

TOM AND PIET.

Tom—
"Our Queen wears a glorious crown
and gorgeous robes of state."
Piet—
"Oom Paul wears a shocking bad hat,
and garments of ancient date."
Tom—
"Our Queen has a golden sceptre. On
her Empire the sun never sets."
Piet—
"Oom Paul has a pipe for a symbol. He
rules whatever he gets."
Tom—
"Our Queen has hosts of foot and
horse, in khaki, and red and blue."
Piet—
"Oom Paul has an army of farming
men, in miscellaneous hue."
When Tom sticks Piet with his bay-
onet, or Piet plugs Tom with a ball
Tommy hurrahs for his Queen, and
Piet cheers loud for Oom Paul.
Piet helps Tom when he's wounded,
sprays o'er his grave when he's
dead.
No rage or hate 'twixt Piet and Tom.
The moment the battle is done.
But sorrowing kin, on either side
mourn father and brother and son.
Fighting for Empire, or Fatherland,
neither guilty of wrong.
Poor Tom and Piet for slaughter meet.
"How long, O Lord, how long?"
Tom—
"Our Queen cannot be blamed for this.
She always hated war."
Piet—
"Oom Paul kept peace as long as he
could. He never thirsted for gore."
Tom and Piet—
"Who brought us here in battle array?
Who forced us to mangle and slay?
We wonder and fight. Let historians
tell.
Who should get bullets on Judgment
Day
For quarters in deepest hell!"
—George Crouch.

AWKWARD PREDICAMENT.

Mr. Augustus Littleman was a bachel-
or, and besides this he was shy, in
every sense of the word. He shrank
from contact with his fellow-men, had
very few friends, and was nervous
and retiring in any company, but
should that company be composed of
ladies, his feelings were beyond de-
scription.
That such a man could fall in love
may cause a smile—but nevertheless
it is a fact.
The capricious god had taken un-
wary aim at the shrinking heart of Mr.
Augustus Littleman, and the little
bachelor was wounded past recovery.
He blushed to the tips of his ears
(the terrible disclosure must be made
at once, I cannot say to the roots of
his hair, for he had none) at the idea
of such presumption, when he first
became aware of his malady, and from
that moment his bashfulness increased.
He would from time to time glance
slightly at the mirror, and observing
the decidedly commonplace features,
laugh in derision.
"You in love?" he would sneer, apos-
trophizing his reflection, "a pretty fellow
you are, to think that Miss Jessie
Harman could care for such a—such a—"
The idea was always too ludicrous
for him to complete the sentence, so
he would throw himself into a chair
and compose despairing sonnets to the
moon.
I have said that Mr. Augustus Lit-
tleman had no hair, I should more cor-
rectly have said, none of his own, for
a very full and curly wig reposed up-
on a barber's block before him.
Whether he had been relieved of his
locks to facilitate study, or whether
brain fever (at the discovery of his
love) had been the cause of his loss,
it boots not here to say, but I men-
tion his possession of a wig, for upon
that wig hangs a tale.
For three weeks after his discovery,
Augustus contented himself with writ-
ing poetry, and walking by moonlight
outside the house which enshrined the
object of his adoration; while vague
ideas of Venice and serenade floated
in his brain, although foggy London
streets were by no means so conducive
of sentiment as the blue waters of the
Queen of Cities; and damp feet were
not so pleasant as a seat in a com-
fortable gondola.
II.
About the end of this time our hero
was visited by a friend, who rallied
him upon his low spirits, whereupon
the love-lorn swain confessed his un-
enviable condition.
"Does the girl love you?" was the
first question.
"I don't know," dolefully.
"Then why don't you ask her?"
"Ask her! Ask Jessie Harman if
she loves me! Propose to her!"
"But, my dear fellow, it would be
a very good match for her. You are
rich."
"What of that? She's not mercen-
ary, it's myself I'm thinking of."
"Well, take my advice, go and see
her to-morrow. She can but say no,
and that won't kill you."
His friend left, and Augustus pondered
over his words. She could but say
"No." As to that, decision not
killing him, he was not quite so sure
about that. He passed a sleepless
night, and by daybreak had worried
himself into the resolve to settle the
matter that day. This resolution being
formed, he burnt nearly a ream
of sentimental poetry mostly address-
ed to the celestial planets, and then be-
gan to think about his toilet.
Mr. Augustus Littleman was by no
means a fop, but his preparations up-
on his fateful day might have put to
the blush many a maiden of "sweet
seventeen."
His collar was of the tallest, his
boots of the brightest and tightest pat-
ent leather, his cuffs immaculate as
freshly fallen snow.
Half-a-dozen silk ties were hope-
lessly ruined, and quite double that
number of gloves cast aside, either
split, or as unbecomingly soiled on
occasion, while his wig, which had been

