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THE DIARY OF DELIA



AROZE at 7. Washed and dressed. Made mebed. I set the kittle on the gas stove and then furiously rung the brekfust bell. The family begun to get up an our or so later. Mr. John was the first to ate. He guv a look side ways at the appytizing eggs before him and the luvly staming coffee and thin wid a shuv pushed them away. He tuk up his paper and begun to reed, ignoaring me and the brekfust as if we was dirt.

"Wont you be after ating this marning?" ses I.

"Its all rite" ses he. "Its all rite Delia."

I lingered, hoping to help him a bit. He russelled up the paper the way he has of doing whin provoaked and ses, in that cam and gintle way he talks when tarribly excited: "Delia—what are you waiting for?"

"Nothing," ses I. "But wont you be ating a bite aven, Mr. Johnny." He contrhrolled himself wid diffuculty, his vyce all the cammer for his inwurd anger.

"Now me girl" ses he. "You attind to your own ating. Niver mind me."

I shugged me sholders in the disdayneful way I have and walked kitchen-wurd. I jest reeched the dure when "Delia!" ses he, calling very perlitley now.

"Well sir?"

"Will you kindly bring me" ses he "a cup of hot water."

"Hot water is it?"

"Yep. I'm dying, Delia" ses he.

"Dying!" ses I, shocked so that I drapped and broke the china in me hands.

"Confound you!" ses he, starting up. "'Dy-et-ing' I said."

"Its the same thing," I showted back at him, and I marched out in a huff. By and by, I hurd Miss Claire go into the dining-room, and I let her ring the table bell awhile before ansering. Her payshunce getting the better of her sinse she pokes her hed into me kitchen. Now I happened to be standing neerby the dure, wayting for further ivints. Well, as I sed, out popped Miss Claire's hed throo the dure which banged against me own, while me frying pan wint flying up on hers.

"O! O! O!" crys she. Her mother come running down the pasage in her nitegown, her hair scrooded up in them kid curlers.

"What is the ma'ter?" crys she. Thin she seen the cundition of Ler dorter. The eggs had landed on her hed, and the fat run down her face in streams with the yokes for company. The mother guv me a shove, and at that I boost out in me rarth.

"Its no lady you are!" ses I. "The whole boonch of you is bad. Getting up at these unairthly ours and bullying the life out of a poor loan hard-working girl."

Wid that I tuk aff me aprun and throwed it at the madam's feet.

Including Her Experiences in General Housework and Her Personal Reflections upon Certain Persons in High Places

BY O N O T O W A T A N N A

theres company for dinner—"Delia" ses she, "your month is up on the 24th. You will get nothing till then."

"Indade!" ses I. "Then I'll set here till the 24th, but devil a bit of work will I be doing," and, wid that, I set down on me chare and faulted me arms firmly across me brist.

"Delia," ses the lady, "Mr. Wolley will want his chop in a minit. Master Willie will have fareena and a poched egg. Shredded weet biskits for Miss Claire——"

"Mummer," ses Miss Claire, washing her hed over me tubs, "I want nothing—nothing."

Just then Mr. James wint into the dyning-room and rung the bell lowdly.

"Peeches and pancakes" ses Mrs. Wolley coldly.

Miss Claire has her hed washed by this time, and she stands oop, wid it rolled in a towl. She guv me wan look—a cross betwene a shmile and a frown, and ses she:

"Delia, do you wish me to get brekfust today?"

"God forbid, Miss" ses I, and wint to wark.

Miss Claire is horty again, and she ses wid a cold look at me:

"Very well thin Delia, till the 24th then. Come mother."

Next day. Its a weery world this is. Here I be, a pure, loan-some female alone in this crool city working for foaks wid lether harts.

"O wirra, wirra, wirra!" as me auld mother used to say.

Next day. Aroze. Dressed. Washed.

