

AUTHOR OF A GREAT STORY



Isabel Gordon Curtis.

Isabel Gordon Curtis, author of "The Lapse of Enoch Wentworth," is one of the best-known literary women of America and for years her name has been familiar to readers of household and farm periodicals and of fiction. She was born fifty years ago in Huntley, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and after receiving an academic education in that country, came to the United States in 1886. For several years she did general literary work, and then she was successively literary editor of the New England Homestead and Farm and Home, dramatic editor of the Springfield Homestead, associated with her husband, Francis Curtis, as editor of the Binghamton Chronicle; associate editor of Good Housekeeping, and editor of the woman's department of Success Magazine. In addition to all these activities, she has found time since 1903 to do a great deal of general magazine work and juvenile story writing, and in recent years has written several novels that proved highly successful and popular. Some of these deal with official and social life in Washington, with which Mrs. Curtis is thoroughly familiar and which she portrays with vivid reality.

The greatest work Mrs. Curtis has produced, "The Lapse of Enoch Wentworth," is a story of the New York stage and New York newspaper life. It is a story with a high moral purpose, and one which holds the interest of the reader to the end. The reviewers generally have pronounced it one of the greatest of American novels.

It is with considerable pleasure that we are able to announce that we have arranged for the serial publication rights on this story, the first installment of which will appear soon. We earnestly advise all readers to watch for it.

DWIGHT NOTES

G. M. Kime went to Indiana Monday.

Frank L. Smiths vs. Morris Reds Sunday, July 26.—Adv.

Pay Your Water Rent.

All water rents (due July 1st) must be paid by July 25th. All patrons whose accounts are not paid by that time will be deprived of the use of the city water until the bill is paid.—By Order of Committee. Adv.

Only Silk Hose Really Correct

The dainty shoes of today's mode should only be worn with silk hose. Any other hosiery detracts so much from the style and novelty of such fetching creations as this Parisian slipper shown here.

The woman of good taste will find in our showing of Phoenix Silk Hosiery just the shades which she most desires. And she will find hose of unequalled value—hose knitted from real Thread Silk, priced within reach of practically every purse.

A new pair to replace each pair that does not give satisfactory wear.

HERMAN DEUTSCH

What the Clock Said

A Medieval Romance

By F. A. MITCHEL

In the year 1370 a holiday was proclaimed in the town of Strassburg. The occasion for rejoicing was the setting up of a clock in a tower built for the purpose, where all citizens could see it and note the time of day. This was the second clock of which we have any account, the first having been placed six years before in a tower in the palace of Charles V. of France. There were no pendulums to these primitive clocks, the regulators being flywheels. But since the flywheel was resisted by the air it acted imperfectly, as any one may see by watching a windmill which turns as fast or as slowly as the current that moves it.

Nevertheless the good people of Strassburg, who had been always obliged to regulate their movements by the sun, which rose very early in summer and late in winter, were delighted at now having something that would divide the day for them, telling them what time to go to work in the morning, when to have meals and when to go to bed. The day the clock was put into the tower they feasted from morning till night, and when the hands pointed to the hour of 9, though it was the month of June and still daylight, all said their prayers and went to bed for the first time in their lives knowing that they had turned in at a proper hour.

From this time forward everything was regulated by the clock. Before it was set up the mayor of the town had been the ruler, but now his authority was superseded by the clock. With its flywheel influenced by the currents of air that whistled through the tower it reeled along like a drunken man trying to get home, sometimes getting the people up an hour or more ahead of time in the morning or putting them to bed in the middle of the afternoon.

But, though knowledge often creeps, still it moves. The people of Strassburg, having made a beginning by setting up a timepiece, soon found a way to make it serviceable in other respects than by dividing the day. The mayor ordered that the clock be the calendar by which all public matters be regulated. If Franz Gottlieb promised to pay Carl Stengel a sum of money in thirty days it meant that when the hour hand of the clock had made the circle of its face thirty times the money would be due. If Hans Bunker drank too much beer and was sentenced for making an unnecessary noise to ten days' imprisonment it meant that the short hand on the clock must rotate ten times before Hans would be free again.

There lived in Strassburg at this time a maiden named Gretchen Borchert, whom everybody loved for her amiable disposition, her beauty and her piety. Gretchen loved Josef Breit, a young carpenter, roofer, mason, well digger—in short, one who did anything required in, on or about the homes of the people of the town. Unfortunately for Gretchen, another girl, Anna Huber, also loved Josef, and, finding that Gretchen was the winner in the matter of Josef's affections, she resorted to a devilish means of putting her rival out of the way. Anna went before the judge of the court and swore that Gretchen was a witch. The accuser named several persons whom Gretchen had bewitched. She swore that she had herself seen Gretchen standing over a well swallowing crooked pins and carrying water in a sieve.

