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Blotting Out.

"Good morning, Graham," said Mr. Linn, president of the Hanover Trust Company, as a pleasant-faced young man entered his private office. "This note which I found with my morning mail says that you wish to see me alone for a few minutes."

"I do, sir."

There was a moment's hesitation, then followed a full, contrite confession, given without palliation or self-justification, of disobedience to the Company's business rules and irregularities of book-keeping, difficult detection, but leading later to loss of money and reputation.

As the tale ended Mr. Linn looked up into the young man's pale face. Two sad but brave eyes met the look steadily.

"Of course, you understand that this statement necessitates your discharge?"

Mr. Linn considered a moment. Something about the young fellow's face and bearing made him hesitate to act too quickly.

"This is Wednesday, and the last of the quarter," he said, presently. "You must stay till Saturday and help us out. As the Company has suffered no harm yet, we will not prosecute the matter. You will receive your pay as usual."

"O, Mr. Linn, mayn't I work this week without pay? I should be so glad to," came the eager appeal.

"No," Mr. Linn replied, slowly. "You will need it later."

A wave of hot blood dyed Graham's face, but he responded pleasantly: "As you wish, Mr. Linn," and left the room.

Four weeks later, after crossing a crowded thoroughfare, Graham found himself unexpectedly face to face with Mr. Linn, who responded cordially to his greeting.

"Good morning, Graham. Have you found another place?"

"No, sir; not yet."

"Have you tried?"

"I have made a systematic search, beginning with all the banking houses, and then trying for any honest work anywhere."

"What are you going to do?"

"If I can not find a place by Saturday, I think I shall try the country. Farmers are so glad to get help that they are not so particular about references, and five or six months of out door life will doubtless be good for me."

"Do you need more money to get you there?"

Graham flushed hotly as he replied: "No thank you, Mr. Linn. I have still the last week's pay intact."

Mr. Linn wondered at his appearance, for there was in his bearing nothing of the guilty culprit, or of the disheartened, unsuccessful seeker for work—still less any air of bravado or concealment.

"Would you mind telling me why you confessed your wrongdoing Graham? You might never have been found out, and you must have known that this or worse would follow."

"The previous Sunday evening I was passing the Asbury church while they were singing one of the hymns I used to like, and I went up on the porch to hear better. It must have been the last one, for the people began to come out as soon as it ended. I moved into the deep shadow of some big pillars just as two ladies came to that part of the porch to talk."

"That was a beautiful thought of yours, said one. Our human blots are always so black and dark, and never can be removed without leaving some trace of their blackness and the injury they have done."

"Our blots are the results of our imperfection and weakness, but God's are the overflow of His love," replied the other.

"When we want to cancel some mistake in writing or printing, we blot it out in different ways, but we usually make it worse than before with heavy black marks or several lines. Or if we try erasures of any sort, they can not bear the test of a magnifying glass, or escape detection in some other way," said

the other speaker.

"That is why God's method of doing it is so comforting," the second lady went on.

"As you said," continued the first, "by His thick cloud he blots out the mountain of our sins from all eyes, ever our own."

"And the cloud itself is a thing of beauty, radiant with God's love," added the second.

"I thank you more than I can tell," went on the first speaker, "and I shall never forget."

"I did not forget either; I could not. That is why I asked to see you. I ought to have come that Monday morning, but I was too much of a coward."

"But why did you tell me? I need never have known," persisted Mr. Linn.

"I wanted to clean up the record all I could myself before I asked to have it blotted out," replied Graham, in a low tone.

There was a brief pause, then he added humbly: "Mr. Linn, the lady who spoke those words was your mother and I want so much to thank her. May I have her address so as to write her?"

Without moving Mr. Linn said: "She lives at 1215 Congress Avenue. Go and see her yourself; she will like that better."

There were several moments of complete silence; then Mr. Linn said: "We have never taken discharged men back."

"Of course not," interrupted Graham, holding himself more erect than ever.

Mr. Linn smiled a little, and repeated: "We have never taken discharged men back to their old places, a new one seems to work better all around. Murlin is going to take charge of our branch in Jefferson next Monday, and you may have his place if you like."

