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Our First Stock-Taking Sale

—WILL—
BEGIN SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1907.

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UNION CLOTHING CO.

...That... Preposterous ..Will..

BY L. G. MOBERLY.

CHAPTER I.

"I am afraid you will not find the will as straightforward as one could have wished. There are some strange provisions and quite unlooked-for complications."

Mr. Bray, the family solicitor of the late Mr. Godfrey Haines, the richest man in Simley, looked gravely across the table at the only other occupant of the room.

"Complications? Provisions? What do you mean?" The second voice was abrupt, impetuous, and there was a note of surprise in it. "Surely my godfather has not gone back on his promise?"

"Not exactly, and yet—possibly you will say that he has done so." The deliberation of the lawyer's words made the young man sitting opposite to him slightly irritably. "I assure you, Mr. Dayrell, I was quite as much surprised as you can possibly be when I saw your godfather's latest will."

"Surely you drew it up?" Impatience was now the chief sound in the young man's voice. "Surely he gave instructions to you about it?"

"Unfortunately not. Had he done so, I should most certainly have remonstrated with him for inserting a clause which—ahem—virtually alters the meaning of the whole document."

Alan Dayrell stirred yet more uneasily in his chair. He was a tall, good-looking young fellow of perhaps twenty-two or twenty-four years, with a pleasant, debonair expression, blue eyes of peculiar brightness and keenness, and a clean-shaven face which allowed one to see the well-cut mouth and strong chin. Alan Dayrell might be and was still a very young man, but he had that in his face which presaged that he would carve out a name for himself upon the tablets of fame. The marks of a strong character were written large upon him for all men to read.

He had been summoned to the lawyer's office that morning to hear the particulars of the will of his late godfather, Mr. Godfrey Haines, whose heir he was universally supposed to be; and Mr. Bray's words had a disconcerting sound in the ears of one who had been brought up to the belief that an assured and wealthy future awaited him.

"Do you mean to say that there is some flaw in the will?" some alteration? You speak as though a disaster had happened," Dayrell spoke quickly. "Let us come to the point: tell me at once what this new will is."

Mr. Bray sat back in his chair for a moment, looking contemplatively at the young man. Perhaps he was wondering how he would receive the tidings that awaited him; perhaps his rather grim lawyer's soul was sorry for what must undoubtedly come upon young Dayrell as something of a blow; perhaps he was even admiring the handsome young face with its strong and masterful personality. Who knows? Mr. Bray's face was almost void of expression, and absolutely non-committal. His rather small grey eyes, having swept his companion from head to foot, were lowered once more to the table, and to a large sheet of parchment spread out upon it.

"I will tell you the main points first," he said at last, and then I will read you the actual will. I may add that this will was handed to me by Mr. Haines' housekeeper on the day of the funeral. She informed me that her late master had desired that it should not be given to me till then."

"But I was at the funeral!" Alan Dayrell interrupted. "Why could you not have told me then about this will? Why have you waited a week? Why—"

"I had an excellent reason," the lawyer answered mildly, raising his hand with a little soothing gesture. "When the housekeeper handed me a sealed envelope, I at once opened it. I found there a note from Mr. Haines, addressed to me. It was very short, but quite clear. It informed me that the document accompanying it was his latest will; that he wished the instructions therein contained to be carried out to the letter; and the contents of the same were not to be communicated to you until a week had elapsed after the funeral. In

keeping the will for a week, I have therefore merely carried out my client's wishes."

"You could not have acted otherwise, of course," Dayrell answered quickly, "and now may I hear the will, with its new complications, etc.?"

"The wishes of my client are made extremely, even painfully clear," Mr. Bray began, a noticeable hesitation in his manner, "and I must prepare you for a great disappointment. By his first will—the one I drew up for him some years ago—your godfather, Mr. Haines, left his whole fortune unreservedly to you. By this will"—Mr. Bray paused again, and touched the parchment with his finger—"everything is changed. The bulk of his fortune is left to a goddaughter, who is to retain the same unless you will consent to marry her, when the bulk of the fortune is to be divided between you and her."

"Unless you will consent to marry her?" Mr. Bray continued firmly. "In that case half the fortune is to be definitely settled on you. If you refuse—"

"If I refuse?" Of course I refuse," Dayrell burst out impetuously, leaning his hands upon the table, and looking fiercely into the lawyer's face. "Do you suppose there could be any question about it? Of course I refuse to marry a girl I never saw—never even heard of, whose name I do not know. I absolutely refuse. The whole affair is monstrous—absurd. My godfather must have been insane when he made such a will; and the young man began to walk up and down the room with hurried, impatient steps.

