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A copy of this book will be sent to ALL TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER. The book will be published about December 22, 1899. It being impossible to get it out earlier on account of getting complete records of 1899 events, the book will be mailed as soon after above date as possible.

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THE WIDOW'S LOVE.

When Isabella Barry was left a widow at the age of 25 she turned her attention to charitable work, hoping to find solace therein. Her zeal grew and at the end of a year she was quite engrossed in the work.

She had always given liberally, but now she added personal visitation to that, and took to visiting the slum districts, where she dispensed alms with her own hands. To say that she was often deceived in the objects of her charity would be putting it mildly—often the professedly blind having as good sight as herself or the apparent cripple having an arm or leg deftly bandaged up while the sleeve or trousers leg hung empty—but many and many a time she helped those who were truly deserving, and was content.

She studied social problems, read books on economic subjects and attended club meetings of the working classes, endeavoring to find some plan by which the condition of the poor might be permanently ameliorated.

"If they only had better houses to live in," she said, "it would arouse their ambition and self-respect. But these horrible, ramshackle tenements, where human beings swarm together like rats, have simply the opposite tendency."

It was while visiting one of these tenements that she met with an adventure. In coming through an upper hall the heel of her shoe caught in a hole in the floor and her foot received such a wrench that she would have fallen and perhaps sustained severe injuries, but for the opportune appearance of a gentleman, who caught her and held her while he released her heel.

"What an abominable place!" exclaimed her rescuer, an interesting looking man, dressed in a suit of tweed whose appearance and manner stamped him as a gentleman. Mrs. Barry was not conventional and finding herself unhurt and in the company of one whom she at once conceived to be in sympathy with her charitable projects, she began to talk.

"Yes, this is one of the most neglected buildings in the whole city."

robed woman who had favored him with her views on the responsibilities of property-owners.

Shortly after this adventure Isabella attended a musical at a friend's home. At the close of the entertainment her friend approached and asked leave to introduce a Mr. Alwyn, who desired to meet her.

Isabella gave her consent and the hostess left to bring the gentleman. "Alwyn," repeated the widow to herself. "Where have I heard that name? It certainly is familiar, but I cannot place him."

"Mrs. Barry—Mr. Alwyn," said her hostess, and turning she found herself face to face with the gentleman she had talked with in the old tenement house. As she glanced at him she suddenly remembered the name of the owner of that neglected property. It was Alwyn, and this was he standing before her, his countenance expressing nothing but polite pleasure upon making her acquaintance. An irrepressible smile brightened the widow's face as the hostess moved away.

"So it was you I lectured so roundly the other day?" she said. "You really must pardon me."

"Do you mean," he asked eagerly, "that you do not now think me culpable?"

"By no means," she replied, emphatically. "I only mean that I would probably not have spoken so had I known you then."

"Then, if that is the case," he said, showing considerable dejection, "I fear you will not care for my acquaintance."

Alwyn was a handsome man, with attractive manners, and Isabella was but a woman, young, and not impervious to the admiration she read in his eyes, so she answered:

"I consider it a piece of good fortune to have met you. I intend to constitute myself a missionary and convert you to my point of view."

"You will find me a ready pupil," he responded, quickly. "Your first lesson on the responsibilities of a property-holder has already borne fruit. I intend to tear down the wretched structure you condemned so sharply and put up a model modern building in its stead."

"OH!" SAID ISABELLA FAINTLY.

She said, warmly. "I think it is left to the agent, who does as he pleases and lets the property fall into decay, while the owner enjoys himself in foreign lands, or at least does not trouble himself to personally investigate affairs. And yet the poor wretches who live in these dreadful quarters, when the disease so often comes, must pay their rent as if they got some adequate return. I call it blood money and should think it would stain the hand of the man who receives it."

"Perhaps," suggested the stranger, "the owner is, as you said was possible, away from home and knows nothing of the state of his property. Perhaps his agent has kept him in ignorance."

"Then it is criminal ignorance," returned Mrs. Barry. "The possession of property entails responsibilities, moral obligations, and should not be shirked. Now, in the case of the owner of this house, it is simply willful neglect. I, myself, notified him of the condition of the house some time ago."

"You know him, then?" asked the man, in evident surprise.

"No," she replied, "but I communicated with him through his agent."

