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BARTON'S INVESTMENT.

CAN you lend me two thousand dollars to establish myself in a 66 small retail business ?" inquired a young man not quite out of his teens, of a middle-aged gentleman, who was poring over a pile of ledgers in the counting room of one of the largest establishments in Boston. The person addressed turned toward the speaker, regarded him for a moment with a look of surprise, and inquired :

What security can you give me. Mr. Strosser.

"Nothing but my note," replied the young man promptly.

"Which, I fear, would be below par in the market," replied the merchant, smiling.

"Perhaps so," the young man replied, "but Mr. Barton, remember that the boy is not the man ; the time may come when Hiram Strosser's note may be as readily accepted as that of any other man."

"True, very true," said Barton, mildly "but you know business men very seldom loan money without adequate sceurityotherwise they might soon be reduced to penury."

At this remark the young man's coun-tenance became deadly pale, and having observed a silence of several minutes, he inquired, in a voice whose tones indicated keen disappointement. "then you can-not accommodate me, can you?"

"Call upon me to-morrow, and I will give you a reply," said Mr. Barton; and the young man retired.

Mr. Barton resumed his labors at his desk, but his mind was so much upon the boy and his singular errand that he could not pursue his task with any correctness and after having made several sad blunders took his hat, and went out upon the street. Arriving opposite the door of a wealthy merchant on Milk street, he entered the door.

"Good morning, Mr. Hawley," said he, approaching the proprietor of the es-tablishment, who was seated at his desk counting over the profits of the week.

"Good morning," replied the merchant blandly, "happy to see you; have a seat. Any news? How's trade?" "Without noticing the interrogations

Barton said :

"Young Strosser is desirous of estab-lishing himself in a small retail business in Washington street, and called this morning to secure of me the loan of \$2,-000 for that purpose."

"Indeed," exclaimed Hawley, evident-ly surprised at this announcement, "but you do not think of loaning that sum do

you ?" "1 ' do not know," replied Barton, "Strosser is a young man of business talent and strict integrity, and will be likely to succeed in whatever he undertakes.

"Perhaps so," replied Hawley doubtfully, "but I am heartily tired of helping to establish these young aspirants for commercial honors."

" Have you ever suffered from such a course ?" inquired Barton, at the same time casting a keen glance at Haw-

ded that if you will advance one thousand dollars I will contribute an equal sum."

ceived mony to establish myself in busi-

ness. " But that debt was cancelled several years ago," replied Barton, as a ray of hope shot across his troubled mind.

"True," replied Strosser, "but the debt of gratitude I owe has never been cancelled, and now the scale is turned, I deem it my duty to come up to the rescue."

At this singular turn in the tide of fortune Barton fairly wept for joy. His paper was taken up as fast as it was sent in, and in less than a month he had passed the crisis, and stood perfectly safe and secure ; his credit increased, and his business improved, while several other firms sank under the blow, and could not rally ; among whom was Hawley, alluded to in the commencement of this article.

"How do you manage to keep above the tide?" inquired Hawley of Mr. Barton, one morning, several months after the event recorded, as he met the latter on the street, on his way to his place of business.

" Very easily indeed," replied Barton. " Well, do tell me how," said Hawley. claim a good degree of shrewdness, but the strongest exercise of my wits did not save me; and yet you, whose liabilities were twice as heavy as my own, have stood the shock and have come off even bettered by the storm."

"The truth is," replied Barton, "I cashed my paper as soon as it was sent

"I suppose so," replied Hawley, re-garding Barton with a look of surprise, but how did you obtain the funds? As for my part, I could not obtain a dollar's credit; the bands refused to take my paper, and my friends even deserted

" A little investment that I made several years ago," replied Barton smiling, profitable.

"Investment !" echoed Hawley, "what investment ?"

"Why, do you not remember how I established young Strosser in business ten years ago ?" "Oh, yes," said Hawley, as a ray of

suspicion lit up his countenance but what of that ?"

