

His Business.

"I think," she said, "that he has deceived us all. I don't think he is anything more than a clerk." "Why?" "Because, right in the middle of a proposal last night, his mind wandered and he said: 'You could wear a size smaller, miss, without any trouble at all.' I jerked my foot back, of course, but I knew right away why it was so easy for him to get on his knees before a girl."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Touching Music.

Miss Yallerby—Dat Percy Mokington kin play de mos' intoxicatin' an' heabenly music on his banjo. Oh, my! Clarence Conley (sneeringly)—Huh! I guess rag-time am about dat niggab's limit! Miss Yallerby (warmly)—T is, eh? Yo' fers ought ter heah dat man giv' an' fimation ob a spring chicken a-sizzlin' on de pan, er a hungry pickaninny eatin' a wateh-millyun! Talk about yo' real music!—Puck.

The Boss Was Wise.

Employer—You are having a decided flirtation with the girl who has charge of our telephone wire? Truthful Clerk (with cold chills running up and down his spine, and with visions of instant dismissal)—Y-c-e-s, sir; but please, si— Employer—Well, keep it up. She will give more attention to our calls if you do.—Tit-Bits.

Big Undertakings.

"Talk about big jobs," said the Cheerful Idiot, while trying to look serious—"Well," said the victim, wearily. "Wheeling West Virginia may be some and Lansing Michigan may be rather a big surgical undertaking, but Flushing Long Island isn't such a tiny little sanitary stunt."—Baltimore American.

Well Done All Around.

"Did the critic say anything when you told him I had sold that picture to an American millionaire?" asked the artist. "Yes; he said 'Well done!'" responded the close friend. "Ah! he meant the picture?" "No; the American millionaire."—Tit-Bits.

Real Damage.

Silas—By heck! I think the society for the preservation of American forests should get after those city hunters. Cyrus—You mean the society to prevent the extermination of game. Silas—No, they don't hit game. They take all the bark from the trees.—Chicago Daily News.

Explained.

"She claims to be a poet." "Oh, that's impossible! All poets are males." "Well, do you mean?" "How, you know the old saying, 'The poet is born, not made.'"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Didn't Know How to Use It.

Miss Howjames (at the opera)—Hasn't she a marvelous technique? Mr. Cahokia—Yes, but she doesn't er—seem to know how to manage it gracefully. She gives it a sort of kick when she turns around.—Chicago Tribune.

Business Cards.

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HOTEL COLLAPSED.

It Is Believed that 15 Persons Were Killed.

A Number of Others Injured at New York—The Building Known as The Hotel Darlington, a 13-Story Concrete Structure.

New York, March 3.—Fourteen persons are believed to have been killed, of whom the bodies of only five have been recovered, about a score injured, and several are missing through the collapse yesterday of the steel skeleton of the Hotel Darlington, a 13-story apartment house in course of erection at 37 West Forty-sixth street.

A portion of the steel frame fell upon the rear of the Hotel Patterson on West Forty-seventh street, crushing in the wall of the dining room and killing Mrs. Ella Lacey Storrs, the wife of Frank Storrs, a wealthy resident of Rye, Westchester county, as she was sitting at luncheon with the wife of Rev. Minot Savag.

The cause of the disaster generally accepted is the overloading of the floors. Foreman James Halpin, in charge of the iron workers, stated that there was a large quantity of cement and other building material on the fifth floor, and that on the ninth floor were 83 iron beams which were to have been used in constructing the remaining floors of the building.

That criminal carelessness is chargeable to somebody is shown by the fact that the building department had placed repeated "violations" against the building, the last one being filed yesterday at the instance of Inspector Charles French, because "the side walls were more than two stories in advance of the front walls, and the floor beams were not properly bolted and tied."

Adjoining the collapsed building on the west was the four-story brown stone residence of Harold Brown. Some of the huge iron beams struck the side of the house and stove holes in the wall and roof and dislodged a part of the brown stone front, which was thrown to the street. The occupants escaped uninjured.

New York, March 4.—There are 15 dead, 15 injured and three persons missing as the result of the collapse of the unfinished Darlington hotel building on Wednesday and of the resultant injury to the Patterson hotel, directly in the rear of the collapsed building.

FIGHT AGAINST SMOOT.

Church Doctrines of Mormons Are Explained by President Smith. Washington, March 3.—An effort to air the innermost secrets of the Mormon faith was manifested yesterday in the first day's proceedings before the senate committee on privileges and elections, which is investigating the protests against Reed Smoot retaining his seat as a senator from Utah. President Joseph D. Smith, the highest official of the church, was on the stand all day.

He was questioned closely in regard to the principles of divine revelations. He said he adhered absolutely to all the teachings of the church in that regard and that he himself had been visited with divine inspirations from God directing him as to details in matters pertaining to the welfare of the church. Washington, March 4.—Attorneys for the protestants in the Smoot investigation yesterday said they intended to prove that the defendant is associated with a hierarchy which practices polygamy and connives at violations of the law and that his vote as a senator of the United States is subject to the wish and command of the Mormon church.

