

A Catspaw

It was generally understood in Bungtown that Squire Coram's daughter, Betty, was tabooed. Not only "hands off" was her father's order to the young men who coveted her, but tongues off, and even eyes off. She was not to be touched, or talked to, or even looked at, and woe to the daring youth who ventured to transgress the squire's command.

No wonder the young men of Bungtown coveted Betty Coram. Not only was she very pretty, but she was reputed to be amiable and intelligent, and was an heiress.

Among those who went wild after Betty Coram was Excelsior Podd, the only son of Philetus Podd, editor of the Bungtown Banner. Excelsior had been so called because the elder Podd felt a prophetic impulse that his son would rise higher in the world than any one else.

"Why not?" said Philetus Podd. If the boy should inherit his father's intellectual powers, and those powers should be developed under the sagacious instructions of that father, there would be no limit to his capacity for rising in the world. It was well, therefore, that he was named Excelsior.

As yet, however, Excelsior Podd had shown no remarkable appreciation of the exalted destiny that awaited him. He had just advanced beyond the position of "devil" in his father's printing office, and had been promoted to the dignity of a "case."

He was chiefly noted for being an overgrown, gawky youth of nineteen, who had "no more sense than the law allows," and was often the butt of the village wits.

But Excelsior had no knowledge of his deficiencies, his opinion of himself being reflected from that of his father, who looked upon his offspring with admiring eyes. As his bump of self-esteem was well developed, he did not consider that he was at all presumptuous in aspiring to the hand of sweet Betty Coram, or in believing that he might succeed where so many had failed.

His disadvantages, of course, were the same as those which the other young men labored under, but he showed considerable ingenuity in overcoming the principal obstacle. He invented all sorts of pretenses for gaining admission to Squire Coram's house and for obtaining interviews with the lovely Betty. In these efforts he was often successful, the more so, perhaps, because the squire did not believe that his daughter could be in the least endangered by the presence of Excelsior Podd.

Excelsior thought otherwise. He believed himself to be a lady-killer, and was sure that Betty Coram had fallen before his invincible onset. The truth is that Betty was kept so secluded that the visits of even Excelsior Podd were a relief to her, and she did not try to conceal her pleasure at the sight of a young man.

This particular young man was sure that he had made a conquest, and his assurance was rendered doubly sure when George Deering, the son of the postmaster, brought him a note, directed in a delicate feminine hand.

"You are in luck, Excel," said Deering. "Here is a note for you from Betty Coram." "Creation, George! how did you get hold of it?"

"Easy enough. She came to the office this morning with the squire, and managed to slip this into my hand. I supposed it was for myself, and was right mad when I saw that it was for you. I don't know how it is, old fellow, that you have got so far ahead of all the rest of us, and I can't help envying your good fortune."

Excelsior eagerly grasped the note and went off to read it by himself. It was in these words:

"My Dear Friend, Excelsior Podd: I have noticed your looks, and believe that you love me. If you do, now is the time to prove it. I can no longer endure my father's tyranny, and am anxious to leave home. If you are willing to take me out of here, I will trust you to do so. Come to-night, at 11 o'clock. The dog is chained, and there is no one to fear but father, and I am sure that you are smart enough to keep out of his way. Do not fail me, and I am— Yours ever, BETTY."

Excelsior was in ecstasies, he hardly knew whether he stood upon his head or his feet. Here was the beauty of the village, the heiress of Bungtown, actually proposing an elopement, and with him! Of course he would seize the opportunity. There could be no question of that. He would jump at the chance.

During the rest of the day he was in such a state of excitement and distraction that he was unable to attend to his duties at the printing office. At night he arrayed himself in his best, stole out of the house, and directed his steps toward Squire Coram's mansion. Although Betty had not given him any directions, he knew what to do. He knew where her room was, and where he must get over the fence, in order to take the nearest route to her window, and that was the point he desired to reach.

Then he began his progress toward the house, moving slowly and cautiously, peering through the darkness in every direction at every step, to guard against discovery, or to make his escape in time.

When he was half way across the lawn, he was startled by the deep-voiced barking of Squire Coram's bulldog. Excelsior felt a sudden sinking at the heart, as bark after bark issued

from the throat of that formidable animal; but he recovered his courage when he remembered Betty's assurance that old Towser was chained.

The only fear was that the dog would alarm the house, and that fear was soon realized. The voice of Squire Coram was heard, speaking to the dog, and it was apparent that he was about to issue from the house with the intention of searching the grounds.

