

# The Custard Cup

By Florence Bingham Livingston  
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CHAPTER XVII.—Continued.

Lettie had never had anything to do with stores. This was the first time in her life that she had ever bought anything. The bustle, the glitter, the endless array, wrought havoc with her imagination, filled her with a frenzy of intoxication. Little cars with wheels that turned; dime banks that looked like the most blooming peaches on Mrs. Penfield's wall; games, books, toys! Marbles—imagine, twenty-four round pieces of baked terra firma for the ridiculous sum of five cents! How happy Crink would be! How Thad's soft eyes would bulge! It was more than could be borne.

"I don't care!" Lettie burst into frantic sobs that carried over a wide circle. "I don't care! Do you hear? I don't care!" Tears streamed down her face. She stamped her foot and swung her free arm with a violence and latitude that first grazed several astonished shoppers and then led to a somewhat freer space around the child.

"Lettie, dear," expostulated Mrs. Penfield hurriedly, "remember where you are."

"I do," shrieked Lettie. "That's what's the matter. I don't care. Some day I'll have things—oceans and heaps and oodles of things—millions more'n they've got here. I don't!"

"Lettie!" There was a finality in the word; there was also an expressive decision in the grasp of her arm. With swift skill Mrs. Penfield pushed her through the curious crowd, out of the store, to the comparative seclusion of a cross street.

"Lettie," she said sadly, "I'm ashamed of you, making a scene that way. I thought you were—"

"Oh, Penzie," interrupted the child, "I'm awful sorry. But I got so full, thinking, seemed as if I'd bust. I had to let her out, I got so dang'rous inside. All them things!" Her voice was freighted with suppressed rebellion. "Why, Crink and Thad would be tickled—"

"No, Lettie," interposed Mrs. Penfield, as they went on slowly, "they wouldn't be one mite happier. Land, the world wasn't never fixed up so unfair as that. 'Tain't the folks that have things that's happy; it's the folks that know they don't want things. When you get a little older, you'll see that the reason rich folks are unhappy is 'cause they got things; and the reason poor folks are unhappy is 'cause they want things. When folks get through twining their heart strings and their thoughts around things, then the world'll be miles nearer bliss than it is now."

Lettie's black eyes were wide with reproach. "Why, Penzie, you don't mean that Crink and Thad wouldn't like some of those—"

"Goodness, no, I don't mean they wouldn't like 'em; but I mean they'll be just as happy without 'em if you don't go and stir 'em all up with thoughts that you've twisted in your own head. Christmas ain't presents; it's feelings. And there's one thing you ought to keep in mind: It's a waste of good food to board any girl if there ain't at least two other folks happier 'cause she's living."

Lettie's brow cleared; a smile chased across her face. "I get you," she nodded. "It's up to me to do something."

"Yes, Lettie, dear, it's up to you right now, today." "Ain't I the limit!" cried Lettie in disgust. "All time forgetting what I'm trying to remember! Gee, I know I'm lucky. I'll show you, Penzie; honest, I will."

It was long past lunch time when Crink returned with the tree, and he tried many hours before he accomplished a base that would support it in a corner of the living room. But no sooner was the fragrant fir in place than every little Penfield felt that Christmas was an assured fact.

Lettie meantime was making picture puzzles—mounting illustrations from Weatherstone magazines on pasteboard from old boxes and cutting them into fantastic shapes. Each puzzle was put in an envelope and inscribed with the name of a Custard Cup tenant who would be a guest at the party.

By the following evening the preparations had taken a different turn. Everybody gathered about the table in the living room to make blots. The tablet paper was cut into uniform pieces. Lettie's ink bottles had been brought out; and a few drops of ink, both black and red, were shaken from a pen on each paper, which was then folded once and smoothed flat. The resulting blots took varied, interesting forms, some of which were touched up slightly into clearer outline.

Uncle Jerry was the umpire interpreter of these blot pictures. Penfield Prue, the only neighbor invited to the ceremony—and that because of her artistic abilities—thereupon composed a couplet, embodying the ideas and wrote it in beautiful letters beneath the blot. The rest of the manila envelopes were used to inclose these gifts.

Lettie's keen gaze soon discovered that the processes of interpreting and composing led to whispered conferences and much laughter that was not shared with the family; also that Uncle Jerry's eyes were more twinkly than ever, and that Miss Haggood's cheeks grew pink and plinker.

