

A MISSING LETTER

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN

My wife, who is predisposed to auctions, was perambulating the street one day when she came to a dwelling with a red flag at the door. She went in and bought a small library of books. It was brought home and added to our family collection. My wife took the books one by one and dusted them all, giving each a cursory examination. Between the leaves of one of them was a letter, sealed and stamped, addressed to James O'Rourke, in a neighboring city, which had not been mailed.

I was expected to be an opinion as to what should be done with it. I advised that it be taken to the house from which it had come. This was done, but the place was deserted. I then advised sending it on its way through the mail, but since it might be lost I wrote out address on the upper left hand corner. In a week it was returned. My wife then insisted on making a head letter office of our selves, opening the letter, learning the address of the sender and returning it to her. I may say for the address had been written in a feminine hand. Before I could stop my wife she had opened and read the letter.

"The letter," she exclaimed, handing the letter to me.

The writer was evidently a young girl who had had a spat with her lover and either had sent him off or had left her of her own accord. She wrote that she was heartbroken over their separation and had decided to ask him to come back to her and "make it up," though Sue—whoever that might be—had said she would be a fool to do so.

"It looks to me," I said, "that this Sue is the girl who is the trouble in the first place."

"What makes you think that?" asked my wife.

"My most cogent reason is your finding the letter in the book. Evidently the writer was bent on posting it, but was unable to withstand Sue's influence. It was a way for consideration as to whether it should be mailed or not and never mailed.

"I'm going to send it back to the poor girl and advise her to send it. No man could resist such an appeal."

"Send it to her without the advice."

The letter was inclosed in an envelope addressed to the location given, which was the house where the books had been bought with a statement of its finding. I inferred that the postmaster had been advised of the new address and would deliver the letter accordingly. I was right in due time a letter came from the writer of the one returned thanking me for sending it. Her name was Winifred and this time she signed her full name, Winifred Marbury. She said that she had supposed the letter had been posted. Her cousin, Susan Fountain, had asked to post it for her, but had delayed doing so, thinking she Winifred might regret having sent it, and the letter had been forgotten.

I smiled contently.

"Do you doubt the poor girl's story?" asked my wife.

"I do not doubt that she is more confident than I. This Sue, instead of posting the letter, hid it in the book. Her explanation is a falsehood."

"I wonder if that is so? I'll write back and tell this Winifred Marbury that she has been duped."

"She'll not believe you if you wish to do some anti-fic work and the man and woman find the woman."

"Sue."

"Sue."

"Sue."

"Sue."

"Sue."

LAW OF GRAVITY VIOLATED

Conditions Under Which Water Actually Flows Upward

There are conditions under which water actually flows upward and rises above its source. If a glass tube be dipped into water the column inside will be above the level of the surrounding surface. Moreover, if a tube of half the diameter be substituted the column doubles its height. The water creeps along the inside of the tube, owing to the adhesion, and forms a cap shaped depression at the top.

An explanation is not difficult. It can be proved mathematically that if the diameter of a circle be diminished one-half the circumference is also reduced to that extent, while the area is one-fourth of its former value. The circumference of the column of water being reduced one-half, its contact with the glass, and hence the adhesive force, is also diminished to that extent, while the cross section, and hence the weight, is decreased to a fourth of what it was before. Therefore the second column can be twice the height of the first without exceeding the lifting power.

Remarkable as the underlying principle of this phenomenon undoubtedly are, nature made use of them long before man made their discovery. Every tree and flower adds its testimony. The core of a tree or plant, instead of being a single open channel, consists of a spongelike substance containing many minute tunnels through which the sap and moisture collected by the roots flow upward in small rivulets rising higher and higher in sheer defiance of the great law of gravity.—St. Louis Republic.

SEA MINES IN WARFARE.

The Result When a Vessel Strikes One of These Deadly Engines.

