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PROP.

THE LESSON OF LIFE

(Continued.)

The tears were coming, and that distressed Perdue. He had never seen her cry—ordinarily she was not of that sort, which was one reason why he liked her. Even now, her temper quickly got the better of the rising sobs. Perdue squirmed as he saw the signs of the coming storm—although he preferred it to the tears—for Bat had a really wonderful temper, once it gained headway.

It was Saturday. "We'll go for a long street-car ride tomorrow, anyway, and talk it over," he said hastily.

They did this without reaching any comforting decision. At the end of the ride Perdue was still of the mind that Bat must work in her room, alone.

"Only one beastly little gas-jet, too!" she fumed.

But when they reached the house again in the early evening, it was plain, at least to Perdue, that there were things other than working in his room that they must not do together. The woman who had first found fault had evidently been talking to the other boarders, and as Bat and Perdue climbed the steps there was a rallying chorus.

It was mostly good-natured chaff, but Perdue heard the mischief maker, as she sat, observant, in the open parlor window, with another woman, say:

"I should think he'd be ashamed!"

In a towering rage he went to his rooms and packed his trunks. It was plain enough that every moment Bat now spent with him would be oil for wagging tongues. He had forbidden her to come to see him that night, but he paid her grandmother what he owed her for board and told her that he should leave the boarding-house next day. She told Bat. Bat burst in on him.

"Why?" she demanded. "Because of their silly talk," he said. He could see no advantage in lying to her. "There is nothing else to do!"

As he looked at her, a strange expression came upon her face. It startled him.

"Well, then—darn them!" she said, and sprang towards him. She thrust her arms around his neck and kissed him twice. Then she darted from the room.

He sat there until after midnight, thinking. Just as he had made up his mind to give the problem up and go to bed, he heard a tiny rustling at his door and, glancing quickly towards it, saw something white and thin slide beneath. It was a note. He read:

Dear Perdue: I didn't mean anything by kissing you except that it seemed to me that if the old cats had to yowl there ought to be something really worth their yowling over, even if they do not know it and actually believe that they are merely barking at the moon. I didn't care at all about kidding you, although I am fond of

you, and you are the only person on the earth who ever has been kind to me. You can wash them off with soap if you feel that they are harmful.

I am also leaving a cake of brick-dust soap on the carpet by your door which you can use if you don't feel as if your soap would get them all off! It was too thick to shove under. There were only two—one on the right cheek and one somewhere on your nose. Be careful about using my soap on your nose. I took the skin off my chin with it once when I got some ink. But I wish that they had seen me, seen me, seen me!

He did not even smile at the mixed metaphor or any other of the details of the quaint communication.

The next morning he sent at ruckman for his trunks and had them taken to another boarding-house. He did not see Bat, but he mailed a letter to her, telling her that he had a plan which she would soon know about. He wound up sympathetically:

I found your note. In fact, I saw it wriggle as it came underneath the door. I didn't wash them off with the soap or anything else. I'm very proud of them. I feel wonderfully sore about it all; but don't you say anything or do anything to antagonize anybody. It doesn't pay. You'll hear from me within a day or two, and I shall see to it that you have the work to do.

Be very careful with your additions and your multiplications—very careful! Your subtractions and divisions are generally right. Why don't you not go ahead and commit the multiplication table to memory. It really seems to help a lot.

He scarcely knew what to sign the note. Just "Perdue" did not seem to be enough; but he would not sign it "affectionately" or anything of that sort, although his heart warmed yearningly toward the unhappy little girl as he wrote. He did not know how she had fallen into the habit of calling him, as men did, by his last name only.

He considered this matter of the signature until he brought himself up with a round turn, smiling uneasily at his waste of time, deriding himself for worrying at all about the little matter, and settled the matter by writing at the bottom of the sheet:

"Yours sincerely, H. R. Perdue." Then he supplied further reason for self-ridicule—which he did not spare—by wrapping the half-used cake of brick-dust soap in a silk handkerchief and stowing it with elaborate care in a corner of his trunk-tray.

