

SYNOPSIS. At the village school, Serena Ann Wells, At the village school, Serena Ann Wells, who has always been a model scholar, is caught by Mias Little, the teacher, communicating with another girl. Serena Ann has never received a valentine, and asked her friend if she had done so. Serena Ann is made to stand on the floor, and is very much grieved, as she has never been purished before, and as her Grandfather Juid has promised her a book if she gets through the year without being disciplined. On reaching home, her grandfaplined. On reaching home, her grandfa-ther comforts her, and promises her that she can begin the year anew. He decides to get her a valentine, and starts for Solomon Badger's store.

PART II.

There was quite a stock of valentines in the boxes on the counter, and Sol-omon Badger's grandson, 'Lenzo, was waiting to sell them. The trade had been quite brisk since morning, though it was the day before Valentine's day. 'Lonzo Badger waited for Grand-

father Judd to inspect the valentines. and sucked a lemon drop the while. Longo was fifteen, very stout and considered not very bright. However, he could sell valentines, for the prices were at marked on the backs, and his grandfather was not afraid to trust him. Solomon Badger's eyes were poor, and his granddaughter Sophia, 'Longo's sister, though she was called "bright enough," was decidedly uncertain, and more given to thinking about her mittens and her curls than a good trade. So, when Solomon Badger could press 'Lonzo into service with safety he was glad to do so.

Presently Grandfather Judd got up with an effort, and went over to look at the valentines. One immediately caught his eye. It was much the largest and handsomest there, a beautiful combination of lace paper, embossed doors

"How much is this one?" inquired Grandfather Judd. "Marked on back," mumbled 'Lonzo,

sucking his lemon drop.
Grandfather Judd looked and saw that to valentine was marked fifty cents. That seemed to him rather an extravagant price. He made up his mind never to tell how much he gave and to scratch out the mark. But he could not resist the temptation, it was so decidedly the handsomest valenting

He bought it and started out with it then suddenly changed his mind. He remembered that the postoffice was a quarter of a mile further on; that his rheumatism was bad, and that it was a day too early to post the valentine. He remembered, also, that his son-in-law was going to Westdale to trade a cow the next day, and that it would perhaps not be convenient to get to the postoffice before Valentine's day. So he gave 'Lonzo Badger five cents: told him to buy a one-cent stamp for the valen-tine and put it in the office the next



HE NEVER REFLECTED THAT THE ENVELOPE WAS NOT DI-

smart enough for that," said the old man to himself, as he toiled home. He never reflected that the envelope was not directed, and that he had not told Lonzo for whom it was intended.

As for 'Lonzo, there was a certain kind of red and white peppermint confeetien which he very much favored, called a kiss. Five cents would just purchase one. His appetite for sweets was abnormal, and his conscience somewhat sluggish, possibly as a re-

He put Grandfather Judd's five cents in his pocket, and as soon as his grandfather had finished supper and come in to tend store, he slipped out, raced down the road to the shop where his favorite sweetmeat was on sale, and bought one. As for the valentine, h had taken that out from the envelope, and placed it back in stock.

It was about half-past seven o'clock when Miss Little, the school teacher, came in with the young man who was paying her attention. They had been taking a little stroll in the moonlight, and she had been telling him how she had punished that dear little Serena Ann Wells for whispering about a valentine; how sorry she was, and how she had wished to send her a valentine to atone-and the young man had been thinking how sweet and tender hearted she must be,

Miss Little at once selected the sam valentine which had pleased Grand-

carefully directed the envelope which them.

Badger's, and if they don't know anything about it. I'll send it to Serena

reins, and examined the valentine as he went along, "Declare, I'll take it to

Sam Wells went to Solomon Badger's about fifteen minutes before schooltime, and found Sophia in attendance. She blushed and smiled when he en-She considered Sam quite a desirable beau.

"Halloa, Sophia," said he, "ever see Sophia bent her pink face over the valentine, then raised it. "No, I guess not," said she, looking up in Sam's face

"Look sharp and see-"I did look sharp." "No, you didn't. You were looking at

"You great, conceited boy, you. I'll never speak to you again."
"Well, you did," returned Sam, hon-"Did you ever see it before, man who was walting upon the school about it, if it came from here. I would teacher, and when she married him bring it back, but if it didn't I'd send it the was to go to Riggsville, N. Y., to to my cousin, Serena Ann."

