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AT THE MATINEE.



The Girl—Beg pardon, does my hat trouble you? The Man—I can see nothing else.

Self-Conviction. The man who talks about himself, who flouts his "me's" and "I's," but gives unshakable proof to those who hear him that he lies.

A Forfeited Lover. "Shall we elope, George?" "Yes—if you think it will please your father. Financially, I'm not prepared to get him down on me."

The Beginning. Divorce Judge—When did your domestic troubles begin? The Plaintiff—On the day I was married, your honor.

An Anachronism. Theodore—He went so far as to call me a puppy!

End Not Yet in Sight. Yeast—I just saw your wife in the other room.

Grimsby—Talking? "Yes; I heard her say, as I passed, that she had arrived at a conclusion."

A Brute. "Well," she asked her old bachelor brother, as she took the baby away from him, "what do you think of the dear little darling, anyway?"

A LOVER'S SONG.

Spring, you say, is for the far Footing where the hill-paths are; For the raptured listening...

Summer, say you, is for dreams Where the lake's blue ripple gleams; Is for reveling at will...

Autumn, say you, is for all Nature holding carnival; Fruit grown mellow to the core...

Winter, say you, is for books Read in log-warmed ingle-nooks; For the wonders of the air...

THE WOOING OF SALLY ANN.

BY P. S. RIDSDALE.

NEARLY everybody in Brandy Patch said Sally Ann was the prettiest girl the Patch ever boasted.

Beauty has its drawbacks even in Brandy Patch, and Sally Ann before she was 20, had ample illustration, as many of the young men wanted to marry her.

It would not be fair to Sally Ann to say she had the least doubt on the subject. She had not. She well knew that she was very good looking and it made her somewhat vain.

Now, however, she was 20, and her uncle one day said: "Lass, you being big and strong and likely looking, why don't you take one of the lads of the Patch for a husband? Shure you'll have no trouble."

He spoke kindly, but Sally Ann knew that his advice was practically a command. She must marry. She accepted the situation philosophically, and calmly sat down to think it over.

It was a long time before Sally Ann reached the end of the line, and then she had a reserve row of five, up on whom she could not decide hastily.

"It's got to be one of them," said Sally Ann after several minutes' reflection; "but blessed if I can tell which. P'raps, though," she continued, "none of 'em will have me. I never thought of that."

Now Sally Ann's assurance in calmly selecting three of the finest men in the Patch from whom to choose a husband was not unfounded. She was not long in learning that while she only wanted one of them, they all wanted her.

Here was a dilemma, for though she had carried three pieces of coal in her pocket for many days, she was still quite unable to decide which she

liked best. Her hesitation induced a mild suggestion from her uncle, and numerous well directed and exceedingly blunt hints from his wife.

At last Nick Martin brought matters to a crisis and asked Sally Ann to marry him. She, in the depths of her indecision, answered, "I want to marry one of you, but I can't make up my mind which to take."

Nick left the house that night, deep in thought, and impressed with what he thought a great idea. The next day when the shifts changed at the mines, he called Dooris and Williams to him, and explained the situation.

"Now," he said, "this is my idea. We be's all of a size about, and we'll all want the girl." Then he proposed his plan. "That'll settle it, and there won't be no more fuss about it; what dye say?"

"It do be a good plan, indeed, lad," said Tom Williams, "and I'll be with you. There do be no use waiting, neither, so I'll be ready to-morrow after work, back of the old Katydid."

"What d'ye say, me laddie buck?" cried Martin to Dooris.

"Well, you fellows can do what ye want," was the answer, "but I ain't goin' to make a fool of myself like that."

"Oh, golly, my!" "Listen to him, will ye?"

These exclamations of contempt greeted his decision, and Martin continued, "Well, you're out of it, then; she won't have nothin' to do with you after she hears ye're afraid."

It was not until late the next morning that Sally Ann heard about it, for the men had made no secret of their intention, and as their plan was universally applauded by the people of the Patch the news soon spread and everybody was anxious for the appointed time.

The place selected, back of the old Katydid breaker, was a quiet spot on the mountain just above Brandy Patch, and there Sally Ann, eager to see the affair, and rather proud that she was the sole cause of such an unusual proceeding, made her way early in the afternoon with the intention of finding a spot from which she could see everything and not be seen.

It was shortly after six when Williams and Martin with their friends arrived and joined the crowd which had already assembled. Preparations were quickly made. A hollow square was formed by the people, two blocks of wood were placed in opposite corners and a pall of water near each man.