I wint to see me frind Minnie Carnavan last nite and feel better the day. Ses she:

"Its a fool you be Delia O'Mally. The idear of you doing all the wark in a family of 6. Its no more sinse you same to have than an eediot, and you a craychure of 20 and past. Delia ses she, its the gurls that's been here long that's foolish like yursilf. They get stook wid wan family who hangs on to thim for deer life. The new wans green from the auld country aren't hiring out to do ginerall housewark. Its cooking in a family of 1 or 2 they're looking for and getting. Its lite chamberwark or waiting on a table or the like. There's never a one so green as to hire out to do the hole wark of a family. Your auld fashuned and saft" ses she. "Go down to Mack's on 3rd. Avenoo. Git a job for a munth or so as capper."

"And what is that?"

"Well, you tak a job" ses Minnie, "but you dont kape it."

"And what wud be the sinse of taking it for thim?"

"Why, you gump, for ivery place you tak Mack gits a fee of \$3. You get harf for fooling thim."



And Then Furiously Rung the Brekfust Bell

"It's an onest gurl I am," ses I wid scorn, "and its ashamed I'd be to mix mesilf in any such mess as that."

"Well then," ses she, "go down to the Alluyunce. Its a place where they get jobs for the rich."

"And what wud I be doing there?"

"Dont you mind what I'm after maning? Its the rich ladies who pathronize them. Its a foine thing in dade for thim. The Alluyunce fills out there houses wid the sarvants. If a loidy walks in modest-like, asking swately for a gurl for ginerall housewark, they take the fee of \$2 or \$3 or maybe \$5, and thin smilingly infarm her that ginerall housewarkers are an oonown quolity. 'Tak a cook,' ses Miss Flimflam, seeted at a desk. 'But,' ses the lady, lukiug very thrubbled, 'a cook wond do anny other work at all.'

"Suntimes they do lite londry wark," ses Miss Flimflam, yoning perilently in her hand.

"Will they clane?"

"Land, no!"

"Wate on table?"

"Certainly not."

"Thin," ses the lady in disthress, 'what am I to be doing? I moost have me wark dun.'

"Why," ses the clerk, a little more awake, 'hire other girls, as the rist of our pathrons do.'

"Oh," ses the lady, 'I suppose,' ses she after a moment of thrubbled thort, 'if I get an extra woman in to clane and wate on table, the cook will wark cheeper?'

"Hm?" ses the lady at the disk. 'I big yure pardin?'

"She'd wark cheeper, I sed."

"Well, to be frank, Mrs. Hodge Podge' answers Miss Flimflam at the desk, 'a cook's an expinsive propysition in these days. Now, we have thim all the way down from \$200 a month to—er—well, you mite git an inexperienced beginnir for about \$30, tho I cant promise.'

"Your fooling, Minnie. Shure no cook gits such a forchune," ses I.

"Its thruth I'm telling you. Why, I heard the uther day that Mrs. Vanderfool do be paying her cook \$20,000 a year, and, what's more, the papers state theres an agytation now on foot among the bizzy club wimmin to let the puir hard-warking girls, who've been imposed upon, yuse the parlor wance a week to see there company in."

"You dont say!" ses I, "and to think of me droodging for the starving wage of \$20 per month!"

"Well," ses Minnie, "I wont misguide you, Delia. That is the wages of a green girl who niver saw a Frinch pertater

fried on airth and who broils a stake in a sorspan covered snug wid water."

The 24th. I aroze at the ushil our. Washed. Dressed in me best. Miss Claire cum into me room brite and airly. Ses she: "O Delia, here's that auld green skurt of mine you always liked. Your welcome to it."

"Thanks," ses I, "but I expect to be making sooch grand wages soon, Miss Claire, I'll be bying finer skurts than that." Wid that I pushed the skurt aside wid contimp.

She got all red and pretty, as she has a habit whin angry, and she put up her hed hi in the air. "O well, if that's the way you feel!" ses she, and marched out.

Mr. John cum into me kitchen. "Delia," ses he "heres a quarter. Now husle wid me brekfust, will you?"

I took the quarter and flipped it round.

"Mr. Johnny," ses I, "me munth is oop at 7 A. M. this marning. I'm after waiting for me wages."

He drew up his brows frowning, and wint aff into his mother's room. A moment later the auld gintleman himsilf cum bloostering out. Its his ushil custom to get up at 10.

