

## THE MATCH-MAKING BLIZZARD.

Carrie Welton, the little school teacher at Smithtown, had for some months been wishing that some change of fortune would take her away from this dreary neighborhood, so full of depressing memories.

She had not always hated the place so—in fact, some of the happiest hours of her life had been spent there, but that was before she had quarreled with Alexander Hall and had sold out and moved to Dakota.

It was her own fault that she had lost him, and that did not make her feel any the better. Just out of coquetry she had accepted the attentions of a commercial traveler who occasionally visited the town. Hall resented this, and a quarrel was the result.

She was therefore delighted to get a letter from her Uncle Tom one morning from Dakota. He had taken up a quarter section of land and was doing well, and suggested that as many women out there were doing the same, it might be to her interests to take up a claim and try farming.

Carrie had no sooner finished the letter than her decision was formed to go. She wrote her uncle that she would arrive within the next three weeks, and she was with him in less than two.

"I have the lumber all ready for your little house," he said, as he drove her from the station to his "bachelor hall."

Somehow she was lighter hearted and happier since she knew she was in Dakota than she had been for months. She knew why—she did not cheat herself. It was because she was in the same country with Alexander Hall. It gave her a sense of companionship—this very knowledge.

"In the morning I will take you out and show you your claim," continued her uncle. "And I've chosen this site for your cabin. It'll be about a mile from mine—just a nice walk for you when you get lonesome."

The next morning was bright and sunny, but of course windy.

"What a wind! Does it blow often like this?" asked Carrie as they rolled along over the smooth prairie.

"Wind? Why this is a calm day, my dear," said Uncle Tom. "Wait until you have seen a Dakota blizzard, my dear, before you talk of wind."

Soon they came to Carrie's "quarter section," as Uncle Tom called it. Carrie could not see where it began or left off, she told Uncle Tom. It was like all the rest of the country—just land, and nothing more, prairie as far as the eye could reach.

"Well, but I know where the invisible lines lie," responded Uncle Tom. "Now, over yonder in that knoll your cabin will be built, after we have attended to the legal formalities, and that is the extreme southern limit of your claim. A little south of it there is a slight ravine, and then another knoll. The ravine is the dividing line between two quarter sections."

"Who owns the other one?" asked Carrie, very anxious to know who might be her neighbor.

"I don't believe it is taken, though I heard something about it the other day. Some fellow was looking it up I believe. There are some dozen of them around almost daily. That was the reason I was in a hurry for you to come."

A few days later, after the legal formalities had been attended to, Uncle Tom drove Carrie out again to look at the cabin that was in process of erection on the opposite knoll.

"Why, that claim has been taken, too! I wonder who will be my neighbor?" queried Carrie.

"I can find out at the land office," Uncle Tom replied.

He did so and gave Carrie the desired information the next day.

"It's some fellow named Hall—A. Hall," he said. "He just sold out his interest in some claim about fifty miles north of here, and now he's taking up this, which he intends to keep as a homestead. They often sell out at a nice figure after staying a few months on a claim. Some fellow pays them a good round sum for their chance, and they go elsewhere."

Carrie felt a sudden leaping of her heart and a curious excitement at the sound of the familiar name. But was it likely that this was Alexander? It would be too wonderful to be true.

Yet it was Alexander! She saw him at the postoffice the next day, and passed him without so much as a glance. He looked as if she had been an apparition, and took a step forward and then stood still, chilled by her cold glance, in which there was no recognition. He knew he had conducted himself like a brute and an idiot when he left Smithtown. He had realized it a dozen times since—realized it constantly, in fact—with a dull heartache, whenever he was alone with himself. But he had never been quite brave and manly enough to write and ask her pardon, believing ere this that Mr. Parker had the first place in her heart. And now she was here in Dakota! How strange!

"A greater surprise awaited him in the knowledge that Carrie's claim and cabin were just opposite his own. The two cabins were completed and furnished, and the occupants moved in. Alexander's was the more pretentious of the two in the exterior, and Carrie's the more sumptuous within. For she had brought her books and she had a few plants and with those indescribable ornaments, which some women seem to create by a turn of their hand, her rooms were very cosy.

"Got acquainted with your neighbor yet, Carrie?" asked Uncle Tom after a month had passed.

