



SYNOPSIS.

Howard Jeffries, banker's son, under the evil influence of Robert Underwood, a fellow-student at Yale, leads a life of dissipation, marries the daughter of a gambler who died in prison, and is disowned by his father. He tries to get work and fails. A former college chum makes a business proposition to Howard which requires \$2,000 cash, and Howard is broke.

CHAPTER II.—Continued.

"You know I wouldn't, Annie," he said earnestly. "Not one second have I ever regretted marrying you—that's honest to God!"

A faint flush of pleasure lit up the young wife's face. For all her assumed light-heartedness she was badly in need of this reassurance. If she thought Howard nourished secret regrets it would break her heart. She could stand anything, any hardship, but not that. She would leave him at once.

In a way she held herself responsible for his present predicament. She had felt a deep sense of guilt ever since that afternoon in New Haven when, listening to Howard's impertinences and obeying an impulse she was powerless to resist, she had flung aside her waitress' apron, furtively left the restaurant and hurried with him to the minister who declared them man and wife.

Their marriage was a mistake, of course. Howard was in no position to marry. They should have waited. They both realized their folly now. But what was done could not be undone. She realized, too, that it was worse for Howard than it was for her. It had ruined his prospects at the outset of his career and threatened to be an irreparable blight on his entire life. She realized that she was largely to blame. She had done wrong to marry him and at times she reproached herself bitterly.

There were days when their union assumed in her eyes the enormity of a crime. She should have seen what a social gulf lay between them. All these taunts and insults from his family which she now endured she had foolishly brought upon her own head. But she had not been able to resist the temptation. Howard came into her life when the outlook was dreary and hopeless. He had offered to her what seemed a haven against the cruelty and selfishness of the world. Happiness for the first time in her life seemed within reach and she had not the moral courage to say "No."

If Annie had no education she was not without brains. She had sense enough to realize that her bringing up or the lack of it was an unsurmountable barrier to her ever being admitted to the inner circle of Howard's family. If her husband's father had not married again the breach might have been crossed in time, but his new wife was a prominent member of the smart set, a woman full of aristocratic notions, who recoiled with horror at having anything to do with a girl guilty of the enormity of earning her own living. Individual merit, inherent nobility of character, amiability of disposition, and a personal reputation untouched by scandal—all this went for nothing—because unaccompanied by wealth or social position. Annie had neither wealth nor position. She had not even education. They considered her common, impossible. They were ever ready to lend an ear to certain ugly stories regarding her past, none of which were true. After their marriage, Mr. Jeffries, Sr., and his wife absolutely refused to receive her or have any communication with her whatsoever. As long, therefore, as Howard remained faithful to her, the breach with his family could never be healed.

"Have some more stew, dear," she said, extending her hand for her husband's plate.

Howard shook his head and threw down his knife and fork.

"I've had enough," he said despondently. "I haven't much appetite."

She looked at him with concern.

"Poor boy, you're tired out!"

As she noted how pale and dejected he appeared, her eyes filled with sympathetic tears. She forgot the appalling number of cigarettes he smoked a day, nor did she realize how abuse of alcohol had spoiled his stomach for solid food.

"I wish I knew where to go and get that \$2,000," muttered Howard, his mind still preoccupied with Cox's proposition. Lighting another cigarette, he leaned back in his chair and lapsed into silence.

Annie sat and watched him, wishing she could suggest some way to solve the problem that troubled him. She loved her husband with all her heart and soul. His very weakness of character endeared him the more to her. She was not blind to his faults, but she excused them. His vices, his drinking, cigarette smoking and general shiftlessness were, she argued, the result of bad associates.

The THIRD DEGREE

A NARRATIVE OF METROPOLITAN LIFE
By CHARLES KLEIN AND ARTHUR HORNBLow
ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAY WALTERS
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He was self-indulgent. He made many good resolutions and broke them. But he was not really vicious. He had a good heart. With some one to watch him and keep him in the straight path he would still give a good account of himself to the world. She was confident of that. She recognized many excellent qualities in him. They only wanted fostering and bringing out. That was why she married him. She was a few years his senior; she felt that she was the stronger mentally. She considered it was her duty to devote her life to him, to protect him from himself and make a man of him.

It was not her fault, she mused, if she was not a lady. Literally brought up in the gutter, what advantages had she had? Her mother died in childbirth and her father, a professional gambler, abandoned the little girl to the tender mercies of an indifferent neighbor. When she was about eight years old her father was arrested. He refused to pay police blackmail, was indicted, railroaded to prison and died soon after in convict stripes. There was no provision for Annie's maintenance, so at the age of nine she found herself toiling in a factory, a helpless victim of the brutalizing system of child slavery, which in spite of prohibiting laws still disgraces the United States. Ever since that time she had earned her own living. The road had often been hard, there were times when she thought she would have to give up the fight; other girls she had met had hinted at an easier way of earning one's living, but she had kept her courage, refused to listen to evil counsel and always managed to keep her name unsullied. She left the factory to work behind the counter in a New York dry goods store. Then about a year ago she drifted to New Haven and took the position of waitress at the restaurant which the college boys patronized.

