

T. H. HARTER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. MIDDLEBURGH, PA., FEB. 23, 1903.

Professor Morse, of Salem, Mass., has solved the problem of house heating in a curious fashion. He has built a house with all its rooms facing southward, and only a passage on the north.

Labor papers in Italy have recently copied articles appearing in New York papers describing the miserable condition of Italian laborers living in the hovels of Mulberry street and vicinity.

It is said that the United States Treasury has reformed more \$500 legal tender notes than it ever issued. This does not look to the New Orleans Picayune as though many such notes had been stove away in the tops of old stockings against a rainy day.

The United States has watched Europe experimenting with 19-ton guns, and said: "No such monsters for us." Now, in spite of mishaps to England's great rifles, our ordnance officers say that defensive armor has been so perfected by our Government that we ought to produce a gun that would put a shot through any ship armed with plates of like resistance.

By a series of calculations it has been demonstrated that it costs a railroad company ten cents to stop a locomotive and four cents for each stop of a passenger train. The engineer does not discover that he or she (and it is generally a woman) makes no move to leave a train until the order is given to go ahead, and a train must be brought to a stop again to let the slow-going passenger off.

There is one thing about the Presidential election of 1892 which, says the New York Sun, will always keep its memory green in the field of American politics, and that is the fact that no two people are, or probably ever will be, agreed about the figures of the result.

And the faint, sweet dream of a dawning happiness, which had for a brief moment cheered her lonely life, had vanished, leaving only a shadow behind.

She was thinking of these things now as she sat at her desk, until thought became a torture; and to escape from it she arose and left the school-room, and stood for awhile resting in the shade of the big elm tree which grew behind the house.

HEREAFTER

When all life's storms are still And all life's noises into calm have passed, When rest and quiet comes to us at last, What matters good or ill? What matters love or hate? Calm hands are folded o'er a quiet breast, The weary head is pillowed in sweet rest, And sorrow comes too late!

A Double Valentine

BY S. A. WEISS.

SCHOOL was over and the scholars dismissed—all save the two "worst boys," whose "keeping in" was depriving the teacher of half an hour of her own precious time.

She sat at her desk, clasping her aching temples with her slim white fingers—a young woman of perhaps twenty—and twenty, with a fair, oval face which seemed to have been made for smiling, but was now wearing an expression of weariness and despondency.

The day had been a trying one. Though only the middle of February, the weather was close and sultry, and she had sat all day in the stove-heated room, not daring to open the doors and windows lest the children should take cold.

These latter—girls as well as boys—had shown themselves unusually restless, inattentive and provoking, with an amount of giggling and whispering going on which had sorely tried the nerves and temper of the usually patient teacher.

As she now sat, resting her aching temples in her hands, she almost concluded that it would be better to give up her situation at the end of this first session, and seek some less wearying if less "genteel" means of support. And she would be glad to get away from Lynnville.

At first she had liked it, and fancied that the people liked her; but since the new minister, the Reverend Frank Deane, had begun to show her some little kind attention when they chanced to meet at the various church societies, sewing societies and other "far enterprises" and "regimens," Miss Kate Morrison could not but become aware of the great diminution of her popularity among the female portion of her acquaintance.

It had even come to her ears that she was generally accused of "getting her cap" for the minister, and that Miss Peacely Perkins, who, when Mr. Deane was suffering from a cold, had sent him a pair of unconsidered slippers and no end of cake and jelly "of her own making," had publicly declared her conviction that "that Kate Morrison was a sly, designing minx," while Patty Merriam had pronounced it "downright impudent" in a school teacher to force herself upon Mr. Deane's attention, as she did that night when she went to church without an umbrella, and it rained, and he was compelled to see her home.

And so poor Kate, in mingled pride and mortification, had since felt herself obliged, in self defense, to treat Mr. Deane with a coldness and reserve which had evidently put an end to his attentions.

