A Queer Elopement.

Percy Van Rapp, by his own saying, was of the purest blood of the Knickerbockers. It was like listening to one of the Mosaic generalogies to hear him trace back his lineage to old Rip Van Rapp, one of the veritable old Rips who built the town of New Amsterdam of bricks brought from Holland, before it was known that bricks could be made of American clay, or cheese from any but Dutch milk.

Percy was spending the season at a fashionable watering-place, and was the heaviest swell there; unless we except Adrian Dodge, a young gentleman of great putative wealth, and more than average pretension.

Great rivalry existed between the two. Which could wear the sleekest hat, and dance in pumps of the finest kip, was the daily problem of their lives—and they put their whole minds to it till Kate Wiley came and gave them something else to think of.

Kate was a beauty, and rich. This was her first season, and she at once became the center of attraction. Foremost among her admirers were Percy Van Rapp and Adrian Dodge, whom this fresh rivalry might any day have personally embroiled, had either known how great a coward the other was.

The truth is, in this matter, both were deeply in earnest. Mr. Van Rapp's fortunes were little short of desperation; and Mr. Dodge's, notwithstanding reports—chiefly of his own circulation—were in a condition not much better. Kate's cash would be a new lease of dissipated life to whichever of them could manage to get it.

Kate received their advances coolly at first, but after a time they seemed to amuse her—what impression they finally made we must let our story tell for itself.

Neither suitor had room to boast over the other. If Kate had any choice between them, she kept it to herself. There were times when each would have counted the day his own, had he not felt that his rival had equal ground for confidence.

It was impossible that things should long continue so. Percy Van Rapp determined to know his fate at once. Accordingly, he seized the first opportunity of laying bare his heart to Kate, only suppressing mention of a few private motives which lay at the bottom of it.

When Kate blushed and stammered something that didn't sound like No, Percy could have stood on his head for joy.

"But my aunt," said Kate—she was in the care of a maiden aunt, with a sharp eye in her head—"my aunt, I fear, will never consent."

"Aunts have no authority to command the affections," was the lover's reply.

"True," she murmured.

"Then fly with me," he exclaimed, "we will find some spot where we can be happy."

Kate paused as if irresolute.

"My aunt," she said,—"already half suspects. I can trust the coachman, however. Disguised in male attire,"—she blushed, prettily—"I can leave the hotel unobserved, and John will be in readiness to take me in the carriage to a rendezvous agreed upon. Meet me there, and in half an hour we can reach the house of a neighboring clergyman, an old friend of my father, whose aid we can invoke, and—and—what a little plotter I am!"

"You're an angel!" cried Percy.

"But you must promise one thing," said Kate.

"Anything, darling!"

"Not to speak a word when we meet, nor until we are away—everything hereabouts has ears."

"I promise," he said solemnly.

Time and place were fixed, and Percy Van Rapp rose to take his leave. He already heard Kate's dollars jingling in his pocket.

"One thing more," said Kate.

Percy bowed obsequiously.

"It will be the night of the fancy ball. Let us both wear masks. If we are seen, it will excite no remark, and we'll thus escape recognition."

"Capital," he exclaimed, pressing her hand at parting.

At the hour and place appointed Percy was in waiting, closely masked, and peering through the night with the watchful impatience of an anxious lover.

The sound of wheels was heard presently, and in a few moments a carriage stopped at the spot agreed on. The driver alighted and opened the door. Percy entered without speaking, and the coachman, who had evidently received instructions, resumed his place and drove off rapidly.

In the darkness, Percy could barely distinguish the outlines of a figure with a masked face. He could hardly refrain from clasping it in his arms, and giving vent to a torrent of tender eloquence; but remembering his promise, he restrained himself. His capacity to do so was at the point of giving out, when, in deep bass, he heard the words:

"Dearest Kate!"

"Dearest thunder!" he shouted, "who the mischief are you?"

"And who the fiend are you?" exclaimed the other.

"Adrian Dodge! by all that's amazing!" yelled Percy.

"Percy Van Rapp! by all that's infernal!" shrieked Adrian.

"Villain! you shall pay for this!" roared Percy, springing on his rival with the ferocity of a tiger.

