

Helped Him More
Than Sunshine
By MARTHA WILLIAMS

A Theory That
Was Proved
By H. IRVING KING

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THE Oracle spoke: "If you know what's good for you, you'll stay right here. What would folks say—a young thing like you runnin' off to work for a man she's never seen nor even heard of till last week?"

"A plenty—and more besides," June flung back desperately. "I'm a babe of course—twenty-five next birthday. And I am not afraid of work, nor of men—nor even of the devil—if I don't ask him in."

"He don't walt on askin'," the Oracle blurted. June shrugged impatiently. "I'm goin,'" she said grimly. "I won't stay here, starvin' on a hundred a year—and working harder than any other girl in town to pay my kind friends for what I don't get."

She flung away high-headed. The Oracle looked after her with pursed lips, a shaken head. Her mind's eye saw June's finish—the gutter, the river, the morgue, when the monster who was enticing her to destruction had tired of her. She was going thus to a man who had advertised for "A woman with a gift of home-making, in a secluded country house." Her heart was in home-making—it was her art, her joy.

Dawn melted into daylight as she quitted the train. The way station lay silent betwixt woods and pastures. Then with a snort of the engine the long train whirled away, revealing beyond the tracks a car that had seen better days, with a woman, plump, placid, gray-haired at the wheel. "You look like the answer to prayer," she said, motioning June to her side. "I won't tell you why—but let you see for yourself. There's time for you to wash up, rest a bit, and eat breakfast before Esme wakes. Poor soul! Sleep was hard for him—he was so anxious over your coming."

Esme came to the table, clean-kempt, pathetic beyond words, in a wheel chair, propelled by his double-tanned and rugged as he was bleached and wasted. Twin brothers, the Trents were no closer in blood than in heart and spirit.

"Helpless—and the doctors say there is no hope of betterment, yet he may live to be old," Hardin Trent said as they went out upon the porch. "He loves beauty in everything. You must give it to him. I see in your eyes that you do. Cousin Emma, dear, good soul, has the best heart, and the worst taste in the world."

So, indeed, it proved. Six months later the solid, old red brick house was transformed within and transfigured without. Her joy was nothing beside Esme's; he gained in spirit, in color, a little in ease and strength. He spent hours in the grounds, watching the flowers grow and blow, the new shrubs make root and stem, the vines clamber lustily over the new trellises, the turf thicken as summer strengthened. He could push himself along the walks, but Hardin was close by the half time, June also haunted him—it was so piteous to see him brighten at sight of her, and smile when she gave him a gay word. "You help him—even more than sunshine," Hardin said to her, his tone faintly wistful. "And I simply can never thank you enough—you don't know, but he is as he is because of me. Dragged me away from a falling tree. His foot hung—it caught him. Death would have been ten times easier than living to see him so. He was the liveliest, merriest, happiest creature, so winning dogs followed him, women were wax in his hands. We were always close friends—now we are all in all to each other—and will be to the end of time."

Time ambling withal brought frost to nip the turf, the flowers, snow to mantle them into more subtle beauty, brought also warmth, and freshness and merry talk about the hearth, or happy silences beneath the reading lamp. Esme gained steadily, but very slowly. One month he could pick his guitar, singing to it in a fine tenor, inaudible across the room; the next he raised himself unaided by holding to the arms of his chair—after New Years he actually stood upright for five seconds. Hardin supporting one arm, June the other. Sinking down, his face illumined, he drew their hands together and held them upon his breast. There they felt his heart pounding at racing speed, with now and then the veriest ghost of a skip. He smiled up at them, saying clearly, "Mustn't try that again—for your sakes. It would end everything quickly. You'd grieve for me I know. Tell me truly will you let me live on as I am, and watch your happiness?"

"What happiness?" Hardin asked huskily. June turned her head. Esme again joined their hands and lifted them to his lips before answering: "The right human happiness of man and wife. You love each other—I have seen that a long time—but I have stood between you. No, no—as they would have protested. "I was jealous—madly so! It seemed to me you had no right to take—what is forever denied me. I dreamed even of getting well—of daring you to rival me with—June. The dream is ended—take you each the other, with my blessing. Do it quickly—before I go."

The last words whispered, Hardin and June stood apart, looking lovingly at this man and brother. "Kiss me, both. I must sleep," he said. And so fell into the sleep that knows no wak-

Chicago Citizens To Hold
Mass Meeting This Evening

to be reduced in accordance with the decision of the United States supreme court.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—Holding that Chicago faced a problem of life or death, Edward J. Kelly, municipal chief engineer, today called on the people to mass meetings tonight all over the city to protect against reducing the water withdrawal from Lake Michigan.

Chicago uses the 10,000 feet per second withdrawal allowed at present to fight off pestilence, Kelly said. "Delay in impressing Washington with the existence of the menace means death in every glass of water," Kelly said.

If the flow is cut down, sewage will contaminate the city's drinking water and a "huge harvest of death" will follow, Kelly said.

Petitions bearing thousands of names will be placed before Secretary of War Weeks, who is expected to decide whether the present flow is

badly beaten by troops of Lu Yung made by Jacob Stainer, a German, in Hsiang and now finds his own forces demoralized and in flight.

