

A Four-Leaved Clover

Howard perspired with exasperation.

Here he was bound for Bangor, with an important business appointment to keep, stalled thirty miles out of the city by some miserable mix-up in the trains.

Most of the passengers were traveling men, like himself. One by one they went up to their fellows in misfortune and commented on the road.

A conductor stuck his head inside the door. "Two hours to wait, gentlemen," said he, "before we pull into Bangor."

Clover! Howard had always had a weakness for the sweet flowers, emblematic of a peace and contentment which he had not felt for ages.

The sweet breath of the flowers almost intoxicated him. He felt happier now than he had felt for many days.

Strange to say, there seemed to be no four-leaved stems at all. Howard began to think that it was a piece of spite on the part of the clover.

And finally he found one. Not a very big one, to be sure; but, then, it did have four leaves.

How he cursed that clover mania of his! Good luck, indeed! He had been hunting the contorted things for three solid hours.

He sat down on a rock and wiped his forehead. He almost cried with anger and mortification.

Howard sat there, his head buried in his hands for some time. Finally he got up. He must put up for the night somewhere.

He awoke later than usual that morning and went down to breakfast. The hotel was a mess, no doubt, but they could cook oatmeal that tasted like real food.

Howard had a morning paper. He never read papers, anyway. The ads were interesting sometimes, and the recipes.

A moment later the landlady came into the room and found Howard pressing a wilted clover leaf to his lips in a sort of dream.

The clover leaf is framed now, and Howard drags it around with him on his travels as other fellows do with their pictures.

Howard had always had a weakness for the sweet flowers, emblematic of a peace and contentment which he had not felt for ages.

HOUSES MADE OF PAPER.

Japanese Oiled Papers are Very Cheap and Exceedingly Durable.

From the bark of trees and shrubs the Japanese make scores of papers. The walls of the Japanese houses are wooden frames covered with thin paper, which keeps out the wind but lets in the light.

Watching the Invisible. The stroboscope is an ingenious apparatus for making visible rapid movements, like those of machinery.

Old Curiosity Shops. Many of the local curiosity shops in the back streets of most country towns are simply kept up by large London firms.

Pays Less, Gets Best. With 80,000,000 of people, the United States expends \$40,000,000,000.

Was Above Temptation. A good story is told of A. C. MacLaren, a well-known cricket player.

Canadian Absentees. An Ottawa correspondent reports to the Montreal Gazette that often more than 200 members of the Dominion's House of Commons are in their seats.

A Fool and his Money are Easy Marks. People read too much and learn too little.

DEW DROPS. A fool and his money are easy marks.

People read too much and learn too little.

All the world's a stage and most of the actors are the pedestrians.

Dead men tell no tales, but it's different with the writers of obituaries.

There's a policeman in Chicago who was actually born within the city's limits.

The wide-awake chap in the bald-head row at burlesque shows always sleeps when he goes to church.

One ever-present little vice will destroy the good work of a dozen big virtues on a vacation.

TOOK SHIP AROUND THE WORLD.

Admiral Clark Got Command Because of Skill at Chess.

Admiral Charles E. Clark, who took the battleship Oregon around Cape Horn and into action at Santiago, is said to owe his appointment as commander of that boat to his skill as a chess player.

LITTLE THOUGHTS. Most men kick more from habit than from necessity.

The stage-struck youth should think twice before attempting to act.

Gossip has about as much use for truth as a blind man has for spectacles.

Solomon knew but little when compared with what some men think they know.

Many a young man with a \$5,000 education is glad to accept a \$12 a week job.

After telling young people to marry only for love the minister proceeds to marry for money.

Some men may have had monkey ancestors, but those who are always butting in probably descended from goats.

Fire Talking. At the recent Royal Society conversation in London, an interesting modification of the phonograph was shown by Mr. T. C. Porter.

A Life-Saving Sash. A Frenchman, M. Chalheat, has invented a new sash which, he thinks, will keep every one who wears it from drowning.

