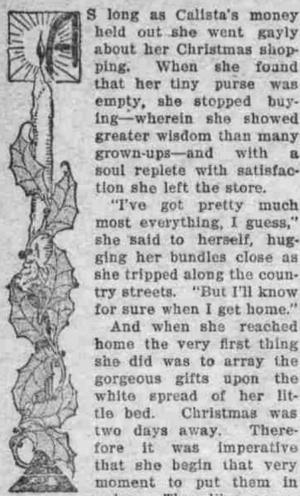


The Gift That Tipped the Scales

By LILLIAN DUCEY

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As long as Callista's money held out she went gaily about her Christmas shopping. When she found that her tiny purse was empty, she stopped buying—wherein she showed greater wisdom than many grown-ups—and with a soul reprieved with satisfaction she left the store.

"I've got pretty much most everything, I guess," she said to herself, hugging her bundles close as she tripped along the country streets. "But I'll know for sure when I get home."

And when she reached home the very first thing she did was to array the gorgeous gifts upon the white spread of her little bed. Christmas was two days away. Therefore it was imperative that she begin that very moment to put them in order. Then like an embodied cyclone she burst into her elder sister's room, intent upon tissue paper and seals and all the other necessities for making beautiful Christmas bundles.

What Callista saw there made her freeze in her tracks, as if the high wind of Destiny, which had borne her thus far, had suddenly become a dead calm. Margaret, her beautiful, lovely Margaret was standing with tightened lips that twitched and quivered. In her hand, which hastily dropped to her side, but not before Callista had seen, was clutched a photograph. And the whispered words on her lips repeated themselves over and over in Callista's mind, while amazement held her dumb. "It grows worse, the ache—worse as the days go by." Not until Callista had interpreted the meaning of those words did she find her voice; then she said blandly:

"I came for—I'm wrapping up my Christmas bundles." Seeing what she wanted lying on Margaret's desk, she went for them.

Meanwhile, a brave control touched the quivering lips of the elder girl. She was indeed fortunate, she thought, that it was only Callista who had discovered her momentary aberration. For that was what it was. How could it be anything else? What girl with any pride would allow herself to—No, she hadn't cried! The man did not live who could make her weep for him.

"You'll return what you don't need, Callista, dear?" she said, sweetly.

"Yes," answered Callista briefly, and went.

And then, just to prove to herself that she had regained her sanity, Margaret Wesley looked again at that picture in her hand—looked, and felt a quick contraction of the throat, a sudden piercing sting upon her eyeballs. And down upon the picture dropped a tear.

Callista, on the other side of the door, was saying to herself:

"She was going to cry. Her eyes were teary. It was Jasper's picture she was trying to hide." And then, childlike, in spite of her surprise the gathering forces of her sympathy were completely overwhelmed to the demands of Christmas. And why not? After all, Callista's mind was too youthful to be deeply concerned about lover's quarrels and broken engagements and such things. And she had made such marvelous purchases.

Indeed as they lay spread out on the bed it did seem as if only a genius or a little girl could have reached such decisions. There was a really lovely box of handkerchiefs, embellished with the pinkest of pink paper, for mother. That gift had put a tremendous hole in her pocketbook. And a pair of suspenders for daddy. These two presents were the first purchased, and while Callista still held the leash in her fancy. Afterward, let the sad truth be revealed at once (but then Callista was such a little girl, how could she be expected to prove bigger minded and stronger than grownups?), she succumbed to this intoxication of glittering, gleaming, glowing displayed wares.

"For brother Jim—that nice green tie," Callista hummed softly to herself—a tune improvised for the occasion. "For sister Nell—that story book. I hope she reads it all to me. And baby boy can have that rattle. Uncle Fred that nice glass pitcher." She paused and added sotto voce: "I got it in the beautiful Ten Cent store. And he's going to be married, so he can use it." Then the song went on—

"And Auntie Madge that box of soap." That was from the Ten Cent store also, but then each cake was done up in shiny red paper, and there were three cakes in a box. "And sister Kate a string of beads." "Once more the song reverted to everyday speech: "Maybe she'll lend them to me once in a while 'cause I gave them to her." "And sister Margaret—" Callista paused aghast. The one thing that

had not been apportioned was a tiny set of dishes—also from that beautiful Ten Cent store. She looked over the gifts. Some were already wrapped, for all the while she sang her nimble fingers had been busy. But her genius solved the problem.

