

# A Dark Diplomatist.

By Gray Allison.

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"Deed, Miss Marjie, I don't like these leech flats."

Aunt Debbie stood with arms akimbo, occupying the greater part of the kitchen. Mrs. Blair, arranging a mass of dahlias in an old-fashioned jar on the dining room table, smiled on the old negro comradely.

"We don't find it quite as roomy as the old place in Virginia, do we, Aunt Debbie? But after the mortgage was foreclosed, Lesley's civil service appointment was a godsend. I don't know how the child ever got the idea of standing a civil service examination. She always was a queer child, though." Mrs. Blair signed as if the



DR. FENTON NOTED HIS PATIENT'S FLUSH, and followed her characteristic tendency to avoid troublesome thought.

Aunt Debbie held the latter for her care energetically.

"Miss Lesley—she's every bit faultily—every bit a saint angel," she said, bristling at any idea disparaging to her nursing. "They're never been a purrle child nor young lady better than little Miss Lesley. In de day of an elicit wurkin' for her bread! I jest can't seem to stomach it." She beat the substance in the yellow bowl vigorously.

"Traid't lack her an' her granmum deede before her. They had close and parties and married de best catches in de country. What chance has little missie to make a fine marriage, I wonder? You'll have to work every 'mawin' at 9. De Lawd knows, I useter jeb' be carryin' her ma's and her granmum's coffee to they beds at 9. En how's she get to meet de senators and presidents and things to get a chance to marry?"

The old mammy beat away as if she had fate in the yellow bowl and intended to render it harmless.

"It worries me dreadfully, Aunt Deb," Mrs. Blair finished the dahlias and stood off to admire them. "It seems preposterous to think that a daughter of mine should ever be an old maid. We've been here a year, though, and Lesley hasn't become acquainted with a single man of desirable social acquaintance. It would have to be different if her poor father had lived."

"Or if he hadn't gambled away and drunk up all his money foah he died," muttered the old woman under her breath.

Mrs. Blair sat down in the easy chair and took her embroidery from the ancient mahogany sewing table.

"Well, I'm doing all I can. I insisted on renting this flat in a fashionable neighborhood, but the house is filled with young married couples that I've never met. I don't believe there's more than one eligible man in the building, and we're never met him."

"Hub! Who's he?" demanded Aunt Debbie, accentuating a prospect for matchmaking with as much eagerness as if she had been of French instead of African ancestry.

"It's that young doctor in the first floor front. He seems to have all the new automobiles and carriages in town stuy at his disposal. But, no matter how desirable an acquaintance he might be, we don't know any one to make the necessary introduction—and we are never sick." The mistress laughed at the old woman's falling expression.

"I seen him look at Miss Lesley any-how when we pass him in the hall. Hub! It's enough to make any one sick to live in a ole landbox of a flat," said Aunt Deb dolefully.

thing. It mammy were to die we would be absolutely helpless."

Dr. Fenton noted his patient's pulse and listened to her heart, then looked at Mrs. Blair in a puzzled manner.

"Her heart's all right—rather unusually strong. Her she been eating anything that might give her acute indigestion?"

"I'm sure I don't know," said Mrs. Blair helplessly. "I'm as sober when she called me, and she groned several times, then became absolutely unconscious."

"This she been drinking?" The doctor sniffed the atmosphere suspiciously.

"No, indeed," said the girl indignantly. "Ma'nny never was intoxicated in her life. I spilled that on her trying to force some down her throat."

The doctor, after several minutes' work, finally held some strong ammonia to his patient's nostrils, and she opened her eyes.

"Take that dar stuff away," she said indignantly. "Do you want to kill me jes' 'cause I'm a wuthless ole nigger?"

Dr. Fenton patted her shoulder indulgently.

"There—there—I guess you are not dead yet. It's a sign of good constitution when you recover and begin fussing and fuming. Shows they have got enough to put through all right. Where do you feel bad, anny?"

