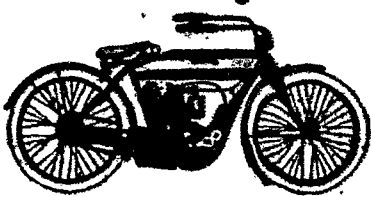


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The Auction Flag

One day I was seated in the office of a noted attorney, my foot mechanically keeping time to the music of a band organ playing in the street below.

"That tune," he said, "brings to my mind the hard struggle and ups and downs of the first year of my professional life. After being admitted to the bar I opened an office in a suburban city and hung out my shingle.

"When I had about concluded that a reform was sweeping the country my star of destiny began to ascend. It's an old saying that 'It's an ill wind that blows no good.' At this time a circumstance arose that put me on the road to success, and eventually a realization of my dream.

"Shortly after I reached home all thoughts of photography and auctions were driven from my mind by the startling report of a horrible murder.

"To make a long story short, I was named as her counsel. All the evidence the girl could offer was that she had ridden away on her bicycle.

"An audible murmur sounded through the court room. Your Honor, aid the counsel for the prosecution that the photograph had been admitted by the other side.

"Your Honor," I said in reply, "the old blacksmith shop shown in the picture was sold at auction on the 25th of August.

"A few years later the real murderer was apprehended, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

The shortest time around the world was claimed to have been made by Lieutenant Colonel Burnley Campbell, who left Liverpool on May 3, 1907, and on his return landed at Dover on June 13, 1907, covering the circuit in 40 days and 13 1/2 hours.

The New Dress

"Daughter, you're too sensitive," declared Blanchard. "I am merely asking for information."

"Information? Papa, you're trying to tease, and you know it," returned the impatient daughter.

"My dear Willa, I'm trying to study the psychology of women. No doubt I go at it blunderingly, but I'm a seeker after knowledge, and you must be patient.

"Mamma, can't you stop him?" Mrs. Blanchard, from behind the coffee pot, gave a sympathetic shrug.

"Good! I thought so. Proposed a half dozen times, didn't he? And you couldn't consider him as a husband or a suitor? And he took it hard?"

"Very well! For a long time he refused to listen to this suggestion. At last, however, he wrote you that if he ever should marry another woman he could never love her as he loved you.

"Silence gives consent. You were, of course, greatly relieved. You were no longer racked with piny for his tragic loneliness. You hoped sincerely that he had forgotten all about his vows to marry your lost lover.

"Does sound queer, I know. Now, Helen! You were intending to go today on this jaunt with Frank, your promised husband, and you didn't care whether the dressmaker came next week or the week after.

"The idea?" exclaimed Willa. "I should think anyone could understand that. I didn't have a thing to do, he said."

"You had good enough things for Frank Gardner to see you in. Oh, I knew, but Willa looked slightly dashed.

"What of it?" "Well, I suppose I've changed—a little older and—"

"Why, can't you see? After a man has gone and married some one else he's never quite settled until he has come back for one more look at the girl he couldn't get and if he can just find her changed so slowly it—why, it pleases him disgustingly and he's as likely as not to go back to his wife and tell her how happy and satisfied he is to think he was saved for her."

"Papa!" Tears of vexation sprang to Willa's blue eyes. "But look here," Blanchard sternly ordered. "I'm in earnest. If you honestly wanted to promote his domestic happiness I should think your role would be to receive him in your plainest old clothes—looking your worst, in fact—hair crossed as unbecomingly as possible."

"My dear," broke in Mrs. Blanchard in a horrified tone. "There, Willa, don't mind! I understand perfectly. It's like to understand," said Blanchard, meekly.

"It's absolutely impossible for you to understand," he whispered to Willa. "You're a man."

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Men Who Loved Long Ago

Valentine's Census Shows Many Cases One Hundred Years Old. It is generally supposed that the men and women of the age live longer than those of earlier times, but certain classical scholars of Europe are of a different opinion.

When this census was taken several persons were living who were more than one hundred years old, among them being two in Paris, each one hundred and twenty years old in America, one hundred and thirty in Russia, one hundred and thirty-five in Germany, in Holland, one hundred and forty in Spain, and Terrell, the former being one hundred and forty and the latter one hundred and thirty-seven.

Moreover, several historical personsage lived to a great age. One Cornelius transacted business until he was nearly ninety and retained to the end all his old-time vigor.

Quintus Fabius was appointed consul when he was past middle age, and he said the office for sixty-two years. Elvia, the wife of Scipio, lived to be ninety-seven; Terentia, Cicero's wife, one hundred and three, and Octavia, the wife of Augustus, one hundred and fifteen.

George, of Livonia, the father of Peter the Great and other distinguished men, was in excellent health at the age of one hundred and seven years.

The recent unearthing, he says, of the ancient burial place of a light-skinned people at Fayum, and still later of a reddish-haired corpse (not a mummy), supposed to be 3,000 years old, furnishes striking evidence in support of this theory.

The bodies above referred to were found in the mummy room of the British Museum. It was dug up on the western bank of the Nile, in Upper Egypt. Some bits of reddish hair were still sticking to the 3,000-year-old skull. The hands and feet are small, the head long and narrow.

Caution of the Thermometer. In a certain village not very long ago, a benevolent doctor ordered to give a thermometer to every cottage carefully explaining its use.

"Why, that?" was the unlooked-for answer. "I made 'em down from the wall and put 'em out in the garden and cool 'em down in it!"—The Daily News.

The Large Family of Jesse. Sixty-two years ago a man named Jesse moved from Kentucky to Lincoln County, Mo., taking with him his family of ten children.

Almost all of his descendants have married and settled in the same neighborhood in southwest Missouri, and as they are clannish a stranger who goes in there and talks unfavorably about anybody, he has a very likely chance of finding a relative of the person who has injured his feelings, and that he has not himself into trouble.

Margaret M. Clark, a Poet.

Hotel Rescues

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