"Well," she said reflectively, "she can use them for an ornament on her desk maybe, and I'll promise to dust them for her. I like little dishes."

But having cleared that hurdle another presented itself almost immediately. On a flooding onset of memory Callista remembered that she had fully intended when she started out to get something for Jasper—the brother that was to have been, but now wasn't to be, as she explained it to her mind. For in Callista's loyal little heart burned a steady flame of liking for the man who could treat little girls with the consideration he had bestowed upon her.

This was a dilemma. And for the moment Callista actually thought of robbing her real brother Jim of the glorious green tie. Jim, just two years older, was a "pig" to her sometimes. But then she remembered that Jasper never wore any but black ones on account of his red hair, as he had explained to her at one time.

It was indeed a perplexing problem to say the least. For had it been any one but Jasper she might confide in some one—her mother, or even Margaret—and negotiate a loan.

"I guess he'll have to go without," she concluded almost sadly. And curiously a dusk of dreams crept into her blue eyes. "Unless—unless I give him something of my own." But a mental review of her most cherished possessions failed to reveal anything suitable for a big grown-up man. Then even as she gave up the problem her despairing musing awoke to life with a delighted, "Oh!" As she pondered she had been gazing directly at the framed picture of Margaret which stood on her little dresser.

Callista was nothing if not masterful in the manner in which she reached ultimate decisions—and then lived up to them. Less than a minute after she had allotted Jasper that forget-me-not framed face she was also promising him a note. For Callista really had a fellow feeling of understanding for the man—especially about that picture.

"Dear brother Jasper, that was to have been," her letter ran. "I am sending you for a Christmas present the picture of Margaret which you returned when you sent back the other presents she gave you. I know you will like to have it again. I know how you feel. Just most like the day I threw the peanuts at Kitty Marshall's head when she put them in my lap and I was mad at her. Only being a big man and not a little girl you can't do 'xactly what I did. Of course

had touched her. But the next moment, as if remembering that this bearing must be endured, she answered sweetly:

"No, dear."

"That's funny," Callista had noted the start and now was taking shy stock of her. "I didn't either. And I thought he'd give one of us a Christmas present."

Margaret added nothing to prolong this conversation, and apparently Callista was too intent upon going her own way in thought to continue it perforce, for silence fell between them.

And it was into this silence that the telephone tore vehemently.

"Let me! Let me!" shouted Callista. And before Margaret could utter a word of protest she had the receiver. Then assuming an important air of grown-upness she attended to the affair in hand.

"Hello! Yes, this is 4237 J. Yes, this is Callista. Oh! Did you like it? Did you? I—yes. I thought you would!"

For a moment she slipped her very proper telephone manner and became the eager little girl. The next she was back again doubly dignified of tone.

"I suppose you didn't give any Christmas presents this year. Margaret says you didn't give her any—I asked her—and you didn't send me anything."

"Callista!" It was Margaret's voice, quivering, questioning. "Who?"

Callista was intent on the phone. "Yes," she was saying, "you saw them going to Auntie Madge's. Yes, all but Margaret and me. Yes, of course she'll talk to you—when I got through. Now! You can't wait to hear her voice! I must say Jasper Hemingway that you're very rude and impolite. I wanted to tell you about all the Christmas presents I got. Yes, I will be mad. I am. But I'll tell her."

Meanwhile a white face waited at Callista's side. From it great tear washed eyes stared incredulously.

"Here—" Callista was oblivious to the insistent tide of human emotion surging about her, as she held the receiver toward Margaret. "He says to tell you he was in the wrong and he's ready to go down on his knees to ask you to forgive him. And he says to emphasize the 'down on your knees.'"

Margaret put out a hand. It was a wild yearning gesture with which she bent to hear that voice. And Callista, going into the next room, noted the sudden light that flew to her face. Incredibly transformed she was from the dream-haunted girl of a few moments ago. And without really understanding how she, a little girl, had made a hot-tempered man ashamed of himself, Callista yet knew that she had tipped the scales of chance.

Callista was steeped in bliss, but not any more so than if she had received but two or three of the many, many gifts heaped upon her by adoring relatives. And it was not until afternoon that her maze of joy began to take on coherency, and she began to link in her mind the gifts to their donors. Then it was that she remembered her sister's former betrothed.

"Did you receive anything from Jasper, Margaret?" she blurted out. Fortunately they were alone, the rest of the family having gone to Aunt Madge's house for a little visit. But since Callista had a cold, Margaret stayed at home with her.

