

PETTY DISHONESTY.

The Little Impostions That Some Women Think All Right.

A Charming Girl Who Was Highly Elated at Her Success in Bluffing a Street Car Conductor Out of a Nickel.

The readiness and enthusiasm with which fair women will beat the restaurant keepers, soda water dispensers, railroad companies, and all other institutions of civilization for the collection of nickels, dimes or other small change is one of the strangest phenomena of these fast-striding days.

Was discussing a lunch the other day with a very charming girl, says a lady writer in the New York Herald.

The first thing she said after removing her gloves and examining her rings, so that they would show to the very best advantage to the other women present was:

"Well, my ride down town didn't cost me a cent. That street car conductor never came around for my fare."

Here she held up the nickel exultantly and laughed in an almost childish glee.

At the moment a pretty blonde girl passed our table and saluted my companion. The sight of the nickel upheld seemed to inspire pleasant thoughts.

Then they giggled together and winked at each other.

"That nickel reminds me of something funny, Susie," laughed the blonde girl, whose costume cost her husband a cool three hundred dollars.

"I have ridden in five horse cars today and it hasn't cost me a cent."

My companion instantly grew serious and knitted her pretty brows.

"How did you manage it?" she inquired, eagerly.

"Easily enough," retorted the blonde beauty. "In two cases the impudent conductor never even asked me for my fare, and of course I didn't call him and beg to be excused."

"I rode on pure credence, and when I boarded the other did so at the same time. The conductor was way up in front. He didn't know who or how many got on."

"Finally he came around with his eternal cry of 'Fare, please.' I looked straight ahead of me, for I wanted to see what he would do. He passed and re-passed, collecting nickels from the other women who were fumbling in their purses. Each time he looked suspiciously at me. At last he said, snappishly: 'Have I got your fare, ma'am?'"

I looked over his head as he haughtily asked the question. He became humble. "Did I get your fare, lady?" he hissed. "How many fares do you want?" I replied, sternly. At that the poor man faded away to the back platform, thoroughly satisfied.

Several good-looking fellows glared as if they had a mind to throw him out of the window.

"The girls laughed long over this experience, but when the blonde charm-ant began to remark savagely that I thought such tactics dishonest.

"Nonsense!" observed my lady, innocently, and refused any further discussion.

In the time the waiter brought me my check.

"Let me see it," said my beautiful philanthropist. Of course she got it. She studied it for a moment, and then an amused expression crept across the tempting mouth and finally she burst into a peal of laughter.

"See," she said, eagerly, bending across the table. "He has cheated himself out of fifty cents. Now, don't be a simpleton and have him correct it. It's none of your business, anyway."

But I thought it a first-rate opportunity for a lesson in morals. I called the waiter and showed him where he had erred and you may believe he was profoundly grateful.

As I collected my change and rose to go I noticed an ominous frown settling over her lovely brow, and I am sure the word "fool" issued from between her set teeth.

ELECTRIC SPARKS.

INCANDESCENT lamps now sell for twenty-five cents apiece.

MAVRO and other electric telephones are now coming to the front.

ITALIAN fire engines are supplied with hose fitted with electric wires, so that the firemen handling the hose can communicate with those at the engine.

ON January 26, we are told, the Hellman electric locomotive was tried between Havre and Paris, drawing thirteen cars at a speed of seventy-five miles an hour.

ELECTRIC headlights for railway locomotives are coming into general use. The Southern Pacific railroad has already equipped many of its engines with the new headlights.

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THE YOUNG IDEA. The small boy appeared at the country school as a teacher, and a preliminary talk with him was held.

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RAILROADS OF THE WORLD. GERMANY has 343,000 railroad employees. Mexico had in 1889 5,010 miles of railroad.

THE DAY'S FASHIONS. The market is full of eccentricities and vagaries in the way of clothes, but, all the same, conservative trade demands strictly plain styles.

OUR LINES OF STEEL. The Union Pacific owns or controls 181 miles of line.

RELIGIOUS NOTES. A DECREE has been published in Rome announcing the beatification of Joan of Arc.

HORSE NOTES. TOO MUCH coarse food has made thousands of horses unsound.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES. The will of Rev. William C. Moseley, of Newburyport, bequeaths \$50,000 to Harvard college.

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