

### The Sweetheart of the Alice Club.

THE YOUNG officers of the Fourteenth cavalry, stationed at Santa Rita, in the Philippines, were sitting in front of the nipa shack, which they occupied as their quarters.

"Did you see the papers from the states that came up today?" asked Tomlinson. "They've all got pictures of poor Drury Lanning with that picture of that girl whose photograph he had in a golden locket around his neck when he was killed."

Johnson pulled at his pipe for awhile and looked out at the moonlight lying white in the street. "Well," said Johnson, "with all due respect to poor Drury, and to that girl of his, and to the grief which she must feel even now, still, honest fellows, when I look back I hope I'll have a better looking face than that in the locket around my neck."

"Come, Johnny," said little Samuelson, from the bottom step, "that ain't right, you know."

"No," said Johnson, "I suppose not, but honest, I would hate to be engaged dead with a face like that tied around my neck. It all goes into all the papers, and I'll be hanged if I could rest easy under my little old pile of dirt if there was such a frump looking picture as that printed in all the papers under the caption, 'Lieut. Johnson's Sweetheart, Whose Picture He Wore Over His Heart When He Died.'"

"Needn't worry," said Tomlinson. "When the niggers put you all the hospital corps will find on your mangled remains will be a greasy deck of cards, two pipes and a plug of tobacco. You may have one picture in the pocket over your heart, but it will be that of some Vandeville actress with golden hair that they give away with cigarettes."

"Oh, I don't know," said Johnson. He looked cautiously across the street towards Manning's quarters. Then he pulled from his pocket the photograph of a beautiful young woman. The face was of almost pathetic sweetness, and his eyes looked straight out from the picture, and the lips seemed as though just drawing apart to speak.

"See that," said Johnson. "I haven't got any sweetheart myself any more than a rabbit. But I learned this one today from old Manny."

Samuelson held the picture further over where the light from the window behind him could fall upon it better. "Wow," he said, "well, she is a stunner. What are you going to do with it, Johnny?"

"I'll tell you," said Johnson. "A fellow never knows out here when he's going to get the little chunk of cold hard lead right back of the ears. When a fellow is killed everybody paws over the things he has and the newspaper crowd chatters in and looks for pictures and things, and if he hasn't got a picture around his neck they're liable to put one there. Now, I'm going to carry the picture of this girl in my breast pocket, right over my heart. Then when I get nailed why the papers will publish it along with mine and I'll be the most romantic thing that ever happened."

"But you won't be here to enjoy it," said Samuelson, softly.

"Nope," said Johnson. "But my family will be pleased. I've got three sisters that are prouder than ten people, and if I were to lay me down and die with a cross, forlorn looking girl's picture above my heart my family would never forgive me."

"That's a pretty good notion, Johnny," said Tomlinson. "Let me have that picture."

"Not," said Johnny, promptly. "Just for me. Hunt up a lady of your own or cut one out of a newspaper."

"You needn't be so awfully upset about that picture," said Andrews from the window. "I know all about it. I know how Manny got it. Manny's

brother-in-law is an editor back in the states. This picture is that of a girl in some country town who was the queen of a street fair or business men's carnival or something like that. The paper printed her picture in connection with the story of the doings. Manny saw it lying on his brother's desk and stole it. He doesn't know what the girl's name is or anything and doesn't care. He likes it just because it's the picture of a pretty girl, that's all, and he's carried it everywhere. Had it down to Cuba with him and wore it strictly over his heart on San Juan Hill. You're notion is real nice, Johnny, but it's not new. Old Manny, you see, cherished the same idea a long, long time ago."

"When?" said Johnson. "Well, old Manny's wiser than I thought he was. 'Say, Johnny,' put in Samuelson, 'be a good fellow. Why not let the picture travel around. That is, let the picture that goes out on a campaign take the picture, and then when he comes back let it go to the next man that goes hiking.'"

"I can beat that," said Tomlinson. "Let's have that picture photographed and a copy given to each one of us. Then we'll all be insured."

"Well, all right," he said. "I'll just do that."

So the next day, when Samuelson went down to Manila, he took the picture and had a photographer make six copies of it, and he also bought some cheap rolled gold lockets and a couple of yards of blue ribbons. When he came back to Santa Rita that night he passed out the pictures and the lockets to the other men, and they each cut off enough blue ribbon with which to fasten the lockets around their necks.

"And now," said Johnson, as he fumbled at his locket as it swung in over your heart, wouldn't it?"

"But," piped up Samuelson, suddenly, "how about this girl? Suppose she sees her picture in the papers as the sweetheart of a brave young officer who died for his flag in Luzon. Say, she won't do a thing?"

"Rein back there, Sammy," commanded Tomlinson. "Rein back to your troop. The girl, even if she happens to see it, which is not at all likely, needn't imagine she is the only pretty girl in the world. She will merely think that there is another girl in the world who bears a remarkable resemblance to her, that's all."

"That's all," echoed Johnson. "By the way," said Tomlinson, "I was studying that photograph as I came back today, and I could trace the name Alice on the back. It had been rubbed out, but it was still there. So her name is Alice, and I think we may call this association the Alice Club."

"Right," said Johnson. "Who'll be the first to die for sweet Alice Ben Bolt?"