The confession of President Smith was the sensation of the proceedings before the senate committee on privileges and elections. Mr. Smith said that the manifestos of 1890 had left him and others with plural families in the unfortunate situation of being compelled to defy the law or desert their families. For himself he had preferred to "take chances with the law" rather than to disgrace himself and degrade his family by abandoning his wives and the children they had borne him.

Washington, March 5.—Interest in the investigation before the senate committee on privileges and elections of the protests against Senator Smoot, of Utah, was unabated yesterday, although most of the time was devoted to the introduction of documents subscribed to as the law of the Mormon church. In that connection President Joseph F. Smith testified that if the principle of plural marriage should be attacked it would be defended by the church.

It was brought out that all 67 Mr. Smith's predecessors, as presidents of the Mormon church, had been polygamists and that the man chosen to succeed him has more than one wife. Mr. Smith was asked which he would obey, the law of the land or revelations from God, if the two were in conflict. He said he might obey the revelation, though it was not compulsory.

Two Banks Break. Oswego, N. Y., March 3.—Investigation shows that the failure of the banks at Cleveland and Parish, N. Y., is more serious than was at first supposed. Besides several thousand dollars reported missing, it is charged that Niles, the cashier of the Parish bank, who is said to have disappeared, cashed many checks in Syracuse. The Cleveland bank had \$90,000 on deposit and the Parish bank \$11,000. The latter had lent \$5,000. Many farmers are losers and \$3,300 of town money was on deposit in the Parish bank.

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A BICYCLE PROPOSAL.

BY JOHN WICKLIFFE GRAY.

Until that summer I had never believed that I was a timid man. But the happenings of a few weeks led me to the conclusion that I had my share and more.

A girl with blue eyes did it. As in most cases where a man has found himself face to face with himself, it was a woman who held the mirror. It was the old story of scouting at love until I met the one girl, and then I wanted to propose. But with the doubts that assailed me as to the probable reception of a proposal, and my new-born timidity, I could never gather together sufficient courage at the proper time to give expression to the thoughts that kept me awake at night.

The morning air was crisp and cool. The roadside flowers seemed nodding us a cheery good morning in the light breeze. Now and then from the trees came the call of a bird, and making a shiny 'ack streak in the air, a crow would end his flight to a lonely tree in the fields, calling to his mate. Once a rabbit watched us from down the lane with what I imagined was a quizzical expression, and when we had come quite close, sped through the underbrush with the rattle of a dry twig.

"Want to race?" she called back to me from her point of vantage a few lengths ahead. Now I knew what that meant. Bee was the better rider, for instead of taking a course of indoor physical culture she had adopted golf, tennis and a bicycle as the most enjoyable method of obtaining exercise and health. "Trying to tease," I said. "But go ahead. I'll do my best. Want to bet anything?" "No, not when I am certain of the result," she laughed. I grinned appreciatively and asked: "How far?" "The two mile post," she cried, and we were off.

I settled to a steady speed, not quite my best, and Bee did the same, saving strength for the last half mile. The wind whistled a merry tune to the time we kept with our pedals. A covey of partridges fled with sharp chirps at our whirlwind advance. I felt and noticed little else beside the trim figure, with flying wisps of brown hair, just ahead of me. Of a sudden Bee began to draw ahead of me. "Put your heart into the game," she called back to me, with her head half turned as she spoke. She was laughing out of pure enjoyment of the exercise, and perhaps my probable discomfiture. My pride was nettled, and it must have increased my strength to a considerable degree. Soon I was close behind her, and with the wheels buzzing like mad things, I was even. One more spur, and with a tremendous effort I was ahead!

"Get your hand in the game," I called back, paraphrasing her own slang. "My heart and your hand," I added by the force of an inspiration, "a match race!" The second mile post was not more than a hundred yards ahead, and I was beginning to believe I should win. I had no time to look back, fearing a loss of my little gain. But neither was to have the victory. Bee's front wheel advanced slowly, but surely, until it was even with my handle-bars, and as we arrived opposite the post, we were side by side. "You got your hand in," I laughed later under the trees where we were seated. "Yes," she agreed. "And my whole heart was in it," I added, cautiously. The blue eyes looked into mine and seemed to read what was there. And then in the fear that my shyness would return, I said quickly, incoherently: "Your hand, my heart, a match, the tie—Bee"—and—

Well, our bicycle will accompany us on the honeymoon, even though it be as excess baggage. A Horrible Probability, The American novelists at the front in Asia are not being heard from with any regularity, and there is a horrible suspicion on the part of the newspapers which are paying their expenses that they may be writing historical romances instead of forwarding the news.

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