

Humorous Sketches.

Heart-rending Case.

THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS "SHOOK."

'What I want to know, said a white-headed young man of twenty, as he stood before the sergeant in charge of the Central Station yesterday, 'what I came here for was to get some advice.'

'Proceed,' said the sergeant. 'You know Nancy Thompson, don't you?'

'Never heard of her.'

'Well, she's a widder, over forty years old, and I've been haunting there.'

'Yes?'

'And we are engaged to be married.'

'How?' asked the officer.

'I don't blame you, continued the young man in a broken voice. 'I'm only twenty and she's forty, but a man can't always tell when he's going to make a fool of himself.'

'And you fell in love?'

'I did that, and as soon as we got through talking I'm going out to hire some one to take me over to Canada and back! Yes, sir, I did fall in love—loved a woman of over forty.'

'And what followed?'

'What followed? Why, what follows follows? I'm human, same's anybody else, and when I love I love like a locomotive on a down grade. What do you think I did in just six weeks by the watch? Went to the theatre sixteen times, out shopping twice times, had three parties, went to three lectures and took her out to eat oysters ten or eleven times. Fact, sir—cost me darn near \$200.'

'But it was all for love,' replied the sergeant.

'I thought so, and what else did I do? Bought a forty dollar watch, a ten dollar bracelet, a five dollar ring, a seven dollar set of jewelry, a new dress, and gave her a five dollar gold piece with a hole in it! Yes, sir, I drew \$300 from the bank—every red I had—and used it all up on her!'

'And then?'

'She pretended to love back, and when I spoke her hand she smiled and smiled and looked her eyes at me. She'd been on my arm, talk about cupid, and get off poetry by the red, and it was plainly understood that we were to be married in June. Oh, she knew her biz, and she slid around me as the Bengal tiger does around a lamb.'

'Did she break the engagement?'

'Last night,' said the young man, swallowing the lump in his throat, 'she told me that she'd been triding with me all along. She said she was engaged to another man, and she could be no more than a sister to me! I tell you, sergeant you could have knocked me down with a straw! I braced up after awhile and called her a hypocrite, when she called me a white-headed idiot, and the boards threw me out of doors. Five hundred dollars gone and I'm a wrecked man.—Detroit Free Press.

HE WAS NOT DRUNK.—A few days since a man dressed in good clothes, an eye-glass and a gold mounted cane, and possessing altogether a clerical appearance, hailed a passing street car. There was nothing unusual or particularly noticeable in this, except the air of lofty dignity with which he commanded a halt, and the desperate effort which he made to maintain his centre of gravity as he passed to the car, and to conceal the fact that he was slightly inebriated. Arriving at the door, he solemnly raised the right foot to enter, but not raising it quite high enough, he fell headlong on the floor of the car. Raising himself up with difficulty, he cast a severely reproving look at the old gentleman who sat near the door, and said:

'Sir, what do you lift up this car for just as I was going to get in?'

'My dear sir, I didn't lift the car,' replied the old man meekly.

Castling as steady a gaze upon the old gentleman as he could under the circumstances, he replied:

'Well, perhaps you didn't. I won't tempt to argue with a man in your condition. My amiable friend, it's my calm and deliberate opinion that you have been looking upon the wine when it's red. Very sorry to see it in a man of your age. What do you suppose your mother would say if she should see you intoxicated? My friend, I've wept many bitter tears over such cases as yours. Yes,' continued he, in a faltering voice, and pulling out his handkerchief, 'and I'm d-d if I ain't weeping now; this you'll readily observe.'

Whenupon he wiped his eyes with a grand flourish, blew his nose and navigated to the other end of the car.

When he reached his destination he pulled the belt strap and started for the door. When he got half way, and just as he got in front of a lady, he tripped and fell at full length on the floor. Raising himself to a perpendicular, he turned to the lady, and in a tone of mingled severity and whiskey, said—

'Madame, you've certainly got the biggest feet I ever saw in my life.'

'Sir—'

'Oh, don't 'poloize, madame, I beg you don't 'poloize. I'm not to blame for a little, 'twould be a great 'commodation to the traveling public.'

The lady was speechless with indignation, the passengers were convulsed and the gentleman stalked majestically to the door, stepped to the ground, and immediately sat down. As the car moved away, he arose, examined his clothes, looked up and down the street, waved his hand in an uncertain manner and walked away.—Detroit Free Press.

A YOUNG MAN in Des Moines got married not long ago; he worked his way to the bottom of the drawer and got reduced to one clean shirt. He thereupon rose earlier than usual one morning and kindled the fire, then hanging on the kettle he made a noise on purpose to arouse his wife. She peeped over the blankets and exclaimed:

'My dear, what are you doing?'

He deliberately responded:

'I have put on my last shirt, and I am going to wash one for myself.'

'Very well,' replied she, 'you may wash one for me, too, dear, if you please.'

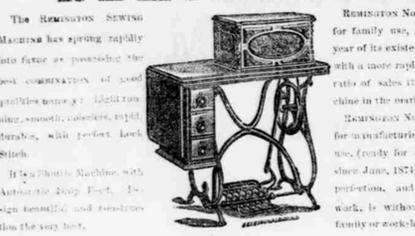
A DOCTOR and a preacher were bandying words on physical progress. 'One blow from my fist,' said the D. D., 'would show you the meaning of "blue mass."'

'And one blow from mine,' said the M. D., 'would be a new and cheap method of spreading the Gospel.'

'I see very little of you,' said an old gentleman at a fashionable ball to a young lady whom he had not met for a long time before. 'I know it,' was the artless reply, 'but mother wouldn't allow me to wear a very low-neck dress to-night, the weather is so cold.'

A CHICAGO man insists that he saw a red and black snake forty feet long, and as big around as a barrel of whiskey. We have no doubt that he did, but he unquestionably saw the barrel of whiskey before

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Agricultural.

Turn Bury To Prune.—A contributor to the Germantown Telegraph thus talks on the subject of pruning.

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