

## THANKS TO THE METER.

By James Clegg.

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"Please, have you a quarter?" The girl from across the hall held out a tiny hand, in the palm of which were displayed three nickels and a dime.

Keenly conscious that there was a hole, a most comfortable and satisfactory hole, in the elbow of his smoking jacket, Digby held out his own hand, unclosing his fingers to display the desired coin.

"Did you know what I was coming after?" she said, with a laugh. Digby had never heard her laugh before. It was a low, rippling laugh, almost as attractive as her smile. He wondered how he could improve his opportunity. Ever since she had moved in he had wanted to know the girl across the hall. Had his mother been home it would have been all simpler, but he had been keeping bachelor hall for nearly three months.

"Did you know I wanted the quarter?" she repeated. Digby pulled himself together.

"I am a seventh son," he declared solemnly. "I know that you want the quarter. I can see you returning to your apartment. I can see you climbing on a chair and dropping the coin into the gas meter. I can see the light growing bright again. Great is the automatic meter—when you have a quarter."

"Yes, when," she cried. "The other day we only had a check, and no one could cash it."

"Say no more," he commanded tragically. "I know the rest."

"I'm very much obliged," she said gratefully. "You are sure you won't need one?"

"Not at all," he assured. As though to prove him false the gas in his hall grew dim. "I have more change," he explained, "and it's all right."

He watched her regretfully as she slipped back into her own apartment. He had planned many brilliant encounters in which he would hold her enthralled by his wit, and they would live



"IT WAS AWFULLY BRAVE OF YOU, BEN," SHE WHISPERED.

happily ever after. Instead he had never been so dull, and perhaps he had lost his chance.

The gas had gone out as he closed the door and slipped into the kitchen. He knew very well that it was useless to search for a quarter. He had found the one he had just given up only after a search. He would have to fall back on candles. There were half a dozen in the dining room, and by lighting four he managed to read after a fashion.

But he had scarcely seated himself on his reading when the doorbell rang again. He wondered who it might be now as he made his way down the dark hall. The girl across the hall stood there again.

"You fished," she said reproachfully. "You said you had another quarter for yourself. You let me drop yours in our meter, and we can see across the shaft that you're using candles."

"I rather like them," he assured, but she would have none of it.

"You were just going to drop the coin in your meter," she cried. "That is why you had it in your hand."

In the face of deduction he was dumb. The girl went on:

"I know you can't go downstairs to get change because you hurt your ankle. It wouldn't be any use anyway. It's Sunday, and only the drug store is open, and they are all out of quarters. I was down there just before I asked you for one. Mother says you must come in to our flat and read. You may smoke all you like. We don't mind it in the least."

"I am very comfortable," he protested.

The opportunity he had longed for had come, and he was too bashful to avail himself of it. In the end the girl in her masterful little way carried her point. Presently he was installed in the pleasant parlor and was telling motherly Mrs. Fallows all about his trials without his mother.

"It must be so lonesome for you," she cried. "Why didn't you come to us long ago?"

"I've wanted to," he admitted frankly. "Sometimes I've seen the light, and I've been so homesick. We only moved here just before my grandmother's illness took mother west, and I never got acquainted with any one. All of our friends live on the other side of town."

"We come from the country, where we are used to being neighborly," she explained. "I want you to feel that you are welcome here any time."

There was a sincerity in her tones that brought a genial glow to Digby's heart, and the girl (he knew now her name was Ethel) seconded her mother with a glance.

That night was but the beginning of a new life for Digby. The following evening he brought home a box of candy as a return courtesy and was in-

stinctly to spend the evening, so gradually he fell into the habit of dropping in after dinner. There were trips to the theater, little excursions on Sunday, and even when he had word from his mother that she had decided to remain west for the summer he did not offer objection.

The more he was with Ethel the more deeply in love he became. He had never known many women, and this charming girl was the first he had ever loved. Often he would declare to himself that he would propose, but each time his courage failed him.