"With all admiration and devotion for the beautiful face I have enclosed in a golden locket and swung by a pale blue ribbon about my swan-like neck," Tomlinson, "I hope it won't be me."

The garrison at Santa Rita had little to do for the next few weeks. Then suddenly the ladrones began to make raids on the villages near by, and one night they shot into a town where there was a small party of American soldiers and killed two of them. Tomlinson and Johnson took their companions and went out to round up the ladrones and punish them. After a two days' march Johnson's company suddenly encountered the enemy. The fight was a short affair. The Filipinos broke after a few volleys from the sol-

diers and scattered in every direction. The last bullet that they fired, though, landed squarely in Johnson's breast, and when the hospital corps men picked him up he was dead. The hospital steward carefully removed the dead lieutenant's personal effects and turned them over to the colonel commanding the regiment.

They were all duly sent back to the states to Johnson's family, and in the time along with the pictures of Johnson that were printed in the papers were those of the "beautiful young woman, the sweetheart of Lieut. Johnson of the Fourteenth cavalry, who was killed in the Philippines."

Alice Nettley saw it one day, she gazed at it in astonishment. "My picture," she gasped. She looked at it until she was certain there could be no mistake. To make sure she went in and got a copy of the photograph which she thought to be the same.

"There can be no doubt," she said, "Johnson—Johnson," she repeated. "Why, I never knew him. He never even saw me."

Then she thought, "Yes, the Fourteenth cavalry had come through the town on their way to the Philippines. This lieutenant had been with the regiment at that time, of course, and probably had seen her and fallen in love. Then he had obtained a photograph somewhere—bigger it from one of her friends, who would not tell her of the affair. Then he had worn this picture over his heart to the day of his death. She turned to the account of how the lieutenant had died. The bullet had struck a golden locket he wore on his breast, and glancing had torn his way through his heart."

The girl's head dropped on her bosom. She sat there in the twilight, crying softly.

Two months later Lieutenant Johnson's body was brought home. When it passed through Emmetsburg there was a pale-faced girl in mourning at the depot. The whole town knew the story and looked at the girl with pity in their eyes.

"Lieutenant Johnson's sweetheart," they whispered. "He had her picture over his heart when he was killed." As the train stopped Miss Nettley was helped into the baggage car. She had some flowers on the coffin, and then, burying her face in her handkerchief, was led away.

"He loved me," she murmured to herself. "He is my hero—my poor, dead hero."

Lieutenant Samuelson, who was playing poker on the Pullman, heard some man outside the car loudly telling the story of Alice Nettley and the man who had died with her picture on her heart.

Samuelson grew red. "I'm afraid we carried that thing too far," he thought to himself. He reached his hand into his bosom and tore a locket from his breast. The whole town knew the story and looked at the girl with pity in their eyes.

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indication of undue appreciation of his own worthiness. This racial quality of his gives him the same advantages, when he makes a humorous observation, that the cloth does some of our ministers who have established reputations as witty after-dinner speakers.

There is no precedent, it is said, like a chairman sent out ahead to announce a joke. If Minister Wu has the humorous features of the Hon. Thomas B. Reed, he might possibly fall in an effort to live up to them. As it is, when he first indulges his humor his audience believes that it is quite by accident until it discovers the regularity with which his humor arises to the occasion.

Not long ago Minister Wu was the guest of honor at the Lotus club. "When the president of your club and the chairman of your committee," he said, "came to Washington to tender me an invitation to be present at this banquet I did not know at first exactly what it meant; but when I heard the name of the club then I knew that it was not by accident that I was invited. Of all the plants that grow in China the lotus is the most appreciated because of its purity."

Minister Wu hesitated just a moment, and the laughter which greeted his impromptu explanation went around the tables. His grave and logical conduct of an absurd proposition won his audience from the start, and the few men who accepted his explanation sort-out cheerfully admitted that in making his remarks before his excellent left the grill-room below where the informal aftermath of a Lotus club dinner evidently was not unappreciated by the guest of the evening. During the past winter Minister Wu has been the star attraction of every dinner which he has attended.

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will be chosen. The matter is in competent hands and an elaborate program will be prepared, an important feature of which will be choral competitions in which the most accomplished Welsh vocalists will participate.

The Cymdegyddion society of Utica, is manifesting a deep interest in the project and pushing it forward with earnestness. Among the prominent men who have approved of the plan are William Appadose, of Chicago; J. Hayden Morris, of Mt. Vernon, N. Y.; William Nathaniel, of Pontiac, Va.; Anthony Howell, of Massillon, Ohio; John C. Thomas and J. B. Poulson, of Utica, and Robert Humphrey, of Buffalo—names which are known to Welshmen everywhere. A lively correspondence between Welsh societies and prominent Welshmen all over the country has been started, and the idea of Welsh days at the Pan-American exposition is extremely popular. The Welsh newspapers are also glittering with the matter and urging their readers to interest themselves.

That the Welsh Days at the Pan-American exposition will be very successful there is not the slightest doubt in the minds of those who are familiar with the manner in which the Welsh people carry out the projects they undertake.

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- COLORED TABLE COVERS in many handsome patterns; some to finish with tinsel braid, special at 59c and 29c
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