"No, and I don't want his acquaintance," answered Carrie, rather icily. "Nice fellow, I think," said Uncle Tom. "He's got business in him, and will make a successful man. He's taken up a tree claim now. I was talking with him today."

"What is a tree claim?" asked Carrie.

"Oh, you plant so many trees and have them growing at a certain stated time—say two years—and the land is yours. He said you might do that and be worth just so much more. It would cost you but a trifle to have trees planted."

"He is taking an interest in my affairs, is he? Well, nobody thanks him for his advice," snapped Carrie in a voice unusual to her.

Uncle Tom wondered what had come over the girl, usually so sweet tempered.

The weeks went by, and November came. Carrie was on the third month of her six. She had made a great many friends, and had read and sewed and had made her uncle's cabin and her own very pretty and comfortable, and she felt that her time had been well employed.

One November day Carrie was "tackling" a comforter, which she had pieced together out of bits of calico. The wind had been blowing with increased fury from the northwest all day. Toward evening it became terrible, and a steady snow began to fall. It seemed to shake the frail little cabin to its foundation. Carrie felt her heart sink with fear. This was something beyond any of her former experiences, and she remembered what Uncle Tom had said of a "blizzard."

"This must surely be a blizzard," she thought.

Higher and higher rose the wind, louder and louder and still louder it shrieked. The walls of the house shook, trembled and then—Carrie was conscious of being lifted into the air by some unseen force, and whirled through the darkness and then falling. After that all was blank.

She was only stunned, and when she opened her eyes she found herself in a confused mass of ruins, and Alexander Hall was kneeling by her calling her name.

"It was not necessary to come over," she said. "I am not hurt in the least."

"Come over!" he repeated breaking into a laugh. "It is you who have come over, Miss Carrie, and I am very glad to see you, even in this unceremonious manner."

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"Why I mean that you came, house and all, and planted yourself right in my dooryard with a thunderous clatter. It is a wonder your neck was not broken, my dear."

"Do you really mean, Alexander, that my house blew over into your yard?"

"I mean just that, Carrie. I always thought your cabin rather shaky—mine is twice as substantial—and now you will be obliged to accept my hospitality for the present. Fortunately, I have a man and wife stopping with me this week. They have slept soundly all through this cyclone. They are used to the country. But I will wake the good woman now, and she will attend to you."

The next day Alexander said to her:

"Since you unbent sufficiently to call upon me in such an unceremonious manner, Carrie, before I beg your pardon for my old disagreeable meanness, can't you stoop still further and marry me, now that I do most humbly crave your forgiveness? I have always loved you."

Of course Carrie could not refuse.

"Pon my soul!" said Uncle Tom, when he had heard the whole story. "It's better than a magazine yarn! You are the heroine, Carrie, and Alexander is the hero, and I am the sort of good angel, you know, that fixes things up."

"You and the blizzard," laughed Carrie.

**Four Supper Dishes.**

A housewife noted for the excellence of her cuisine gave the following formulas:

Bake large, mealy potatoes in their skins until nearly done. Take from the oven and cut a slice from the top, leaving the skin on one side to form a sort of hinge; with a fork pull out the underdone heart, and fill the hollow thus made with a tiny shaving of smoked bacon peppered and rolled tightly. Close the potato and put back in the oven to finish cooking.

For Cheese Soufflé—Pour two cups of hot milk over two cups of soft bread crumbs; add a cup of grated cheese and three beaten eggs; bake as an omelet (this will make two), and when one side is done set it in the oven until brown. A much longer time is required in the cooking than for the ordinary omelet. It should puff to a thickness of at least two inches and be of a uniform golden brown.

An odd but especially delicious omelet is made by mixing six eggs, beaten, two teaspoonfuls of melted butter, two of grated cheese, salt and pepper, with tarragon, chives, and parsley chopped fine. Put butter the size of a walnut in a pan and cook as an ordinary omelet, or finish in the oven as for a soufflé.

For curried eggs, cut one apple and one onion in thin rings and fry a golden brown in butter; sift into this a dessert spoonful each of curry powder and flour, and dilute with half a pint of water; lay in four hard boiled eggs, shelled and quartered. Serve in wall of boiled rice.

A girl encourages a young man to stay out late during courtship and then kicks because he keeps it up after marriage.