sent to the barber's to be curled, had
come back a perfect marvel of consor-
cial art; but still it was with a very
discontented expression that he sur-
veyed his flushed and heated face in
the glass, as he fixed his new hat over
his borrowed locks.
Scarcely had the correct time for
calling arrived, when he flung him-
self into a hansom, and was whirled
all too quickly to his destination.
Ascending the steps of the banker's
mansion with feeble limbs, he rapped
quaveringly at the door, while his
heart beat the same to the ribs. In a
hurry he was asked for Miss Har-
man, and with dry throat and clammy
hands, he was ushered into one of the
spacious drawing-rooms.
He noticed the footman smiled ma-
liciously as he withdrew, and guiltily
imagined that the man gazed at his er-
rand. He walked to the pier glass to
adjust his necktie for the last time,
when he nearly fainted with horror
and amazement.
His head was bald.
In a moment the truth flashed upon
him.
His wig had come off with his hat.
He dashed towards the door. A light
footstep sounded without. What could
he do? He turned cold with terror.
The handle of the door moved, and
Augustus, like a reed, he recoiled, and
with a few light bounds, dashed into
the conservatory, and encoined him-
self behind a large india-rubber plant.
As he crouched, covering in his con-
cealment, he saw Jessie, the object of
all his hopes and fears, enter the
wing room. She looked around in
surprise at seeing it untenanted and
was about to withdraw, when the
door again opened and a tall, dark
man, with a saturnine expression of
countenance, entered.
"Miss Harman, I have come for my
reward," said he, taking up his po-
sition before the fire-place, and fold-
ing his arms, while he spoke sternly
and with apparent authority.
The girl turned pale, but drawing
herself up proudly, she returned in a
low voice:
"You will find it in the negative at
your house, sir. I wrote last night."
A deep crimson flush stained the
man's lowering brow, and an evil
light flashed from his eyes.
"I see you are too proud to marry
your father's man, get but remember
that the man you despise has the pow-
er to bring the one you love best on
earth to ruin. One word from me will
cause a run on the bank, which can-
not be met. You know what that
means—Disaster!"
"Sir, this is not manly. Had you
come to me as any other suitor, I
must have refused your offer, but I
should have done so gently, and have
been grieved that you had entertained
an affection for me which I could not
return; but when you couch your
proposal in such threatening language,
and wish to buy me at the price of my
father's safety, I can have nothing
further to say to you."
A mocking smile played round the
lips of her cowardly persecutor as she
spoke.
"Then I'm to understand, Miss Har-
man, that you will allow your father
to bear the consequences of your fol-
ly?" said he. "You will bring down
that old man's grey hairs with sorrow
to the grave? You will have him
dragged through the mire of the Bank-
ruptcy Court, and perhaps see him
placed in the felon's dock? You will
allow an innocent, though a weak man
to hear the execrations of the widows
and orphans, who will be ruined by
hundreds if the bank stops payment.
All this can be averted if you will con-
sent to be my wife. Promise me that
and I will be dumb, and in a week's
time the danger will be over."
With a cry of grief and alarm, the
found girl sank half fainting upon the
nearest chair.
"I await your final answer."
"I cannot—I cannot—I love an-
other."
"Then I know how to proceed," was
the heartless answer. "Remember you
are the author of your parent's dis-
grace and ruin," and the man strode
towards the door.
"Stay, stay," cried Jessie, "any-
thing but that!"

