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BROTHER TOM'S WIFE

BY T. S. ARLAIR.

"If you do marry that girl, Brother Tom, I'll have nothing to do with her—I won't visit her, nor call her sister, nor speak to her."

And Lizzie Lawton put on an outraged and indignant air as it was possible for her to assume.

"What's the objection," asked brother Tom, in his cool way, fixing his large, calm eyes upon the pretty face of his sister, as she sat uneasily swaying half around and back again on the piano stool.

"Objection!" The young lady's cherry lip curled. "Who is chief? What is she?"

"A sweet-tempered, right-thoughted, true-hearted young woman, who will make me a good little wife. Are you answered, sister mine?"

"A sewing-girl," said Lizzie, contemptuously.

"What our mother was, as I have been told, before her marriage," answered Tom. "And if my eyes have not deceived me, she has been a sewing woman ever since, or, at least, ever since my recollection of her."

"That's another thing," said the sister. "Mother was superior to her class, and has risen above it."

"Suppose I answer your objection to Harriet, and say that she is superior to her class, and will rise above it? What then? My father made a good matrimonial venture, and I may do the same."

"But why, brother Tom," urged the sister, "don't you choose a wife from among those of your own level?"

"What do you mean by those on our own level? Let us understand each other."

"From among those who in our own circle, from the educated, refined and accomplished."

"Such as the Misses Waitons, for instance?"

"Yes; or the Misses Edens."

"Whose fathers support them in idleness, and expect the young men who marry them to do the same. Now, Lizzie, the fact of the business, is, I like Mary Eden very well, and once came so near falling in love with her, that I was really frightened. I did not go near her pretty face for six months after I felt the first movement of the tender passion."

"Dear Mary! O, Tom! Why not marry her? I could love her as my own sister."

"Can't afford it, Patsy. I'm but a poor young man, and have only my talents and industry to help me forward in the world. Mary can't do anything herself, and would expect me to put her in an establishment but little less costly than the one her father owns."

"O, but, Tom, there'll be no necessity for going to house-keeping at first. And then, you know, her father is well off in the world, and he'll give her a house, and furnish it, no doubt, when she is married."

But Tom shook his head.

"Mary Eden's father," he replied, "may or may not be rich. My own private opinion is, that he is living up to, if not a little beyond his income. And as to the house and furniture which Mary's husband is going to get, is something very fine to feed a fancy upon. The real bricks and mortar is another affair."

"Oh, but Mr. Eden is rich, Tom."

"The rich men of to-day are poor men of to-morrow, Lizzie. I wouldn't give the snap of a finger for a rich father-in-law as a dependence. I mean to trust in myself, an honest purpose and a clear conscience. And as for a wife, I want a woman with life, purpose, industry, and independence in her, not a great bundle of silks, laces, bonnets and curl papers, with a pretty little helpless do-nothing—and I had almost said know-nothing—doll hidden somewhere inside, three or four feet from the cribstone circulation. And then again, Lizzie, I am something of an independent young man, wonderfully given to the work of taking care of myself. I happen to be at the bottom of the ladder, and if I ever get to the top of it my own strength will carry me there. Now, a wife on my back, instead of on the rounds of the ladder, keeping step with me up-

wards, would be a dead weight, and keep me at or near the foot forever. No, no, Patsy, I cannot afford one of your fine-bred boarding-school misses for a wife—the luxury is too expensive for me. So, I am going to marry a girl who knows something of real life—a true, good, patient, enduring, self-denying, sweet, caring little body, who is not ashamed to earn her living with the needle. And I can tell you what, Dolly, I only wish you were more like Harriet Parker; there would be forty chances in favor of your marrying a man of sense where you have one now. Don't you know that a new society has been formed among the young men, and that some of the very best 'couples' among them have signed a pledge not to marry any girl who is not willing to commence matrimonial life with two rooms and a kitchen, and who doesn't know how to bake, cook and sew, and to wash and iron into the bargain? I am the president."

"Preposterous!" exclaimed Lizzie.

"You'll cry some other word when you get on the old maid's list, and see your place filled the home of some man that is a man by a woman who was not ashamed of useful employment when she was a girl. I can tell you what, my dainty little sister, there's a reform at work, and men worth having are beginning to choose between no marriage or marriage with girls of plainer notions and more useful accomplishments than are possessed by the butterflies who lounge on sofas all day, knitting zephyr or reading novels. So make up your mind to a reform or old-fashionedism. And now, as in all probability you understand that I am quite in earnest about marrying Harriet Parker, I hope you will reconsider your hasty resolution about not speaking to your sister in law. The less, let me tell you, will be all on your own side."

