

CHRISTMAS ON THE LIMITED.

FRANK CHAFFEE, in the Magazine of Travel.

It is the twilight time of the busiest, gladdest, most hurried day in all the year—the day before Christmas. The scene in the Grand Central depot, that portal through which, in the morning, pour the countless thousands who are as the sands of the shore in the midst of the great city; through which at night these countless thousands depart, and the city knows not that they have gone. On this evening the crowd is a glad and a merry one, and though there is much pushing and jostling, every one is good-natured, and each has a pleasant word for another; for, indeed, is not this the time of gladness?

From her satchel, and appeared greatly absorbed in it. A very dear old lady, with a serious but kindly smile, had been watching all the proceedings, and now, glancing over the shoulder of the little lady, she noted that the leaves of the book were never turned, and she said to herself, with a kindly smile, "Poor children! a lover's quarrel!" Soon the book came through the train with its armful of books; he paused at section nine, and laid a volume of poems on the seat beside the little lady, as he said, "The gentleman in the smoker has given you this to you, and I am glad." Edith glanced at the book, then out of the window for a moment, then again at the book. She saw that a leaf was turned down, and her hand went slowly towards the little volume, and she felt the old lady's eyes next seat looked on and smiled. Edith turned to the indicated page, and found a verse marked, it was part of a poem that the pleasant voice of the tall, dark man had many times read to her, and now it came to her as a message, and this was the message:

"Alas, how easily things go wrong: A word unsung in a lover's song, There comes a mist and a handing pain, And life is never the same again.

"Alas, how hardly things go right! A storm may come in a summer night, Two stars may fall in the gloom away, And the summer's night is a winter's day."

She read the verse softly through, and as the book dropped to her lap, she saw something was written on the fly-leaf; turning to it, she read: "Edith, from Philip, Merry Christmas!" written in the strong, manly hand that had written her so many words of love. If Philip could have come to her then all would have been well; but such is the perverseness of fate, we do not know when to "come back and be forgiven," and in the smoking compartment Philip sat, glowering out of the window, twisting his mustache fiercely, and saying to himself: "Poor little girl, she is awfully hard with me, and all about a beggarly dog! Confound the beast, anyway. I always did hate the dog!"

"You see, it wasn't the dog entirely, it was the principle I was thinking of," "Never mind the old lady, you thought of nothing but the old lady, your own way; and, from my point of view, you will be a very lucky young person if that fine-looking, manly Philip will take you back at any price. Think of losing the lovely little dog with her balance against the love of such a man!—why, my dear, I could shake you."



THE REPUBLICAN PARTY STANDS FOR PROSPERITY AND GOOD WAGES. STEADY WORK GOOD WAGES. Get out the Vote Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1897.

Accordingly, the next day a man called for the money. Shortly after 11 o'clock, a messenger brought the old lady a note from her husband. "I wonder whether her husband would have anything to do with it?" Cassel's Journal.

She was Prepared. A certain minister always felt it to be his duty to give each young couple a list of serious advice before he performed the marriage ceremony, and for this purpose he usually took them aside, one at a time, and talked very soberly to each of them regarding the great importance of the step they were to take, and the new responsibilities they were to assume. One day he talked in his most earnest manner for several minutes to a young woman, who had come to be married to a bright-looking young man.

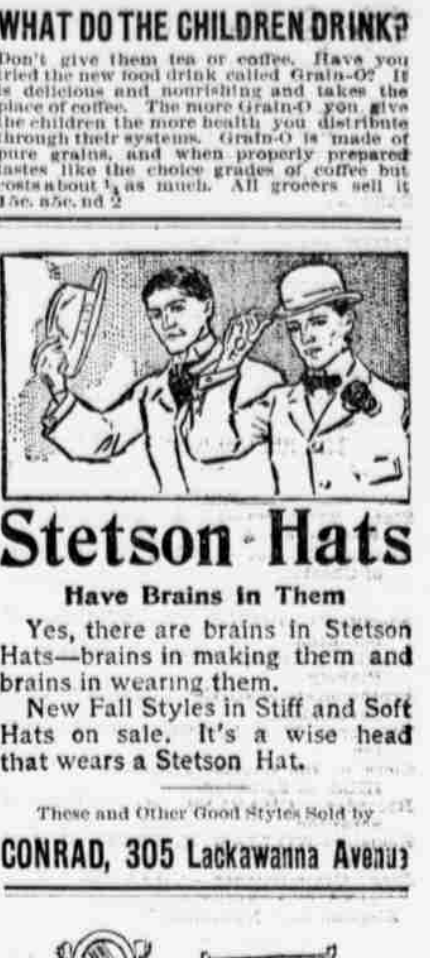
"And now," he said, in closing, "I hope you will fully realize the extreme importance of the step you are taking, and that you are prepared for it."