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She was thinking of these things now as she sat at her desk, until thought became a torture; and to escape from it she arose and left the school-room, and stood for awhile resting in the shade of the big elm tree which grew behind the house.

The two bad boys looked after her, and then moved cautiously toward each other and commenced whispering and grinning.

"Say, Dick, did yer give that Valentine to Liz Miller?"

"Yer bet! An' she was so pleased she 'most jumped out o' her skin!"

"Guess Mattie Smith wern't pleased a bit. She tore up her Valentine, and 'lowed she'd ramscack the whole school but she'd find out who called her a splay-foot, snagle-tooth pollywog. He, he! 'Twas fun!"

"What yer think? Tom Neel didn't send them Valentines to Mamie and Sally? He was sort o' 'fraid. Here they are in his desk. Ain't they stunnin'? He, he!"

that old yaller horse; and he'll leave the Voluntee at the minister's as he goes by."

The two Valentines were hastily shuffled into the envelopes, and Dick, sneaking out of the front door, met Lem as he reached the door.

"Say, Lem, please just leave this here letter at th' minister's for the teacher, won't yer? I don't want to go down there just to carry it."

"All right," Lem answered, as he dropped the letter into his coat pocket. And as he rode off he called back: "You better get home soon's you can. It's goin' to rain."

The last words reached the teacher's ear where she stood under the elm, and she turned to re-enter the school-room.

Dick had just time to regain his seat, tossing the second letter on her desk as he skipped past, for there was no time to place it inside, where she would have found it before leaving school.

Unfortunately he missed his aim and the envelope fell to the floor behind the teacher's seat, where it attracted her attention as she entered it.

She picked it up, read the address, and holding it up said quietly: "Boys, do you know anything about this letter? It is addressed to the minister, Mr. Deane."

A quick glance of dismay was exchanged between the two. They had given Lem the wrong letter.

Both answered, boldly: "No'm."

She placed the missive on her desk. No doubt it had been entrusted to one of the children, who had forgotten it, but she would see that it reached Mr. Deane that evening.

Then she called the two boys before her.

"I hope that you know your lessons now," she said, "and will be able to answer promptly. Dick, I will begin with you. Who surrendered at Yorktown, in Virginia?"

"General Washington," responded Dick, boldly.

The teacher's smooth brow contracted, but she made no comment, and gave him one more chance.

"To whom was the surrender made?" There was a momentary puzzled consideration, and then came the triumphant reply.

"Napoleon Bonapart!" Miss Kate closed the book and turned to her other pupil.

"Timothy, what are the three largest cities in the United States?"

"New York, Linnon and—Brazil!" Again the book was closed; but before a word could be spoken the eyes of both teacher and pupils were turned toward the open door.

A gig had stopped at the gate, and a good-looking young man, in clerical dress, was walking briskly toward the school house.

Miss Kate arose and went slowly to learn his errand at the door, for she had no idea of inviting him to enter. It was only when she saw big drops of rain pattering upon his shoulders that she said, reluctantly:

"Will you come in, Mr. Deane, out of the rain?"

He stepped within and drew a letter from his breast pocket.

"I had no intention of intruding," he said, pleasantly, "but merely desired to deliver this letter, which was handed me a few moments since by Lemuel Miller, whom I met on the road. There seems to have been some mistake, as it is addressed to Miss Kate Morrison."

"Strange!" Kate said. "And here is one which I just now found directed to yourself."

The two boys, unnoticed by the teacher, began sidling toward the door. She hastily opened the letter just given her, and the minister did the same with his. As their sight was greeted by the gorgeous illumination of hearts and roses, each glanced up, and their eyes meeting, both laughed. The laugh seemed to take away from the stiffness between them.

"I had forgotten," said the minister, "that this is St. Valentine's Day. But it seems that boys never forget the occasion."

And he looked toward the two culprits near the door.

Kate glanced at the name scrawled upon that work of art in your hand?"

