

CARING FOR UNCLE HORACE.

Uncle Horace was over sixty and discouragingly rich. There is a point where one's income becomes so great that people pass from common, ordinarily covetous envy to a resignedly helpless state of mind.

Mrs. Stebbins and Mrs. Cromp, his two nieces, were so devoted to him and said they counted it such a joy to have the dear old man's presence glorify their homes that they lost good sleep planning how to entice him away from each other.

Moreover, each was firmly convinced that the other was a designing person. Since he had come to stay with Mrs. Stebbins for a few months she had felt that something was wrong with Uncle Horace.

This time he paid no attention to what was going on in the house, but would sit deep in meditation or stare out of the window.

She said she would feel perfectly terrible if anything like that happened to the dear old man while he was under her care.

"Thank you, Tilda, I'm perfectly comfortable," Uncle Horace had responded. "I guess I'll go after the mail!"

This was really a double blow, for Uncle Horace normally was not polite, and he always wanted anything that was offered him, no matter what it was, and also it was a long walk to the post office.

Mrs. Stebbins had begged him to let little Johnny go and save his own strength, but Uncle Horace had persisted. He said he felt that he ought to do something instead of sitting around and letting the family wear themselves out waiting on him, and that he was glad to be of service.

"Not in this rain, Uncle Horace!" "Surely not when the wind is blowing so, Uncle Horace!" or "Don't worry me by going out in this snowstorm, Uncle Horace!" had not the remotest effect upon him when he started to climb into his galoshes and wrappings to go after the mail.

Mrs. Stebbins said to her husband, dolefully, that she feared it was the beginning of the end.

The week that Uncle Horace took to starting at a sound and to flush at a word or an unexpected look, filled Mrs. Stebbins with alarm.

Then one day he went after the mail and did not come back.

Mrs. Stebbins had the whole town out searching for him. She wept as she looked on closet shelves and up trees and in other impossible places and said that nobody could know how her heart bled at the idea that darling old Uncle Horace might be in terrible danger that very moment.

The Stebbins family and most of the town stayed up all night searching. Then the next morning a note that explained everything came from Uncle Horace.

"I went away to get married," he wrote in his crabbed hand. "I have been corresponding for some time with a most estimable widow of forty-five, who wants to make a home for me in my old age. She has four children, and we will all come to visit you soon, for I know you will be as fond of Sally and the children as you are of me."

They revived Mrs. Stebbins three times before she quit fainting. Then she remembered that Mrs. Cromp was lit just as hard as she was and that made her feel better.

"It serves that designing, self-seeking woman exactly right!" she told the neighbors. "Pretending to care about the doddering, foolish, tiresome old man! As for me, I took him because I felt it was my duty!"

—For high class Job Work come to the WATCHMAN Office.

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

Mole Hill That Sheridan Made Into a Mountain

Rearrangement of His Office When He Became Commander of the Army Gave Him Week of Great Trouble.

By E. J. EDWARDS. Promptly at ten o'clock of the morning in 1883 that Gen. Phil. Sheridan was to take charge of the offices set apart for the general commanding the army, in the war department building at Washington, he entered them with that brisk step which was always characteristic of him.

With his decisive tread he marched up to the desk that had so lately been vacated by Gen. Sherman and that was now to be his. Then, all suddenly, a bewildered look came over the features of the great union cavalry leader. He started to thrust out a hand towards the desk, then pulled it back. He slowly surveyed the desk and what was on it, and the books and papers and other things placed about the room. Then he turned to me.

"This looks to me to be the most difficult piece of work I've been called upon to do since I was a cadet," he said.

"Why, general," I replied, "I should think it would be comparatively easy to command the army in these piping days of peace."

"Oh, that—yes, that's easy enough," he replied. "But I'm talking about this desk and this office. Look at these books here and those papers there, and all the other things scattered about. I've got to rearrange them so I'll know what they're all about and where they are—and I'd rather plan and fight a big battle than do it."

He took up a book, blew off the dust that had gathered on its cover, and made a pretense of beginning the rearrangement of his desk by putting the volume down in some other spot. For perhaps half an hour he fussed about the desk. "Whew!" he exclaimed every little while, "this certainly is just about the most difficult job I ever had to tackle."

The better part of the day he busied himself picking up books and papers from one corner and moving them into another, or transferring the contents of one drawer or cabinet into another. Between handiwork he would stand off and view with unconcealed perplexity the work he still firmly believed that he alone could do.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, when I bade the general good-by, he was still putting around, with a book in one hand and a file of some sort in the other. The last words I heard him speak were, "This is the most embarrassing and troublesome work I've had on my hands in I don't know how long."

