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NO. 36.

The Mome.

I'm only a poor little mome, ma'am!
I live in the wall of your house, ma'am!
With a fragment of cheese, and a very few peas,
I was having a little corn, ma'am!
No mischief at all I intended, ma'am!
I hope you will act as my friend, ma'am!
If my life you should take, many hearts it would break,
And the trouble would be without end, ma'am!
My wife lives in there in the crack, ma'am!
She's waiting for me to come back, ma'am!
She hoped I might find a bit of rad, ma'am!
For the children their dinner do lack, ma'am!
The last living there in the wall, ma'am!
For plaster and mortar will fall, ma'am!
On the minds of the young, and when specially hungry, upon their poor father they'll fall, ma'am!

I never was given to strife, ma'am!
(Don't look at that terrible knife, ma'am!)
The notes overhead that disturb you in bed,
To the rain, I will venture my life, ma'am!
In your eyes I see mercy, I'm sure, ma'am!
Oh, there's no need to open the door, ma'am!
I'll slip through the crack, and I'll never come back,
Oh, I'll never come back any more, ma'am!
—St. Nicholas.

JACK EASY.

How many have laughed over the incident related in "Gertie Maygatt" is a story of Midshipman Easy. In presenting his hero to the public the author tells us how the nurse was installed in eccentric old Nicodemus Easy's home as follows:

"Mrs. Easy did not find herself equal to nursing her own infant, and it was necessary to look out for a substitute. Now a common person would have been satisfied with the recommendation of the medical man, who looks but to the one thing needful, which is a sufficient and wholesome supply of nourishment for the child. But Mrs. Easy was a philosopher, and had latterly taken to eschewing, and she desecrated very learnedly with the doctor upon the effect of his only son obtaining his nutriment from an unknown source. 'Who knows,' observed Mr. Easy, 'but that your son may not imbibe with his milk the very worst poisons of human nature?'

"I have examined her," replied the doctor, "and can safely recommend her."

"That examination is only preliminary to a more important," replied Mr. Easy, "I will call on her, and it was necessary to look out for a substitute. Now a common person would have been satisfied with the recommendation of the medical man, who looks but to the one thing needful, which is a sufficient and wholesome supply of nourishment for the child. But Mrs. Easy was a philosopher, and had latterly taken to eschewing, and she desecrated very learnedly with the doctor upon the effect of his only son obtaining his nutriment from an unknown source. 'Who knows,' observed Mr. Easy, 'but that your son may not imbibe with his milk the very worst poisons of human nature?'

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"A very little one!" exclaimed Mrs. Easy. "Yes, ma'am, very small, indeed, and died soon after it was born."

"Oh, Dr. Middleton! What could you mean, Dr. Middleton!" What could you mean, madam," exclaimed the doctor, rising from his chair, "this is the only person I could find suited to the wants of your child, and if you do not take her, I cannot answer for its life. It is true, that a married woman might be procured, but married women who have a proper feeling will not desert their own children; and, as Mr. Easy asserts, and you appear to imagine, the temper and disposition of your child may be affected by the nourishment it receives. I think it more likely to be injured by the milk of a married woman who will desert her own child for the sake of gain. The misfortune which has happened to this young woman is not always a proof of a bad heart, but of strong attachment, and the overweening confidence of simplicity."

"You are correct, doctor," replied Mrs. Easy, "and her head proves that she is a modest young woman, with strong religious feeling, kindness of disposition, and every other requisite."

"The head may prove it all, for I know, Mr. Easy, but her conduct tells another tale."

"She is well fitted for the situation, ma'am," continued the doctor, "and if you please, ma'am," rejoined Sarah, "it was such a little one."

"Shall I try the baby, ma'am," said the monthly nurse, who had listened in silence. "It is fretting so, poor thing, and has its dear little fist right down its throat."

"Dr. Middleton gave the signal of assent, and in a few seconds Master John Easy was loved to Sarah as tight as a inch."

"Lord love it, how hungry it is! There, there, stop it a moment, it's choking, poor thing."

Mrs. Easy, who was lying on her bed, rose up, and went to the child. Her first feeling was that of envy, that another should have such a pleasure which she denied to herself. Last time was when she had seen the child in the arms of the nurse, and in a few minutes the child fell back in a deep sleep. Mrs. Easy was satisfied; maternal feelings conquered all others, and Sarah was duly installed.

