

The Middle Ground
By MARION RUBINCAKUNDERSTANDING
Chapter 53

Amy had torn open the little package with a half smothered excited laugh. Her mother watched her, anxious to delay reading her own letter as long as possible. From innumerable coverings of tissue paper emerged a box with the name of a smart jeweler on it, and from within, in still further layers of white cotton, came out another box, this time satin covered and stamped with gold lettering. And from this Amy drew out a tiny flexible bracelet of emeralds, and held it up. "It's from Mr. Arnold," she announced, reading the tiny card inside the box.

"Who is Mr. Arnold?" Mrs. Talbot remembered the name — Luther had spoken of him and said he might be a greater source of worry than Donald. But she was clever enough to know the strength that lay in appearing ignorant.

Amy hesitated, and colored a little.

"I've meant to tell you about him, but somehow I haven't yet. He's — a friend of Jim Clarke's, and I met him, as I've met everyone who has done me any good, through Clarke. He's very rich, really very rich indeed. I'll bring him around, just to show him I'm not ashamed of this shabby home. He's —" she was having a difficult time explaining. "You see, he likes me a lot, and so he sent me this bracelet.

She said this quite as though it was an excellent reason. But she knew it would never satisfy the little old lady who stared at the string of sparkling green stones as though it was a coiled snake.

But still Mrs. Talbot said nothing in protest. Amy was evidently waiting for the storm to descend. Evidently, too, she had spent days in thinking of reasons for taking the gift.

And what was the use of protesting? The girl was looking adoringly at this, the first really valuable, beautiful thing she had ever owned. Certainly she would not give it up. Amy had once before shown herself capable of refusing flatly to do what she was told.

So Mrs. Talbot, as part of her new plan, made no comment about the bracelet, she used her letter as an excuse for saying nothing. And while she was reading it, Amy went out, the emeralds hidden under her long tan glove, but fairly making her arm tingle with pleasure because she knew they clasped it.

The letter only added to Mrs. Talbot's gloom. It was in Jordan's bitterest manner, and announced that as she had chosen not to come back when she was ordered, she had forfeited her home. She was no longer his wife, she was as bad, if no worse, than her daughters. He considered the whole

family lost to all sense of respect, duty or decency.

It was like a sermon at an old fashioned revival meeting in its general time. It was so bitter it was ridiculous.

But Amy Talbot, nunched up on the couch, could see only the tragedy, not the humor in the situation. Unconsciously, she had clung to Jordan and his ideas, all along. At the age of 48, when most women have passed the storms of their lives and have settled down to peace and quiet, she had come to the climax. Surely, at nearly half a century, after a life of hard work, she had earned rest, not this breaking up of everything. The further she felt her children drift away from her, the more, subconsciously, she had clung to Jordan, and all he stood for. He had always done here thinking for her, made her decisions, dictated her ideas on every subject.

She once thought there were no ways but Jordan's ways, no standards but those he approved.

Then came the disturbing reunion with the children. Then came the gradual drifting of the children, and finally her desperate attempt to go to them and bring them back to the old ways.

And she had failed in that!

First of all, there were ways of looking at life, quite different from any she had imagined. And nice people seemed to hold these strange views, too, and to be none the worse for them.

With her children she found herself clinging to Jordan's ways, with Jordan's denunciation in her hand, with the bitter words of his letter before her eyes and the vision of the narrow little house in the country before her mind, she felt herself changing.

She had promised that she would not disapprove of anything the three children said or did, until she had won their confidence. That was the first step — perhaps after that, she could bring them around to their old point of view.

So she had thought!

Now, suddenly, she found herself conforming to their point of view.

After all, hadn't they been fairly driven to it? To be sure, Jordan had clothed and fed them, even grudgingly loaned them money toward their education. But what else had he done for them? What had he ever done for her? The children might be all wrong in their ultra-modern ideas — but somehow, she felt they were justified, because it was the inevitable reaction to Jordan's extreme narrowness.

Monday — A Climax.

SIGN CIGARETTE PLEDGE
LOGANSWORTH, Jan. 7.—Pledges to abstain from the use of cigarettes during 1922 have been signed by 466 men who attend Logansport Sunday schools.

