

# A Woman of Her Word

By Clara Inez Deacon

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Elisha Ridgeway was a simple man of forty and lived on a farm alone and made his own bed and did his own cooking. Time after time he was asked why he didn't marry, and time after time his reply was:

"Mebbe I orter and mebbe not. I dunno 'bout it."

But there came a time when he did know. It was about a year after the death of farmer Baker. Elisha had known him and his wife for ten years. For twelve months he went over and helped the widow out as a duty, but one day he stopped his horses at the plow and rubbed his chin in a reflective way and said to himself:

"Gosh all fish-hooks, but I guess I ought to marry Nancy! That hired man of hers needs a man to boss him, and some of her cows are always ailin' or the hogs havin' the cholera. Elisha Ridgeway, it's your duty."

That evening he went over to see the widow. He was more quiet than usual, and by and by she took notice and asked:

"Lisha, anything on your mind?"

"Jest a leetle," was the reply.

"Tater-bugs ain't come, have they?"

"Haven't got a squint of a single one."

"Didn't lose any turkeys by the last cold rain?"

"Noap. What's on my mind, Nancy, is gettin' married."

"For the land's sake!"

"Yes, I thought you'd me would get married."

"Hear the man talk!"

"Yes, I'm a-talkin'. Thought it all over this afternoon. Better set the weddin' day."

Elisha Ridgeway was a good-natured man and meant well, but he made a mistake. He made it because he was an old bachelor. It did not occur to him that a woman must be won. Even a cross-eyed, lop-shouldered woman isn't going to be picked up and lugged off to the altar without enough hanging back to save appearances. Had Elisha been courting for even a month things might have been different, but he hadn't courted at all. He had simply sat on the porch with the widow and talked crops and country gossip. There had been glorious sunsets and silvery moons and songs by the whippoorwill, but not so much as a sigh from him. And there was something

else to obstruct the way. The widow looked at him for a moment and then said:

"Lisha, there ain't goin' to be no weddin' day!"

"But why?"

"In the first place I'm all eat up with astonishment, and in the next you must have heard what Sarah Jones said the day my husband was buried?"

"Don't remember."

"But I do, and so does a heap of other folks. She keeps quiet for a minute and then nods her head and says:

"You jest put it down in black and white that Nancy Baker will marry agin as soon as the year is up."

"Yes, Lisha, them are her very words, and more'n a dozen women have got 'em writ down. D'ye think I'm goin' to let the words of that old grasswidow come true? No sires!"

"But it's over a year," he protested.

"Yes, it's thirteen months, one day and two hours, to be exact, but Sarah Jones would giggle just the same."

**Sun Power Wasted.**

Measurements have shown that on a clear, sunny day the sun transmitted to the earth energy which corresponded to about 7,000 horsepower per acre. At present all that is practically wasted, or rather generally utilized in calities where any addition in temperature could well be dispensed with. Attempts have been made to utilize this enormous supply of energy, but not with any great measure of success.

**Woman an Active Politician.**

Rough and Ready, Cal., is lucky enough to have for registrars of voters Miss Mamie Morrison, an expert horsewoman who is highly popular, and she has made a new record by hunting up every voter in her bailiwick, spending ten hours a day in the saddle. She takes her book to county dances, too, and not a man or woman escapes without registering.—Indianapolis News.

**Speculation.**

Most people speculate because they believe there are bigger fools than themselves who will draw the blanks.

**Two Youths Killed in Wreck.**

Hendersonville.—Otto Edney and Ernest Hill, aged 15 and 13 years, respectively, Hendersonville boys were killed in a Southern freight wreck at Naples, 4 miles north of here, while hobnobbing from Asheville. Medical attention was given them, but both died about the same time while being brought to this city in an auto truck. Their bodies were badly bruised. The cause of the wreck is unknown. The track was torn up for some distance and traffic was delayed for a number of hours.

**Commissioners Have Been Issued.**

Raleigh.—The following commissions have been issued from the Adjutant General's office: Mr. George L. Lyster, of Hickory, as Captain of Company "A," First Infantry. Mr. J. H. Kivitt, of Asheville, as Captain of Company "A," Third Infantry. Mr. Leo E. Byrum, of Oxford, as Second Lieutenant of Company "E," Third Infantry. Mr. George L. Pittman, of Goldsboro, Second Lieutenant, Battalion Commissary and Quartermaster of Third Infantry.

**Big Fire Does Much Damage.**

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## Hard to Get in a Word

Charles Rann Kennedy, the playwright, holds the American and English record for talking, according to the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Times-Star. Mr. Kennedy glories in talk. He revels in it. He can talk more on any given subject than any other playwright on earth. He can talk without a subject. He will furnish his own topic or talk on yours. It makes no difference to him. All he asks is a listener. He has all the rest of the works. Once Mr. Kennedy's manager dropped his watch while visiting the playwright.

"Let me have that watch," said Kennedy. "I know a fine watchmaker, and I'll take it to him for repairs."

A week later the manager dropped in. Mr. Kennedy began to talk. By and by the manager made a few futile movements of his hands, waved his hat in adieu and went away.