"A Neighbor's Revenge.

They didn't invite an elderly lady to the wedding, says the Baltimore News, but she succeeded in effecting an entrance when the presents were exhibited, and in a few seconds Master John Easy was loved to Sarah as tight as a inch."

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Why Aunt Sallie Never Married.

"Now, Aunt Sallie, do please tell us why you never got married. You remember you said once that when you were a girl you were engaged to a minister, and promised us you would tell us about it some time. Now, aunt, please tell us."

"Well, you see, when I was about seventeen years old, I was living in Utica, in the State of New York. Though I say it to myself, I was quite a good looking girl then, and had several beaux. The one that took my fancy was a young minister, a very promising young man, and remarkably pious and steady. He thought a great deal of me, and I kind of took a fancy to him, and things went on until we were engaged. One evening he came to me and put his arms around me, and kind of hugged me, when I got excited and some flushed. It was a long time ago, and I don't know but what I may have hugged back a little. I was like any other girl, and pretty soon I pretended to be mad about it, and pushed him away, though I wasn't mad a bit. You must know the house where I lived, on the back street of the town. There were glass doors in the parlor, which opened over the street. These doors were drawn to, I stepped back a little from him, and when he came up close I pushed him back again. I pushed him harder than I intended to, and don't you think, Sallie, the poor fellow, his balance and fell through one of the doors into the street."

"Oh! amity. Was he killed?"

"No, he fell head first, and as he was going I caught hold of him by the legs of his trousers. I held on for a minute, and tried to pull him back; but his suspenders gave way, and the poor man fell clear of his pants along a parcel of ladies and gentlemen along the street."

"Oh! amity. Was he killed?"

"There, that's right, small and giggles as much as you want to. Girls can't hear a little thing like that without tearing around the room and he-he-ing in such a way, don't know enough to come in when it rains. A nice time the man that carries one of you will have, won't he? Catch me telling you anything again."

"But, Aunt Sallie, what became of him? Did you ever see him again?"

"No; the moment he touched the ground he got up and left that place in a terrible hurry. I tell you, it was a sight to be remembered. How that man fell! He went out West and I believe he is preaching in Illinois. But he never married. He was very modest, and I suppose he was so badly frightened that time that he never dared trust himself near a woman again. That, girls, is the reason why I never married. I felt very bad about it for a long time, for he was a real good man, and I've often thought to myself that we should have been very happy if his suspenders hadn't given away."

"Honesty Is the Best Policy.

One day a strange customer came to a Detroit customer. He wanted some goods and he paid cash down. The next day he made another purchase, and paid cash. As the days went by his face and his cash became familiar. One day he returned with the change given him and said:

"I believe I am an honest man. You paid me twenty cents too much."

"The grocer received it with pleasure. Two days later the stranger returned from the customer to say:

"Another mistake on your part; you overpaid me by forty cents."

The grocer was glad to have found an honest man, and was puzzled to know how he could have counted so far out of the way. "Three days more, and the stranger picked up a dollar bill in the store and said: "This is not my dollar. I found it on the floor, and you must take charge of it."

The grocer's heart melted, and he wondered the world was not progressing backward to old time. He had a skip of one day, and then the honest man brought down a wheelbarrow, ordered eighteen dollars' worth of groceries, and would have paid cash had he not forgotten his wallet. He would hand it in to you as he went past, he said, and it was all right with the grocer.

"That was the last of the honest man; morning fades to no, and noon melts away in darkness, but he cometh not. There are no mistakes in change—no more dollars on the floor, and the grocer's eyes wear a way-off expression, as if yearning to see some one for about two minutes."

"A Narrow Escape.

Two aeronauts who ascended from the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, England, had a narrow escape from drowning. Six minutes after the start they entered a vast body of hot vapor three thousand feet thick. After penetrating it and reaching an altitude of seven thousand feet, the mercury suddenly fell seventy degrees, and the balloon was deluged with two hundred pounds of heavy cold rain. Three hundred pounds of ballast had to be thrown out rapidly, for they sank so low that they could hear persons shouting. After rising again with a strong south-southwest wind to nine thousand feet, they remained forty minutes at that height, and then descended quickly, because they were already on the Essex coast, having traveled fifty miles in the hour. They were close to the German ocean, and their grapple nearly became entangled with the mast of a fishing smack, whose crew rescued them from an island, where the balloon lay capsize, and the aeronauts under the car in the mud.