A regiment of British troops are reported enroute from Hong Kong to help guard the foreign settlements.

Washington.—Roy King, of Pond, near here, claims the oldest violin in the state. The instrument was

1639.

Shanghai, Jan. 19.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The tide of battle in the Shanghai area has turned suddenly and now defeated troops of Chi Kieh Yuan are pouring towards this city, looting and rioting as they come.

The former ally of Tu Pei Fu, who sprang a sudden coup d'etat, and took the native city ten days ago, was

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Called "meeting. Work in Entered Apprentice, Tuesday, 7 o'clock. John Dickerson, W. M.

THE CORT

Last Time Tonight

THE DELIGHTFUL DRAMA

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Featuring the Wonder Star, Colleen Moore and wonder cast.

A drama of mother love woven around an interesting story.

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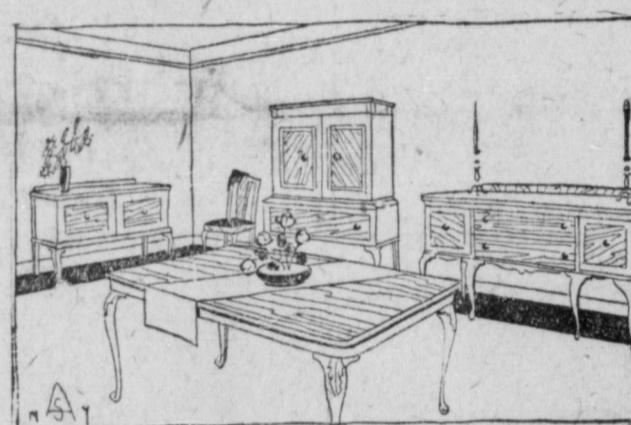
January Clearance Sale

"The Half Century Furniture Store"

CUT PRICE FURNITURE SALE

Starts Monday Morning January 19th

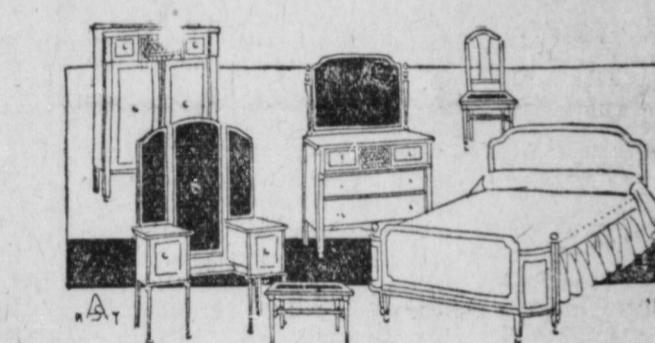
WE MUST REDUCE OUR STOCK AND WE WILL SELL ANYTHING AND ALL STOCK AT A REDUCED PRICE. EVERYTHING MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES. IF YOU ARE EXPECTING TO ADD ANY NEW PIECE OF FURNITURE TO YOUR HOME—NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY IT.



Dining Room Suites

Walnut Dining Room Set, reduced from \$159.50 right down to rock bottom at..... \$135.00
Walnut Dining Room Set, regularly priced at \$195.00. Going to some one during this sale for..... \$156.00

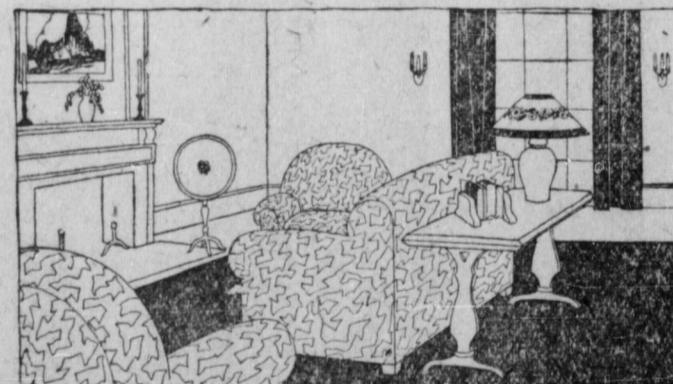
MANY OTHER GOOD BARGAINS



Bed Room Suites

Walnut Dresser, regularly priced at \$56.00; Special during this sale only..... \$43.00
3 Piece Bed Room Set in Walnut, regular price was \$168.00; Special during this sale at..... \$140.00

Other Wonderful Bargains To Be Had



Living Room Suites

3 piece Living Room Suite; formerly sold for \$90.00
regular \$90
Special at \$150; marking for..... \$75.00
3 piece Living Room Suite, regularly priced at \$188; Now \$148.00

3 piece Living Room Suites;
regular \$90
marking for..... \$75.00
3 piece Living Room Suite;
Regular \$145.00;
During this sale \$90.00

All Other Furniture Reduced

Such As

Kitchen Cabinets	Odd Dressers
Kitchen Tables	Odd Chiffoniers
Drop Leaf and End Tables	
Library Tables	Cedar Chests
Davenport Tables	Iron and Brass Beds

ROCKING CHAIRS

All Kinds of Rocking Chairs in any finish
will be cut in price in this sale.

Yager Brothers Furniture Store

Opposite Public Square—East Side

Decatur, Indiana