OLD FRIENDS STRANGELY MET

Romance That Had Its Beginning In School Days.

I was sitting one evening in the parquet of a theater in New York when I noticed a young lady in a box in the second tier looking at me. When I fixed my eyes upon her she turned hers away, but when a few minutes later I looked at her again I saw that she was regarding me through a lorgnette. She lowered her glass and turned away with a look which indicated either repulsion, disappointment or pain. It might have been any of these.

My curiosity was at once aroused. I did not remember to have ever seen the lady before and certainly had no knowledge of having offended her. Before the close of the last act I left the theater and stood on the sidewalk waiting for her to come out. She did so in company with an elderly gentleman and lady. As soon as they entered their car I went across the street where mine stood ready and, entering, told the driver to follow. The party alighted at a house on Madison avenue, the number of which I noted, then drove away thinking of some plan to solve the mystery. Before reaching home I had resolved to write a note to the lady and send it next day. This is what I wrote:

Mr. Royal Pritchard presents his compliments to the young lady he saw at the — theater last evening and who gave evidence that in some way her antagonism had been excited against him. As he does not remember ever having seen her before he begs an explanation. If he has been mistaken in his inference he apologizes for addressing her.

I sent the note by a messenger, who on returning said that he had been told if there was any reply it would be sent later. I waited three days and was about to give up all hope of receiving any word when a note came which read as follows:

Since Mr. Pritchard has entirely forgotten the lady he saw at the theater he need not give himself any concern with regard to her.

It is needless to say that I read these few words with astonishment. It was plain to me that I had been mistaken for some one else. However, I did not care to have the error uncorrected and wrote again, stating that there must be some misapprehension as to my identity and begging permission to call and clear up the matter. To this I received a reply that the name I had given in my notes was the same as that of the person I was supposed to be, therefore there could not possibly be any mistake. The lady did not care to renew the acquaintance of one who had paid her the highest compliment man could pay to woman and then forgotten that he had ever met her.

I began to feel that I must have passed through a sickness or met with some accident that had impaired my memory. I asked several persons who had seen me constantly every day for years if this was the case, and got laughed at for my pains. [illegible] correspondence [illegible] sympathy I got from her was "That's just like a man for all the world."

I was about to write one more note inquiring for the lady's name, but my sister, who knew the tricks and manners of the sex, told me the girl was teasing me and would give me no satisfaction; that if I wanted to clear up the matter I had better call and call again and again till I had seen and talked with my tormentor.

Had the girl been unattractive I might have dropped the matter. On the contrary, her image—that of a girl with a face denoting character as well as being pretty—seemed to grow upon me, and I was literally being teased into a condition bordering on the tender passion. Summoning all my courage, I called upon the girl and sent in my card. An answer came that the young lady was not at home. This might mean that she was not at home to me or that she was really out. I called twice more on her, and each time received some message that put me off without being a positive refusal. Finally, on my third call, she came into the room and stood regarding me with what she intended to be a haughty stare. Nevertheless I fancied I could see a sparkle in her eye.

"I beg of you," I said, "cease this torment, which has become unbearable. If, as you say, I have known and forgotten you it must be through some physical defect on my part, for in health I am sure I could never forget having once seen you."

"Did you not once live in R.?" she asked.

"Yes; when a boy."

"And go to the high school there?"

"Yes."

"And did you not carry books for Dolly Farleigh, a little girl eight years your junior?"

"You don't mean"—

"And didn't you"—

"Tell her that when we were grown she should be my little wife? Yes, I did, and I am ready to keep my word."

She sank on a sofa with a delighted chuckle, and I sat down beside her.

When she saw me at the theater she at once suspected who I was and was about to hazard a bow when she perceived that I did not recognize her. She turned away, remembering that she had been staring at a man who might, after all, be a stranger to her. It was the look that accompanied this realization that I had interpreted as something more serious. All doubt of my identity had only been removed at the receipt of the note giving my name.

I atoned for my imperfect memory by a lifetime of devotion.

