last rows of seats in the house will be reserved for bathers.

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