To one cupful of cold cooked fish—halibut or salmon—flaked, add half a

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### A LAND OF CHILD MOTHERS

There are no children in Japan. They are dignified burlesques on the grown-ups. The little girls of the family take care of the babies by having them strapped to their backs. Nearly every maid of 5 or 6 has a baby tied to her back and perhaps that accounts for the bent back and tottering gait of the Japanese woman. Though one never hears a Jap baby cry, if one begins to make a mouth and wrinkle up its funny little face, its child-mother quiets it by raising her body on her toes and heels as fast as she can, and placidly reigns in short order. A man would feel like a fool quoting "Mother Goose" to a Japanese child or trying to amuse it as one does our children. As for chucking one under the chin, that's unthinkable.

### A Girl's Fiance

Are you half as familiar with his past record as you are with his present neckties?

Does he try to make up for little slights by foolish flattery and love-making?

Have you ever seen him with an enemy, an invalid, a beggar, a dumb animal or a helpless child?

Do you feel broader, purer, kinder, better, because of your acquaintance with him?

Does he appeal to your vanity and selfishness, or to the true, womanly side of your nature?

Are his education, business training, financial backing and general ability such as to assure you a permanent and comfortable home?—Exchange.

### Restoring White Silk

A good way to restore white silk articles that have become yellow in washing is to dip them in tepid soft water containing to each quart a table spoonful of ammonia water and a few drops of bluing. Wring them out and if still yellow add a little more bluing to the water until they are fully restored. Hang in the shade and dry partially, and press with a hot iron between folds of cotton while damp.

### Milk Diet Cure

A physician suffering with Bright's disease and weighing 155 pounds began to restrict himself exclusively to a milk diet, taking one quart at each meal, or three quarts daily. Soon no traces of his former ailment was perceptible. He gained thirty pounds in flesh and this, notwithstanding constant attention to professional duties both day and night.

### To Become Attractive

It is the duty of every woman to make the best of herself. Certain defects of complexion and figure can easily be remedied. Physical exercises, fresh air and good diet will work wonders with those, and by the addition of a smart dressmaker, milliner and clever hairdresser many a plain girl has been transformed into a pretty one.

### Fish Croquettes

To one cupful of cold cooked fish—halibut or salmon—flaked, add half a

cupful of thick, white sauce, season with salt and pepper, stir over the fire until boiling, spread on a platter to cool, divide into as many portions as are needed, shape roll in egg then in bread crumbs, fry in smoking hot fat a good brown. Serve with lemon slices.

### For Ironing Collars

Use a polishing iron with a rounded surface faced with steel. Iron each collar till quite dry, lay on a board covered with one thickness of calico only, rub quickly over with a clean rag squeezed out of cold water and iron with the polishing iron, pressing hard. The iron should be moderately warm.

### Sally Lunn

Beat one egg, add to it one cupful of milk and three-fourths cup of sugar, pour this over two cupfuls of sifted flour, sift in three level tea spoonfuls of baking powder beat well and pour into a greased baking pan; bake in a moderate oven twenty minutes.

### Fresh Air and Rosy Cheeks

The children who are warmly dressed and sent out of doors to play in all weathers have rosy cheeks, bright eyes and a look of genuine health. They are different from the pallid little house plants upon whom the fresh air is never allowed to blow.

### Powder a Protection

Even the ordinary woman, in these days, understands that the toilet of a lady is incomplete without a touch of face powder, and that it is a protection, covering the pores and preventing the dirt and dust of the streets from lodging in the skin.

### A Laundry Sprinkler

A laundry device that is as inexpensive as it is helpful is a zinc sprinkler that distributes the water evenly over the clothes. Competent laundresses claim that even sprinkling is essential for good results in laundering.

### Making a Candle Fit

A candle can be made to fit any candlestick if it is dipped into very hot water. This softens the wax and it may then be easily pushed into a candlestick which otherwise would be too small and it will be neatly and firmly held.

Progressive women inclined to be impatient with their more backward sisters should remember that it takes quite a while to convert a jellyfish into a vertebrate.

### Candle shades are almost exclusive

cent effects being the handsomest. A variety of beadwork, the silver and opalescent.

### THIS IS "SPORT"

Mr. Rymington Wilson, of Broomland, England, is modestly receiving the congratulations of his friends. With eight guests he has "broken the record" by shooting 2,748 grouse in one day.