Excelsior was equal to this emergency. He ran to the garden fence, jumped over it, and hid in the currant bushes. But he was oppressed by a terrible fear.

"Suppose the squire turns the dog loose!" But the squire did nothing of the kind. He looked about the lawn a little, muttering that old Towser had been barking at some cat or stray dog, addressed some words of reproof to the animal, and returned to the house.

"Faint heart never won fair lady," thought Excelsior, as he prepared to jump over the garden fence and renew his attempt.

The night was very dark, and he did not try to find the precise spot at which he had previously climbed the fence. The result was, that when he leaped over he found himself standing in something soft and sticky, that slushed up about his legs very unpleasantly.

He felt it, and discovered, to his infinite disgust, that he was standing in a pot of soft soap, which had been made during the day and left out to cool.

This was very mortifying, and it left his clothes in an unpleasant predicament, although he rubbed off as much of the greasy mixture as he could.

"Never mind," he thought; "if she loves me, as I am sure she does, she won't care about the soap."

Again he worked his way toward the house. To his great delight, the dog was now quiet, his master's reproof having had the effect of restraining him from barking.

There was a light burning in Betty's window, and toward it, as the guiding star of his hope, Excelsior directed his steps. But, just as he came beneath the window, it was extinguished.

While he wondered at this, a side door opened, and Betty herself appeared before him. She was attired in a traveling dress, and carried a shawl and a reticule. She was evidently prepared to elope, and the young man's happiness was complete.

"My brave Excelsior!" she exclaimed. "My noble Podd! How shall I ever thank you for this? But what is the matter with your shoes? They sound so queer."

"The fact is," stammered the young man, "that I got into a pot of soft soap out here."

"Have you endured that for me? What a splendid fellow you are! I am ready. Let us hurry. But let me first speak to the dog. I was so afraid that father would find you, or that he would turn Towser's loose."

Betty stepped lightly to the bulldog's kennel, petted him on the head, and spoke kindly to him, and then returned to the young man.

"Can you get me over the tall fence?" she asked.

"Yes; I put a step-ladder there."

"Let us make haste, then."

They reached the fence speedily, and without difficulty. Excelsior went over first; then Betty climbed the step-ladder, and jumped off, and he received her in his arms. Blessed privilege! Glorious possession! The beauty and the heiress of Bungtown was now all his own, his own forever! He even forgot the soap in his shoes.

He was beginning what he intended to be a very pretty speech, expressive of his love and devotion, when Betty interrupted him.

"There is no time to speak of that now," she said. "I am safe, and will be far from here when father awakes; but there is no time to lose!"

"Where shall we go to, Betty?"

"I will show you. It's all arranged. Come with me."

She led him through the grove to the road, where a horse and buggy were standing. At the horse's head was a man, whom Excelsior presently recognized, to his great surprise, as George Deering.

"Why, George, what on earth are you doing here?" he asked.

"I knew what was going on," replied Deering; "and brought a buggy to help the young lady off. I always stand by my friends, especially when they stand by me. Have the kindness to assist Miss Betty into that vehicle, my dear Podd; and soon everything will be lovely."

Excelsior did as he was requested to do, and was about to follow the young lady into the buggy, when Deering halted him.

"Wait a moment, my dear fellow," said the latter. "We must consult the safety of Miss Betty. No one but myself can manage this horse, and I must get in first."

Excelsior stood aside while the other got in and seated himself by the side of Betty. Deering then whipped up the horse, went ahead a short distance, stopped, and looked back.

"Farewell, my dear Excelsior," he said. "You are the best Podd that ever grew on a beanstalk. Whenever any of my friends want their chestnuts pulled out of the fire, I will be sure to recommend you."

In a few moments the buggy was out of sight.

"I swear to gracious!" exclaimed Excelsior; "I've a great mind to go and tell the squire."

But he didn't. He went home, cleaned the soap off his clothes, and held his tongue.—EDWARD WILLET.

JAW BONE NOT IN COFFEE

Doctor Used Mails In Attempt to Defraud Company.

Whether parts of a human jaw were found in a package of coffee was a question adjudicated in the federal court at Springfield, Mo.

The court decided the bones were not in the coffee and fined Dr. T. M. Callan, of Kirbyville, Mo., \$25 and costs for fraudulent use of the mails. The complainant was an eastern coffee company.