This Very Day.

"Seize your opportunity," was the advice of Pittacus, one of the seven wise men of Greece. To grasp the swiftly moving moment is the repeated injunction of the Bible. "Teach me to number my days," said Moses. "Make me to know mine end and the number of my days," said David and Job, who had a peculiarly sane grasp on the things that make for success in all departments of life, is conscious that the days fly through his hands "swifter than the weaver's shuttle."

Lord Chesterfield said that the Duke of Newcastle lost an hour in the morning and spent the rest of the day looking for it. Benjamin Constant's cry of regret should be a warning to us who do not regard the systematizing of our day's task: "How I lose my time! What an unarrangeable life mine is!"

The uncertainty of life, as well as its swift passage, should incite us to live to the top of our ability today. We say, "Some day I hope to get time to read." "Some day I hope to get time to attend to cultivating religious habits." But "some day" is today or probably never.—[illegible] Herald.

Painting Hooks and Eyes.

There are many methods of mechanical painting and some of the most extraordinary are described by Arthur Seymour Jennings in his book, "Painting by Immersion and by Compressed Air." One method, for such articles as hooks and eyes, eyelets and very small iron parts generally which cannot be successfully dipped or sprayed, is known as "tumbling." The articles are placed in a machine something like a churn, together with a number of steel balls, usually of very small diameter, and a given quantity of japan. The churn is then closed down and given a dozen or so rapid turns, during which the steel balls carry the japan to every part of the articles. The contents of the churn are then dumped out on to wire trays. These being agitated, the steel balls fall through the meshes, leaving the painted iron parts behind.

Disinfect Your Pets.

Many children and adults acquire skin diseases from the household pets. Such diseases as ringworm and barber's itch are transmitted by the cats and dogs. An epidemic may be started by germs being carried into the home. Every member of the household may develop disease acquired from carelessly petting a stray cat or dog on the street. Dogs are fond of filth. They delight in groveling in heaps of manure or refuse of any kind and for this reason should be regarded with suspicion.

The stray pets should be treated to an antiseptic bath before being fondled. Your own pet dog after a run out of doors should have a disinfectant bath before it is again permitted to sleep on the lounge or sit upon your lap.—Philadelphia Record.

Building a House In Japan.

In Japan, if one wishes to build a house he first proceeds to make certain that the site is respectable. If it is not he must have the ground purified. A curious incident of this nature occurred not long ago when a native decided to build in Tokyo on the [illegible]gaya jail. The carpenters would not begin work until the priest had been called in and purified the spot. He brought with him bamboo rods and shimmei and rice and with weird incantations turned north, south, east and west, uttering his formula four times and scattering bits of paper and rice at each delivery. The spirits of jail inmates long dead thus propitiated, the carpenters went contentedly to work.

In an Ancient Korean Coffin.

Workmen engaged in repairing the ruins of the old Shiragi dynasty tombs in Korea, while employed in a nine story tower, discovered a stone coffin about two square feet in the third story of the tower. In the coffin were a jeweled ornament, a gold bell, a silver bell, some old coins, a gold vase, a stone gourd, some comma shaped jewels and several other rare articles, all relics of ancient times, dating back 1,300 years.

Overworking the Superstition.

"Henry," said the superstitious hostess to her husband, "you simply must find another guest."

"What's the trouble now?" he asked.

"There are thirty of us to sit down."

"I know, but there were forty three invited and exactly thirteen didn't come."—Boston Transcript.

Dodging.

"If I had my way," said the positive woman, "I'd make every unmarried man pay a special tax."

"What would be the use?" rejoined Miss Cayenne. "Any man who can successfully dodge matrimony would surely succeed in dodging his taxes."—Washington Star.

Religion of India.

The religious beliefs of India are numerous and range from Buddhists in the east, pagans in the north and Mohammedans in the northwest, through the great bulk of Hindus in the center, to Buddhists and Christians in the extreme south.

Quite So.

"Your friend is rather a well seasoned man, is he not?"