Gretchen was brought before the court for trial. Every one of the persons named by Anna as having been bewitched by Gretchen was found to be a dangerous lunatic. Several witnesses testified that they had seen Gretchen riding over their houses on a broomstick, and a little girl of seven declared that she had seen the culprit sweeping cobwebs from the sky. All this testimony was admitted except that of the last witness, whom the judge considered too young to testify. However, there was quite enough without this to warrant the condemning of Gretchen as a witch, and the judge sentenced her to be burned at the stake. In order that she might have time to cast out the devil that was in her before going to her long home, the day of her execution was fixed at two weeks from her sentence.

Josef, strange to say, was not in the least influenced by all this overwhelming evidence to believe that his sweetheart was a witch. Indeed, he was sure that she was the same lovely girl she had always been. And he knew, Anna having tried her best to make him love her, that she had accused her rival of witchcraft, hoping that with Gretchen removed Josef could be won.

Those were superstitious times, as may be inferred from the trial and condemnation of this innocent girl. Josef turned to something more powerful than himself to save his sweetheart. As has been said, the clock had superseded the mayor and all others in authority in Strassburg, so the clock being the most powerful thing Josef had any knowledge of one night when every one was in bed he knelt at the base of the tower that supported it and prayed to it to tell him how to prevent Gretchen from being burned at the stake.

Whether or not it was the clock that put the idea into Josef's head—Josef did not doubt it was the clock—he cer-

tainly conceived it while he was on his knees before it asking for help. Rising, he went at once to the tower and, being an expert at climbing, made his way up to the clock. Once there he set the hands ahead a couple of hours.

The next morning all the people of Strassburg woke up to find that they had overslept themselves and some of them hurried to their daily work without taking time to eat their breakfasts. But not one of them thought of accusing the clock of being wrong. From that time forward for two weeks they found themselves at times getting out of bed too late, at times too early, but it was usually too late. Some of them believed that Gretchen had bewitched the town and they would not return to regular habits until she had been executed.

These persons sent one of their number to the mayor asking him to burn the witch at once without waiting for the appointed date of execution. The mayor told them that the law could not be interfered with. The culprit had been sentenced to be burned on a certain day and if she were not burned on that day the curse of heaven would fall upon the town.

Meanwhile the citizens of Strassburg were starting their day at all sorts of hours. But they were no worse off in this respect than before the clock was set up—that is, in cloudy weather, when the sundial cast no shadow—and when they once got started in the morning the clock pursued a steady course for the rest of the time they were out of bed.

The day before the execution came round a stake was embedded in the ground and fagots arranged about it in such fashion that they would make a hot fire. Most of the people were plunged in sorrow, for they loved Gretchen, and even if she were a witch she might have been bewitched by another, which would not have been her own fault. But all agreed she must not be permitted to bewitch others, and the only way to prevent that was to put her out of the way.

On the morning of the execution the people awoke, according to the clock, at the proper hour, and it was generally presumed that the witch, in view of the early relinquishment of all power to harm human beings, had withdrawn from troubling them. Gretchen was to be burned at noon, and there was to be a holiday to witness the burning. The mayor of Strassburg went to his office early to give his final orders concerning the execution. He found waiting for him Josef Breit, who said to him:

"Most worthy mayor, I have a confession to make. On the night following the sentence of Gretchen Borchert I, believing her to be innocent, knelt at the base of the clock tower and prayed to the clock that if she had been wrongly accused to tell me how to save her, whereupon the clock asked me how many days would elapse before the execution. When I replied that fourteen days must pass, the clock told me to set its hands ahead twenty-four hours during the interval, so that a day would be lost. I did so, and know, O worthy mayor, that yesterday was the day fixed by law for the execution of the witch."

The mayor looked at Josef dumfounded, not speaking for some time; then he said:

"What right had you to tamper with the clock which regulates all our actions?"

"The authority of the clock itself. I have told you I prayed to it that if the girl were innocent it should tell me how to avert her execution. The clock then told me how, by moving its hands. I might lose the day fixed by law from the calendar."

The mayor at once sent for the chief citizens of the town and told them what had happened. Some of them believed Gretchen innocent and some believed her guilty. The former argued that by setting the clock ahead the day fixed for the execution had passed, the latter argued that it had simply changed the day from the one appointed to the one after, but no one contended that the moving of the hands had no effect on the calendar.