"I never set my eyes on it before," re-plied Sophia, shortly. But she still smiled coquettishly at Sam. to buy a stamp, and she and Mr. Dodd

"Well, then, I want to buy an enve-lope, and I wish you'd address it--" "Address it yourself," Sophia inter-

spied the envelope; discovered that the valentine was not enclosed, and began "Now, Sophia, my hands are cold, to search for the one she had chosen, and I can't write fine enough to go on a He held up many to the light, and fin-ally thought he had it; but he was to the office by Lonzo, that's a good



SLIPPING IT INTO HER HANDS WHEN NOBODY WAS LOOKING.

chased, which was posted next day, It went to Riggsville, N. Y., and finally brought up in the dead letter office

was to hold the valentine, to Miss Se-

Dodd was the name of the young

After the envelope was directed, Miss

Little gave Solomon Badger a penny

bade him good evening and went out.

After they had gone, Solomon Badger

rena Ann Dodd, Riggsville, N. Y.

where it must be now. It was eight o'clock when the valentine was sold for the third time to Miranda Sall. She came in with another girl. Lettie Goedwin, and both had their heads together over some valentines which Lottie had received, arly as it was. They were so much interested in them that Miranda did not hurry about her purchase, but finally she selected the same valentine which had suited Grandfather Judd and Miss Little, and addressed the enday, and he might keep the remaining velope properly this time, and gave it four cents for himself. "Guess he's to Lottle Goodwin to post, because on her way home lay past the offic randa never thought about it being a

The girls parted at Solomon Badger's door, Miranda going one day and Lot-

Lottie put the new valentine in a silk bag which she carried on her arm. It contained also her other valentines which she had just received. When she reached the office it was closed, and she and to deposit the valentine in the outside letter box on the door. It was dark, and just then she caught sight of man coming, and that startled her. Thus it happened that she drew out of her silk bag Serena Ann's new valentine and one of her old ones; dropped the old one in the letter box and the new one on the snow, and sped along home, never dreaming what she had

Te next morning Serena Ann's ousin, Sam Wells, drove over from the east village where he lived, very early, in order to get the horse shod before chool, and passing the postoffice saw something white on the snowbank, He stopped, got out, whoaing all the time ecause his horse was restive, and in-estigated. "I declare, it's a valenvestigated. tine." cried Sam Wells. He tried to pick it up, but it was frozen down. There had been quite a thaw the day before and the weather had grown colder durng the night. Sam was very careful but he had to leave the addressed part of the envelope in the snow. He got in the sleigh, gathered up the

Is there any reason for dodging and ig-noring a great and vital fact simply bepeople have anti-quated ideas of what constitutes morality and modesty? Rea son and honesty say —certainly not. Men and women are atand women are at-tracted to each other that make a man atman. There is strong

in periect heath. In just so much as her sickness affects the organs that make her a woman, in just so much as her sickness affects the organs that make her a woman, in just so much she leses attractiveness. This is the vital part of her health. If anything is wrong there, it may result in all events Serena Ann had her valuation that, since it was a day too soon, and there might be difficulty about having the valentine posted, if she took it home, she would leave it at the store and have it sent from there.

In just so much as her difficult to ascertain to whom it was due, and he was poor, so all concerned refused any restitution.

At all events Serena Ann had her valuations of this kind of disorder as separate and distinct allments. The symptoms of this kind of disorder as separate and distinct allments. The symptoms of this kind of disorder as separate and distinct allments. The symptoms of this huckleberry money which he had shaken out of his iron bank.

The end.

"Well," said Sophia, with a pout of sham rejuctance. "Leave it here, then."