Brother Tom understood his own position entirely. He was not a man to stoop below himself in marrying. He could not unite himself with one who was generally unrefined—against that his generously cultivated soul would have revolted. But he wanted a real, not an artificial woman—one who could take her place beside him, as he had said, on the lowest round of fortune's ladder, and keep step with her upward. Such a one he had found in Harriet Parker, and he was independent enough to make her his wife.

Lizzie was not long in discovering after her brother actually got married and commenced house-keeping in the two rooms, with his modest cheerful, earnest-minded wife, that her new sister had about her something that inevitably won the love, commanded the respect, and almost extorted the admiration of all who were so fortunate as to make her acquaintance.

"Marriage, they say makes or mars a man," the brother overheard Lizzie once saying in an undertone, to a lady friend. "But it will not mar the fortunes of brother Tom. He's got just the wife to keep him along in the world; and one that will grace any position to which they may rise."

"My own sentiments, exactly, Patsy," spoke out brother Tom. "She's a jewel, and worth a thousand of your pale and tinsel woman. Didn't I tell you so? But you couldn't believe me. Now, if you'll go and apprentice yourself to a dress-maker or a milliner, or learn to do useful work—useful, not simply ornamental, I mean—I will recommend you to the new president of the society I told you about. I had to resign when I got married. He's a splendid specimen, and will make a husband worthy of a Queen."

In Philadelphia, on Tuesday evening, a thief stepped in a law office, and slipped on a valuable Ragle belonging to a student with which he departed without detection. A young man, whose sister had been insulted by the aforesaid law-student, was lying in wait to flag the offender, and seeing the thief come out, with the overcoat on, supposed him to be the victim he was in search of, and gave him a terrible whipping before the policeman stopped him, or the mistake in the person was made known, by the cries for mercy of the thief, who supposed the punishment was for his crime. The young man was very much mortified, but he found that he had been flogging a common thief for an undeveloped attorney.

A California Product.

At the Exchange in New York, on Monday, a plank, just arrived from California, was exhibited, which was about 12 feet long, six feet six inches wide and two inches thick, of red wood. It was perfectly clear, with the exception of a small spot, not amounting to a knot, in one corner. The tree from which this plank was produced, must have been a monster.

The Judges of the Supreme Court of this State have memorialized the Legislature to consolidate its Judicial Districts, and locate the sessions at Harrisburg or Philadelphia.

DANIEL W. GOOCH, of Melrose, Massachusetts, was nominated by the Republicans to represent the Seventh District, in place of Mr. Banks, recently elected Governor of the State.

Vanity renders beauty contemptible.

Inaugural Address of WILLIAM F. PACKER, GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—In appearing before you to enter upon my duties as Governor of the Commonwealth, I consult my own inclinations in concurring to the usage which demands a popular address; and, in the first place, I gladly embrace this opportunity to return my profound and grateful thanks to the People of Pennsylvania, for honoring me with the Chief Executive office in their government.— Their kindness will not be forgotten, nor will the confidence they have reposed in me ever be intentionally betrayed. Duty to them and to myself will require that the obligation which I have just taken to discharge my public duties with fidelity shall be faithfully observed; and thus justly as far as possible, the faithful discharge of my duty. Doubtless I may commit errors in a position involving so much responsibility; but I will hope that none of them will be of a grave character, or productive of vital injury to the public interests. I crave, in advance, a charitable judgment upon my official conduct—that it shall be construed with kindness and a tolerance so long as it shall appear to be prompted by sincere and honest motives—and I here engage, in this public and formal manner, to regard the will of the people, the public good, and the commands of the Constitution, as the guiding lights by which my course is to be directed. With these aims constantly in view, I shall indulge the pleasing hope of doing some good in the high station to which I have been called by the public voice, and of repressing some evils which may threaten the public welfare, or the individual rights of the people.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:—It will be my ardent desire to cultivate with you, as Representatives of the people, the most amicable relations, and to unite with you in the adoption of all such measures as the public good may require. The different branches of the Government, although charged with distinct duties, are to be regarded as parts of one harmonious whole, and it is well when all these parts move onward without jar, interference, or collision. Nevertheless, the distinct duties of the Executive, when duly and honestly performed, may occasion differences with the Legislature; but, in such case, it will be expedient to cultivate a spirit of compromise and conciliation for the disposal of such differences, or, at least, for mitigating the feelings of alienation to which they tend.

