

KATE AND I.

(Original.)

We didn't wait for an income to marry on, little Kate and I. We had no rich relations to leave us legacies...

"I would have done it for anybody, Mark," said she, when I tried to thank her. "Would you?" said I. "But it isn't everybody that would have done it for me, Kate!"

So I asked her to marry me, and she said yes. And I took a little cottage on the edge of the Swampscott woods, and furnished it as well as I could...

"What is it, sweetheart?" said I. "Remember, it is a contract between us that we are to have no secrets from each other! Are you not perfectly happy?"

"Oh, yes, yes!" cried Kate, hiding her face on my shoulder. "But it's my mother, Mark. She is getting old, and if I could only go East to see her, just once, before the Lord takes her away..."

It was then that I felt the sting of our poverty most. If I had only been a rich man to have handed her out a check and said: "Go at once!" I think I could have been quite happy.

"Never mind, sweetheart," said I, stroking down her hair. "We will manage it after a little. We will lay up a few dollars from month to month, and you'll go out and see her before she dies..."

And with that little Kate was forced to be content. But there was a hungry, homesick look upon her face which it went to my heart to see.

ly. I turned to Mr. Jones, the conductor, who just then stepped out on the platform. "Is it for that old lady?" I asked. He answered "Yes."

"How far did she want to go?" said I. "To Swampscott," said he. "You needn't stop, Mr. Jones," said I. "I'll pay her fare."

"Yes I," said I. "I'll take her to my house, until she can telegraph to her friends for something. My wife will be good to her, I know, for the sake of her own old mother down East."

"Just as you please," said Mr. Jones. "But when you've been on the road as long as I have you will find that sort of thing doesn't answer."

"I hope I shall never be on the road too long to forget my Christian charity," I answered, a little nettled. And I took out my worn pocket-book and handed over the money.

We did not stop at Stumpville station after all, but put on steam and ran as fast as it was safe to drive our engine, and when a little past midnight we reached Swampscott, where we were due at 7:30.

Pierre Rene, the Frenchman, came on board to relieve me. I helped my old lady off the train, that basket, traveling bag and all. "Cheer up, ma'am," said I. "You are all right. Now then—look out for the step! Here we are."

"Where am I?" said the old lady. "At Swampscott, ma'am," said I. "And you are the kind man who paid my fare!" said she. "But my daughter and her husband will repay you when—"

"All right, ma'am," said I. "And now, if you'll take my arm, we will be at home in a quarter of an hour." "But," said she, "why can't I go directly to my destination?"

PROFESSIONAL FOOLS. They Occupied Important Places and Were Believed and Trusted Often. According to Garzoni, the lord was never without the fool, the fool never without a lord...

The statement is corroborated by the evidence supplied by history of the extraordinary affection borne by kings to their jesters...

So dear was Callette, his official jester, to Francis I., that when death had removed him from his post the King paid to his memory the welcome compliment of insisting that his son, made after quite another pattern...

Charles V of France it is recorded that he maintained at his court a number of the craft with whom his morning devotions concluded, he was accustomed to exchange "paroles joyeuses et honnestes" before proceeding to the more serious occupations of the day.

"BRONTIDI." Hollow Noises That Came from Somewhere. Interesting acoustic phenomena called, in Italy, "brontidi," have been investigated by Prof. T. Alippi...

These noises do not appear to be due to artificial causes such as mine explosions or gun shots, as they mostly occur in central mountains...

Alpine Clubs. The largest number of the "Alpine Journal" publishes a list, as complete as can be made, of the Alpine Clubs of all countries.

Got His Price At Last. John F. Dietz, a Northern Wisconsin farmer, who for four years has defied State and Federal courts and held up 20,000,000 feet of logs by his dam, has accepted \$15,000 and released the logs.

Old Paper, Old Editor. Henry S. Gere, editor of the Hampshire Gazette of Northampton, Mass., has been in active newspaper work for 60 years, and the paper he now edits is 121 years old.

FIELD MICE. In the District of Zabern—1,570,000 Were Caught in 14 Days. Dr. A. E. Brehm states concerning the field mice of Germany that in 1822 in the district of Zabern 1,570,000 were caught in fourteen days.

Louis Figuler, the French naturalist, writing of the same species, says that the female gives birth to from eight to twelve little ones three or four times a year, and the multiplication is so rapid at times that "whole districts have been reduced to desolation by this scourge."

The common meadow mouse of the United States is one of the most prolific of our species. Estimating the normal increase at six young, with four litters in a season, and assuming that there were no checks upon the increase, the results are appalling.

ACCIDENT FAKERS. Insurance Companies Are Suspicious of all Injuries to the Knee. "Accident insurance companies are very suspicious of all accidents involving injury to the knee, for it is on his knee that the accident faker mainly relies."

"There are men who make a living out of fake accidents. They travel from city to city, they insure in every company that issues accident policies; then, with a fake injury, they proceed to collect dues."

In Praise of Italy. Dwight Elmendorf of New York City recently declared that he would rather live in Italy than any other land, outside of his own.

Blight of Tea Plants. A blight of the tea plants caused by the bite of mosquitoes is causing much alarm among tea planters in India.

The Honess was full of rage. The spot she had her eye on, Upon the bottom of the cage, She saw the lion lie on.

Knicker—Jones says he is a Yale man. Bocker—Yes; he never went himself, but he paid his son's way through.

HOW BUTTERFLIES MIGRATE. It is a Rare Privilege to Witness the Milkweed Species Move. To witness a migration of the milkweed butterfly is a rare privilege, for it is our only species in America that does migrate...

As swallows soaring, curving, dropping into the chimney depths at twilight, thus the butterflies rose and fell, rose and circled higher—higher, up to the very tree-tops; then came tumbling back among the leaves, settling and unsettling themselves fussy and angrily, noiselessly, as though a mere contact with a branch made them recoil; if not just the right place—up and away, slowly and with dignity; their selections were daintily made.

Whether or not somnolence, indifference to fate, or wing-weariness ruled the butterfly mind I cannot tell, but I stood among the swarming thousands, at the very least count, and plucked them off, one by one, experimenting with them and setting them again on the twigs.

FISH WITH STRONG STOMACHS. Curious Things Are Found in Them, Pocket Knives, Rings, &c. Curious things are often found in fish. While discharging a fare of cod fish from the schooner Vinnie M. Getchell, at Gloucester, Mass., in 1886, Capt. John M. Getchell, found imbedded in the thick flesh of a large cod a knife of curious workmanship.

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