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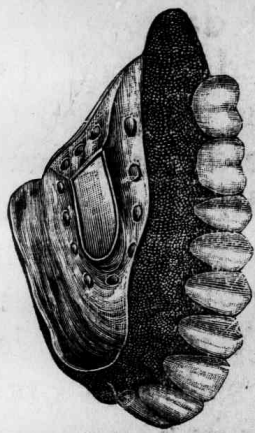
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ELLEN WHO DARED

By MARY PRIME.

"See here, Tom," Mr. Plum said to me as I was going out to the outer offices, "no more wax dolls on this switchboard. We want someone built for hard work this time."

I might have reminded him that the wax doll he referred to, that simpering Miss Rose we had before, who kept a mirror fastened on the switchboard, was his choice, not mine.

I may not be any mind reader, but I could somehow tell that even if Ellen Dowd was only a mite of a girl I just naturally knew that she had it in her, although of course I didn't dream that she had quite such a nerve.

After I had told her the hours and the wage and put her wise as much as I could without saying anything that I oughtn't to about the boss, she said she would take the job.

"Mr. Plum is a very busy man," is the way I put it. "He's more than quick sometimes, and of course it is up to the people who work for him to make allowances. You see what I mean?"

Ellen opened her blue eyes wide and looked at me without smiling.

"I imagined he was that kind of man when I heard his name. Perkins Plum—could he be anything else?"

I didn't think at the time that it was a very fitting answer, but there was something about the honest way she leveled those eyes at me that made me feel that she could handle almost any situation. So I told her to come around the next morning and the job would be hers. Plum had caught a glimpse of her going out of the door. He was not in one of his best moods, but I am used to that. As private secretary, I had always thought it was part of my job to take his moods as they came complacently.

"You blockhead, you double blockhead," was what he called me. "Didn't I tell you to get a girl that wasn't a wax doll? She is only as big as a pint of beans. Why don't you go to the day nursery and get a babe in arms to manage my switchboard?"

I began to sharpen a pencil ready for his dictation. That made it easier not to answer back, for, of course, it isn't up to me to say anything when he is in a mood like that.

"Now, I suppose, you have hired her. Can't I trust anyone in this office? You would think you would want to save me and sometimes attend to these details for me. But, no. Just because the girl is pretty, or petite, or flirtatious, you forget all that I told you and tell her to come and take the job. How do you ever expect to get ahead in the business if you can't even hire a telephone girl with horse sense?"

I went on sharpening the pencil, although I must say I was sore enough at having him mention my chance of advancement that way, for only two days before I had got my courage up to the point of asking him for a chance of a better job. Still, I didn't say anything. I had an idea that when the boss saw how the girl would handle things he wouldn't call her a wax doll. I knew just to look at her that she had it in her, but I never guessed what a nerve she had.

Well, to begin with, Ellen just minded her business, and the boss seemed to want to make an impression on her. It's often that way with big men like him—they are as anxious to make a good impression on their telephone operators and office boys as on a possible client.

But about two days later the newness wore off and he started out on one of his regular rampages. We are all so used to them that aside from feeling nervous and not being able to get much work done while they last, we don't really mind them. But Ellen was different. The boss called for three numbers all at once and then started to bawl at her because she didn't get them all at once. She didn't even get flustered, although I did notice that she got a little more color in her cheeks.

Sometimes new girls get so rattled with Plum that they would cry. And I knew Ellen was young and hadn't worked long, so I kept my eyes on her.

"Why in blazes don't you get me that number?" yelled the boss through the door, without letting her know which of the three numbers he wanted first. Well, Ellen got right up and left the switchboard and walked over to the boss' room and went in. She seemed as cool as a cucumber and I must say she looked pretty. Mad as he was, the boss must have noticed it.

"Pardon me, Mr. Plum," she said as coolly as a society queen. "It is quite impossible to get three numbers at once, and we are only wasting time to show such impatience. Now if you will please tell me which of the numbers you wish first I will get it as soon as possible."

Well, no one had ever spoken to the boss that way before. I think I gasped out aloud, I was so surprised. I thought at first he would eat her for it or send for the patrol wagon for her because she was so mad, and then the mad ex-

pression seemed to fade away and he looked just natural. He told her which number he wanted and everything went as smoothly as you please for the rest of the day.

Ellen had charge of the office boys—that was part of her job—and not long after that the boss went off on another tirade. One of his clients had refused to renew his contract and so he was taking it out on us. I had never thought before that it was unfair. Well, that day he had it in for the office boys and they were so scared that they couldn't even answer a question without stammering. I know how it was,

for it wasn't so many years ago that I was in their shoes. Ellen stood it about as long as she could. And then, with a lot of dignity tucked away in her little person, she walked into his room.

"Mr. Plum," she said—I was taking his dictation at the time, so I heard her—"I wish to make a suggestion. When you speak so abruptly to those boys you actually terrify them, with the result that they don't know whether they are telling you the truth or not, and it takes them twice as long to do what you want them to because you don't take time to tell them. Will you please give me your orders and let me tell them? We would save a great deal of time that way."