Later I learned that not until nearly a week had been spent by Gen. Sheridan in thus making a mountain out of a mole hill did he at last declare that he had his offices "arranged"—a bit of work that any ordinary office clerk could have accomplished in the time that the hero of Winchester and Five Forks spent in fussing with the contents of a couple of desk drawers. (Copyright, 1908, by E. J. Edwards.)

AVOID KNOWN DANGER SPOT

Fijian Islanders, Unlearned in Medical Lore, Steer Clear of Dread Appendicitis.

A stranger, whose tanned neck and hands suggested a long residence in the tropics, was listening to a group of early afternoon loungers in the lobby of a New York hotel the other day when the conversation turned upon appendicitis. Various theories as to how the inflammation first gets started had been discussed, when the stranger's soft drawl broke in on the conversation.

"I can't help you to settle that point," he said, "but I'll tell you a funny thing. I've spent half my life in the Fiji Islands, down in the South Seas. You've all read as likely as not, that the bloomin' natives tattoo themselves from head to foot. Well, it's true—with a reservation. They've learned to leave a spot above the right groin bare. This used to puzzle me until I asked one of the chiefs for an explanation. He told me that long ago they had observed that when that part of the body was tattooed the subject usually contracted a fever and died. This was appendicitis, you know, brought on by the irritation induced by the tattooing. The natives didn't know that, of course. They ascribed it to evil spirits, but learned to avoid the dangerous spot and protect themselves."

Damage Done by Smoke.

In an address before the American Civic Association, Herbert M. Wilson, chief engineer in the United States geological survey, places the annual damage and waste by smoke in the United States at \$500,000,000 in the large cities alone, or about \$6 to each man, woman and child of the population.

WANT TO REGULATE RIVERS

Association Aims to Enlarge Powers of Water Supply Commission to Deal With the Use of One of the State's Most Valuable Assets.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 10.—The plan and scope of the new Water Conservation Association of Pennsylvania has been adopted and the officers are busy with a statewide campaign of education, the aim of which is to crystallize public sentiment on legislation to be urged at the approaching session of the legislature to enlarge the powers of the State Water Supply Commission to enable it to cope with the many problems surrounding the water resources of the state.

The new association was formed for the purpose of procuring such legislation as it is a well known fact that the state is not only not getting the revenue it should from the rivers and streams, but that also the unregulated rivers do tremendous damage each year by causing floods. The members of the association are those interested in the conservation of the state's water resources from many standpoints. The bylaws of the association illustrate the objects and are as follows:

"Article 1—Name: This organization shall be known as 'The Water Conservation Association of Pennsylvania.'"

"Article 2—Object: The object of this association shall be to obtain, by publicity, conference and otherwise, co-operation of individuals, associations and companies, interested in water conservation, to secure adequate legislation under wise state supervision, necessary to the broadest and best utilization of the waters of the state."

"Article 3—Members: All membership shall be personal and representative as far as possible of all the various water concerns, civic organizations, engineering societies, flood protection committees and all others interested in these questions."

"Members shall be elected by the association."

"Article 4—Officers: The affairs of the association shall be conducted by the following officers, namely, president, secretary, treasurer and an executive committee of seven. Five of the executive committee shall be chosen by the members with a right to add to their number, and other officers shall be elected by the executive committee."

"All disbursements shall be subject to the approval of the president. The duties of the secretary shall be to keep all records and books, solicit funds and inform members of the progress of the work."

"The treasurer shall keep all accounts and pay vouchers only upon the approval of two of the officers of the association and furnish monthly to each member of the executive committee a statement of his receipts and disbursements."

"Article 5—Office: The general office of the association shall be at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania."

"Article 6—Meetings: Meetings of the association shall be held upon call of the executive committee. Meetings of the executive committee shall be held upon call of either the president or secretary. Three shall constitute a quorum of the executive committee."

"Article 7—Changes: These bylaws may be changed by majority vote of the executive committee, which may be by letter ballot, if necessary."

A plan of campaign has been adopted which consists of sending letters to all companies, associations and publicists who are likely to be interested in this work; and, as the work of publicity and education will take

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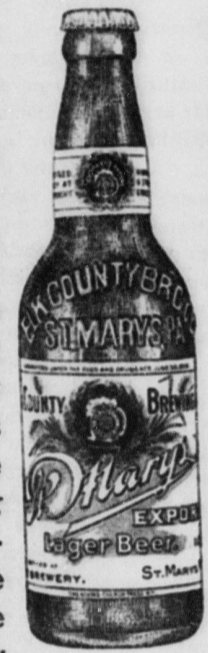
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