

"THE LAST SPIKE"

BY PAUL PARALLEL.

As everybody knows, when a great event takes place during the day, it is the subject of conversation in the family circles during the evening. A striking sensation is a sweet morsel to roll under the tongue until bedtime, and fill the vacant spaces of thought for days afterward.

Now, not being a man of family, "scientific confab" and "heart-to-heart conversation" are things as yet foreign to my experience. Of course, like all other human beings, I generally have my tea—but don't figure during the evening in the centre of a family circle, for, as I have intimated, I don't possess the luxury. Fate has marked me for its own—as a bachelor. My headquarters are at my apartments in my lodging-house, and I live on the European plan—a sort of wall on humanity's side.

The other day I took supper with a few friends at the Maison de Tipkins. We sat down at nine o'clock, and lingered long and lovingly over our broiled oysters and wine. We did not chat much then, for we were hungry. Mind was quiescent before the superior demands of matter. Eating not being an exception to the rule, that all things that eternally and a woman's tongue must have an end, we finally pushed back our chairs, lighted our cigars, and unanimously agreed that Tipkins was the best caterer in the city.

Then we began to talk about "the great event of the age," to wit: The completion of the Pacific Railroad, which had been the exciting topic on the street that day since noon. There was no dissenting voice as to its being a "big thing." We then drank to the success of the enterprise.

The importance of the subject grew upon us as we advanced in its discussion, and in a short time our conversation was a mixture of stock, civilization, freight, Indians, the past, the present, political economy, natural philosophy, and almost everything else. In the meanwhile we toasted the road several times, and drank to the memory of every one whom we imagined had the slightest connection with it. Doe Orpheus, one of our number, sang the "Song of the Steam," which was greeted with uproarious applause—after which we drank to the health of the writer and the singer. Prof. Sulphur gave a scientific account of the "forces of the universe," but becoming rather prosy, he was interrupted by Sam Johker, who told a very valuable Alchoker story, which pleased us so well that we all took a drink. Our enthusiasm was now intense. We felt like leaving straightaway, in a body, for the far West, and become passengers on the first train over the new road. In fact, to such a pitch did this desire reach, that we all got up and were about starting out for the purpose of putting our design into execution, when one of the boys suggested "a parting drink." Several original sentiments were then proposed, of a very exaggerated character, which being disposed of, some one foolish enough to call upon me for a speech. The call was bitterly resented by the company, and in a few seconds I found myself on top of the table, "the orator of the evening." Since I have told so much it will do no harm to add another fact, viz: That I had some difficulty in steadying myself in my elevated position. My friends were comfortably located on the chairs, sofas, &c., of the room, observing me with countenances expressive of the deepest interest.

I began my address by congratulating the gentlemen before me on the completion of that great work, which, amid all the startling events of this progressive age, was the crowning one and the glory of the nineteenth century. I believe I got off this splendid sentiment quite coherently. But it seemed all my clearness of ideas went up with it. After that, things became "considerably mixed," (owing, I presume, to the heated atmosphere.) I was conscious of making one or two train noises, and of saying, "a parting drink," several times, but I was not aware of it. I was, however, conscious of the fact that I was making a fool of myself, and I was determined to make the best of it. I was, however, conscious of the fact that I was making a fool of myself, and I was determined to make the best of it.

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Medical.

HOOFLAND'S GERMAN BITTERS

Hoofland's German Tonic

The direct Remedy for all Diseases of the Liver, Bile, and Digestive Organs.

Hoofland's German Bitters

Is a combination of all the ingredients of the Bitters, with the purest quality of Santa Cruz Orange, &c., making one of the most pleasant and agreeable remedies ever offered to the public. These preferring a medicine free from alcoholic admixture, will use

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