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The Bedford Gazette

HOW THE DOCTOR GOT A WIFE. BY A RETIRED LAWYER.

Some years since professional engagements called me from the Atlantic States to California, my duties pertaining to a case of considerable importance. In the course of my business peregrinations I passed a week or two at Sacramento, then a town rapidly growing into note, but not so largely or densely populated as it is now. Shortly after my arrival there met at my hotel an old college classmate, whom I had not seen for several years, and whom I should scarcely recognize, so greatly was he changed in personal appearance. He had seen my name on the hotel register, and remembering it waited upon me and introduced himself.

I was heartily glad to see him in the faraway country, and we sat down to a pleasant chat together over the events of our lives, past and present.

I remembered that my college mate had not been overburdened with means in his earlier days; and though he was a man of superior talents, the competition in the business to which he devoted himself, was altogether too great to permit him to enjoy a fair beginning at home. He had therefore, relinquished his undertaking in the pretty town at the east, where he had hoped to "live and flourish," soon after graduating; and with a few hundred dollars only, I knew he had started "for San Francisco and a market," as he pleasantly termed his intended destination for California.

I now observed that he was expensively attired, wore costly jewels in his bosom, drove a handsome span before a fine carriage, and living in good style in a suite of the best apartments at the first hotel in Sacramento. And so you continued:

"You are practicing here, eh, doctor?" "Yes," he said. "And let me tell you how and why it is that I am doing so well as you seem to have discovered."

"Go on, doctor. Is it romance?" "No. It was the result of an accidental discovery, the merest trifle of circumstance which made my fortune, and singularly enough, too. It will interest you, however."

"I have no doubt of it. Proceed." "Well, I have fortunately solved a very simple but perplexing mystery that fell directly in my way, professionally. I arrived in San Francisco with less than two hundred dollars in my possession, four years ago; and I made up my mind in a very brief space of time subsequently that the vocation of a physician there was precious poor means by which to amass money. Few people get sick in this blessed climate, in the first place; and if they did, there was plenty of cuppers and blisters already here who stood watching to bleed both the patients and their pockets to the last drop."

"Still there was an occasional opportunity for practice. I applied myself with assiduity, but soon got tired of San Francisco, and came to this city, where I hoped for better success."

I published a staring card in the newspaper then printed here, and took lodging at this same house, just then completed. But patients were scarce, or shy of the new comer. However, one day an old Spanish Mexican, who occupies an extensive ranch just out of the city, waited upon me, and informed me that his daughter was ill at his residence. "He had tried all physicians, far and near—Spanish French and American. None of them did any good. He had seen my card." Would I enter his carriage and ride out to see her?"

I readily assented, of course. On arriving at Sen. Rabino's hacienda, I was agreeably surprised to find it a fine stone residence, ancient in style, but still massive in extent, and the interior was elegantly furnished and decorated.

I had acquired a smattering of Spanish years previously; and having had occasion here to confer with the natives, I readily understood him, when Senor Rabino informed me that his only child, the daughter he spoke of, had lately been quite ill, and had declined in health for a year; while more recently she had fainting fits, which alarmed both the young lady and her paternal father, who had sought in vain for medical aid, and who was ready to pay roundly for any services, could I relieve or restore her. And the old Spaniard implored me patiently to examine the case, and save his "darling Carlotta," if possible.

"And had you seen the young woman?" "Not yet; no. I made general inquiries as to the health of the rest of the family, and found there was in this case no apparent hereditary difficulty. And finally I was shown into the young lady's private apartment. By Love! my friend, she was beautiful. You shall see her by the way, anon. I will introduce you."

"Thank you," I said. "Then she still lives?" "You shall see. Don't anticipate me," said the doctor, briskly.

"I say, immediately on entering her beautiful boudoir, I saw that she was a splendid creature, though she occupied an invalid's chair, and was pale and reduced in flesh. There was, however, an ivory clearness in her complexion, a ravishing fire in her dark eyes, and a classic beauty in her features which, at sight, greatly interested me; and I said to myself, I will earnestly try to save this poor creature from premature death."

"And as I sat down beside her, really my heart beat audibly. I confess it. I took her small, delicately rounded wrist in my hand, and consulted her pulse with more than ordinary interest,

and some trepidation, as she looked languidly but pleasantly in my face, and said, "Doctor do you think you can aid me?"

We were alone. She pronounced this question as if she would initiate in the expression that my predecessors had tried and failed. And while she thus smiled, I observed that she exhibited two brilliant rows of pearls teeth, that were by no means the least attractive feature in her beautiful and intelligent face. I found the young lady's pulse was fitful and feverish, and I questioned her as to her symptoms. She informed me briefly that her throat, whatever it was seemed to be a nervous affection. She frequently experienced spasmodic and acute pains in the face and head, and would faint and fall like an epileptic. Then extreme dullness would succeed, physically and mentally; she was really discouraged, she said.

