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NEW RIP VAN WINKLE

MR. M'CLELLAND AWAKE AGAIN AFTER TWENTY-FOUR YEARS.

Curious Case of an Old Soldier—Doctors Unable to Diagnose His Case—Suddenly Sight, Hearing, Speech and the Power of Locomotion Were Restored to Him.

The village of Graysville, Pa., has developed a strange case as viewed from a medical standpoint—that of a man who had lain upon his bed for 24 years, during a great part of which time he was blind and speechless and sometimes unable to hear, but can now walk about with the aid of crutches, with his eyesight, voice and hearing all restored. This man is Asa McClelland. He was a soldier in the late war, being a member of Company C, Eighteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, and will be remembered by many of his old comrades.

In the early part of the seventies he was taken ill and became bedfast. He lost the use of his body, and finally sank into a half conscious state, during which he lost both eyesight and power to speak and for a time could not hear. Some time before his illness his mind became temporarily affected, and he attempted to take his life by shooting. The ball struck him near the base of the brain, but failed to penetrate the skull. But little injury was done, apparently, by the wound, and he went about for several months afterward. After he became ill his case baffled the skill of physicians.

Much of the time he would lie upon his bed with his head and entire body under cover. He would show no sign of recognition, and his food was frequently pushed under the covers within his reach, and thus he ate enough to sustain life. This lasted during a period of 24 years. After the first few years old acquaintances ceased their visits and he almost dropped out of their remembrance. He now relates the following strange story:

A short time ago he felt strength suddenly return to his body and had an impulse to rise. He tried to do so and found that he could get up. About the same time he found his eyesight restored. He had not uttered a sound for years, but the thought occurred to him to speak, and he found his voice restored.

His first attempt to walk was by resting his hands upon the back of a chair and pushing it along, but he now uses crutches. He had forgotten many words, and those were taught him just as a little child is instructed. In the same way he was taught to read again. Everything was new to him. He, however, remembered the names and faces of former acquaintances. An old acquaintance who had not seen him for many years met him at the store at Graysville and was quickly recognized by McClelland. The latter refers to the period of his life prior to his illness as one who has been away in another part of the country for many years and has just returned. He speaks of places about the village as "when I was here before they looked so and so." He says there were but two or three houses in Graysville when he was there then.

Like Rip Van Winkle, he seems to have awakened from a long dream. He says that during his illness he was many times able to hear what was said, but had not the power to whisper even a reply. He has an interest in a piece of land and draws a small pension and says he now is able to conduct his own business. Mr. McClelland is 54 years old and formerly worked at the painting trade.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

SOME DAINTY LUXURIES.

What the Great Chinese Envoy, Li Hung Chang, Enjoys at Mealtime.

The mysteries of Li Hung Chang's private cuisine at the Grand hotel in Paris have been made known. As he cannot have the appetizing dishes which flatter his palate in China he does the best he can with such means as are available. He is not a lover of rice. His dinner, which is served at 6:30 o'clock by his body valet, a man who sleeps at his door every night, and by three cooks, who follow their handiwork to the dining room, consists of 12 to 16 courses, not counting tea and little cakes at the end. One large tray contains all these various edibles, ranged in rows one above the other. Roast duck is almost always the piece de resistance, which the viceroy eats with kidney beans. Then comes a savory dish of fresh pork, with a quantity of jam. Although the cucumbers are served apart, he usually enjoys them together with jam and pork.

After this the venerable Chinese turns to shrimps, the flavor of which is heightened by leeks, gherkins and mushrooms, with which he eats them. Next he picks two tender chickens preserved in wine and vinegar along with green peas. Then he is ready to do justice to a slice of fresh pork cooked in honey with the smallest mushrooms. This is succeeded by a puree made of pigeons' legs and flavored with sour jelly. These are some of the chief plates which constitute the evening meal and are followed by dessert, consisting of rice, cooked with sugar, and sponge cakes and the whole washed down with tea.—New York Sun.

Queen Will Send Her Thanks.

The queen, through United States Embassador Bayard, will send an expression of her thanks to the citizens of Ocala, Fla., for the kindly sentiments contained in an address accompanying some leaves from a magnolia tree which the people of Ocala recently planted and dedicated to her majesty.

Another Henley Cup.

London Sporting Life announces that R. H. McLane, an American, intends to offer the Henley regatta stewards a trophy of the value of £100 for a contest by college oarsmen.

He hopes that this will bring together the best crews of England and America.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Milking the Treasury Cow—Senators Whose Sons Are Government Clerks—Exposing Jobs.

[Special Correspondence.]