"Yes. And I presume that you ask because you find my own name upon yours? You can see this, if you like. You will find the poetry worthy of the artistic design."

She took it, and read: "If you will be my Valentine, Our lives with happy bliss will shine Like Jane-bugs on a pumpkin vine!"

"How absurd!" said Kate, with a mixture of indignation and amusement. Mr. Deane smiled.

"I should like to know with what poetic sentiment they have credited me. May I see?"

"I haven't read it," she answered, as she handed him the paper.

"Why?" "Why? Shall I tell you?" He came and stood by her side at the window, and his voice took a lower and softer tone.

"Because it has afforded me an opportunity of saying to you what I have long been wishing to do—almost ever since I first saw you."

She made no reply, but stood still with her hands clasped on the window sill before her.

There was silence for a moment, and the tears which had moistened her brown eyes brimmed over and fell upon her white hands.

The next moment a firm and gentle clasp was laid upon them, and a voice said: "Not for a year only, Kate, but for a lifetime—for all time."

Still she was silent, but he looked in her face and was satisfied.

"I think it is going to rain all the evening," she said, presently, with a new tone in her voice—shy and sweet. "I had better get home as soon as possible."

"And will let me take you, of course?" said Mr. Deane.

"It is not necessary; I often go home through the rain. I have an umbrella."

But he would not hear of it, and he assisted her into his gig and gathered the lap-robe about her.

The dim, rain-obscured landscape seemed to her fairer than ever she had beheld it in its sunshiny summer beauty.

Miss Peacely Perkins, from her usual lookout at her front window, beheld them driving past.

"Well, I do declare!" she exclaimed. "There's the minister taking Kate Morrison home in his gig! What shall we hear of next, I wonder!"

What she next heard in regard to Mr. Deane and Kate Morrison surprised her still more. But since the minister's wife would be a person of much more importance than the school teacher, she wisely decided to make the best of it, and keep to herself her thoughts upon the subject of Kate Morrison's artfulness.

As to Tim and Dick, they could never understand why it was that Miss Kate never alluded to those Valentines, and that the minister seemed to take a particular interest in them at Sunday-school—Saturday Night.

The Mystery of Plant Sex.

It was demonstrated by American botanists several years ago that whether flowers were male or female was wholly a matter of nutrition. Where the reproductive cells at the time of fertilization were so situated as to be able to avail themselves of abundant nutrition, female flowers result. Where these cells are not advantageously situated in this respect, the result is male flowers. One of the strongest demonstrations of this fact is furnished by coniferous trees.

The female or cone-bearing flowers absorb the strong and vigorous sap, and are exposed to the light, and are, consequently, situated on the upper portion of the tree. These are the flowers which bear cones. In time to come, as they do by shading, or the weakening of their power to obtain full nutrition, they produce male flowers only. Under this law there ought to be cases on the boundary line, where the balance of nutritive power should be so even, that a tendency to hermaphrodism, or at least a closer relation between the separate sexes should exist than is usually the case in coniferous and related plants. This closer relation is often seen in the Indian corn, where some of the male flowers produce pistils as well as stamens, and then grains of corn occur in the tassels or spike of male flowers. But it is not often that coniferous trees themselves furnish the illustration. But a Japan botanical magazine has come across an instance which it figures. The pine cone is formed as usual, but from the apex of the cone proceeds a spike of male flowers giving the pine cone somewhat the appearance of a pineapple with the tuft of green leaves at the apex. These occasional departures from normal types are eagerly looked for by modern biologists as furnishing the material by which various hypotheses are tested.—New York Independent.

American Morocco Leather.