With my practice as a physician, I had long before united that of a dentist; and I knew well how sensitive and delicate were the nervous combination of the face, and especially those of the teeth. I asked the patient many questions, and finally interrogated her closely as to the apparent neuralgic affections she had so frequently experienced in her head and jaw. She had no reason to complain of her teeth, she said; they were perfectly sound.

I examined them, however, with professional care. Finally, taking from my coat pocket a small operating dental instrument, I scanned each tooth, and rapped it slightly as I passed along. As I did this, the youthful molar did not flinch, until I struck the lower beyond one of the eye teeth, when to my consternation and surprise, she suddenly sprang up, and with a sharp sigh, she fell forward senseless at my feet.

As you may well conceive, I was alarmed for an instant, but quickly raising her form upon the divan at the side of the room, I repeated the rap upon this tooth, which, like all the rest, was to all outward appearance, perfect, and I found, though respiration had temporarily ceased, the effect of this simple rap upon the tooth produced a result upon the patient like that of a galvanic shock almost—the girl starting violently and struggling in my hands with fearful spasms, at each repeated stroke against the jaw.

Assuming the responsibility of my profession and position, therefore, and believing that the mystery of her illness was in some way connected with the facial nerves, I quickly resolved to try an experiment to relieve her, at least temporarily. And taking the forceps from my dental pocket case, I applied them to what I deemed the offending tooth, and instantly removed it from the jaw while she lay apparently insensible upon the couch."

"And what was the result?" I asked.

"In a moment she came to consciousness, and placing her hand to her forehead, she enquired, "where am I?" Ah, doctor, what have you done?"—

"And then missing one of her teeth, she said, "What have you done?" And I briefly replied that I thought I had solved the mystery of her illness."

"Upon the side of this tooth, which was perfect, there adhered a bit of straw, or what seemed to be a diminutive sharp splinter of hard-grained wood, perhaps three-eighths of an inch in length, and not larger than a cubic needle in circumference, which had been plainly forced up accidentally, and to her unconsciously, months previously, through the gum, and which penetrated to the root of the tooth near the connection where it enter the jaw. And there it had remained to fret and chafe one of the most delicately sensitive points in the head, until further forbearance with it was too much for the sufferer's physical strength."

"Well, did this operation cure her?" "Not instantly. But this trivial matter was the really mysterious cause of her pining illness, evidently, for in ten days after my first visit she was as calm as you and I are now, and very soon she entirely recovered, as her spirits revived."

"And old Rabino? What did he say to your treatment?" "He was delighted, and frankly offered me anything I would ask for a remuneration. He sent me a score of doubloons at once, as an earnest of his good intentions, and blazoned my success abroad among his host of friends and relations directly. I soon became famous; and my rooms were for a time besieged with invalids whose ills had been of short or long duration, and whom neither my skill nor that of those who had made attempts on these incurables, could ever relieve them of their manifold complaints. Still the consequence of all was, that I sprang out into notoriety and a splendid remunerative practice; and I have now a very comfortable competency, as well as a prospective good business."

"I congratulate you, Doctor. But what became of the lady?" "Oh, Senora Carlotta? I had almost forgotten to say that when I found she was rapidly improving, I ought to have discontinued my professional visits; but neither father nor daughter would listen to this. Not until the young lady had entirely recovered did I cease to visit the fine old ranch daily. And finally, my dear friend, when the fair Senora had resumed her health, I claimed the remuneration for my services."

"Of course you did. You earned it."

"And what do you think I finally demanded?" "That I could not guess at—we professional gentlemen are usually so modest," I said; "and especially when successful."

"Well," he continued, "I arranged

the affair first with Senora Carlotta. And then I demanded her hand in marriage of old Rabino."

"You did?" "I did. And I made her my wife, of course."

"Married!" I exclaimed. "Then you are no longer a bachelor?" "No, my old chum. We have been married over a year."

And ten minutes afterward I was introduced to one of the prettiest women I ever set eyes on in my life.

"You are a lucky fellow, Doctor," I said to my friend at parting, with him.

"If I could turn my humble talents to similar good account, I really believe I would no longer lead the life of a bachelor myself."

"Well, my friend," he replied, "take the advice of one of the happiest men alive, and get married."

"Thank you, Doctor, I will think of it." And I left him one of the jolliest and most fortunate men in existence.

His fortune by his wife was ample, and his professional business continued the very best for years.