MARK TWAIN DARED
TO STAND FOR RIGHT,
DECLARES DR. BURTON

Mark Twain, the author and artist; Mark Twain, the man of courage and imagination, who dared any convention and stand up against the world for what he thought was right, was the Mark Twain presented to an audience of over 250 persons in the First Presbyterian church by Dr. Richard Burton Friday evening. Dr. Burton hails from the University of Minnesota and his lecture was delivered under the auspices of the Literary Department of the Woman's club.

Three quarters of the laughs Mark Twain drew from the public were not by his effort," said the speaker. "Mark Twain's mind was essentially serious, but he had a way of saying things that made people laugh. Yet the fun was there, because he recognized the incalculable value of humor as a weapon."

Dr. Burton said that Mark Twain was not only the greatest American humorist, but one of the half dozen greatest of all history, in that he was able to see the loss sustained by the human race in failing to enjoy the ten thousand "high grade incongruities" of life.

Contempt For Convention
"Innocents Abroad," said Dr. Burton, "showed Mark Twain's contempt for the slavish worship of things that are past, seen by him in European reverence for ancient customs, styles and relics, things that had been due up out of the past. "Mark Twain was a believer in the present, and a believer in America. He is always comparing the past and the present.

"The fabled chivalry of the Elizabethan age was presented by him in 'A Connecticut Yankee in Arthur's Court,' but at the same time he showed the discomforts of that age, the draughty banquet hall, and the snarling of the dogs as they snapped at bones thrown under the feet of the guests at the feast. He was able to give the finest kind of literary criticism and sometimes it was social criticism as well."

Dr. Richard Burton is head of the English department of the University of Minnesota. He was literary editor of the Hartford Courant from 1890 to 1897 and before that was for a time the managing editor of the Chronicle. He has published 22 books.

Give your skin a treat — use Blue Devil Cleanser. — Advertisement.

**We Repair All Makes of
Electric Irons**
Hart's Electric Shop
1027 Main
Phone 2434

LOTTIE PICKFORD
IS TO WED AGAIN

Lottie Pickford.

Lottie Pickford, sister of Mary and Jack Pickford, and until recently known as Lottie Pickford Rupp, is reported to be engaged to Allan Forrest, leading man for Mary Miles Minter. Miss Lottie was divorced from A. G. Rupp, a New York broker, about a year ago and shortly afterwards Mrs. Pickford adopted their little daughter and named her Mary Jickford 2d.

WILL MAKE WABASH
SAFE FOR SKATERS

HUNTINGTON, Jan. 7.—Clarence F. Juillerat, Huntington's new mayor, plans to make the Wabash river here safe for skaters. He has ordered the police to mark safety zones along the river front where youngsters may skate without danger.

Imported Swiss Cheese
French Rouquefort Cheese
Camembert Cheese
Sap Sago and Brick Cheese
Parmesan Cheese
Neufchâtel Cheese
Swiss Gruyere Cheese
New York Cream Cheese

JOHN M. EGGEMEYER & SONS
Bee Hive Grocery — 3 Phones

FOREIGN WAR VETS
INSTALL OFFICERS

Earl O. Bone was installed as commander of the Genn-Lichtenfels post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, at a meeting held in the Y. M. C. A. Friday evening. The executive committee of the organization announced that it is conducting negotiations for suitable club rooms and expects to make a report at the next meeting.

Besides the commander, other officers installed Friday evening were: George MacKinney, senior vice commander; Walter E. Eichermeier, junior vice commander; Patrick Syrom, chaplain; Elbert H. Ramey, officer of the day; adjutant, Amos Jenkins.

Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I have been separated from my husband for four years. During that time he has not given me a cent of money or bought me any clothes. I have been going with a fellow for about six months and he gave me a wrist watch for Christmas. Should I keep it? Do you think I should have any trouble getting a divorce?

WORRIED M. E. M.
I do not believe you would have trouble getting a divorce. You should get one before you accept attention of another man. I would not advise you to take the wristwatch now.

