

Absentminded Jones

By CYRUS BERICKSON

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The sign on the village store read, "Jones & Co., Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Etc.," but there was no "Co." It was put on by Jones because he thought it would look well and somehow increase his importance. Satisfied Jones was Jones & Co., and the only who knew him. He was a successful merchant, and at the same time he was so absentminded that he was daily laughed at by scores of people. His store was by all odds the largest establishment of its kind for miles around, and for many years he had had four male clerks in his employ. Then one day, to keep up with the times, he gave a place to a young woman, and Miss Minnie Trent made her debut behind the counter at which most of the women customers made their purchases.

In taking in Miss Minnie, Jones had aided a worthy widow and a smart and good looking daughter to eke out their income, and he deserved all credit for it. True, he called her Minnie or Miss Trent half the time, and there were occasions when he looked at her and wondered where he could possibly have seen her before, but he was a good employer and she a smart salesgirl, and things went along without any trouble.

One of the three male clerks in the store was named James Thomas, and it was generally understood in the village that he was "sweet" on Minnie. Some said that it was through his influence that she secured the place, but that was not true. One of the other clerks was a bachelor of forty-five. Nobody could ever understand how he turned to merchant. He seemed to be as slow witted as he was slow footed, and his personal appearance was anything but prepossessing. It was doubtful if any other merchant except Jones would have employed him at any wages, but Jones wanted honest people about him, and he had the highest confidence in Albert Ross.

Things had been running smoothly at the store for months and months, when there came such an interruption as had never been known before. A woman lost a purse containing \$50. There were not half a dozen people in the store at the time, and she was sitting down at the counter presided over by Miss Trent. Search was made at once and continued for half an hour. Jones had left the store five minutes before the alarm was raised to get an early dinner and attend a funeral, and he did not learn of the loss until several hours after. Then he proceeded to a judicial examination. He called in the constable and the justice of the peace, and the employees were examined and cross examined. The loser was firm in saying that no other person except Miss Minnie was at the counter when the purse was changed, and, although she made no charge, there could be but one inference. She herself was permitted to search the protesting and indignant girl, and a thorough search was made above and under the counters and all over the store, but nothing was brought to light. Then Jones did the right thing. He handed the woman \$50, with his compliments and regrets, and said nothing further to the clerks. Nothing further would have been said by any one had not the woman talked.

Anything is a sensation in a village. The fact that \$50 had been lost in Jones & Co. was a big sensation, bigger than a circus and a Fourth of July in one. People at once divided off. One half of them were sure that the daughter of the widow had yielded to the sudden temptation and concealed the purse for her future benefit. The other half charitably argued that some one else had picked it up or even that there had been no loss at all. Jones & Co. tried to pass the affair over and hush it up, but the people wouldn't have it that way. It was a good thing to hang on to until some woman eloped or some man stole sheep, and it became a leading and a burning question. It resulted in quarrels between neighbors, and those quarrels finally resulted in Miss Trent being called a thief and having to take legal countenance of it by bringing a suit for slander. The defendant in that suit swore out a warrant for the girl on a charge of having appropriated the \$50, and there was as pretty a kettle of fish as a town ever saw.

Jones & Co. and the three clerks were placed in an unfortunate position. While all of them fully believed in the girl's innocence, their testimony on a suit would hardly favor her. If the purse was lost at her counter, as the loser was ready to swear, then it must be admitted that only the two were there at the time.

Things certainly looked very bad for Miss Trent, and the mental worry had put her under the doctor's care, when a strange thing happened. Albert Ross, the old bachelor clerk, went before the justice of the peace and charged himself with the offense and made a full confession. In this confession he admitted to passing the counter while clerk and customer were busy looking at goods and to have seen the purse and slipped it into his pocket. He had destroyed the purse, but he was ready to restore the money. He asked to be arrested, tried and punished, and in the course of a week he was arraigned and bound over to a higher court for trial.

If there had been excitement before there was a sensation now. While Miss Trent's character was cleared, other people hesitated to believe that Albert Ross was a thief. However, when a man says he is a thief, swears that he is a thief and demands that he be sent to prison as a thief, what are you going to do about it? The key to unlock the mystery was kicking around underfoot all the time, but nobody could see it.

The trial in the higher court came along in about a month, and Ross pleaded guilty and was sent to state prison for a year. The key to unlock the mystery was kicking around underfoot all the time, but nobody could see it.

