

The Corrector of Destinies

Being Tales of Randolph Mason as Related by His Private Secretary, Courtland Parks

The Burgoyne-Hayes Dinner

By Melville Davlsson Post

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The dinner given by Mrs. Burgoyne-Hayes to Prince Edward of Hesse Mecklenburg-Schwerin will be always remembered by New York. The proud old dowager cut society like a butcher.

I shall always remember this dinner for another reason. It was the first appearance in America of Beatrix Waldo after her marriage with Capt. Gordon Smith of his majesty's lines in South Africa. There were a lot of scolding, disconnected rumors about this marriage. Beatrix certainly posed as an heiress before the Englishman went under the yoke, and we got the impression, doubtless directly, that he had a large estate somewhere on Loch Codan, £5,000, at any rate, over his pay.

I had Sarah Lemarr on my right at this dinner, and, fortunately, an impossible German person on her right, who kept his nose well in his wines and pates. I wanted to ask Sarah Lemarr about Beatrix, and was glad of the Teuton's exclusive interest in his stomach. I shared a rather general curiosity. The Englishman was here with Beatrix, putting in his leave of absence. If they mooned for vanished Eldorado, one saw no tear-stains in it. I thought the pair of them at the far end of the table looked happy enough, pretty comfortable for disillusioned fortune hunters. Presently I got Sarah Lemarr to myself, and was about to inquire into the mystery when she took the very subject from the tip of my tongue.

"I have been hoping for a word with you, Courtland," she said; "it's about Beatrix Smith. She needs your assistance."

"I am not a divorce lawyer," I said. "Nonsense, Courtland," she answered; "they love each other. They are lovers. Can you gather the significance of such an undreamed of ending to the effort each of them made to marry a fortune?"

"Then," I said, "Beatrix cannot need assistance. Poets tell us that lovers do not dwell in this land of trolley cars and spindles, but somewhere on blessed islands they are happy."

"But, my dear boy," said Sarah Lemarr, "one might take a stone bruise or a thorn in the thumb even on a blessed island."

"Not so," I answered; "the Well at the World's End is there, and who-so-ever tasteth thereof shall be perfect as his dreams are perfect, and around and all about this land Lethe, the River of Oblivion, rolls its watery labyrinth. Nay, do not interrupt me; the human heart longs with a longing that cannot be uttered for this enchanted country where, you tell me, Beatrix walks with her Englishman."

"Well!" said Sarah Lemarr. "Who is the girl, Courtland?"

"There you go," I said, "demonstrating the greatest unwritten truth about a woman; namely, that every reflection arises from a personal experience. If one deploras sin, he has robbed his employer in his youth; if one apostrophizes love, he is about to marry Miss Jones of Forty-eighth street. The girl in my case, dear Madame von Hubert, is that mysterious fairy-woman, daughter of Abu Jaffer, surnamed the Victorious, second Caliph of Baghdad under the dynasty of the Abbasides, asleep on her silk carpet in Arabia."

"Smith, but Mrs. Burgoyne-Hayes de- scended on me."

"I must present you to the prince, Courtland," she said. "Your great-grandfather on your mother's side, I think, was a soldier of our King George."

"Yes, madam," I said, "but the grand duke of Hesse-Darmstadt drew his pay."

"I did not see the note which Mme. von Hubert wrote to Randolph Mason; but it was effective. He requested me to return after dinner and accompany him to Eighty-sixth street. The von Huberts have a residence on Eighty-sixth street. We arrived there on the hour and were shown into the library. Randolph Mason at once sat down in a heavy black oak chair before the fire. This chair was a massive and curious piece. It was carved by the peasants of the Black Forest for the baron's grandfather. The tortuous shapes forming its arms and legs are like the gargoyles to be seen under the roofs of castles on the Rhine, and now and then in Paris."

I was impressed by the picture of Mason in this massive chair. His long, sinewy fingers gripping the writhing features of the hideous oak monsters, his face thrown partly into shadow by the flaming logs on the hearth. The masterful iron face, the lean, hard jaw with its projecting chin, the fearless, bony nose appearing in the fantastic light flattened a little at the end, like that of a beast of prey, and the crazy forehead—all colored, browned, reddened by the fire."

I heard the latch of the door click, and looked up to see Beatrix Smith standing on the threshold, looking at Mason with profound interest. Her lips were parted and her eyes wide. She had not thought to come on this curiously picture of the middle ages taken down from some Italian gallery and

the land to Williams? the man who robbed me! How can that help?"

"Madam," said Randolph Mason, "do not worry me with petty bickering."

"I signaled Beatrix Smith to a conference with me in the hall. 'Do exactly as he says,' I whispered when we were outside the door, 'and hurry.'