Lettie leaned confidentially across the table. "Say, Miss Haggood," she inquired pleasantly, "are you having a pretty good time?"

"Lettie, 'tend to your blots," put in Mrs. Penfield firmly. "Yes'm," Lettie subsided, but with the vague feeling that her geniality had not been received in the right spirit.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### Christmas in the Custard Cup.

"I'm going to invite Bonnie Geraldine to the tree," caroled Lettie on the final morning of the Christmas preparations.

It was the climax of her hospitality, and was so considered by the family. Mrs. Penfield had agreed to men, women, children and dogs; but when it came to hens, her enthusiasm waned. Her formal objection was based on Bonnie Geraldine's timid nature and the temperamental anguish which she might endure if forced to meet society in the mass, but Lettie proposed to ease the sensibilities of the young Plymouth Rock by bringing her in a box, tethered to remain therein. The matter was discussed, but left to circumstances for final decision.

Lorene and Dick Chase had returned from their honeymoon and had accepted their invitation.

"We'll ask her to sing," decided Crink, who had a wary eye out for the entertainment of the guests whom Lettie was zealously assembling.

"Indeed you won't!" exclaimed Mrs. Penfield, looking up in shocked surprise from the candy bag she was making out of an old net curtain. "I'd be 'shamed to death if you asked Lorene. Why, Crink, don't you know she's been in a choir for a year and been paid for it? 'Tain't never polite to ask a person to sing free after he's learned how."

"Botheration!" cried Crink. "Ain't that the outer limit? Well, say, Penzie, I could just tell her how grand I think she sings, and mebbe she'd offer. Couldn't I?"

"It has been done," smiled Mrs. Penfield. "That's about the only polite way to manage it."

Lettie, down on the floor with Crink and Thad, untangling scraps of colored string that had been collected through many months, looked up in dismay. "Landy gracious, Penzie, have we got to watch ev'rything we say to the party?"

"Now you've got it," chuckled Uncle Jerry, the expert corn-popper. "Minute you go in for high life, you get into difficulties." He emptied the final con-



The Gifts Were Drawn Forth.

tribution into the pan of fragrant popped corn and guided the "old maids" into a cup. Turning, he looked down on the three solemn youngsters with a twinkle in his merry eyes. "Seeing as you're going in for parties, there's a few rules you'll have to learn. First one is: There's two things you ain't never to talk 'bout 'fore outsiders. One's your soul, and the other's your toothbrush. They're your own private property, and nobody else cares a hang."

"Huh!" scoffed Lettie. "If that's all there is to it, I got it learned a'ready." "Tain't all there is to it, Lettie," laughed Mrs. Penfield. "If it's rules you want, I'll give you one that'll be simple to remember, and it'll cover the whole ground, too. If you want folks to have a good time in your house, all you got to do is to forget yourself and feel friendly. If you'll keep those two things working in your heart, you won't go far wrong in any entertaining."

"Carline," commented Jerry Winston, with mock reproof, "you can sure be depended on for taking the short cuts." "I shouldn't wonder," she returned, good-naturedly. "I like the easy way 'cause it's so much easier. Besides, I never heard that you got any more blackberries 'cause you was scratched with nettles while you picked 'em. Seems like a lot of folk measure results by the pain they suffered bringing 'em about. Lettie, you'd better turn your candy out on a plate, and we'll finger how much to allow to a bag. I'm going to season the popcorn while it's hot."

He picked up his hat. "I'll be back in a little while. I got a notion I can rustle something for the dinner to-morrow."

"Oh, Uncle Jerry," protested Mrs. Penfield. "I got ev'rything planned. We're going to have—"

"You wait till I get back 'fore you plan," interrupted Uncle Jerry and he went out so quickly that Mrs. Penfield's expostulations fell on the empty air.

Repeated countings failed to shake the conclusion that Plain Mixed had yielded only forty-eight candles. Three were apportioned to each tiny net bag of popcorn, since only the younger guests were to receive this particular treat.

Early in the afternoon Mrs. Sanders rang the bell at Number 47 and brought three parcels tied with red ribbons.

"They're for the children," she smiled.

"Oh, my dear," said Mrs. Penfield, overwhelmed. "Why, it wasn't right for you to bother 'bout—"

"Don't say that," interrupted Mrs. Sanders. "It's been the best thing for me that ever happened. Mind how I ain't called you over for one of those—those attacks lately? Well, when I've felt one coming on, I've gone to work on these things—hard." She pointed to the gifts. "They've been what's saved me—but I thought mebbe that's what's saved 'em. That's what started me making 'em, but I got more good out of 'em than anybody else will."

