

# PRUDENCE

## of the PARSONAGE

By ETHEL HUESTON

(Bobbe Merrill, Copyright, 1916)

**THE TWINS TRY TO EMBARRASS FAIRY WITH SOME PRACTICAL JOKING WHEN HER BEAU COMES TO VISIT HER.**

Mr. Starr is a widower Methodist minister with five charming daughters. Prudence, the eldest is nineteen. She keeps house. Fairy, aged seventeen, is a college freshman. Carol and Lark, twins, are in high school, and Constance is in the grades. Mr. Starr is assigned to the congregation at Mount Mark, Ia., and the advent and establishment of his interesting family in the parsonage there stirs the curiosity of the whole town. The story concerns the affairs of the parsonage girls. Prudence has her hands full with the mischievous twins and Connie. Fairy has just announced that her beau is coming to spend the evening. The twins decide to have some fun, and have made their plans accordingly.

CHAPTER V—Continued.

As soon as they finished supper Lark said, "Don't you think we'd better go right to bed, Prue? We don't want to taint the atmosphere of the parsonage. Of course Fairy will want to wash the dishes herself to make sure they are clean and shining."

"Oh, no," disclaimed Fairy, good-naturedly. "I can give an extra rub to the ones we want to use—that is enough. I do appreciate the thought, though, thanks very much."

So the twins plunged in, carefully keeping Connie beside them. Connie had a dismal propensity for discoveries—the twins had often suffered from it.

Then they all three went to bed. To be sure it was ridiculously early, but they were all determined.

"You keep your eyes open, Fairy," Prudence whispered melodramatically. "Those girls do not look right." And she added anxiously, "Oh, I'll be so disappointed if things go badly."

Fairy was a little late getting up-stairs to dress, but she took time to drop into her sisters' room. They were all in bed, breathing heavily. She walked from one to another, and stood above them majestically. "Asleep," she cried. "Ah, fortune is kind. They are asleep. How I love these darling little twinnies—in their sleep!"

An audible sniff from beneath the covers, and Fairy, smiling mischievously, went into the front room to prepare for her caller.

The bell rang as she was dressing. Prudence went to the door, preternaturally ceremonious, and ushered Mr. Babler into the front room. She did not observe that the young man sniffed in a peculiar manner as he entered the room.

"I'll call Fairy," she said demurely. "Tell her she needn't primp for me," he answered, laughing. "I know just how she looks already."

But Prudence was too heavily burdened to laugh. She smiled hospitably, and closed the door upon him. Fairy was tripping down the stairs, very tall, very handsome, very gay. She pinched her sister's arm as she passed, and the front room door swung behind. But she did not greet her friend. She stood erect by the door, her head tilted on one side, sniffing, sniffing.

"What in the world?" she wondered. Eugene Babler was strangely quiet. He looked about the room in a peculiar, questioning way.

"Shall I raise a window?" he suggested finally. "It's rather—er—hot in here."

"Yes, do," she urged. "Raise all of them. It's—do you—do you notice a— a funny smell in here? Or am I imagining it? It—it almost makes me sick!"

"Yes, there is a smell," he said, in evident relief. "I thought maybe you'd been cleaning the carpet with something. It's ghastly. Can't we go somewhere else?"

"Come on." She opened the door into the sitting room. "We're coming out here if you do not mind, Prue." And Fairy explained the difficulty.

"Why, that's very strange," said Prudence, knitting her brows. "I was in there right after supper, and I didn't notice anything. What does it smell like?"

"It's a new smell to me," laughed Fairy, "but something about it is strangely suggestive of our angel twins."

Prudence went to investigate, and Fairy shoved a big chair near the table, waving her hand toward it lightly with a smile at Babbie. Then she sank into a low rocker, and leaned one arm on the table. She wrinkled her forehead thoughtfully.

"That smell," she began. "I am very suspicious about it. It was not at all natural—"

"Excuse me, Fairy," he said, ill at ease for the first time in her knowledge of him. "Did you know your sleeve was coming out?"

Fairy gasped and raised her arm. "Both arms, apparently," he continued, smiling, but his face was flushed.