Callan wrote to the company, saying he had found a piece of human jaw bone and several teeth in a package of its coffee. He asked \$5 to keep quiet, threatening to prosecute under the pure food and drug act.

The company demanded proof. Callan refused it. The company then applied to the postoffice department.

Young Women Form Anti-Rat Society.

The city of Allentown, Pa., is all agog with curiosity over the doings at a meeting of society girls who attended a reception at the home of Miss Florence Glose upon her invitation for a gathering of "Ye Old Hens."

The young women formed themselves into an anti-rat society, having come to the conclusion that the present mode of hairdressing is an abomination.

There was an essay on the "Art of Kissing," presented by Miss Hattie Bittner, which formed the subject of a discussion in which it is said all present took part.

The others present were Misses Helen Schmidt, Emma Shankweiler, Elsie Herbel, Emma Lentz, Sally Harley, Mamie Harley, Helen Bogh and Miriam Glose.

New Ambassador to Russia.

President Taft will send to the senate the nominations of former Governor Curtis Guild, Jr., of Massachusetts, as ambassador to Russia, and W. W. Rockhill as ambassador to Turkey.

Mr. Rockhill is at present ambassador to Russia.

Governor Guild is an Intimate Personal Friend of President Taft.

He was appointed by the president as special ambassador to Mexico at the time of the centennial celebration of the foundation of that republic.

Mr. Rockhill will succeed Oscar S. Straus, who was secretary of the department of commerce and labor under former President Roosevelt. Mr. Straus resigned the ambassadorship to Turkey several months ago.

To Tax Bachelor Girls.

A bill to tax \$5 annually every unmarried woman over twenty-five years old and to create a "matrimonial commission," consisting of the governor, superintendent of public property and chief clerk of the assembly, was introduced in the Wisconsin assembly by Assemblyman Hansen, of Manitowoc, of "trouserette" fame.

The matrimonial commission is charged with the duty of bringing together kindred souls when application is made for an affinity by any love-lorn maiden.

Fined \$20,000 in Rebate Case.

Judge Emory Speer in the United States circuit court in Savannah, Ga., imposed a fine of \$20,000 on the Merchants and Miners' Transportation company for giving preferences in freight rates.

The corporation was convicted in Savannah last Friday. The Seaboard Air line and the Atlantic Coast line pleaded guilty to the rebate charge and escaped with a fine of \$2000 each.

The Merchants and Miners' company, it is declared, will appeal to the United States supreme court.

DEFICIT INSTEAD OF SURPLUS

Government Receipts For April Show a Decided Falling Off.

Government finances have slipped back over the line from surplus to deficit. April, which began with a surplus for the first time in the fiscal year, now shows a deficit of some \$4,000,000.

Expenditures for the month have been \$2,000,000 greater than last year, and receipts are \$1,000,000 less for the month. There seems to be also a general drop in receipts from all sources except the corporation tax.

1500 Tons of Chinese Money.

Fifteen hundred tons of Chinese money is aboard the steamer Katura, which reached the port of New York from the Far East. The money is worn and mutilated and was sold as old copper by the Chinese government.

Thackeray's Correction.

A distinguished foreigner visiting Epsom downs in Thackeray's company noticed many men dressed as sailors who were not to native and experienced eyes the real article.

"Ah," said the visitor, "these are, I suppose, what you call your British tars?"

"No, no," replied Thackeray; "only Epsom salts."

RIGHT LIVING.

No man has any right to expect to live differently tomorrow from the way in which he is living today. What he chooses for today he chooses for tomorrow. What he overcomes today he is overcoming for tomorrow. Yet most of us live as though we did not believe this, and we try hard to persuade ourselves that we are safe in so living.

Fanatic Kills Lieutenant Rodney.

Lieutenant Walter H. Rodney, of the Second United States cavalry, stationed in the Augur barracks in the department of Mindanao, Philippine Islands, was murdered by a Moro Juramentado.

The native, crazed with religious passion, ran amuck thirsting for the blood of a Christian.

The assassin belongs to the Mohammedan sect of Juramentados, who have taken an oath to shed the blood of the hated Christian. They know no fear, believing that the performance of what they consider a religious duty, if resulting in their own death, will be rewarded with eternal bliss.

The fanatic was armed with a bolo, and as he tore through the streets those who saw him fled in terror. He encountered Rodney, seemingly by chance, and struck him down before the officer could defend himself.