"What's up? What's up?" ses he. "Where's me chop? Where's me chop?"

Master Willie started in to ball, and Mr. James kept ringing the table bell. Sooch a house I niver seen. Out came the madame in her ushil nitgown.

"Delia," ses she, "didn't I tell you yesterday I'd decided to guv you anuther chance?"

"You did mad, but Im for going now," ses I.

"Go about your wark," ses she, her proud voice becoming a bit narvous in toan.

"Im waiting for me wages, mam," ses I.

"Delia —" she guv a hasty look about her, thin she spakes in a coaxing vyce:

"Now, Delia, be sensible. You no we think warlds of you. Now —"

Joost then, Miss Claire looks in, her face still red wid the snub I'm after giving her about the skurt.

"Muther," ses she, "dont descind to begging Delia to remane. Let her go. We can get on famissily widout her."

"What!" shouts Mr. James, sticking in his hed at the dure. "No cook! What's to becum of us? Are we," ses he, "to go throo a like nitemare sooch as we injured before the advint of Delia?" Willie now cum poaking his hed in between his daddy's legs.

"Pleese, Delia," ses he, "guv me my fareena. I loves you, Delia," ses he.

"God love the lamb!" ses I and flew to the stove, me hart going out of me body to the child.

"Hold!" ses Miss Claire, very loftily, and she cum over to me and tuk the dubble boyler out of me hand.

"Put on yure things," ses she, "and go. At once," ses she, "at once!"

Then she turned to her brothers and parents.

"Go back to the dining-room," ses she. "I'll get brekfust today."

Mr. James guv a dreful groan, and sloonk off to the dining-room, wid his hands on his stummick.

"Mamma," ses Miss Claire, "pay off Delia. Youve been composed upon long enuff" ses she. "Hereafter I'll manage things."

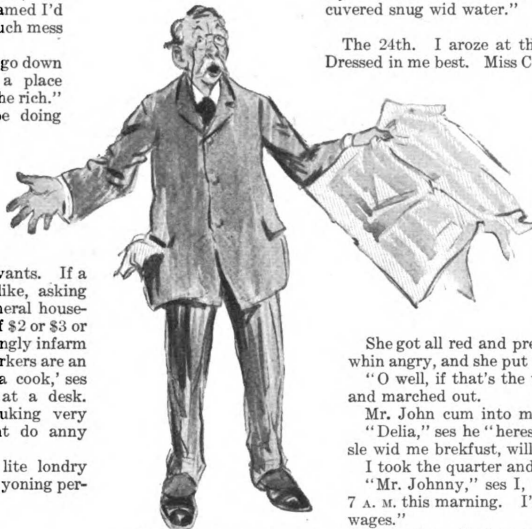
And me, the last of 1700 girls in the same place—for so I larned from me frind the janitor's wife—walked out wid me \$20 in me pocket.

The following day at Minnie Carnavan's house. Aroze at 8:30. Washed—all over. Dressed in me best. Borrowed Minnie's hat wid the grand white ostrich fether. Minnie wint along wid me to the Alluyunce. "For," ses she, "its saft you are, mavorneen."

After paying our fee of \$1 we set around together wid maybe 40 uther unforchnut girls in a room on the second flure. "Now, raynember," ses Minnie, "no ginerall housewark for you. It's a grand cook you be, or a foine first class waitress, or a grand chambermade, or a nurse to a babby, onderstanding all about bottle feeding. Now, raynember what you are."

"I begin to have misdouts, Minnie," ses I, trimbling inwardly.

"Ah, go wan," ses Minnie, wid contimp, and, joost thin, wan of the Miss Flimflams (for so Minnie has them all named) cum into the room and ses in a loud voyce:



"What's Up! What's Up!"
Ses He. "Where's Me Chop?"
Where's Me Chop?"



Mary Wilson Pearson

I Seen Her Go Out
the Dure

"A nurse! I've a call here for a nurse. Must be first class. Consumptive. Wages \$10 a week."