Very little morocco leather is now imported into this country. Up to about the year 1890 nine-tenths of the morocco used was imported, and the amount manufactured here was quite small. The proportions have been about reversed the last twelve years, and now the output of Philadelphia, Wilmington, Boston and Lynn is far greater than the total consumption was at the time named. There is absolutely no reason why any of this article should be imported at all, and the home-made grades are really better on the average than any that can be imported. One American house now turns out 40,000 or 50,000 skins a day, and the slaughter of goats for the purpose is quite extensive. It is estimated that as many as 30,000,000 goats are slaughtered for their skins every year, and this is probably true, although most people would be apt to doubt whether there are as many of these interesting animals in existence.—Detroit Free Press.

How Soil is Made.

The process of conversion of granite into soil is thus summarized by Professor A. Johnston, of Edinburgh: Oxidation of iron is the first change perceptible; then creation and multiplication of weather joints and carbonization follows; next, humus is formed by lichens, and then higher plants; following this fungoid germs, capable of assimilating aerial nitrogen, become abundant; finally all the three processes, mechanical chemical and organic, go merrily on together and contribute all in their proper share to the formation of an ever-deepening soil, capable of supporting the luxuriant life of the highest plants.—New York Witness.

The military prisoner makes his escape in an unguarded moment.

LIQUOR DEALERS, BEWARE.

The West Virginia Supreme Court has granted a writ of error in the case of W. P. Flanagan, who was indicted by the Doddridge County Grand Jury for sending whiskey to West Union, in that county, on an order received at Parkersburg. The Circuit Court Judge Jacobs had quashed the indictment on the ground that, as the order was filed in that city, the sale was made there and not in Doddridge county. The county officers appealed and the writ of error was granted, the Court above holding that the place where goods were delivered is the place of their sale.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Twenty-first Day.—In the Senate 35 bills passed the first reading in 10 minutes. Mr. Greary of Erie introduced a bill providing that whenever any secret marriage is contracted and the parties have no common residence, or do not live together as man and wife, the survivor, in the event of the death of either party, shall take no interest in the estate of the deceased, excepting such as may be devised or bequeathed to the survivor in case the deceased dies intestate.

A communication was received from the Governor announcing the approval of a concurrent resolution requesting Pennsylvania United States senators and congressmen to vote against any measure looking to the opening of the world's fair on Sunday.

In the House these bills were introduced: Niles of Allegheny—a revenue measure known as the county commissioners bill; Boyer of Philadelphia—providing for a graduated tax on inheritances, except collateral of 1 per cent on estates of \$100,000 and not exceeding \$200,000, 2 per cent above \$200,000 and not exceeding \$1,000,000, and 3 per cent on estates of over \$1,000,000. The rapid transit bill was recommitted to a able parties opposed to it to be heard. The negative bill to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors on all holidays and Saturday half-holidays was voted down.

Few of Philadelphia moved to amend the Baker ballot law that the assessors shall sit in election booths in all districts where booths are established. The bill prohibiting the employment of telegraph operators on railroads who are under 21 years of age and have not had one year's experience, which was negative in committee, was placed on the calendar unanimously.

Twenty-second Day.—In the Senate today a large number of remonstrances were presented from ministers, clergymen and other religious organizations against modifications of the Sunday laws.

The following bills were introduced: Hackenberg, Northumberland—Providing for appointment by the Governor of a commission, equally divided politically, to issue liquor licenses instead of the Courts; Osbourne, Philadelphia—Providing fines and penalties for the sale of impure milk in this State; McCarter, of Allegheny—Proposing an amendment to the Landis, Lancaster—Providing for issuing of State teachers' certificates to graduates of regularly chartered colleges who have taught their annual terms in the public schools.

Other bills were introduced as follows: Providing for the incorporation of distilling companies, which has been negatively reported, be placed on the calendar. It will lay over under the rules until the House convenes.

Mr. Skinner introduced a bill for the prevention and punishment of trespassing upon cars of passenger railway companies. He also introduced a bill for the prevention and punishment of the obstruction of the tracks of passenger railway companies and the injury or destruction of their rolling stock or other property.