To merchantmen, to the smaller and older warships—to everything that floats except the very highest and more recent products of the shipbuilder's art—the mine presents the danger of complete and almost instant annihilation. The rigidity of the ship in itself an element of danger, for the water surounding it is incompressible.

If the skin and frame could give way without rupture and permit the enormously expanding gases (2,000 times the volume of the solid explosive) to transmit their energy in such a way as simply to push the ship aside and thus find a way to the surface, the damage might be slight.

But this cannot be. There is no such elasticity available. And the expansion is so nearly instantaneous that pushing the ship aside is physically impossible. Therefore the structure must break, releasing the gases first into the interior and then by lines of least resistance finally up into the air.

This action is completely instantaneous. It blows off hatch covers and deck plates, wrecks massive steel members into unrecognizable shapes, spreads havoc broadcast. It transmutates a proud ship into a sinking mass of wreckage—a happy passenger saloon into a sham barge—carries mourning into a hundred homes. Such is the effect of mines—Sledgehammers Koon in Leslie's.

Hard to Kill.

A distinguished entomologist writes: "When I was still new to collecting, in the south of France I discovered one day, to my great joy, a large female of Saturnia pyri bidden away in some bushes. The specimen was the first I had ever caught and I decided, on account of its large body, to stuff it in quite unnecessary operation; I have kept dozens since unstarved. The moth was first apparently killed by being forced into a cyanide bottle, where it lay for about an hour. The abdomen was then emptied and the cavity filled with cotton wool soaked in a saturated solution of mercuric chloride. The insect, planned and set, was discovered next day attempting to fly away from the setting board."

Her Alimony Explained.

Miss Curley kept a private school and one morning was interviewing a new pupil.

"What does your father do to earn his living?" the teacher asked the little girl.

"Please, ma'am, was the prompt reply. "He doesn't live with us. My mother supports me."

"Well, then," asked the teacher, "how does your mother earn her living?"

"Why," replied the little girl in an artless manner, "she gets paid for staying away from father."—London Standard.

Literary Note.

"I must confess that I don't understand Henry James. His style is so involved. "I'll tell you how to go about reading him. First run over a life insurance policy. After that Henry James will seem lucid and clear."—Pittsburgh Post.

A Veteran.

The chef was interviewing the young man who had applied for work.

A Good Hearted Man

By SAMUEL E. BRANT

When Sam Tolliver came out west he was much run down. I took him into my store more from sympathy than anything else. I paid him a small salary. He was a good enough worker, a popular salesman and always attentive to business. But it wasn't long before I saw that Sam wouldn't get on in my service any more than to his own. He had a falling—a heart that was altogether too tender.

He didn't spend any more on himself than he should, but he spent a good deal more on other persons. All you one had to do was to tell him a tale of woe, and down would go his hand into his pocket, and out would come any funds there might be at the bottom of it. One day on returning from an absence I found several dozens of baskets on the floor of the store. I asked Sam where they had come from, and he said that a peddler had come along and offered him the lot so cheap that he didn't dare to refuse to buy them for fear I would turn him away for a fool.

He had paid more than they were worth, and I knew I was stuck with them. I wouldn't have minded the transaction if I had had room for the bulky baskets. I learned afterward that the peddler had told Sam a cock and bull story about a sick wife and seven small children with nothing to eat in the house.

I suppose I must be a trifle weak-kneed myself in such matters for not getting rid of Sam at once. Fact is he was such a good natured, lovable chap I couldn't. But the basket purchase was not the worst of it. I would shut off such persons as couldn't pay for their goods, but I couldn't shut off Sam when they came in with pitiful tales of needing a pound of sugar or coffee, a dozen candles and many other articles from trusting them for the goods. Finally I made a list of persons on no account to be trusted and hung it up in the office, telling Sam that if he gave any one of them credit the amount should be charged up against him and deducted from his salary.