"Tak it!" whispers Minnie, excitedly, and she pushed me along.

"Are you a nurse?" arks Miss Flimflam, looking at me misdoutfully.

"Well, mam," ses I, "It's manny a yung wan —"

"O deer!" ses she impayshuntly, "a trayned nurse is what I want. Are there any trayned nurses here?"

There wint a little pockmarked woman forward. "What have you dun?" arks Miss Flimflam.

"Well, deerie," ses the pockmarked lady, "I've tinded to invaleeds since i was so high, deerie."

"O!" ses Miss Flimflam, and wint out larfing.

She'd been gone but a minit whin a stout Miss Flimflam cums in in a hurry. She reeds from a paper in her hand:

"2 lady's maids, bootler, 3 chambermades—cook—in fack all necessary sarvants for a big cuntry place. Now, first of all—a thorly first class cook—er —"

Minnie had pushed me forward and I wint up bashfully before her.

"Cum along," ses she, and she tuk me down stares into a grate long room, wid about twenty or thirty ladies sitting in grand drisses on sofas. She leeds me up to a stout old yung lady sitting forward on the edge of wan of the sofas.

"This," ses Miss Flimflam in the swatest voyce, "is Mrs. Regal. Tell her all about yersilf, Delia."

The lady set a bit further forward and lifted up wan of thim spicicles on top of a reel gold shtick called in Frinch Lorgons.

"How old are you?" ses she.

"Twenty" ses I.

"— five" puts in Minnie quickly, for she'd cum down wid me.

"Ah, 25! How minny yeers have you cooked?"

"Well mam —," i began, whin Minnie put in: "Tin yeers."

"What wages did you get at your last place?"

"Twenty —" I began.

"Twenty a week," ses Minnie boldly.

The lady looked tarbly startled. "Hoo did you wark for? Lit me see your riferences," ses she.

Minnie hands her the bounch of papers she's after bringing along for me, and the lady looks at them throo her lorgon. Me own riference from Mrs. Wolley, which Miss Claire handed me proudly as I was stipping out, I also had handed to the lady, and I'm all oopset and red wid anger at the pinch on me arm Minnie is after giving me.

The lady looks up wid her eyes snapping.

"Why, these riferences are for 2 different girls," ses she.

"Luk at that, wud yer?" ses Minnie, playfully. "Now, didn't she be after giving you my riferences, too, by mish-take? This is mine," ses she, and tuk me letter from Mrs. Wolley from the lady's hand.

"Hoom!" ses the lady, and looks me over frum hed to feet throo her lorgon.

"What's your name?" ses she, and refers to the letters.

"Delia," ses I innercently, "Miss Delia O'Malley, if you plaze, mam."

She set up stiff. Then she got up and putrified me wid a horty stare. Then she swipt over to Miss Flimflam, her silk pitticoat swishing behind her wid anger. Miss



Mary Wilson Pearson

"Dying!" Ses I

Flimflam cum over to me and grabbed me by the arm. She pushed me tord the stair.

"Minnie," ses I upstares, "its seeries thrubble youve got me into now."

"Shaw!" ses Minnie. "Its dun ivery day. They kno it. Delia, there's twinty ladies for ivery wan girl. Your safe from anny blacklist, darlint."

We seen Miss Flimflam cuming in at the dure, and me gilty hart misgiving me, I grabbed Minnie by the arm and we wint out of wan dure as Miss Flimflam wint in by anuther.

"Delia, its a gump you are" ses Minnie wid scorn, "but never mind, ye've dun enuff for today. We'll be back tomorrow."

Following day. Awoke. Aroze again at 8:30. Dressed. Washed.

Minnie and I interfewed the follering ladies in regard to a position.

Mrs. Spunk. Offered me \$20 for cooking—2 in family. Wages were too small. I refused it wid contempt.

Mrs. Drool. \$25 cook and londress. Minnie told her londry work wud spyle me hands.

Mrs. Lambkin—8 in family—Cooking, \$30. Minnie sed Id be after waring the souls of me feet off rooning oop and down for the 8.