"In a very few minutes Gilbert Williams arrived. He was a red-haired old fellow with a face like a fox, and beady eyes set obliquely in his head. Randolph Mason arose when he came in, and explained that as Mrs. Smith wished to leave America at once, she had determined to sell her lands, provided cash was paid. The lands were worth thirty thousand dollars, but her husband was absent and could not convey his curtesy in the deed. She would therefore take twenty thousand cash and make a deed on the spot. Gilbert Williams snapped up the offer. He did not care anything about the curtesy of the husband. The land itself was worth nothing, the timber only was valuable. His mills would cut it off in a year, and he was willing to take the chance of Mrs. Smith's living that long. He produced a deed, which he had brought with him to New York, and ran a pen through the blank which it contained for the husband's name. Beatrix signed the deed, and the notary who accompanied Williams filled in the acknowledgment and affixed his seal in proper form. Gilbert Williams wrote out a check on the Importers' Bank of Commerce for twenty thousand dollars. We ascertained by telephone to the cashier at his residence that the check was good. Williams then folded his deed, put it in his pocket and departed with the notary. The whole matter had taken less than twenty minutes to bring to a close.

Randolph Mason inquired at what

hour Lieutenant Gordon Smith would arrive, and was told that he would be at the house at half-past ten. "Direct the agent of the Export Spruce company to be here at that hour," he said. Then he sat down in the oak chair before the fire.

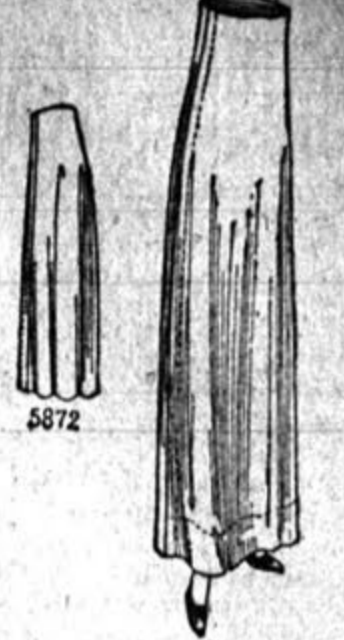
We were all greatly puzzled. We did not see why this second purchaser should be invited to come. Beatrix Smith had nothing more to sell. The transaction seemed to us to have arrived at its final act, the curtain down and the lights out. Sarah Lemarr came down to the hall and peeped through the door at Mason, where he sat motionless, his right elbow on the twisted arm of the grotesquely carved chair, his clenched fingers propping up his jaw. "O Courtland!" she whispered, "he is splendid! I think Lancelot must have looked like that when he sat in Arthur's double-dragon chair to umpire the last tournament. Just fancy, with what freezing, acid irony he would have said, 'Hast thou won?' 'Art thou the purest brother?' to such an unconscionable rake as Tristan." Then she swore Beatrix to obedience and slipped back up the great stairway. A few minutes after ten o'clock, Lieutenant Gordon Smith arrived, and, a little later, the agent of the Export



"Madam," said Randolph Mason, "do not worry me with petty bickering."

Practical Fashions

LADIES' TWO-PIECE SKIRT.



In this design we have a charming two-piece Empire skirt which can be developed for separate wear or as part of a coat suit or complete costume. The skirt closes at the left side and presents one of the most fashionable models of the season. Serge, mohair, pongee, linen and plique may be considered among the available materials. The pattern (5872) is cut in sizes 22 to 30 inches waist measure. Width of lower edge, 2 1/4 yards. Medium size will require 2 1/4 yards of 36-inch material.

To procure this pattern, send 10 cents to "Pattern Department" of this paper. Write name and address plainly, and be sure to give size and number of pattern.

NO 5872 SIZE.....
NAME.....
TOWN.....
STREET AND NO.....
STATE.....

LADIES' DRESS.



Here is a delightfully charming frock and something entirely new. The waist is cut with the body and sleeves in one and the closing is at the left side of the front. The dress as represented is made with a flounce of bordered goods, the yoke and collar of all-over and the panel trimming of insertion. The frock may be carried out nicely in plain goods, if so desired. The pattern (5892) is cut in sizes 22 to 40 inches bust measure. Medium size will require to make the dress as pictured, 9 1/4 yards of 27-inch bordered goods, 4 of a yard of 18-inch all-over for yoke and collar, 2 1/4 yards of insertion for panel and 1/4 of a yard of 1/2-inch satin. If made of plain material, 6 1/2 yards of 27-inch goods is needed.

To procure this pattern, send 10 cents to "Pattern Department" of this paper. Write name and address plainly, and be sure to give size and number of pattern.