"And Mr.—ah what did you say the owner's name was?" he inquired.

"I have forgotten," Mrs. Barry said, wrinkling her smooth brow in an attempt at remembrance.

"I am sure he never received your letter," exclaimed her companion, earnestly.

It was Mrs. Barry who now showed surprise.

"Do you know him?" she asked in turn.

The gentleman hesitated before he replied: "Slightly. And, while he is by no means a paragon, I am sure if he had received your letter or had, otherwise been made aware of the state of his property, he would have attended to it. As it is, I will see that he has the matter brought to his attention."

"Thank you!" exclaimed the young widow, impulsively extending her hand, which he clasped very willingly. Then a pause followed, during which she suddenly awoke to the fact that she was even more unconventional than usual, and hastily bidding the stranger good-day, she passed on.

"Well, he was a gentleman, I am sure," she said to quiet her inward chidings, "and it was in the cause of charity. But I really must learn to behave more sedately." She glanced back as she left the building, but did not see him; and she did not know that he had stayed behind to make discreet inquiries about the charming black-

"Tell me about it," urged the widow, her eyes sparkling with pleasure.

Mr. Alwyn hesitated a moment, then asked, almost timidly: "Perhaps you will allow me to bring the plans up some evening to show you? You might then be kind enough to offer some helpful suggestion, for when it comes to building I always contend that a woman plans better than the most finished architect of the sterner sex."

"I will be most happy to assist you," Isabella responded, as she rose to leave, "and you will find me at home any Wednesday."

The next Wednesday found Alwyn at Mrs. Barry's, armed with his plans for a model tenement house. There were many changes and numerous suggestions to be made, which necessitated many visits on the part of Mr. Alwyn. Isabella was such a delightful little philanthropist and her zeal was so contagious that Alwyn declared that he could not manage his large property in the way she had shown him to be his duty without her permanent help.

"Of course, if you put it that way," the little widow said with dignity—"that you only want me to keep you in the paths of duty, I would recommend the Rev. Mr. Hopworth in my place. He can guide you and advise——"

"But that is not the only reason, Isabella, that I want you. I want you because I cannot live without you—because I love you, Isabella."

"Oh!" said Isabella, faintly, "if that is the reason it changes the complexion of the affair—a little."

How to Get Beer in Wales.

The well-known attorney, J. Willis Gleed of Topeka, is going to Wales on business, and Howell Jones has been instructing Mr. Gleed "how to ask for two glasses of beer in Welsh." This is the proper version: "Byddweh mor garedig a dyfod a dau wydriad or diod oreu sydd genych."—Kansas City Journal.

A Plagiarism.

Dusty Roads (his eyes fixed on a party of golfers)—Weary, if you and I only had some swell clothes and a bundle of sticks apiece they wouldn't call us tramps any longer. Weary Waggles—Yes, I've often thought them golfers were a-plagiarizing our profeah.—Boston Transcript.

Strange.

We all admit that virtue is its own reward and yet we object when the good man throws bouquets at himself.

Real Estate Exchange

Of Whitehead & Mitchell, at the Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

LIST No. 2.

No. 23.

Feed Mill at Royal Oak, Mich. Four lots, 2-story and basement mill with 30-horse power and steam engine. Ypsilanti feed process. Building alone worth $1,000, to say nothing of the lots. Good farming country, no competition. Well established business with excellent run of custom. Satisfactory reasons for selling made known to customer.

No. 24.

House and two lots, Nos. 58 and 59, Merrill Plat, Birmingham, on north side of Merrill St. Comfortable, cozy little home for some one who cannot afford a brown stone front on Fifth Avenue, but is willing to take solid comfort at a moderate price. Place is owned by Chas. G. Hunt, who has removed from this locality and wants to dispose of this place. The price shows that he is in earnest about selling, for he will take 1,300, and the terms will be all right.

No. 25.

The Toynton place, a nice little farm of 70 acres, with four acres of good orchard and buildings as good as anybody's. Situated one mile west of Bloomfield Centre (Circle postoffice), five minute's walk from Long Lake. Basement barn which cost nearly $1,000. House has seven rooms and woodshed, cellar, cistern, well, tool house, chicken house, pig pens, corn crib. A never failing stream runs through the farm. This farm is on the line of the Detroit, Bloomfield and Orchard Lake electric Railway, from Bloomfield Centre to Orchard Lake. The price which was $65 per acre before the new electric road was thought of, remains the same, although all the farms in the neighborhood have gone "hiking."

