

and good looks, while we youngsters of thirty-three look at thirty. I must quit smoking. Demmy! I must give it up, or my face will look like a dried oyster, in five years."

"Yes, Mr. Orlando Tompkins, give up smoking, bad drinking, late hours, gambling, and several other fashionable amusements of that spindly-skulled, dissipated demon, called Young America, and there will be a faint hope left for you to see your fortieth birthday."

"A week, two weeks, three weeks, passed on, and still Orlando lingered at the hospitable house of Tobias, his presence beginning to haunt that worthy gentleman as the Demon did Faust."

"I am afraid she loves him," said Tobias to himself. "I know he loves her—fortune. What—(bless my soul!) I believe I swore mentally—why didn't I leave that condition in the will or as it wasn't there, why did I not insist upon its insertion? I am afraid I shall grow savage, and wish the young rascal in some place whose name begins with an H—Halifax, Hamburg, or Havre de Grace, or—bless my soul!—any other place that has H at the bill."

Tobias offered Orlando ten thousand dollars to set him up in business in the Sandwich Islands, or in Porto Rico, if he would start immediately. But Orlando grinned a decided negative, while Laura seemed to become more infatuated with him every day.

"Ten thousand dollars," said Mr. O. Tompkins, "one night" as he tumbled into the bed and "the sheet up to his nose." "A thousand crab-apples!" The girl's worth, they say, nearly half a million. She is decidedly taken with me."

"I am sure of it, Tobias sharp, not Orlando Tompkins is sharper. Not my uncle, eh? Before long he will be glad to chain me. I like this digging for gold in pleasant parlors, and in hand-some gardens, and in a lovely damsel's eyes better than in the mud and water of California. Bless my soul! as Tobias says, it is much more agreeable to all parties."

While Orlando was soliloquizing in this complacent mood, a dialogue was going on below in the parlor, where Tobias was sitting with his beautiful ward.

Tobias would have burned daylight before Orlando should out-sit him. "Laura, I have something very important to tell you," said Tobias, who had been revolving a plan in his mind to solve all doubts.

"What is it, papa?" said Laura, taking a seat upon the sofa by his side, and resting her dainty, snowy hand upon his stout and handsome shoulder.

"Bless my soul! don't call me papa! I am not your papa," said Tobias, upon whom this affectionate and filial appellation plashed like a bucket of cold water.

"Why, I have called you so for so many years," said Laura in astonishment. "Not so very many, my dear girl; only eight. Call me Toby."

"Toby! ha! ha! What a ridiculous name," and the little hands and little feet of Miss Laura danced with merriment.

"Toby Hardrip is not a name to be laughed at. Looks very well when signed to a check for a hundred thousand or so—bless my soul! goes well too. But Laura, what do people do when they get married? Where do they go?"

"I have heard that they go away somewhere and live together, never caring for any one except each other. Papa—I mean Toby—I declare I can't call you Toby," laughed Laura.

"Never mind that, call me Pudding-head, as that monkey Tompkins called me once. I heard him! Bless my soul! I am going to marry."

"You are going to marry?" exclaimed Laura.

"No, no, no! Only forty-three, and there's more than in me than in ten such lads as that fellow up stairs. Say you mix, am I too old?"

"No, not too old," said Laura, slowly and mournfully, "but I thought—"

"Eh! what did you think! Bless my soul," cried Tobias, springing up. "I suspect you thought nobody would have me. I know six—six! I know sixty-six that would jump at me."

"I do not mean—tell me, dear guardian, for you shall always be dear to me, married or single, can I not love you enough? Must you go to marry to be loved?" said Laura, turning the full blaze of her brilliant beauty upon him.

"Yes, you call me Papa, and love me as a Papa. I hate Paps; I want to marry! I am rich, not old, good looking, strong, healthy, and—yes, bless my soul, I may venture to say, good natured. I must marry. You'll be at the same thing, before long, and I shall be left alone. Bless my soul! I cannot live!"