It is one of the duties of the Executive from time to time to give the General Assembly information of the State of the Commonwealth, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge expedient; and under usage this is done by messages in writing, which are entered among the public records and remain a part of official history of the State. I do not understand this as a power of dictating to the General Assembly the measures they shall adopt, nor even as a power, initiating laws, but as an informing and suggesting power, in no respect trenching upon the just and proper jurisdiction of the legislative department of a free State. In short, it was never intended to give a legal control over the proceedings of the Representatives of the people in the enactment of laws. It is, therefore, a right of communication with them, which, while prudently and reasonably expressed, can give no just occasion for jealousy, objection or complaint. The Executive, when exercising this right, is but performing a plain duty, and can apprehend no difficulty in speaking with a respectful freedom even upon questions where an entire agreement of sentiment cannot be expected. But there is another and more delicate power which pertains to the relations between the Legislative and Executive Departments. By the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sections of the first article of the Constitution, all bills passed by the General Assembly, and most of the orders, resolutions and votes in which they may concur, are submitted to the Executive, and if disapproved by him can only be made valid by a vote of two-thirds of each House. This power of disapproval is among the most important duties of the Executive, and is constantly becoming more so, from the operation of obvious and natural causes. In my opinion it is the clear and binding duty of the Executive to return for reconsideration every bill, order, resolution, or vote presented to him which he cannot approve—in other words, that the assent of his judgment and conscience shall be actually given to any measures before he permits it to take effect; unless, indeed, it be passed against his objection by a two-thirds vote. The words of the Constitution are, "if he approve, he shall sign it, but if he shall not approve, he shall return it, with his objections, to the House in which it shall have originated." Words could not convey a power, and prescribe a duty in a more clear and definite form. It is manifestly the intention of the Constitution that the deliberate and conscientious approval of the Governor shall be given to a bill before it becomes a law, in addition to the approval of the two Houses that have previously passed it; unless the majorities afterwards given to it, upon reconsideration in each House, shall be so decisive as to clearly indicate the wisdom of the measure. It is true that upon

things trivial or indifferent, where no great interests are involved, nor constitutional principles in question, nor private rights assailed, considerations of expediency may be taken into account by the Executive; but certainly no substantial objection, whether of policy or of principle, can be waived by him in view of his oath to support the constitution. Ten days (Sundays excluded) are allowed the Executive to consider a bill, and to approve or veto it, after which it will become a law without his signature, if not previously returned. The practice of my predecessor, has been occasionally to permit bills to become laws by this limitation of time. They have taken effect in the entire absence of Executive action.— But I believe this has only occurred where the Executive has found it impossible to form a positive opinion upon the measures—where, though not objectionable, it was trivial—or, where it was manifest that a veto would not cause its defeat. This Executive practice ought not to be extended, and the practice itself is open to question. For if the provision that bills which are not returned within ten days, shall become a law, was intended as a guard against Executive abuse, in holding them an undue period, and not as a mode by which the Executive might cause them to take effect, without the responsibility of acting upon them, it would seem clear that the practice of holding them over for such purpose cannot be defended.

But the Legislature by its adjournment within ten days after the passage of a bill, may deprive the Executive of due time for considering it, and hence it is provided that in such case it shall become a law unless sent back within three days after the next meeting. In modern practice a large number of bills are usually sent to the Governor within a few days of the adjournment of the Legislature, which it is impossible for him to consider before the adjournment takes place. In fact many are sent to him in the very closing hours of the session. But it would seem plain that the Executive could reasonably ask in such case only the full constitutional period of ten days for forming his opinion, and that all bills he believes it his duty to approve shall be actually signed within that period. By the exercise of reasonable industry this can in all cases be accomplished. Then, such bills as he disapproves will be held over to be returned to the proper branch as the General Assembly within three days after the next meeting, according to the constitutional provision. This will properly dispose of all the bills in his hands at the adjournment, unless indeed it be allowable to hold over bills and permit the propriety of signing bills by the Governor, between the sessions of the Legislature, has been questioned. It does not accord with the old practice, and is certainly liable to abuse. During my term it will be strictly confined to the first ten days after an adjournment, and all bills not then approved, may be considered as awaiting the next meeting of the General Assembly, to be returned with it to become laws without his action. The Executive disapproval. The Executive should not be subjected for long periods of time to the solicitations of those interested in bills, nor should he be subject to the imputations of indecision, or favoritism almost unavoidable in such cases. Nor is it right that he should have in his hands the means of influence which the holding open of his decision upon bills during a recess would confer. Beside a great wrong may be done to those interested in legislation, by continuing them for an undue period in uncertainty as to the fate of bills in which their rights, their property, or their business may be involved. These are evils which an Executive may obviate, by settling his policy firmly in the outset of his administration. It would be well, also, for the Legislature to shape its action as to avoid the necessity of sending many important bills to the Governor in the closing day or hours of a session.