Then Williams and Martin, who had been taken to the old boiler house, appeared. Each was stripped to the waist, and their muscles, hardened by years of toil in the mines, stood out boldly and defiantly on their splendid arms and chests.

"What are the stakes, what are the stakes, Sandy boy?" called out some one, jocosely.

"The gent that wins this 'ere fight will have the privilege of marrying Sally Ann, which yer all know."

"Hurrh for Sally Ann," shouted the crowd. "And," went on Sandy, "of he do be a real gent he'll invite all on us to the wedding and have plenty of beer."

Meanwhile Sally was looking on from her window, fascinated by the scene and eager for what was coming. All this was new to her and she watched every movement intently.

The men stepped to the center and shook hands, and in a moment, with clinched fists and arms advanced were slowly circling around each other, with set muscles, every nerve and eye alert. Now Williams' left arm flew out, but Martin sprang away. Again Williams struck, but Martin avoided the blow, but when his adversary struck a third time he rushed in and the men met with a rush, striking wildly and fiercely at each other's body. Then there was a shout of "Time," and they retired to their corners, where they were fanned and towled by their friends.

Sally Ann had watched the fighting with rapidly beating heart. She saw the big red bruises where the blows had landed and wondered if they hurt. Her cheeks burned with excitement and pleasurable pride. They were fighting for her.

In a minute the men were on their feet again and cautiously watching each other. At last each aimed and missed a terrific blow and rushed into each other's arms, struggling fiercely, until Griffin separated them. By this time they were thoroughly aroused, and springing to close quarters rained blow after blow on each other's head and body. At last Williams, gathering himself for a great effort, sent a heavy blow in on Martin's face, knocking him down.

Sally Ann thought he was dead and involuntarily a cry escaped her lips. But no, he rose slowly, the blood streaming from his nose, and just as

Williams was about to rush at him "Time" was called.

"Williams looks like a winner," said a voice at Sally Ann's elbow. She was surprised to find Pat Dooris by her side. "I saw yer at the window," he exclaimed, "and came up. What d'ye think of the fight?"

"Oh, it's fine. I never seen one before."

They both looked out. The men were in their corners, and by Martin was his old mother, vigorously fanning him and whispering instructions in his ear.

For a third time the men met. Wasting no time in skirmishing, they sprang at each other furiously. Blow followed blow so rapidly that it was impossible to count them. The crowd was cheering wildly, with Martin's mother leading them on, shouting words of encouragement to her boy, urging him to "hit him on the jaw, Nick," "Give him one in the eye, lad," "Pound him, pound him."

At last Williams went down, bleeding from a dozen cuts and half blinded, but he struggled desperately to his feet and again closed with his opponent. The men were fighting so furiously when "time" was called that they had to be forcibly separated.

More than once during that round Sally Ann had tried to turn away, but fascinated by the struggling men and the wildly cheering crowd, could not. As the round ended she stepped back from the window with white face and trembling hands.

"Whatever feller wins," said Dooris grimly, "he'll make a nice looking husband for ye, Sally Ann, with black eyes an' face all cut up. A han'som' husband he'll be. All the girls 'll wish they wuz you. Aw, ye'll have a fine weddin'!"

"Aren't ye goin' to fight, too? What yer talkin' so for?" cried Sally Ann indignantly.

"Me goin' to fight? Not much. 'Spose I'd go and get me eye knocked out and all thumped up and then ask ye to marry me? I ain't no measily Hun, I ain't. I see got more sense"—with a touch of anger. "Ef ye're goin' to marry a man that makes a fool on hisself like that, 'tain't no fault er mine, yer—"

A cheer from the crowd interrupted him. The men were fighting again, and as furiously as before. But their efforts were wild and weak. Their eyes were swollen and almost closed by the heavy blows. They were winded and their strength was waning, but they fought on. Now Williams was down, now Martin, and now they hung to each other from sheer weakness and struck feebly. Martin's mother, like a wild creature, ran up and down shrieking at her son and dashing cold water on him to wash away the blood and strengthen him, crying, "Land on the jaw and put him out," "Be careful, keep away."

"Oh, I can't stand this no longer," exclaimed Sally Ann at last; "the brutes are killing each other, an' I'm to blame. Oh, heaven save me! Take me away from here, Pat, take me away; I'm sick of it all. To think they're fightin' for me, too. Oh, tell 'em to stop. I won't have 'em, not if there was no other man in the world—if they was the only ones. Take me away, Pat."

"There ain't but one place I care to take ye, Sally Ann, an' if yer say so yer can go right now. Better have it all over with to onct. Will ye go? It's to the priest."