"Well, he's an old salt, with a peppery disposition."—Baltimore American.

The only way for a rich man to be healthy is by exercise and abstinence—to live as if he were poor.—Temple.

FOR THE CHILDREN

An Intelligent Dog.

There was once upon a time an old lady who rented a furnished villa for the summer, and with the villa a large dog also went.

In the sitting room of the villa there was a comfortable armchair. The old lady liked this chair better than any other in the house. She always made for it the first thing; but, alas, she nearly always found the chair occupied by the large dog.

Being afraid of the dog, she never dared bid it harshly to get out of the chair, as she feared that it might bite her, but instead she would go to the window and call "Cats!"

Then the dog would rush to the window and bark, and the old lady would slip into the vacant chair quietly.

One day the dog entered the room and found the old lady in possession of the chair. He strolled over to the window and looking out appeared much excited and set up a tremendous barking.

The old lady arose and hastened to the window to see what was the matter, and the dog quietly climbed into the chair!

The Cotton Flies.

One of the players takes a flake of cotton or bit of down, which he casts into the air in the midst of a circle formed by the players, who are seated close together. He at once puffs with his breath to keep it floating in the air, and the one toward whom the flake takes its course must puff in the same way to keep it from falling upon his lap, which would cost him a forfeit.

Nothing is funnier than to see several boys and girls, with upturned faces, blowing and puffing, each in his own way, to send from one to the other this flake of cotton. Sometimes it happens that, as one cannot laugh and puff at the same time, the tuft of cotton falls into the mouth of one who in vain tries to find breath enough to blow it away. This excites the laughter of the other players, who demand a forfeit for his gluttony. [illegible]

A Pet Bear's Tricks.

When the government lighthouse tender Manzanita returned from an Alaskan voyage she brought one more passenger than she started with. This passenger was a little black bear cub, Sallie, which literally hogged her way to the hearts of all on board.

Being constantly with the men and at the same time being allowed to roam all over the vessel, she very quickly became as tame and gentle as a kitten and quite as playful.

Among the many tricks she plays is one of stealing [illegible] up to the cabin door, rising on her hind feet, giving the door a sounding whack with one of her paws and grabbing the knob. [illegible] A very cute bear is Sallie.

A Handsome Bird.

The cardinal [illegible] is [illegible]. Several marks by which a stranger [illegible]. A brilliant red [illegible] the bill is large [illegible] the head is decorated with a crest of which the bird is very proud. The eyes are jet black and very large, with a bold, defiant look. The female is a dull gray with here and there faint tints of red. Her throat patch is smaller and her crest not so flaring.

Queer Animal Pets.

In Argentina a common household pet is the small armadillo called mat[illegible], which is only about fifteen inches long. Dr. Bergner, writing in the Scientific American, says that when it rolls itself into a ball its unarmored legs disappear into the shell and the head closes it securely. The animal cannot straighten out its body. It has a singular tripping gait upon the tips of two toes of which the claws are longer than the others. Children play with it by rolling it about like a ball or letting it run on a board in order to enjoy its funny gait. It is quite harmless, soon gets tame and eats out of the children's hands.

Cat and Hawk Fight.

Once upon a time while a number of kittens were playing about in the straw near a barn door a large hawk swooped down upon them and seized one of the kittens. Being heavily burdened, it could not rise very promptly and the mother cat had time to come to the rescue. She never hesitated about attacking the hawk, and the bird, in self defense, was obliged to drop the kitten. Then a real pitched battle took place. The cat lost one eye and part of an ear, but succeeded in breaking the wing of the hawk. Then the cat sprang in again and, after a long struggle, killed the bird. Not bad for a cat.

Low Shoe Time.

The nice warm days have come at last
When all we children romp and play.
We need not stay indoors and mope,
But play outdoors all day.

But what I like the best of all
Is that my ankles now are free,
And I may wear low shoes again
And skip and hop with glee.

This is the season I love best,
When I can run and jump and climb,
And need not wear my stiff old boots.
I do love low shoe time.
—Philadelphia Record.

