

The MINISTER'S SURPRISE

Katherine Young Thaxter
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The Rev. Calvin Morris was quite annoyed. He was in anything but a ministerial mood when he tossed his hat on the table amid the confusion of books and papers and sat down in his study to think it over. It was such a ridiculous situation that at first he had been mildly amused at it, but now—pshaw! Why couldn't he ignore it?

But it had passed the stage when it could be ignored. In the past three days he had been told five times that his congregation would like very much to see him married. Nor had these remarks been the half-jocular words on his bachelor condition that he had often heard since coming to the church at Littleton, but had been earnest words of advice expressed by the most prominent members of his flock.

He was popular in the parish, and his two years' pastorate had been productive of good results, but there had been one thing lacking.

Accustomed for years before his advent to the service of a most devoted minister and his able wife whose home had been the center for a vigorous church life, the people simply could not get used to a minister in a boarding house. Besides, there stood the fine parsonage empty. Certainly it was his duty to live up to the demands of his people. When Miss Gilbert, the wealthy maiden lady who had contributed so much to the church, both in money and good deeds, died two years ago the parsonage she was building for the church was not quite finished.

The Rev. Calvin Morris knew he would use it in time. Indeed, all unknown to his people, vague plans had been floating through the minister's head for some months, and he had frequently looked very reflectively at the quiet house beside the church.

But the real vexing, disquieting point of the whole matter was that the congregation had not only decided that he should marry, but apparently had fixed on whom he should marry. This was assured the night he took tea with Mrs. Thorpe, one of the most active ladies in his church, when the chief topic of conversation was Miss Nell Gilbert.

Now, Mr. Morris had taken a most unreasoning and unministerial dislike to Miss Gilbert, a member of his church whom he had never seen. She was the niece of the great Miss Gilbert and had lived with her aunt until the latter's death, when the great house on the hill had been closed. Since then the young lady had traveled, so the minister had never seen her. He had heard a great deal of her, though, and had formed an impression of a person of undoubted energy and ability, accustomed to have things just as she wanted and inclined to be domineering. "Miss Nell" had ideas of her own on church music. "Miss Nell" had designed this and had attended to that. It seemed to the minister there was a little too much of "Miss Nell" everywhere.

Tall and muscular and aggressive himself, accustomed to shouldering burdens and clearing difficulties, the Rev. Calvin had, of course, an ideal of feminine grace very different from his own vigorous personality. Indeed, as he sat thinking in his study that morning a smile rose to the firm lips and softened the austere lines into which he had framed them as he saw in his mind's eye a petite, graceful form, soft, appealing dark eyes and masses of cloudy brown hair. Alas for the plans of the people who had made up their minds that "Miss Nell" and the minister would be an eminently well fitted pair.

But the vision faded quickly, and the many hints that had been dropped during the last few days faded in rapid succession through his mind. "Miss Nell" was coming home next week. He would be thrown at her head and she at his by his well-meaning flock until something happened. Oh, he well knew how it would be done. The opportunities a congregation possesses for annoying its minister and making him do things he does not want to do are legion. He supposed every lady of the aid society had planned some function to which he must go and meet "Miss Nell." The minister groaned. Already the subject had assumed alarming proportions. He could not, he would not, stay round and be made a football of, to be tossed into any woman's arms.

Again came unbidden that alluring vision of brown hair and eloquent eyes. It was preposterous! How could they badger him now, just as his heart was beating more madly every day for some one? Ah, if he were only sure! Did that friendship, formed a few short months ago, that soul satisfying friendship, mean to the girl of the vision what it had come to mean to him? Could he, dare he, offer her his love? He had been living since then in a beautiful dream. Suppose that dream should be fulfilled?

He hesitated. Dreaming had been so sweet he feared the awakening. Dare he risk "the last leaf" with a bound he sprang to his feet. He could and he would. He would please himself in the choice of a wife anyway, and, if fortune favored him, give his officious congregation a surprise and a sharp lesson.

A short phone message to a neighboring town secured a supply for next Sunday's pulpit. "Urgent business out of town" was the message left for the church officers, and the minister found himself on the train bound for the east and the "vision."

The minister's wooing was brief and blunt, but Miss Helen Atwater was not very much taken by surprise. The acquaintance begun in Scotland the previous summer had ripened fast on shipboard on the return passage and been brought to fruition by some months of correspondence. She even consented to a speedy marriage, and as she was living with a married cousin in Boston the minister took his bride from there ten days from the day he left Littleton.

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Almost everybody who reads the newspapers is sure to know of the wonderful cures made by Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder remedy.

