

Miss Whitcomb's Association

By ESTHER VANDEVIER

Miss Bonfield, a lady of fifty-two, still handsome, her florid complexion contrasting with her white hair, was sitting in her boudoir one morning when she received a card bearing the name of Eben Farnsworth.

This plan gave great success to the association. Miss Whitcomb knew that elderly persons could not be got out in assembly for such a purpose, but she also knew that any lonely unmarried man would be pleased to meet any married woman with a view to matrimony.

Mr. Farnsworth was fifty-five, a well-preserved man of dignified appearance and old style in manner. He arose at Miss Bonfield's entrance, made a courtesy bow and said:

"Having placed ourselves in Miss Whitcomb's hands, madam, nothing remains for us to do but abide by those arrangements that have been made for us. Therefore I take it for granted that no apology is necessary. It gives me great pleasure to make your acquaintance, madam."

"I approve," replied the lady, "of Miss Whitcomb's idea, and she has shown great delicacy in carrying it out. I have joined the association rather for the purpose of supporting the same."

"I understand you perfectly. It is not necessary for you to join a matrimonial association for the purpose of being married yourself, but you approve of its object and have given it your patronage by becoming a member."

Fair Sample.

Mr. Follett and little Edward were sitting meekly in the corner where they had been placed by Mrs. Follett, well out of the way of her evening's work.

"What does 'paternal grandmother' mean, grandpa?" he inquired, pausing for breath.

"Well, now see here," said Mr. Follett, "you look up paternal in the dictionary, sonny, and you'll see it's the father's side of the family."

"A Buoy's Long Voyage." On Sept. 13, 1911, there was picked up on the beach at Cullivoe, Papastour, in the north of Scotland, a life buoy, battered and stained, bearing the inscription, "Passed by J. Guthrie, San Francisco, Cal. June 1, 1905."

The vessel Stanley Dollar was wrecked off the west coast of Japan in August, 1905, and the buoy, whose history is bound up with that of the ship, must have been floating in the ocean currents for six years until it landed in Scotland.

"The Horsehair Trick." Almost every day illustrations are afforded of the human ingenuity of the modern thief. Recently a couple of rogues nearly succeeded in extracting a valuable tin pin from the cravat of a man sitting between them in a music hall by means of an almost invisible horsehair stretching from the right hand of one thief to the left hand of his accomplice.

"Too Much Culture." "Aunt Penelope Wiggins," as every body called her, was visited one summer by a niece, a Vassar college graduate. Aunt Penelope was one of the most hospitable souls alive, but she was not greatly impressed by the superior learning of her young relative.

The Butt of the Camp

By SADIE OLCOTT

Hangling about a mining camp in the far west was an Indian girl whose name was so unpronounceable that she was called Sal. She was not the typical Indian maiden of song and story, but a real daughter of the forest.

Sal was not popular with the campers, but she could be made useful for a very small expenditure. Men who had an accumulation of unwashed dishes could hire her for a few cents, an old piece of ribbon or some tobacco to do the job so that they could start anew with their tableware and use it all over again.

One day Sal got in the way of Tom Barton when he was stamping his way through the camp in a very bad humor. He gave her a bat on the side of her head that sent her to the ground.

"Rhinoceros Birds." Stewart Edward White, who spent a year hunting in Africa, writes entertainingly about the rhinoceros in the following paragraph he tells how warding is given of the proximity of the rhinoceros.

"New Year's Resolutions." Resolved—Always to speak the exact, simple truth. Resolved—Never to speak evil of any one.

"The Limerick Variety." Some years ago M. Paul Villars, London correspondent of the Journal des Debats, went to Limerick on the occasion of a great Nationalist meeting.

"A Brave Man." Nicolas, Chevalier d'Assas, a French captain in the Auvergne regiment, born at Vigan, in the Languedoc, while making a reconnaissance during the night of Oct. 15, 1700, at Klostercamp, in Westphalia, met a column of the enemy which was advancing in silence to surprise the French army.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Ants That Cook.

The remarkable habits of the harvester ant have been known to naturalists. Certain species not only harvest and store in granaries the seeds upon which they feed, but actually plant and cultivate an annual crop of their food seeds.

"Spouting Whales." The prevailing impression that whales spout water through their blowholes is declared to be incorrect. According to Professor Willy Kuenthal, what has been taken for spouts are really the breath of the whale.

"A Comet Scars." Joseph Jerome Lafrancesco de Lande, the popular French astronomer, is of the opinion that Providence is making its way through the earth with a comet in collision of the earth with a paper to prove that it was only very improbable.

"The Applan Way." The famous Applan way, called Reinar Vinnur, "the green of roads," is at once the oldest and most celebrated of all the highways laid down by the Romans.

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"Effect of Moral Suggestion." "Bobby, you must go to church with me this morning." "Mamma, why don't you say, 'Bobby wouldn't you like to go to church with me?'"

On the Evidence.

Murray F. Tuley, who gave twenty years of continuous service as an apparatus enough to put all New York into darkness or to annihilate it was noted for the strict impartiality in an instant by the unloading of ter with which he rendered decisions, even if a few colossal machines that seemed to be revolving and oscillating found himself impelled to hand down about their business with the fatalism a decision repugnant to his own incl of conquered and resigned Leviathans nation.

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