DAMES AND DAUGHTERS.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt records that among the things she most dislikes is a sea voyage.

Mrs. Lloyd-George has taken up the study of French in the past six months and now speaks that language with some fluency.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, who was recently chosen president of the American Woman Suffrage association, is also president of the International Association of Woman Suffrage.

Mrs. Dellora Gates, widow of John W. Gates, and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Harold L. Judd, have made $8,000,000 in the past year, due to the jump in the price of Texas oil stocks which they own.

When Mme. Melba was in Ottawa, Canada, recently she was decorated a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The Duke of Connaught, governor general of Canada, is the head of the order, and he bestowed the decoration on the diva in recognition of her success in raising money for the Red Cross.

Current Comment.

Wall street permits no "wolves" in its zoology—only bulls, bears and lambs.—Chicago News.

"See America first" is a motto which may now be coupled with "Safety first."—Washington Star.

With the work of saving the babies the first big step in the defense of the nation is being taken.—Baltimore American.

In Mexico the difference between a de facto government and a defunct government is only a matter of time.—Washington Post.

The argument that modern war is a question of machinery doesn't frighten Kansas, with one automobile for every nine of population.—New York Post.

BRIGHT BRIEFS.

Neutrality is the art of displeasing everybody.

People who live in glass houses should screen their windows.

Too many outward gains are obtained at the expense of inward losses.

Many a self made man might be happier if he could blame the job on somebody else.

A popular fallacy at Annapolis is that every student can become a Midshipman Easy.

Keep your mouth shut and you will gain a reputation for wisdom and also avoid grip germs.

Mars is now relatively near the earth, but no great alarm is felt, as it is still out of airship range.

An expert is a man who can always get away with an argument on some subject that you know nothing about.

Unexpected leap year attacks on the trenches are [illegible] to make the [illegible] enemy exclaim, "This is so sudden!"

Suicide is said to have declined in Europe since the beginning of the war. Enlistment probably furnished a substitute.

Among the prophets who are predicting the end of the war in 1916 is a sprinkling of those who forecast the windup in 1915.

Twenty years hence, Grahame White predicts, there will be a fifteen hour transatlantic aerial service. The time limit is long enough to forget it.

Short Stories.

Japanese artists push their pencils instead of pulling them.

There are about two miles of deck on a great transatlantic liner.

In India there are over 300,000,000 images of the various gods.

Ironclads were originally wooden vessels protected by iron plates.

A saturated solution of celluloid in banana oil makes a durable lacquer for brass.

Denmark has reformed its time, adopting what is known as the twenty-four hour clock. For instance, 1 o'clock p. m. will be known as 13 o'clock, and so on until 24 o'clock, which is midnight.

Town Topics.

There is still another difference between Indianapolis and London. London reports that coppers are active.—Indianapolis News.

Since New York has been forced to confess that crime is on the decrease Baltimore will be swaggering around more proudly vicious than ever.—Washington Post.

Boston is hard put to it to suggest a design for a municipal flag. We would suggest a scandalized codfish chasing September Morn out of Massachusetts bay.—New York Sun.

Labor and Progress.

A new gasoline engine uses only one-twentieth of a drop of fuel at a charge.

The first American linotype machine in Tripoli recently was installed by an Italian newspaper.

Good paper, it is said, can be produced from refuse hops that have hitherto been thrown away in breweries.

The use of rope for driving machinery is on the increase. The efficiency of rope in this capacity varies from 87 to 97 per cent.

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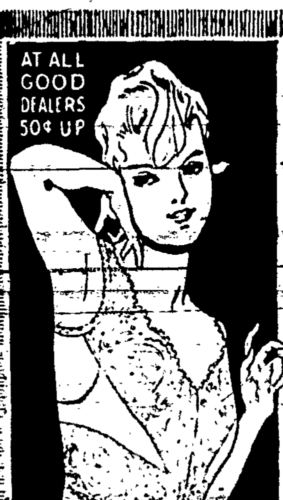

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