Next day, at his new boarding-house, he received an answer which made him smile sorrowfully. Bat had evidently been offended by the manner of the signature. Her note said:

Dear Sir—Oh! Yours truly, L. Ashton. (To Be Continued.)

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE COOK

UTILIZING STALE BREAD.

Besides actual money waste, the economical housekeeper finds it inconvenient not to have stale bread on hand. There is so much that can be done with it, from the stuffing of fowls to the preparation of deserts, that it is a good plan in large families to buy an extra loaf every other day to keep for drying.

Do not use bread that has not been carefully dried for crumbs. If allowed to get very stale in bread box it frequently has a musty flavor. Do not on the other hand, brown it in the oven, as it does not make a good color in frying. Put in a cool oven over night, and it is usually dry enough in the morning to grate or roll.

PREPARE FRESH SUPPLIES.

Do not use crusts for crumbs. Bread is better than rolls or biscuit. While it is prudent to have a supply of crumbs in glass jars for emergencies do not prepare large quantities at once. The flavor is better if crumbs are freshly rolled.

Never omit to sift crumbs, whether rolled or run through a grater. Before cooking season with salt and pepper and add lots of butter if not intended for deep fat frying.

Another use for stale bread is to make small well browned, thin pieces of toast, not too dry, for garnishing. Bread a day old is best. Toast it evenly and cut off the crusts with a sharp knife to make an even edge.

These bits are shaped according to the dish in which they are to be served—long and thin, circles or triangles. Diamonds and round are used under individual dishes, as tomatoes, eggs, Welsh rarebit. Croustons are frequently substituted for toast forms.

MAKING GOOD CROUTONS

Croustons are rarely well made.

There are several ways of preparing them. They are buttered and browned in the oven, fried in deep fat or in a skillet with butter or crisped in drippings.

Sizes also differ from the tiny cube a quarter of an inch each way to three-inch long sippets to eat with boiled eggs.

The simplest way to prepare a croustion is to cut slices of white bread three-quarters of an inch thick. Butter lightly on both sides, then cut into three-quarter inch squares and brown in a skillet over a moderate fire. Turn often. As soon as lightly browned put on browned paper on a colander to drain and keep hot. Serve quickly.

Croustons are used with most clear or cream soups, and as a garnish to curries, hash, certain stews, and with poached and fried eggs.

TOAST FROM STALE BREAD.

Toast demands bread at least a day old. Tastes differ widely, some insisting on it being browned through and crisp on outside and soft within.

Crusts should be removed, slices cut about a half inch thick and of even size, and the heat must be regular and not too intense. Watch carefully and serve at once under a cover or folded in a napkin to retain heat.

If toast is to be served buttered, the butter must be soft, spread evenly as soon as bread is removed from toaster, and set for a minute in the oven.

All breads do not toast alike. That with a close grain, fine and smooth, is best. Do not prepare large platefuls before a meal or your toast is sure to be unappetizing.

A delicious dessert is made from three-inch cubes of stale bread dipped in an egg batter and fried in a deep fat. Serve hot with a rich wine sauce.

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Zam-Buk will also be found a sure cure for cold sores, chapped hands, frost bites, ulcers, eczema, blood-poison, varicose sores, piles, scalp scores, ringworm, inflamed patches, babies' eruptions and chapped places, cuts, burns, bruises, and skin injuries generally. All druggists and stores sell at 50c. box, or post free from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, upon receipt of price. You are warned against harmful imitations and substitutes. See the registered name "Zam-Buk" on every package before buying.

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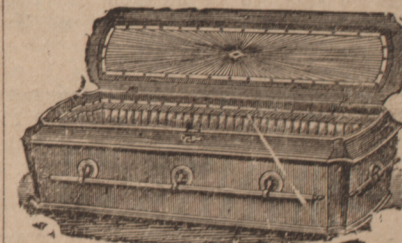
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