

**His Business Proposition**  
By W. C. SHERLOCK

**WNU Service**  
GENTLEMEN, I am thirty thousand dollars short in my accounts as trustee!"

Howard Marriott, chairman of the legal profession, director of several banks and trustee of the estates of many widows and orphans, spoke calmly and deliberately.

The three gentlemen, each president of a large life insurance company, sitting on the opposite side of the long desk, stared at each other in blank amazement at Marriott's confession—then "fired their eyes upon the speaker."

"Gentlemen," continued Marriott, drawing three life insurance policies from his pocket, "as I said, I'm thirty thousand dollars short in my accounts as trustee of various estates. There is no possible way by which I can repay this money unless you agree to my proposition."

"You're a cool hand, Marriott. I must confess," remarked Mr. Walker, half-admiringly, "Most men would either cut and run or commit suicide if they were in your fix."

"My proposition is this," continued Marriott, apparently not heeding the interruption: "I hold here, three respectable policies on my life. Each is for twenty thousand dollars. The premiums that have been paid do not make a very large sum and the cash surrender values of these policies would not pay the shortage of which I have spoken."

"Then why have you sent for us?" demanded Mr. Washburne, impatiently. "Your affairs are no concern of ours."

"I have sent for you to offer to turn these policies over to you," replied Marriott calmly, "upon the payment to me of ten thousand dollars for each. That will enable me to make good to those who have been defrauded through me."

"Impossible! You must be crazy!" chorused the three presidents, rising, as if to terminate the interview.

"My proposition will save you, or rather your companies, ten thousand dollars apiece," continued Marriott, drawing a little bottle from his vest pocket and holding it so that it could be plainly seen. "Two or three drops of this liquid will end my life in as many minutes and your companies will be called upon to pay my executors twenty thousand dollars apiece. That will amount to sixty thousand dollars

and will repay the shortage to those who have been wronged through me; the remainder, as I have no heirs, I have directed to be paid over to several charitable institutions. It is for you to decide, gentlemen. Will you pay the ten or the twenty thousand apiece?"

The presidents drew their chairs close together in whispered consultation.

"The thing is impossible," remarked Mr. Walker, irritably. "Marriott is a fool to expect us to do such a thing."

"It would be a precedent for every rogue in the country to extort money from insurance companies," interposed Mr. Shelton, with conviction. "I, for one, am opposed to any such compromise."

"Better be careful," advised Mr. Washburne, cautiously. "I fully believe Marriott means what he says and I, for one, don't care to witness a suicide."

"I shall give you five minutes to discuss the question, gentlemen," called Marriott, laying his open watch upon the desk. "Then I shall decide for you."

The whispered consultation continued, and at last Mr. Washburne, spokesman for the three, turned to Marriott.

"Why did you take that money?" he asked, earnestly. "You have always been considered honest and above suspicion, enjoying the confidence of every one."

"The money was taken from me by some one whom I will not name," replied Marriott, wearily. "I placed confidence in one person, who has repaid me by robbing me, not only of all I had but of that which was entrusted to my care. That is all I can say."

"We may do as you wish," continued Mr. Washburne, more pityingly than sternly. "If you will consent to two conditions. The first is that you will never tell anyone that we have bought your policies for such a sum, so far in excess of their value."

"I promise that," replied Marriott. "If you, upon your part, agree not to reveal my defection to any one."


"We will keep your secret inviolate," affirmed Mr. Washburne. "The second condition is that you turn over all trust moneys to some one to be appointed by the court. If you agree to that, we will accept your proposition, although we will have to request that we be permitted to oversee the transfer of the trust funds."

"It was my purpose," responded Marriott in the same listless tone, "in the event of your acceptance of my proposition, to turn over my trust and never, under any circumstances, be responsible for a dollar of another person's money. If that is all, gentlemen, let us sign these agreements to

pay ten thousand dollars each when the court appoints a new trustee, and then accompany me to the courthouse to file my petition for release from my trusteeships."

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**His Gloomy Outlook**  
Dusty Bill—Times is growin' harder every day, pal.  
Rusty Phil—Whut makes yer think that?  
Dusty Bill—I've been offered ten jobs since noon.

**SHOULD BE TRAINED**



Wide—I don't think I approve of this movement to train young people for marriage.  
Hobby—What! Ain't pugilists and soldiers and all other fighting people trained?

**SAVE REPUTATIONS OF TWO YOUNGSTERS**

That it is better not to make arrests when results can be obtained by other methods is a part of the county policy of the Michigan State Police. Here is an instance.

Captain I. H. Marmon and two other members of the "free lance squad" which operates against disorderly roadhouses and gambling places, came upon a parked car near a roadhouse in which were a young man and a young woman, both unconscious from liquor.

Because of their youth, Captain Marmon decided not to arrest them. The young woman was taken to a respectable hotel while the young man was taken to the home of his father, a well known banker.

Next day both of the young people told their parents that it was the first time they had ever been under the influence of liquor and that they would not repeat the experience. They had been given a salutary lesson without being made the victims of scandal.

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THREE FINE BANDS Holly Grinnell's, Oakland Motor and Boys' Industrial School, Lansing	THREE SCORE ROADS Lead to Milford August 13-14-15, The Three Big Days
THREE SNAPPY BALL GAMES. Four leading County Teams contest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday	THREE HUNDRED TENTS Booths and Concessions. This will be some fair. Facts vouched for by
THREE HUNDRED FRIENDS Whom you haven't seen for years and who will be looking for you	THREE TRUTHFUL MEN S. L. McCall, Pres. W. S. Lovejoy, Sec. Walter Palmer, Treas.

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One of the latest relics received by the Tennessee State museum is an old-fashioned wooden lock from one of the doors of the first house occupied by Andrew Jackson when he came to Tennessee.

**Malleability of Gold**  
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**River Changed Course**  
The Huang river in China burst its banks in 1851 and changed its course so as to flow into the Gulf of Pe-chi-li. Within two years its mouth had shifted 250 miles from its original position.

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