### A READER'S LAMENT.

.I cannot resti the old books I read long years ago. Mitot, Dickens, Thackeray, Bulwer and Scott and Pos Marryat's yarns of saliot life, And Hugo's tales of crime;— I cannot read the on books, Because I haven't time.

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- I love the dear old stories, My thoughts to them will stray. But still one must keep posted on The writers of to-day The writers of to-day
  My deak is piled with latest books
  I'm striving to dispatch;
  But ere I've thished all of them,
  There'll be another batch.
- Hope's new one isn't opened yet. l've not read James's last;
  And Howells is so prolific now,
  And Crawford writes so fast,
  "Evelyn Innes" I must skim,
  O'er "Helbeck" I must pore:
  "The Day's Work" I'll enjoy, although
  I've read the tales before.
- And then there is "The King's Jackal,"
  "The Gadfly," "Caleb West,"
  "Silence," "The Forest Levers," and I'll try to keep up with the times, But oh, I hope that i May read my "David Copperfield" Once more before I die,

  —Carolyn Wells in the Rukman,

### THE PARSON'S BOX

"Speakin' o' war," remarked Moot Rivers, the old Maine guide, as he tipped his cracker-box back against the front of the country store, upon whose platform a company of village loafers had gathered-"Speakin' o' war reminds me of a sort of Quaker parson that ust to come up into these parts every winter and travel round amongst the lumber camps, holdin' religious services. That man was the deadest sot agin blood-sheddin' of anybody I a duck on ice. ever see, before or since. He didn't even believe in war between man and varmints, sayin' that it was a crime agin God to take the life he had given times, I can tell ye, boys, the poor cuss here in the woods, whar the heft of ye!' our provender ust to be wild mean. I've seen him go to bed half-famished, me or not, but ef he did, thar wa'u't a night and find me out of everything for in half a minute the tobogran but tea and venison.

"The Parson-as we fellers up hero called him; he was a good sort of a chap, too-was so determined not to shed the blood of any livin' critter that he wouldn't even fight varmints in self-defence. He didn't carry any weppin besides his axe and jack-knife; and these he only used for cuttin' his wood and buildin' his camps. What did he do when pestered by wild critters. then? That's what I'm a-goin' to tell

"The Parson travelled through the woods with a strong oak box, 'bout seven feet long and two and a half broad, sot on a toboggan. It was the hest-built box I ever see. put together with four-inch screws. and bound on the inside with steel strips and brackets. The top raised up, lid-fashion, and was fastened on by eight big brass hinges. Inside thar was a chain lock to hold the cover raise it without pullin' the box to pieces. Thar were two or three small holes bored in the end o' the box for ventilation; and I'll be blamed of that feller didn't ust to dump his duds in the snow and crawl into that box when ever wolves or painter or b'ar got arter him, and thar he'd cuddle down, as snug and peaceful as a kitten in a basket, and let them critters paw his chist around ontil they got tired of it!

Thar ust to be scratches a quarter of an inch deep all over that box. where varmints hed clawed it; and the Parson has told me that sometimes he lay thar for a hull night or a hull day, till whatever critter was interested in him got its curiosity kind o' wore off, and left in s'arch of softer vittles. More than oncet he come within an inch of freezin', and would 'a' froze ef it hedn't be'n for the blanket he had in the box with him. But sartin sure no varmint that roamed the woods was able to crack the Parson's shell, and he wa'n't no hard-shell Baptist nether.

"I s'pose he might 'a' gone on boxin' of himself up that way till he got all the choppers in the woods convarted. ef it hedn't be'n for an accident that disturbed his arrangements and kind o' demoralized his principles. I'll tell ye

how it happened. "Me and him was on the way to the Jennings lumber camp, away up near the head waters of the Alleguash. It and we was anxious to reach shelter before nightfall. The Parson's box was a kind of hard draggin' up them hills. but he stuck to it, and said it wa'n't any wass than my pack, anyway-

which was true enough, I guess. "Wall, it got to be along about three o'clock in the arternoon, when I'll be gosh darned ef I didn't hear a wolf, two or three miles back, give his longdrawn how on our trail! Now, thinks I, Mr. Parson and Mr. Rivers, there's goin' to be plenty of excitement for ye being called pasch, pace, or paste eggs, in about an hour! The Parson knew what was comin' as well as I, and he says: I think that's room for two in my box, Mr. Rivers. Will thee not fine me thar, when we are obliged to seek safety, ontil these poor critters become weary of their thirst for human blood?

"'Thankin' you for yer hospitality, Parson,' says I, it will agree with my constitution better. I think, to chmb a tree and pick off them variants, one by one, till the coast is clear for a warm supper and a dry bunk."