Graham gripped a chair near him—had he suddenly lost his mind? Murlin's place! Once he had dreamed of that position as possible, but only after years of service. He looked to see whether Mr. Linn was playing a cruel joke on him, but that gentleman spoke again with all seriousness: "I meant what I said. If you wish Murlin's place you may have it. Perhaps you had better go to his room now; he will be glad to explain the work; and if he, or any one else, inquires about this past month, tell him to ask me."

Still dazed and speechless, Graham took several steps. Then, suddenly recovering himself, he said:

"It must not take the place"—he caught his breath, it was so hard to cut himself adrift again. "When men asked me questions—I had to tell the truth—people will know—it will hurt the company's reputation—and you, yours."

A gratified expression came over Mr. Linn's face. "That is our business—our risk," he answered quietly.

"Mr. Linn," Graham began as soon as he could speak, his face aglow with gratitude and earnestness, "there was one other thing your mother said that night—you will understand why I did not mention it before. It was that once in a while a person was found who had so much of God and his love in his heart that he could forgive in God's generous blotting-out way. I did not believe it then, but now I know—I have proof—that she is right."—Zion's Herald.

Orr Ends His Journey.

New York, Aug. 5.—Frank Orr ended here this afternoon a 1,000 mile walk from Atlanta Ga., begun on June 23 for a wager of \$500. He started without money or matches, pushed a wheelbarrow before him the entire way and was not allowed to ask for food or money on the trip.

Orr visited the city hall and left for Mayor Gaynor a letter from the mayor of Charlotte, N. C., and later boarded a train for Atlanta. He was seven days ahead of his scheduled time of 48 days.

There is no substitute for thoroughgoing, ardent and sincere earnestness.—Dickens.

Prospects For Tobacco Crop For 1911.

Southern Tobacco Journal, Winston.

The Department of Agriculture of the United States Government has so perfected its system of crop reports, from year to year, that there is now a reasonable degree of accuracy in the estimate of acreage and condition as given out by them periodically.

Recognizing this fact the following figures and estimates based on the report for the period ending July 1st, will doubtless be of interest and value to the tobacco trade.

Reports show the shortage of the Old Belt section of Virginia and North Carolina aggregates 54,537 acres (23 per cent) with conditions 65 against 80 last year, so with favorable seasons the loss of pounds to this territory will be about 32,500,000 pounds. The estimated acreage in North and South Carolina is 55 per cent of last year, making a shortage of 57, 27 acres with conditions 65 against 74 in 1910, resulting in an estimated shortage of 28,500,000 pounds. Just here it is of interest to note that North Carolina made a loss in 1910 from 1909 of over 35,000,000 pounds.

Reports from all over the country show that the world's market will be practically the same as last year, a prospective shortage of 242,000,000 pounds.

There is much speculation now among tobacco men as to how tobacco will sell the coming season. Tobacco farmers are of course more interested in this question than buyers, as they are more directly affected. It has been our opinion for some time, and we see no special reason for changing now, that it would be better this year than for a good many years past. As a matter of fact, in the face of two short crops, tobacco would have sold high this year, if there had been no disturbance of the business, on account of legislation and law suits. It may be that the American and Imperial companies will proceed to buy, as if nothing had happened. In fact these companies are already buying on those markets which have opened up in the South and we are of the opinion that matters will be so arranged that they will continue purchasing tobacco as usual. From reports received last week prices on opening sales were at least fifty per cent higher than they were last year. It has been stated by those who know that the quality is not so good as last season. If these prices should continue bright tobacco will sell high, and we believe that the average on the entire crop will be better than they have been for some years. Of course as we indicated above a great deal depends upon conditions.

In this connection we would warn tobacco farmers to market their tobacco in good condition. Don't rush it to market too fast. Handle it carefully, and see that it does not damage.

Beaten and Shot.

Raleigh, Aug. 6.—With blood streaming from two deep gashes in his head and from a dozen shot wounds in his back, John Hatcher, colored, appealed to a policeman this morning to take him where he could have medical attention. He said J. H. Council and his son, Swaney Council, farmers near Raleigh, met him in the road and beat him up and then shot him as he ran because he had stayed out longer than they thought he ought to with their horse and buggy in making a trip to Raleigh.