Nevertheless, despite the list and the warning, Sam kept on giving out goods to those on the blacklist. When a woman couldn't move him in any other way she would bring in a hungry looking child or two. This was sure to break the thin shell about his heart. It wasn't long before these accounts amounted to more than would pay my clerk's salary for a year. At the end of the first month his salary was balanced by bad debts he had made. I told him on his promise to do better that I would let him off for thirty days more, when, if he hadn't reformed, I would surely deduct all outstanding amounts from his pay.

One day, when the charges for bad debts against him had grown very large, a very pretty, nicely dressed young woman came into the store and asked if he had a young man working for me named Samuel Tolliver. I told her that I had, but he had just gone to dinner. Then she asked a lot of questions about Sam, how he was fixed and all that. Sam had just stuck me for an additional amount of uncollectible bills, and I was mad. I told her that he would get well enough if he would obey orders and I explained what he was doing for me.

The young woman listened till I had finished, then she asked me the amount charged up against Sam. I looked at the amount in the ledger and gave it to her. It was \$3,472.49. What did she do but take out a pocket check book and write me a check for the amount and accept an assignment of my claim against Sam?

"You're to say nothing to Sam about this," she said handing me the check. "Thank you, ma'am," I replied. "Mum's the word."

When Sam came back from dinner the lady was gone. The next morning he didn't show up. I then wondered what the young lady wanted to buy my claim for and was very sorry I had said it to her without knowing. Then it occurred to me that she might be some one that Sam had jilted or something like that and I fancied she had come down on him for payment of fifteen him out of town.

Just as I was abouting up Sam came one fine spring, saying that he had received a letter from the post notifying him that somebody had died and left him some money. He asked me what was the amount of the bad debts that were charged up against him and, when I told him, gave me a draft on the attorney for the amount. Before I thought of my promise to the young woman I told him that the indebtedness had been paid that morning.

I expected him to look pleased, but instead he looked puzzled. He asked me to show him the check I had received, and when he saw the signature he looked up at me like a schoolboy whose strength had done his stuns for him unknown to him.

All Sam told me then was that the young woman was an old flame of his; then he went out to find her. The next day he came into the store with her and told me they had been married. It was the girl who had come into a fortune and, since she couldn't enjoy it without Sam, she had hunted him up. I was obliged to part with my tender hearted clerk, having, after all, been stuck only by the baskets he had bought. I saved money by his going, but all the shiftless and unfortunate persons in town have lost their best friend.

Fighting Dust With Dust.

About the hardest problem is found in coal mines, where dangerous dust is produced by the ton every day and scattered over miles of roadway and workings, the removal of which by vacuum or other means is next to impossible.

The best preventive found thus far seems to be that of fighting dust with dust. Sprinkling has been tried to keep the air free from inflammable dust mixture. Salt has been scattered over the floors to gather moisture and prevent dust from rising. The dust has been cleared from parts of the mine to form barriers, over which the flame from a dust explosion is not likely to pass. Now, however, the best results seem to come from the scattering of stone and clay dust over the coal dust throughout the mine. This makes the coal dust nonexplosive, and sections treated with the noninflammable dusts form better barriers against an explosion than the old dustless barriers.—Saturday Evening Post.

Old Time Bell Ringers.

"Bell ringing," said the bell ringer, "reached its height in Belgium after the middle age. The Belgian bell ringer invented the clavier. This was a keyboard similar to a piano's and each key being struck caused a hammer to hit a bell. In that way a clever bell ringer could get out of his chimes swift changes and intricate harmonies unknown before. The clavier lifted bell ringing from manual labor to high art, but it must have been funny to see a performer playing on his piano-like clavier. The keys were stiff; they had to be struck very hard, and hence the player wore thick gloves. He stood off from the instrument, sleeves rolled up and brow knitted, and doubling his fists, he rained blow on blow with all his force. We bell ringers have no clavicles today, nor have we the skill of the ringers of the past."

Humanizing Geometry.