The government, through its board of awards, has been giving out contracts recently for department supplies. Many business houses in Washington make their chief profit selling goods to Uncle Sam. They get a good price for them, too, notwithstanding he is the biggest buyer in the country. In a fair competition the government gets a great deal the better of any individual buyer, but the board of awards has to be on the watch all the time for bogus bids and combinations. Invariably, for example, there is a combination of ice dealers in the District of Columbia to divide up the government contracts. Naturally you would expect the board to advertise in lump for so many tons of ice, more or less, for use in all the departments and to give the contract to the lowest bidder. No; the advertisement specifies that separate bids will be received for each department.

The Shrewd Icemen.

The ice dealers get together and divide the spoils. One company is to be the lowest bidder for this contract, another the lowest bidder for that contract. All of them make a show of bidding, but each puts its bid too high on all but the contract assigned to it by the conference. The agricultural department, the Smithsonian institute and the fish commission are side by side on the Mall, but one pays 37½ cents, one 25 cents and one 20¼ cents for ice.

At intervals some one pries into the matter and makes a fuss about the combination. But he excites no virtuous indignation here. The public conscience at Washington is not very sensitive about money taken from the public treasury.

Worthington Ford, chief of the bureau of statistics here, wrote a magazine article recently about the indifference of Americans to the honest observance of the customs regulations. He found when he returned from England that most of his fellow passengers thought it clever to defraud the treasury of duty on articles they had purchased abroad. The same indifference to the government's claims is to be found here in the departments. Men who are scrupulously exact in their dealings with other men will stoop to any small trick to get ahead of the government.

The Extra Work Steal.

There was once a harvest time for men of that kind. Just before adjournment of congress resolutions to authorize extra work were rushed through the senate and house. "Indexing" and "compiling," this work was called usually. It was merely part of the office work which should have been done in the regular course by the salaried clerks. Instead of requiring the clerks to do this work the resolutions would authorize that it be done under contract with some one. This contract would be given to the office clerks who were drawing salaries of $1,800 to $2,500 a year. Under the contract each of them would receive $500 or $1,000 extra for this "special" work, which was done invariably in regular office hours. The whole thing was an imposition plainly.

Those good old days are gone. Not so many years ago a senator who objected to this system was called a demagogue. Now there are so many senators and members keeping an eye on appropriations that there is keen competition to see who will be first to expose a "job." Speaking of jobs, I often wonder why senators do not realize the folly of putting their sons on the government's pay roll. Fully one-third of them appoint their sons committee clerks or private secretaries at salaries ranging from $6 a day upward. Doing so, they unfit them for usefulness in after years.

The Sons of Senators.

These senators' sons are now at home or at the summer resorts spending their salaries on idle amusements. When their fathers go out of public life, most of these young men will not know how to earn an honest living. The departments are full of just such people. Only a little while ago a son of President Tyler died in Washington poor and neglected. He had been his father's secretary in the White House. For many years afterward he was a department clerk, and when he lost his government job he lived in poverty, supported by his pension as a veteran of the Mexican war.

When the Christian Endeavor delegates were here recently, several thousand of them climbed the steps inside the Washington monument and then came running down breathless. It is hard to understand this more than Alpine ambition. There is a big elevator running up and down at convenient intervals, and, except when the crowds are extraordinary, it can carry all who want to travel in it.

The people who walk are the people who do so much damage to the monument. The vandal who wants a piece of the monument to carry home has spoiled some of the finest memorial stones. Many of these, fortunately, are so high in the wall that they cannot be reached without a stepladder, but many of the finest are on a level with the steps. These have been broken and chipped, and the metal letters have been dug out of them. At the bottom of the great shaft, too, the stone has been chipped at the four corners as high as the hand will reach. Most of this chipping was done before the monument was completed. There was a long period, when the popular subscriptions had ceased to come in, before congress took hold of the work, when the monument stood neglected. The late General Thomas L. Casey was the final architect of the monument under the direction of congress. When it was complete, there was another long period in which congress would not furnish the money to run the elevator. Now, that is one of the regular appropriations, and the elevator runs all the year round.

CARL SCHOFIELD.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR.

A woman was on the witness stand before a badgering lawyer and was vainly endeavoring to give her testimony about an assault, of which she happened to have been a witness. The lawyer, as too often happens, treated her all the while as if she were herself a criminal.

"You say he knocked him down," said the lawyer. "Now, I want to know how he struck."

"Well, sir," began the witness, "he stood just"—

"I don't care how he stood," interrupted the lawyer. "I want to know how he struck."

"Well, sir, I'm trying to tell you," said the witness, growing flustered. "He stood right by"—

"I can't stop to hear you tell anything about his standing," said the lawyer. "I want you to tell me simply how he struck."

The witness hesitated.

"Well, well, madam," said the lawyer in a tone of great exasperation, "if you have come here to testify in this case, will you have the goodness to tell me without further delay how the blow was struck?"