"In ma head an' back, and ma lars, and an awful misery' in ma stomach, I reckon. I'm mos' done for," and she groaned in self pity.

"I'm going to give you a powder that will cut off ma misery, anny. You mos' stay in bed to-morrow, and I'll come in and see how things are going with you. I expect you have taken cold and have midnight and cramp. You'll be feeling around as lively as anybody in a few days."

"Be sure to come to-morrow, doctah. I'm sartin' plain to death," the old negro whimpered.

One night later after Aunt Deb's recovery Dr. Fenton sat in the parlor of Mrs. Blair's apartment, and a casual observer might have thought he was noting Lesley's pulse.

"And to think I saw you going in and coming out of this building for a whole year before I had an opportunity of meeting you, I tried my best to find a mutual acquaintance, but couldn't. If that blessed old mammy hadn't caught cold I might never have known you. Do you like the way that diamond is set, doctah?" he asked, holding the girl's slender and arched ears' length to admire the very new and glittering ring.

"It's just lovely," she said. "Everything is lovely. I don't believe there's a single thing wrong with the world. Let's call Mam Debbie—I haven't told her yet."

When Aunt Debbie came to the door and heard their noise she laughed in an enjoyment too large for the small apartment.

"You think you are surpris' your old mammy, do you, little missie? Lawd, child, I was a good long before your children's thoughts of it."

When she reached the section of the kitchen she sat down and looked to and fro in silent admiration, her cheeks again glowing on her face.

## The Time to Buy Now

Cold weather is coming. Do your buying while you can and weather both are good. All winter goods are now on sale and you can have first choice. Buy where your money goes the furthest.

## Values for the Home

- Large size, White Enamel Lined Dish Pans, ..... 40c
- Extra-size Tea Kettle, blue enamel ware, ..... 50c
- Children's fleeced Shirts, Drawers, Petticoats, Knit Waists and White Aprons, choice, ..... 10c
- Men's genuine, all wool, fine Dress Shirts, ..... \$2.10
- Ladies' knee length, heavy knit, dark brown Petticoats, ..... 9c
- Men's best quality, heavy 50 and 75c Canvas Leggings, ..... 25c
- Ladies' and Children's double knit Black Wool Mittens, ..... 10c
- Men's and Boy's Sweater Necks, 50c grade, all colors, ..... 25c
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## Ladies' Department Values

Every variety of ready-to-wear goods, for Ladies', Misses' and Children. Largest and most complete department in this section.

## Ladies' Cloaks

We received this week our second shipment of the coming of winter. Our first all these goods, have advanced but we shall continue the same low prices, as at the beginning of the season. Our records show sales of 15 to 30 Cloaks per day even thus early.

- Misses' Cloaks, 36-52 inch lengths, all styles, of fancy mixtures, ..... \$4.99
- Ladies' heavy Black or Mixed Korsej Cloaks, 32 inch \$5.69 and, ..... \$5.40
- Full satin lined Black Broadcloth Coats, plain or trimmed, 32 inch lengths, 96.99, 99.87 and, ..... \$11.99
- Elegant Pish lined Broadcloth Coats, with fur collars, only, ..... \$14.99
- Ladies' 52 inch Crushed Plush Coats, ..... \$11.99
- Ladies' special quality Melton Cloth Coats, special, ..... \$6.87
- Little Folks' stylish cut Coats, sizes 3 to 10 years, in Cloth, Plush or Bear skin \$1.19, \$1.79, \$2.25 and, ..... \$2.59

## Fur Values

Largest assortment of Furs we have ever shown. Special Muff values this week in the broad flat styles.

