



WILLIAM E. PLATT, M.D.

by
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The endless determination, energy, imagination, and intelligence of Dr. William E. Platt, late Arizona Territory and early state physician, can well be illustrated by repeating just one event during the courtship of his first wife, Isobel Romney Platt.

It is said that for quite a period of time young Will had admired Isobel from afar but, because of her father's reputation as an extremely strict parent, he had never attempted to court her. One of the methods employed by Mr. Romney, to discourage his daughter's suitors, was to ask the young man to lead the family's prayer service and later to criticize the suitor privately for his inability to lead the prayer. However, Mr. Romney or no Mr. Romney, prayers or no prayers, young Will could stand it no longer so he dressed in his "Sunday-go-to-meetings" and, early

one evening, appeared at the front door of the home of Isobel and her family.

For a short period of time, all went smoothly and the nervous young suitor began to relax and enjoy himself. The enjoyment ended all too soon when Mr. Romney, true to his reputation, called for the family prayer service and asked the love-sick victim to lead the prayers. Will complied with the longest prayer ever said in the Romney home: he prayed for everything on heaven and earth; he prayed for every relation — living or dead; he prayed for every friend or would be friend; he prayed for every leader of the Church and ended by praying for most of the federal, state and local government officials. After an interval, Mr. Romney became tired of the prayers and tried to stop the service by frequently interspersing an "Amen," but Will prayed on and on and on. Mr. Romney's "Amens" became louder and louder — Will's prayer became longer and longer. The result? Will was never asked to lead the prayers again! Shortly thereafter, with the provision that they would delay their marriage until Will was able to provide for a wife, Mr. Romney consented to their engagement.

A few months after Will's "prayers to end all prayers," the Romneys, Platts and a few other Mormon families moved from St. George, Utah to St. Johns, Arizona, where the hero of this story worked at many jobs. In fact, he worked the greater part of every twenty-four hour day. He worked in the horse and saddle business; he raised a few head of cattle; he set type for the village newspaper; he worked in the Mormon co-op; and in his spare time he worked in the village drug store. This continued for approxi-