Fellow Citizens:—Although it will not be expected that I should discuss in detail the particular questions which will probably come before the Government during my term, I desire briefly to give expression to the general views of public policy to which I hold, in their application to practical issues now pending. The currency of the State is in such a disordered condition, that a general and wholesome public opinion demands its reform, and the establishment of effectual barriers against future convulsions. This is a subject which will test the intelligence, the firmness, and the patriotism of the Representatives of the people in the Legislative department, and may impose grave responsibilities upon the Executive. My views are decidedly hostile to the emission and circulation of small notes as a currency; to the increase of Banking capital under present arrangements; and to the issues of bank paper upon securities inadequate for their redemption. The want of uniformity in the legal provisions under which the existing banks operate is objectionable. In the revision and amendment of our banking system, the public interests in my opinion demand the extension of the specie basis upon which issues are made; the suppression of the smaller denomination of notes heretofore allowed; thorough reports of the condition and business of banks with their frequent publication; additional security, (other than specie) to consist of the bonds

of this State or of the United States for the redemption of circulating notes, including in all cases proper individual liability of stockholders and directors, fitted for convenient and actual enforcement; with a supervisory and controlling power in some proper officer or department of the Government to restrain or suspend the action of banks in case of their violation or evasion of the law.

When a specie currency shall be secured to the people by prohibiting the circulation of bills of a small denomination it will be highly desirable that the fiscal affairs of the State Government shall be wholly separated from those of the banks; in other words, that the money transactions of the government, both in its collections and disbursements, shall be in the legal coin of the country. Whenever a practicable, convenient and efficient scheme for the operations of the Treasury, upon such a basis, can be presented to me by the Representatives of the people, it will meet with a cheerful approval. There are difficulties in the case, however greater than those surmounted by the general government, in the establishment of its independent Treasury system; but the object one of the first magnitude, and calculated to exercise a most salutary influence upon the action of the government, and upon the business of the banks and the people, it is well worthy of earnest consideration.

In reforming the currency, a single State can accomplish but a moderate amount of good, however sincere, intelligent and earnest it may be, without the co-operation of other States, and especially of those which adjoin it. Bank notes are not stopped in their flow by imaginary State lines, nor does it seem possible for a State altogether to prevent foreign notes from circulating within her borders, even by the most stringent enactments. We must, therefore, invoke our sister States to join with us in the repression of small paper, and in such other particulars of reform as require for complete success their co-operation.— Meantime to the extent of our power let us exert ourselves to furnish our citizens with a safe and stable currency; to prevent future financial convulsions similar to that under which the community has for some time been struggling; and to relieve the government in its fiscal action from the danger of depreciated or worthless paper, and the embarrassments arising from dependence upon corporations of her own creation.

The People of Pennsylvania by the recent adoption of an amendment to the Constitution on the subject of Public Indebtedness, have imposed an imperative obligation upon their servants to practice economy, to limit expenditures, and to give their best efforts to the gradual but eventual extinguishment of the existing public debt. After eight years of experience under the sinking fund act of 1849, we find our public indebtedness but slightly diminished. The constitutional amendment just adopted demands the establishment of an effective sinking fund for its payment, and I shall consider it one of the leading duties of my administration to see that amendment carried out both in its letter and its spirit. I cannot regard the reduction of the three mill tax on property made at the last regular session of the Legislature, otherwise than as inopportune; and doubtless existing financial embarrassments will for a time reduce the amount derived from other sources of revenue. Nor will any very large amount of the purchase money of the main line of the public works be realized by the Treasury for a considerable period. It will, therefore, be necessary for the State to husband her resources, and to increase her revenues as far as is possible, without oppression to any interest, in order to meet her current and necessary outlays, the demands of her creditors, and the positive obligation of the constitutional amendment.