He is now reckoned among the "solid men" in California, and his lovely wife is one of the most accomplished and beautiful of the sex, while both are warmly beloved and respected by the large social circle who enjoy their society and confidence.

MILD WINTERS IN THE OLDEN TIME.—It is related in Smith's "History of New York," published in 1756, that in the year 1633 Gov. Fletcher, with 300 men, set sail from New York on the 14th of February, and arrived at Schenectady on the 17th. This was considered such extraordinary swift traveling, that the Indian allies gave the Governor the name of "Cayengerigo," or "Great Swift Arrow."

Mr. Smith says in a note that the 14th of February was an early day for the Hudson now is so much altered that 300 recruits sailed from New York for Albany this year (1756), and last year a sloop went up the river a month earlier.

From this it would seem that the present mild winter is by no means a novelty.

EXTRAORDINARY WEATHER ALL AROUND.—The report from the Pacific railroad for the 6th of January is that the track is clear through to San Francisco. No snow on the great plains, nor in the Black Hills, nor in the passes of the Rocky Mountains, nor in the lofty chain of the Sierra Nevada, to obstruct the trains, but a clear track from ocean to ocean. At the same time the record shows the Hudson river open from New York to Albany, and the same is reported of all the European rivers emptying into the North Sea and lower Baltic, which are usually fast locked in ice in mid-winter.

It is certainly an extraordinary winter so far over the face of the civilized world.

As history repeats itself, perhaps there is nothing remarkable in the deed of a Texan sharpshooter, who lately outdid William Tell. We read in the New Orleans paper, that some months since a party of Texans were practising with six-shooters at a target when a wager was proposed that a piece of silver should be placed on a cork on the head of one of the number and the cork shot out, leaving the coin resting on the man's head. The wager was made, and at a distance of five paces the parties were placed in position, the target adjusted, and the feat performed without injury to the brave supporter of the target.

An archer of six or seven years went into a barber shop in Racine, and ordered the barber to cut his hair as close as his shears could do it. He was asked if his mother ordered it in that way. "No," said he, "but school commences next week, and we've got a school-mum that pulls hair, and I'm bound to fix her this term, you bet."

A young man living in Lafayette, Ind., is humility personified. The other day he asked a young lady if he might "be allowed the privilege of going home with her," and was indignantly refused; whereupon he inquired very humbly if he might be "allowed to sit on the fence and see her go by."

A blushing damsel called at one of the agencies the other day to buy a sewing machine. "Do you want a teller?" inquired the modest clerk in attendance. The ingenious maid replied with some asperity: "No, sir! I have one."

Mark Twain on Christmas day was presented with a fox. On the same day Grant was presented with a con. Mark now proposes to play Grant a game of "seven up" to decide which of them shall have both presents.

A prominent merchant in New Orleans killed himself because his wife kissed another man by mistake. He left behind him a note saying he wouldn't have cared a d—n if she had done it on purpose.

A dandy swell in New York is in a fix. His pants were made so tight for him that he can't get his boots on, and if he puts on his boots first, he can't get the pants on.

A girl of sixteen, near Montreal, recently took arsenic to whiten her complexion. None could question her success as she lay in her coffin the following day.

The Pope has received \$15,000 from the diocese of Amiens, France, being the amount of Peter's pence collected in a few days.

Lady Montague, the most artificial of women, wrote the most natural of love letters.

FARMERS COLUMN.

When to use Lime and Plaster.—A successive cultivator, contributes the following suggestions on this subject: The value of lime or plaster as a manure, depends upon the component parts of the soil to which it is applied. All land has more or less sulphuric acid in it, caused by the decomposition of iron pyrites. The presence of this acid may generally be known by the appearance of the soil, and particularly of the stones. If there is any iron rust or oxide of iron in the soil, or in the stones, or on the top of the water that filtrates through the soil, or if the water is hard, it indicates the presence of sulphuric acid.

If land on which grass seed is sown is "pale to catch" or sod over, or catches in patches, it indicates the presence of sulphuric acid.

If the roots of clover and herd-grass in the spring stand two or three inches out of the ground, and in detached parcels, with bare ground between, it is the work of sulphuric acid. On such land plaster is a positive injury.

If clover and tame grasses die out, and are succeeded by wire grass, sorrel or sour dock, it is caused by sulphuric acid. Put on lime and keep off plaster.

The reason why plaster should not be used on land charged with sulphuric acid, is that plaster is composed of lime and sulphur, and applying that is a lime more of that with which the land is already overcharged. On such land apply lime which unites with the sulphuric acid, and forms plaster.

The lime thus neutralizes the acid; and the acid thus neutralizes the lime, and forms a compound nutrient for vegetation.