"Let Me See Him.

When Louis XV. was passing through a town in the north of France, his reception being of the most enthusiastic. An old woman was suddenly seen to dart through the ranks of the military escort, crying: "Let me see him! Let me see him!"

The king stopped his carriage, addressed a few kind words to her, then continued his progress.

Then the old woman flung her hands into the air, and with all the rapture of pious Simeon, cried:

"Thank Heaven! I have seen him! And now I don't care how soon—he dies!"

HOW HE GOT THE KEY.

The Story of a Bank Robbery That Didn't Come by Telegraph.

A few days ago about dusk a stranger called at the residence of a bank cashier in St. Louis, and introducing himself, said he desired some private conversation on business of importance. The cashier thereupon led him to a private room, gave orders that they were not to be disturbed, seated himself, folded his arms, and desired his mysterious acquaintance to communicate the object of his visit. The man coughed once or twice, then said:

"Being the cashier of this here financial institution, of course you keep the key of the safe?"

"The cashier said he did."

"And you've heard about the Daventport Brothers and the Spiritualists and things?"

"The cashier said he had."

"Now," said the stranger, "I've been studying up the whole business, and I have found out how to overcome them."

"You say, P. 85 I will impart to you a secret which may at some future time save your life and the funds entrusted to your care. I will show you how to untie any series of knots, however complicated; to remove a gag from your mouth, and, in fact, to set yourself free. I'll can remove a gag from your mouth in twenty minutes. I'll bet that you can show better than three minutes. You see the advantage of my system? There is no need to resist and get shot; all you have to do is to let them tie you up, and, as soon as they have taken the key and gone, you just let yourself loose and give the alarm."

The cashier said it was a remarkable invention.

"You bet it is," said the inventor, "and as I never take any money for it till my customers are satisfied of my honesty, I'll bet you'll give me the key and bind you, and then I'll give you simple directions what to do, and if you don't unloose yourself in five minutes and express your entire satisfaction with the process, I'll give you \$10. If you find that am a man of my word, you'll pay me \$5."

The cashier said that nothing could be fairer.

"Another thing," continued the visitor; "I'm a poor man, and this secret is my only stock in trade, so I'll ask you to reach any one else how we do it. That would spoil my business."

The cashier consented to the arrangement.

"Take this \$10 bill," said the other. "If I fail, you keep it; if you are satisfied, you will return it to me with another \$10. Now you know how we do it." So saying he took a roll of cord and a gag from his pockets, and with great dexterity tied the cashier hand and foot, and gagged him so that he could not speak.

"Now you are tied pretty firmly, ain't you? You wouldn't think you could ever get loose, would you?"

The cashier looked the replies he could not speak.

"I don't think you could myself," said the inventor; "and now let me tell you my name is Jesse H. James, the notorious train robber, and if you don't reach me by ten o'clock, I'll cut your throat from ear to ear. I beg your pardon; you can't, but I'll take it myself. It's no trouble, and turning that cashier over on his back like a turtle, he took the key. "I won't take your pocketbook," he said, "for the cashier has his key, and he'll get it. He is able to get loose in five minutes, or five hours either. So long, sonny, and, with a courteous bow, he quitted the apartment, and proceeded to the bank, which he rifled as completely and helter-skelter as if he had been one of the doors. The safe event has cast a gloom over the community."

One Way of Carving a Turkey.