III.
He was in the act of returning when
the window was darkened, and our
hero, regardless of his curious appear-
ance, sprang into the room.
"Leave the room, sir," roared he in
the fiercest voice at his command.
"What do you mean?"
"Leave the house instantly, or must
I turn you out?"
A nervous man when once roused is
sometimes bolder than his more assur-
ing fellows, and there was something
in the manner of Augustus which awed
the other, and although he glanced
contemptuously at the little bachelor,
he turned to Jessie and said mean-
ingly:
"Am I to obey this man, Miss Har-
man?"
"Yes," said the girl, who had viewed
the advent of our hero with delight,
and the man went.
"Jessie," said Augustus, taking her
hand, and retaining his boldness, "I
have undoubtedly overheard your con-
versation with that man. I came this
afternoon to ask you to be my wife,
ask it now. My darling, I am rich,
and no dishonor shall ever stain your
father's fair name. Give me the right
to act as a son's part, towards him. I
heard you confess that you loved him.
It's possible that you referred to one
as unworthy as myself?"
Yes, it was quite possible; plain,
but full, and wigless, as he was, Au-
gustus Littleman was beloved by the
girl, Jessie Harman, and as a happy
married man, our hero had ever after
cause to bless the accident which in-
duced him to retreat into the conser-
vatory.

They Sized Him Up.
A very simple statement proved very
unfortunate to a sayings insinuat-
ing in the rural district. An editor
in writing of the institution in his
paper said:
"The president is a very tall man;
the cashier is short."
And in less than an hour the excited
depositors were asking, "How much
how much?"—Atlanta Constitution.

NATIONAL CAPITAL.

GOOD OFFICES TENDERED TO STOP THE BOER WAR.

Final Completion of the Financial Legis-
lation—What the Effect May Be—Enlarged
Circuit—Differences in the Senate
on the Porto Rican Tariff.

The President has been very anxious
to do all in his power to bring about
peace in South Africa, and as the
whole civilized world looked to this
Nation as the one best situated to act
as an intermediary, the responsibility
resting upon the Administration has
been very great. There have been fre-
quent meetings of the Cabinet and the
discussions have been long and earnest.
The answer of the British govern-
ment to the representations made by
Mr. Choate was not given to the
public promptly, and it is now known
that all that was ventured in this first
overture was an enquiry as to what
Great Britain was likely to demand
as the price of stopping the war. To
have gone further and have proposed
terms on our own account might have
placed the United States in the posi-
tion of an uninvited mediator. It
was announced from London that the
interview between Mr. Choate and the
British minister was very brief, the
premier confining himself to a cour-
teous verbal declination without en-
tering into details.

Secretary Hay discussed at the Cab-
inet meeting the efforts which the
Boer government is making through
the State Department to lay a propo-
sition for peace before the British gov-
ernment. He presented the subject
in detail, describing the terms pro-
posed by President Kruger and defen-

pectally by those of the Middle West,
some of whom did not hesitate to af-
firm that any effort to place a tariff
upon the exchange of business be-
tween the United States and Porto
Rico would have an injurious effect
upon the Republican party in those
States. It was generally agreed, how-
ever, that from a party standpoint al-
most any bill would be better than
none, and the feeling gave the friends
of the measure hope, despite the ap-
parently unyielding attitude of the
party factions. They are still holding
to the bill as originally introduced,
and express the belief that it will form
the basis of whatever settlement is
agreed upon. This opinion is based
upon what was said in a general way.

Those senators who favored the
proposition for a tariff on Porto Rican
goods coming into this country, and
free trade for goods to Porto Rico,
said that this course would afford free
entry of food and supplies needed by
the Porto Ricans, while the tariff on
goods coming into this country would
supply revenue for the island, and also
retain the principle of protection. Sev-
eral times during the debate the course
of the administration was mentioned,
and the statement that the country
was aroused because it had seemed
that Congress was acting contrary to
the wishes of the President.