And Sam left the valentine, and a penny for postage, with the envelope which he had selected, and hastily went his way. Sophia took up the envelope to addres it, and then a sleigh stopped at the door, and a young man from the east village came in and asked her to go a little way for a drive. Sophia called her grandfather in to mind the store, got herself ready, jumped into the sleigh with the young man and was And that was the last she thought of Sam Wells and Serena Ann's valentine. Her grandfather shook the envelope when he came in, discovered the valentine in it, took it out and returned it to its old place.

school that night, and then Johnny Starr was the purchaser. He had shaken the iron savings bank, in which he had deposited his money, earned by selling berries the summer before, until he got fifty-two cents, all in pennies. He gave them to Solomon Badger, for the valentine and an envelope, and watched anxiously while the old man ounted them-it took .him a long while Then he trudged off with his purchase. There was no question of posting it in Johnny Starr's mind, because he had not shaken enough pennies to buy a

He gave it to Serena Ann the next morning before school, slipping it into her hands when nobody was looking. Serena Ann looked at it, colored high, then turned white. She was almost ready to cry. To think she had a valentirat and such a valentine! She showed it one, then another; by noon everybody in school had seen that valentine, teacher an all, "Johnny gave it to me," she admitted, innocently, with a grateful glance at Johnny.

"Who did you say gave it to you, Serena Ann?" asked Sam Wells, with

an astonished air.
"Johnny Starr," Sam Wells whistled. At noon Miss Little called her up to the desk and questioned her. Then she up Johnny Starr, and asked where he got the valentine. "At Mr. Solomon Badger's," replied Johnny, stoutly. Serena Ann did not know what it all meant. She was bewildered vhen Miranda Sali and Lottle Goodwin nd the other big girls came to her at the afternoon recess and told her that Miranda gave her the valentine, and not Johnny. She was more bewildered when she got home and found that her Grandfather Judd had given it to her. It began to seem to poor little Serena Ann as if everything was out of proportion, and topsy-turvy, and people were behaving like fairy stories. However, Screpa Ann was not the only person who was bewildered. Her elders were as much nonpulsed as she. For sev because they are men and women and be-cause it is right and over Serena Ann's valentine. eral days the whole village was in a turnecessary that they Everybody questioned wildly, who had should be so at-tracted. The things accused of stealing it. Sam Wells for that make a man at that make a man at tinding it and keeping it unlawfully, and both were acquitted. Sam, because his inherent munli-he did not seem to have kept it, after -by the strength all, and Johnny because of the testiwhich makes him a mony of his parents and Solomon perfect man. The Badger, Lonzo Badger was discovered same is true of wo- to be guilty of petty dishonesty, and to be guilty of petty dishonesty, and whipped with a birch stick, but that did attractiveness in perfect health. There is whipped with a biren stick, but that did not go far toward the solution of the ascination and mag. whole mystery. Some of it was alnetism in it. A woman cannot be entirely womanly—she
cannot be a perfect
woman—if she is not
in perfect health. In
itself so much as her
itself so muc difficult to ascertain to whom it was

home, she would leave it at the store and have it sent from there.

"I suppose some of you will be going to the postoffice tomorrow?" said she.

"Oh, yes, ma'am." repeated Solomon Badger, blinking at her. He had not the least idea who she was.

The school teacher did not repeat Grandfather Judd's mistake, but she made one of her own. She borrowed a pen and ink of Solomon Badger, and carefully directed the envelope which given to the world, in his figure of an artistically-formed woman, the following Venus de Medici, the world's ideal of per-

ser Sargent, with several thousand tabu-lated life measurements in hand, has produced a composite figure of the young American girl with these measurements; Height, 635 inches; breadth of neck, 33 inches; girth of neck, 12.1 inches; breadth of shoulders, 14.7 inches; breadth of walsts, 8.6 inches; girth of walst, 24.6 inch-es; breadth of hips, 13.1 inches; girth of hips, 35.4 inches; girth of calf, 13.3 inches; girth of upper arm, 10.1 inches; wirth of girth of upper arm, 10.1 inches; wirth of thigh, 21.4 inches, and forearm, 9.2 inches.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS.

From the Philadelphia Ledger, Jan. 25. Before an assemblage that crowded ev-ery part of the large Temple of the Re-form Congregation Koneseth Israel, Broad street, above Columbia avenue, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Krauskopf delivered a dis-course on "Uses and Abuses of the Press" Sophia? I found it out by the postof-fice. I thought if you knew anything about it, if it came from here, I would than it accorded the pulpit. In many reapects this claim was justified. Newspa-pers reached a much larger circle of peo-ple, While the average preacher, if popu-lar, preaches to 1.00 to 2.000 persons a week, the average popular newspaper reaches as many hundred thousands in the same period. To some extent, too, the claims of the modern newspaper to superlority over the government and the Judiciary have also their justification in a large measure of fact. The press is greater than the power behind the throne. It sits that the power behind the throne. on the throne itself, and is the uncrowned king. Over the pretensions of the schools as the greatest educators of the people mistaken. It was quite another valen-tine than the one Miss Little had pur-school time, too."