Other bills were introduced as follows: Dambly—To provide for the discharge from any hospital for the insane of insane persons charged with or acquitted of crime. Wheeler—To prevent fraud in the sale of wool. King—Providing for the division of counties into road districts, the election of district supervisors, the dividing of road work into classes the division of road taxes, and for the repair and repairing of roads and awards therefor.

The House adjourned until Monday evening, February 27.

The bill to protect miners in the anthracite coal regions of Pennsylvania, to weigh coal and have a checkweighman when deemed necessary, defining the amount which shall constitute a mining ton and providing penalties for violation, thereto, was passed finally. After some minor matters were disposed of the House adjourned.

Twenty-third Day.—In the Senate today Mr. Hackenberg, of Northumberland, had a petition read asking him to introduce a bill to prohibit the manufacture of hoop skirts for criminal purposes.

The following bills were introduced: Smith, Lancaster—To take from pipe line companies the right of eminent domain. Landis, Lancaster—Requiring boards of school directors to make provision for the better protection of the health and morals of school children. Monaghan, Schuylkill—To increase the annual salaries of coroners in counties having over 150,000 inhabitants to \$2,000.

The Neeb bill, making it a misdemeanor for any person to furnish a reporter, editor or newspaper with false information intended for publication, was reported favorably to the Senate. The bill is intended to abolish the fakir of news and the practical joker who imposes on newspapers bogus notices of marriages or deaths. It has excellent chances of passing both houses.

In the House a large number of bills were unfavorably reported from committee today, among them that to protect associations and unions of workmen and persons in their labels, trademarks and forms of advertising.

The following bills were introduced. Harvey, Luzerne—To encourage the breeding and improvement of trotting and pacing horses and to prevent fraudulent entries. Mattox, Venango—Providing for the appointment of deputy assistant coroners in cities of this Commonwealth. Focht, Union—Authorizing chattel mortgages on certain forms of iron and steel. The following resolution was adopted: "That the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the resolution requesting Senators and Members of Congress to vote for Senate bill No. 2944, entitled 'An act for marking of the lines of battle on the battlefield of Gettysburg.'"

These bills were passed finally: An act defining the status of fraternal societies paying benefits at sickness or death of their members by mutual assessment and exempting them from taxation and from the supervision of the insurance Commissioners an act relative to the uniformity of proxies. The House then adjourned.

Twenty-fourth Day.—Among the bills introduced were the following: Critchfield, Somerset—To prevent public highways from becoming blocked with snow. Smith, Lancaster—Appropriating \$20,000 to be used in detecting and prosecuting manufacturers and dealers in oleomargarine and all imitation butter.

The following bills passed finally: Authorizing construction of turnpike, plank and other roads on roads and land; authorizing formation of corporations for the purpose of driving and flooding logs, lumber and timber in streams not exceeding 35 miles in length; extending provisions of the Railroad act of 1885 to corporations organized by purchasers of railroads at sales without process of a court; making no fee for filing petitions for the adoption of minor city ordinances; providing for a assessment of damage when streets or alleys are changed in grade or locality; appropriating \$100,000 for re-equipment of the National Guard.

A large number of bills passed second reading among them the following, introduced by Flinn: An act authorizing cities to purchase, maintain, use and condemn bridges erected and in use over rivers and streams separating or dividing any part or district of such cities and providing the manner in which compensation shall be made; an act authorizing municipal corporations to appropriate private lands and property for their use in the construction, maintenance and use of bridges, and to connect public parks or other public properties, and providing for the ascertainment of damages caused thereby. The Senate having cleared its calendar voted to adjourn until Monday evening, February 27.

The House met at 11 o'clock. Among the bills reported negatively from committees were the two "anti-discrimination" bills introduced by Representatives Bliss and Tewksbury, also the bill exempting ex-soldiers and members of the National Guard from jury duty.