Margaret, who had been staring with dream-haunted eyes into vacancy, started as if some white hot brand



That's Funny.

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"I did it," she whispered to herself. "My Christmas present made him glad again."

Hard Times Sure. Brown—You mustn't feel disappointed this Christmas, Johnnie. These are terrible times we're having.

Little Johnnie—They must be pretty hard, dad, when Santa Claus takes the trouble to drag my old cart out of the lumber-room and give it a new coat of paint.

Cause for Sorrow. Photographer (taking family group)—Now, then, Mr. Housefull, the expressions are all right but yours. Try to look happy; remember that Christmas is coming.

Mr. Housefull (despondently)—Hang it, man, that's just what I am thinking about.

NOTICE.

VALUABLE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR SALE.

Under and by virtue of a deed of trust executed in duplicate to the undersigned, Henry E. King, Trustee, dated November 12, 1909, and registered in Book 58, page 167, and following pages in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in Tyrrell County, North Carolina, and in Book 54, page 240, and following pages in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in Washington County, North Carolina, the said Harry E. King, Trustee, will offer for sale at public bidding, for cash, in accordance with the terms of the said deed of trust at the courthouse door in Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina, on the 8th day of January, 1914, at twelve o'clock M. the following described real estate and personal property lying and being in Washington and Tyrrell Counties, North Carolina:

Each and all of the several tracts of land described in a deed from Metrah Makely and wife to The Tarraut Land & Lumber Company, registered in Book No. 47, at page 472 and following, in Washington County, and in Book No. 52, at page 179 and following, in Tyrrell County, North Carolina, and consisting of certain lands situated in Washington and Tyrrell Counties, respectively, in North Carolina, together with all buildings, all growing timber, and the saw mill, boilers, engines, dry kilns, sheds, dredge, locomotives, cars, railroad tracks, rails for railroad, skidders, and all other machines and machinery and all implements, tools and appliances of every kind, nature and description, and all of the other improvements upon or about said premises, and the privileges and appurtenances unto said premises belonging; said lands lying and being in the State of North Carolina, being described as follows:

Those several tracts of land described in a deed from Charles L. Pettigrew and others to M. Makely, registered in Book No. 30, page 590 in Washington County, and in Book No. 39, pages 214, etc., in Tyrrell County, and consisting of the following tracts of land:

a. The Bonava plantation, beginning on Lake Phelps, now called Lake Scuppernon, at the great Garing place, a marked cypress in the Lake, referred to in the deed from Josiah Collins to the Rev. Chas. Pettigrew, dated April 3, 1781, and still the corner of the Bonava and Somerset tracts, the latter formerly belonging to Josiah Collins; thence north 45 degrees east along Somerset tract 170 poles to a sycamore, at the place where the late Ebenezer Pettigrew's ditch was; thence north 28 1-2 degrees east along a line of marked trees, the Collins & Pettigrew line, 400 poles to a large cypress, one pole from the northeastern edge of the six foot ditch, called the lower gate ditch; thence running parallel with the said ditch one pole distant, south 60 degrees east, 1440 poles to the Pettigrew back line; thence along said back line south 82 degrees west 1100 poles to John Wynn's northeast corner; thence south 40 poles; thence south 15 degrees east 192 poles; thence north 65 degrees west 70 poles; thence south 25 degrees west 160 poles; thence north 65 degrees west 100 poles to a cypress in the Lake; thence along the Lake to the beginning point, containing five thousand acres, more or less.

These courses and distances are taken from a survey made in 1819. For further description of this land reference is made to a deed from Ebenezer Pettigrew to Chas. L. Pettigrew dated January 27, 1848.

b. Also four tracts of land lying on the southwest side of the said Lake, the first containing two hundred acres more or less, the second containing eighteen hundred acres more or less, the third containing seventeen hundred acres more or less, and the fourth containing two thousand acres more or less—all fully described in a deed from Mary Collins, executrix, to Mary B. Brown, dated July 21, 1859, recorded in the records of Washington County, Book "N", page 242, and by her conveyed to Metrah Makely and wife, reference to which is made for fuller description Second.