"Prepared," she said, innocently. "Well, if I ain't prepared I don't know who is. I've got four common quilts, and two nice ones, and four brand new feather beds, ten sheets and 12 pairs of pillow slips, four all-linen table cloths, a dozen spoons and a good six-quart tea kettle. If I ain't prepared no girl in this country ever was!"—Dundee Times.

Carrying Out Instructions. There was a young man whose social education had been somewhat neglected, and it chanced that he received an invitation to a church wedding.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS. If the seat has vanished from a strong-framed chair worth retaining, make a "cozy" chair out of it. Saw the legs a little shorter, then take a small cotton rope, and put it back over the seat, and the rest of the affair round the seat, then across the same way on the sides. Draw very, very tight, and fasten by tying on the under side. Then make a pretty cushion of silk or velvet, with a deep frill of silk, or of close long fringe, to fall over all sides of the front and back of the cushion. Make a separate cushion for the back, and fasten each cushion at the corners with pretty ribbon bows. It will be the chair that everybody but your long-legged brother or husband will want to sit in.

WHAT DO THE CHILDREN DRINK? Don't give them tea or coffee. Have you tried the new food drink called Grain-O? It is delicious and nourishing and takes the place of coffee. The more Grain-O you give the children the more healthily they distribute through their system. Grain-O is made of pure grains, and when properly prepared tastes like the choice grades of coffee but contains 1/4 as much. All grocers sell it. See. 65c. and 2.



Stetson Hats. Have Brains in Them. Yes, there are brains in Stetson Hats—brains in making them and brains in wearing them. New Fall Styles in Stiff and Soft Hats on sale. It's a wise head that wears a Stetson Hat.



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After they had chatted awhile the very dear old lady said: "I have been watching you all day, my little girl, and you must pardon an old lady if she asks you some questions. Is the tall young man your lover?" "No," said Edith, "I am sorry to say he is my husband."

"Sorry!" said the old lady, "oh, no, my dear, not that; and I am sure he is still your lover as well as your husband. I know you are, for the old lady about it? I have had a lot of experience, and perhaps I can help you."

Edith looked into the very dear old face for a moment, and then said: "Oh, thank you so much; yes, I will tell you, but it is too late to help us; I can never forgive Philip."

And then she told to this sympathetic listener the whole story; of her marriage six months before, of her dear little home in New York, of her happy life with Philip until—she paused, and with a slightly shamefaced expression—well, until she had one day spent an absurd sum for a fancy trinket. Philip had objected, half laughingly, half seriously; then things came to go awry; the little dog carried off Philip's slippers; chewed up his razor strap, knocked his silk hat about the floor, and had done a thousand other annoying little things, and every time anything happened Philip was disagreeable, and Edith had returned, and so the little rift in the life widened. Then there came a day—and here the eyes of the little lady flashed—when Philip, in a burst of temper, had said: "Edith, either that dog leaves this house, or I do; and Edith had in a fine temper, also answered: "Do as you please; Dandy shall not go," and Philip had packed a satchel and left, and all that was a week ago.

Edith had waited two days, becoming more alarmed and less bad-tempered, until she had then decided to go, on the day before Christmas, to her mother, in Chicago. What Edith could not tell, the nature of her own feelings, was that Philip, after three miserable days at a hotel, had returned, penitent and loving, to the little apartment, to find Edith gone, the servant gone, even the wretched little cause of all the trouble gone, and not a word of any sort for him. He had gone back to the hotel, he spent several days arranging business matters, then went to Albany to consult his married sister, who said: "Edith has probably gone home to Chicago; I would do there at once." And that was how both Edith and Philip happened to be passengers on the Limited of Christmas Eve.

They held the creese foil helplessly by its ends, through his hand still clutched the weapon. He clung to the stay by one end and his feet kept on down the deck almost as fast as before. A fifth and sixth shot, and at the last the Malay stopped still, then fell like a lump of putty to the deck, full forty feet below. Whether he was dead when he struck the deck I do not know, but the mate, who must have been watching from his room, ran out from the cabin to where the Malay was with a handspike and made sure work of the fellow before he could rise. Then the Lascars came running from the forecastle and down the rigging, and with cutlasses, bludgeons, and knives struck and thrust at the dead Malay until he had had a dozen lives in him, they would have been hammered out of his body before the officers could restrain the excited soldiers.