- Black Wool Muffs, ..... \$2.29
- Flown Coats, 4 tails and 4 heads \$3.87
- Electric Seal Muff, ..... \$1.10
- Party Lamb or Fox Muffs \$3.69, \$7.99 and, ..... \$8.87
- 45 inch Fur Scarfs, large size tails, 90c to, ..... \$1.69
- 72 inch Brown Coney Fur, with 6 tails and 2 heads, ..... \$2.29

12 inch fine quality Marten Furs \$7.99  
91 inch Brown Marten, with 8 tails, wide style, ..... \$5.87  
NOTE:—We believe this to be the best as well as the largest assortment of Furs that we have ever shown. There is always a difference however, even in Furs priced exactly alike, and the advantage is with the customer who makes the first selection.

## Millinery Department

Increased floor space enables us to carry more hats and in a larger variety of styles than ever before. We can save you money and that with no sacrifice of style. Special attention given to Children's and Misses' Hats.

We sell Girls' and Misses' solid leather Kid Shoes, sizes up to 2, at, ..... 98c  
Girls' Best quality Kid and Calf School Shoes, \$1.19, \$1.29 and, ..... \$1.35  
Ladies' fine Kid, Rochester made Shoes, lace or button, low or high heels, ..... \$1.98  
Ladies' and Misses' Kid and Calf every day Shoes, solid yet stylish, made for wear \$1.49, ..... \$1.75

TRADE IN AND SHOW-ROOM TRIP TICKET AND WE REFUND YOUR CAR FARE. Dinner Tickets or Horse Tickets if you drive.

WAUCONDA.

J. E. Tomisky of Cary was a Sunday visitor.

Miss Nina Pratt is spending the week with her sister, Miss Winnie Pratt.

Mrs. James Murray attended the wedding of Dr. Howard O'Neil in Chicago last week.

C. H. Morey of the J. E. Watkins' Medicine Company is spending a few days in this vicinity.

Carl North who is in the employ of Sears Roebuck & Company of Chicago was a recent visitor here.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Olds of South Haven, Michigan, are visiting relatives and friends here this week.

Mrs. W. W. Birckett who has been caring for Mrs. Wm. Brooks returned to her home in Belvidere, Thursday.

(Messrs. Henry Malman, D. H. Murphy and James Murray started Tuesday for a week's trip to the Panhandle district of Texas.

Mrs. C. A. Golding is packing household goods in preparation for moving to Syracuse, New York, where her husband has secured employment.

Ernest Goary accompanied by J. Knox and Miss Katie Knox of McHenry visited with Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Zimmerman at Long Grove Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dolner and two daughters of Bertrand, Nebraska are spending the week at A. E. Kirwan's. They were former residents here.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cook of Gurnee welcomed a baby girl to their home Saturday, October 26th. Mrs. Cook was formerly Mrs. Bertha Brand of this place.

Edgar Green has rented his farm to John J. Meyers of Volo and with his wife and daughter will move into town in the spring. Having purchased the M. J. Hill residence on West street.

The money market does not seem to bother our residents as much as the loss of a new market at the present time. With the closing of Harrison Brothers store our only meat market has been closed and our residents find it rather inconvenient getting meat.

Mrs. J. Mullen who has been slowly recovering from a paralytic stroke received early in the summer went to the city Tuesday in Mr. Seeger's auto accompanied by her daughter, Miss Grace, and Nurse Miss Emma Vannatta. She will make her home in the city for the winter with her sister, Mrs. McGovern and take osteopathic treatment.

Railroad is again the topic of our residents. Mr. Hall, the promoter of Chicago, was on our streets the first of the week and has been going over the proposed route of the Bryson company which promised us a road two years ago. Mr. Hall is very outspoken and says the road will be built this next summer. His is a regular organized company for about two weeks ago and are ready for business as soon as right of way and franchises through the towns along the route are obtained. They ask nobody to donate right of way but will expect the farmers to sell at a reasonable figure. The surveyors are expected out in about two weeks.

"Some so-called statesmen," observed one philosophical boarder, "are merely political seismographs. They are always in a state of agitation over some upheaval that is threatening to disturb the foundations of civilization but they can't tell exactly what it is or where it is."—Chicago Tribune.

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