"Come, come, Mr. Dayrell," the lawyer said soothingly. "I can understand you feel a good deal upset; it is only natural that you should do so; but before saying anything decisive before making up your mind definitely, you would be wise to hear the matter out to its finish. Pray sit down again, and allow me to make things clear to you."

"I fail to see how they could well be clearer than they are now," Dayrell muttered, sitting down, because he suddenly realized the folly of ramping up and down the room, but feeling and looking mutinous.

"What maggot had my godfather got into his brain, to induce him to make such a will? Was he out of his mind?"

"Not in the least. If you dream of disputing the will, let me assure you at once that it would be perfectly useless. Mr. Haines was as sane when he made it as you and I are at this moment. There can be no doubt of his sanity. I gather that some philanthropic scheme lay at the bottom of the strange change from his original intentions. He seems to have had some idea of making an experiment, or perhaps compensation."

"An experiment?" Dayrell exclaimed angrily. "Upon whom? Upon me? Compensation? To whom? For what?"

A faint smile at the outburst of questions passed the lawyer's lips, but he answered quietly.

"I can hardly form an opinion, but I should surmise that the experiment, if experiment it was to be, would be made upon you—and upon—the other party to the transaction. The will ends with the words, 'I have made the above conditions in order to prove to my satisfaction whether social prejudice, and youthful blindness, can permanently override common sense and wisdom.'"

"Pshaw," Dayrell said, "the man who wrote that passage must have been half insane. What on earth does he mean? Whose prejudice and blindness are to be overridden. Mine—the other party? Or whose?"

"Time alone will show, if indeed we ever know the full meaning of Mr. Haines' strange bequest."

A short laugh broke from Dayrell.

"Upon my soul, this is a nice fix," he said. "I have not been hanging about idly waiting for a dead man's shoes; but, bless my soul, my godfather certainly led me to expect that at his death his shoes were to go on my feet."

"If you decline to marry the other party," Mr. Bray said in his smooth deliberate voice, "you will receive a sum of one hundred pounds a year, to be paid quarterly."

"Upon my soul!" was Dayrell's only ejaculation.

"The lady mentioned in the will is also bound by conditions," Dayrell looked up with an increase of interest.

"Oh, she is, is she. By the way, who is the unknown goddaughter of Mr. Haines? I would be prepared to bet any money she is old and ugly."

"I have not yet seen her, but her name and address are given here—Miss Miranda Hume, 144 George street, Missing. In the note Mr. Haines left for me he expressly desired that I should acquaint you with the terms of the will first, and

then seek out the lady, and acquaint her with them also."

"And she is bound by conditions too?" Dayrell asked curiously. "By Jove, my godfather has played us a pretty trick—quiet old man as he seemed, he must have been maturing all these elaborate plans on the very last occasion we met."

"Mr. Haines, though very quiet, had a way of—of observing and knowing things, for which people hardly gave him credit," said Mr. Bray. "I suppose you have not offended him in any way which could account for this business."

"Not that I know of," Dayrell began, then checked himself suddenly, and flushing, declared, "at least—not in any way which could account for this extraordinary will. Naturally, we did not always agree on every subject."

"Naturally not," the lawyer replied suavely, but his keen glance marked the traces of embarrassment on the young man's face. "In any case, it is too late now to try and account for the strangeness of his behaviour to you. Tomorrow I must go and interview Miss Miranda Hume, and explain to her—"

"And to begin with, please explain to her that it would be impossible, quite impossible for me to accede to the terms of this preposterous will. Do not allow her to suppose that under any circumstances I could consent to such a farce as a marriage of this sort would certainly be."

"Quite so, quite so," the lawyer agreed; "but the young lady, though there are conditions attached to her receiving the money, is not so hampered as you are, Mr. Dayrell. The money, with the exception of your small legacy, is to be all hers, unless she marries any one excepting yourself within the next three years. In that case the money goes to you. If she marries you, the money is to be equally divided between you. If she does not marry in the next three years, the money remains hers."

"The will is ridiculous, simply and solely ridiculous. If the woman has a grain of sense, she will either elect to remain single, or sit tight where she is for three years, and then marry whom she pleases. In any case I'm done out of the fortune."

"Possibly the lady may be very attractive," Mr. Bray ventured to throw in.