The next day the manager called on Mr. Kennedy again. Mr. Kennedy began to talk. The manager said at intervals:

"I thought from what Jim said when he found he'd got to go that he expected us to get married."

"Mebbe he did, but we ain't goin' to—not yet, anyway. Lisha, I'm a woman of my word. When I heard of what Sarah Jones said I said to myself that I wouldn't marry agin under five years at least, and I'll keep my word."

There was a groan from poor Elisha that touched her heart, and her voice was sympathetic as she said:

"I ain't sayin' that I don't like you, but I'm sayin' you'll have to wait four years more."

Another long-drawn groan.

"But you come over and court. Courtin' is next to marryin'."

Elisha groaned some more, but the widow Baker was implacable. Four years more if it killed her stone dead! It was a lonely man that went home to a lonely house.

The very next day, while he was at the plow again, he heard the widow calling for help and started on the run to the rescue. A couple of tramps had invaded the farmhouse and were making threats. Elisha went for them like a locomotive running away. He banged them and slammed them, and slammed them, and booted them, and when they had crawled away to the road the grateful widow said to him:

"Lisha, I hate to break my word, but we'll take a year off them four and make the time three."

The old bachelor sighed over it, but went his way. Three years was not as long as four, no matter what almanac one had in the house.

Luck is erratic. She will slam-bang a man one day, and let him find a fat wallet in the road on the next. In this case, she didn't slam-bang at all. She just cuddled up to Elisha and told him to go ahead and she would back him.

Two days after the tramp episode the widow Baker raised a ladder beside the house to tie up a growing vine, and by a bit of carelessness she lost her hold and hung head downwards. It was Elisha that came to her rescue again, and it was the woman who, after drinking a pint of brandy to steady her nerves, looked up at him with grateful eyes and said:

"Lisha Ridgeway, I'm a woman of my word, but I'll be annumed if I don't take a year off them three, leaving only two for you to wait! But for Elisha I'd be a dead woman now."

Elisha thought of the two long years and sighed and went his way with a feeling that Luck might keep things going. She did. Only three days later, when he went to carry back a borrowed hoe, he found the widow Baker in the well, where she had been for three long hours, and was chilled through and through. In drawing a bucket of water she had leaned too far over the curb.

"I was praying for you to come," she said with chattering teeth as he looked down at her.

"You tie the end of the rope around you when I let it down. Stop! Does this take off another year?"

"Lisha, you know I'm a woman of my word," was the reply.

"You are, Nancy."

"I said four years and then three years, and now, though I know how Sarah Jones will giggle, I'm goin' to knock off still another year."

"Good for you! Come up!"

One year now—only one! Elisha wondered if Luck was going to turn on him or continue being good. If he could only smash that other year!

He had his opportunity. There came a thunderstorm one midnight, and the bolt that struck the widow Baker's house and set it afire raised him out of bed and sent him running. The rain, aided by a few palls of water, doused the flames, and some more hard effort brought the widow clear of the shock. She had given herself up for dead. After she could talk Elisha seemed to expect her to say something. She realized that he did, and therefore led off:

"Lisha, I'm a woman of my word! I said five years, and then four—three—two."

"And now, Nancy?"

"Sarah Jones is goin' to giggle."

**Patritotic Sons of America.**

Concord.—At the meeting of the Patritotic Sons of America state officers were elected as follows: M. G. Ray, Raleigh, president; S. R. Swink, High Point, vice president; Z. P. Smith, Fayetteville, recording secretary; H. H. Koonce, Lexington, master of forms; T. Ivey, Cary, treasurer; J. D. Jimison, Marion, conductor; P. A. Peeler, Faith, inspector; P. G. Cook, Concord, guard; M. C. Reeves, Winston-Salem, trustee. James D. Patten secretary of the national camp, made an able address.

**Lillington.—**Harnett county is three-fourths for Wilson. The reports to the contrary are misleading.

**Asheville.—**James L. Wagner, who has been assistant postmaster at Asheville for the past 14 years, resigned, his resignation to take effect at once, for the purpose of removing to Muskogee, Okla., where he will engage in business with O. D. Revell, formerly of this city.

**Raleigh.—**Locomotive Engineer R. Seward secured from the supreme court an order for a new trial in his damage suit against the Seaboard Air Line, in which a non-suit was entered in the trial below, the court holding that there was evidence presented that the jury should pass upon.

**Rocky Mount.—**Claiming that John Davis, colored, had taken five dollars and some cents and a quart of liquor from him, J. W. Lyles, a white man, shot and killed the negro. The shooting occurred at South Rocky Mount, near the railroad shops.

**Henderson.—**Several days ago Elijah Ball shot R. T. Williams twice. It is said that Ball went to spend the night with Williams at whose house the shooting occurred. Ball is at large and Williams is in the hospital in a precarious condition. Whiskey, it is said, was at the bottom of the trouble.

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## FRUIT PROSPECTS

EVERYTHING IS FAVORABLE FOR A HEAVY CROP OF FRUIT IN NORTH CAROLINA.

### HAD HESITATED IN REPORT

Past Winter Was Unusually Severe in the South and Fruit Trees Were Kept in Dormant Condition—Month Later in Blooming.