"You're a dear friend," acknowledged Mrs. Penfield warmly. "I hope you—you'll have a brighter New Year."

"I'm planning to do different; that's one thing sure. I'll tell you about it pretty soon."

As Mrs. Penfield went back into the house, Lettie came dancing in from a trip to the yard to feed popcorn to Bonnie Geraldine.

"Oh, Penzie," she cried, "what do you s'pose I done? You couldn't guess, ever. I wished Mr. Wopple a Merry Christmas. Wasn't that a queer thing? But I was feeling so happy that I forgot all 'bout how mean he is—and ev'rything. And minute I said it, he was real decent."

Mrs. Penfield laughed. "I guess you'd think he was decent all the time if you was decent yourself all the way through," she commented mildly.

"What? Ain't I—"

"Why, of course you're not. That's what's the matter. What do you s'pose Mr. Wopple thinks of a little girl that has to beat a 'temper good and storms around and says sharp things?"

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Excitement rose again to a dangerously high point when Uncle Jerry returned with two wild ducks and a bag of rice. Would there be a Christmas dinner the next day in the Penfield household? Would there?

Everything was ready for the party, and the financial score ran like this:

Carfare for tree ..... 20 cents  
3 yards tinsel ..... 10 cents  
5 candles and holders ..... 10 cents  
Candy ..... 10 cents  
Popcorn ..... 10 cents  
Tablet paper ..... 10 cents  
Manila envelopes ..... 10 cents  
Spool of thread ..... 5 cents  
Stick of candy ..... 1 cent  
Total ..... 86 cents

It was a wonderful evening. The three young Penfields went through it as in a happy dream. They could no more believe in its reality than the caged bird can believe in sudden freedom. Here was not merely a good time, but the climax of bliss, the essence of things long hoped for. The air was full of the pungency of fir boughs. And there was the tree itself in a corner of the living-room, its branches hung with tinsel. Lettie's three yards of this ethereal trimming had been separated into cunning lengths and disposed with an appearance of abundance. And candles! They could not be denied. Six of them! There were four strings of popcorn in a graduated terrace; walnut shells, decorated with whatever paint had offered; eggshells also, with bright pictures affixed! And what matter if the contents of these latter had gone to the nourishment of other tenants in the Custard Cup? The decorative possibilities had been saved for the Penfield tree.

And then the presents! For every child; a pictorial eggshell, a picture puzzle, a net bag of popcorn and candy; for every adult, an appropriate blot and verse, and a picture puzzle!

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Carrying the Case Up.  
The eminent lawyer came back from court in something of a huff. There was observed to stand for a long time opposite this portrait; and then he turned with a strange look in his eye to a friend beside him, and whispered in awe and terror that the complexion in the portrait was that of a cancerous subject.

To everybody but the surgeon the portrait was simply that of a woman in the richest bloom of youth, wealth, and beauty. But the surgeon was right; she died about six months later of cancer.—London Tit-Bits.

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School ' Lesson '

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D.,  
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### LESSON FOR AUGUST 26

#### BARNABAS, THE GREAT HEARTED

LESSON TEXT—Acts 4:36-37; 11:19-30.

GOLDEN TEXT—"He was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith."—Acts 11:24.

DEVOTIONAL READING—Psalm 95:1-10.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Barnabas and Paul Tell about Jesus.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—How Barnabas Helped the Church.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How Barnabas Showed a Generous Spirit.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christian Character Illustrated by Barnabas.

I. Barnabas, the Man (Acts 4:36). His original name was Joseph. When he became a Christian, he was renamed Barnabas signifying the change from the old life to the new. This was a common custom, for example, Simon to Peter and Saul to Paul. The name means "Son of Prophecy" or "exhortation and consolation." This shows not only the nature and spirit of Barnabas but that he possessed the gift of hortatory preaching. The exercise of this gift made him a son of consolation.

II. Barnabas, the Philanthropist (Acts 4:37).

So fully had the divine love permeated the very being of Barnabas that seeing the need of his fellow-believers, he sold his property and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. His generosity expressed itself in deeds, not in pious words and promises. He counted nothing his own while his brethren were in need. He was in no sense obliged to do this as there was no such thing in the early church as a binding law of a community of goods. Private ownership of property was recognized, Acts 5:4.