Chester and Webster
Church Services Announced

Chester M. E. church: Sunday school at 9:45 o'clock, James Webster, superintendent; preaching by the Rev. Victor E. Stoner at 10:45 o'clock; Epworth League at 6:45 o'clock, Elmer Woodruff leader. Fourth quarterly conference at Webster Tuesday evening.

Webster M. E. church: Sunday school at 9:30 o'clock, James Culbertson, superintendent; preaching by the pastor, the Rev. Victor E. Stoner, at 7 o'clock Sunday evening.

DINING ROOM FURNITURE
FERD GROTHAUS

Furniture of Quality
614-616 Main St.

MEERHOFF Will, Billy, Bill or Wm. will keep you in hot water (Comfortably) See the best heater in the market at 9 S. 9th. Phone 1236

American Legion



"Ma" Burdick in France.

Mrs. Ensign F. O. Burdick, Wichita Falls, Texas, newly appointed national chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary, holds the belt as champion

doughnut and pie maker of two great armies; respectively the Salvation and the American.

Today she is ministering to the A. E. F. in the quiet precincts of hospitals where yesterday she was with them under shell fire. "Our work did not end with the armistice," Mrs. Burdick declared upon her election. "It was started then. If all the world forgets the war and its effect upon men, we must remember."

Before her election to the second highest office in the organization of mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the young veterans, Mrs. Burdick was active in relief work in the hospitals of Texas. "To lighten their suffering and to comfort their loved ones," this the battle-cry of the Salvation hosts that began recruiting when the army was demobilizing.

Mrs. Burdick, with her husband, arrived in France in December, 1917. She was stationed with units of the First Division in their training areas and she moved to the front with them. With a stove made from cooky tins she made as many as 2,000 doughnuts in a day, alternating with a record of 320 pies. Her husband kept her supplied with firewood and helped distribute the pastry and coffee to the cold hungry men. In odd moments Mrs. Burdick, who same became "Ma" to considerable portion of the A. E. F., salvaged and mended clothes. She was decorated with the Croix de Guerre for her bravery and devotion and at sixty years was the oldest woman war worker in France.

BUCILLA Pack-
age Outfits, remark-
ably low priced.

LACEY'S
8 S. 9 St. Phone 1755
Buttons
Covered
MONDAY SPECIAL
BUNS — per dozen 10c
New System Bakery
913 Main

The only gift that you can make
that only YOU can make —
YOUR PHOTOGRAPH.

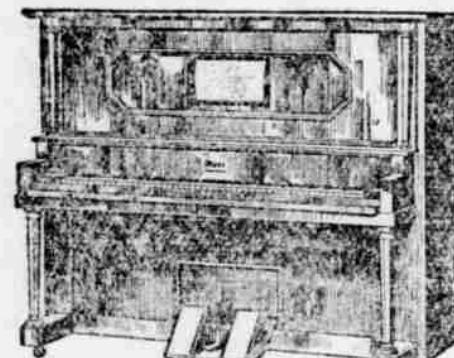
A. J. BUNDY
PHOTOS
722 MAIN ST. RICHMOND, IND.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER IN YOUR TOWN

INVENTORY SALE

Beginning Monday, January 9th

Big Bargains in Player Pianos, Phonographs, Pianos and Player Roll Cabinets

Special Sale of
Records and Rolls

will be one of the features of this sale. You will find attractive bargains in these

During the last few months we have taken in trade a number of used phonographs (of other makes) pianos and player-pianos on new Starr made instruments and are now offering them at ridiculously low prices in order to clear our floor for new stock.

**All the Instruments on Sale
have been put in first
class condition.**

Many are only slightly used, therefore we are offering you an opportunity to supply the need of a musical instrument in your home at a big saving. We are offering them at prices as low as \$15.00

TERMS — We are making a special discount for cash during this sale on both new and used instruments.

If, however, you desire to take advantage of our liberal payment plan, you can secure the instrument (new or used) you desire by making a small down payment with ample time to meet the balance.

This is your opportunity, the one you have hoped many times would be offered.



We invite you to look over our instruments and compare the values we are offering.



If you contemplate buying a musical instrument within the next year or two, you will profit by attending this Money Saving Sale.

The Starr Piano Co.

931-935 Main Street

Richmond, Indiana