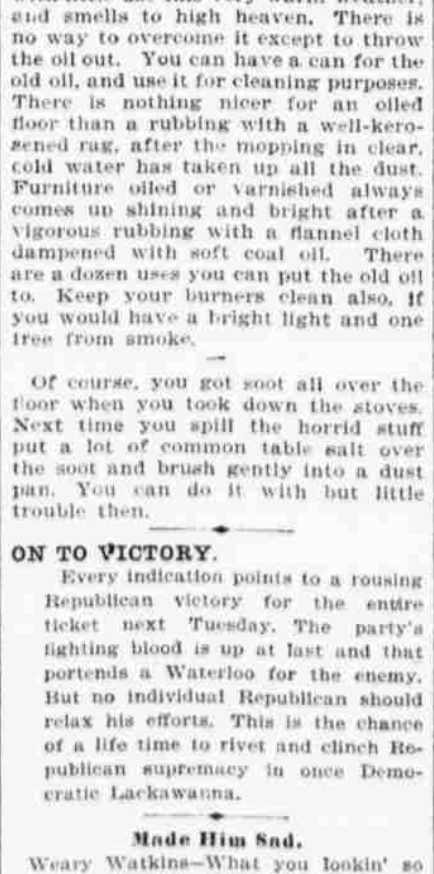
A MALAY'S DEADLY CRESE. Five Men Killed and Two Badly Hurt in Ten Minutes When He Ran Amuck. From the Sun. "In four voyages to the East Indies, two of them to Malay ports, I have seen but one instance of a native performance called running amuck. Fortunately I saw it from a position of perfect safety, but the sight was enough to make me steer clear of all Malays afterward, and any vessel that has them on board is in a perilous position. I was on the coast of Sumatra in 1855, when I was a boy, on my first voyage, on the ship Harry Warren, which sailed from Boston to India with a cargo of ice. We were lying at anchor in the coast of Malacca, unloading our middle-deck cargo into lighters, and a hundred vessels of all nations were anchored about us, discharging or taking on board their cargoes. The ship nearest us, about two miles length away, was the British ship Maharrata, which had come from Singapore in ballast with a crew of Malay Lascars. It was one day at noon that, as our crew lay round under the awning in the forecastle waiting for the order to go ashore, I noticed a sailor sitting on the capstan sung out: "Hil, mates! Just look over to the lime-julee! They're having some kind of a rumper there! See 'em going!"

LOVE AND MARRIAGE. She Could Not Speak. "Marie," said the young man in pleading tones, "I love you." She could not speak. "You know I am one of the Stipsters," you have standing, wealth, everything to make you happy. Will you be mine?" She could not speak, but looked at him with a frightened fawn look.

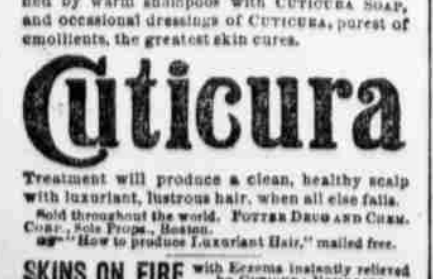
QUICK AND WITTY. Lord Young is said to be one of the ablest Scotchmen on the Bench or at the Bar. At last, he has a ready tongue. One day in September, says Youth's Companion, he was driving into town from his place in the country when he met an acquaintance. "What's the matter, what are you doing here?" I thought all respectable people were—out of town."

Her Lucky Windfall. "What is the most curious transaction I ever had?" said a well known postage stamp dealer. "Some years ago an old lady called upon me, asking whether I could give her anything for a few old stamps she had had by her since she was postmistress in a certain small country town about half a century ago. On examination they proved to be some of the very rarest of the old unused British stamps, and as I had a customer for them, I told her that I would gladly give her 30 pounds for them. "But what am I to do with all that money?" queried the old lady in apparent dismay at the sudden possibility of so much wealth. "If you like to send for it, I shall be glad to have it over to any one whom you care to provide with a written authority for the payment," said I, and to this she agreed with evident relief.

ON TO VICTORY. Every indication points to a rousing Republican victory for the entire ticket next Tuesday. The party's fighting blood is up at last and that portends a Waterloo for the enemy. But no individual Republican should relax his efforts. This is the chance of a life time to rivet and clinch Republican supremacy in once Democratic Lackawanna.



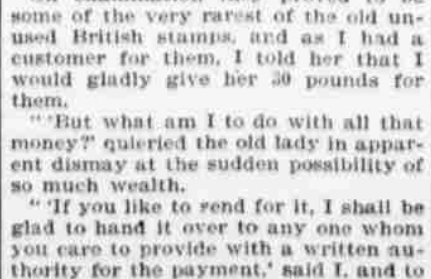
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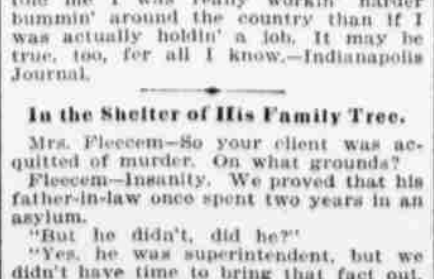
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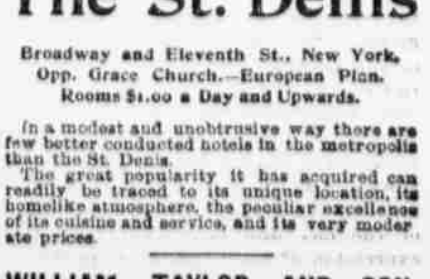
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