What Ellen had said was as plain as the nose on Plum's face and I guess it had occurred to everyone in the office but Plum loads of times before. He looked as if he had been hit at first and then he just grumbled something that sounded like "All right," and when he went back to the dictation he wasn't half so snarly.

I forgot to say that I had been going home with Ellen for a week or so. She lived in the same end of the city and she was such a little mite, I hated to think of her fighting the half-past-five-o'clock crowds alone, so I began to go home with her. And sometimes she asked me to come and see her in the evening—she lived with her old father and married sister and brother, and such a nice, neat little home I had never seen, and one so full of simple happiness.

But in office hours we had little to say to each other. That was Ellen's way—not to let people know all her business at once.

It was one morning when she had been with us about three months and I was beginning to think of her as the most important thing about that office, even if she was only the telephone girl with only a few more dollars a week than the youngest girl. It was one of Plum's nervous days. He wasn't exactly raging, but snappy and curt. He was giving dictation at the rate of a couple of hundred words a minute, and I don't know what got into me when I said, "Pardon me, Mr. Plum,"—just the way Ellen would have said it—but when you give dictation so fast I am not able to get it complete. We would save time if you gave it a little slower."

Plum stopped short and looked at me in surprise. I thought for a minute I was going to be fired. Then he said, "Boy, you are too valuable a man to waste in this work. I had thought you were merely a machine. I see you have brains besides. You can start in as office manager tomorrow. I'll see about the raise."

Later, he called Ellen into his office. I admit that I went in the next room where I could hear through the partition. I got there just in time to hear him say:

"You are the one woman in the world who has it in her to make me even more of a success than I am. I have decided that I want to marry you."

I surely did almost fall over at that. Naturally my first feeling was one of pride and joy that the girl I had discovered should become Plum's wife, but just as the little green demon of envy was creeping in I heard her answer:

"I am very much honored, Mr. Plum, but I am not free. I am already pledged to another."

With that answer humming in my brain I had to go through with the day's work, and even the note that told me of a substantial raise didn't much mend matters. Promptly at half past five, I started out with Ellen. I told her I had heard the conversation.

"Who is it, Ellen?" I asked impatiently. "I am sure I ought to know." She laughed delightfully. "Shilly, you do know, don't you? You hadn't actually asked me, but I thought you knew as well as I that you are Mr. Plum's only successful rival."

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Your Reflection.

The world which surrounds you is the magic glass of the world within you. To know yourself you have only to set down a true statement of those that ever loved or hated you.—Lava-

ter.

A violent earthquake at Caltanissetta, Sicily, causing the death of nearly 300 persons, is reported in a dispatch from Rome.

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SALE OF LAND UNDER ORDER OF COURT.

Under and by virtue of an order of the Superior Court of Catawba county made in a special proceeding there-in pending before the clerk for the sale of real estate to make assets to pay debts wherein Dr. Chester Jennings, executor of Mrs. E. C. Thornton, deceased, is plaintiff and Mrs. A. M. Ellis and others are defendants, the undersigned commissioner appointed in said proceeding will sell at public auction to the highest bidder in front of the Post Office in Bridge-water, Burke county, on Saturday, August 12th, 1916, at 12 O'clock M., the following real estate, known as the Rutherford or Thornton property, and described as follows:

1st tract containing 640 acres covered by State Grant No. 3222 dated 1803. Beginning on John Rutherford's south-east corner at a small hickory and post oak and runs east 52 poles to Whitley's line to Peggy Sorrell's corner, chestnut; then south crossing a branch 100 poles to a white oak; thence east 205 poles to a stake; then south 218 poles to a stake; then west 369 poles to a Spanish oak; then south 60 poles to a stake; then west 140 poles to a stake and pointers on Hodge's line; then north 164 poles to two red oaks in his line, Rutherford's corner; then east 178 poles to Rutherford's post oak corner; then north 90 poles to Hodge's corner; then east 74 poles to a pine, Rutherford's corner; then north 125 poles to the beginning.

Also a three hundred acre tract by State Grant No. 5274 to John Rutherford.

Beginning on a pine and post oak at his own corner and sixty poles south of his Spanish oak corner and on Ballew's line and runs west with Rutherford's own line 286 poles to a stake and pointers on Hodge's line; then south with said line 20 poles to the corner; then east 41 poles to a stake at Ballew's corner; then south with his line 200 poles to a white oak on his side, Ballew's corner; then east 185 poles crossing Trent road to a pine; then north passing Ballew's corner and running with his line 220 poles to the beginning.

From off the above boundary has heretofore been conveyed to Mrs. Scott 24 acres and 10 poles as will appear by reference to her deed from Mrs. E. C. Thornton and the same is excepted from the above boundary and for a more particular description of which reference is hereby made to said deed.

Also another tract of land adjoining the above containing 100 acres covered by Grant No. 2627 to John Rutherford dated Dec. 6, 1799, registered in Burke county in Book No. 5.

Beginning at a black oak, George Hodge's corner and runs south 90 poles to two small red oaks on the bank of a branch; then east 178 poles to a post oak; then north 90 poles to a stake; then west 178 poles to the beginning.

