KEZIAH COFFIN

by

Joseph C. Lincoln

Author of Cy Whittaker's Place, Cape Cod, Etc.

Illustrations by Ellsworth Young

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SYNOPSIS.

Mrs. Keziah Coffin, supposed widow, is arranging to move from Trumet to Boston, where she has lived a year before. Her husband, who had been drowned, Kenyon Pepper, widower, offers marriage, and is indignantly refused.

CHAPTER I—Continued.

There was a sound of scrambling. More men floated in the air. They around the corner of the high-boy appeared Mr. Pepper, crawling on his hands and knees. His hair was streaked with black; his shirt front and collar and alert sleeves were spotted and streaked with black; and from his blackened cheeks his red whiskers flamed like the last glowing embers in a fire-scarred ruin.

"I was just tryin' to help Keziah take down her stovepipe," he explained. "Guess, she didn't have no mice in—"

"Yes, I see. Well, I judge you got it down. Now you go out to the sink and wash your face. Heavens and earth! Look at them clothes!"

"I do hope you didn't hurt yourself, Abner," said the sympathetic Keziah. Then, as remembrance of what had led to the upset came to her, she added, "Though I will say 'twas your own fault and nobody else's."

Lavinia whirled on her.

"Dear me! Ain't we innocent! We've got plenty of money, we have Wilkerses with property sixty an acre traction to us. Everybody knows that—oh, yes! And they never talk of such a thing—oh, no! Folks don't say that—oh, no! Well," with a snort in the direction of the kitchen, "you can anywhere sight clean yet? Get your coat and hat on and come home with me."

She jerked her brother into the blue coat. Jammed the tall hat down upon his head, and, setting him by the arm, stalked to the door.

"Good day, marm," she said. "I do hope the next widower you get to take down your stovepipes—an, indeed! ha! ha!—I hope you'll have better luck with him. Thank I don't know who 'twould be; there ain't no more fellers in town that I know of. Good day and thank you kindly for your attentions to our family."

Keziah turned from the door she had closed behind her sister.

"Well!" she ejaculated. "Well!" Steps, measured, dignified steps, sounded on the walk. From sidehoop vanes a "Hem—ha!" a portentous combination of cough and grunt. Keziah dodged back from the window and found herself face to face with Jedediah Jackson.

"Ira Cole's Elkanah," she whispered. "I must go. This seems to be your busy morning, Aunt Keziah. I wonder she choked again—really. I didn't know you were so popular."

Keziah opened the door. Captain Elkanah Doanda, prosperous, pompous and unbending, crossed the threshold. Hitherto men in the village, retired skipperset, pillar of the Baptist church and leading member of its parish committee, Ira Cole's Elkanah looked the part. He removed his hat, cleared his throat, hitched his black stock, and spoke with impressive deliberation.

"Keziah," he said, "Keziah, I came to see you on a somewhat important matter. I have a proposal I wish to make you."

He must have been surprised at the effect of his words. Keziah's face was a picture, a virtuous picture of pious fright and amazement. As for Miss Van Horne, Miss Van Horne gave vent to what her friend described afterwards as a "squeak" and bolted out of the door into the grateful seclusion of the fog.

CHAPTER II.

In Which Keziah Unearths a Prowler.

The fog was cried in the pennies of Trumet that night. Mrs. Melissa Hopkins, who lived all alone among the apothecary of three cats, a canary, and a white poodle named Snowball, in the Hopkins house next to Captain Elijah's establishment, never actually received from the charwoman and delivered-around by that gossiping woman herself.

The fog prevented Mrs. Rogers' entry the entrance of Mr. Pepper at the Coffin front door. Also his exit, under elderly arrest. It shut from her view Mr. Bassett, upright of Captain Eli Hatch Bonds and Grocer's flight, he by no means with smiles and broadcast into laughter at frequent intervals. For a moment, supposed to be a discover Comfortable, he flurry along the main road a handcuffed of his left hand, and eyes sparkling with profane, was a circumstance unrelished to French material for enjoyment and false around the Coffin house.

Other happenings she missed, also. Not knowing of Keziah Dunham's call upon Keziah, she was deprived of the pleasure of wonder at the length of Mr. Pepper's visit and sorrow, in the pain with Mrs. Coffin, go down the road in the opposite direction from that taken by Grace. Not their parents and parties at the door, two hours later. It was three o'clock in the afternoon when, in a shabby rubber coat, the Coffin front gate entered the yard and tripped at the door.

Keziah opened the door.