It's the press had also voiced its claim to superiority. Boastful as this might be, it could not be denied that the press is one of the mightlest of our educative forces.

Continuing, the speaker said: "May there not be a timely lesson for us to learn from this likeness between the gigantic power of the Church of Rome of conturies ago and that of the newspaper press of ago and that of the newspaper press as long as fear from the newspaper press as long as it keeps within its own honorable, legilities by congress, and composed of the ordered by congress, and composed of the lournals of when the press wantonly uses its glant power, glant-like, when, to appease its thirst for power or to satisfy its craving for gold, it crushes the innocent and favors the guilty, deals treacherously with friends and friendly with enemies; stabs, assassin-like, those whom it has not the courage to face in honorable fight; holds out its hands to bribe; stoops so that stock manipulators and monopolists, political bosses and despots might ride upon it to enormous wealth and unpitying tyranny lends its ears to scandals, corruptions, in-fidelities, and its pen to graphic portrayils of them; revels in them and gloats over them, in Satanic glee, blighting every-thing that sufeguards and uplifts society

"Properly to appreciate the worth of the roperty to appreciate the worth of the newspiaper, we have but to picture to ourselves its cessation for a month or so. How lost we all would feel! How we would seem to grope in the dark! We have but to behold within the domains of Russia a copy of a New York, or London or Paris poper, with such paris blackened as the paper, with such parts blackened as the Russian government does not wish to have read within its realms, to appreciate the influence of a free press on national liberties and individual rights. So lots as we have a free and legitimate press we have a power mightier than the Czar, and much nearer and readier to hear our cry and to answer it. Men may shut their ears, but the newspaper forces their eyes open, and makes them read. The twenty six movable letters of the press have moved half of our modern liberties. Our legitimate newspaper is our modern are na; it is our safety valve; it is the artil lery that turns threatening revolution into needed reformations. It is our pub lie conscience. The fear of exposure a the public pillory of the press keeps count less multitudes in the path of rectitude.

The speaker then pointed to what hermed the weakness that has beset a larg It was not sold again until after part of journalism, although the latter was chool that night, and then Johnny never so colossal as at present—a weakness that he traced to waning public co fidence in the accuracy and integrity the newspaper, and due in part to the tr mendous pace at which the newspape world is compelled to move. On this poin he theorized thus: "Every Issue involve enormous expenditure. In the commer cial spirit involved in this undertakin lies the most pernicious evil of the mod ern newspaper. Nothing must be sai or done that may antagonize advertiser r lessen circulation. The readers must e pandered to; their whims and fanci-neir 'oxies' and 'isms' must be cater to; their morbid tastes and sensation ravings must be satisfied. It is the will f the reader that reigns supreme in the newspapers more often than that of t cilitor. In fact, the real business ente prise shows itself in getting a scoop nastiness over a competitor; in detailing nore sensational story; in dragging int sublicity a greater privacy; in using mor flashy hendlines, or more suggestively to decent pictures or trumpeting louder fellow-man's shame and disgrace. T monstrous power thus acquired belongs to those who own the paper, not to its editors or reporters. Some day there will be an awakening, but this awakening may come too late; it may come when its power is crippled and its influence gone. Would that this awakening might come before the waning of its power and in-fluence. Rightly used, society has need of all of it. If employed in the support of religion, government and school, to said the rights and liberties of the people, the are its services equal to those of the bea civilzation; then is the calling of the jour nalist equal in distinction to the highest

REDEEM THE PLEDGES.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Very general public interest will attach to the legislative action on the proposed bills for political reform. The dominate power of the Republican majority of the legislature is distinctly pledged to the enactment of these measures, and to so frame them as to eliminate the corrup



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fection in the female figure, has these measurements: Heihgi. © inches; breadth of neck, 4 inches; shoulders, to inches; breadth of neck, 4 inches; shoulders, to inches; breadth swaist. % inches; bips, 1% inches. Profession Sargent, with several thousand tubulated life measurements in hand, has produced a composite figure of the young American girl with these measurements; Height, 63% inches; breadth of nuck, 3.8 the last several years this state has been convulsed from center to circumference by notorious and flagrantly corrupt political struggles. Where hundreds the numbers is a second of the promise and flagrantly corrupt political struggles. rupt political struggles. Where hundreds of dollars have been used in like contests heretofore, thousands have been employed in the later confilets. It has become such a colossal repreach upon the people of the state that every honest citizen, regardless of his political faith, demands the most stringent legislation to eliminate the boodler from Pennsylvania politics.