"Excuse me just a minute, will you?" Fairy was unruffled. She sought her sister. "Look here, Prue—what do you make of this? I'm coming to pieces! I'm hanging by a single thread, as it were."

"Oh, Fairy," she wailed. "We are disgraced." "Not a bit of it," said Fairy coolly. "I remember now that Lark was looking for the scissors before supper. Aren't those twins unique? This is almost bordering on talent, isn't it? Don't look so distressed, Prue. Etiquette itself must be subservient to twins. It seems. Don't forget to bring in the ste— at a quarter past nine, and have it as good as possible—please, dear."

"I will," vowed Prudence. "I'll use cream. Oh, those horrible twins!" "Go in and entertain Babbie till I come down, won't you?" And Fairy ran lightly up the stairs, humming a snatch of song.

But Prudence did a poor job of entertaining Babbie during her sister's absence. She felt really dizzy! Such a way to introduce Etiquette into the parsonage life. She was glad to make her escape from the room when Fairy returned, a graceful figure in fine blue silk!

A little after nine she called out dimly, "Fairy!" And Fairy, fearing fresh disaster, came running out. "What now? What—"

"I forgot what you told me to say," whispered Prudence wretchedly. "What was it? The soup is ready, and piping hot—but what is it you want me to say?"

Fairy screamed with laughter. "You goose!" she cried. "Say anything you like. It doesn't make any difference what you say."

"Oh, I am determined to do my part just right," vowed Prudence fervently. "according to etiquette and all. What was it you said?"

Fairy stifled her laughter with difficulty, and said in a low voice,

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Her sleeves were undoubtedly ready to drop off at a second's notice! Prudence was shocked. She grew positively white in the face.

"Oh, Fairy," she wailed. "We are disgraced." "Not a bit of it," said Fairy coolly. "I remember now that Lark was looking for the scissors before supper. Aren't those twins unique? This is almost bordering on talent, isn't it? Don't look so distressed, Prue. Etiquette itself must be subservient to twins. It seems. Don't forget to bring in the ste— at a quarter past nine, and have it as good as possible—please, dear."

"My insides bear startling testimony to the presence of pepper." And he roared again, while Prudence began a critical examination of the oysters. She found them literally stuffed with pepper; there was no doubt of it. The twins had done deadly work!

"Revenge, ye gods, how sweet," chanted Fairy. "The twins are getting even with a vengeance—the same twins you said were adorable, Babbie." It must be said for Fairy that her good nature could stand almost anything. Even this did not seriously disturb her. "Do you suppose you can find us some milk, Prue? And crackers! I'm so fond of crackers and milk, aren't you, Babbie?"

"Oh, I adore it. But serve a microscope with it, please. I want to examine it for microbes before I taste." But Prudence did better than that. She made some delicious cocoa, and opened a can of pear preserves, donated to the parsonage by the amiable Mrs. Adams. The twins were very fond of pear preserves, and had been looking forward to eating these on their approaching birthday. They were doomed to disappointment! The three had a merry little feast, after all, and their laughter rang out so often and so unrestrainedly that the twins shook in their beds with rage and disappointment.

It speaks well for the courage of Babbie, and the attractions of Fairy, that he came to the parsonage again and again. In time he became the best of friends with the twins themselves, but he always called them "the adorables," and they never asked him why. The punishment inflicted upon them by Prudence rankled in their memories for many months.

"The offense was against Fairy," said Prudence, with a solemnity she did not feel, "and the reparation must be done to her. For three weeks you must do all of her bedroom work, and run every errand she requires. Moreover, you must keep her shoes well cleaned and nicely polished, and must do every bit of her darning."

The twins would have preferred whipping a thousand times. They felt they had got a whipping's worth of pleasure out of their mischief! But a punishment like this sat heavily upon their proud young shoulders, and from that time on they held Fairy practically immune from their pranks.

Prudence did not bother her head about etiquette after that experience. "I'm strong for comfort," she declared, "and since the two cannot live together in one family, I say we do without etiquette."

And Fairy nodded in agreement, smiling good-naturedly.

CHAPTER VI.

Practicing Economy.

It was a dull day early in December. Prudence and Fairy were sewing in the bay window of the sitting room.