NO 5892. SIZE.....
NAME.....
TOWN.....
STREET AND NO.....
STATE.....

For the legal principle involved in this story see Austin et al. v. Brown et al., 37 W. Va., 634. Syllabus, Austin et al. v. Brown et al., supra. "M. A. B., a married woman, not living separate and apart, but with her husband, undertook by deed . . . to sell and convey a certain tract of land, part of her real estate . . . Held, said pretended deed was wholly inoperative to divest M. A. B., the grantor, of her ownership of such land, and did not pass any interest therein, legal or equitable, to the said grantees."

Unsinkable Ship.
Plans for an unsinkable trans-Atlantic ship have been made by Otto Kretschmer, dean of the engineering department of the Charlottenburg Technical high school. In them he embodies the principle of constructing a hull within a hull. The inner body, which is entirely independent of the outer, contains all the engines and boilers and is walled in with steel plating and with no doors to the outer structure.

A Carping Friend.
"A college offers me a degree for a million."
"Do you want to be a college youth?"
"No; but I'd like a degree."
"Oh, why spend all that money? Join the boy scouts."

When Humor Amuses.
When a man is not amused, he feels an involuntary contempt for those who are.—Edward Bulwer Lytton.

Fills the Bill.
"A sentence with the word exposure," the teacher demanded, and a sturdy boy put up his hand. "If you fellows don't quit your grafting 'I'll exposure," he quoted grandiloquently from the noted reform lecturer he had heard.

Explaining Away the Facts.
Well-bred people now do not talk about "the put, the flesh and the devil"; they speak of the "environment, heredity and circumstances."—D. L. Moody.

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- King Oscar Sardines in pure Olive Oil, 2 cans for 25c
- Noon Day Lunch Sardines in pure Olive Oil per can 10c
- Shadm Roe, something new per can 25c
- Also a well selected line of French Sardines at 20, 25, & 30c
- Franco-American, Soups and Imported, table delicacies.

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FRIDAY SPECIALS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----|
| Mackerel extra fancy No. 1 large size | Cheese Butter Cup, American cheese per lb. | 23c |
| Mackerel each | Macaroni, Red Cross brand per pk. 10c 3 for | 25c |
| FRESH VEGETABLES | | |
| Green Corn, Home grown, dozen | Apples, extra fancy Duchess fine for pies, pk. | 28c |
| Cucumbers, 2 for | Melons, large size, pink meats, each | 15c |
| Cauliflower, fancy each | Rockyford, Melons, each | 10c |

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Friday and Saturday

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In this "ad" you will find a great variety of High-Class values that we dare to say, are above the average. There is something for every man, woman and child that will prove very interesting. Hundreds of other items equally as good on tables and counters, not advertised. Including a big bunch of new Fall goods marked at special prices for this occasion. In our Cloak Department, second floor, we are making an exceptional strong showing.

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Sale Two Days--Friday and Saturday