Lieutenant Rodney was a native of California, and was thirty-two years of age.

Hat Pin Cost Him an Eye.

Henry Pepper, a gateman at the Union Station in Omaha, Neb., has lost an eye as a result of coming in contact with a hat pin and came near losing his life. He was punching tickets at the gate when a fashionably dressed woman pushed her way through the crowd and as she passed the gateman the pin in her hat pierced his eye and, dragging across his temple, tore an ugly gash. The eye was badly mutilated and the sight destroyed. The police tried to find the woman, but failed.

Mother Strangles Daughter.

During what is believed to have been a fit of temporary insanity, Mrs. Clara Russell strangled her twelve-year-old daughter Marjorie to death at their home in Dorchester, near Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Russell, who is about forty-five years old, lived alone with her child, having been separated from her husband for several years.

Mrs. Russell was brought to the Dorchester municipal court on a murder charge.

Lloyd, Puzzle Maker, Dies.

Sam Lloyd, the puzzle expert, whose problems have interested not alone the rising generation but others, died at his home in Brooklyn from a stroke of apoplexy. He was seventy years of age.

For many years Mr. Lloyd had been famous throughout the country for his popular problems for the amusement of newspaper and magazine readers. In this unique calling he built up a fortune that has been estimated at more than a million dollars.

"Wet" and "Dry" Bills Beaten.

The county local option bill was killed in the Illinois house by a vote of 83 to 63. Roll call was reached after three hours of speeches. Following the defeat of the "dry" bill the house proceeded to a roll call on the "wet" bill. By a vote of 80 to 64 the "wet" bill repealing the present township local option law was defeated. This action leaves the present law on local option unchanged.

Tawney's Brother a Suicide.

While temporarily insane, William A. Tawney, a brother of ex-Congressman James A. Tawney, of Minnesota, committed suicide at his farm near Pierce, Neb. Mr. Tawney went out to the barn, tied a rope to a rafter, climbed up on top of a partition, adjusted the noose around his neck and then leaped off. He was despondent.

Would Disfranchise Negroes.

Representative Hardwick, of Georgia, introduced a bill providing for the disfranchisement of the colored man. He proposes the following amendment to the constitution be submitted to the state legislatures for ratification, namely:

"That the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States be and the same is hereby repealed."

Girl Lost Freckles; Has Sore Face.

In an effort to remove freckles from a notherwise beautiful face, Miss Helen Casey, of Bloomsburg, Pa., used a lotion advertised to remove freckles after a few applications. The freckles have partly disappeared, but she is suffering from a severe case of blood poisoning.

GENERAL MARKETS

PHILADELPHIA — FLOUR weak; winter clear, \$3.25@3.50; city mills, fancy, \$5.25@5.75.

RYE FLOUR steady, at \$4.14@4.25 per barrel.

WHEAT quiet; No. 2 red, new, 91½¢@92½¢.

CORN quiet; No. 2 yellow, 58¢@58½¢.

OATS firm; No. 2 white, 38½¢@39¢; lower grades, 37½¢.

POULTRY: Live steady; hens, 17¢@18¢; old roosters, 12¢@12½¢. Dressed firm; choice fowls, 17¢; old roosters, 12½¢.

BUTTER steady; extra creamery, 23¢ per lb.

EGGS firm; selected, 19¢@21¢; nearby, 17½¢; western, 17½¢.

POTATOES firm; 65¢@70¢ bushel.

Live Stock Markets.

PITTSBURG (Union Stock Yards)—CATTLE slow; choice, \$6.40@6.60.

SHEEP strong; prime wethers, \$3.75@3.90; culls and common, \$3@3.35; lambs, \$2@3.55; veal calves, \$7@7.50.

HOGS higher; prime heavies, \$6.50@6.60; mediums, \$6.85@6.90; heavy and light Yorkers, \$6.90@6.95; pigs, \$6.95@7; roughs, \$5.25@5.60.

When Romans Kissed.

Rowena, the beautiful daughter of the Saxon Hengist, is credited with having introduced kissing into the British islands. The Romans had a really delightful word for a kiss—osculum, which came from os, the mouth, and meant a little mouth, a sweet mouth. "Give me a sweet little mouth" would be the phrase used when a good little Roman boy asked his mother for a kiss.

Use of Naphtha.