"We must be sure to have all the scraps out of the way before Connie gets home," said Prudence, carefully fitting together pieces of a dark, warm, furry material. "It has been so long since father wore this coat, I am sure she will not recognize it."

"But she will ask where we got it and what shall we say?"

"We must tell her it is goods we have had in the house for a long time. That is true. And I made this fudge on purpose to distract her attention. Poor child!" she added very sympathetically. "Her heart is just set on a brand-new coat. I know she will be bitterly disappointed. If the members would just pay up we could get her one. November and December are such bad months for parsonage people. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas now, and forgets that parsonage people need Christmas money, too."

Fairy took a pin from her mouth. "I have honestly been ashamed of Connie the last few Sundays. It was so cold, and she wore only that little thin summer jacket. She must have been half frozen."

There are a lot of us careless about providing for the preacher and his family. Some of us seem to forget that his needs are just as real and urgent as our own. Are you prompt with your tithes?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

It is better to be able to turn your hand to anything than to put your feet in it.

## GOVERNOR FINDS NEW PARDON WAY

HAS SURVEY OF CONVICTS MADE AND ON RESULTS FOUND FREES ELEVEN.

### DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People, Gathered Around the State Capital.

Raleigh.

Governor Bickett smashed the pardoning precedent when, following detailed survey of convicts in the state prison, he pardoned eleven men, ten of them serving varying terms for murder and one of them at life term. The pardons were granted on his own initiative, without petition or argument of attorneys. Governor Bickett simply carried out a conviction he has felt deeply since his administration began, that the pardoning power should not be exercised solely for the men in prison who have money, friends or influence without to urge their way to freedom.

"Soon after I came into office," explained Governor Bickett. "I was convinced that there were men and women in the state prison who ought not to be there; that their relatives and friends, if they had any, had completely forgotten them, and, being without money and without influence, they were kept in prison simply because no human being had any interest in their release. As a result of this conviction, some weeks ago I directed the prison authorities to make a complete survey of the prison, showing the following facts in regard to each and every prisoner, to-wit: The crime for which he was committed, the term of his sentence, the time he has served, his behavior while a prisoner, his age and his physical condition. A partial report has been made and upon that report I am today granting pardons absolute or conditional. I am absolutely convinced that the further confinement of these men is not required for their own good nor for the protection of the public."

Omitting the sentence of the life term as uncertain, the ten others pardoned had been sentenced to an aggregate of 224 years. Seven of the eleven were negroes and four were white men. Of the lot, Prince Jerigan of Hertford county is probably the most unique figure. Prince was convicted of murder in 1897 and sentenced to thirty years. He has 193 days to credit for good behavior and his age is uncertain, being variously estimated at from 60 to 90 years. The supervisor stated to Governor Bickett that he would trust him anywhere.

Commission Has Knotty Problems.

The state building commission, which has in hand the supervision of the expenditure of the three million dollars the next five years for permanent improvements at the various state institutions, is moving slowly in its work trying to make sure it is right before definite and fixed plans for any of the more important building operations are launched. The commission now recessed is casting about in search of the best general plan upon which to proceed.

There is an especially knotty problem as to the building for the state school for the blind, in which is involved the erection of a complete new system of buildings. Indications are that the outcome of the investigation will bring about the adoption of a system that will provide the central kitchen and dining room system.

Numbers of the plans that have been submitted for buildings by the trustees of various institutions, including the University of North Carolina, State Normal, East Carolina Training school, have been submitted to the state department of insurance for security as to fire protection and general safety appliances.

New Corporations Chartered.

The Lewis Motor company of Salisbury, was chartered with \$50,000 capital authorized and \$3,500 subscribed for a general automobile agency and garage business by S. P. Lewis, P. S. Carlton and others.

Another charter is for the Charlotte Truck and Tractor company, of Charlotte, capital \$50,000 authorized and \$3,000 subscribed by John B. Ross, G. E. Dennis and B. A. Hawkins for handling trucks, tractors and automobiles.

The Lenoir Hosiery Mills, incorporated, of Lenoir, received a charter with \$50,000 capital authorized and \$6,000 subscribed by F. D. Moore, J. Claude Moore and Joe C. Moore, for knitting and general textile business.