Also another tract known as the home place containing 298 acres as will appear on reference to the deed of Charles McPeters to John Rutherford dated June 9th, 1784.

Beginning at a small white oak on the west side of Camp branch and west side of Muddy creek and runs north 137 poles to a pine, Vance's corner; then with his line north 59 poles east 88 poles to a small dogwood sapling on the river bank; then down the river as it meanders viz: South 49 east 110 poles to a bend; then south 62 east 120 poles to a bend at the mouth of Muddy creek; then north 14 east 148 poles to a bend; then north 50 east 58 poles to a post oak on the bank; thence south 235 poles to a small pine and post oak on a ridge; then west 350 poles crossing Muddy creek to the beginning.

From the above boundary is excepted the following portions which have heretofore been sold off, viz: The mill house lot 100x125 feet as will appear by the deed of Mrs. E. C. Thornton to Walker Lyerly. Also a lot owned by the Presbyterian church and a lot owned by the Methodist church and the school house lot and for a more particular description of the same reference is hereby made to the deeds for the same.

Also a 300 acre tract lying partly in Burke and partly in McDowell county and covered by Grant No. 3731 to John Rutherford in 1813.

Beginning on a large black oak and runs east 112 poles to a large white oak near a Mill pond; then north 72 poles to a pine, his own corner; then east 148 poles to a stake; then north

100 poles to a stake; then west 148 poles to a post oak, his own corner; then south 25 west 73 poles to a black oak; then south 75 west 90 poles to a chestnut; then south 65 west 130 poles to a small Spanish oak; then south 180 poles to a red oak; thence east 130 poles to a white oak; thence north to the beginning.

Off of this tract is excepted that portion covered by the deed from Mrs. Thornton to Henry Rutherford of nine acres about half of which is off this tract and half off the 90 acre tract hereafter set out.

Also a 90 acre tract covered by State Grant No. 2535 to John Rutherford adjoining the above and described as follows:

Beginning at a black oak and white oak near an old schoolhouse on Hodge's line and runs south crossing several branches 130 poles to a small black oak and Spanish oak; then west 111 poles to a stake; then north 130 poles to a stake; then east 111 poles to the beginning, Grant dated June, 1799.

Off of the above boundary has been heretofore conveyed and is hereby excepted the following tracts, viz: One 9 acre lot deeded to Henry Rutherford and 17 acres lot also deeded to Henry Rutherford and 22 acres deeded to Allen and Isaac Rutherford and for a more particular description reference is hereby made to said deeds recorded in Burke county records.

Also another tract known as the Vance tract and covered by the deed of David Vance to John Rutherford dated October, 1790, and by the Grant No. 1033 to David Vance. Grant No. 1033 to David Vance containing 20 acres lying on the south side of Catawba river.

Beginning on a dogwood sapling on the river bank, Charles McPeter's corner, and runs with his line south 59 west 88 poles to a pine on William Moore's line; thence with said line north 71 poles to a Hickory on the river bank; thence down the river to the beginning.

The deed from David Vance to John Rutherford of October, 1790, covering the 20 acre grant and 87 acres in addition, in all 107 acres is described by metes and bounds as follows:

Beginning at a chestnut tree on the river bank on a bluff at the upper end of the bottom and runs south 16 west 117 poles to two small post oaks on a ridge; thence east 148 poles to a stake on the east side of a ridge, Moore's south-east corner on Charles McPeter's line; then north 71 poles to a pine; then north 59 east 88 poles to a dogwood on the river bank a few poles above a landing place across said river; then up the middle of the channel of the river as it meanders to the beginning, containing by computation in all 107 acres, more or less.

From the above boundary has been conveyed and is hereby excepted the following parcels, viz: 3 1/4 acres, more or less, sold to K. C. Menzies, 29 1/2 acres, more or less, to Shuford and Menzies, and about 7 acres to Victoria Lawson and for a more particular description reference is hereby made to the deeds conveying the same.

Also the following tracts containing about 40 acres and covered by the deed from Hugh and Mary Ballew to John Rutherford:

Beginning on a white oak on the north-east corner of the 10 acre mill tract, running east from thence to a small branch; then across said branch to where the east and west line of the old Hodge tract, now Ballew, crosses the said branch; then west with the line of said old tract to corner, pine stump; then south with the line of said old tract to a gum; then easterly with the line of the 10 acre mill tract to the beginning.

Also a small lot of 5.76 acres covered by the deed from Geo. Hodge to John Rutherford, 1804:

Beginning at a black oak in the bottom on the said Rutherford's upper line and runs west 18 poles to the bank of Muddy creek; then up said creek 14 poles to the mouth of a small branch crossing on a beech; then east 15 south 43 poles crossing the branch twice to Hodge's north and south line on three small post oak pointers; then north 47 poles to the beginning.

The above boundary contains about two thousand acres more or less, and will be first sold in tracts or lots and then as a whole, to determine the amount and the manner in which the most can be realized out of the sale of the same. Terms of sale one-half cash and the balance in six and twelve months' time in equal installments.

This July 5th, 1916.

M. H. YOUNT,
Commissioner.