"He is one of the heaviest dry-goods dealers in the city ; and when this calamity came on, he came forward and very generously advanced me seventy-five thousand dollars. You know I told you on the morning I called to offer you an an equal share in the stock, that it might prove better than an investment in bank.

During this announcement Mr. Hawley's eyes were bent intently on the ground, and drawing a deep sigh he moved on dejected and sad, while Mr. Barton returned to his place of business with his mind clear and animated by thoughts of his singular investment.

Anecdote of Von Weber.

The following anecdote of the illustrious composer, says the London Musical World, presents him in a new and unexpected light, and will be read with interest:

time casting a keen glance at Haw-ley. "No," replied Hawley, for I never felt inclined to make an investment of that kind." "Then here is a fine opportunity to do so. It may prove better than stock in bank. As for myself I have conclu-ded that if you will advance on the conclu-ted that is not will advance on the store the way to be the store officers, he put his flute in his pocket. "Why do you stop playing?" said one of the officers to Weber. "For the same reason that I began," replied the com-poser. "And that is?" "Because it pleases me." "Well, then," said the officers, "take up your flute again, or it pleaes me to throw you into the water." The composer seeing that the dialogue was unpleasant to the ladies he was with, gave way, and began playing again. When leaving his boat, however, he accosted the bold son of Mars, and said :--"The fear of annoying the people who were with me made me brook your insolence ; but to-morrow I will have entire satisfaction. We can meet in Hyde Part at 10 c'clock. If you have no ob-jection, we will fight with swords; we need no seconds; the quarrel is only be-tween you and me, and it is useless to bring in strangers." The officer accepted the challenge .--He was at the rendezvous at the appointed hour, and met Weber as agreed dance a minuet or you are a dead man." The officer made some objections, but the authoritative and determined tone of quite ready to give you any satisfaction you may wish for." The officer held out his hand and beg-ged his adversary to honor him with his friendship. From that moment an at-tachment sprang up between them, which lasted to the day the illustrious composer died. became so tame as to come to my whistle and eat out of my hand. With other parsons, on the contrary, he continued as shy and as wild as ever.—Dr. Warwick.

RATHER MIXED.

A QUESTION ANSWERED

"DISCARDED LOVER."-"" I loved, and still love, the beautiful Edwitha Howard, aud in-tended to marry her. Yet, during my tempo-rary absence at Benicia, last week, alas ? she married Jones. Is my happiness to be thus blasted for life ? Have I no redress ?"

OF COURSE you have. All the law written and unwritten, is on your side. The intention and not the act constitutes crime-in other words, constitutes the deed. If you call your bosom friend a fool, and intended it for an insult, it is an insult ; but if you do it playfully, and meaning no insult, it is not an insult. If you discharge a pistol accidentally, and kill a man, you can go free, for you have done no murder; but if you try to kill a man, and manifestly *intend* to kill him, but fail utterly to do it, the law still holds that the intention constituted the crime, and you are guilty of murder. Ergo, if you had married Edwitha accidentally, and without really intending to do it, you would not actually be married to her at all, because the act of marriage, could not be complete without the intention. And ergo, in the strict spirit of the law, since you deliberately intended to marry Ed-witha, and didn't do it, you are married to her all the same-because, as I said before, the intention constitutes the crime. It is as clear as day that Edwitha is your wife, and your redress lies in taking a club and mutilating Jones with it as much as you can. Any man has a right to protect his own wife from the advances of other men. But you have another alternative-you were married to Edwitha

first, because of your deliberate intention and now you can prosecute her for bigamy in subsequently marrying Jones. But there is another phase in this complicated case: You *intended* to marry Edwitha, and consequently, according to law, she is your wife—there is no getting around that; but she didn't marry you, and if she never intended to marry you, you are not her husband, of course. Ergo, in marry-ing Jones, she was guilty of bigamy, be-cause she was the wife of another man at the time ; which is all very well as far as it goes-but then don't you see, she had no other husband when she married Jones, and consequently she was not guilty of bigamy. Now according to this view of the case, Jones married a spinster who was a widow at the same time, and another man's wife at the same time, and yet who had no husband and never had