" 'O Lord!' says he, lookin' up with mournful eyes, 'the bloodthirstiness of man, made in Thine image! Nevertheless, I will continue with the, my friend, ontil the perfil is upon us. Then, perhaps, thee will reconsider and enter the box with me."

"That remains to be seen, Parson, says I, for I didn't want to hurt his feelin's too bad all it oncet.

other, and another, and putty soon the woods seemed to be full of the relain' devils. It wa'n't a great while afore we could see 'em skulkin' arter us amongst the trees, and I come to the Bo many people wonder why business. 'Get into yer box, Parson,' says I, 'for I've picked out my tree and the limb whar I'm goin' to set.'

She shops!

She shops!

She shops!

She shops! conclusion it was time to get fixed for

"Thee will not jine me, then? says he, beginnin' to pitch out his plunder. "'Not this trip, Parson,' says 1. Sometime, when it ain't so cold and He know so late in the day, perhaps, I'll jine ye.' " Tarewell, then, says he. 'And may God restrain thy hand.'

"Tarewell, then,' says he. 'And may look strength then,' says he. 'And may look strength then,' says he. 'And may look she shops! She shops! She shops! and I got out o' the straps of my pack and took old Spitfire up the tree with

"We had hardly got fixed afore the hull pack o' wolves, about twenty on 'em, was swarmin' round us. They nose around the Parson's box. and I kind o' held off with old Spitfire, necuz I'd never reely seen how the Parson conducted his campaigns, and was a might cur'us to obsarve how the varsmellin' round for a few minutes, the wolves begun to scratch and gnaw at

"'Now, as I was sayin', the Parson's to which it was bound by thongs. Wa ears: hed stopped on the side of a small mounting, and when the wolves begun while I am absent-will you think of to push and haul at the box, the todog- me alone when I am gone? Oh, Cargan slewed around til it was p'inted rie, my darling love, will you wear down hill, and then off she went like my image in your heart during those

"Thunderation!' thinks I to myself Is the Parson goin' coastin' amongst the mine-doubly precious, my darling, all these trees? Sure enough, he was, and gatherin' headway all the time. any critter of his'n. He wouldn't eat? with the wolves trottin' arter. kind o' meat becuz it was 'slain,' and some- su'prised like. 'Parsoni' I yelled, unlock that box and stop her, or thar in the way of our union?" was reel hard put to it for a bellyfull, won't be a splinter left of either of

"I dunno whether the Parson heard when he'd stop at one of my camps for much time to foller my instructions, was goin' like a log in the rapids, and then like a bullet out of a gun; and afore I could get my jawa closed ag'in, ker-whack! she struck a big hemlock! The Parson's box bust open lengthwise. just like a pea-pod, and out he come a-flyn' and sailed along on his coattails for a good ten yards, just like a pa'tridge when she lights. The minute he struck the snow, he was up ag'in, leggin' it for a tree. I reckon he had it all planned out while he was in the air, for I couldn't 'a' chose a better tree myself, nor shinned up it any

> "When the Parson got perched, I could see his white face among the hours remained before our parting and last will! branches, lookin' down at the wolves. that were howlin' and leapin' up on the tree. 'Shoot, Mr. Rivers! shoot!" he yelled. 'For God's sake, save me from these beasts!

"I got a rest over a limb and begun to onlitch old Spitfire. Every time down, so the devil himself couldn't she spoke, a wolf keeled over, snappin' at the snow, and makin' himself a red rug to lie on. Once in a while the Parson would give a yell, and towards the last they was whoops of triumph. In less than half an hour every wolf was dead, excep' three that sneaked away. Then I got down and went to see how the Parson was He seemed to kind o' miss his box, for I never see a man quite so disturbed about a few pesky wolves. 'Have you killed em all, Mr. Rivers?' says he, with chatter-

> "'All but three,' says I. 'And you needn't be afraid they'll come back.' " 'Sure?' savs he.

" 'Sure,' says I.

"But it was fifteen minutes afore I could get him to come down. 'It is dreadful, this carnage!' says he, shy in' away from the dead woives. You must excuse my confusion and inconsistency, Mr. Rivers, but I was never in such a plight before. In the seclusion of my box, I knew nothing of these terrors."

"'You'll get used to 'em, Parson, says I, 'now that the box is gone. And when you set down to supper at Jenning's, to-night, I'll bet you'll be glad you ain't cooped up here, waitin' for them critters to get tired o' the smell o' yer carcass.'

"Thar is somethin' in that,' says he. And, by gum! if the cuss didn't eat a hunk o' bar's meat with bis beans and mush, that night, at Jenwas spiteful cold weather, in February, nings's!"—James Buckham, in Field to you." and Stream.