He says the father covered him with his gun while the son knocked him out of the buggy and beat him and that finally the son took the gun from the old man and struck him twice over the head with the butt of it before shooting him. Hatcher's wounds are serious, but not considered dangerous. He had been working for the Councils for a month.

Another Appeal to Be Made For Stripling.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 1.—In the next week or so lawyers for Edgar Stripling will make another appeal for executive leniency for their client, who is now serving his life sentence in the Georgia penitentiary for the murder of W. J. Cornett, fifteen years, a few months before he made his escape from prison and went to Danville, Va., where he became Chief of Police.

It is the belief of his lawyers that Governor Smith will be more inclined to look with favor on the petition than was his predecessor, Governor Brown, who turned it down after the prison commission had passed favorably upon the application. The fact that the prison commission had seen fit to recommend a pardon on account of Stripling's good record as a citizen since his escape will play, they believe, a strong part in any action that Governor Smith may take.

Mrs. Howard Durham, sister of Stripling, and the woman on whose account the killing is claimed to have been committed, was in the city last week, and made two attempts to see Governor Smith. Her trouble in getting an audience grew out of the fact that the Legislature is in session, and Governor Smith is very busily occupied with matters of State.

The Legislature will adjourn in about two weeks, however, and Governor Smith will be at liberty for the other duties of his office, since he has decided not to go to Washington until December.

It is understood that Mrs. Durham has been given an engagement, and will return to Atlanta this week to see Governor Smith about the matter.

Stripling's health has been very poor and the reasons urged for his liberation. The application will be bitterly fought, as was the case at the first hearing.

The Looting of Lawrence, Mass.

Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Lawrence is one of the largest cities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. By the last United States census it had a population of 85,892 last year, an increase of more than 37 per cent during the last decade. It is situated within 30 miles of Boston, has been regarded as one of the show places of the old Bay State, distinguished for the industry of its inhabitants and the strength of its administration. A strange thing has happened. M. T. White, former mayor of the town, who was compelled to resign his office not long ago, and who until recently was one of the most respected citizens of the community, now occupies a cell in jail; his former secretary has pleaded guilty to an indictment for bribery; the fire marshal, and one of the aldermen are in prison, charged with stealing or bribery; a number of the other members of the city government are under indictment for the same offenses; the town is bankrupt and the present mayor has been compelled to go to the Governor and the general court, asking for a loan of \$50,000 for ten years to enable the city to go on with its affairs. Hundreds of the city employes have been discharged; the June bills have not been paid; there is no money in the public treasury to meet future obligations; the testimony that has been taken shows that there has been stealing right and left; that an organized band of thieves has been robbing the city in every possible way; that this stealing has been going on for years, and that popular government in Lawrence has failed.

It is a disgraceful state of things; but it is a state of things that can be counted upon in every community where the "respectables" allow the rabble to run its affairs. The first thing for the Lawrence people to do is to send the thieves and grafters and bribers to jail, and after that to take a more jealous interest in the business of government.

TRUST GETS ITS ORDERS

Court Tells Tobacco Company How It Must Dissolve.

New York, Aug. 3.—The United States circuit court, under whose direction the American Tobacco Company will work out its dissolution, handed down this afternoon on the mandate of the Federal Supreme Court, an order outlining conditions under which the company may perfect plans for dissolving. A clause in the order enjoins the defendants from doing any act which may further enlarge and extend the power of the combination prior to its disintegration.

The order was handed down by Judges LaComb, Ward and Noye, following a conference held with Attorney General Wickersham, United States District Attorney Wise, counsel for the American Tobacco Company, the British-American Tobacco Company and the United Cigar Stores Company.

Preliminary plans of the disintegration of the American Tobacco Company were submitted by its counsel and discussed by lawyers in the court. The three judges expressed no opinion regarding them, however.

After reciting the decree of the Supreme Court, the court serves notice that it will tie up the company's shipments or appoint a receiver as ordered by the higher tribunal, should counsel fail to submit an acceptable plan of dissolution by December 30, next, or sixty days therefrom if the circuit court should grant such an extension. Leave is given counsel to apply for more specific directions in this regard and also to any part to apply from time to time for relief which may seem in conformity with the decree.