The lands described in a deed from Andrew Bateman and others, dated December 4, 1889, and registered in Book No. 37, page 496, etc., consisting of the following tracts:

A tract of land lying in South Fork Township, Tyrrell County, North Carolina, known as the Magnolia Plantation, and the White Oak Island tract, situated between Lake Phelps and Scuppernon River, adjoining the lands formerly owned by C. L. Pettigrew, Harvey Terry and others, containing five thousand acres, more or less, and more fully described in a mortgage deed from C. L. Pettigrew to Nell McKay, which is recorded in Book No. 27, page 53, office of the Registrar of Deeds for Tyrrell County, and in a deed from McKay to H. W. Bateman, which is recorded in the same office, Book No. 34, page 242, and also the last will and testament of H. W. Bateman, called William H. Bateman, dated June 21, 1886, and duly proven and recorded on the 5th day of September, 1886, Book of Wills, in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Tyrrell County, reference to which deed is hereby made for full description.

Third. Those tracts of land conveyed by W. D. Pruden, trustee, to the said Makely, by deed dated 24th of April, 1896, recorded in Washington County, Book No. 34, page 268.

a. Three thousand acres, more or less, lying on the north side of Lake Scuppernon, adjoining Western Plantation, being the same land devised to Mary Matilda and Henrietta E. Collins by Josiah Collins, the elder, their grandfather.

b. Lying on the west side of Lake Scuppernon, devised by the said Collins to his granddaughter, Louisa M. Collins, and conveyed and described in a deed from W. A. Stickney and the said Louisa M., his wife, to Herbert H. Page, registered in Washington County, Book "Q", page 547, containing two thousand acres, more or less.

Both of these tracts of land are particularly described and platted under the will of Josiah Collins, the elder, dated 1819, and recorded in Will Book "C", pages 73 to 76 in Chowan County, North Carolina, to which record reference is made for full description.

c. One hundred acres, more or less, and bounded south by Lake Scuppernon, east by the lands first described, west by the lands next described, and for further description see the deed from Arthur Collins to H. H. Page, dated January 26, 1878, registered in Washington County, Book "Q", page 454.

All the lands above described are subject to the reservations and exceptions hereinafter particularly set out. Fourth. A tract of land conveyed in a deed from James Sprunt and others, dated November 12, 1903, and registered in Tyrrell County, North Carolina, December 4, 1903, in Book —, page 517, which lands are particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the monument on the southernmost point of Lake Phelps standing two poles from the edge of the Lake; thence south 12 1-2 chains to a two inch cast-iron pipe; thence east 261 chains to the Orr line (three degrees variation being allowed on the two lines above mentioned, so as to correspond with the Orr line; thence with the Orr line north to Makely's Bonava land; thence with the said land to the Lake, and with Lake westwardly to the beginning, containing 2,800 acres, more or less.

Fifth. All the interest of the said Makely and wife, Mollie Makely, in and to a certain tract of land described in a deed from C. R. Johnson and wife, to the said Makely, dated March 5, 1898, and recorded in Book 45, pages 23 and 29 in Tyrrell County, described as follows:

Two tracts of land in South Fork Township, Tyrrell County, adjoining the lands of the said Makely and others, the first tract having been conveyed to C. R. Johnson by Jesse Bateman and wife in 1895, and the second tract conveyed to the said C. R. Johnson by Geo. W. Bateman and wife in the year 1895, said two tracts of land containing by estimation two hundred (200) acres more or less, and for full description reference is made to the said deed from Jesse and Geo. W. Bateman to the said Johnson.

Sixth. Twenty-four (24) acres of land, more or less, conveyed by Geo. W. Bateman to M. Makely, by deed dated December 23, 1898, and registered in Tyrrell County, Book No. 43, page 274, known as the Veau Land and adjoining the lands of Alfred Alexander and C. R. Johnson and being the same conveyed by B. Jones, Sheriff, to S. D. Wynn, August 1, 1887, and recorded in Book No. 35, page 541.

Save and except, however, from said lands above described the following:

1. The Pettigrew family burial ground and the land belonging thereto, described in a deed to the Vestry of St. Paul's Church, Edenton, North Carolina, recorded in Tyrrell County, Book No. 13, page 62, dated June 15, 1846, and a right of way to and from the same to the Pettigrew family and to all others having the right to use the same.

2. A small school house for negroes on the Bonava Plantation, conveyed by Makely heretofore to a School Committee, and being about fifty feet square, but for particular description see Makely's deed duly recorded in Tyrrell County.

3. The lot about one hundred feet square conveyed by the said Makely to a white Baptist Church, being part of the Magnolia Plantation, and particularly described in Makely's deed to the said church.

4. A school lot for whites about one hundred feet square on the Magnolia Plantation, and adjoining the church property last above described and particularly described in Makely's deed duly recorded.