Some Rules For Shippers.

At the request of the American Railway association the corporation commission issues an appeal to North Carolina shippers to be as careful as possible to load all cars consigned to them to as near their full capacity as possible to load all cars consigned to including cars so that they may be in nearly constant freight moving service as possible during these times of great freight congestion with equipment of the railroads far overtaxed. The commission declares it is the "patriotic duty" of shippers.

### Development of Canning.

Reports to Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon, head of the Home Demonstration work in the state, and the State Food Conservation Commission indicate that in many sections of the state there has been a spontaneous development of community canning. The movement is especially well organized at Wilmington, in Gaston county, at Asheville and Raleigh.

The instance at Wilmington probably shows best the possibilities of this movement. In that city canning clubs have been organized among church societies and high school girls for the purpose of saving the surplus of perishable vegetables and fruits from the gardens of the city and truck farms of New Hanover county. Members of the boy scouts and other boys of working age have been mobilized to assist in the garden work and the harvesting of the vegetables on the farms, which, in many instances, are purchased in the field and harvested by the boys and taken by them to the various canning clubs in the city. These canning clubs are taking contracts from housewives of the city to fill their empty jars with vegetables and fruits. They are also using thousands of cans which will be sold on the general market later.

The movement as carried out in Wilmington serves several purposes; thousands of dollars worth of vegetables and fruits which would otherwise be lost to the consumer is being saved; the women of the churches and the high school girls are rendering an invaluable patriotic service and incidentally are earning money for religious and charitable causes; and thousands of fruit jars which would have remained on pantry shelves are being utilized in the saving of food stuffs the volume of which will have some effect in easing up the general food situation.

In some places community canning outfits have been established for the benefit of housewives who desire to can their surplus vegetables but have not the facilities at home for so doing. Both plans serve a very useful purpose, and the movement will no doubt spread rapidly until the housewives of practically every city and town in the state will be able either to put up their own surplus fruits and reasonable cost by some canning club.

### Interested in Forming Market.

Considerable interest is being manifested throughout the state in the movement started by the North Carolina Food Conservation Commission, looking toward the establishment of adequate and fair markets for staple food and feed products, according to reports reaching the office of the commission.

Many of the leading business men of the state, in addition to the farmers themselves, are beginning to realize that fair markets are a necessary basis for any prosperity that is built upon the production of crops other than cotton and tobacco. In a number of cities the chambers of commerce or boards of trade have already begun working upon this problem of markets, while in other places business men are interesting themselves individually.

"No line of business offers better opportunities for good profits today, in my opinion, than does the handling of corn, small grain and other farm products," declared John Paul Lucas, executive secretary of the North Carolina Food Conservation Commission. "Our business men must realize, however, that fair prices are the first essential of such markets as are needed, and that any market which bids for permanent success must offer fair prices. Suitable warehouses and equipment for handling and storing products are other essentials."

### Orders to Arrest Slackers.

Governor T. W. Bickett ordered sheriffs of the various counties of the state to arrest every person whose duty it was to register under the selective draft plan and who failed to do it. Men thus arrested will be released upon their own recognizance, if they promptly register.

### Governor's Order.

The War Department orders the arrest of every man whose duty it was to register and failed to do it. Please make a searching investigation in every precinct in your county, and if a single man failed to register according to law, report the same to the nearest United States Attorney or Marshal, and the delinquent will be arrested at once. North Carolina registered more men than the government estimated it would, according to our population. This fine fact makes it all the more important to require all delinquents to be registered. When ninety-nine men voluntarily do their duty, it is the essence of justice to the hundredth man to do his. The quota from North Carolina will be based on the original estimate of the government, and not on our actual registration. Therefore every additional man registered reduces the proportion of the whole that will be first selected for service.

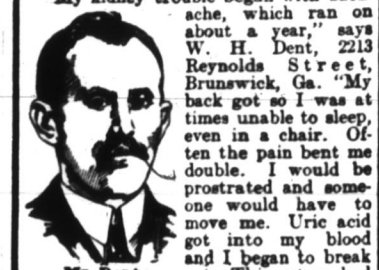
T. W. BICKETT, Governor.

