

The Middle Ground

By MARION RUBINCAM

MISUNDERSTANDING

Chapter 63

But Claire advised the subject of Jim Clarke. All she would say was—

"Jim is perfectly all right. Luther had no reason to be jealous of him."

Instinctively, her fingers went to a great sapphire ring she was wearing, a ring Mrs. Talbot had not seen before, a ring obviously too expensive for Luther to have afforded.

It was a sign of the growing cleverness of the older woman, that she noticed that slight action of Claire's. Ordinarily it would have meant nothing. Now she connected the thought in Claire's brain that unconsciously sent her hand to touch the ring Jim had given her.

With this knowledge in her mind, Mrs. Talbot began again.

"It seems to me that if Luther objected to him, with or without reason, the least you could do would be to not to see him."

Claire pouted.

Jim had meant a lot to her. He had given her presents, pretty things she adored; he had taken her off for long rides in his motor, and good naturedly, had driven her around town in the afternoons while she went shopping or calling. She liked to hear the soft purr of the engine, it sounded like a giant's, contented kitten while she waited for the traffic block to break. She liked to be in the car when the traffic policemen at the big cross streets touched their caps and saluted George by name—that made her feel enormously important.

And she liked to see the long, low motor waiting outside the shop, and to have Jim stand around making amusing comments while she tried on hats or held up her pretty hand for the attendant to fit a glove. The sales girls were always so much more respectful to her when Jim was along; they fairly fluttered about him as well as herself, and brought out all their prettiest things, showing them to him first and asking his criticism, and smiling respectful appreciation of his criticisms.

And Claire liked to say languidly, when she had seen everything there was on display, and made her purchases—

"Yes, I'll take it with me. Just have it carried out to the car, will you?"

She thought that marrying Luther meant giving up this delight. For it was not only luxurious and pleasant to have this good looking man go about with her, it also meant more than his companionship. He was sure to make her a present of some of the pretty trifles she spent her afternoon selecting. And he took her to tea at one of the usual smart places where the theatrical folk gathered, and where there invariably fell into a delightful party of friends.

Then there was an hour or two hours of tea, and talk, and cigarettes, gossip

and more tea and fancy little cakes by the hotel's French chef, while the day darkened and Broadway sprang into glittering lights—while she, Claire, was pleasantly conscious that this afternoon Jim was her property and that the "other girls" were slightly jealous.

Some of this she tried, suddenly, to tell Mrs. Talbot. But her only reward was—

"What a waste of time!"

As for Jim, one afternoon he ran around with Claire, another afternoon with Maizie Powell of the Midnight Pollies, and another with Helena Gray, a graduate of a school of dramatic art, who was already making a name as an emotional actress and who was very serious minded.

"But I did give it up for Luther," Claire announced.

"Not much of a sacrifice," Mrs. Talbot responded.

She could not understand that to Claire's butterfly life, this sort of thing was necessary for existence. For an afternoon she lived the life of a rich, carefree "society woman"—as she understood that term. She was supremely happy—and Jim wasted an afternoon pleasantly. That was all either of them demanded of the hours together.

But Jim liked her more than carelessly. And after she had been married a little they began spending afternoons in his car again. This time Claire shopped for puffy silk cushions for the living room, proper hangings for the guest room windows—Jim took as much pleasure in helping her select these things as he did criticizing the angle of the hats she used to try on for his benefit.

It was amazing generosity on his part, to Claire. To Luther, it was a cause for rankling jealousy.

"His letters were only amusing gossip of the people I knew," Claire said. "If he called me 'darling Claire' it was just his way. It meant nothing. But Luther made me miserable for days about it."

"He wants me to stay home all the time. But there's nothing to do here. I hate housework, and I can't read or sew all the time. It's such a bore!"

"You might learn something useful," Mrs. Talbot answered.

Tomorrow—Three Problems

USE OF NAVAL RADIO BY

PRESS EXTENDED TO 1927

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—News-papers and press associations would be given unrestricted use of naval radio stations for transmission of press matter until June 30, 1927, under a resolution reported favorably today from the Senate naval committee by Senator Poindexter, Republican, Washington. The House resolution limited such use to June 30, 1922.

VETERAN SCIENTIST DIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—William H. Bradley, chief engineer of the Consolidated Gas company since 1880, died at his office in East Fifteenth street yesterday afternoon of heart disease. Mr. Bradley, who was 84 years old, was noted for his discovery of a process for making carbureted water gas in the late seventies.

OTTERBEIN WOMAN ASKED

TO ATTEND FARM MEETING

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Jan. 19.—Mrs. Charles W. Sewall of Otterbein has received an invitation from President Harding as one of 24 women to attend the national agricultural conference at Washington next week. She is on the staff of Purdue institute speakers.

HEAD ACHE AND BODY ACHE

There are various symptoms of kidney trouble—rheumatic pains, back-ache, sore muscles, stiff joints, and "always tired" feeling. Mrs. Geo. Morgan, E. Fairfield, Vt., writes: "My head ached and my whole body ached so I could not sleep. Foley Kidney Pills gave me relief." They heal and strengthen weak, disordered kidneys and bladder and help them in their work of filtering the blood and casting out of the system the impurities that cause pain and disease. Prompt in action. A. G. Luken Drug Co., 626-28 Main St.—Advertisement.

often all that is necessary.