III. Barnabas, the Christian Statesman (Acts 11:19-30).

The violent persecutions of the church scattered the disciples. As they went they preached the Gospel, and churches were established. The most conspicuous of these was at Antioch, the capital of Syria, because it became the most important center in the spread of Christianity. Everything went well as long as the Gospel message was preached to the Jews only. The idea held among the disciples at that time was that the Gentiles were excluded. But at Antioch certain of these disciples deliberately preached Christ among the Greeks. The seal of the Lord was upon this ministry and great multitudes believed and turned to the Lord. The news of this revolutionary preaching reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem and caused not a little excitement and discussion. The church decided to send a committee to Antioch to look into the matter.

1. Barnabas Sent to Antioch (vv. 22-24). Fortunately in this case they sent the proper man. Barnabas was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and faith. Therefore, he had spiritual discernment and broad sympathy. Good men are quick to see good. When he came to Antioch he saw the grace of God and was glad. If we have grace in ourselves, we will be able to see grace in others. He exhorted and urged them forward in their work. Men like Barnabas are much needed today in our churches—men of vision and Christian courtesy and sympathy.

2. Barnabas Goes After Saul (vv. 25-26). The work so prospered that help was needed, so Barnabas went after Saul. These men had been together before. After Saul's conversion, he came to Jerusalem and tried to join himself to the disciples but they were afraid of him. Barnabas befriended him (Acts 9:26-27). He saw that Saul was really a converted man. Being a good man he could see there was good in Saul. Barnabas thus introduced Saul to his great work as apostle to the Gentiles.

3. Disciples Called Christians (v. 26). After a year of teaching by Paul and Barnabas, the name Christian was given to the disciples. The name was associated with the teaching. Paul taught the vital oneness of the believer with Christ so it was natural that the disciples should be called Christians.

4. Barnabas and Saul go to Jerusalem With Alms (vv. 28-30). Because of the oneness of Christians with Christ and with one another, the distress of the brethren at Jerusalem must be relieved by the gifts of the believers at Antioch. These gifts had a powerful effect in removing the suspicions of the brethren at Jerusalem.

God's Eternal Universe.  
This is but the nursery ground, from where we are to be transplanted into the great forest of God's eternal universe.—F. W. Robertson.

Among Men.  
They are the weaker-minded and the hardest-hearted men that most love change.—Ruskin.

A Bad Paymaster.  
The devil knoweth his own and is a particularly bad paymaster.—F. M. Crawford.

## LEGION AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Announce Series of Receptions and Entertainments To Feature Convention.

Rocky Mount.—With detailed plans for the annual convention of the North Carolina department of the American Legion, which will be held here September 12 and 13, rapidly being perfected, arrangements show that many social courtesies have been arranged for the several hundred women who attend the Legion Auxiliary convention which will be held in conjunction with the legionaires' meeting.

The legion sessions take place in the Masonic opera house, while the Auxiliary convention will hold forth in the auditorium of the Ricks Hotel. The complete program for the Auxiliary session has been issued in attractive booklet form. That social life of the city will center around the delegates for the two days of the convention is shown by the following list of courtesies which the program states will be extended delegates to the American Legion Auxiliary convention.

Wednesday, September 12.  
1:00 p. m.—Luncheon, by Coleman-Pitt Auxiliary.

4:30 p. m.—Entertainment at Spring Hope by the post and auxiliary.

7:00 p. m.—Garden party by the Rocky Mount Woman's Club at the residence of Mrs. Thomas H. Battle.

9:00—Reception and dance at the Ricks Hotel by the Coleman-Pitt post and unit.

Thursday, September 13.  
4:30 p. m.—Reception by U. D. C. at the home of Mrs. R. P. Holt.

8:30 p. m.—Barbecue by T. L. Bland.

The delegates also have an invitation to visit the local moving picture theatres Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as guests of the management, Messrs. John L. and Charles H. Arrington.

Reidsville Seeks Cheaper Freights.

Reidsville.—The subject of lower freight rates to Reidsville is being studied with increased interest by local business men who seek not only a way to secure fair treatment for themselves but to keep industries already located here from moving away on account of rates to this point and to get new industries which might be deterred from locating here on account of the rate situation.

