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VOL. IX. NO. 22.

TIONESTA, PA., SEPTEMBER 6, 1876.

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WAS IT WORTH A LEG?

It was in the autumn of the year 1782, that a surgeon in Boulogue, of the name Etienne Lefebvre, received a letter, not bearing any signature, requesting him to repair on the following day to a country house which was situated on the road leading to Calias, and to bring along such instruments as would be required for performing an operation. Lefebvre was at that period well-known as a distinguished and successful operator; so much so, that he was not unfrequently sent for from great distances. He had served for a considerable time in the navy, and his manners had, therefore, acquired a certain degree of bluntness; but when you once became acquainted with him, you could not help liking him for the natural and unaffected goodness of his heart.

He was naturally somewhat surorised at this anonymous communication; for, although the time and place were, as already stated, mentioned with great minuteness, there was no clue afforded by which the writer could be identified. He, therefore, came to the conclusion that some of his jocular friends were making fun of him, and

he did not keep the appointment.
Three days afterwards he again received a similar summons, but couched in more pressing terms than the first, and he was informed that at 9 o'clock in the morning a carriage would be sent to bring him to the place where he was anxiously expected. Accordingly, next morning, sure enough, on the stroke of 9, a carriage drove up to his door. The doctor no longer made any hesitation, but at once took his seat in the carriage. As he was getting in, he inquired of the coachman where he was to be taken to; but the did not choose to tell; but as he spoke in English, Lefebvre said to himself, "So it is an Englishman to whom I am summoned," and he accordingly pre-pared himself for any exhibition of eccentricity on the part of one of that nation which even now is so little understood by Continentals. At length the carriage stopped, and the doctor bastened into the house.

He was received at the entrance by a fine-looking young man of about twenty-five years of age, who requested him to walk into a large and handsome room on the first floor. His accept showed him to be an Englishman. The following conversation then ensued between them:

"You have sent for me," said the doctor.

take of anything before commencing the operation."

"But first show me the patient. I wish to satisfy myself that an operation is absolutely necessary."

brains out."

"Sir, I am not to be deterred from doing what I consider proper by finy fear of a pistol. But what do you desire? What am I expected to do?"

"You must cut my right leg off."
"With all my heart," answered the surgeon, thinking that this was a chararcteristic specimen of those mad English; and your hand, also, if necessary or desirable. However, unless I am greatly mistaken, your leg is perfectly sound. I saw you walk down stairs with the greatest activity. What can be the matter with your leg?"

"Nothing; but it must come off." "Sir, you are mad."

"That is no concern of yours, Mons. Lefebyre." "What harm can that handsome limb have done?"

"None at all; still you must make up your mind to amputate it." "Sir, I have no acquaintance with

you; give me some proof that you are the doctor. "Will you consent to my wishes,

Monsieur Lefebvre?" "As soon as you can assign any adequate or reasonable motive for so unnecessary an operation."

"I cannot at present enter into any explanations—in a year, perhaps, I will do so. But I will bet you, sir, that then you will acknowledge that my reasons for my present seemingly extravagant conduct are most pure, manly, and noble, and even rational."

"It is quite impossible for me," remonstrated the surgeon, "to comply until you tell me your name, place of l

tesidence, position and family." "You shall be made acquain te with all these particulars at some future time, but not at present. I begyou to consider me a man of honor,"

"A man of honor does not utter unjustifiable threats against his guests. I have to perform a duty even towards you, who are a stranger to me. My reasons for refusing to accede to your happiness. True it is that to give a absurd request are, as you must admit, leg in exchange for a beautiful, tender sound and just. Do you wish to be the murderer of an innocent father of a large family ?"

"Well, Monsieur Lefebvre," replied the Englishman, taking up the pistol, 'I will not fire upon you, and yet I will compel you to cut off this leg. What you refuse to do to oblige me, through love of gain or fear of a bullet, you shall do through humanity.' "How so, sir ?"

"I intend to shatter my leg with this pistol, and that, too, before your eyes,' answered the Englishman, who accordingly seated himself, cocked the pistol, and then took deliberate aim at his knee-joint.

Lefebyre rushed forward to prevent him, but the Englishman coolly ex-

"Do not come near; if you do I fire. Now only answer me this question : Do you wish to prolong my suffering need-lessly?"