The origin of the custom of giving has been more or less written up, in proposed for my hand; but I had only, kisses upon my upturned face. memory of which it is still customary one answer to give him: to give presents of colored eggs in Per-Easter eggs have had various names. and the uses to which they have been put are many. One deserves our particular notice, as it is connected with our American custom of allowing the children to roll their eggs on the lawn at the White House. This rolling of eggs is one of the very old customs, in my aching heart, which my uncle's Willie, too, hears her remark, as she the finest grassy slopes being selected for the purpose. The children, in rolling the eggs, repeated some such ditty as the following: "Carland, parland, paste-egg day." But this custom was not entirely confined to the children, for in some places the older, welldressed people indulged in the sport, having their initial or some distinctive marking on the eggs, for the one that held out claimed the rest. Our South-

ern negroes have such a "game." Both tansy pudding and bacon and eggs were very generally eaten at this time, the bacon to show abhorrence of the Jews: though on the Continent it was very customary to abstain from "In the meanwhile the howl of the eating flesh at Easter in order to esfirst wolf hed be'n answered by an cape fever for the rest of the year,

SHE SHOPS.

She shops! she does not mean to buy, For funds are low and prices high,

She shops! The tired assistant sight, For long experience makes him wise He knows wherein her weakness lies ows wherei

-Pearson's Weekly

Out in the dear old garden, under the didn't give a look at me, but begun to hawthorn hedge, where Willie and I stood sorrowfully, on that Tuesday morning in June, just before he started for the Black Hills to seek for gold. "Give me a bunch of those lovely

his embrace, and pressed me tenderchist o' refuge was sot on a tobogran, ly to his heart, whispering in my

eyes, my darling."

"Darling, will you be true to me long, weary months of waiting, while I am wresting the precious ore from since its possession will break down the barriers that divide us-for, Carrie, dearest, it is not my want of a name, but my want of gold, that stands

Ah! little did my Willie think that it was not for the want of gold or a name that Uncle Nathaniel had forbidden him ever again "to darken his doors." No, he had learned that I had given my heart to Willie Vanderbeck -for this was the name my here had borne ever since that early May morning twenty-two years ago when old Dr. Vanderbeck, going out to visit a patient, had found my Willie-theu a wee, chubby infant-with one little rosy fist crammed into his mouth, while his eyes were smiling up into the astonished face of the good old doctor from out of the wicker basket in which my darling lay. And the doctor had taken him in and given him a return to me again.

"Ah, Carriel sweet love!" he whispered, trying to cheer me, "when I uncle's doors will be open wide to welcome me, for it is gold, swee-neart, that is the 'open sesame' to hearts and homes in these days of mammon wor-

ship," he said bitterly. "You are mistaken, Willie," I answered. "It is not your poverty nor the thaniel's door on you. Listen, and I will tell you what it is."

Then I went on, and told him how father had made his will two years previous to his death, when uncle nad shortly before his death, and after molation. George had behaved so badly toward and Uncle Nathaniel says that father what yours have spoken. why I cannot banish the gloomy fore- will bear.

since then, but, ah! such months of dear bosom. agony to me!

fled from his presence and stole out hevy of her friends: here to weep, where none but the blue "Good gracious! what singular taste bells and jonquits could witness my young Vanderbeck's bride displays. I wild grief. Oh! how I longed for the vow those are blue bells and fonquilis touch of the dear hand and the sound which she wears, instead of orange of the dear voice, to calm the tumult blossoms. How dreadfully shocking

hawthorn, listening to the plaintive the loving light in his dark eyes grown notes of the whip-poor-will, that deeper and far more tender, as he seemed to echo the sad voice of my whispers in my willing ears words of aching heart. The sun went down be- love, which banish every care and sorhind great banks of gold-colored row from my heart.—New York News clouds. while I sat there in the gloom of the twilight trying to school my un- Aunt Ethel-Well, Beatrice, were disciplined heart, and gain fortitude you very brave at the dentist's? Beat in heart and our are to meet my cousin without looking the trice—Yes, suntie, I was. Aunt Einer and reight charge to the area of the course of the cou

The stars came out silently, one by did to you. Beatrice He pulled out one, and the breeze began to stir the two of Willie's teeth!-Punch. branches of the trees, fanning my hot, fevered cheeks with its dewy fresh-

Still I lingered until I heard a step they had been to war.

on the walk which I recognised a once as my uncle's. I crouched close under the branches of the trees until it had passed; then, creening under the shadow of the hawthorns, I resched the house unperceived and stole to my chamber. There I cried myself to sleep, with the miniature of my absent darling clasped closely to my bosom.

But why do I linger-why do I struggle to keep the dead past unburied? Oh, Willie, my beloved! you can understand why I am marrying my Cousin George!