Sally Ann looked at him searchingly for a moment, and said: "Yer wouldn't fight for me, Pat, but I can like yer all the better, yer ain't a brute."

As they passed over the culm bank, hand in hand, there was a wild cheer behind them, and looking back they saw the crowd breaking up, while some of the men triumphantly carried on their shoulders a bruised and bleeding form. Who it was they could not see.

ROMANCES OF DESCENT.

Peasant People of Wessex Who Claim Relationship to Royal Families.

Mr. Hardy has shown in "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" that in his favorite Wessex there are living simple peasant people who are descended from some of the best families in the country. The same conditions are no doubt to be found all over the country, and the latest illustration adds one more romance to the history of the Stuart house. In Cardiff there is living, quietly and simply, a gentleman who claims to be a lineal descendant of the line of Charles I. Charles Stuart is his name, and he is the inventor of many ingenious mechanical contrivances. The family's faith in their descent is very strong, and in vindication of it the eldest son is always named Charles, says the London Chronicle.

In its way this case is as interesting as that of the Sobieski Stuarts, who are buried in the Catholic church yard at Eskdale, 17 miles from Inverness, with a Celtic cross over their heads, setting forth their union in life and in death. They claimed to be the sons of the only son of Prince Charles Edward Stuart and the Countess of Albany. This son, according to the story, was brought up as Lieut. Thomas Allen, of the royal navy, and in 1792 married a daughter of the vicar of Godalming. The two young men both married into good Scotch families.

Putting It Strong. She—Do you believe in that old adage about lovers living on cheese and kisses?

He—Well, it would depend a good deal on the cheese. After eating some cheese it would take a strong stomach to indulge in kisses.—Chicago Daily News.

HARRISBURG LETTER

Measures That Occupy the Attention of the Lawmakers.

THE SUPERIOR COURT BILL.

House Refuses to Recall the Measure From the Governor—The District Attorney Fee Bill Among the Measures Receiving Executive Approval.

Harrisburg, May 21.—By a vote of 83 to 46 the house last night laid on the table a concurrent resolution recalling from the governor for amendment the senate bill relative to minority representation in the superior court. The resolution was offered by Mr. Haag, of Schuylkill, and was generally supported by the Democrats.

The Cressy resolution fixing June 1 for final adjournment was referred to the rules committee by a vote of 73 to 56. Mr. Cressy offered a resolution subsequently fixing June 14 to adjourn and gave notice that he would call it up today.

The Paul resolution directing that the apportionment bills be taken up tomorrow for first reading and considered each day thereafter until they are disposed of was laid on the table.

The Hitchcock bill allowing trolley companies to carry freight, was reported with a negative recommendation.

Mr. Davis, of Fayette, offered a resolution, which was defeated, that his bill, which was reported adversely, requiring trolley companies to enclose the platforms of their cars in inclement weather for the protection of the motormen and conductors be placed upon the calendar.

The senate held a brief session yesterday afternoon and then adjourned until 8 o'clock tonight. There were only four bills on the first reading calendar, all of which were read and advanced to second reading.

The house bill prohibiting the use of boracic acid, silylicic acid, salicylate of soda or any other injurious compound for the preservation of meat, fish or any article of human food was defeated by one vote on Wednesday of last week.

Among bills recommitted to committees were: House bill increasing the number of mine inspectors from eight to sixteen and providing for their election by the people residing in anthracite coal producing counties; house bill requiring the weighing of anthracite coal before it is screened; senate bill prohibiting the sale of canned goods for human consumption unless the year of the canning is stamped or blown upon the bottom of the can or other receptacle.

The senate insisted on the amendments to the house bill regulating the salaries of county officers in counties having a population between 250,000 and 500,000 and the president appointed a conference committee.

The senate confirmed the appointments sent in by the governor, among them being the nomination of Aaron B. Hassler, of Lancaster, as controller of Lancaster county.

A bill providing for submission to the voters every two years of the question of local option on liquor licenses was introduced by Mr. Emery, of Mercer.

A concurrent resolution directing the appropriations committee to report all bills not later than May 20 and fixing June 15 for final adjournment, was offered in the house last Wednesday by Mr. Garner, of Schuylkill. A long debate followed, at the conclusion of which the resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 93 to 28.

Bills allowing trolley companies to carry freight and limiting to ten hours a day's work on trolley lines were adversely reported from the city passenger railways committee.

Among bills passed finally by the senate Thursday of last week were: House bill taxing trust companies two cents on each \$1,000 of trust funds for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the state bank department for examining the accounts of trust companies; house bill providing for an additional law judge in Northumberland county.