Then one night came the climax. The gas began to flicker and burn low, and Ethel left the room to drop in the coin that would turn on the flow again. He heard a match strike in the kitchen, where the gas had not been lit, then came an explosion, and he rushed down the narrow hall.

In some fashion the meter had sprung a leak, and the lighted match had caused the ignition of the gas. Ethel, her light gown ablaze, came staggering blindly toward him. He had his coat off before they met and threw it about her shoulders, forcing her to the carpet that the blaze might not be able to gain headway toward her face. The gas in the apartment had been extinguished, and he was forced to work in the dark, but he beat out the flames with his hand and then rushed into the kitchen to check the flow of gas.

It was easy to extinguish the flames there and shut off the gas at the inlet. Then he opened the doors from their apartment to his and bore her in his arms to his mother's room. Mrs. Fallows followed and took charge of the girl while he went for the doctor.

It was some hours later that he was permitted to see Ethel. She had asked for him, her mother said, and he stole gently into the room. She put out her mangled hand and smiled up at him. In some miraculous fashion her face had not been touched by the flames, though her masses of golden hair were crisp and blackened.

"It was awfully brave of you, Ben," she whispered as he bent over her. "When that explosion came the first thing I thought was that I was so glad that you were there. I knew you would help me. The doctor says you saved my life by putting the fire out so quickly."

"Any one could have done it," he protested, "but I'm glad I was I."

"So am I," she answered. "I'd like to be around all the time, if you'll let me," he went on in sudden bravado.

"I was afraid you were getting to look on me more as a sister," she said as the blood came slowly into her cheeks. "Are you sure, Ben, that it's not just because of the accident?"

"The accident has nothing to do with it," he protested, "except that the thought of how I might have lost you gave me the courage to speak."

"I think," she smiled faintly, "that we ought to be very grateful to that gas meter. That's how I first met you, you remember."

### THE FREEZING PROCESS.

Why It Is That Ice at Times Will Crack or Burst.

Ice never bursts from freezing. As soon as the liquid of which it is composed is frozen solid expansion ceases. The cracking or bursting of ice is brought about in this way: When water is subjected to extreme cold ice crystals will gradually form on its surface until the same are covered with a thin coat of what appears to be wet snow. From this outer coating of ice crystals all subsequent freezing goes downward, the ice thickening according to the degree of cold. The water which is being converted into ice now begins to expand, creating a pressure upon the unfrozen water below. This pressure is both downward and outward, and in case the water under observation is in a vessel the sides and bottom of the receptacle supply the resistance.

As the freezing process continues the pressure upon the confined water and air in the interior of the bulk increases until something yields. If the vessel be stronger than the ice stratum that has formed over the surface the layer of ice will be bent upward at the center, that being the weakest point, on account of the fact that the outer edges of the congealed mass are frozen fast to the sides of the vessel in which the experiment is being made. In this condition the center of the ice continues to rise or bulge until it bursts from the resistance of the water below. Could the vessel be tapped from below and the water drawn off no amount of freezing would be sufficient to crack or bulge the ice layer on the surface.

### THE "GWEED NEEBORS."

A Belief in Fairies Still Exists in Parts of Scotland.

There still lingers a widespread belief in the north of Scotland that the "fair folk," or "gweed neebors," as the fairies are called, still live in the hills, and during the first days of convalescence a mother must be zealously guarded lest one of the "wee people" come and rob the child of its nourishment. Sometimes they succeed in carrying off the mother. Here is one of the superstitions legends:

A north country fisher had a fine child. One evening a beggar woman entered the hut and went up to the cradle to gaze into the eyes of the babe. From that time good health left it, and a strange look came into its face, and the mother was troubled. An old man begging for food passed that way. When he caught sight of the child he cried:

"That's nae a bairn. It's an image, and the gweed folk has stoun his speerit."