It is now discovered that it is cheaper to have car lots shipped to Danville broken up and trucked to Reidsville than it is to have the cars sent here direct. With a modern highway connecting Danville with Reidsville, this item is of much interest.

Other projects include a freight truck line from Madison or Stoneville to Reidsville and a trolley or steam line across from Henderson via Oxford, Roxboro, Yanceyville and Reidsville to Madison, thus placing all this section on a competitive basis through connection with the Norfolk and Western and the Seaboard Air Line.

It is understood that this last project has been surveyed.

Third Death From Rabies in State.

Henderson.—Dr. J. H. Wheeler, county coroner, is in receipt of a letter from Dr. C. A. Shore, director of the State laboratory of hygiene at Raleigh, stating that the Robertson girl, who died of hydrophobia here, is the third death to occur of rabies, following the bite of a dog, out of 5,400 patients who have taken the treatment. The fact that the dog's bite was on the face and so near the brain was said to have accounted for it. It goes to show, Dr. Wheeler feels, the effectiveness of the Pasteur treatment in cases of this sort.

Co-Operatives Backing Association.

Cerro Gordo.—Grower-members of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association in this section of the bright leaf tobacco belt are displaying large volumes of marked interest in this the second year of their association. Loyal members are delivering all of their tobacco to the association and are urging non-members to enlist with this great and important organization, one of the strongest in America. Loyal members are also reporting and aiding in bringing to justice all disloyal members who have been influenced to "bootleg" their weed. The contract breakers in Columbus county are believed to be only a few and far apart.

Landlords who have permitted their tenants and sub-tenants to sell "on the outside," are paying the five cents per pound and are declaring that they will not allow a tenant to farm their lands hereafter who are not members of the association.

Community Church Soon Finished.

Thomasville.—The splendid new community church house, which was built under the direction and by the means of C. F. Finch, is nearing completion, and another moon will look down on the prettiest church and auditorium in this section of the State. This new church will open the doors for the first service on the third Sunday in September, at which time a series of several services will begin. The church will be under the direction of the Methodist Protestant denomination.



## Resinol would soothe that itching skin

The first application of Resinol Ointment usually takes the itch and burn right out of eczema and similar skin affections. This gentle, healing ointment seems to get right at the root of the trouble, and is almost sure to restore skin health in a short time.

Remove Ointment and Soap at all druggists.



A \$2 Treasure Package for \$1  
Send at once for this wonderful assortment, containing a large bottle of Eau de Cologne, Hair Tonic, a large bottle of Coconut Oil Shampoo and a large bottle of delightfully scented LaFrance Lisse Toilet Water. This \$2.00 value sent on receipt of \$1.00 or mailed C. O. D. by parcel post.

W. S. HOLLAND CO.  
Norristown, Pa.

Cat Saved Young Foxes.

Three young foxes, valued at several hundreds of dollars, which were slowly starving to death on a farm at Mile Post 80, on the Port Arthur & Duluth railway, have been nearly restored to health and strength by the care of a common house cat. It was selected from several offered by local people in response to a newspaper advertisement. The foxes' mother, herself worth about \$300, was killed in a fight.

## CHILDREN CRY FOR "CASTORIA"

Especially Prepared for Infants and Children of All Ages

Mother! Fletcher's Castoria has been in use for over 30 years to relieve babies and children of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic and Diarrhea; allaying Feverishness arising therefrom, and, by regulating the Stomach and Bowels, aids the assimilation of Food; giving natural sleep without opiates. The genuine bears signature



COULD NOT PAY THE CHECK

Unfortunate Indeed When the Lady Was Desirous of Making a Good Impression.

For two years I lived in a town that supported the most active set of gossips I ever encountered; you know—the sort of place where you hate to be the first one to leave a party because you know what the rest of them are going to do to you after you have gone.

Soon after I left one of the town's most prominent gossips varied a friend in my city. I said to my family that I should have to do something to entertain her, otherwise she would go home and talk about how mean I was, so I invited her to have luncheon at quite a nice place, my intention being to swank a little so she wouldn't have a chance to report any (b) unfavorable.

When we met as arranged, I was surprised to see her friend with her, and more surprised when said friend went right along with us into the restaurant. Between them they ordered a somewhat lavish luncheon, and when the check was presented to me I was short the miserable sum of 15 cents, and I had to borrow from my guest.

I know the town had a fruitful topic of conversation for a long, long time.—Chicago Tribune.

Some men attempt so much that they never get anything finished.