Genuine "California Fig Syrup" has directions for babies and children printed on the bottle. Say "California" or you may get an imitation fig syrup.—Advertisement.

Don't let child stay

bilious, constipated.

Hurry mother! a teaspoonful of "California Fig Syrup" today may prevent a sick child tomorrow. If your child is constipated, bilious, feverish, fretful, has cold, colic, or if stomach is sour, tongue coated, breath bad, remember a good "physic-laxative" is

Even Cross, Feverish, Sick Children Love its Fruity

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"Billy" Hitt is Divorced in Paris



Katherine Elkins Hitt has divorced in Paris William E. R. Hitt. Before their marriage she was wooed by the Duke of Abruzzi.

UNION LABEL LEAGUE MAY BE ORGANIZED

Possibilities of a Union Label league were discussed at the meeting of the Central Labor Council in the rooms of the T. M. A. hall Wednesday night.

This organization would be separate from the Central Labor Council and would be for people who favor the union label. Nearly 100 people have announced their willingness to enroll in such a league.

People who join this league will use no material unless it is manufactured by union workers. Anything manufactured in an open shop would not be purchased. A meeting will be called at a later date, when the organization will be completed and officers elected.

A resolution was passed at the meeting favoring the passage of the tariff bill with the American valuation plan. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to the Indiana representatives in Washington.

Another resolution was passed condemning the action of officials wanting to appoint additional federal judges and raising their salaries \$5,000 a year.

THE TRUTH ABOUT ECZEMA AND PILES

Thousands and thousands of people, says Peterson of Buffalo, are learning every week that one 35 cent box of Peterson's Ointment will abolish eczema and banish piles, and the grateful letters I receive every day are worth more to me than money.

"I had eczema for many years on my head and could not get anything to stop the agony. I saw your ad and got one box and I owe you many thanks for the good it has done me. There isn't a blotch on my head now and I couldn't help but thank Peterson for the cure is great."—Miss Mary Hill, 420 Third Avenue, Pittsburg, Pa.

"I have had itching piles for 15 years and Peterson's is the only ointment that relieves me, besides the piles seem to have gone."—A. B. Ruger, 1127 Washington Avenue, Racine, Wis.

Use Peterson's Ointment for old sores, salt rheum, chafing and all skin diseases. Druggists recommend it. Mail orders filled by Peterson Ointment Co., Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.—Advertisement.

PHOTOS

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EDWARDS TO SPEAK AT SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION IN EATON

EATON, Ohio, Jan. 19.—Dr. D. M. Edwards of Richmond, head of Earlham college, and Mrs. P. E. Bollock, of Dayton, will be the principal speakers at the midwinter convention of the Sunday school association of Preble county, to be held here Saturday at the Christian church.

In addition to the convention, an adult conference, young people's conference and an elementary department conference will be held. Each conference will be held from 12:45 o'clock until 2 o'clock. Mrs. Bullock, of Dayton, also will address the young people's conference, after having addressed the convention in the forenoon. This conference will be held in the Presbyterian church.

Dr. Edwards will speak in the afternoon, the program to open at 2 o'clock. The session will be featured by a program of special music.

Library Trustees Elect.

The new board of trustees of the municipal public library has organized by electing the following officers: President, Mrs. Mary Gould; vice pres-

ident, Albert Harris; secretary, Mrs. C. W. Sylvester. The board has appointed Miss Joie Hunt as librarian. Courthouse Janitor Quits.

After working three days as assistant janitor at the courthouse, George Richardson, local colored man, has given up the job. A successor has not been named. Richardson was appointed after John Shields resigned, upon request of the county commissioners. Ray Lake has taken the job until an appointment is made. Richardson was opposed by one of the commissioners for the appointment. Shields is now employed as operator of the courthouse elevator, several county officials and attorneys paying him for his services.

Judge Abel Risinger has set Jan. 23 as the date for the trial of Thomas Jennings on a charge of pocket picking. He was arrested at the county fair here in last September, but his furnished bond for his appearance for trial and was released, after which he was indicted.

MICHIGAN EDUCATOR DIES

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Jan. 19.—Prof. Wooster W. Beman, head of the mathematical department of the University of Michigan, since 1887 died here yesterday. He was 78 years old and was graduated at Michigan in 1870.

HAS HE FOUND A CURE FOR ASTHMA?

Simple Prescription Gives Instant Relief. Makes Breathing Easy.

In New England, where Bronchial Asthma, Bronchitis and other diseases of the throat and lungs are so prevalent, remarkably successful results are being reported following the use of a new form of treatment known as Oxidaze, a physician's prescription.

Oxidaze is a harmless but powerful combination of curative essential oils concentrated and compressed into a small tablet. One of these tablets slowly dissolved before going to bed seems to have the effect of releasing the muscular constriction of the bronchial tubes, opening up the air passages and regulating spasmodic lung action. This enables the patient to breathe easily and naturally while lying down and to get a comfortable night's sleep.

So much interest has been shown that local druggists, including A. G. Luken & Co., have secured a small supply and state that they are authorized to refund the money paid for the first package if in any case this new treatment fails to give relief. Oxidaze is pleasant to take, contains no harmful, habit forming drugs and is not expensive. This makes their test an easy matter. Advertisement.

BREAD REDUCED at the New System Bakery

1½ lb. Loaf now 10c

Fresh every day.

Once tried, always used.

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