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THE DIARY OF DELIA



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

BY ONOTO WATANNA

A ROZE at 7. Washed and dressed. Made me bed. I set the kit-te on the gas stove and then furiously rung the brekfust bell. The family began to get up an our so later. Mr. John was the first to ate. He guy a look side ways at the appytizing eggs befor he and the luvly staming coffee and thin wid a shuv pushed them away. He tuk up his paper and begun to reed, ignoring 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 provoked and ses, in that cam and gentle way he talks when terribly excited: "Delia—what are you waiting for?"

"Nothing" ses I. "But wont you be ating a bite aven, Mr. Johnny?" He contrulled himself wid diffculty, his vye 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 reched the dure when "Delia!" ses he, calling very perlitely 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-ing' I said."

"Its the same thing," I shoutted back at him, and I marched out in a huff. By and by, I hurr 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 neaby the dure, waiting for further ivints. Well, as I sed, out popped Miss Claire's hed thro 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 passage in her nitiegown, her hair scroodled up in them kid curlers.

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

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 divil a bit of work will I be doing," and, wid that, I set down on me chare and faulded 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 poched egg. Shredded weet biscuits 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 guy me wan look—a cross betwane a smile and a frown, and ses she:

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

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

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

"Very well then 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 minnie Carnavan last nite and feel beter ter day. Ses she:

"It fool you be Delia O'Mally. The idear of you doing all the work in a family of 6. Its no more sinse you same to have than an ediot, and you a craychure of 20 and past. Delia ses she, its the guris that's been here long that's foolish like yurself. They get stock wid wan family who hangs on to them for deer life. The new wans green from the auld country aren't hiring out to do general housework. Its cooking in a family of 1 or 2 they're looking for and getting. Its lite chamberwerk or waitting on a table or the like. There's never a one so green as to hire out to do the hole work 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 thin?"

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

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"Its an onest gurl I am," ses I wid scorn, "and its ashamed I'd be to mix meself 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 patronize them. Its a foine thing indade for them. The Alluyunce fills oop there houses wid the servants. If a loidy walks in modest-like, asking swately for a gurl for general housework, they take the fee of \$2 or \$3 or maybe \$5, and thin smilingly inform her that general houseworkers are an oonown quality. 'Tak a cook,' ses Miss Flimflam, seated at a desk. 'But,' ses the lady, looking very thrubbled, 'a cook wont do anny other work at all.'

"Sumtimes they do lite londry work," ses Miss Flimflam, yoning perlitely in her hand.

"Will they clane?"

"Land, no!"

"Wate on table?"

"Certainly not."

"Thin," ses the lady in distress, "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 rest of our patrons do."

"Oh," ses the lady, "I suppose" ses she after a moment of thrubblid thort, "if I get an exthra woman 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 expisive proppertor in these days. Now, we have them all the way down from \$200 a munth to—er—well, you mite git an inexperienced beginir 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 bizzby club wimmin to let the puir hard-working 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

fryed 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 thatauld green skirt 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 byng finer skurts than that." Wid that I pushed the skirt 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 hulse 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 audl gentleman himself cum bloostering out. Its 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 never seen. Out came the madame in her ushl nitiegown.

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

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

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

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

"Delia——" she guy a hasty look about her, thin she spakes in a coaxing vye:

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

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

"Muther," ses she, "dont descend to begginig Delia to remane. Let her go. We can get on famissly 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 throu a like nitemare sooch as we injered before the advent of Delia?" Willie now cum poaking his hed in between his daddy's legs.

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

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

"Hold!" ses Miss Claire, very loftily, and she cum over to me and tuk the double boylor out of me hand. "Put on yore 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 guy 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 learned 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 feather. 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 thegerer wid maybe 40 uther unforchnut girls in a room on the secound flure. "Now, raymimber," ses Minnie, "no ginal housewerk for you. Its 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, raymimber what you are."

"I begin to have misdouts, Minnie," ses I, trimbiling 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:

"A nurse! I've a call here for a nurse. Must be first class. Consumtive. 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 impashuntly, "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 infaileeds 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 cum in a hurry. She reeds frum a paper in her hand: "2 lady's maids, bootler, 3 chambermaids—cook—in fact all necessary servants for a big country place. Now, first of all—a thoruly 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 dresses on sofies. She leads me up to a stout old yung lady sitting farward on the edge of wan of the sofies. "This," ses Miss Flimflam in the swatest voyce, "is Mrs. Regal. Tell her all aboyt yersif, Delia."