Everything was ready for the opeman appeared either not to know, or eration had been performed in a most masterly manner, and, thanks to Dr. Lefebvre's skill and attention, the patient soon became perfectly recovered, having been accused of being an arisalthough, of course, he had to be sup-tocrat by one of his younger profesplied with a wooden leg. He rewarded the surgeon, whom he had learned to esteem more and more every day : thanked him with tears in his eyes for the grillotine. Being without employ-the great obligation under which he had laid him; and in a short time the residence of his former patient.

started for England. departure the surgeon received the following letter from England;

6,500 francs. You have rendered me could rise to welcome his visitor. the happiest of men by ridding me of "Welcome, Monsieur Lefebyre," exa limb which was an obstacle in the claimed the huge Englishman. the trouble you have taken in coming reason of what you termed my mad- in this manner, but my cursed wooden here," rejoined the Englishman. "Be ness. You assured me that there could so good as to seat yourself at the table be no justifiable excuse for so singular You have come, no doubt, my friend, where you will find chocolate, coffee, a mutilation. I offered you a wager, or wine, in case you would like to parand I think you were right in refusing right."

it. After my second return from the East Indies I became acquainted with among you." Susan Black, the most accomplished and fascinating of women. I sought her hand in marriage. Her fortune "It is necessary. Monsieur Lefebvre; pray be seated. I have entire confidence in you; only listen to me. Here is a purse containing 100 guineas, which I offer you as a fee for the operation you are asked to perform, no matter what the result may be. In the property of the result may be the result may be. In the property of the result may be case of your refusing compliance with In vain did I beseech her to do so; in my request, you see this pistol. It is vain did her relations all second my loaded, and you are in my power. As desire. She was inflexible. For a I hope for salvation, I will blow your long time I could not discover the reason of her opposition to a marriage which she herself confessed would make sisters revealed the fatal secret to me. Susan was a marvel of beauty, but she was so unfortunate as to have lost a good enough woman," leg, and she had consequently con-demned herself to eternal celibacy. My resolution was quickly formed, and I determined to become like her. Thanks to you, my dear Lefebyre, my wishes were soon accomplished. I re turned with my wooden leg to Lon-don. I hastened to gain information of Miss Black. The report had been spread, and I myself had taken care to write to my friends in England to the same effect, that I had the misfortune to fracture my leg, and that am putation had been found absolutely necessary. Every one expressed the greatest concern at my misfortune. susan fainted on the occasion of my first presenting myself. She was for a long time inconsolable, but at length in sound mind," naturally demanded she consented to become my wife. It was only on the morning after our marriage that I confessed to her the sacrifice by which I had at length been enabled to gain her consent to be mine. The avowal increased her love. Oh! children in their sports," said Potter sake of my beloved Susan. So long as ed with my wife; and then tell me whether or not I was out of my senses.

> ARTHUR OXLEY. Mons. Lefebyre answered the letter about his youthful days.

Yours faithfully,

of his English friend in the following terms:

Sir :- Accept my best thanks for your very generous present-for so I ing been previously magnificently reabout to say. I fear that in two years that of the big toe; in five, the little or in other ways.
one; and, at last, you will have con-

ETIENNE LEFEBVRE. Mr. Oxley. He was directed to it, and About two months after his patient's on arriving at the house he sent up his name, and was immediately admitted. In a huge arm-chair, seated before the Inclosed you will recive a token of fire, with a bottle of wine beside him, "Do

"I am a fugitive, seeking an asylum

"You shall stay with me, for you are really a wise man. You will console me. Do you know, my dear Lefebvre, that, had it not been for this abominable wooden leg rendering me useless I should by this time have been Admiral of the Blue. I spend my life in reading the newspapers, and in curses that I am tied up here when everybody else is up and doing. Remain here; you shall comfort me."

"Your charming wife can doubtless do that better than I can."

her happy; until at last, one of her given herself up to cards and scandal. at Marietta, Ohio, a few days ago;

"What, was I right, then?" exclaim-

ed the surgeon. "Oh, a thousand times, my dear Lefebvre; but say no more on that sub. carn, beg and borrow for four years to ject. I was an unutterable fool. If I had my leg back again I would not part with the paring of a single nail. Between ourselves, I must have been crazy; but keep that to yourself."

Another Sioux squaw came into the Crow camp two days ago and said she had met a trapper who told her he saw a Sioux warrior, who had it from a Piegan scout, who heard a Commanche say he was told by a Shoshone that he saw a Gros Ventres who told him that a Kiowa who learned it from one of the Towines, said that an Arrapho told him he saw a Pawnee who didn't believe there had been much fighting, unless it had come off since he left Sitting Bull's camp. "I always didelove to gaze on the

my excellent friend, had I ten legs to as he pensively contemplated a crowd lose, I would give them all up for the of urchins: "I am earried back to I live, rely on my gratitude. If ever over his way and tried to get in his you visit England, do not fail to come there, so that I may make you acquaint. When his teeth came back he shouted: "You young ragmuffius, you, if Rates of Advertising.

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Philadelphia Pluck.

