

Trials in Tact Competition

Last Problem of Second Series

Problem No. 10.—“Conventional Mr. A., loving Miss B., asks her to become his wife and share his ancestral home. Miss B. reciprocates his affection, but before accepting his offer, should she acquaint him with the closely-guarded secret that the highly-respected Mr. and Mrs. B. (now deceased) were her parents only by adoption?”—Suggested by “Ivy Sen.”

Answers must be postmarked not later than July 17, 1930.

THIS seems to me to be a case where to be forewarned is to be forearmed. I think, therefore, seeing that Mrs. A. and her husband are agreed, she should manage to acquaint her sisters with their feelings on the subject.

Problem No. 8, Solutions of which appear below.

Problem No. 8.—“Mr. and Mrs. A., who have been married three years, have only just managed to secure a home of their own. Mrs. A.’s two unmarried sisters are not able to get rooms for the money they can afford, and, although their present lodgings are not expensive, after paying for same there is very little left for other necessities.

“Mrs. A. hears that her sisters intend suggesting coming to live with her husband and herself. They were delighted to get a home of their own and to know that they would have it to themselves, as they were tired of living in lodgings, having waited three years before their visions were realised.

“She knows they will not feel happy with others in their home, and yet does not want to hurt her sisters’ feelings, by refusing them. Her husband would much prefer they did not come. What should she do?”

and this, without waiting to be approached, in order to save her sisters the embarrassment of being refused. It is Mr. and Mrs. A.’s home, for which they have worked, waited and striven; and they are not called upon to share

it with the sisters, especially as there are two of them. Indeed, I think that it would be most undesirable that they should do so. Nor would it be fair to Mr. A.

“I like best those answers that say Mrs. A. should tell her sisters how glad she and her husband are to have achieved their object, and expatiate on the advantages of having a little home to themselves at last. This should be sufficient to convey the state of affairs.

Several competitors say that they cannot understand the sisters making such a suggestion, but they may not be actuated by entirely selfish motives. They may feel that it would be a help to Mrs. A. to share expenses, or that they could render her assistance. In that case, it is all the more desirable that they should be spared making the suggestion.

Mr. and Mrs. A. naturally will show the sisters all the hospitality they can. They might be able to suggest ways and means to enable the sisters to achieve a little home of their own. Quite a number of competitors suggest that Mr. and Mrs. A. should help the sisters with gifts in money or kind. If they

are able to do so, well and good, but I do not think it should be allowed to affect their decision either way. Mrs. A.’s first duty is to study her husband’s happiness and to respect his wishes, apart from the fact that they coincide with her own.

EXCERPTS from some of the letters received read:—

“Personally I think Mr. and Mrs. A. are extremely selfish. They must have felt the need of money or they would not have had such difficulty in getting a home together. Where is the fellow feeling that makes us wondrous kind?”—“Ben.”

“The best thing for Mrs. A. to do is to get in first. Let the sisters know before they suggest coming to live with them that they wish to have their home to themselves.”—“Fanny.”

MARKS have been awarded as follows:—Anon, 5; Amaryllis, 3; Anice, 0; Artful, 5; Apple-Pie-Mary, 5; Ace, 5; Ben, 5; Bonza, 3; Clara, 5; Clericus, 5; Camp-fire, 3; Deerfoot, 5; Duplex, 5; Diabolo, 5; Devon, 3; Ecnan, 3; Effie, 4; Equity, 0; Fanny, 5; Frances, 0; Flirt, 5; Flora, 3; Grace, 5; Gunga-din, 0; Haven, 5; Heather, 5; Hopscotch, 0; Ivy-Sen, 4; Irene, 5; Iambic, 5; Jonquil, 4; Jimmy, 0; Mrs. Jones, 5; Kummel, 5; Kate, 0; Kia Ora, 3; Lucid, 3; Maybelle, 4; Nemo, 5; Natural, 4; Nomen, 0; Norah, 4; Never-never, 5; Nippy, 3; Mrs. Oldman, 4; Olivia, 0; Octopus, 4; Open-door, 3; Oneeny, 3; Pat, 3; Pumpkin, 5; Pansy, 0; Query, 5; Quince, 0; Radio, 0; Rosu, 4; Richmond, 3; Sardonyx, 4; Scylla, 5; Summit, 0; Thames, 4; Tuner, 0; Topaz, 4; Tommy, 3; Undine, 4; Unomi, 5; Vivat, 4; Viator, 4; Viola, 0; Verity, 5; Wynward, 5; Weaver, 0; Waterway, 3; Watchful, 0; Xerxes, 4; Xylonite, 3; Yum-Yumb, 0; Youngster, 5; Zenobia, 3.

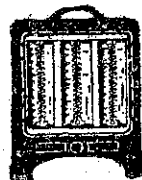
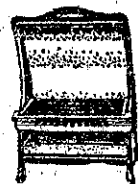
NOTE.—Mrs. Mason: Please read “unfortunately” for “fortunately” in my notes last week. Yes, it was hard lines; I felt at the time.—Saviour-Faire.

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