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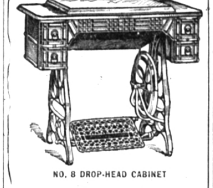

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STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss. At a session of the Probate Court for said county of Oakland, held at the Probate office, in the city of Pontiac, on the 6th day of September, in the year one thousand, eight hundred and ninety-nine.

Present, Thomas L. Patterson, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of BIRD A. TIBBLES, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of William S. Tibbles praying that administration of said estate may be granted to Eugene Brooks or some other suitable person.

It is ordered that Monday, the 9th day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate office, be appointed for hearing said petition; and it is further ordered that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, a newspaper printed and circulating in said county of Oakland.

THOMAS L. PATTERSON, (A true copy.) Judge of Probate.

Sep15-Oct6

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss. Notice is hereby given, that by an order of the Probate Court for the county of Oakland, made on the 11th day of September, 1899, six months from that date were allowed for creditors to present their claims against the estate of MARIAH J. YOUNG, late of said county, deceased, and that all creditors of said deceased are required to present their claims to said Probate Court, at the Probate office, in the city of Pontiac, for examination and allowance, on or before the 12th day of March next, and that such claims will be heard before said Court, on Monday, the 13th day of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

Dated, September 11, A. D. 1899.

THOMAS L. PATTERSON, Sep15-Oct13 Judge of Probate

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss. At a session of the Probate Court for said county of Oakland, held at the Probate office, in the city of Pontiac, on the 13th day of September, in the year one thousand, eight hundred and ninety-nine.

Present, Thomas L. Patterson, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of JAMES GRIMLEY, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Almeron Whitehead, the administrator, praying for license to sell the real estate of said deceased for the purposes of distribution.

It is ordered that Thursday, the 19th day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate office, be appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate are required to appear at the time and place aforesaid and show cause, if any exists, why said petition should not be granted; and it is further ordered that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, a newspaper printing and circulating in said county of Oakland.

THOMAS L. PATTERSON, Sep22-Oct13 Judge of Probate.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss. At a session of the Probate Court for said county of Oakland, held at the Probate office in the city of Pontiac, on the 4th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

Present: Thomas L. Patterson, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of HENRY J. REYNOLDS, deceased

On application of Charles J. Reynolds, administrator for the examination and allowance of his final account and the settlement of the estate.

It is ordered that Tuesday, the 31st day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate office, be appointed for hearing said application and the examination and allowance of said final account; and it is further ordered that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, a newspaper printed and circulating in said county of Oakland.

THOMAS L. PATTERSON, October 6-20. Judge of Probate.

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19 inch Taffeta, 30 shades	85c and 75c	Solid Colors Corded Silks in new Grays, Lavenders and Mauves	$1.25
20 inch Silk Poplins, new colorings	$1.00	Black Stripe Taffeta, corded	$1.00
20 inch Satin Duchess, colors	$1.00	24 inch Black Taffeta	$1.00 and $1.50
21 inch Satin Peau de Soie, white and cream only	$1.25	22 inch Black Taffeta	$1.00
19 inch Colored Satins	50c	22 and 24 inch Lyons Taffeta, guaranteed	$1.25 to $1.75
24 inch Jap Silks, 50 shades	50c	21 inch Peau de Soie, black	$1.25
27 inch Jap Silks, extra weight, black and white	65c	24 inch Black Satin Duchess	$1.25
Black Corded Silks for yokes	$1.25	36c, $1.00 and $1.25.	

New line of heavy weight Tailor Suits, Rainy Day Skirts, Golf Capes and Children Jackets. All widths of Velvet Ribbons for Trimmings and Ladies' Ties.

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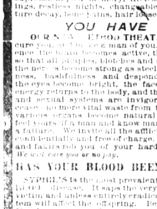

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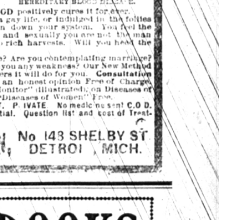

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