

A Matrimonial Coincidence

By RICHARD MARKEY

When my mother died and left me alone in the world I resolved to rent my house, spend a few months abroad and on my return move into bachelor quarters.

I could not have been more surprised if an angel had come down from heaven and lit on my shoulder. How had these papers come into my possession? I had no remembrance of having placed anything in the box for several years.

During my trip I met in Berlin an American, Miss Eleanor Thurlow, who was there with her mother studying music with a view to teaching it on her return.

During the voyage I thought at intervals about the estate of young John Carter Greatrix, wondering if he had come into possession of it and trying to decide what I should do about making known that I had the papers.

Meanwhile I had resolved to refer the matter of the papers to my lawyer and be guided by his advice. In relating the circumstance to him I had no sooner mentioned the name of the minor for whom the estate was held than he jumped to his feet excitedly and, running to his partners, exclaimed:

"The papers in the Greatrix estate are found!"

Years before the firm had settled a case for me out of court and handed me the papers concerning it, which I tossed unopened in a box at home. Later I was given another bundle containing the papers in this same case and, supposing them to be additional documents, tossed them into the same box.

Immediately on my return to my rooms I wrote my fiancée, unburdening myself to her of the annoyance I had suffered. She replied, congratulating me warmly upon so quick and satisfactory a solution.

A few days later I was told by my attorney that during the period the papers were missing the estate had suffered greatly. John Carter Greatrix died before coming of age, and the property had passed to three persons who were next of kin.

"The next morning on my arrival at the office I was shown into a private room, where I found the attorney at his desk.

"I understand," he said, "that you are about to be married to a client of mine."

"Of yours?" I exclaimed, surprised. "Yes, Miss Thurlow."

THE HUMAN SKIN.

Why White Races Invariably Die Out Quickly in the Tropics.

One reason—and a most important one—why white races are unable to colonize the tropics, dying out inevitably in a generation or two, is that they have not enough sweat glands.

Scientific investigation shows that for every square centimeter of the skin area on the fingers white Americans have 538 sweat glands, American Negroes have 507, Filipinos 653, Moros 684, adult Negroes 759, Hindus 738 and Negroite youths and children 659.

It is evident that 700 sweat glands will pour out nearly 27 per cent more perspiration than will 558. Therefore there will be 27 per cent more evaporation, and so the Negroite is comparatively comfortable in a tropical heat that the white man finds almost unbearable.

TURNED THE TABLES.

Two Incidents in the Careers of an American and a Belgian.

More than ten years before Belgian relief was ever thought of a young American mining engineer who was in charge of important mining properties in China received a visit early one morning from a burly Belgian.

The two men worked together for about six months. Then one day the burly Belgian lost his temper and with it his more experienced fellow manager, for the young American promptly resigned his position and left the employ of the company.

The name of the young American was Herbert Clark Hoover.

Now observe how Nemesis pursues proud mortals! In October, 1914, this same Belgian, at the suggestion of the American ambassador in London, called on an American who, Mr. Hoover said, was the logical man to head the work of relieving starving Belgium.

All Faced the Flag. Justice Pennington of the New York supreme court was examining applicants for citizenship recently when a band in the park began playing "The Star Spangled Banner."

Made a Lock For the Key. An odd and curious key and lock are attached to the door of Temple church in Fleet street, London. The key weighs seven pounds, is eighteen inches long, and, unlike other keys, it was not made for the lock.

Hold Yourself Erect. Keep erect if you want to keep on the road to good health. Slouch or slump and you are apt to find yourself headed for the sick bed, for rounded shoulders and relaxed abdominal walls are often associated with serious nervous maladies.—Chicago Herald.

Taking the Honor. Mrs. Smith. They tell me that one of the girls made a faux pas at the cooking class last night that everybody noticed.

Her Reply. "Silence is golden." "Maybe, but I'd like to see anybody get any money out of you without talking for it."—Detroit Free Press.

Cynical. Doctor—You absolutely must give up coffee. It's a slow poison. Aged Patient—Ha, ha! I bet my heirs think it's infernally slow.—Life.

Her Sphere. "Are you affiliated with any reform organization?" "Yes, I'm a wife."—New York Times.

Summer Boarders.

Summer boarders are people who spend several weeks in the country each summer longing for a trip home. They are usually very witty persons and make comical remarks to the farmer. Aside from the board they pay him the farmer cleans up a tidy sum each summer by sending the things his boarders say to the comic weeklies.

Respect the Children.

Don't call the children kids. A kid is a goat, and, while goats are all right in their way, children are better. The dictionary says "kid" applied to a child is slang. And so it is. It depreciates the child. There is no sense in taking away the dignity of a child by calling him an animal.

The Largest Insect.

The grasshopper has a cousin which is the largest insect in the world. It is called the cyphorane and makes his home principally in Java and Sumatra. This greatest of small creatures, but he quietly accepted his new skin upon seven or eight days.

What His Scrap Book Tells.

I take down my old scrap book wherein I have pasted certain clippings to the number of about 6000. Among them are references to gent's who clope, relate meteorological reminiscences of the years ago, tote amulets to ward off pestilences or boast of their distinguished ancestry.

Old Time Virginia Taverns.

So universal in the early days in this country was the custom of free entertainment that it was a law in Virginia that unless there had been a distinct agreement to pay for board and shelter no pay could be collected from any guest, no matter how long he remained.

Unfortunate Beginning.

Sometimes, to be sure, the opening is so unfortunate as to incur instant resentment and positively invite refusal. Take the case of the diminutive man of kindly appearance who was accosted in the loop by a seedy purist with the words:

A Misconductor.

The poet—So you've disposed of your little Pomeranian? I thought you were so fond of him? The Violinist—Yes, but I had to decide between him and my art. Every time I played a nocturne on my instrument he wagged his tail in rapture.—New York Globe.

A Disembodied Spirit.

"Do you think you can pull me through, doctor?" "Yes, but you will have to get behind yours—" and push!—Birmingham Age Herald.

Particular Spot.

"Did the prisoner strike you in the height of exasperation?" "No, sir, just between the eyes."—Baltimore American.

It is as Impracticable to tie up the tongue of malice as to erect barricades in the open fields.—Don Quixote.

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Chicago Provision Market

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