So it was that these two factions argued with each other, at first peaceably, each endeavoring to convince the other; then excitedly and with loud voices till at last they came to blows. They fought each other the rest of the morning. Finally Josef went out and, looking at the clock, told them it was long past noon, the hour for the execution. Then the mayor, who had waited to make the contest between the factions a trial of force, which was still in vogue in those days, to decide Gretchen's fate called them to order and said:

"There is every reason to assume that the girl is innocent. In the first place, Josef prayed that he might be instructed only if she were innocent; secondly, I am convinced that if I had permitted the fight to go on those who contended for her innocence would have won; thirdly, we have no wise man with us to tell us what effect the clock has had on the day of execution, whether the day was yesterday, is today or will be tomorrow. I therefore order that the culprit be set free."

Josef rushed to the jail to impart the good news to Gretchen, who, on receiving it, fell into his arms in a swoon. As soon as the order of the mayor arrived Josef led his sweetheart out into the light of day. Citizens who had heard of the turn the affair had taken stood at the door and lined the street to congratulate their favorite on her escape. They insisted that Josef's and Gretchen's progress be made a wedding procession, and the couple went straight to the church and were married.

As for Gretchen's accuser, she took to flight, fearing the vengeance of her rival's friends.

HUDSON Six-40

New Model \$1550 f. o. b. Detroit

THE 1915 GEM

The HUDSON Six-40 for 1915 offers 32 surprises. Last year it seemed that no car could be better. And it seemed that quality cars could never sell lower. But the HUDSON engineers—headed by Howard E. Coffin—have brought out 31 new features. And a trebled output—due to overwhelming demand—will reduce the price \$200.

This light Six is lighter than ever. It is handsomer—better equipped. Just think—48 engineers, for one whole year, have worked exclusively on refinements. Yet the price—which was never approached in a quality car—has been lowered by \$200.

You will find in this new model the jewel car of the year—the final ideal in a Six. You will find many attractions shown in no other car. And a price which no one considered possible until Hudson made it possible.

Don't buy until you see it. We are making deliveries of this new model now.

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Distributors of HUDSON and FORD MOTOR CARS

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BRAIDWOOD OR WENONA LUMP COAL

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Big Business Enterprise.

A few years ago Wm. Carey, Elmer Seabert and James Seabert started a clothing and gents' furnishing goods establishment in Dwight. They were successful from the start and have built up a fine business.

James and Elmer Seabert also owned a grocery store. In time Elmer and James changed business, the former taking the grocery store and James assuming Elmer's and his own interest in the clothing business. The two firms continued this business for several years with success.

Recently a fine opening to extend their business into our neighboring city of Morris, Grundy county, came to their notice. Elmer Seabert sold his grocery business, and the firm of Carey & Seabert, which now includes Wm. S. Carey, James E. Seabert, M. J. Carey and Elmer Seabert, purchased the old established and successful clothing and gents' furnishing house of Israel Meyer & Sons. The latter have been in business in Morris for forty-nine years.

The new firm of Carey & Seabert, under the name of the Carey & Seabert Clothes Shop of Dwight and Morris, has taken charge of both establishments.

Will Carey and James Seabert will remain in Dwight and Elmer Seabert and M. J. Carey will conduct the Morris store.

The many friends of this enterprising firm in both counties wish them success.

Come out and help Dwight break the Morris boys' winning streak, at West Side Park, Sunday, July 26.—Adv.

Notice.

All accounts due the firm of Elmer M. Seabert must be paid at once.—Adv.

Fire at Saunemin.

The village of Saunemin came near being wiped out Thursday by fire. Only for the good work of the bucket brigade it would have gone.

As it was, the following were burned:

Chesebro Brothers' blacksmith shop, and two barns adjoining were destroyed. The residences of Messrs. Chesebro, W. T. Watts, C. H. Swan, S. R. Mayhood, W. M. Kilgore, W. A. Righter and others near by were on fire from sparks, but were saved by good personal work. Help was called for from Pontiac, but the fire was under control before they arrived.

WITH OUR CHURCHES.

Zion Evangelical Church—C. A. Koten, pastor. Morning worship, 11 a. m. Sunday School, 10 a. m. Evening worship, 7:45 p. m. Young Peoples meeting at 7:30 p. m. Prayer meeting on Thursday evening at 7:30. Salem Evangelical Church—Morning worship at 9 a. m. Sunday School at 10 a. m. Young Peoples meeting at 7:30 p. m. Come, let us worship the Lord together.

Congregational Church: Services for Sunday, July 26—Sunday School, 9:30 a. m. Morning service, 10:45 a. m. Rev. W. R. Wilson will preach. A welcome for all.

German Evangelical Lutheran Church—Sunday School, 1:30 p. m. Rev. J. A. Leimer, of Goodfarm, will preach at 2:30 p. m. and also will preach in English at 7:30 p. m., tomorrow, July 26.