THAT BOGUS CANAL SCHEME.

From the Baltimore American, Why should the United States make a Nicaragua Canal company? Does this country owe this bankrupt concern anything? If so, how and when was the obligation incurred? When the company asked to be incorporated, it expressly sinted, through its senatorial agent, that it did not want a dollar from the government. It said that it had spent \$8,000,00 upon the canal; but the rigid investigation has never disclosed more than \$2,000,000 of actual money spent, and the most of that went in lobbying. Its principal ex-penditures, outside of this, was the loss of a light draught steamer, which succumbed to the treacherous approaches to the so-called canal. To remove these approaches, so as to make it safe for vessels to enter the canal, would cost more than the canal itself.

But why should the government appro-priate millions of dollars to recoup this company for moneys that it never had, and, therefore, could not spend, when the government can get a hundred companies to undertake the job, without any costly bonus, or can do the work cheaper and better itself? Taxes are levied for the support of the government. It never was intended that they should be voted as a benus to a bankrupt company, with a rapacious lobby at its back. The canal bill itself is hopelessly victous, even if the mate sphere, as many of the journals of our land do, notably some in our own city; but we have everything to fear from it, our rights and libertles, our faiths and hopes, our schools and churches, our homes and industfies—all are in danger when the press wappany uses its clant any conditions, and has said that, if feasi-ble, it will cost Twice as much as the company has said it would. Not only this, the commission has said officially that the company's surveys are totally untrust-worthy. Is it possible that men entrusted with the interests of the public will, with such testimony before them, recklessly squander one hundred millions of dollars upon this scheme?

If they feel bound to take some action, let them send the commission back to finish its work, or let them appoint a new commission, if they are prejudiced against the truth, and instruct it to examine all the canal routes, and decide which is feas-ible, and which not. Give it the time and money to do its work properly, and settle the canal question in the interests of the public, instead of in the interests of a

> stops a by

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MODISTE AND DRESSMAKER. Mrs. K. Walsh, 211 Spruce street. MONUMENTAL WORKS.

PANTS. Great Atlantic \$3 Pants Co., 219 Lacka-wana ave. PAINTS AND SUPPLIES. Jieneke & McKee, 206 Spruce street,

PAINTS AND WALL PAPER. Winke, J. C., 315 Penn. PAWNBROKER. Green, Joseph, 107 Lackawanna.

PIANOS AND ORGANS. Stelle, J. Lawrence, 308 Spruce. PHOTOGRAPHER. H. S. Cramer, 311 Lackawanna ave.

PLUMBING AND HEATING. Howley, P. F. & M. F., 221 Wyoming ave. REAL ESTATE. Horatio N. Patrick, 226 Washington.

RUBBER STAMPS, STENCILS, ETC. Scranton Rubber Stamp Co., 538 Spruce street. ROOFING,

National Roofing Co., 331 Washington, ANTIARY PLUMBING W. A. Wiedebusch, 234 Washington ave. STEAMSHIP TICKETS.

J. A. Barron, 215 Lackawanna and Priceburg. STEREO-RELIEF DECORATIONS AND PAINTING.
S. H. Morris, 247 Wyoming ave,

TEA, COFFEE AND SPICE. Grand Union Tea Co., 103 S. Main, TRUSSES, BATTERIES, RUBBER GOODS

Benjamin & Benjamin, Franklin and Spruce. UNDERTAKER AND LIVERY.

Raub, A. R., 425 Spruce, UPHOLSTERER AND CARPET LAYER.

C. H. Hazlett. 226 Spruce street. Ford, W. M., 129 Penn.

WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER. Rogers, A. E., 215 Lackawanna. WINES AND LIQUORS.

Walsh, Edward J., 32 Lackawanna, WIRE AND WIRE ROPE.

Washburn & Moen Mfg Co., 119 Franklip