The lady set a bit further farward and lifted up wan of them spicicles on top of a reel gold shick called in Frinch Lorgons.

"How old are you?" ses she.

"Twinty" 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 years."

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

"Twinty ——" I began.

"Twinty a week," ses Minnie boldly.

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

Minnie hands her the boonch of papers she's after bringing along for me, and the lady looks at them thro 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 opset and red wid anger at the pinch on me arm. Minnie is after giving me. The lady looks up wid her eyes shnapping.

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

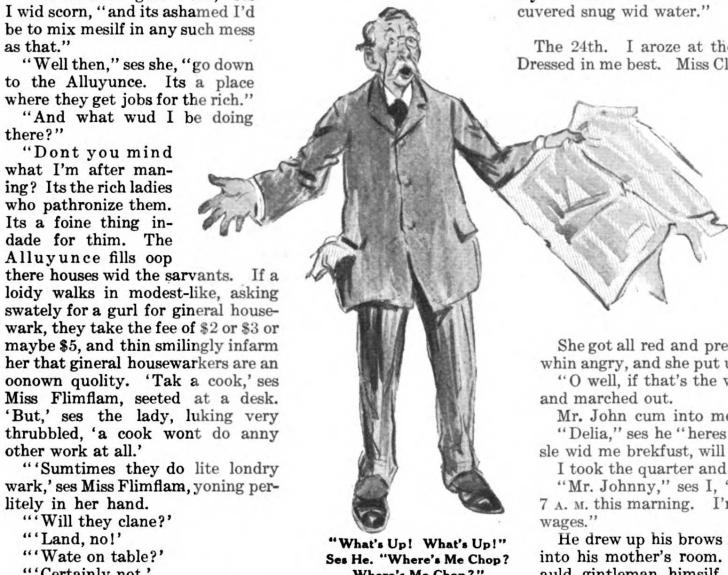
"Luk at that, wud yer?" ses Minnie, playfully. "Now, didn't she be after giving you my riferences, too, by mishake? This is mine," ses she, and tuk me letter from Mrs. Wolley frum the lady's hand.

"Hoom!" ses the lady, and looks me over frum hed to feet thro 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 putridie me wid a horty stare. Then she swipt over to Miss Flimflam, her silk pitticoat swishing behind her wid anger. Miss



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

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

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

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 another.

"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 interiewed the following 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 I 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 expeted 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 woorthless places offered by the pathrons of the Alluyunce. "Ye shud have enuff spunk yerself by now," ses she. "Dont be saft. Raymber ladies is your natrel inimies and bastes of prey on pur hilless servant girls."

Miss Flimflam spyed me as soon as I intered, and tuk me by the arm just as I was going to the room upstairs.

"Im glad" ses she corjuly, "youve cum alone. Your frind was an 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, smilng, "like a lady."

Wid that she leads me acrost the room to wan of the ossees, 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 dunred stool bubbles up under me and down I cum wid a boomp on the flure. For there, sitting looking at me, very much surpysed and horty, is Miss Claire herslf. She smiled a bit when I picked mesif 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-ing, Delia."
"And Mr. James ——"
"James—well, Delia, nun of us are very well. James ses he has interjeeshun."
"And what is that?" I inquires cooryissly.
"——er—a sort of pane in the —er—stummick" ses she.
"Is it billy-ake you're meenin?"
She blushes, and ses, "I suppose so."
"Who do be doing the cooking?" I arks.
"Well—er—I tried. Delia, dont you dare to larf" ses she indignantly.
"Larf!" ses I, "Why, Lor bless your hart, darlant, 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 trouble, "Delia," ses she, "I've had elivin girls in since you left" ses she.
"You puur lamb!"
She puts on that weeding voyce she has whin bothering me to let her make mussy foode 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 attinting to

Thin her blue eyes run over, and she walked away, wiping them wid her hankychiff. I seen her go out the dure. I fit a sinking at me hart. Minnie Carnavan was forgotten, and, like the sediot 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 horrор. I seen Miss Claire half a block away, and I run after her puffing: "Miss Claire! Darlant! Miss Claire!" I called after her. She turned about, and guy 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 thay yung doods marchin' down the Avenoo, and, as Miss Claire takcs me in her arms, the bauld yung chaps stud still and looked at us and smiled. 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 guy one luke up at the dood, then drapped demorously.

"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, smilng 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 luiked into the eyes of your hoosband."

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

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE MAYOR OF CLEVELAND

BY BRAND WHITLOCK

M A Y O R O F T O L E D O

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 streetcar 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

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