Laura, blushing and trembling like a roseleaf fluttering in the breeze, rose from the sofa, approached the handsome bachelor, placed her soft hands upon his cheeks, and gazing up into his good looking face with those bewitching blue eyes of hers, said:

"Will you marry me, Toby?" "Bless my soul! Do you mean it?" exclaimed Tobias, who left, he afterwards said, as if somebody had emptied a bowl of live ants between his neck and shirt.

"I do mean it—as I am a woman. I know you love me. I have known you so long and know you so well, guardy, and love you so much, and have loved you so long, do you think that I can live away from you?"

"But—bless my soul, this is pleasant—but him up stairs—I mean Orlando Tompkins."

"I detest him. I never wish to see him again," said Laura, almost sinking with the emotion she had grasped.

"That's just my opinion," said Tobias, much more agreeable to all parties. "And you will marry Toby Hardrip! Did you love me all this time?" cried Tobias, who was higher in Heaven than Mahomet ever soared, and who was now seated upon the sofa with Laura by his side.

"Yes, for years. And isn't it a shame that I have been forced to ask you to marry me?" said Laura, nestling her burning cheeks in Tobias' bosom.

"Bless my soul, no! I never would have dared to ask you to marry me—be-

sides this is Leap year, and that makes it much more agreeable to all parties." The following morning Orlando Tompkins, on descending to his breakfast, at eleven o'clock, found to his surprise that Tobias and Laura were awaiting his tardy approach at the table.

"So you both slept late, too. Well that's clever; we can all breakfast together, eh, Miss Borden?" said he, seating himself.

"Why, Mr. Hardrip, you are dressed like a bride-groom."

"Bless my soul," said Tobias, smiling from head to foot, "I am one. While you were snoozing upstairs, I went out a bachelor and came back a benedict."

"Demmy! you don't say so. Why, where's the bride?"

"Here at your service, Mr. Tompkins. Will you take tea or coffee, or chocolate this morning," said the blushing Laura, and with eyes much brighter than the silver tea-pot.

"No, I thank you," said Orlando, rising, and very white, "I think I'll take my departure." Demmy!

"Bless my soul! that's much more agreeable to all parties," said Tobias as Orlando mizzled.

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Terrible Casualty.

Explosion of a Locomotive—Two Men Killed—House Shattered and Fired.

A most serious accident occurred on Wednesday morning, between four and five o'clock, on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, at the Falls of Schuylkill, where the Perkiomen locomotive, No. 5, arrived with a train heavily laden with coal. The train was detained for an additional engine to push the cars around the curve, and while waiting, from some cause which has not yet been ascertained, the boiler of the engine exploded while standing at the spot we have described, and frightful consequences ensued.

The locomotive was broken away from the rest of the train by the force of the explosion, and it was dashed on to the bridge, a distance of sixty or seventy feet. The engine was literally blown to pieces, the boiler being shattered and even the running gears wrecked. A piece of the boiler weighing probably about six hundred pounds, was subsequently found upon a bill seven or eight hundred feet from the place. It was a coal burner engine of great power.

Two men were instantly killed by the accident. The engineers, Josiah Mismiser, was upon the engine at the time, and it is supposed that he was blown into the river, as no trace has yet been found of his body. John Foley the first brakeman, was blown a distance of fifty yards from the spot where the explosion took place. His body was found upon the towpath, within four feet of the river. He had fallen head foremost among some rocks, and his brains were dashed out.

Mississier, the engineer, was a married man. Mr. Foley, the other victim, was unmarried.

The toll-house at the west end of the bridge was shattered by the explosion and the building was set on fire. The toll-gatherer and his family were asleep in their beds at the time. The toll-gatherer was thrown from his bed by the shock and dashed against the wall. A portion of the iron work of the boiler was blown into a window of the toll-house, and falling upon the foot of a boy lying in bed, it burned him. A daughter of the toll-gatherer was so stunned that she could not be aroused for some time. None of this family received any very serious injury.