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Twenty-fifth Day.—After brief sessions to-day both branches of the Legislature adjourned for the election recess. In the Senate the following bills were introduced: Brewer, Franklin—To require inmates of the Huntingdon Reformatory who violate their parole to serve the unexpired term of their sentence; also, to require counties in which they are residents to pay the cost incident to the trial of inmates of the Huntingdon Reformatory and penitentiaries, and to regulate proceedings in applications for the discharge on habeas corpus of persons confined in either of the penitentiaries.

Lloyd, Cumberland—To increase the salary of the Chief Clerk in the Auditor General's department from \$1,800 to \$2,200, and fixing the salary of the Corporation Clerk at \$2,500. Mr. Hackenberg, of Northumberland, offered a resolution, which was adopted, for the printing of 1,000 copies of the license bill, requiring commissioners to issue licenses instead of the Courts. The Senate adjourned until February 27.

In the House to-day Mr. Wertheimer, of Allegheny, offered a resolution that his bill providing for the incorporation of distilling companies, which has been negatively reported, be placed on the calendar. It will lay over under the rules until the House convenes.

Mr. Skinner introduced a bill for the prevention and punishment of trespassing upon cars of passenger railway companies. He also introduced a bill for the prevention and punishment of the obstruction of the tracks of passenger railway companies and the injury or destruction of their rolling stock or other property.

Other bills were introduced as follows: Dambly—To provide for the discharge from any hospital for the insane of insane persons charged with or acquitted of crime. Wheeler—To prevent fraud in the sale of wool. King—Providing for the division of counties into road districts, the election of district supervisors, the dividing of road work into classes the division of road taxes, and for the repair and repairing of roads and awards therefor.

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BIG FIRE AT WEST NEWTON, PA.

A Business Block Wiped Out Early Sunday Morning.

Early Sunday morning almost an entire square of business property at West Newton, Pa., was destroyed by fire, involving a loss of several thousands of dollars. Flames were discovered issuing from the rear of the furniture rooms of P. Paul & Sons at 1:15 o'clock. The building was a frame one, and being filled with inflammable material it did not take long for the fire to spread to adjoining property on Main and Church streets, containing the postoffice, Mrs. Clara De Vere's millinery establishment, the furniture warehouse in the rear of Paul's store, the hardware depot of H. A. Obley, C. W. Sanders & Co.'s hardware and tinware store and Christian Zeigler's boot and shoe store. All of these properties were completely destroyed.

The Paul family, occupying apartments over the furniture store, barely escaped by means of ladders.

The property in which Paul & Son's furniture store was situated was owned by John Elliott, of Hazelwood, Pittsburgh, and was almost fully insured. The adjoining block on Main street was owned by D. F. Rosen, of this place and was partially insured. A. T. Parr stationery store, in the post-office building, was almost entirely destroyed, with little insurance. Mrs. De Vere's millinery establishment is a total loss, as were also all her household goods; her loss is about \$1,500. C. W. Sanders & Co.'s loss is about \$3,000, partially insured. H. A. Obley, C. Zeigler and Leiser, the photographers, who occupied the rooms above C. W. Sanders & Co.'s store, will lose about \$500 each.

New York, San Francisco, London and Liverpool insurance companies carry the risks.

Three Killed in a Wreck.

Two express trains tried to pass each other on the one track of the Colorado Midland, near Denver, Colo. Engineer McCammon, Fireman McIntyre and Brake-man Bowersack were killed. Both engines and five passenger coaches were demolished. Another railroad man had both legs cut off and cannot live. None of the passengers were injured. The accident was caused by misinterpretation or disobedience of orders.

A CASE OF LEPROSY has come to light in Norwich, N. J., and the people of that village are thoroughly frightened. The victim of the disease is a Russian, Pole, Joseph Ojepski.

CHINA, too, has been having a cold winter. Three hundred Canton beggars died from exposure in jail.

SIX is its own detective. No man can escape himself any more than he can hide from God.