Whatever advantages of this sort may accrue to the Quaker City will must term what you have sent me, have been most fairly and loyally won; for, of a surety, never was there munerated for my trouble, as you were a great business scheme of national pleased to term it. I wish you, as well importance carried through with so as your charming wife, all imaginable clean hands, or such absence of all speculation as this Centennial Exhibition. And Philadelphians may well and virtuous wife is not too much, pro- boast, that, at a period when the busivided the happiness endures. Adam ness of the country was showing unsacrificed one of his ribs to become paralleled prostration, and political possessed of our common mother Eve, and private jobbery were rampant. and mere than one man has laid down they have initiated and pushed to a his life for the sake of his beloved. successful issue a grand scheme of Notwithstanding all this, allow me to international industrial exhibit, inadhere to my former opinion. For volving millions of cost, without any the present you are doubtless right, wavering of faith, or thievish blot for you are now in the honeymoon; upon its direction. Indeed, in the but at some future time you will ack- whole show there is not to our mind nowledge the truth of what I advanced. anything better worth showing than I beg your attention to what I am the steadfast, strong, straightforward about to say. I fear that in two years purpose with which Philadelphians you will repent of having had your have pushed this matter, through leg amputated above the knee-joint. thick and thin, to its final issue, and You will think that to have it cut low- the superb disdain which they have er down would have been quite suffi- shown for all sorts of scoffers and cient. In three years you will be per- and doubters. Pluck of this sort desuaded that the sacrifice of a foot would serves its reward, and will have it, have answered all purposes; in four, whether it comes by admission tickets,

fessed that to have parted with a nail, may be the exhibit of temporary pecu-"Sir, you are mad," answered the doctor, in despair; "but have your own way—I am ready to do as you wish."

I lessed that to have parted with a hair, thay be the exhibit of temporary peod without necessity, would have been a piece of egregious folly. All this I city growth already alluded to—some of which must be healthy and real; inpugning the merit of your admirable there are the permanent buildings belpmate. In my own youthful days within the Exhibition inclosure which ration. As soon as the doctor took up I would have, at any time given my inure to the city; there is the newly his instruments the Englishman light- life for my mistress, but never my leg, established "School of Att," whose ed his cigar, and declared that he for the rest of my days. Had I really administrators, with wise forecast, are would smoke until the operation was done so, I should have every moment making large purchases of such mateconcluded. He kept his word. The said to myself, "Lefebvre, you are a lifeless leg rested upon the floor but madman." With highest consideration, to such advantage, the Englishman smoked on, The opas here and now; there is the immense educating influence of the Ex-In the year 1793, during the Reign hibition in its entirety upon the popu-of Terror, the surgeon of Boulogne, lation of the city; and there is the further material gain of winning and tocrat by one of his younger profes- holding a reputation for executing a sional brethren who envied him his gigantic scheme with steadfast purpractice, was obliged to take refuge in pose, and for entertaining a world of London, in order to save his neck from strangers without giving reasonable

A touching incident is reported from Chattanooga. An utter stranger called on a respectable former last week and asked him if his house had Inclosed you will receive a token of are, with a bottle of wine beside him, not been robbed during the war. The my boundless gratitude—a bill of ex- sat a portly personage, whose size was farmer replied that it had. "I," said change on my banker in Paris for so great that it was with difficulty he the stranger, "was one of the marauding party that did it. I took a little silver locket." "That locket," said loctor.

"I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken in coming here," rejoined the Englishman. "Be ness. You assured me that there could ness no doubt my friend. are \$20 for your little sou." He gave the farmer a fifty dollar bill and received \$30 in change. He then wrung the farmer's hand warmly and left. The farmer has since dried his tears and loaded his shot-gun. The fifty dollar bill was a bad one.

Sixteen years have passed away, and yet the Democratic party, in soul, purpose, and policy, is the same as when under Buchanan it left the country crombling into anarchy, a part warring against it and a part voting against it, and both factions teaching that our country was a mere confederation of States, too weak to enforce its own laws, without power to protect its "Oh, as for that, no. Her wooden life, and subject to the veto of any leg prevents her from gadding about State that chose to withdraw from its and dancing; so she has, as a resource, power. So declared Senator Sherman There is no possibility of living alone and yet that party asks the people to with her; in other respects she is a restore it to power, and give it full good enough woman." control of the Federal Government!

> It gravels a young minister fearfully, who has spent every cent he could acquire a good theological education and has settled over a Western church with a salary of \$300 a year. if he can collect it, and three donation parties in spite of him, to read that Skyfler, the pitcher of the Brooklyn nine, has just consented, in view of the hard times, to a reduction of his salary to \$4,500 this season.

"Can I travel through your country with impunity, unless I am provided with firearms?" inquired a com-mercial traveler of a hardy frontiersman at the Central Hotel. "Why, certingly! Why not? You oughter have a Winchester and two six-shooters, though, and be sorter quick about pulling them," was the calm reply of the patriarch from the West.

A Yankee counsel, who was defending a man on taial for wife murder, sought for some euphonous and innocent phrase with which to describe his client's crime, and finally said: "tlo winnowed her into paradise with a fence rail."

The New York World, a Democrat-I catch you playing ball on the streets ic paper, has the following sly dig at again I'll get the police after you." Tilden: "There is money enough And he moved away and forgot all stolen every year from the railroads in this country to pay all their debts."