

Table Top

by Eden Philpotts

"Should we purchase them, we could agree to no such stipulation, my friend," answered Alvarez firmly.

"Of course you wouldn't. Your people are men of business. I have a large interest in your shop, as you know, and I should be the first to demand an absolutely free hand. But what follows? It follows that you must not purchase them, Antonio. I have a far happier thought than that, and you will be the first to commend it, for you are an artist first and a diamond merchant afterwards."

He turned to Anita.

"All depends upon this lady. She must speak first and I will then speak yet again. Just a simple question, Signora. Will you sell me—Jacob Fernandez—your treasure?"

"Will you give me more than Signor Alvarez?" she asked.

"No," answered the old man. "I will not give you a penny more, but I will give you as much. You shall have three thousand pounds for your collection and the joy of knowing that you have done a public-spirited and seemly action. For my part I shall hand the curios over to the authorities of your famous museum and you will continue to have precisely the same interest in them as anybody else. And a thought strikes me to give you pleasure. It shall be called the 'Felice Pardo' collection, and thus your dead son's name is enrolled among those who have won honour in their day."

"What could be more beautiful than that, Signora?" asked Jane.

"An absolutely perfect solution," declared Antonio Alvarez. "Worthy of you, Fernandez."

Anita regarded them calmly and thoughtfully.

"You think I am a mean and grasping woman," she said. "But I have been fighting for my son not for myself. He would have cared no more for these lumps of gold and splinters than I do; but because his life was lost when he got them, I choose to make the best bargain I can. There is a great deal in my mind that I do not choose to tell you; but that is my affair. I will accept your money on the condition that my dead son, Felice Pardo, has his name set up in the museum."

"It shall be as you say—my word for it," promised Jacob; and half an hour later, having packed the treasure in its box and collected the old newspapers, he motored away with them.

So the party broke up well pleased and Anita wished them farewell without emotion. Nor did she show interest when Tom said that he was coming to see her about the future.

"As you will, Signor Aylmer," she replied, "but my future is in my own hands now."

"The future of my friend's mother is in my hands," he told her.

A few days before they sailed for home, Tom and his sweetheart went to take leave of Jacob Fernandez and found that he had a gift for Jane.

"Tell it not in Gath," he said, "but I have abstracted one small matter from Benny's treasure and am about to present it to you. It is a ring with a genuine stone in it."

He gave her the diamond.

"It is right," he said, "that you should retain a lasting memento of your adventures. Not a wedding present, however. When you return married to this young man, I may consider if anything in that direction can be accomplished."

"You have done more than enough already," she told him. "You have been the god out of the machine to put everything right for us. There might have been a worse mess than 'Tabletop' with the Signora, but for you."

"An austere and profound person," confessed Jacob. "Quite beyond me to fathom; and yet I am going to see her again and try to reach the heart of her mystery. Did you observe anything remarkable in her attire, Jane?"

"Yes I did," she answered. "Poor Anita was in mourning for Felice of course, but she wore a great,

biasing topas at her throat and it was set in gold and looked exceedingly like some of the treasures."

"Well observed," he said. "And thereby hangs a tale. That was an Inca jewel and, greatly daring, I shall strive to learn how Anita Pardo came by it. But she may decline to tell me."

"If anybody can get it out of her, you will," promised Jane. "She trusts you absolutely."

"Well, come back soon," begged Jacob as he took leave of them. "I am getting old rather quickly, for, in sight of eighty-five, the pace increases and my ancient bones begin to know that they have nearly reached their goal, as a weary horse quickens on his way to the stable. But there is still my book, and if Jane becomes less flippant after marriage and more disposed to take life seriously, then perhaps it will be her privilege to assist my majestic task and advance her avian fame."

"I shall come back as solemn as an owl and as industrious as a bower bird," promised Jane.

Aylmer asked Angus to return with him and undertake the duties of "best man" at his wedding, only to hear the suggestion declined.

"Would do anything in reason," he said, "but I've had enough of the set to last me for many years. Tom, and I don't feel equal to another voyage at present. There's the work, too—lashings of work while you are away, and no Felice to throw light into obscure corners."

"There won't be any obscure corners under the new dispensation," said Jane. "And you've got to remember that you are going to have your own little treat after we come back."

"I don't forget it," he told her.

"When the time comes, we go to the buried cities. That's understood."

Within a fortnight the lovers were through the Panama Canal on a great, thirty-knot ship homeward bound. They stood one morning forward and watched the flying fish leap before her bows and plunge like stars into safety. Only a ripple marked the Caribbean blue and the steamer's wake was ribbon of pearly silk thrown down upon it.

"What an unutterable mystery the sea is, darling," said Tom. "To think that it can smile like this to-day and lift a tidal wave to-morrow. Thank God we shall never have to face one of them again."

"Wait till you meet your mother," said Jane.

(The End)

Vancouver harbor is the home base for some 250 tugs operating in coastal waters.

Strange But True

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Germans during World War II and who now is an expert on guided missiles with a large aircraft company.

Scientists have been toying for years with the idea of such a man-made ship circling the earth as a military project; of voyaging from earth to mars and other planetary flights. And while these ideas may sound fantastic to this time, we must not discount the possibilities of such flights in the future, for science marches on making the dream of yesterday come true today.

You won't find too many young

fellers today trying to set the world on fire no more. Most of them are apparently more interested in burning up our highways.

There are more than a million and a quarter more women than men in Canada and the U.S.A. Is it a survival of the fittest or what?

Recently I came upon a little fellow fishing all by his lonesome in Hyde's dam at Cornwall. "You haven't caught any fish, son," I said looking at the empty switch near his feet. "Doesn't matter," said the boy. "If you catch no fish you don't have to clean them." And that, incidentally, is a bright side to fishin' I'd never thought of before.

The world needs many things,

but nothing so badly as the little courtesies of daily life.

While ploughing last fall Cal. MacDonnell of Cornwall, ploughed under his wallet containing \$82. Cal. will be taking a more than usual interest in the field because it may sprout up to \$80 by the time harvest rolls round.

Some predatory birds kill rats and other harmful rodents.

In some parts of Australia earth-worms grow to a length of ten feet.

The Asiatic bustard has the white meat on the drumsticks and the dark meat on the breast.

This Latin sentence reads the same backwards as forward: "Satar arepo tenet rata."

The initial letter of each word

spells the first word. The second letter of each word spells the second word. The third letter of each word spells the third word, etc.

That Body Of Yours

Continued from page 2

thus swelling of the feet from deposit of water; shortness of breath is another early symptom of heart failure.

It is in this type of heart failure that physicians lessen the amount of physical activity and amount of salt (sodium) in foods.

In the "Medical Clinics of North America," Dr. Irwin B. Hanenson, Raymond E. Weston, Jacob Grossman and Louis Letter, New York

City, state that when chronic heart failure is associated with infection, and not enough digitalis used in patients on a low salt diet, the tissues may hold increased amounts of water even when the salt intake is greatly decreased. They suggest that heart congestion and heart failure be treated by cutting down on physical activity and promoting the removal of water from tissues by an adequate dosage of digitalis (not over—or under—dosage).

The cutting down of salt in and on food and the use of salt substitutes should be prescribed. Only about 1 teaspoon of table salt should be permitted daily on and in food.

The use of drugs to remove water from the body, cutting down on table salt and foods rich in sodium,

adequate dosage of digitalis, and lessening physical activity, is the routine treatment for heart congestion and failure.

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