A Malay Time Piece. In Malay the natives keep a record of time in the following way: Floating in a bucket filled with water they place a cocoon shell having a small perforation, through which by slow degrees the water finds its way inside.

A Monster Strawberry. A strawberry three inches in circumference, three inches in its largest diameter and weighing one-fifth of a pound, has been found in the garden of Charles Nicholas of Mendham, N. J.

Killing Rare Birds. Commenting on the craze for killing rare birds wherever they may be found, a writer in London Truth says: "I should have thought that the fact that a bird is rare would be a reason for not killing it."

Siam's Rubber Crop. The cultivation of rubber in Siam has been started, some thousands of plants having been set out as an experiment.

Her Legacy

Henry passed out the solid looking envelope with the imprint of a new firm in one corner.

"I guess you got a legacy, Miss Abbie," he said, genially. "You ain't never had no letters from way out West before."

It was the first letter from a stranger Miss Abbie had ever received in her life and she could scarcely wait till she reached home to open it.

By nightfall the news was all over the village, and the Clarion made allusion to a fortunate townswoman who would presently become a Croesus and probably would present the town with the library Mr. Carnegie had neglected to give.

Miss Abbie disclaimed the fortune, explaining to Henry that it was just something about the Rosedale family that the lawyer wished to know but the letters grew more frequent.

There were long blue envelopes of a color that prevented even speculation as to their contents, and the belief gained ground that Abbie Blair was a sharp one and that her disclaimers were merely for the purpose of throwing the tax collector off his scent.

And now a second wonder came to her hitherto uneventful life for Miss Grayling stepped up to her at the church one Sunday night and drew her arm through his.

"We're going the same way, Miss Abbie," he said awkwardly. "Let's be going together."

Grayling's courtship was brief and successful. He would listen to no denial and one afternoon Miss Abbie stood up before their few friends and the gray-haired minister spoke of the few words that made her Mrs. Grayling.

That night they left on their honeymoon trip to town, and a week later Grayling was back in his fields and Miss Abbie was moving about the Grayling home with a flushed and happy face, making it over from its bachelor disorder to the spick-span of her own ideals.

She went to the door as the wagon drove into the yard, and Dave climbed up to the porch to hand her a letter.

When Dave came in presently he found his wife sitting in the rocking chair and clutching a slip of blue paper in her nervous hands.

"Got a check from your legacy?" he demanded with rough good humor. "I wish I had a legacy like yours."

"It's not a legacy, Dave," she said softly. "It's a wedding present. Did you really believe that I had come into some money? Was that why you—"

"I don't suppose that you want me to believe that you've been corresponding with a lawyer chap all these months about anything else?" still in good humor. "Let's hear all about it, Abbie. I haven't bothered you before, but—well, I can get Cobb's twenty acres very cheap if I buy right away."

"I told everybody the truth," she said simply. "Mr. Benson is the historian of the Rosedale family. Somehow he found out that I had Grandmother Rosedale's family tree and wrote me about it. He used to send me reports of 'the other' branches and I'd look them up for him. When I was married I wrote him, so that he could get that down in the book and he sent me a check for \$25 for a wedding present. That's all."

"And those big bunches of papers were only about the dead Rosedales?" asked Dave with an uneasy laugh. "I guess dead Rosedales won't buy 20-acre lots."

Abbie was oddly quiet at supper time. She eyed him wistfully as she set out her best preserves and watched the plate of biscuit to see that there were always warm ones at hand.

"Dave," Abbie's voice was low and pained, and she fingered the tablecloth nervously. "I've been thinking about this afternoon."

"I've been, trying to forget it," he said with a laugh that was not mirthful.

"Sometimes they put people in jail who get money under false pretences," she went on bravely. "I was thinking that if we were to see a lawyer perhaps we could get a divorce. It's worse getting a husband under false pretences."

HOPE FOR BIG EATERS.