one, and never had any intention of getting married ; and therefore, of course, never had been married, and, by the same reasoning, you are a bachelor, because you have never been any one's husband; and a married man, because you have a wife living; and to all intents and purposes a widower, because you have been deprived of that wife; and a consummate ass for going off to Benicia in the first place, while things we re so mixed. And by this time I have got myself so tangled up in the intricacies of the extraordinary case, that I shall have to give up any further attempt to advise you-I might get confused and fail to make myself understood. I think I could take up the argument where I left off, and by following it closely awhile, perhaps I could prove to your satisfaction, either that you never existed at all, or that you

The Big Trees of California.

3

ONE of the greatest curiosities in California, and indeed, of its kind in the world, consists of the Big Tree grove, siuated on the divide between the middle fork of the Stanislaus and the Calaverts river, about twenty miles east of Mokelumme Hill, and at an elevation of four thousand, seven hundred and fifty nine feet above the level of the sea. The number of trees, a species of red-wood bearing the bontanical name of Segnioa Ginantea, is ninety-two, ten of which are at least thirty feet in diameter; eighty-two having a diameter varying from fifteen to thirty feet. Their height as they now stand, ranges from one hundred and twenty-seven feet, the tops of many of the more aged having been broken off by the tempests of snow. The original height of some is believ-

ed to have been over four hundred and fifty feet and their diameter at least forty feet. Through the prostrate trunk of one of these trees, which has been hollowed out by fire, a man can ride on horseback for a distance of seventy-five feet. Some years ago one of the largest of the number then standing was cut down, with a view to secure transverse sections of the trunk for exhibition. It was ninety-two feet in circumference and three hundred feet high, and it required the constant labor of five men for twenty-two days to fell it—the work being accomplished by means of boring with a long auger. At the same time another tree of nearly the same dimensions, was stripped of its bark for a distance of one hundred and six feet from the ground, a lofty staging having been erected about it for the purpose.

A Singular Duel.

That infraction of the code did not necessarily involve social ostracism is evident from the fact that De Witt Clinton left the field with impunity, while Swortwout, his opponent, was protesting he was unsatisfied. After the first shot the latter demanded a second, and after a second a third. Neither was wounded. "Is your principal satisfied ?" asked

Riker, Clinton's second. "He is not," replied Smith, after con-

sulting Swartwout.

The fourth shot was then exchanged, Clinton's ball entering the calf of Swortwout's leg.

" Is your principal satisfied now ?" demanded Riker.

"He is not," replied Smith. Shots were exchanged the fifth time, and again Clinton's ball entered Swortwout's leg.

Riker again asked the question, "Is your principal satisfied, Mr. Smith ?"

After a moments consultation with Swartwout, who standing while the sur-geon extracted the bullets from his legs, manifested great fortitude. Smith replied that he was not.

"Then he may go to thunder, for I will fight no more !" replied Clinton, and immediately left the field.

Mr. Quintin Dick, M. P., was once entertaining a party at dinner, when a loud knocking was suddenly heard at the door, and ere they could well conceive what it meant, Mr. D,'s footman entered, ushering in a rough-looking son of Nep-tune. Mr. Dick rose, imagining that he came with tidings from some friend in India. Jack then, with the coolest assu-rance in the world, stretched out his hand, and asked: "Is your name Quintin Dick?" "It is," replied Mr. D., at your service." "Good, I'm glad of it; give us your hand, my old boy—for my name is Dick Quintin, and by the mast we'll have a drop of grog to-gether !" roared the tar! The effect on the company may be easily imagined.— Mr. Dick took it in good humor, gave the man half-a-crown, and told the ser-India, Jack then, with the coolest assuthe man half-a-crown, and told the servant to take him to the kitchen, and give him plenty to eat and drink.

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"Not a single farthing would I advance for such a purpose; and if you make an investment of that kind I will consider you very foolish."

Barton observed a silence for several moments, and then rose to depart.