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Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is not recommended for everything but if you have kidney, liver or bladder trouble it will be found just the remedy you need. It has been tested in so many ways, in hospital work, in private practice, among the helpless too poor to purchase relief and has proved so successful in every case that a special arrangement has been made by which all readers of this paper who have not already tried it, may have a sample bottle sent free by mail, also a book telling more about Swamp-Root and how to find out if you have kidney or bladder trouble. When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., 215 E. 14th St., New York, N. Y. The regular fifty cent and some Swamp-Root dollar sizes are sold by all good druggists.

Don't make any mistake, but remember the name Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

Bees on the Farm.

While I would not advise any one to take up beekeeping unless he has a natural ability for it, I cannot help but think that many of our young men might do so to a good advantage. Writes a New York farmer in American Agriculturist. I don't expect every one that takes it up will be as successful as some have been, but I am sure a large per cent of our farmers might keep a few colonies very profitably. If some would give their sons a little more encouragement to take up something of this kind it would many times be much better for both father and son. The first expense is small, and if it should be the means of keeping the boy on the farm it might be a blessing in disguise.

Horse and Cow Hay.

Timothy sells for a higher price in the market than other hay and is regarded as being particularly adapted to horses. It is deficient in protein and for that reason should be fed with a grain ration of a nitrogenous nature. For horses no better basis for a ration can be found than timothy hay and oats. It is less valuable for cattle and sheep. Clover hay is next to timothy in common use, and the two are more often found mixed than either is found alone. The nitrogenous nature of the clovers aids in supplying the deficiency of protein in the timothy. Clover is more valuable than timothy for cattle and sheep, but is not considered so satisfactory for horses.

Fattening Waterfowl.

In feeding waterfowl for market purposes mixed or mash food should be provided. Whole corn or grain of any kind is a wasteful kind of food to use in fattening waterfowl. The waterfowl do not have a crop and gizzard connection, as do chickens. Mash or mixed foods are much more easily consumed, digested and assimilated by waterfowl than whole corn. Quite often, especially young ducks, are destroyed from eating too much whole corn. This happens when they have had a surfeit of young, undried corn. It quickly swells in the crop and oftentimes does great injury to the ducks.—Feather.

Pork Packed in Brine.

Rub each piece of meat with fine common salt and pack closely in a barrel. Let stand overnight. The next day weigh out ten pounds of salt and two ounces of saltpeter to each 100 pounds of meat and dissolve in four gallons of boiling water. Pour this brine over the meat when cold and cover and weight down the meat to keep it under the brine. Meat will pack best if cut in pieces about six inches square. The pork should be kept in the brine till used.—Nebraska Independent.

Pig Notes.

Suckling sows require extra good feeding with some succulent foods, slops, etc., or they lose flesh rapidly and go down below normal condition.

Brood sows three to six years old grow the strongest and best pigs, which have more vitality to resist disease germs.

All waste from the kitchen is wholesome and suitable as food for pigs, but a swill barrel that is never empty is a bad thing to have around.

Storing Seed Corn.

It is unwise to store seed corn in barrels or boxes, as it will gather moisture even though it appears to be thoroughly dry. This is especially true during the fall and winter months.

Cold does not injure the vitality of corn when it is thoroughly dried and kept dry, but, on the other hand, if allowed to gather moisture freezing will reduce the vitality and may destroy it entirely.—Professor J. G. Holden, Iowa Experiment Station.

It was a terrible torture that Mrs. Gertie McFarland, of King's Mountain, N. C., describes as follows: "I suffered dreadful periodical pain, and became so weak I was given up to die, when my husband got me Wine of Cardui. The first dose gave relief, and with three bottles I am up doing my work. I cannot say enough in praise of Cardui." A wonderful remedy for women's ills. At druggists, \$1.00

When Mr. Roosevelt becomes Senator from N. Y., there will be some embarrassment about whether to locate him on the Republican or Democratic side of the chamber.

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"DROPS" can be used any length of time without injuring the system, because it is entirely free of opium, cocaine, alcohol, kerosene, and other similar ingredients.

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Statement of the Condition of BANK OF ROBERSONVILLE

At the close of business Saturday, January 26, 1906.

RESOURCES.		LIABILITIES.	
Loans and discounts	\$36,457.82	Capital stock	\$15,000.00
Overdrafts	1,766.48	Surplus fund	3,750.00
Banking House, F. and fixtures	3,753.75	Undivided profits	1,494.65
Due from banks and bankers	24,175.04	Time certificates of deposit	3,029.00
Cash items	50,60.07	Deposits	47,890.90
	\$71,213.16	Cashiers' checks outstanding	48.61
			\$71,213.16

State of North Carolina—County of Martin.

I, J. C. Robertson, cashier of the above named bank do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. C. ROBERTSON, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5 day of January 1907.

S. L. ROSS, Notary Public.

Correct—Attest: S. H. Hargrove, A. S. Robertson and J. H. Robertson Jr., Directors.

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