There is a great lack of consistency and principle in the laws passed during some years in relation to incorporations. They have been created upon no settled, uniform plan; are excessive in number; and many of them unnecessary to the accomplishment of any legitimate purpose.— They have not less encouraged speculation, and in various ways contributed to the recent financial convulsion. Various and inconsistent provisions appear in acts establishing or extending the powers of corporate bodies of the same class and general character. The tax laws relating to them are in some confusion, and consequently taxes paid by them unequal, while some wholly escape any share of the public burdens. In brief our system of incorporations has become so vast, diversified and difficult of comprehension, that no reasonable industry can master the whole subject, and understand precisely where we are and whither we are drifting. A thorough revision of our laws on this subject, and the establishment of general uniform regulations for each class of corporate bodies, with the avoidance, as far as possible, of special provisions for particular corporations, are reform imperiously demanded by the public interests in which I shall heartily co-operate. I have no hostility to express against incorporations for proper objects beyond the power of individual means and skill, nor generally against legislative facilities for the application of labor and capital to the creation of wealth, where individual unprompted action will not go. But no one can assert that we

have limited ourselves to such a policy, nor that our laws on this subject have been careful, consistent and just.

But notwithstanding all the topics of regret or criticism in our public career, (and which should bear their proper fruit in amendment and reform,) we may well be proud of this Pennsylvania of ours—of her people, her institutions and her laws. She has become great, prosperous and powerful; ranking among the first of the States; and her condition at home and character abroad bear testimony to her merits, and promise for her a distinguished future. Besides her agricultural resources, which are great and first in importance, she is capable of producing in untold quantities those two articles of prime necessity and universal use, Iron and coal. Even in times of wide-spread financial calamity, when speculation and extravagance have done their worst to cripple the operations of capital, and stay the hand of labor in its useful toil, the leading interests of our State may be counted among the first to revive and to furnish a strong and reliable basis for the resumption of activity in all the channels of employment, and in all the operations of trade. That government would administer the public affairs of this State, otherwise than in a spirit of kindness and protection to these capital interests.

From the earliest period of our history, it has been the policy of Pennsylvania to educate all her citizens; and at this time institutions of learning and educational facilities are equal to those of any country. Our Common School system is justly distinguished as one of the most practical and efficient in the Union. Let us then cherish this traditional policy, coming down to us from the fathers of the Commonwealth, and by every means in our power foster and strengthen the measures now successfully producing the results so ardently desired by the patriotic men who have gone before us.

While our domestic affairs and policy naturally will occupy most of the attention of our Government and our people, it is not to be forgotten that Pennsylvania bears very interesting relations to other States of the confederacy, and looks with an anxious eye to the proceedings and policy of the general Government.— It is both our duty and our interest to cultivate the most friendly relations with our sister States, and to frown upon all attempts to sow among them feelings of alienation. We should exert our whole influence to keep the government of the Union in its true position, as the common agent of the States and the people, exercising high powers in trust for their advantage and welfare, and deriving all its powers from the written constitution which called it into being. At this time we have strong reason to confide in that Government, as we know that its administration is in safe, able and patriotic hands; and that it may be trusted to deal justly with all sections of the country.

Insubordination—an utter disregard and contempt of just and lawful authority—has heretofore produced difficulties in the Territories of Kansas and Utah, and in the case of the latter, has now precipitated a state of armed hostility between the inhabitants and the General Government. In the former, the peaceful American remedy for the political grievances, real or imaginary—the ballot box—has been for a long time alleged by a considerable portion of the population, and a struggle between legal authority and unlawful and irregular combinations continued down to the present period. Meantime, contributions of money and aid from the States, have kept up excitement and turbulence in the Territory, and enabled designing men there to infuse passions, which otherwise would long since have subsided. The judgment and opinion of the country can not be strongly consolidated in favor of the laws, and against all who rise up to oppose them by unauthorized means. Nor can the excuse for resistance to the Territorial laws, and for failing to perform the duties of citizenship under them, that wrongs and frauds were perpetrated at elections, be admitted as a justification. Where elections are so frequent, and the rights of suffrage so liberal as in this country, it is peculiarly the duty of a good citizen to obey existing authorities, and even objectionable laws, knowing that the former can be changed and the latter modified or repealed, within a very brief period. And as to disputed elections, they must be decided by the proper authority, and not by individual citizens, or irregular self constituted assemblies.

Insubordination to necessary and rightful authority, instigated and encouraged by unworthy men in the organized States who desired that discord should continue, and were willing to contribute to that object, in the prolific fountain from which the troubles in Kansas have heretofore proceeded. It was natural, perhaps inevitable, that this conduct by a party in the territory should provoke an opposite party to many unjustifiable acts, and to much imprudent and unreasonable conduct. This extreme act and re-act upon each other, and when the laws are defied and individual action left loose, wrong, outrage and violence are necessary results.

The last phase of the Kansas question, which is upon the constitution framed by a Territorial Convention, is peculiarly for the judgment of Congress, to which the power of admitting new States is confided by the constitution of the Union. The