Robert Underwood was among the students who came almost every day. He made love to her from the start, and one day attempted liberties which she was prompt to resent in a way he did not relish. After that he let her alone. She never liked the man. She knew him to be unprincipled as well as vicious. One night he brought Howard Jeffries to the restaurant. They seemed the closest of cronies and she was sorry to see what bad influence the elder sophomore had over the young freshman, to whom she was at once attracted. Every time they came she watched them and she noticed how under his mentor Howard became more hardened. He drank more and more and became a reckless gambler. Underwood seemed to exercise a baneful spell over him. She saw that he would soon be ruined with such a man as Underwood for a constant companion. Her interest in the young student grew. They became acquainted and Howard, not realizing that she was older than he, was immediately captivated by her vivacious charm and her common-sense views. They saw each other more frequently and their friendship grew until one day Howard asked her to marry him.

While she sometimes blamed herself for having listened too willingly to Howard's pleadings, she did not altogether regret the step she had taken. It was most unfortunate that

there must be this rupture with his family, yet something within told her that she was doing God's work—saving a man's soul. Without her, Howard would have gone swiftly to ruin, there was little doubt of that. His affection for her had partly, if not wholly, redeemed him and was keeping him straight. He had been good to her ever since their marriage and done everything to make her comfortable. Once he took a position as guard on the elevated road, but he caught cold and was forced to give it up. She wanted to go to work again, but he angrily refused. That alone showed that he was not entirely devoid of character. He was unfortunate at present and they were poor, but by dint of perseverance he would win out and make a position for himself without his father's help. These were their darkest days, but light was ahead. As long as they loved each other and had their health what more was necessary?

"Say, Annie, I have an idea," suddenly blurted out Howard.

"What is it, dear?" she asked, her reveries thus abruptly interrupted.

"I mean regarding that \$2,000. You know all about that \$250 which I once lent Underwood. I never got it back, although I've been after him many times for it. He's a slippery customer. But under the circumstances I think it's worth another determined effort. He seems to be better fixed now than he ever was. He's living at the Astoria, making a social splurge and all that sort of thing. He must have money. I'll try to borrow the \$2,000 from him."

"He certainly appears to be prosperous," replied Annie. "I see his name in the newspapers all the time. There is hardly an affair at which he is not present."

"Yes," growled Howard; "I don't see how he does it. He travels on his cheek, principally, I guess. His name was among those present at my stepmother's musicale the other night." Bitterly he added: "That's how the world goes. There is no place for me under my father's roof, but that blackguard is welcomed with open arms!"

"I thought your father was such a proud man," interrupted Annie. "How does he come to associate with people like Underwood?"

"Oh, pater's an old dolt!" exclaimed Howard impatiently. "There's no fool like an old fool. Of course, he's sensible enough in business matters. He wouldn't be where he is to-day if he weren't. But when it comes to the woman question he's as blind as a bat. What right had a man of his age to go and marry a woman 20 years his junior? Of course she only married him for his money. Everybody knows that except he. People laugh at him behind his back. Instead of enjoying a quiet, peaceful home in the declining years of his life, he is compelled to keep open house and entertain people who are personally obnoxious to him, simply because that sort of life pleases his young wife."

"Who was she, anyway, before their marriage?" interrupted Annie.

"Oh, a nobody," he replied. "She was very attractive looking, dressed well and was clever enough to get introductions to good people. She man-

aged to make herself popular in the smart set and she needed money to carry out her social ambitions. Dad—wealthy widower—came along and she caught him in her net, that's all!"

Annie listened with interest. She was human enough to feel a certain sense of satisfaction in hearing that this woman who treated her with such contempt was herself something of an intriguer.

"How did your stepmother come to know Robert Underwood?" she asked. "He was never in society."

"No," replied Howard with a grin. "It was my stepmother who gave him the entrée. You know she was once engaged to him, but broke it off so she could marry dad. He felt very sore over it at the time, but after her marriage he was seemingly as friendly with her as ever—to serve his own ends, of course. It is simply wonderful what influence he has with her. He exercises over her the same fascination that he did over me at college. He has sort of hypnotized her. I don't think it's a case of love or anything like that, but he simply holds her under his thumb and gets her to do anything he wants. She invites him to her house, introduces him right and left, got people to take him up. Everybody laughs about it in society. Underwood is known as Mrs. Howard Jeffries' pet. Such a thing soon gets talked about. That is the secret of his successful career in New York. As far as I know, she's as much infatuated with him as ever."