5. That part of the Bonava tract on the south side of Lake Phelps, which was conveyed by Makely to James Sprunt, and others by deed dated November, 1903, in exchange for the property which James Sprunt and others conveyed to Makely, being No. 4 above, and which is particularly described in Makely's deed to Sprunt aforesaid, to which reference is made for particular description. Seventh.

Also all mills, engines, dry kilns, sheds, dredge, locomotives, cars, railroad tracks, rails for railroads, skidders and all other machines and machinery, and all implements, tools and appliances now on or belonging to said premises above described and hereby conveyed, or which may be hereafter bought, obtained or added in any way by said Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company, its successors or assigns, until the full payment and satisfaction of the indebtedness hereby secured.

Land & Lumber Company to W. D. Pruden, November 3, 1904, registered in Book No. 47, at page 478 and following pages, in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in Washington County, North Carolina, and in Book No. 51, at page 481 and following pages, in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in Tyrrell County, North Carolina, and any sale made under this notice will be made subject to said prior line.

November 15, 1913.
HARRY E. KING, Trustee.

NOTICE.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, N. C.

Under and by virtue of a judgment and ancillary order rendered in the action, James E. Adams vs. Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company, at October Term, 1913, Superior Court of Washington County, North Carolina, and duly docketed therein.

The undersigned Commissioner and Referee will sell for cash at public sale at the Court House Door in Plymouth, North Carolina at 12 M., on December 27th, 1913 all of the land, title and interest including equities of redemption which the said Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company may have in any and all lands in Washington County, North Carolina, which said lands are more particularly described in the judgment in said cause mentioned above and in the warrant of attachment and return thereto in this action. Reference being had to same for a more complete description.

1st. First tract fully described in the will of Josiah Collins to Mary and Henrietta Collins, and recorded in Will Book C, page 72, Chowan County, North Carolina, containing 2,843 acres.

2nd. Second tract marked Louisa Collins upon the plot attached to the said will of Josiah Collins, containing 1,654 acres.

3rd. Third tract containing 1,709 acres and described as the third tract in the levy of Sheriff J. E. Reid of record in Washington County, North Carolina in this cause.

4th. Fourth tract 100 acres of land fully described in a deed from Arthur Collins to H. H. Page, Book Q, page 454, Public Registry of Washington County, North Carolina.

5th. Fifth tract containing 50 acres formerly owned by Joseph Phelps at the West end of Orchard Tract fully described in said levy of attachment.

Said lands being a part of the premises which the Tarraut Land & Lumber Company conveyed to the Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company, by deed dated May 18th, 1909, and registered in Washington County, North Carolina. It being the purpose to advertise and sell all of the lands described in the warrant of attachment levied by J. E. Reid, sheriff of Washington County, North Carolina, upon the lands of the Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company as will more fully appear by reference to his return in this action dated September 23rd, 1913 and regularly docketed in said county.

Said lands being subject to the terms of three deeds of trust of record in said county as follows:

Tarraut Land & Lumber Company to W. D. Pruden.

Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company to H. E. King.

Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company to R. D. Beardsley.

This 26th day of November, 1913
W. M. BOND, JR.,
Commissioner and Referee.

NOTICE.

TYRRELL COUNTY, N. C.

Under and by virtue of a judgment and ancillary order in the cause entitled James E. Adams vs. Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company rendered at October Term, 1913 of the Superior Court of Washington County, North Carolina and duly docketed in the Superior Court of Washington County and Tyrrell County.

The undersigned Commissioner and Referee will sell for cash at public sale at the Court House Door in Columbia, Tyrrell County, North Carolina on December 29, 1913 at 12 M., all of the right, title and interest which the said Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company has in any and all lands in the said county of Tyrrell. Said lands being fully described in said judgment and the return to the warrant of attachment. Said return being of record in Tyrrell County, Clerk Superior Court office, and being dated September 26th, 1913. Said lands being more particularly described as the Bonary and Magnolia Tracts, together with additions thereto, containing in all 15,000 acres, more or less, and being those tracts and parcels of land fully described in a deed from the Tarraut Land & Lumber Company to the said Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company dated May 12th, 1909, and registered in D Book, Volume 59, page 569.

It being the purpose of the undersigned Commissioner to sell all of the lands which the said Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company may own in the said County of Tyrrell. Said land being subject to the term of three deeds of trust of record in said county as follows:

Tarraut Land & Lumber Company to W. D. Pruden.

Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company to H. E. King.

Pittsburg Land & Lumber Company to R. D. Beardsley.

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