"Possibly she may be; it makes no difference to my sentiments. I am not going to be forced into a sordid marriage of this description. My grandfather knew I was a poor man, working in an office, and working hard to get a salary of two hundred a year. If I had been an idle beggar, he might have been justified in making a fool of me. As things are, I see neither sense nor justification in his treatment of me. Find this Miss Miranda Hume, but make it perfectly clear to her that I have no intention of selling myself for money."

(To be continued.)

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TO STAMP OUT CHILD LABOR

The President and Officers of
Pawtucket Mills Arrested
for Violating Law.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., Jan. 7.—Warrants have been sworn out in the 10th district court against the Lorraine Manufacturing Co., and the Slater Cotton Co., for alleged violation of the new child labor law, which requires certificates from children over 14, and provides that no child under 14 shall be permitted to work in the mills. James R. McGill, president of the National Cotton Manufacturers' Association, is president of the Lorraine Mills. The penalty for violation of the law is a heavy fine.

The action of the factory inspector follows his announcement of a determined crusade against the practice of employing children in the mills. He declares that the practice is so prevalent that it has become a state scandal, and he is determined to make an example of some of the larger establishments.

Masonic Installation

The officers of Hibernia Lodge, No. 3, A. F. & A. M., were installed last evening by Past Grand Master Walker and are as follows:

Fred D. Miles, W. M.
John C. Edwards, I. P. M.
J. Vermer McLellan, S. W.
T. Fred Powers, J. W.
F. W. Thomson (P. M.), chaplain.
Herman Sullivan (P. M.), treasurer.
Robert Clarke (P. M.), secretary.
J. P. Clayton, S. D.
W. C. Emery, J. D.
H. C. Lemson, S. S.
J. R. Haycock, J. S.
J. King Kelley, D. of C.
D. Arnold Fox, organist.
F. A. L. Harrison, I. G.
Thomas Logan, Tyler.

The annual meeting of the Church of England Sunday School Teachers' Association for the deanery of St. John was held in Trinity church school room last evening. The usual reports were handed in and proved of a very encouraging nature. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Rev. E. B. Hooper, president; Thos. Tatton, Dr. J. H. Scammell, vice-presidents; A. Wetmore, secretary-treasurer; Miss Tatton, Miss Barlow, Miss Sadlier, Mrs. Pickett, Miss Connor, Miss Walker, Mrs. Hand, Miss M. Frink, Miss W. Raymond, and Miss Starkey, executive committee.

Daily Fashion Hints for Times Readers.

GOWN OF SILVER GREY CREPE.

A graceful frock is shown in the accompanying drawing, the model being practical for almost any soft, clinging material. Pale gray silk crepe was used for the original gown, the trimming consisting of half-inch wide velvet-ribbon exactly matching the shade of the gown. The skirt had three attached tucked flounces, each edged with a band of the

ribbon, which also formed a lattice-work design above these flounces. The bodice had a rounded yoke of Chantilly lace, and was trimmed by bands of the ribbon and narrow pinch tucks, as shown by a study of the drawing. Three little bows of the velvet slipped through cut-steel buckles were used in the middle of the front, just below the yoke, on each sleeve and down the girdle in the back.

LANSDOWNE IN EFFECTIVE SEPARATE BLOUSES.

The gump waist has been somewhat overdone in the ready-to-wear section of the stores; but nevertheless this little French suggestion of such effect is bound to be welcomed for its inherent daintiness. The material is one of those soft, white landsdowns that launder and wear well. Both front and back are laid in inch-deep tucks, the back stitched clear to the hem, while those in front are released some inches below the shoulder line to provide the necessary fullness across the chest.

Shaped pieces of Irish crochet insertion, a holly leaf and berry pattern, are used to form the round yoke and epaulette straps, and appear on the cuffs of the short sleeve as well. Two rows of this down the front—all of these insertions are edged with a bias band of silk on either edge—form the front trimming, makes the collar to which a handkerchief cravat is attached, and forms also the pointed belt that makes such a becoming finish to the Frenchy little blouse.

GERMAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Meeting Last Evening—
Church Officers Elected for
This Year.

The annual meeting of Germain street United Baptist church was held last evening in the church parlors. The pastor, Rev. W. W. McMaster, presided and a large and representative gathering of the congregation was present.

The treasurer, Donaldson Hunt, gave a very interesting financial report for the past year. The balance on hand from 1905 was \$121.31 and the amount collected during 1906 was \$7,900.18. The expenses were \$7,916.32, the balance on hand at the beginning of 1907 being \$103.16. Some of the chief sources of revenue, outside of the regular church funds, were as follows: Weekly collections, \$838.56; weekly offerings, \$2,336.43; pew and ground rent, \$692.75.