Mrs. Colebin: \$30. Cooking and waiting on table. Minnie sed no cook cud be expicted to wate on table orlso. Me arms wud be after aking wid passing the hivvy dishes around.

Two weeks later. I wint to the Alluyunce today for the first time alone. Minnie sed she was worn out wid kaping me frum accipting the woorthliss places offered by the pathrons of the Alluyunce. "Ye shud have enuff spunk yerself by now," ses she. "Dont be saft. Raymimber ladies is your natrel inimies and bastes of prey on puir hilless sarvant girls."

Miss Flimflam spyed me as soon as I intered, and tuk me by the arm just as I was going to the room upstares. "Im glad" ses she corjully, "youve cum alone. Your frind was a inkubust" ses she. "Now, cum rite along wid me. Theres a swate little lady wants a girl just like you," ses she, "and she's willing to pay you well and treet you," ses she, shmling, "like a lady."

Wid that she leeds me acrost the room to wan of the sofas, and pushes out wid her foot wan of thim camp stules for the girls to set upon.

"Good marning, mam" ses I, lifting up me eyes modestly, and then I give sooch a joomp the dumed stool dubbles up under me and down I cum wid a boomp on the flure. For there, sitting looking at me, very much surprysed and horty, is Miss Claire herself. She smiled a bit whin I picked meself up, and ses I:

"Why, miss, the site of your pretty face just about flabbergasted me. How are you?" ses I.

"Quite well, thank you" ses she, very stiffly. "And your mother?"



"This," ses Miss Flimflam in the Swatest Voyce, "is Mrs. Regal. Tell Her All About Yerself, Delia"

"—er—mother is pretty well" ses she. "Your father?" "Papa is—er—about the same" ses she. "Mr. Johnny?" "Still dy-et-ing, Delia." "And Mr. James—" "James—well, Delia, nun of us are very well. James ses he has interjeshun." "And what is that?" I inquires coorryissly. "—er—a sort of pane in the—er—stummick" ses she. "Is it billy-ake youre meening?" She blushes, and ses, "I suppose so." "Who do be doing the cooking?" I arks. "Well—er—I tried. Delia, dont you dare to lart" ses she indigantly. "Lart!" ses I, "Why, Lor bless your hart, darlint, I'd more likely be weeping for the unhappy family." She leened tords me, wid her horchure quite gone, and, looking as meek and swate as a kitten in thrubble, "Delia," ses she, "Ive had elivin girls in since you left" ses she. "You puir lamb!" She puts on that weeding voyce she has whin bothering me. to let her make mussy foodge in me frying pans: "Delia," ses she, "w-wudnt you like to cum back?" I shuk me hed. Then she set back, her horchure cuming back agin. "O well," ses she, "there's hundreds of uther girls." "Yes," ses I "the same as the elivin youve had." "Delia" ses she wid passion, "for pity sake do come back. I did thry to do my best, but its like attiming to

plase a family of porkypines since you left and O! those awful craychures that came after you left. Why, wan of thim," ses she indigantly "was want to tak the soyled table linen—aven the lace doylies—for dish cloths."

"O Miss Claire" ses I "you dont meen them buties you made yerself?"

"Yes, indade," ses she, turning her face away.

"Miss Claire—" ses I.

"Yes, Delia" ses she quickly, turning round in a bounce.

"Nothing" ses I, angry wid meself for me weekness.

"Delia," ses she despritley, "we've tuk a place in the cuntry. We must have a girl. Its dredful to think of being widout one. Oh, Delia! do please cum wid us."

"No-o—Miss—" ses I a bit tremendulussly.

"I'll—I'll—give you that old—er—its not rely old—black taffita jacket of mine," ses she.

I shuk me hed.

"—and the skurt wid the box plates," ses she, "and you can have that tucked shemysett,—you no, the one you do up so luvly."

"No, Miss Claire," ses I firmly, getting up. "I'm for uther wark than general housewark." She got up also.