Political Gossip.
Among the political gossip which
comes from Washington, I find the
following, which is given for what it
is worth:
"Many Republicans believe that an
understanding already exists between
President McKinley and Senator Platt
that in the probable event of the
President's re-election his Cabinet
shall be reconstructed and New York
State be accredited with one mem-
ber. The man who will be called to
the Cabinet, in all probability, will be
Thomas C. Platt. He will accept, it
long has been his ambition to be Sec-
retary of the Treasury. He is expected
to be designated for that position by
Benjamin Harrison, and Harrison's
failure to recognize him made Platt
his foe. Republican gossip now is to
the effect that Platt, Odell and Pres-
ident McKinley have an understanding,
by the terms of which Platt will go
into the Cabinet and Odell will go to
the Senate as Platt's successor. All
this is based of course on the re-elec-
tion of President McKinley and a big
enough majority in New York to elect
a Republican Legislature in both
branches. So Odell may be counted
out as a possible candidate for the
nomination for Governor this year."

Odell and Watson.
The recall of General Otis, to follow
that of Admiral Watson is now look-
ed for. General Otis has now been
continuously on duty in the tropical
climate of Manila for nearly two years,
and the amount of labor which he has
performed has been enormous. He is

Effect of the Loan.
As to the immediate effect of the
measure, owing to the transfer of
\$150,000,000 in gold coin and bullion
from the general fund to the redemption
fund the available cash balance
of the treasury will hereafter show a
reduction to that amount from the fig-
ures that have heretofore prevailed.
Should redemptions reduce the reserve
below \$100,000,000, and the secretary
is unable to build it up in ordinary
course, he may sell bonds enough to
place it back to the \$150,000,000 mark.
The endless chain is broken by a pro-
vision which prohibits the use of re-
deemed notes to meet deficiencies in
the current revenues.

One clause of the bill gives the sec-
retary the right to coin any of the
1899 bullion into subsidiary silver
coins up to a limit of \$100,000,000,
and he may receive worn and out-
dated subsidiary silver.
There are some other changes in
the national banking act. The law
permits banks to issue circulation on
all classes of bonds deposited, up to
the par value of the bonds, instead of
ninety per cent. of their face, as heret-
ofore. This is expected to make an
immediate increase in national bank
circulation of something like \$24,000,000,
as the amount of bonds now de-
posited to secure circulation is about
\$24,000,000.

National banks are permitted under
the law to issue circulation up to an
amount equal to their capital. The
total capital of all national banks is
\$10,000,000. The total circulation out-
standing is \$253,000,000. There is,
therefore, a possibility of an increase
in circulation to \$263,000,000, although
the price of the two-percent bonds, al-
ready foreshadowed by market specu-
lators in advance of their issue, pro-
mises to be so high that the profits
to the banks in taking out circulation
will not be enough to make the in-

crease anything like such a possible
total.

Were Misrepresented.
Personal explanations were made in
the Senate by Mr. Allen, of Nebraska,
and Mr. Butler, of North Carolina,
and their positions on the financial ques-
tion. Both announced their belief in
the free and unlimited coinage of sil-
ver at the ratio of 16 to 1. The state-
ments were called out by reports to
the contrary which had gained some
circulation.

The Porto Rican Tariff.
The Porto Rican tariff bill has
brought out a great difference of opi-
nion between the members of the Sen-
ate, which at one time seemed irre-
concilable. At the caucuses deep
feeling was displayed over the ques-
tion by a number of Senators, and es-



Lord Salisbury.

pecially by those of the Middle West,
some of whom did not hesitate to af-
firm that any effort to place a tariff
upon the exchange of business be-
tween the United States and Porto
Rico would have an injurious effect
upon the Republican party in those
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Gen. Otis.

nearing the age of retirement, and has
gathered all the honors that can come
to a commander in the islands. The
President is said to feel that a young-
er man should replace General Otis,
and continue the work of suppressing
the robber bands which alone resist
the authority of the United States.

Reasons for.
"You think I had better stimulate
insanity?" said the accused man.
"I do," answered the adviser.
"What's the best way?"
"Well, you're no actor, of course.
If I were you I'd get some South Afri-
can war maps and repeat the geographic
names over and over. In the course
of a short time I don't believe you'll
have to pretend at all."—Washington
Post.

NEW YORK CENTRAL & HUDSON RIVER R.R.

THE FOUR-TRACK TRUNK LINE.

Trains leave from and arrive at Central
Avenue Station, Rochester, as follows:
EAST BY MAIN LINE.
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