The fireman made a narrow escape. He had just left his post and had gone into the toll-house to procure a drink when the mishap took place. The explosion was accompanied by a tremendous shock and report. Buildings in the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Twentieth Wards of this city and even in Frankford were shaken by the explosion. The safety valve of the engine was blown entirely across the Schuylkill, and it was found after daylight in the yard of a house at the Falls.

The news of the disaster soon spread around the neighborhood of the scene and hundreds of persons who had been aroused by the shock and by the report, hurried to the spot. There was much excitement for a time. It was first thought that an explosion had taken place in one of the large mills located in the vicinity. Diligent search was made for the bodies of the missing engineer and brakeman, with what success we have already stated. The occupants of the toll-house made a narrow escape with their lives. The Falls Bridge a substantial stone structure, escaped without damage.

The house that was partially destroyed, was occupied by Mr. John McDonald, a despatcher, and his family.

The force of the explosion can be inferred from the fact that a piece of the boiler and engine weighing three hundred and eighty pounds, was found 160 yards from the scene of the accident, while one of the pumps, weighing about sixty pounds, was blown across the river into the yard of Mr. Arnold's house. The tanks of the tender of the engine had been filled at Spring Mills, and she must have had an ample supply to run 15 or 20 miles further.

Coroner Fenner summoned a jury in the case in the afternoon, when the following evidence was elicited:

Martin Gleason was the first witness examined. He was a fireman on the train. He said the train came there at 4:20 o'clock; we stopped above and cut off twenty-five cars; we then pulled down four cars to put them on the city track; I stopped 10 to 15 minutes; I then went over the bridge, pumped up, came back and put the blower on it, raised steam; I got off the engine at that time, and while I was off the accident occurred; it occurred while I was in the office; it happened about fifteen minutes after I left the engine; I went over and saw the engine blown to pieces; we looked for the men, and found the deceased lying near the canal; the engineer we could not find; the deceased was a brakeman on the train; the engine is missing; the "Perkiomen" has a double tank; she is not a new engine; I do not know her age; we took no water in here; the last place we took in water was at Spring Mills; the engine procured water for the pump by running across the bridge two or three times; it was after this the explosion took place; I think the engine has been on the road six or seven years; we have four inspectors of engines on each end of the road; the engine was standing still waiting for another engine to push up the summit; we drew up here to get the city cars off the track, after which we intended to take our own train to Richmond.

Thomas Clemens, Station Master, sworn—"This morning at 4 1/2 o'clock, the engine P. came to the station and stood for some time; she ran backwards and forwards for some time; I heard her whistle and from that time to the explosion was about two seconds; I think when he whistled he was about to back up his train, in doing this he did what was customary for engineers at this station; our engines are inspected at each end of the route every trip; this engine has been rebuilt within two years; it was in fine order, the name of the engineer was Josiah Mismiser; he was a careful, steady man; his body has not yet been recovered; the body of John Foley was found

about 250 yards from the engine; it was on the tow path.

John Vooten, master of machine shop at Richmond, sworn—I have the repairing of the engines; on each day, as the engines come into Richmond, we have a man to inspect them; if any are found faulty, he attends to the repairing; it is done every time the engines come to Richmond; the Perkiomen has never shown any leakage more than any other engine; she was entirely rebuilt about 10 months ago, at the Reading shop; no ordinary pressure of steam would produce the effects we saw here; I think the engine exploded for want of water in the boiler; there is no doubt of it; there was water enough in the tank; there must have been at least 3,000 gallons of water in the tank when the boiler exploded.

The other evidence elicited was of a unimportant character.

The jury rendered a verdict that "the deceased came to his death from injuries received by the explosion of the boiler Perkiomen, on the Reading Railroad; said explosion being caused by a want of water in the boiler."