MY CHANGEABLE LOVER

[Original.]
I have a lover.
My lover's name is Jack. Jack is at times feminine, at times masculine. Strange to say, I like my lover best when he is feminine. I suppose, to be strictly grammatical, I should say "when she is feminine," but there is no word in the English language which stands for "he or she." We use "he" or "him" to stand for both. Therefore whether he is acting like a man or a woman I shall call him "he."
Sometimes Jack pays me compliments, sometimes tells me the truth—if it is the truth—blurted it out suddenly and gruffly. He often criticizes my dress, at times approving of my costume at times deprecating it. I was dressed for a ball the other evening and, suddenly looking up, saw Jack regarding me intently. As my gaze met his an expression of admiration suddenly lit up his face.
"You are very pretty, dear," he said. "I'm glad you like my costume," I replied. "Have you any suggestions?" "It is perfect. You might take that rose from over your right temple and put it farther back. There; that will do. It is a great improvement."
I walked away from him, turning my head, while he kept his eye fixed on the rose.
"Very pretty," he said. "And your train follows you gracefully. You are sure to have plenty of attention this evening. Your card will be filled before you have been in the ballroom ten minutes. Then, when the fellows come up and ask for a dance, you will get your head, hold out your card and note their disappointment. It will be delightful."
If Jack would always talk to me like this I would like him better. But he doesn't. Sometimes he looks at me in a most unsatisfactory way and says what he likes.

THROWING THE DICE.

The Ancient Germans Were Famous Gamblers at This Game.
The invention of dice has been of old credited to Palamedes, the son of Nauplius, king of Euboea, about 1244 B. C., and also to a Greek soldier named Alea, which is the Latin for a die, but Herodotus assigns both dice and chess to the Lydians.
The ancient Germans would gamble away at dice all that they were worth and then their liberty, submitting to slavery if they lost. The sixteenth century Germans and Normans were all addicted to the game. Fox Talbot is of opinion that the Latin invented, if not the game, at least the name for the single point, which they called unus. The Germans, adopting this practice from the Greeks, translated the Greek corruption of unus into ass, which has now become ace. The root of this word lies in the Latin as, the monetary unit.
John of Salisbury in the twelfth century mentions ten different uses of the dice. Stow mentions two entertainments given by the city of London at which dice were in evidence—London Telegraph.

THE BIRD'S SONG.

It is Produced by a Unique Voice Organ in the Syrinx.
Birds have no vocal chords in the larynx, but they possess a unique voice organ in the syrinx, which is provided with what are really vocal chords of a very effective and complicated kind. This syrinx lies in the lower part of the windpipe and the upper part of the branching bronchus, but varies much in its exact position and details of structure in different birds.
Briefly it consists of a varying number of muscles, as many as from five to seven being found in the best songsters, attached to folds of membrane and the bony half rings, which at this part of the throat form a sort of enlarged Adam's apple.
Distinctness of the several muscles and the mode of their insertion indicate a bird's musical capability. The syrinx of the skylark and nightingale, for instance, is a marvel of adjusted muscle and membrane, while, on the other hand, the ostrich and some vultures have no voice organ, the pigeon has but little to show, and the common fowl has no muscles to modulate its cry.

OLD ROMAN HATPINS.

That deadly implement, the hatpin of modern times, is a descendant of an equally formidable toilet article used by Roman women. The Aspasias and the Cleopatra of the ancients used themselves a couple of thousand years or more ago, to the undoing of the particular Balbus or Marcus who desired to fascinate, wore bone hairpins of prodigious length. Yet, like the women of this present time, they seem to have experienced the same difficulty in keeping them in place. This fact came to light during excavations at Stichester, near Reading, England, a hundred or so of these bone hairpins being found in the Roman bath, collected mainly by the bath attendant, to prove a few centuries later that there is nothing new under the sun and that in all ages the same little follies have been possessed by women.

ZUNI FAMILY LIFE.

A Village Looks Like a Huge Hive of Clay on a Sandy Knoll.
The little half civilized children of Zuni so aroused my curiosity that we drove through forty miles of sand and saguaro, from the railroad at Fort Winkate, to pay them a visit. As the Indians do not provide for travelers we took our hotel with us—tents, beds and food—and camped just outside their village. The village looks like a huge beehive made of clay and stuck fast to the top of a sandy knoll. The hive is filled with a mass of cells—800 single rooms, placed side by side and piled in rows one on top of another.
In each of these rooms lives a Zuni family. There are no inside stairways leading from story to story, but if the boys and girls living in one row wish to pay a visit to a house above them they must go outdoors and climb a ladder. On the slope between the village and the Zuni river are a number of small vegetable gardens, each one enclosed by a mud wall. Zuni has no lina, no sheep, no onions, not even proper streets, but only narrow alleys that thread their way through the strange town. As we walked through the village all the world came out to see us. Girls and boys clustered on the roofs or sat on the eaves—grew little cones of mud which serve as a sort of chimney for the smoke of a girl's kiling face filled the opening. We must have looked strange enough in our hats and gloves and long skirts—Maria Bruce Kimball in St. Nicholas.
The latest Weddings.
The love of independence and the freedom and pleasure of today make girls less and less anxious to marry before they are past five and twenty. Perhaps it is better that there should be that disinclination, for our modern life may fit a lady better to marry late than early. Lady Jeanie in London Opinion.