"Hallo!" she exclaimed. "Fark, are you?" I began to think you'd been snared away for good.

Grace laughed as she entered.

"Well, auntie," she said, "I don't wonder you thought I was snared. Truly, I didn't think it was proper for me to stay. First Kinas, and then Capt'n Edward, and both of them expressing their wishes to see you alone—so—politely. I thought it was time for me to go. Surely, you wouldn't want me to stay delicious?"

"Grace Van Horne! there's born

"Cheerful's a Tomb, Ain't It?" Was Mrs. Coffin's Comment.

fools enough in this town without your tryin' to be one. Kinas, I don't guess he's been Trumet, not for the present, anyhow. I've got a way of certain' my livin' right here. I'm goin' to keep clear of the new schoolmarm."

The girl turned her hat to her hand. "Oh!" she cried in utter astonishment.

Keziah nodded. "Yes," she affirmed. "That was what Elkanah's proposal I announced to Ira. Ha! Deary me! When he said 'proposal,' I own up for a minute I didn't know what was coming in. After Kyan I was prepared for most anything. But he told me that Lorany Phelps, who is the parish clerk, and Lavinia and myself were the only ones he was going to tell. Well, I guess, she didn't have no mice in—"

"Yes, I see. Well, I judge you got it down. Now you go out to the sink and wash your face. Heavens and earth! Look at them clothes!"

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OTHERWISE IT WILL BE THE FIRST TO SHOW SIGNS OF AGE.

Cultivate Smile That Will Obliterate the Hard Lines Time Will Surely Bring—Partial Drop to be Guarded Against.

A pretty mouth with rosebud lips and fair white teeth is a woman's most valuable possession. This naturally includes pretty teeth as well, for one is inseparable from the other.

One very important reason for giving the mouth the best of care is that unsightly wrinkles will appear around the mouth.

Perhaps the best direction for improving the mouth should be to cultivate smiles. Smile when you know—but smiles, which bring a look of happiness and joy to the face and obliterate in a moment the hard lines which have been years in forming. Smiles will not remove those lines permanently in a minute, but if the smiles are indulged in frequently they will soon blot out all the objectionable lines.

Nothing mars the mouth more than a peevish drooping expression and this a beauty lauds is the very best method of overcoming the "sour mouth" nonsense." It is really the very most unbecoming thing in the world to notice the faces of your friends and acquaintances and your family and acquaintances with me, I am sure. Without being at all forward or boisterous and good-to-day holds the record of being the most unpopular. Nobody likes to know of, and thousands of voluntary testimonials in the Dr. Pinkham laboratory at Lynn, Mass., seem to prove this fact.

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

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Wants Other Women to Know How She Was Finally Restored to Health.

Louisiana, Mo.—"I think a woman naturally dislikes to make her troubles known to the public, but not complete restoration to health means so much to me that I cannot keep from telling mine for the sake of other sufferers."

"I had been sick twelve years, and had eleven doctors. I had dragging down pains, at monthly periods, bilious spells, and was getting worse all the time. I would hardly get over one spell when I would be sick again. No tongue can tell what I suffered from cramps, and at times I could hardly walk. The doctors said I might die at one of these times, but I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and got better right away. Your valuable medicine is worth more than mountains of gold to suffering women." Mrs. Emma Myers, Box 24, 4th Street, Louisiana, Mo.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from native roots and herbs, contains no narcotic or harmful drug and to-day holds the record of being the most successful medicine for female ailments.

Stiff Joints Sprains, Bruises

are relieved at once by an application of Sloan's Liniment. Kills pain, just lays up lightly.

Good for Broken Sleeves

Sloan's Liniment has done more good to my family than any other medicine. I have never tried anything that I have found so good for sore throat and lungs as Sloan's Liniment. Mrs. Earl S. Sloan, Boston, Mass.

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GILT EDGE, the only leather shoe dressing that will not injure the most delicate shoe. Ladies' Gilt Edge Set, 3 Pastels, Gilt Edge Dressing, Gilt Edge Polish, Gilt Edge Sponge, Gilt Edge Brush, Gilt Edge Cleaner, Gilt Edge Cloth, Gilt Edge Instructions, Gilt Edge Shoe Lace, Gilt Edge Shoe Hook, Gilt Edge Shoe Horn, Gilt Edge Shoe Bag, Gilt Edge Shoe Tree, Gilt Edge Shoe Stretcher, Gilt Edge Shoe Trimmer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook, Gilt Edge Shoe Button, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut Washer Nut, Gilt Edge Shoe Button Hook Handle Cap Screw Washer Nut