<p>ONE HOUR SALE 9 TO 10 O'CLOCK</p> <p>Standard Table Oil Cloth Light or dark colors—sale price per yd. 9c</p> <p>Men's Black Seamless Cotton Sox or regular 10c seller, 4 pairs for 25c</p> <p>\$2.00 Self filling Fountain Pens with guaranteed 14 karat pen 95c</p> <p>\$2.50 Ladies or Misses all wool Sweater Coats, all colors, now only 1.77</p> <p>Infants Shoes, different Leathers, all Hand turned, 80c value, sizes 2 to 5 1-2 at 45c</p> <p>New fiber Suit Cases, sizes 24 inches—Sensational value at 79c</p>	<p>ONE HOUR SALE 10 TO 11 O'CLOCK</p> <p>4397 yards Summer Wash Goods, lawns Gingham, etc., values to 19c, per yd. 5c</p> <p>Men's Turkey Red or Indigo Blue Handkerchiefs—5c seller, now 2 for 5c</p> <p>16 ounce all copper Wash Boiler \$4.00 value—Special now only 2.65</p> <p>\$1.25 good percale house dresses all dark colors, Special now only 88c</p> <p>Infants' Soft Sole Shoes and Moccasins, asst. colors, 50c grade at 24c</p> <p>50 and 75c values Boys' Coat Sweaters Gray with Maroon or navy boarder 37c</p>	<p>ONE HOUR SALE 1 TO 2 O'CLOCK</p> <p>\$1.25 Black 36 inch Messaline Silks, soft and a medium good weight 79c</p> <p>\$1.25 value, per yard 79c</p> <p>Men's Banded Shirts to wear with collar, 95c to \$1.50 values now only 79c</p> <p>Full Finished Colonial Glass Table Tumblers, per set of 6, only 9c</p> <p>\$1.00 Polar Bonnets, made of fine Saxony yarn, all colors 50c</p> <p>\$1.00 grade Childs Shoes, different leathers, all hand turned, sizes 6 to 8 65c</p> <p>Boys' every day shirts, extra strong Kaki, black, white stripes, also gingham at 33c</p>
<p>ONE HOUR SALE 2 TO 3 O'CLOCK</p> <p>\$1.25—48 inch storm serge in colors of Navy and black, Heavy, good quality, per yard 98c</p> <p>Men's Canvas Gauntlet Gloves, a regular 15c seller for one hour only 10c</p> <p>White and Gold cup and saucer, dinner plate and one pie plate, all for only 23c</p> <p>\$3.00 fine Messaline Silk Petticoats, all the new colors, for one hour only 1.88</p> <p>\$3.50 Women's Shoes, all leathers and styles, good value at regular price, sale price 2.65</p> <p>Childs \$1.00 and \$1.25 Wash Suits only a few left, now they go at only 49c</p>	<p>ONE HOUR SALE 3 TO 4 O'CLOCK</p> <p>25c and 35c values, Childrens Fleece Lined Underwear, Vest, Pants and Drawers, Special Sale Price 21c</p> <p>Men's Work Shirts in plain chambray or Madras—our 50c seller now only 33c</p> <p>10 rolls good grade crepe Toilet Paper—for one hour only 10 for 24c</p> <p>\$1.50 Childrens double breasted high neck Sweaters, all colors, now only 96c</p> <p>Womens Shoes in all Leathers \$2.00 value, light or Med. weight, sale 1.45</p> <p>Boys Windsor Ties, all good colors and patterns—on sale now for 7c</p>	<p>ONE HOUR SALE 4 TO 5 O'CLOCK</p> <p>10c and 12c Outing Flannel, light or dark colors, heavy good cloth, yd. 8c</p> <p>Men's fine Suspenders, strong Webb—Nice new patterns, 35c seller at 22c</p> <p>Silver plated Knives and Forks, 6 of each, fancy pattern, per set 1.19</p> <p>75c Women's Outing Flannel gowns, good full garments, now only 46c</p> <p>\$2.50 Women's Shoes, vici kid, patent tip, lace or button, light or heavy soles, pair 1.85</p> <p>Childs' Gray Coat Sweaters, all small sizes—wonderful bargain at 19c</p>
<p>ONE HOUR SALE 7 TO 8 O'CLOCK SATURDAY NIGHT</p> <p>25c values Jewelry, consisting of Broaches, Hat Pins, Beauty Pins, etc. now only 5c</p> <p>Men's Blue Overalls, good heavy Dennim, our regular 50c seller, now 32c</p> <p>Rogers Silver Set—6 tea spoons, butter, knife and sugar shell all for 93c</p> <p>\$1.25 Flannelette Kimonas, all new styles, pretty designs—for one hour 87c</p> <p>\$2.50 grade Men's Heavy Working Shoes, Russian calf and Black Elk, now, per pair 1.85</p> <p>Childs Rompers, blue with check or stripes—Exceptional Bargain at 18c</p>	<p>ONE HOUR SALE 8 TO 9 O'CLOCK SATURDAY NIGHT</p> <p>Women's 75c Corsets long or short Models Made from good Cuttill, all sizes 47c</p> <p>Men's Fleece lined Underwear Shirts or drawers, all sizes 50c value at 32c</p> <p>8 quart blue stone, 3 coated enamel preserve kettle, strictly first grade 23c</p> <p>\$3.00 Ladies and Misses rubber rain coats—on sale 8 to 9 for only 2.19</p> <p>\$3.50 and \$5.00 Johnston & Murphy's High grade Men's Shoes—for 3.95</p> <p>Boys dress shirts with two collars asst. colors, odd lots, 50c value at 19c</p>	<p>ONE HOUR SALE 9 TO 9:30 O'CLOCK SATURDAY NIGHT</p> <p>Hair nets made of fine silk, large sizes, all colors, each 2c or 13 for 25c</p> <p>Men's Sweaters—heavy cotton Sweaters with high military collar, 75c value at each 42c</p> <p>25c Box Mennens Talcum Powder on sale for only Half an Hour at 9c</p> <p>\$2.50 Childrens bear skin Coats, all Colors, age 2 to 6—on sale for only 1.69</p> <p>\$4.00 grade Men's Shoes, in patent colt, all Hand Welt, Odd lot, now per pair 1.95</p> <p>Tams for school wear, red, navy and green, regular 50c seller now 19c</p>
<p>98 lb. Sack Guaranteed Flour Friday and Saturday \$2.50</p>		<p>98 lb. Sack Guaranteed Flour Friday and Saturday \$2.50</p>