AN ORDINANCE.

TO VACATE A PORTION OF CROSS STREET, IN THE BOROUGH OF DANVILLE, MONTOUR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHERE IT CROSSES THE TRACKS OF THE PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILWAY COMPANY AT GRADE AND IN LIEU THEREOF TO EXTEND "A" STREET IN THE SAID BOROUGH, UNDER THE TRACKS OF THE SAID RAILWAY COMPANY, TO WALNUT STREET, IN THE SAID BOROUGH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, a certain petition signed by the majority in interest and number of owners of property abutting on the line of the proposed improvement, was duly presented to the Chief Burgess and Town Council of the Borough of Danville at a regular and stated meeting of the said Town Council, setting forth, among other things, that the part or portion of Cross street, in the said Borough, which is crossed at grade by the tracks of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company is dangerous to public travel and is a constant menace to life and limb in its present location, and that a much safer and more practical route for all such public travel could be readily obtained by an under-grade crossing of the said railway at "A" street, thereby connecting the latter street directly with Walnut street, in the said Borough; and that it was therefore expedient that such part or portion of Cross street between its northern intersection with Nicholas Avenue and its southern intersection with said Walnut street be properly vacated and that in lieu thereof said "A" street be extended from its intersection with Columbia and Nicholas avenues in a southerly direction, under, and at right angles with, the tracks of the said railway company, to Walnut street aforesaid; and the petitioner was the sole owner of all property thus abutting on the line of the proposed improvement and as such was the only party entitled to statutory notice preliminary and subsequent to the enactment of an ordinance in such behalf; that the said petitioner thereupon and therein waived all such statutory notice to which it would be otherwise legally entitled, and respectfully requested that the necessary and proper ordinance for the above purpose be at once duly enacted without any other preliminary or subsequent proceedings as to such notice being had in the premises.

AND WHEREAS, the said petitioner, being a majority in interest and number of owners of property as aforesaid, in the said petition therein expressly waived all statutory notice preliminary and subsequent to the enactment of the ordinance that such ordinance be at once duly enacted without any other preliminary or subsequent proceedings as to such notice being had in the premises.

AND WHEREAS, it thus clearly appears that a majority in interest and number of owners of property abutting on the line of the proposed improvement are in favor of the said improvement and that such improvement is of manifest advantage and necessary to the safety of the traveling public in general and especially to the inhabitants of that locality in the said Borough of Danville.

AND WHEREAS, the Danville and Bloomsburg Street Railway Company, its successors and assigns, in consideration of certain privileges and franchises to be and therein hereinafter granted by the said Borough of Danville, have covenanted and agreed with the said Borough of Danville to make such extension of "A" street at its and their own proper cost and expense, and to fully indemnify and save harmless the said Borough of Danville from any and all damages, individual property, or otherwise whatsoever, that may accrue in, or be in any wise incidental to, the construction of such extension of "A" street as well as to keep such extension of "A" street, when thus constructed, in proper condition and repair at all times.

THEREFORE, be it ordained and enacted by the Chief Burgess, and by the Town Council of the Borough of Danville, in the County of Montour and State of Pennsylvania, in Council assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. That all that certain part or portion of Cross street between its northern intersection with Nicholas Avenue in the Fourth Ward of the said Borough of Danville and its southern intersection with Walnut street in the Third Ward of the said Borough of Danville be vacated upon the completion and acceptance by the said Borough of Danville of the said under-grade extension of "A" street to be constructed in lieu thereof as is in the next Section of this ordinance more specifically provided.

SECTION 2. That said "A" street, in the Fourth Ward of the said Borough of Danville, be extended from its intersection with Columbia and Nicholas avenues in a southerly direction, under, and at right angles with, the tracks of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company, to Walnut street, in the Third Ward of the said Borough of Danville.

SECTION 3. That the said extension of "A" street shall be made by the said Danville and Bloomsburg Street Railway Company at its own cost and expense, under the direction and control of the committee of the said Town Council on Streets and Bridges in conjunction with the Street Commissioner of the said Borough of Danville, and in strict conformity with such terms, maps, plans and specifications as shall be provided therefor by the said Borough of Danville, and that it will fully complete the said extension of "A" street within the period of ninety days from the time that this ordinance takes legal effect.

SECTION 4. That in making the said extension of "A" street the said Danville and Bloomsburg Street Railway Company shall fully indemnify and save harmless the said Borough of Danville from the payment of, or liability for, any and all damages,

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AND WHEREAS, the said petitioner, being a majority in interest and number of owners of property as aforesaid, in the said petition therein expressly waived all statutory notice preliminary and subsequent to the enactment of the ordinance that such ordinance be at once duly enacted without any other preliminary or subsequent proceedings as to such notice being had in the premises.

