

### A DEPREDATING HEN.

Of all the things in nature that afflict the sons of men, there is nothing that I know of beats the depredating hen; if you see a wild-eyed woman firing brickbats from the shed, you can bet a hen has busted up her little flower bed. She plunders and she scratches, she cackles and she hatches. And forty thousand cowboys couldn't keep her in a pen; she was sent on earth to fret us, to excoriate the lettuce; she's a thorough nuisance, is the depredating hen.

I threw a brick and missed her, as she hustled out my beans. But Julius Cæsar's statue was smashed-up on the rear; I saw her digging rifle pits where I'd put my pansies in; I fired a good-sized rock and hit my hired man on the shin. She bursts all bounds and shackles, she riggles and she cackles. She makes no say some earnest things I haven't time to pen. I never used bad language, but now I'm filled with language. Alas! I've broke the record thro' that depredating hen.

But now thro' out my cabinet there floats a pleasant smell, and the reason for that perfume isn't hard to tell. For when I rose this morning, saw my cabbage bed a wreck, I caught that depredating hen and fiercely wrung her neck; I hear her hiss and crackle, no more she'll scratch and cackle. Or make my summer garden look like some hyena's den. She far too long has bossed me, she far too much has cost me, I'll eat at luncheon time today a hundred dollar hen.

—From the Khan.

Their almshouses were filled with paupers, schools had to be supported. State, county, township and municipal expenses had to be paid and the man who made his little six percent per annum had to do it. Well there seemed to be an unjust discrimination and the people set about to remedy it, and the manner of which we now wish to show and the effect it has produced. In 1851 an amendment to the Constitution was voted upon, also in 1874, to license the liquor business and allow the legislature to fix by law the amount they should be taxed and the certain funds to which said taxes should be applied. In both attempts the amendments were defeated. In the former by a vote of 113,237 against and 104,255 for it, the majority being 9,982. In 1874 the vote stood 179,538 against and 172,252 for license, the adverse majority being 7,286. In each case the liquor men and the Prohibitionists joined hands, each putting into the fight all their might and means to defeat the measure. The Prohibitionists claimed that a license legalized the business, and as they said, made it respectable. The saloon men said we don't want any license, for license costs money and why should we pay out our money when we can sell it unlicensed under the present law. So it was and so it remained until 1883. On April 17th, 1883, a law was passed called after its founder the "Scott" law, taxing the liquor business each \$200.00, where whiskey and beer was both sold. \$100.00 where they sold beer only. The next year this was the leading feature in the campaign; the Republicans defending, while the Democrats and Prohibitionists opened their broadsides against it. The Democrats succeeded in making the German Republicans believe that the law was calculated to deprive them of their personal liberties, and with the support of every saloon in the State. With the assistance of their allies, the Prohibitionists, they succeeded in defeating the Republican ticket and electing a majority of the Supreme Court Judges. The Democrats promised the saloon element that should they succeed, the "Scott" law would be declared unconstitutional and they would get back their money already paid under the law. A promise they only partially fulfilled. A case was immediately brought and taken to the Supreme Court and on October 28, 1884, it was declared unconstitutional. But by this time a reaction had taken place in the sentiment of the people. They began to see that the law was calculated to remedy the evil and bring into their treasury the means of supporting a class of paupers they were instrumental in making. The German Republicans like the "Prodigal Son" came back when they saw they were being used only for the purpose of placing the Democratic party in power, and the saloons lost confidence, for, after declaring the law unconstitutional they refused to return the money to them.

### SAVED BY A KISS

ELMA GRIFFIN AWAKENED IN HER COFFIN BY HER LOVER'S CARESS.

—Elma Griffin, died April 15, 1849, aged 19 years, 4 months and 6 days.

The words were engraved upon a silver plate, but there was no coffin under them. Mrs. Parroy, an elderly lady, visiting friends living on Clinton avenue, Alameda but whose home is in Brooklyn, N. Y., looked with an air of mingled pride and reverence upon the carving, for her name was once Elma Griffin that was made to hold her remains.

"On my nineteenth birthday," she said, my mother invited a party of acquaintances to our house to celebrate the day. We lived some distance outside of Williamsburgh, as it was then, and the ground was a little soft and boggy. One of my friends remembered this as she was about to start for her home with her brother, and she laughingly congratulated me on being housed already and having no occasion to brave the swamp. I was a wild young girl in those days, and I declared at once that I would go with them and return alone. Everybody tried to dissuade me except the girl's brother. We started, and when we reached my friend's house I was conscious that my feet were quite wet, and that a disagreeable chill had crept over me, but I declined an invitation to go in and went away at once. Of course, Rob—the brother, I mean—came with me, and somehow I forgot the cold and damp as I walked home.