These Famous Old Men Always Indulged in Good Square Meals.

The man with a good appetite has a hard time nowadays. All the fastidious are shouting that he eats too much.

If he doesn't jump at the chance of lasting forty days he is snubbed, and if he doesn't joyously cut out two of his quondam three meals a day he is scorned.

But once in a long while he does get a little comfort. A writer in Fruit and Vegetable News recently by telling about famous old men who had been hearty eaters.

There was Victor Hugo, who in the very stronghold of French chefs kept a French cook, who herself attended her master at table. She hated messes and gravies and if she thought a dish unwholesome she refused to let him partake of it.

She had her reward in the heartiness with which he ate of her roasts and broiled viands such as a leg of mutton, rib of beef, ham, gammon of Windsor, bacon and greens a dish she hardly ever tastes in France.

There was also the late, the great, the famous Victor Hugo, who in the very stronghold of French chefs kept a French cook, who herself attended her master at table. She hated messes and gravies and if she thought a dish unwholesome she refused to let him partake of it.

Asparagus, which cost 25 cents a stalk was often served Hugo always taking a generous helping and been calling for more. He arranged to have stalks circularly on his plate with the points inward like the spokes of a wheel and placed the sauce in the middle in a round space left vacant by the stalks. This arrangement was always symmetrical. He disliked to see a broken point, talked while eating, and one might have thought, enough for two or three laborers.

All the sons of Louis Philippe were bonnes fourchettes and without being tippers, were fond of the high class French vintages. Two of them, Napoleon and Joinville exceeded the fourscore limit of age. Aumale attained his 76th year. The Duc de Montpensier lived only to the age of 66, but his early death has been attributed to his habit of sharing his chocolate made for the Duchess.

She required half a kilo of chocolate for each person at the petit déjeuner, with toast allowed to cool in a toast rack, which she buttered thickly herself.

The Princess Clementine now the only surviving child of Louis Philippe, has all her life been a hearty eater without, however, Bourbon excess. She is now 86.

Can You Twist a Bill in Two? The paper that is used by the Government in its currency is manufactured by a secret process and has characteristics with which the average man is not familiar.

Recently I was in a small Minnesota town and witnessed an incident that demonstrates this. A well-to-do farmer living in the vicinity came into the bank to transact some business. In the course of the conversation the cashier began twisting a \$5 bill. The farmer watched him with interest and finally asked the man back of the counter if he wasn't afraid of tearing the bill.

"Here is an easy way for you to earn money," said the cashier. "Here is a \$1,000 bill and I will give it to you if you will twist it and tear it. You are simply to twist it and not tear it."

"The farmer seemed dumbfounded at first. He seemed overawed at the thought of mutilating a \$1,000 bill. Upon further assurance by the officer of the bank, he timidly took the money and started twisting it in the middle. He tugged away for some time without being able to twist the bill in two. Finally he gave up and he was certainly a surprised farmer. It is impossible to twist a bill in two, so firm and elastic is the paper used."

Australia's New Jerusalem. "New Jerusalem," in its celestial sense, is a phrase familiar to the singers of hymns and the hearers of sermons; but it may not be generally known that there is a terrestrial "New Jerusalem" within the bounds of our own empire. It is a settlement in western Australia, and has just been officially inspected by the local minister of lands, the Hon. N. J. Moore.

It was founded three years ago by a converted Jew named Solomon Fisher. He established the "Church of the First Born," which is apparently a combination of Christianity and Judaism. He obtained a grant of 10,000 acres of land from the western Australian government, and there located his settlement, which has now a population of sixty-one, who all profess the peculiar faith of the founder.—London Chronicle.

Hydrophobia, which has practically been stamped out in England, still flourishes in most continental countries. Germany tops the list with an annual average of 2,682 dogs and cats destroyed for this reason, while the figures of France are 2,767, Belgium, Switzerland and Holland cases of hydrophobia are rare, the total of all three countries combined being under fifty.