Naphtha is an inflammable liquid which exudes from the soil in certain parts of Persia. Subsequently the use of the term spread to include some volatile oils found in Europe and even America. The product of the oil fields of Southern Russia is usually called naphtha, although it differs in no way from the ordinary grades of petroleum. Naphtha properly includes the lighter oils which pass off first in the distillation of petroleum, the gravities ranging from 90 to 62 degrees Heaume. Pennsylvania crude oil contains from 8 to 20 per cent of naphtha. In the refining of such naphtha several products are obtained by fractional distillation. Those which pass off first—namely, rhigolene and cymogene—are gases at ordinary temperatures and are seldom saved. The next product is known as gasoline, a material largely used in machines and for illuminating purposes. After this comes stove naphtha and gas naphtha, the latter being the base of much of the illuminating gas now made. Petroleum naphtha is often treated with chemicals to deodorize it. Naphtha may also be made in the distillation of wood and coal tar.

The Strange New Creed.

Professor Percival Lowell, the famous astronomer and author, said the other day of the public ignorance where astronomical matters are concerned:

"I can't discuss my Martian theories with the average man. He is as ignorant of astronomical terms as one of our Flagstaff policemen is of all long Latin words."

"This policeman arrested, the other night, an elderly gentleman who was parading the street in a white night gown."

"'Good gracious, officer!' said the old gentleman, giving me a great start, 'it's all right; let me go. I'm a sonnambulist.'"

"But the policeman tightened his grip on the old fellow's arm."

"'It don't make no odds what your reigion is,' he said, 'you come along with me.'"

Roman Cooks and Clocks.

It is pretty well established that the citizens of the Eternal City went on for more than six centuries without any accurate means of knowing the time either by night or day. The Consul P. Scipio Nasica, in 159 B. C., set up in Rome a public clepsydra, or water clock, the first timekeeper in the history of the city, waiving the ordinary sun dial. The prices paid, even in the most luxurious days of Rome, for exquisite cooks were not up to those of to-day, the highest salary being 100,000 sesterces (\$5,000), while some noted chefs of to-day receive \$10,000.

Immortality.

Nothing except fire burns and pains and inflames like intense cold and frost bites. Neither boiling water nor cold 200 degrees below zero kills the sprout in some seeds. Professor Bequerel found three seeds eighty-seven years old that sprouted. This suggests that life may really be immortal, even to stand the purgatorial and penitential fires.

BLACKLEG.

Owners of livestock in Sullivan County whose cattle are exposed to the infection of blackleg or black-quarter may have their cattle vaccinated against this disease by the State Livestock Sanitary Board without cost to the owner of the cattle by complying with the following rules:—

1. An application for vaccination shall be filled out and mailed to Dr. C. J. Marshall, Secretary of the State Livestock Sanitary Board, Harrisburg, before May 1st, 1911.

2. The application shall contain the name and address of the owner of the cattle, a statement as to the location of the farm upon which the animals are kept and the number and kind of animals in the herd.

Vaccinations cannot be made at the expense of the State Livestock Sanitary Board upon application received after May 1st. For such cause vaccine will be furnished free of charge, but the owner will be required to defray the expenses of employing the veterinarian to administer it.

C. J. Marshall,
State Veterinarian.

Register's Notices.

Notice is hereby given that the following Accounts of Executors, Administrators, etc., have been filed in my office:

First and Final Account of Walter J. Maurer, Executor of the last Will and Testament of James Tomkins, late of Elkland Township, Deceased.

In the Estate of Adam Morey, late of Carry Township, Deceased. Inventory Appraisal of Personal Estate set apart to widow.

And the same will be presented to the Orphans Court of Sullivan County, to be held at Laporte, Penna., on the fifteenth day of May, A. D. 1911, at 3 o'clock P. M., for confirmation and allowance, and they shall then be confirmed. Ni, Si; and unless Exceptions are filed within ten days thereafter, Confirmation absolute will be entered thereon.

ALBERT F. HEES,
Register of Wills,
Register's Office, LaPorte, Pa.,
April 17, 1911.

You can get warm meals at all hours at Smith Boudman's hotel, Sonestown, Pa. adv.

Has Liquor Got The Best of You?

You know that drinking unfits a man for business. Employers recognize this and do not want a drinking man around. No man will knowingly employ a victim of the liquor habit in a responsible position. We can remove the terrible craving for liquor, and positively cure you. Reliable references furnished if desired.

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Clothing, or Shoes or Anything

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