When the sad news of your death first reached me. I thought my heart was broken; but I prayed-ah, darling, how fervently I prayed that I might die, too, and join you in that world where neither sin nor sorrow ever enters. But it was not the will of heaven to take me then. I had a duty to perform. My dead father's commands were ever before my eyes. Love was buried in my breaking heart forevert my sinful heart had rebelled, now flowers. Carrie," he said, "for their cried aloud for my submission to the mints would use him, anyway. Arter blue blossoms will remind me of your will of Him who gave me being, and I have yielded. Oh. Willie! my beauti-And as I stopped to gather a hand- ful, my own angel level look down and

Yes: out in the dear old garden for the last time. When I am "Mrs." George Hammond" I must never revisit this spot, where Willie and I parted meet on earth. I wonder do our angels still retain their bright, earthly smiles. And will the tunes which we loved on we meet again as they did when we listened on earth to their low, tender cadences? But why should I shrink from asking that which is ever in my heart-"I wonder will my Willie greet me with the same loving smile and press me to his heart with the same impassioned fervor as he used to in those dear, past days, before he crossed the dark river to the beautiful summer land?" But I must not pause to think: duty calls me to the side of him to-morrow. But surely there is no sin in lingering here, near the flowers my darling was so fond of, for tomorrow, blue bells, you and I must is this that glistens in the rays of the crescent moon, where I have uprooted \$31.75 S OUR SPECIAL 90 DAYS PRICE. the beautiful flowers and hastily

only eleven months ago2-yes, here the will, stained and damp, where the winter's snows have lain above it; but come back with the 'yellow bags' your yet every word of the well known writing is visible, even in the faint

glimmer of the young May moon. "Oh, my lost lovel-oh, my poor, broken heart!" I cry, while I weep pitiful tears over my young, wasted

But it is growing late, and I hear want of a name that closes Uncle Na- step coming up the long, graveled walk, under the lindens that grow on DUR RELIABILITY IS EST either side of the road leading from the turnpike up to our old mansion.

"Some late visitor." I tell myself, "who is coming to witness my mar- 1001 PIANOG, \$183,00 Act and first come to live with us, giving all riage on the morrow. But shall it be? SEARS, NOESUCK & DO, Can his wealth to me, with the proviso that No, thank heaven! No duty compets I should marry George Hammond, me now-no father's voice, reaching Uncle Nathaniel's only son. But back from the clay, demands my im-

But, hark, the sound of angry voices. poor Nellie Benson, our seamstress, to borne toward me on the evening father made a new will, in which he air. I hear Uncle Nathaniel ordering. left everything to me without any re- someone to leave "his grounds" his strictions, and this will father put in grounds no longer, but my own now. a little tin box which was always! But what voice is that which relocked up in his desk; but after his plies: "I will not go until I have seen death this last will could not be found, her and heard her own lips repeat

destroyed it before he died. The first Oh, joy! joy! Can I believe my will leaves me entirely in my uncle's senses or am'I only dreaming? Is that power, and his heart is set on George a voice from the dead, or is it my and me marrying. "And now, Willie, darling Willie's voice I hear?" I grasp dearest, you know the cause of this de- the little tin box with a firmer clutch termined opposition to our union, and and fly as fast as my fremiling limbs

bodings that haunt me, causing my Yes, there stands my Willie alive, heart to sink when you speak so hope- and oh! so grand and beautiful-face fully of returning with gold to remove to face with my uncle, a look of firm the barriers which uncle will always determination shining in his large, oppose to our union. But no matter dark eyes. But now he sees my white whatever it will cost me, I will be true robes and the stern look fades on his face, as he rushes forward and gathers Eleven little months have passed my fainting form close to his dear

"Oh, my lost love!" is all I can uit-Scarcely was my darling's back ter, but Willie, all unmindful of the ggs at Easter is not of great antiquity, turned when my Cousin George re- strangers who are flocking out upon dating back to a Persian legend that turned from the city and formally the lawn, is pressing long, happy

Blue bells and jonquils are in my "Cousin, I am already engaged to bosom and peop out shyly from the sia on a certain festival in the Spring, marry the only man I can ever love." misty folds of my bridal well, and Wil-Then followed a stormy scene with lie, too, wears them in his buttonhole. my uncle, until, blinded with tears, I I hear one young lady whispering to a

> angry and cruel words shad aroused! shrugs her pretty shoulders and titters For long hours I sat there beneath audibly; but he only twines his dear the shade of the fragrant, blossoming arms more closely around me, while

loathing which I felt when in his pres- Then, there's the half crown I prom- WE MAKE THIS TOP SUGGY troubetter to ised you. And now tell me what he was not in are the

> War is no picule; but people always come home from picnics looking as if an

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### LAMBARA

the box, and finally they sot to work to ful of blue-bells and jonquils that grew strengthen me to bear my cross with 284 East Main St. Weinderland Theather Bidge Rochester N. T.

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