ANGLO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT.

Was Signed in London in 1902 for Mutual Defense.

The Anglo-Japanese agreement was signed in London, Jan. 30, 1902. It provides that if one of the signatories is involved in war, in defence of her interests in the China seas or adjacent regions, the other should maintain a strict neutrality, but that if the belligerent should be attacked by a second power, the other signatory should join her ally, and that the war should thenceforward be conducted in common, and peace made only by mutual agreement. It was further stipulated that neither party should enter into a separate agreement with another power to the prejudice of the joint interests of the allies, these interests being defined as the maintenance of the territorial integrity of China and Korea and the securing therein of equal opportunities for the commerce of all nations.

Colonization in Colorado. Colonization projects are proving very popular in the agricultural districts of Colorado. Negotiations are pending for the purchase of 5,000 acres of land in a 12-mile strip along the Arkansas River in Southern Colorado for the establishment of a colony of ranchmen. A large party of people from Illinois is making arrangements to settle in the famous San Luis valley on a tract of several thousand acres.

A List From the Classics. New York State is full of cities and towns of classic nomenclature. There must have been a wave of Graeco-Roman lore when the christening of municipalities took place, with a by-product of Aslanism as a season's theme. There are such names as Rome, Troy, Athens, Cairo, Syracuse, Ithaca, Sparta, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Tre, Memphis, Venice, Florence, Corinth, Parma, Milan, Naples, Hector, Ovid, Delphi, Diana, Paris, Pompey, Dion, Palmyra, Palermo, Marathon, Mycenae, Napoli, Nineveh, Babylon, Romulus, Siliam, Smyrna, Utica, Virgil, Homer, Cicero, Ceres, etc.

Anaesthetics Suppress N-rays. M. E. Meyer has shown that vegetables put under chloroform lose much of their power of emitting N-rays, and M. Jean Becquerel has been led to try whether this effect of anaesthetics is not more general. He finds that not only organic bodies, but even inorganic, for example sulphide of calcium cease to emit N-rays when under the action of the fumes of chloroform, ether, protoxide of nitrogen, etc. In fact, the suppression of N-rays by anaesthetics in vegetables and minerals is much alike.—London Globe.

REFLECTIONS. Some men are too lazy to enjoy a vacation.

It is dead easy for a millionaire to pose as a reformer.

Nearly every big man does a lot of mighty little things.

A haughty man's dignity is usually nine-tenths bluff.

A bad man is naturally suspicious of every good man he meets.

Many a man puts his best foot forward only to have his corns trod on.

A bad memory often enables us to remember the things we should forget.

Some men never make any mistakes because they never attempt to do anything.

By giving a free-lunch annex with each library Carnegie would fill a long-felt want.

It takes some politicians about two hours to inform an interviewer that they have nothing to say.

Many a poor man has discovered that the shady side of Wall street is quite a long walk from the sunny side of Easy street.

Stopping Child Marriages. The custom of marrying girls when they are mere children of nine or ten years is increasing rather than decreasing in Bengal and other parts of India. The resulting racial degeneration is becoming so obvious that laws have been passed in several regions forbidding the marriage of girls under 14.

Nevada Population Loss. It is a notable fact that Nevada is the only state in the union that has not increased in population in the past 20 years. Instead its population has greatly fallen off. In 1880 the population was 62,266. Ten years later in 1890 this dropped to 45,761 and in the last national census in 1900 the population was 42,335.

Cat's Strange Journey. A cat at Littleton, N. H., crawled into a length of stovepipe just before the family packed their goods to move to a town in New York state, 200 miles away. When the goods were unpacked the cat was found in the pipe, alive and little the worse for its journey.

Aerolite Explodes in Room. While the landlady of the Bell Inn at Totnes, England, was at dinner one other day an aerolite crashed through the chimney, span around the room and exploded through the house, was considerably damaged the landlady escaped.