Counting ten hours' work, which is about what union rules allow, the nine "guns" must have averaged one

bird killed in a little less than two minutes. The actual shooting was even more rapid. Not many "misses" can have been made, but hundreds of wounded birds undoubtedly got away to recover in some cases, in others to die by inches.

A curious idea of "sport" that! The crude and brutal mentality of a "ruling class" which can find joy in such slaughter may explain Thibet expeditions and other blood-stained inquiries where men, not grouse, are the quarry.

### Railway Dangers

Ordinances requiring that watchmen shall be stationed at crossings of steam and electric railway tracks on grade do not offer security against accidents, but merely relative protection of life. Safety for passengers and pedestrians is comparative only. The two chief drawbacks of steam and interurban electric railways are the single track and the grade crossing; while the two grossest evils of urban transportation systems are the surface track and the grade crossing.

### The People's Hope

Political economy held out no hope of making the condition of the masses better and was devoted to "the dismal science" of calculating the necessity, whenever they became too numerous for their masters, of killing them off by war and pestilence. Even in our own day, just 30 years ago, Prof. Cairnes, one of the foremost of the British political economists, wrote of the working people: "The problem of their elevation is hopeless. As a body they will not rise at all."

### The Reckless Automobilist

The auto racer who recklessly causes a runaway accident must be deemed an outlaw and not only fined but be made to pay for all injury done, to the last penny and the worst cases should be sent to jail into the bargain. Human life and limbs are too precious to be wantonly sacrificed to the auto craze.

### Stature and Illness

According to a paper read by Dr. Shrubshell before the British Association sufferers from tonsillitis, rheumatism and heart disease are of a higher stature, and sufferers from tuberculosis, nervous and malignant diseases of a lower stature than healthy individuals.

### Age of the Earth

Lord Kelvin estimates the age of the earth all the way from 40,000,000 to 30,000,000 years. Others who profess to know something about it do not come within 15,000,000 years of each other in their estimates.

### A New Form of "Cure"

"Skipping teas," to which guests of both sexes and all ages must bring their own skipping ropes, are mentioned in the columns of the *Lady*, a London fashion paper. Skipping is to be the fashionable "cure."

### Eric Railroad Emergency Corps

The Eric railroad has adopted a novel car for accident emergencies. It is equipped to render medical aid whenever needed along the road at a moment's notice. A doctor and attendants are constantly in charge.

### Russian Female Criminals

In most countries many more crimes are committed by men than by women. In Russia, on the contrary, especially in the factory regions, there are more female than male criminals in some places twice as many.

### The Tallest Princess

The crown princess of Denmark is the richest and tallest woman of her rank in Europe. She is six feet tall and inherited \$15,000,000 from her maternal grandmother, as well as the bulk of her father's fortune.

### Four-Penny Nails

Penny is a corruption of pun for pound, denoting pound weight for one thousand, used in combination with respect to nails, as 10-penny nails, nails of which 1000 weigh 10 pounds.

### Russian Monasteries in Palestine

Russia has a number of monasteries in Palestine. A recent traveller was surprised to find them strongly fortified and having loopholes for guns.

### Warship Buried in Mud

During the work of dredging at the new harbor at Havre a wooden warship has been discovered buried in the mud, and six cannon, still loaded have been recovered.

### Last of Grant's Staff

Gen. W. T. Clark, inspector of the United States Treasury Department is the last of General Grant's civil war staff. He served with Grant four years.

### Some Old Laws

In Connecticut there are 104 statutes which are not enforced and no one would know that they existed if he did not mouse about the rolums of laws and pick them out.

### Emperor's Playing Cards

The German Emperor once designed a pack of playing cards, the face representing various nobles. The Kaiser himself was the king of hearts.

### Auto Suits for Canines

New York.—From Paris the latest automobile fad has come, and the dog that goes motoring with his master's mistress will hereafter wear goggles, coat and cap in America, just as his European brother has been doing for several years.

Already the more pretentious automobile supply houses in this city have begun to take orders for "dog togery." One dealer has set tailors to work fashioning nine outfits for one customer who has dogs ranging from pug to Great Dane. This dealer has placed a dog model in his window as tired in the full up-to-date automobile accoutrements.