The affair has caused much excitement at Richmond and along the route of the road. An immense number of persons visited the scene of the accident yesterday afternoon. The track of the road was uninjured, and there has been no interruption to the regular business of the road.

Eight Children at a Birth.—About two months since, the wife of Jacob Abbott, in Golconda, C. W., presented her husband with eight pledges of affection at one birth. These children survived until six weeks old, when two of them sickened and died. The remaining six are still living and thriving finely. The whole eight were very small specimens of humanity when ushered into the world, as might have been expected. This statement is literally true; it is vouched for by numbers of respectable witnesses, who saw the children.—Boston Herald.

Our "Down East" contemporary tells the above story in a manner which shows that he does not expect to be believed. It is no such great affair as to damage his veracity. Many quite as remarkable instances are recorded by the faculty. We are reminded of three of these by reading his:

A wife of one of the Dukes of Wurttemberg once bore him eleven children at a birth. Fearing the startling effect of an announcement of this incident in all its extent, upon her husband and friends, she sent away ten of the children to be raised by a peasant's family. Some five or six years afterwards they were seen by her husband, when on a hunt. On account of their remarkable similarity to each other and to his only son, as he supposed, he adopted them; and on his taking them home, his wife confessed the maternity, of them all.

He expressed his gratification and pride at this announcement, and simply remarked that the fine physical developments of the ten showed that she had much better have allowed the eleventh one with them from the Court to the fields.

In Prussia, and other portions of northern Europe, several children are frequently produced at one birth. We have heard on reliable authority of a young couple in Germany, to whom were born eight children within twenty-one months.

One instance is recorded in medical works, of a man in Russia who had sixty-eight children by one wife, all living at one time, and all of which were born at eighteen births.

Frightful Calamity on the Ohio.—Cincinnati, Monday, March 28. The steamer Nat Holmes, bound from Pittsburgh to St. Louis with 150 passengers, mostly emigrants to Pike's Peak country, and about fifty freight cars, was in collision with the steamer David Gibson, bound from New Orleans to Cincinnati, with a cargo of sugar and molasses, opposite Aurora, Indiana, last night. Both boats sank and the cabins floated off. The David Gibson had but a few passengers, who are all supposed to have been saved but two or three of her crew, who are missing.

The Nat Holmes had 86 passengers, 43 of whom were lost.

The survivors lost nearly all their clothing, and \$15,000 in money.

The total loss on both boats and their cargoes is about \$300,000, and the insurance \$175,000.

The Honorable Daniel Cady, of Johnston Montgomery county, N. Y., awoke last Saturday morning entirely blind. He had a severe pain in his great toe and in his temples a few days previous.

A GIANT FARMER.—The Rockford Republican says that Mr. Jacob Strawn, of Illinois, has earned for himself the reputation of the giant farmer of the West. Twenty-seven years ago he emigrated to that State a poor man. His operations were small at first, but continued to increase each year until he had reduced over 30,000 acres of land to a state of cultivation. He has one farm of 10,000 acres, and another of 7,800. He has one corn-field in Morgan county nearly six miles long. He has usually employed from 200 to 300 men, and a large number of horses. Every year, until quite recently, he has stabled from 5,000 to 6,000 head of cattle, and kept other live stock in proportionate numbers. In these twenty-seven years he has made a fortune of a million of dollars, and he is still hale and vigorous to enjoy it.

Public Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that Abraham Wenger and John S. Dehner, jointly doing business under the name of WENZLER & DEHNER, in Union township, Lebanon County, Pa., have been appointed Assignees for the benefit of Creditors to the undersigned. All persons indebted to the said Wenger & Dehner, or either of them, are requested to make prompt payment and those having claims will present them. Any one desiring information respecting the estate so assigned will address C. H. SEYMOUR, at Lebanon, Pa., or J. S. DEHNER, at Reading, Pa.

JOHN WENZLER, J. S. DEHNER, Assignees for the benefit of the Creditors of Abraham Wenger and John S. Dehner. (March 2, 1859.)

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