The senate defeated the Johnston house bill relating to the contest of primary elections and regulating proceedings thereto.

The house bill providing for the election of mine inspectors by the voters of the anthracite counties, and increasing the number of inspectors from 8 to 16 was reported from the mining committee with amendments. One amendment provides that the present inspectors remain in office until their terms expire and another increases the term of the new inspectors from three to five years.

Among senate bills passed finally by the house Thursday of last week was one providing for minority representation in the superior court after 1909, when more than three judges are to be elected at the same time.

Governor Stone signed several bills last Friday, among them: Authorizing canal companies to furnish water power for domestic, manufacturing and commercial purposes; providing that when application is made for a transfer of a liquor license the application shall be advertised the same as original applications for such license and that residents of the ward, borough or township shall have the same right to remonstrate against such transfer as against applications for original licenses; requiring county auditors and district attorneys and their assistants in counties having a population of over 150,000 to turn into the county treasury their official fees.

MRS. MCKINLEY'S IMPROVEMENT

No Date Yet Set For the Journey to Washington.

San Francisco, May 21.—Mrs. McKinley passed a very good afternoon and the president is very cheerful over her improved condition. The above announcement was made at the Scott residence last night. While Mrs. McKinley did not leave her bed yesterday, she passed a considerable time propped up, and rested well. While no definite date has been set for the president's departure, the present arrangements are to go direct to Washington, and not to Canton, as has been unofficially stated. Secretary Hay and other members of the cabinet will remain with the president until Mrs. McKinley shall be able to travel, when they will all go east together.

Death of Ex-Mayor "Pat" Gleason.

New York, May 21.—Patrick J. Gleason, former mayor of Long Island City and popularly known as "Battie" Gleason, died at his home in that place last night, aged about 70 years. Gleason came from Ireland a poor boy, went to California and accumulated \$20,000 in beef contracts, and then returned east. He built the first street railroad between Hunter's Point and Cavalry cemetery, working himself with pick and shovel with a gang of men. He drove the first car and continued to do this until he could afford to place more cars on the road. He acted not only as driver, but as conductor, starter, cashier, teamster, independent and repairer for the line. He had one car and three horses. His business grew until he owned several lines. He became older man and mayor, serving in the last office several terms.

The Albany Strike Ended.

Albany, N. Y., May 20.—The great railroad strike, lasting 12 days, requiring the presence of 3,000 members of the national guard in the city, and the lives of two prominent merchants and entailing an expense to the county of Albany of over \$39,000, is amicably settled, and if the agreements are kept there will be no trouble for three years at least. The men get some wage increases and other concessions and the company has the right to employ men and is not compelled to recognize the union.

The President to Address Soldiers.

San Francisco, May 21.—The president has promised to talk to the Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Infantry regiments, United States volunteers, who have just returned from the Philippines, and are now in camp at the Presidio. The day has not yet been set, but the president has promised that he will notify Gen. Shafter the night before he intends to make the promised speech.

Victory For the New Challenger.

Hyde, Isle of Wight, May 21.—Shamrock II yesterday defeated Shamrock I by about a minute in a ten mile race. Early in the race it looked as though the new challenger was doomed to defeat, but this was due to the fact that the sails were not then sheeted home and the manner in which she caught the challenger in cross tacking suggests that she will probably come with even more credit from future trials.

Three Drowned in a Mine Flood.

Hazleton, Pa., May 20.—A heretofore unknown body of water was tapped in the Silver Brook mine yesterday and three men, Sam Klingsman, foreman, and Fred O'Donnell and Alexander Gallagher, driver, who ran toward the face of the tunnel when the rush occurred, are believed to have been drowned or smothered. Klingsman is survived by a family. The other victims are single. The water was released by a shot fired by one of the 50 men engaged in the breast it came down so suddenly that all had to run for their lives. All escaped except the three mentioned.

Don't Marry

Almost everybody remembers the celebrated advice of the London Punch, "Don't marry." This is in that advice the expression of the feeling of many a mother who says,



Do not allow an unscrupulous dealer to sell you something in place of the favorite Prescription, claimed to be "as good." There is nothing just as good for women as "Favorite Prescription." "I am so pleased with your instructions, I hardly know what to thank you for. I am so kind yours," writes Mrs. M. M. Bryant of St. Thomas Co., Ga. "You can publish my statements to the world, saying all the good women will know and be healed. I suffered much with great pains in my back and lower part of my stomach and pains in the heart, that at times I could hardly get up and could hardly get up in the morning after using three bottles of 'Favorite Prescription' and two vials of Dr. Pierce's Female Pellets. I feel like a new woman."