A look of surprise came into Annie's face. To this young woman, whose one idea of matrimony was steadfast loyalty to the man whose life she shared and whose name she bore, there was something repellent and nauseating in a woman permitting herself to be talked about in that way.

"Doesn't your father object?" she asked.

"Pshaw!" laughed Howard. "He doesn't see what's going on under his very nose. He's too proud a man, too sure of his own good judgment, to believe for a moment that the woman to whom he gave his name would be guilty of the slightest indiscretion of that kind."

Annie was silent for a minute. Then she said:

"What makes you think that Underwood would let you have the money?"

"Because I think he's got it. I obliged him once in the same way myself. I would explain to him what I want it for. He will see at once that it is a good thing. I'll offer him a good rate of interest, and he might be very glad to let me have it. Anyhow, there's no harm trying."

Annie said nothing. She did not entirely approve this idea of her husband trying to borrow money of a man in whom his stepmother was so much interested. On the other hand starvation stared them in the face, if Howard could get hold of this \$2,000 and start in the brokerage business it might be the beginning of a new life for them.

"Well, do as you like, dear," she said. "When will you go to him?"

"The best time to catch him would be in the evening," replied Howard.

"Well, then, go tonight," she suggested.

Howard shook his head.

"No, not to-night. I don't think I should find him in. He's out every night somewhere. Tonight there's another big reception at my father's house. He'll probably be there. I think I'll wait till to-morrow night. I'm nearly sure to catch him at home then."

Annie rose and began to remove the dishes from the table. Howard nonchalantly lit another cigarette and, leaving the table, took up the evening newspaper. Sitting down comfortably in a rocker by the window, he blew a cloud of blue smoke up in the air and said:

"Yes, that's it—I'll go to-morrow night to the Astoria and strike Bob Underwood for that \$2,000."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



"Not One Second Have I Regretted Marrying You—That's Honest to God!"

A VERY HARD TASK FACES TRUSTEES

CELECTION OF SITE FOR NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED.

DECIDE AT KINSTON JUNE 22

Kinston, Washington, Lenoir, Lillington, Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham, Fayetteville, and Possibly Other Towns Will Make Proposals.

Raleigh—The trustees of the proposed North Carolina school for feeble-minded took recess to June 22, when there will be a meeting in Kinston. By June 21 all bids must be in and the location will be definitely settled at the Kinston meeting. In the meantime the trustees will personally inspect the locations offered.

Kinston offers one tract of 600 or another of 370 acres. Washington urged the board to pay the town a visit and guaranteed adequate inducements. The town of Lenoir offered 1,000 acres of land and abundant supply of best water-works water for five years without cost. Lillington offered \$10,000 cash, 1,000 acres of land and a spur track from the Raleigh & Southport railroad, much of this being guaranteed by President John A. Mills of the railroad company. There are yet to be definitely presented proposals from Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham, Fayetteville and possibly other towns.

The board heard reports from the special committee that visited institutions for the feeble-minded in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and other Eastern states, the committee consisting of Dr. Kent, Dr. Hardy, W. A. Thompson and Dr. McBrayer.

The board has investigated conditions in this state to the extent that it is estimated that there are about five hundred persons in almshouses and jails that ought to be in the school for the feeble-minded; then there are hundreds of others that should be gathered from homes in all parts of the state.

The institution is to be planned so that there can be proper classification of inmates. The board has in hand plans for buildings and after the site is chosen the actual building will begin speedily.

The board of trustees consists of J. Y. Joyner, chairman ex-officio; Dr. Ira M. Hardy, secretary; W. A. Thompson, Aurora; Mark Majette, Columbia; Senator J. R. Baggett, Lillington; Dr. L. B. McBrayer, Asheville; R. E. Austin, Albemarle.

WILL CONTINUE BUSINESS

Dealers Will Take Out U. S. License and Hold Near-Beer Stands.

Internal revenue officers say that the near-beer dealers at Raleigh and throughout the state for that matter, are preparing to take out liquor licenses again June 30, the plan being for their places to go right on after July 1, when the act of the last legislature prohibiting near-beer saloons goes into effect all over the state. The leading dealers are free to admit that they do not expect to close out their business at all. They will take out the government license to relieve themselves from the surveillance of the revenue officers and then they will sell brands of drinks that will eliminate the beer idea.

The liquid may and will probably very much resemble beer, they say, but there will be no beer or near-beer brands and the bottles will be different. The applications for renewal of government licenses are already coming in in anticipation of the expiration of the present licenses July 1. The change of the size of the bottles and the brands they bear, it is said, will constitute the principal changes that will take place in the near-beer saloons and their service. The near-beer men insist that they will comply with the law and they will be relieved of the state and local tax they have had to pay heretofore.