"Very well, Delia," ses she. "Its hard on me—so much trubble—"

Thin her blue eyes run over, and she walked away, wiping thim wid her hankychief. I seen her go out the dure. I fild a sinking at me hart. Minnie Carnavan was forgotten, and, like the eediot she ses I am, I made a grand dash fur the dure, wid all the Miss Flimflams of the Alluyunce and the ladies thimselves gaping after me in horror. I seen Miss Claire half a block away, and I run after her puffing: "Miss Claire! Darlint! Miss Claire!" I called after her. She turned about, and guv me wan look. Then she made a dash. Her parrysol flew out of her hand.

"Oh, Delia—you duck!" ses she, and kissed me wid a smack, hugging and squazing me manewile.

There cum thray yung doods marchin' down the Avenoo, and, as Miss Claire taks me in her arms, the bauld yung chaps stud still and looked at us and shmlid. Thin one bint down and keerfully picked up the parrysol and wiped it wid the slave of his foine gray coat. As me and Miss Claire extrycate ourselves he offers it to her wid a bow. She toorned red as a peeney and her bloo eyes guv one luk up at the dood, then draped demoorly.

"Thanks" ses she. "Thanks agin" ses she, as he likewise returns her rist bag. He lifted up his hat, waited a bit for more thanks, and thin marched aff, shmling like his face wud bust. She smiles too, and ses I, boorsting:

"Its a roomance, Miss Claire! Be all the saints in Hivin and airth, ye've loked into the eyes of your hoosband."

"Nonsense" ses she, laffing, "you're the same old silly, sintimintal Delia. Cum home, deer."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE MAYOR OF CLEVELAND

BY BRAND WHITLOCK

MAYOR OF TOLEDO

THE atmosphere of the city hall in Cleveland is different from that of most city halls. There the visitor, having heard that Cleveland is the best-governed city in the United States, will notice at first, perhaps, no outward difference; the building is old and haggard, the offices are dim, the corridors dingy, and through them hurry the throngs that present fleeting glimpses of the worried, anxious face, lined with care or scheming, that is typical of American cities.

All at first is familiar and usual, but the visitor bent on essentials and seeking the meaning and soul of things, will note, presently, the pervading influence of a new spirit, renewing his faith in democracy and stimulating his hope of the ultimate success of the great American experiment. He will miss the low, cynical tone of our political life, the disheartening conviction that here, in these chambers, are going on the machinations of politicians, plotting to perpetuate themselves in the enjoyment of those privileges and perquisites we so long have regarded as the right of politicians and officeholders; he will miss the sordidness and the squalor that have made municipal

politics at once the disgrace and the despair of our cities; he will miss the sense, one might almost say the odor, of the machine, the boss, the ward heeler. He will miss the influence of practical politics.

But no, that, after all, is just what he will find. For Cleveland has learned, as some other American cities have learned, and as all American cities are soon to learn, that practical politics, in its late meaning, is not practical at all, but most impractical—if not wasteful, extravagant, inefficient and corrupt—and that the new politics in reality is the only practical kind. The old politics—the politics of the savage, wolfish party, with its machine and its boss, and corporate wealth and tainted money ever standing in its shadow—was practical only for the politician; and yet, not for him either, considering what it cost him in character and how wholly it robbed him of the best of life. The new politics is practical for the people, who are the city. The old politics regarded public office as a privilege,

or, as it was cynically phrased, as a private snap; the new politics regards public office as a responsibility, and no snap at all, but a difficult, laborious, and yet, withal, inspiring job.

When the visitor enters these offices he will not hear men talking politics; wards, precincts, committees, conventions and all that are not often spoken of. He will hear instead talk of the city. For Cleveland has the city sense—that is, the consciousness of collective effort, the new realization of a civic personality. In these offices he will find officials who are not so much political, as municipal, experts. To be sure, the old-fashioned partisan, who thinks all is going well so long as his party wins, will sneer in reply that they can get the votes, and so they can; but that is because the people of Cleveland have learned that, in voting for these men, they are voting not for street-car companies or other public-utility corporations and special privileges, not for the few rich these support in luxurious idleness, but for themselves.

The visitor will meet, in these officials, a coterie of interesting personalities, strongly differentiated, and yet