" If you do not feel disposed to share with me in the enterprise, I shall advance the whole myself," saying which he left, the store."

Ten years have passed away since the occurrence of the conversation recorded in the preceding dialogue, and Mr. Barton, pale and agitated, is standing at the same desk as when first introduced to the reader's attention. As page after page of a wonderous ledger was examined his dispair became deeper, till at last he exclaimed :

"I am ruined-utterly ruined !" "How so?" inquired Hiram Strosser, who entered the counting room just in time to hear Barton's remark.

"The last European steamer brought news of the failure of the house of Perrin, Johnson & Co., who are indebted to me the sum of nearly \$200,000. News of the failure has become general, and my creditors, panic stricken, are passing in my paper to be cashed. The banks refuse me credit, and I have not the means to meet my liabilities. If I could pass the crisis, perhaps I could rally again; but it is impossible; my creditors are importunate, and I cannot much longer keep above the tide," replied Barton.

What is the extent of your liabilities ?"

" Seventy-five thousand dollars."

"Would that sum be sufficient to relieve you ?"

" It would."

"Then, sir, you shall have it," said Strosser, and he steped to the desk and drew a check for seventy-five thousand dollars.

"Here take this, and when you need Druggist, Chemist and Horseman, Milton, Pa., Northumberland co., Pa. Remember it was from you that I re-died.

are dead now, and consequently don't need the faithless Edwitha-I think I could do that, if it would afford you any comfort .- MARK TWAIN.

A Fish Story.

WHILE living at Durham, I took a W hish nyag at Durnam, I took a ford's park. On reaching a pond, in which fish were kept ready for use, I observed a fine pike of some six pounds weight. At my approach he darted away like an arrow. In his hurry he knocked his head against an iron hook fixed in a post in the water, fracturing his skull and post in the water, inacting its sound and injuring the optic nerve on one side of his head. He appeared to suffer terrible pain; he plunged into the mud, floundered hither and thither, and at last, leaping out of the water, fell on the bank. On examination, a portion of the brain was seen protruding through the fractured This I carefully restored to its skull. place, making use of a small silver toothpick to raise the splinters of broken bone. on. He drew his sword and put him-self on guard, when Weber presented a ation : when it was over he plunged into pistol at his throat. "Do you mean to murder me, in cold blood ?" said the officer. "No," snid Weber, "but be few minutes he began rushing right and kind enough to put up that sword, and left until he again leaped out of the water. I called the keeper, and with his assistance applied a bandage to the fracture. That done, we restored him to the pond and left the authoritative and determined tone of Weber seemed to influence him, and not-withstanding the arrival of some people on the scene of action, he went through what he was asked, or rather told to do. "Sir," said the musician, "you com-pelled me to play yesterday against my will—I have now compelled you to dance against yours. Our bond is over. How-ever should you be dissatisfied still, I am quite ready to give you any satisfaction pond. The han swam der how on the following day I brought a few young friends with me to see the fish. He swam towards me as before. Little by little he

100" "Do you know the prisoner, Mr. Jones ?"

" Yes, to the bone."

"What is his character ?"

"Didn't know he had any."

"Does he live near you?" "So near that he hasn't bought a dollar's worth of fire-wood in eight years.

"Did he ever come in contact with you in any manner ?"

"Only once; when he was drunk, and mistook me for a lamp post." "Well, sir, from what you know of

him, would you believe him if under oath ?

"That depends upon circumstances. he was saying, I might; if not, I would not." If he was so drunk as not to know what

mer The Dunkirk Journal says that a curious individual was greatly perplexed at the opening of the Masonic rooms, the other night, to understand the whys and wherefores of the three large candles, which had conspicuous positions. He viewed them on all sides, thoughtfully summing up in his mind their probable use. At last his patience was exhausted and turning suddenly about, he made bold to ask a Mason "What those candles were for?" The Mason, looking about him to see that no one was near, and exacting most solemn promises of secrecy, got close up to the ear of his friend, and with bated breath whispered : "The candles are to burn."