"I'm afraid my words won't explain to suit you, sir," said the witness, eyeing her tormentor resentfully, "but if I had a broomstick here and was near enough I reckon I could show you how he struck."—Youth's Companion.

The Complexion.

"Realist!" she repeated. "Why, he drew a straight flush that was so natural it bluffed everybody out of the game!"

They were at no pains to conceal their admiration for the slender [illegible] corduroy who drank [illegible].—Detroit Tribune.

A Modest Photograph.

"Nearly all people who want summer boarders advertise 'gentlemen preferred.'"

"Yes; I wonder why."

"You see, only about 1 man in 60 plays the piano."—[illegible]

Not His Taste.

Builder—[illegible] the cost at $100,000, which [illegible] ure, but [illegible] her and material [illegible]

Architect—Oh, [illegible] of course.—Detroit Tribune.

Badly Discouraged.

"Madge seems to be [illegible] nowadays."

"Yes; he has invented a safety coupling pin and [illegible] women's shirt waists [illegible]."—Chicago Record.

Perfectly Independent.

Wickwire—I see that another policeman has been suspended for sleeping on his watch.

Mudge—I have been eating and drinking on mine for a week.—Indianapolis Journal.

Contradictory.

"Mercy!" she shrieked.

She was about to throw herself at his feet, when she suddenly recalled having heard that a woman cannot [illegible], whereupon she forbore.—Detroit Tribune.

Her Limit.

"Much of a crowd at the [illegible]?"

"Well, as a congregation at a [illegible] it would have been immense, while as a crowd at a ball game it would have been mighty thin."—Exchange.

Different Standards.

"Are you superstitious, Miss Willowy?"

"Yes, indeed; I never take more than 13 glasses of ice cream soda in a day."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Natural Limitations.

Father—Your friendship with that young man must cease at once.

Daughter—Why, papa, it was only yesterday you said we were too young to marry.—Detroit Tribune.

Having a Time.

"Tolliver is running as an independent candidate, I hear."

"Perfectly independent. [illegible] supporting him but himself."—[illegible]

Made His Pocket.

"Strange about that burglar [illegible] arrested while dressed as a woman."

"Nothing queer about that. He couldn't find his pistol pocket."—Chicago Record.

There Always Are.

Mother—Robbie, didn't I tell you never to let me see you do that again!

Robbie—Yes'm, but I didn't know you was a-lookin.—New York Press.

The Desirable Size.

Mrs. Dearborn—Will my face show?

Photographer—Oh, [illegible] I'm not going to make the picture as big as that.—Yonkers Statesman.

The Real Thing.

"She gets her complexion from her mother's folks."

"Ah, indeed! Are they druggists, then?"—Detroit Tribune.

A Voice From the Ranks.

A-savin of my country? Well, I guess I've done my share.

I've 'tended every meetin that they got up anywhere,

I have helped the oratory by volumes of "hooray,"

An I've singed my hair an [illegible] fireworks display.

I keep a-doin jes' the best I can,

But it's all fur disappointment that I stand.

Fur reputation is ungrateful,

An I'm gittin sorter hateful

Where I useter truly love my feller man.

A-savin of my country! Ain't I set up late an talked

When I seed there was a prospect of my party's getting balked?

Ain't I argyed long an earnest [illegible] proud an free?

An wasn't Asa Billings made postmaster 'stead o' me?

Yet I never fail ter rally round an shout,

Though I think it's something to complain about

That they don't give any pensions

Fur a-goin ter conventions

An a-yellin till yer lungs is tuckered out.

—Washington Star.

DIOCESAN NEWS.

[illegible]

The remains of Mrs. [illegible] West [illegible] were [illegible] Friday of last week.

Miss [illegible] visiting Miss [illegible].

Miss O'Connor of Rochester [illegible].

Edward Keenan and wife of [illegible] are visiting friends in town.

The outlook for [illegible] in this town. In fact, not a single [illegible] has been heard to [illegible] this vicinity. The [illegible] ready to welcome [illegible].

Miss May [illegible] of Rochester was in town last week.

A game of ball will be played in the near future between the [illegible] and [illegible] the Extinguishers of this village.

Sudden Injury.

A very serious and painful accident occurred to [illegible] of Mr. H. [illegible] on Charles [illegible] by the bursting of a bottle of root beer, the glass cutting one of her eyes. She was sent from here on a special attended by Dr. F. L. Wilson, to Rochester, and the surgeons think they can save the eye.

The [illegible] of this village took a party to Oswego on Wednesday to the centennial anniversary of the evacuation of Fort Ontario. They were unable to get back until Thursday evening on account of the heavy [illegible] on the line. Several [illegible] on the R. W. & O., and [illegible] walked in.

John, Conan, and [illegible] have returned from [illegible] where they attended [illegible].

[illegible]

Hood's [illegible]

Hood's Pills [illegible]

Save Your [illegible]