"I think we must have talked a long time as we stood on my uncle's doorstep, for suddenly Rob—my second, I mean—said: 'Elma, your face is very pale. Have I kept you standing here too long?' He talked to me for ten minutes after that, and then wished me good night and left me. I rang the bell, and when my mother opened the door I told her what I might have known an hour sooner, if I had given it a thought, that I was really ill. She hurried me to bed immediately, and when she came to tell me the following morning she looked very anxious. By noon I was delirious, but I could hear the doctor tell my mother I had typhoid fever, and that he could not hold out much hope for my recovery. I knew that my mother was weeping, but I was always a selfish girl, and I could only cry out: 'Robert! Robert! Where is Robert? I and they told me, hardly thinking that I heard them, that Robert had been suddenly called upon to start for California early that morning, and had not even heard of my illness. He sent a letter to me however, but I did not see it until many weeks later.

"I grew rapidly worse, and gradually the knowledge of all outward things passed from me. I fancy that I had a certain consciousness; but not of matters around me. I was in another state of being, in which the person acting and speaking—always strangely speaking—was myself, and yet not myself. Then came an utter blank, from which I awoke, after nearly three weeks of oblivion, to see my mother and the doctor standing by my bedside. The doctor said the crisis was past and I should probably recover, but I did not feel any interest in what he was talking about.

"The quiet days of convalescence followed, and the doctor, seeing that I was very weak, regarded me seriously, and warned my mother that a relapse should be carefully guarded against. I used at that time, too, to fall into curious physical conditions that I suppose were trances, in which I knew all that was going on around me but from which I did not seem to care to arouse myself by moving or speaking. These periods lasted longer and longer, but they were not observed, and as they were rather pleasant than otherwise I said nothing about them.

"One morning I awoke from what seemed to me a natural sleep and lay with my eyes closed listening to sounds that I could not at first interpret; but slowly the knowledge came to me that my mother was sobbing beside my bed. I tried to ask her why she was grieving, but I could not move or speak. The trance was upon me. I was sensitive, however, and knew that I was lying upon a hard substance and not upon the comfortable mattress of my bed

### ORIGIN OF UNCLE SAM.

"Uncle Sam" as applied to the United States Government, was doubtless suggested at first by the initials U. S. It was first applied during the war of 1812. Samuel Wilson, a government inspector of beef and pork at Troy, N. Y., was inspecting a quantity of provisions purchased from Elbert Anderson. The barrels were marked E. A., the initials of Anderson's name, and U. S., for the United States. Wilson who was familiarly known as "Uncle Sam" had a lot of workmen handling the barrels. Not knowing what the latter initials meant, a facetious workman suggested that they stood for Uncle Sam, meaning Wilson. The joke spread and was repeated until the initials U. S. came by common consent to stand for "Uncle Sam."

### SHE FOUND A MAN AT LAST.

Burglar: 'I tell you it's awful the way things are in New England. Twenty or thirty women to every man. I had a narrow escape once. I noticed a lot of the finest diamonds you ever saw on a Boston girl just going out of the house to a lecture or something and I watched my chance and got in and hid under her bed. You see, I was thinkin' she would be so interested in the lecture she went to that she wouldn't think to look around for burglars, you know.'

'Yes.'

'But when she came in the first thing she did was to look under the bed, and there she saw me.'

'Did she scream or faint?'

'She just grabbed me with both hands and held on like grim death.'

'Oh! How did you get away?'

'I explained to her that I was already married and she let me go.'—Omaha World.

### AMONG THE BUCKETS

THE OHIO LIQUOR TAX—ITS RESEMBLANCE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA "HIGH LICENSE"—ITS ORIGIN AND ADVANTAGES.

NEVADA, O., Sept. 12, 1887.

I promised a discussion of the Ohio Liquor Tax. I have tried to do so and herewith the results of my investigation, stating that the people of Ohio have been wrangling with the tax of this evil for many years. It is a "thorn" in the side of politicians of all parties. All admit it to be an evil and the only cure has been and now is how with it. Ohio has been a free liquor State ever since its birth as a State. I pay for free for the tax collected on business in the ordinary course of life. The amount of taxes amounted to nothing in this county, but, in 1882 they had forty cents. The amount of taxes collected at that time was on an average of \$8.00 each. That is they paid less than \$120.00 a year, some time with their forty cents this one county selling to all who had the ten cents, they had that had been standing on minute books for 50 or more years: "No liquor shall be sold on the premises in this county and no license shall be granted for the same." When a license was brought up for violating, as had been done time and time again, witness could be found who would swear that he had drunk stronger than water and could be found who would swear that they had not had any made, it always resulted in an agreement of the jury and the case was left to settle the costs. An assessor came to list their property for taxation they usually bought a keg of whiskey, a keg of beer, a deck of cards, a few empurplets and glasses, which consisted their stock in trade. Yet he would buy another keg of whiskey and by evening he would have three dollars, making one percent in one day. The assessor would buy another keg of whiskey and by evening he would have three dollars, making one percent in one day. The assessor would buy another keg of whiskey and by evening he would have three dollars, making one percent in one day. The assessor would buy another keg of whiskey and by evening he would have three dollars, making one percent in one day.

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