"Pending the dissolution of the combination," the decree reads, "and the recreation of a new condition honestly in harmony with the law, all the defendants, their agents and servants are hereby constrained and enjoined from doing any act which might further extend or enlarge the power of the combination by any means or device whatsoever."

Counsel in the case regard the decree as enjoining the United Cigar Stores Company and the other defendants from extending their business by the opening of new stores or by contracting for unusually large quantities of supplies during the life of the American Tobacco Company.

Cocaine Evil on Increase.

Greensboro, Aug. 6.—Twenty-five men and women, nearly all negroes, were convicted in municipal court during the month of July for retailing cocaine. This statement gives some idea of the magnitude of the business that is going on in Greensboro and other towns of the South among the lower class of negroes. Here it is found that users and sellers of cocaine are an absolutely worthless class; sniffers of the drug make up at least two-thirds of the criminal docket. The rapidity with which the number of users is growing is also alarming and unless speedy and heroic efforts are brought to bear the drug will become a greater menace to the negro race than whiskey has ever been. The effects are so much more permanent than that of whiskey.

The center of trouble is the drug stores and they are harder to reach. It is known that several drug stores here engage in the business of selling to negroes and refilling prescriptions time after time, but it is hard to get evidence that will convict. However, the authorities keep hard at the work and eventually the two or three drug stores that are violating the law will be entangled in the meshes of the law.

A well known Des Moines woman after suffering miserably for two days from bowel complaint, was cured by one dose of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. For sale by all dealers.

Membership of House is Increased To 433.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Bearing an initiative and referendum feature to safeguard against gerrymandering in a number of States, the congressional reapportionment bill passed the Senate today. It fixes the future House membership at 433—with two more when Arizona and New Mexico attain statehood—instead of the present 391. There were not even the formality of a roll call on the final vote. Two amendments, both offered by Senator Burton of Ohio, were attached to the House measure and on these a conference with the House will be held—all that stand in the way of President Taft's approval of the bill, which is to take effect March 4, 1913.

The increase in the membership of the House will mean an added expense to the country of approximately \$400,000 a year. The salaries of the 42 new members will aggregate \$315,000. Each will have at least one clerk at \$1,500, which will add \$63,000 to the total. Mileage and other incidental expenses will still further increase the sum, bringing it to the amount first named.

Under this decennial reapportionment there is to be no reduction in the membership from any State. The average congressional district will contain over 17,000 greater population than at present, the average district comprising 211,877 under the new plan.

Something About Crops in Catawba County.

Newton Enterprise.

Mr. James M. Lee has the most successful tomato crop in the county. He sowed it last fall seed. He sold \$42 plants from it and it in tomatoes. He is getting from 5 to 6 pound for his tomato. They have been sold in Newton and Asheville. He has got his returns from the shipments to Asheville, but thinks his tomato crop will yield about \$200. He will give us exact figures on this record breaking half-acre in a few days.

The ditching of Clark's creek has been at a most opportune time, in view of the severe drought that is having such a disastrous effect on upland corn. The Clark's creek bottom corn is growing right through the drought and is showing no need of rain. Some land owners have not yet cleared up their bottoms, but it is predicted that about all the bottom land will be made ready for corn next year. Upland has been doing so well in corn for many years that bottoms have not been at much of a premium. But this year will give a great impulse to the drainage movement started in Catawba county.

Wiley Black Goes Back to the Chaingang.

Asheville, Aug. 5.—Wiley P. Black, whose pardon was revoked by Governor Kitchin Thursday and who was taken into custody yesterday, was retained in jail until today at 10 o'clock, when he was informed that he was to be taken to Captain Luther's camp in the Leicester section. Black was downhearted at the announcement. He felt all along that some way would be provided whereby he would escape the chaingang. But there was no way. The revoking of the pardon by the Governor ended all controversy and Black today went to the roads. While depressed at the outset he revived and before leaving for the camp put on a bold front and smiled his old smile before "carted away."

Hay Sells For 1c a Pound.

A cent a pound, \$20 a ton was paid for choice timothy in car-load lots at Kansas City, Mo., July 27th. This is the best price ever recorded at the Kansas City Hay Exchange.