The church clerk, T. H. Belyea, reported that during the past year, as a united body as well as in the different departments of its activities, the church work was regular, systematic and encouraging. Early in the year, to the great regret of the congregation, the pastor, Rev. Dr. G. O. Gates, resigned his charge to accept a call to the Westmount Baptist church, Montreal. His farewell to the church and congregation took place on Sunday evening, April 1. On August 1 Rev. W. W. McMaster, formerly of the Fourth avenue Baptist church, Ottawa, in consequence of a unanimous call from the local church, entered upon his duties as pastor. During the five months of his pastoral labors he and his wife have entered heartily into their arduous duties in connection with the church work and are rapidly finding a warm place in the hearts and homes of the congregation.

The number of deaths during the year was four, viz.: Mrs. Diana Jewett, Miss Minnie Duval, Mrs. Hatfield and Walter Lane.

Encouraging reports were submitted as regards the poor fund, benevolent and denominational fund, collection of pew and ground rents, and from the finance committee, Sunday school, music committee and other branches of the church. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

T. H. Belyea, church clerk.
D. Hunt, treasurer.
J. W. Vanwart, W. F. Nobles, collectors of pew and ground rents.
F. C. Fisher, treasurer of benevolent and denominational fund.
Wm. Lewis, treasurer of poor fund.
Miss Emma Colwell, treasurer of finance committee.

D. Hunt, W. C. Cross, Z. F. Hatfield, new trustees.
S. H. Davis, W. H. Colwell, E. L. Rising, J. W. Vanwart, T. S. Simms, F. C. Fisher, W. F. Nobles, S. McDermid, N. C. Scott, G. F. H. Buehaus, W. C. Cross, T. H. Belyea, D. Hunt, H. H. Reid, J. H. Wasson, finance committee.

W. F. Nobles, D. Hunt, J. W. Vanwart, J. H. Wasson, D. F. Brown, T. S. Simms, J. F. Duval, E. L. Rising, W. H. Colwell, D. Dearness, S. H. Davis, F. C. Fisher, Dr. G. U. Hay, H. H. Reid, T. H. Belyea, W. C. Brown, C. R. Wasson, L. W. Simmons, ushers.

D. Hunt, Mrs. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Cross, Mrs. W. P. Bonnell, Miss Estabrooks, T. H. Belyea, music committee. Mr. Hunt is chairman.

H. H. Reid, A. J. Buehaus, auditors.

DEATH OF MRS. W. J. KENT

Bathurst, N. B., Jan. 8.—The death of Mrs. Kent, wife of W. J. Kent, one of Bathurst's best known merchants, occurred at her home, Bathurst Village, last evening of peritonitis. Mrs. Kent had been ill for several weeks, suffering from typhoid fever. Deceased was thirty-nine years of age and was formerly Miss Christina Dutch, daughter of the late George Dutch, of Black Point, Restigouche county. She is survived by her husband and seven children—three daughters and four sons, Mrs. H. M. Kent, of Bathurst; Mrs. E. McMillan, of New Mills; Mrs. James Fleming, of Moncton, and Mrs. Johnson, of St. John, are sisters, and Robert Dutch, merchant, of Black Point, a brother of deceased.

Rev. R. J. Coughlan, of Johnville, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Coughlan, Exmouth street, for a few days.

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St. George's Society Meeting

The annual meeting of St. George's Society took place last evening in the society's rooms, Orange hall. A good attendance was registered. Reports for the past year were submitted and showed the society to be on a sound basis. Officers were elected as follows: President, Lieut.-Colonel E. T. Sturdee; first vice-president, Dr. G. A. B. Addy;

second vice-president, Alfred Porter; chaplain, Rt. Rev. J. A. Richardson, D. D.; treasurer, F. E. Hanington; secretary, H. R. Sturdee; assistant secretary, W. A. Lockhart; marshalls, B. R. Armstrong, Harold Perley; standard bearers Ernest Law, G. H. Harrison, Jr., R. Carloss. A committee was appointed to arrange for the celebration of St. George's day, in April. A number of members were elected and several nominations made.

Joseph A. Knight, of J. H. Scammell & Co., and L. M. Jewett, of the U. S. consulate, will leave Boston Saturday on the White Star steamer Canopic for a trip to the Mediterranean via the Azores. Mr. Knight will go as far as Genoa, and will visit Rome, while Mr. Jewett will visit Genoa, Rome, Marseilles, Venice, Lake Geneva, as well as several other continental points, returning via England in one of the C. P. Empress steamers in March.

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