There is nothing a young unmarried man likes better than to go to a dinner at the house of a friend and be asked to carve the turkey. He never carved a turkey in his life, and with an old maid on one side of him, watching him closely, and on the other side a fair girl for whom he has a tenderness, he feels embarrassed when he begins. First he pushes the knife down toward one of the thigh joints. He can't find the joint, and he plunges the knife around in search of it until he makes mince-meat out of the whole quarter of the fowl. Then he sharpens his knife and tackles it again. At last, while making a terrific barbeque, he hits the joint suddenly, and the leg flies into the maiden lady's lap, while her dress front is covered with a shower of stuffing. Then he goes for the other leg, and when the young lady tells him she looks warm, the weather seems to him suddenly to become four hundred degrees warmer. This leg he finally pulls loose with his fingers. He lays it on the edge of the plate, and while he is hacking at the wing he gradually pushes the leg over on the clean tablecloth, and when he picks it up it slips from his hand into the gravy dish and splashes the gravy around for six square yards. Just as he has made up his mind that the turkey has no joints to its wings, the host asks him if he thinks the Indians can really be civilized. The girl next to him laughs, and he says he will explain his views upon the subject after dinner. Then he sops his brow with his handkerchief, and presses the turkey so hard with the fork that it slides off the dish and upsets a goblet of water on the girl next to him. Nearly frantic, he gouges away again at the wings, gets them off in a mutilated condition, and digs into the breast. Before he can cut any of the best he asks him why he don't help out the turkey. Bewildered, he puts both legs on a plate and hands them to the maiden lady, and then helps the young girl to a plateful of stuffing, and while taking her plate in return knocks over the gravy dish. Then he sits down with the calmness of despair and fays himself with a napkin, and while the servant girl clears up and takes the turkey to the other end of the table. He doesn't discuss the Indian question that day. He goes home right after dinner and spends the night trying to decide whether to commit suicide or to take lessons in carving.

Mr. Lincoln's Horse Trade.

When Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer in Illinois he and the judge once got to bawling one another about trading horses, and it was agreed that the next morning at nine o'clock they should make a trade, the horses to be unseen up to that hour, and no backing out, under a forfeiture of twenty-five dollars. At the hour appointed the judge came up, leading the sorriest looking specimen of a horse ever seen in those parts. In a few minutes Mr. Lincoln was seen approaching with a wooden sawhorse upon his shoulders. Great were the shouts and the laughter of the crowd, and both were greatly increased when Mr. Lincoln, on surveying the judge's animal, set down his saw-horse and exclaimed: "Well, judge, this is the first time I ever got the worst of it in a horse trade."

CAUSES OF INSANITY.

An Interesting Paper from the Superintendent of an English Asylum.

Dr. Clouston, physician superintendent of the Edinburgh asylum, in his annual report, says: "Glancing over the summary of assigned causes, it is at once seen that intemperance stands out as by far the most frequent. It alone caused forty-eight of the 260, or about twenty per cent. of the cases. Much is properly said about the prevention of disease nowadays. Most unquestionably the sum total of the mental diseases in our city might have been lessened in that amount if the laws of nature had been better obeyed. Fifty of the cases thus resulting from drinking and excesses being paupers, each costing £27 a year to the public rates, over £1,300 would have been paid for one year's production of insanity from very preventable causes, and, of course, this takes no account of the cost of the old incurable cases already in the asylum from the same cause."

I am quite sure that intemperance was the remote cause of the disease in more of the cases; but, even allowing for those, we cannot put this down as accounting in any way for more than one in four in all cases of insanity. In assigning intemperance as the cause of insanity, in a number of cases, two things must not be forgotten. The first is, that the taking of stimulants may not be a cause at all, but merely a symptom of the brain disorder; and, as a matter of fact, it is often one of the early symptoms in many cases. The second is, that the taking of stimulants may not be a cause of the mental disorder, but the mental balance has always been so easily overthrown that a very little alcohol indeed will bring on an attack of insanity in cases, but it is not in these cases that people frighten or little overexcitement will upset their sanity. This is the class of persons who, in my experience, get upset by religious revivals.

The resetting and recuperative power that is really an essential part of a healthy nervous system, whereby the effect of too long continued overeating or overdrinking, overfeeding or overwork, are at once recovered from, is wanting in these people. Nature provides that short excesses do not do much harm to healthy people. It is a poor sort of boiler that needs for its daily work to be exceeded. And before I work this subject I may mention that I have not reckoned in any way the mere drinking craving or the inability to resist it, as constituting insanity. I believe this may or may not be real insanity in different cases, but it is not in these cases that the unmistakable mental alienation that all my patients suffered. When the causes of insanity of our eighty-four private patients are compared with those of the 222 paupers, the difference is most striking, and entirely in favor of the private patients, but it is not in these cases that the unmistakable mental alienation that all my patients suffered. When the causes of insanity of our eighty-four private patients are compared with those of the 222 paupers, the difference is most striking, and entirely in favor of the private patients, but it is not in these cases that the unmistakable mental alienation that all my patients suffered. When the causes of insanity of our eighty-four private patients are compared with those of the 222 paupers, the difference is most striking, and entirely in favor of the private patients, but it is not in these cases that the unmistakable mental alienation that all my patients suffered. 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