Raleigh.—Mr. W. N. Hutt, state horticulturist, has given out the following concerning fruit prospects in North Carolina:

"I have hesitated in giving a report of fruit prospects in North Carolina until I was sure that the mantle of Jack Frost had safely passed beyond the borders of the state. At every report of a drop in temperature in the Northwest and Mississippi regions, the Southern fruit growers would wait with bated breath to see if the cold wave would be fierce enough to extend over its protecting barrier of mountains.

"The past winter was unusually severe in the South and fruit trees were kept in a perfectly dormant condition until much later in spring than is usual for this part of the country. They were not in bloom this season until nearly a month later than they were last year. This very much shortened the danger period of possible injury from cold.

"In a comparison of reports for the last thirty years, the United States Weather Bureau has set April 20th as an average date for the last killing frost in spring for the general fruit region of North Carolina, but occasionally cold spells have occurred as late as May 10th. This extreme date has now safely been passed at which the fruit can be injured by cold. There has not been a single setback, but everything has been most favorable to a heavy set of fruit. Trees all over the state have bloomed profusely and the 'set' of all kinds of fruit has been exceptionally heavy. There has been no untoward weather since to cause much dropping and the fruit has developed so rapidly that in spite of the late spring it is now about as big as in the average season.

"There will be urgent need this year for thinning of peaches and apples all over the state."

**Wife Murderer Gets Reprieve.**

Raleigh.—The Nash county wife murderer, G. G. Wilkins, who was to die in the electric chair here gets a reprieve from Governor Kitchin to June 7th. There will be presented to the governor in the meantime a petition for commutation to life imprisonment. The solicitor of the district has added his request for commutation, intimating that he may decide to recommend commutation. The evidence was that Wilkins' wife had been forced to leave him and that he went to her mother's house where she was stopping and shot her, then buried her body under the corn crib.

**Mistrial Ordered in Brewer Case.**

Asheville.—After deliberating on the case of Wes Brewer, alias John Huff, charged with the murder of Patrolman McConnell last July, the jury came in to the court room and informed Judge Long that they were unable to agree, consequently a juror was withdrawn and a mistrial ordered.

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## NEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Short Paragraphs of State News That Have Been Gotten Together With Care by the Editor.

Washington.—Representatives Page, Pou, Godwin, Stedman and Doughton of the North Carolina delegation voted against the Doremus substitute providing for free tolls in the Panama canal to ships flying the American flag. The measure passed. Mr. Small was the only North Carolinian that voted for it. Webb, Gudger and Kitchin were out of the city.

Durham.—Dr. W. W. Gardner of Washington, of the Agricultural Department, R. W. Scott of Alamance, member of the North Carolina agricultural board, and J. L. Burgess of A. and M. College, were in the city looking into the matter of locating a test farm for tobacco. From here they went to Oxford, where they will look over the farming land in that section. After making a thorough inspection they will decide on and buy the land offering the best advantages.

Louisburg.—The regular Democratic convention for Franklin county, held for the purpose of nominating candidates for the various offices, was very harmonious, and there were no spirited contests, the primaries having settled the matter in the majority of instances. Chairman, Gen. J. S. Carr; auditor, W. H. Rogers; secretary, M. H. Jones. The teachers are to be elected at the June meeting.

Durham.—At a meeting of the board of education, held in the office of Gen. Julian S. Carr, chairman of the board, Mr. E. J. Green was elected superintendent of the city graded schools for the coming year to succeed himself. Other officers of the school board that were elected were: Chairman, Gen. J. S. Carr; auditor, W. H. Rogers; secretary, M. H. Jones. The teachers are to be elected at the June meeting.

Washington.—Of the 25 North Carolina claims in the omnibus bill as it passed the House only 9 remain in the bill as it was reported by the Senate committee on claims. The House proposed to pay off an enormous number of claims approved by the court which grew out of damages to private property through its use or destruction by Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Wilson.—W. J. Strickland, an alleged blind tiger, who on March 4th approached Rev. R. L. Davis, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, said: "D— you, you are the man who reported me, and who was tried by Mayor Dickinson and fined \$25 and costs and who appealed from his decision, was up before Judge Frank Carter. After hearing the statements of Mr. Strickland and Rev. Mr. Davis, Judge Carter affirmed the decision by Mayor Dickinson and added to the fine and costs imposed by the Mayor the costs in the superior court."

Newton.—The preferential primary idea failed to work smoothly in Catawba county and three days after the primary was held the candidates themselves, together with the primary election officials and the party headquarters men, know no more about who has been nominated for county treasurer than they did three days before the primary. There are no returns to date about this contest and no information about the whole vote cast.

Raleigh.—A Wake superior court jury returned a verdict for \$10,000 damages for the plaintiff in the case of George B. Fleming against the Norfolk and Southern Railroad Company. Fleming sued for \$50,000 for personal injuries sustained in a wreck in August, 1910, in the Raleigh yard. He was engineer on an incoming passenger train that collided with yard engine, the engine which was attempting to get out to a siding without orders. The latter was killed.

Asheville.—James L. Wagner,