I used to try to work up a factious enthusiasm for geometry by naming, angle A, Abraham; B, Benjamin; C, Cornelius; and so on; side AB then became Abrahamian, side BC Benjaminian, side AC Abraminian, and the perimeter Abrahamianian, mouth filling and perfectly pronounceable if one scanned it as a caustic trochic tetrameter. Although I never had the courage to introduce them to my teachers, I looked upon the Abrahamianian family with some affection until one day I tried to name the perimeter of a dodecagon, when I came to the conclusion that it would require less time to learn the proposition by heart than to learn the name, and from that date I gave up all attempt to infuse an adventitious interest into Legendro and simply memorized him.—Atlantic.

Soiled Clothes.

Some housekeepers believe in boiling the clothes before rubbing, and some do not believe in boiling them at all. Others believe that clothes are made yellow by boiling. Boiling does not make clothes yellow. Clothes become yellow when they are improperly rinsed, when there is iron in the water or a deposit of iron is formed from the boiler or by the use of an impure soap. On the other hand, boiling takes an important part in the dissolution and removal of the soap, which expert housekeepers, who know that the soap must be removed if the clothes are to keep their color and wearing qualities, will recognize as an indispensable reason why the clothes should be boiled—and boiled after rubbing. In these days of sterilizing it seems illogical to accept as clean unboiled clothes.—Woman's Home Companion.

Badly Mixed.

A looking agent for a Chautauque bureau visited a small town. He called on a man who said that in order to introduce a Chautauque it would be necessary to see the most prominent man of the town. Together they called on the "first citizen," and the looking agent was introduced.

"Mr. Jones," said he, "I called to see you in regard to a Chautauque."

"It won't do a bit of good," spoke up the prominent citizen. "My wife and I have looked over all the catalogues carefully and have already decided on another machine."—Everybody's.

No Place Like Home.

A benepiced looking floorwalker in one of our large department stores was standing in the aisle with a friend and far away look in his eyes. Suddenly a woman hustled up back of him and demanded, "Where are the children's dresses, sir?"

In the bottom bureau drawer, Ma'am," said the floorwalker, hastily turning around. And then he fled.—Lippincott's Magazine.

Many Kinds of Hard Work.

"I want you to understand," said young Spender, "that I got my money by hard work."

"Why, I thought it was left to you by your rich uncle."

"So it was, but I had hard work to get it away from the lawyers."

The Main Trouble.

"Ah was thinkin'," said Rastus Johnson, "what a nice, peaceful-like world dis here universe would 'a' been if it wasn't for de movements of de human underjaw."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Altruism.

Teacher—Johnny, you have been writing your own excuses. Johnny—I know, mum; it takes all pa's time to think of his own.—New York Sun.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF NEW YORK. Albany, July 8, 1914. Pursuant to the provisions of section one of article twenty of the Constitution of the State of New York, and section two hundred and sixty-two of the Election Law, notice is hereby given that the following proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of New York are referred to the Legislature to be shown at the next general election of senators in this State to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and fourteen.

AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE

Section 1. Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of New York, which reads as follows: "The Legislature shall consist of a Senate and an Assembly, the members of which shall be elected by the people of the State at the general election to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and fourteen." shall be amended to read as follows: "The Legislature shall consist of a Senate and an Assembly, the members of which shall be elected by the people of the State at the general election to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and fourteen, and the members of the Senate shall be elected for the term of six years, and the members of the Assembly shall be elected for the term of two years, and the members of the Senate shall be elected in the following manner: The Senate shall be divided into three classes, the members of each class shall be elected for an equal term of years, and the members of the first class shall be elected for the term of six years, the members of the second class for the term of four years, and the members of the third class for the term of two years, and the members of the Senate shall be elected in the following manner: The members of the first class shall be elected at the general election to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and fourteen, the members of the second class shall be elected at the general election to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and sixteen, and the members of the third class shall be elected at the general election to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and eighteen, and the members of the Senate shall be elected in the following manner: The members of the first class shall be elected at the general election to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and fourteen, the members of the second class shall be elected at the general election to be held on the third day of November, nineteen hundred and sixteen, and the members of the third 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