AND WHEREAS, it thus clearly appears that a majority in interest and number of owners of property abutting on the line of the proposed improvement are in favor of the said improvement and that such improvement is of manifest advantage and necessary to the safety of the traveling public in general and especially to the inhabitants of that locality in the said Borough of Danville.

AND WHEREAS, the Danville and Bloomsburg Street Railway Company, its successors and assigns, in consideration of certain privileges and franchises to be and therein hereinafter granted by the said Borough of Danville, have covenanted and agreed with the said Borough of Danville to make such extension of "A" street at its and their own proper cost and expense, and to fully indemnify and save harmless the said Borough of Danville from any and all damages, individual property, or otherwise whatsoever, that may accrue in, or be in any wise incidental to, the construction of such extension of "A" street as well as to keep such extension of "A" street, when thus constructed, in proper condition and repair at all times.

THEREFORE, be it ordained and enacted by the Chief Burgess, and by the Town Council of the Borough of Danville, in the County of Montour and State of Pennsylvania, in Council assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. That all that certain part or portion of Cross street between its northern intersection with Nicholas Avenue in the Fourth Ward of the said Borough of Danville and its southern intersection with Walnut street in the Third Ward of the said Borough of Danville be vacated upon the completion and acceptance by the said Borough of Danville of the said under-grade extension of "A" street to be constructed in lieu thereof as is in the next Section of this ordinance more specifically provided.

SECTION 2. That said "A" street, in the Fourth Ward of the said Borough of Danville, be extended from its intersection with Columbia and Nicholas avenues in a southerly direction, under, and at right angles with, the tracks of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company, to Walnut street, in the Third Ward of the said Borough of Danville.

SECTION 3. That the said extension of "A" street shall be made by the said Danville and Bloomsburg Street Railway Company at its own cost and expense, under the direction and control of the committee of the said Town Council on Streets and Bridges in conjunction with the Street Commissioner of the said Borough of Danville, and in strict conformity with such terms, maps, plans and specifications as shall be provided therefor by the said Borough of Danville, and that it will fully complete the said extension of "A" street within the period of ninety days from the time that this ordinance takes legal effect.

SECTION 4. That in making the said extension of "A" street the said Danville and Bloomsburg Street Railway Company shall fully indemnify and save harmless the said Borough of Danville from the payment of, or liability for, any and all damages,

Dr. King's Discovery

A Remedy for all Throat and Chest Troubles. Treats Hoarseness, Croup, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, etc.

| Station | Time |
|------------|------------|
| Danville | 7:00 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | 7:30 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | 8:00 A.M. |
| Danville | 8:30 A.M. |
| Danville | 9:00 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | 9:30 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | 10:00 A.M. |
| Danville | 10:30 A.M. |
| Danville | 11:00 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | 11:30 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | 12:00 P.M. |
| Danville | 12:30 P.M. |
| Danville | 1:00 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 1:30 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 2:00 P.M. |
| Danville | 2:30 P.M. |
| Danville | 3:00 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 3:30 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 4:00 P.M. |
| Danville | 4:30 P.M. |
| Danville | 5:00 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 5:30 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 6:00 P.M. |
| Danville | 6:30 P.M. |
| Danville | 7:00 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 7:30 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 8:00 P.M. |
| Danville | 8:30 P.M. |
| Danville | 9:00 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 9:30 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 10:00 P.M. |
| Danville | 10:30 P.M. |
| Danville | 11:00 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 11:30 P.M. |
| Blacksburg | 12:00 A.M. |

How to Save Traveling Bags.

A mother with two little girls who were dirty white hats wreathed with flowers on a train for a short journey. Instead of permitting the pretty hats to become grimy and dusty, as is too often the case with juvenile travelers who took them from the hands of their mothers when she had consented to let them sit on the train. After carefully placing the hats each in a paper bag large enough to hold them without crushing she deposited them in the rack overhead. At the end of her journey the hats were unwrapped and the large throng from the car window. The small girls looked out from their seats, as they were looking upon their mothers, as they met grandfather at the station.

J. J. BROWN,

THE EYE SPECIALTY.
Eyes tested, treated, fitted with glasses or contact lenses. Artificial eyes supplied. Market Street, Bloomsburg, Pa. Hours—10 a. m. to 5 p. m.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD TIME TABLE

In Effect Nov. 29th, 1903.

| Station | Time |
|------------|-----------|
| Danville | 7:00 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | 7:30 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | 8:00 A.M. |
| Danville | 8:30 A.M. |
| Danville | 9:00 A.M. |
| Blacksburg | |