Enormous Property Loss by Fire.

Every community and individual in North Carolina should look out for and remove conditions likely to cause fires, declared State Commissioner of Insurance James R. Young. He says the official reports show that fire waste in America during May aggregated \$21,422,000, a gain over May of 1910 of \$2,538,800. He finds that the fire waste for the first five months of 1911 round up \$108,539,800, or an increase of \$22,954,500 over the losses for the corresponding months of 1910.

Where the Hookworm Fight Begins.

Dr. John A. Ferrell who has charge of the hook worm campaign in North Carolina, announces that the operation of the hospital tent for the treatment of hookworm patients is to start within a very short time in one of the southeastern counties. There will also be in the same section of the state a number of hookworm dispensaries provided in counties that will co-operate by bearing a small part of the expense. Among the first work of this sort is expected to begin in Pender county.

SELECTING SCHOOL BOOKS

State Text Book Commission Has Hard Task to Perform—Agents Big Publishing Houses

Raleigh.—When the State Text Book commission met to canvass the bids which had been submitted and to check up the exhibits it was found there was no dearth of companies desiring to supply the youth of North Carolina with text books for the next five years. In all there were something over 30 bidders, many of whom are asking to furnish the entire outfit for the schools. The adoption extends only through the seventh grade. For quite a while Raleigh will be a mecca for book agents, practically every large publishing house having some of its star men on the job.

A joint session of the State Text Book commission was held, with the members of the sub-commission, when points in regard to examining the text books submitted were outlined. This sub-commission, composed of six men who are engaged in teaching or superintending, will hold public hearings in the capitol building and will continue in session from day to day until all the subjects are gone over and all the agents had their say. Then they will make their recommendations to the text book commission.

The members of this sub-commission are, Prof. N. W. Walker, of the Department of Education of the University of North Carolina; County Superintendent A. C. Reynolds, of Runcombe; E. T. Atkinson, of Wayne; Z. V. Judd, of Wake; R. J. Cochran, of Mecklenburg, and City Superintendent N. C. Newbold, of Washington.

Leaf Tobacco Sales in May.

Sales of leaf tobacco on the North Carolina markets during May were 157,778 pounds compared with 1,260,893 pounds during May, 1910. Winston-Salem led again with 107,030 pounds, only seven of the markets having any sales at all during the month. The other six were: Reidsville, 27,166; Durham, 11,446; Madison, 4,555; Stoneville, 2,940; Mebane, 2,638; Mount Airy, 2,603.

Will be no Championship Shoot.

It is officially stated that all probability of any contest involving the recent championship rifle range shoot here by the teams from the three companies of the North Carolina Guard that made the highest scores in the regimental shoots at Raleigh, Goldsboro and Gastonia is past. There had been exceptions to men shooting whose enlistments had expired and not been renewed, but it was found that this was the case with all three of the teams that participated.

So the Dupont trophy cup that was won in the regimental shoots by the Raleigh company and generously put up again for a championship shoot here, will go to the Lumber Bridge company.

Important Ruling on Land Titles.

Assistant Attorney General G. L. Jones has just made a ruling for the department of education as to the reversion of property that has been condemned for school purposes and the right of the school authorities to deed this property in fee simple to parties other than the owner from whom it was taken by condemnation. He holds that good title can be given for the reason that the law provides that where condemnation has to be resorted to the school trustees get title in fee simple and any property so held can be conveyed. This question has arisen in Gates county, but is one that may develop in most any part of the state under the present activities in consolidation and changes of school districts.

July 4 Highway Day in Wake.

The Wake Board of County commissioners passed a resolution setting July 4th as Central Highway Day in Wake county. The resolution provided further that during the week following all citizens along the proposed highway in Wake county be urged to go to work and construct this county's portion of the highway, or if they can not donate their time to donate an equivalent amount of money. The chairman of the board is to appoint the supervisors of the work.

Elizabeth City.—The outlook for the Irish potato crop in Pasquotank county is not very promising.

Trustees Tuberculosis Sanitarium.

Governor Kitchin issues commissions to Dr. L. E. Green, Weldon; J. D. Daws, Elizabeth City, and W. E. Breese, Jr., Brevard, as members of the board of trustees for the North Carolina Tuberculosis sanitarium.

Postal Bank for Raleigh.

Raleigh is to have a Postal Savings bank some time about July first. This information was conveyed to Senator Overman at the postoffice department, where he called to confer about other matters.

Two Districts Vote Social Tax.

State Superintendent J. Y. Joyner has received notification of the voting of special tax in two districts; Cain-Lewisden, Bertie county, and the other in the South Mills district in Camden county. Part of the money from the South Mills district will be used to construct a \$100,000 school building.

The Corporation commission has issued a call for a statement of the condition of state banks at the close of business June 7.