### Young Pleased With Visit.

Commissioner of Insurance James R. Young says he was gratified with the results of his visit to Charlotte in the interest of safer school houses, finding the school committee especially willing to co-operate in every way possible. The committee, he says, not only agreed readily to adopt the double tower outside stairway system for all new school buildings to be erected, but also determined to remodel all the present buildings to make them conform to this recognized "safety first" system of fire escapes.

## "Doans Saved My Life"

### "I Had Given Up Hope" Says Mr. Dent, "But Doan's Kidney Pills Cured Me Permanently."



"My kidney trouble began with back-ache, which ran on about a year," says W. H. Dent, 2213 Reynolds Street, Brunswick, Ga. "My back got so I was at times unable to sleep, even in a chair. Often the pain bent me double. I would be prostrated and someone would have to move me. Uric acid got into my blood and I began to break out. This got so bad I went to a hospital for treatment. I stayed there three months, but got but little better. Dropsy set in and I bloated until nearly half again my size. My knees were so swollen I had to lie in strips. I lay there panting, and just about able to catch my breath. I had five doctors; each one said it was impossible for me to live. 'I hadn't taken Doan's Kidney Pills long before I began to feel better. I kept on and was soon able to get up. The swelling gradually went away and when I had used eleven boxes I was completely cured. I have never had a bit of trouble since. I owe my life and my health to Doan's Kidney Pills.'"

Get Doan's at Any Store, Or a Box DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

Temple of Solomon. The Temple of Solomon was begun in the fourth year of his reign (B. C. 1012), and completed seven years later. The whole area was inclosed by the outer walls and formed a square of about 600 feet. The front of the porch was supported by two great brazen pillars. One of these was called Jachin and the other Boaz.

## Lemons Whiten and Beautify the Skin! Make Cheap Lotion

The Juice of two fresh lemons strained into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white makes a whole quart pint of the most remarkable lemon skin beautifier at about the cost one must pay for a small jar of the ordinary cold creams. Care should be taken to strain the lemon juice through a fine cloth so no lemon pulp gets in, then this lotion will keep fresh for months. Every woman knows that lemon juice is used to bleach and remove such blemishes as freckles, sallowness and tan and is the ideal skin softener, smoother and beautifier. Just try it! Make up a quarter pint of this sweetly fragrant lemon lotion and massage it daily into the face, neck, arms and hands. It should naturally help to whiten, soften, freshen and bring out the hidden roses and beauty of any skin. It is wonderful for rough, red hands.

Your druggist will sell three ounces of orchard white at little cost, and any grocer will supply the lemons. Adv.

The Limit of Patience. "You seem to take that man's pacifist expressions very much to heart." "I do," replied Senator Sorghum. "It's had enough to put up with the man who won't fight or work for his country. You can't have the slightest patience with a man who won't even talk for his country."

## DON'T WORRY ABOUT PIMPLES

Because Cuticura Quickly Removes Them—Trial Free.

On rising and retiring gently smear the face with Cuticura Ointment. Wash off the Ointment in five minutes with Cuticura Soap and hot water, using plenty of Soap. Keep your skin clear by making Cuticura your every-day toilet preparations.

Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

## Didn't Do It

"He's always knocking the married men." "Yes, I know it." "Only a few years ago he told me he was just crazy to get married." "That's right, but it seems he wasn't quite crazy enough."

## Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless Chilli Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 50 cents.

## Explained.

"What do they mean by jockeying a bill?" "Plain enough. That's when they slap on a rider."

Acid Stomach, Heartburn and Nausea quickly disappear with the use of Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills. Send for trial box to 372 Pearl St., New York. Adv.

## After the Movie is for Tired Eyes.

Red Eyes—Sore Eyes—Itching—Gravelled Eyelids. Rest—Refresh—Restore. Wright's Eye Treatment for Eyes that feel dry and smart. Give your eyes the relief you've longed for as you treat the same with the same relief. Ask for them. YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER EYE CARE AT ANY OTHER PLACE. Ask for them. YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER EYE CARE AT ANY OTHER PLACE. Ask for them. YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER EYE CARE AT ANY OTHER PLACE.