Cowards fight desperately when cornered, and here both were. The uproar alarmed the coachman, who stopped and called a policeman. The combatants were dragged out and summarily marched off. Next morning they were discharged, and by that time the truth having come out, they took the next train for the city, thus relieving Kate of a pair of unwelcome suitors, whose selfish designs her aunt's keen eyes had been quick to penetrate, and for whom she herself felt nothing but contempt.

The way in which the two lovers came to find themselves in the carriage together was this: Before the interview between Kate and Percy, at which the elopement was planned Kate had received a call, the same morning, from Adrian Dodge, who, being interrupted in the midst of a tender declaration by an inopportune visitor, made an appointment to return in the afternoon. Meanwhile Percy came and laid bare his heart, as we have seen, when it occured to Kate to rid herself of the two adventurers by a little harmless strategy. How she enticed Percy into the trap we have already shown. In the afternoon, when Adrian returned, he was lured into a similar snare—the only difference being that he was to bring a carriage and find Kate in waiting, the conditions as to silence and disguise being the same.

Before the year was out Kate was married to one who had known and loved her, and whom she had known and loved from childhood; and the happy couple often laugh over the queer elopement, whose story we have attempted to tell.

How Briggs' Baby was Treated.

Thomas Briggs, of Twelfth street, has a boy baby about ten months old, who is admitted at the beginning of this article to look just like his father, and to be the smartest boy baby of his age in Detroit. Yesterday morning the child was sitting on the floor, playing with five or six big coat buttons on a string, and taking an occasional nibble at an apple to bring out his first crop of teeth. Mrs. Briggs and a neighbor were talking away as only women can gossip when the baby hid the buttons under a mat and started to finish the apple. A bit of the skin got in his throat and he gave a cough and a whoop and pawed the air and rolled over on his head. "Oh, them buttons! he has swallowed them buttons!" cried the mother as she yanked him up and shook him. "Pound him on the back!" yelled the other woman, trying to hold the baby's legs still. "Run for the neighbors!" cried Mrs. Briggs. "Oh, he'll die! he'll die!" screamed the other, as she ran out. And the neighbors came in and made him lie on his stomach and cough, and then turn him on his back and rubbed his stomach, and joggled him about all sorts of ways until he got mad and he went to howling. Then a boy ran for Briggs, and Briggs ran for a doctor, and the doctor came and choked the baby, and ordered sweet oil and mustard plaster, and told them to lay him on his back. Everybody knew that those six buttons were lodged in that baby's throat, because he was red in the face, and because he strangled as he howled and wept. They poured down sweet oil, and put mustard across him, and wept over him, and the mother said she could never forgive herself. Boys drove by calling out: "Slab weed for sale!" and the scissors man went by shouting: "Sharp! sharp!" but that distressed crowd held the baby down and shed their tears over his whole length. The doctor was looking serious, and Briggs was thinking that he hadn't done anything to deserve such a blow, when one of the women pushed the mat and discovered the buttons. Then everybody laughed and danced, and they kicked the sweet oil bottle under the bed, threw the mustard plaster at the doctor, and Mrs. Briggs hugged the darling angel to her bosom and called him her "wopsy topsy hopsy dropsy popsy little cherubim."—*Detroit Free Press.*

TRUTH crushed to earth will rise again, but it isn't so with eggs.

WOMAN's glory is in her hair, but it is a good plan to tie it up when cooking.

AN Irish sailor visitkd a city where, he said, they copper-bottomed the tops of their houses wish sheet lead. Perhaps he is the same person who saw a white blackbird on a wooden milstone eating a red blackberry.

NEBRASKA named a town Vanderbilt, and then wrote to the commodore. He replied that he didn't care a d——n. They have informally changed the name of that town to Vanderbilt Dam—only they put the dam first.

IT is told of a young gentleman whom a maiden liked, but her father didn't, that at a reasonable hour the old gent mildly intimated that the time for retiring had arrived. "I think you are correct, my dear sir," answered nineteenth century, modestly, "we have been waiting for more than an hour for you to put yourself in your little bed." The father retired thoughtfully.

SEVERAL conceited young men were assembled on a street corner, when a poor Dutchman approached. One of them said to his companions:

"Boys, I'm going to have some fun; just watch me fool this Dutchy."

He went up to the German, to whom he said:

"Kaiser, don't you wan't to buy a dog?"

The person thus addressed quickly responded:

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