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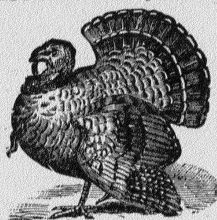
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TITLE

On Thanksgiving Day

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On Thanksgiving Day

OUR NEW PICTURE



NEWTON, Connecticut, is a typical New England village—one short block of business buildings constitutes its commercial activity. In the center of the block stands the Newtown Bank, and our story deals with two bank clerks. Roy Edmond and Jack Thornton, the sons of neighboring farmers. Roy is honest, upright and God-fearing, but Jack while away at college has forgotten his Puritan training and acquired dissolute habits and expensive tastes. His meagre salary no longer suffices, and he awaits the opportunity to despoil the bank of which he is a trusted employee.

Roy and Jack are both in love with pretty Mary, the village belle, but Roy is the favored one. It is the night before Thanksgiving and the annual ball, the local social event of the year, is advertised.

We see the rivals meet pretty Mary in front of the billboard, and they both ask her for the pleasure of her company to the ball. She grants the favor to Roy, who is elated, while Jack shows his chagrin. The rivals enter the bank to begin their day's work.

A busy bank scene is next shown. Roy is called to the president's desk to receive instructions for the day. Jack, on the alert, sees that Roy has left the door to his wired-in desk open, and screened, as he thinks, from all eyes, he sneaks in through the open door and extracts a bundle of currency and a package of bonds from Roy's counter. The janitor is sweeping in front of the east window and sees the theft. He is a drunkard and utterly unscrupu-

lous, so instead of reporting the incident, he determines to keep the affair a secret, and to turn the knowledge thus gained to his own account. Roy returns to his work. The money and bonds taken had been set aside and arranged preparatory to the closing of the day's business, when they were to be locked in the safe. Roy does not notice the loss, and Jack, who is furtively watching him, breathes a sigh of relief.

Our next scene occurs on the evening of the ball, showing the boys and girls of Newtown gathering for the hop. As they enter they remove their wraps and hang them on the nails to the right and left of the hall door. As the last couple enter, Jack sneaks back and places the stolen bonds in Roy's overcoat pocket, and is again seen by the worthless janitor.

The shortage has been discovered at the bank, and while the ball is at its height the bank president enters with the sheriff. They decide to take no chances and search both employees at once. They arrest both Roy and Jack, although the search reveals nothing. Their overcoats are in the hall, suggests the wily janitor. The overcoats are then examined and the missing bonds found in Roy's pocket. Bewildered, Roy is rendered desperate by the horror of his position and makes a sudden dash for liberty and home, saying, "My father will believe me."

Roy's father is spending the evening quietly at his fireside with a favorite book. The hunted boy arrives and knocks timidly at the door; the father opens it and Roy enters, telling him quickly of what has occurred. "As God hears me, father, I am innocent." "I believe you, my boy. Listen, they are coming—I'll save you." The boy is concealed behind a pair of curtains as the bank president and the sheriff enter. The father draws their attention from his boy's hiding place by throwing himself with arms outstretched across a side door. Deceived by this ruse, they push the old man away, while Roy dashes out of the front door, into the sheriff's buggy, and escapes.

Eight months pass and we find the boy an outcast, discouraged and disheartened, living in poverty in New York. Constantly in dread of detection, and ashamed of his condition, he has never written a word to the old folks.

It is supper time in Newtown, and at Roy's home the day's work is over, the men have returned from the fields and the load of hay is left near the barn door. As the old farmer draws a bucket of water from the well, he is startled to see a human being emerge from the hay. "A tramp, eh! Well, what do you want?"

"Well, governor, if you can tell me of anything I don't want, I'll be obliged to you." The humor under such difficulties appeals to the farmer and he advances the hobo a loan, little thinking he will ever see it again. The thought that his own boy might be in want makes the father charitable towards those in need. Returning to the house, the old man sinks into his arm chair, and, weary from toil and worn out with anxiety, he falls asleep. A vision appears to him of his own boy dressed like the wreck he has just befriended, and horrified, he sees a brutal bartender assault him in a low grog shop. With a cry he awakens, determined to go to the city and search for his son.

Four months have passed and we find the father in New York. A characteristic street scene follows, in which "Uncle Reuben" gets several surprises, and to his utter amazement, he recognizes in a well-dressed gentleman the tramp he had befriended a few months before. While they stand talking, a man considerably the worse for liquor staggers against him and, turning, he recognizes under the glare of a street lamp his son. At sight of his father, the boy weakened by hunger and dissipation, falls in a dead faint at his father's feet. A carriage is called, and under his father's careful nursing the boy is soon able to accompany him home.

A telegram from Montana has established Roy's innocence. The old gentleman has wired his housekeeper to invite the neighbors to a Thanksgiving dinner, and just one year from the day the boy leaves his home in disgrace he returns to face his comrades with the proof of his innocence. Jack Thornton has been invited, and when all are assembled the bank president and sheriff enter, and the sheriff reads the following telegram:

"President of the Newtown Bank:

"Your former janitor, crushed in mine accident, makes dying statement. Roy Edmond innocent. Jack Thornton stole the money and placed the bonds in Edmond's overcoat."

SHERIFF DENTON, Butte, Montana.

The cowardly Thornton sneaks for the door, to be confronted by the boy whose life he has almost ruined. The sheriff separates them, saying, "I'll take care of him, Roy." And as the wretch is led away in irons the neighbors crowd around the wanderer to shake his hand. Pretty Mary is the first to greet him. One look into her eyes and the past is all forgotten, as he takes his sweetheart in his arms.

The scene closes on a happy, thankful group. A timely picture story, interestingly told and cleverly acted by capable players.