Thereupon he set to work to recall the fisher's bairn. A peat fire was heaped high on the hearth and a black hen held over it at such a distance that it was singed and not killed. After some struggling the hen escaped up the lum. A few moments elapsed, and then the parents were gladdened by the sight of a happy expression once more on the child's face. It threw from that day forward.—Spectator.

After all regrets, life is good. To see the face of truth and enjoy the beauty of tears and smiles, to know oneself a man and love what belongs to manhood—all this is a blessing that may console us for all wants and that sickness and sorrow and, one may trust, death cannot take away.—John Sterling.

### A MADDENING PRANK.

The Queer Joke That Eugene Field Played on a Printer.

When Eugene Field was city editor of the Kansas City Times he found great amusement in annoying one of the characters employed on the paper. Ferguson was one of the "makeups" on the paper, and in Wyandotte, where he resided, just over the line from Kansas City, he was the leader of a local temperance society. For over a year Field, on coming down to the paper to go to work, would write a personal concerning Ferguson. Generally it ran like this: "Mr. John Ferguson, the well known 'makeup' of the Times composing room, appeared for work yesterday evening in his usual beastly state of intoxication." This entertaining bit Field would send down in a bundle of copy, and the others of the composing room would set it up and say nothing.

Poor Ferguson knew that this awful personal was in their midst and every night would go carefully over every galley for the purpose of locating and killing it. It gave him vast trouble. Every now and then Field would not write his personal about Ferguson, and then the bewildered Ferguson was worse off than ever. As long as he could not find it it might still be there. It almost drove the poor man off the paper. Now and then it escaped his eagle eye and was printed. On such occasions Ferguson's burdens were beyond the power of even a Christian spirit to bear.

### Old Medicine.

The following are among some of the fantastic cures proposed by the medical authorities of early times, as given by Dr. Hugo Magnus in his book, "Superstition in Medicine."

Remedy Against Bellachae: "Take the heart from the living hen and wear it as an amulet at the left thigh."

Remedy Against Epilepsy (advised by the Physician, Moschion, Diorthotes, Alexander of Tralles, Book I, Chapter XV, page 570): "The forehead of an ass tied to the skin of the patient, and worn."

Gather iris, peonies and nightshade when the moon is in the wane, pack them into linen and wear as an amulet." Advised by the magician Osthanes, Alexander of Tralles, Book I, Chapter XV, page 598.

### The Australian Natives.

An English author writes of the Australian natives: "Between tribe and tribe war for purposes of territorial aggrandizement is unknown. They may fight about women or in the blood feud, for, as nobody is supposed to die a natural death, every death is thought to be caused by hostile magic. Fights are not now resolutely waged, but merely to draw first blood, as a rule, and, as there are no conquests, there are no slaves and very little material progress. There are no hereditary chiefs, though among some socially advanced tribes a kind of magistracy or a 'moderators'hip' of local groups in the tribal general assembly is hereditary in the male line."

### THE GROOM MUST PAY.

Queer Marriage Custom Among the Quebec French Canadians.

A singular marriage custom prevails among the French Canadians in Quebec. After the morning marriage service in the church the bride and groom in calèche or carriage make a tour of calls upon relatives and friends during the day and then return again to church for vespers.

Before the evening dance at the bride's new home comes the supper. When the company rise from the table the bride keeps her seat, and some one asks with great dignity: "Why does madam wait? Is she so soon in bad grace?"

She replies: "Somebody has stolen my slipper. I cannot walk."

Then they carry her, chair and all, into the middle of the room, while a loud knocking announces a grotesque ragged vendor of boots and shoes. He kneels before the slipperless bride and tries on a long succession of old boots and shoes of every variety and size until at last he finds her missing shoe.

The groom redeems it for a good price, which is spent in treating the company. If the groom is not watchful they steal her hat and cloak, which he redeems in the same way, and they have been known to steal the bride, for which there must be liberal pay. The event of the evening is a good fitz, in which a guest volunteers to out-dance the bride. If successful the visitor demands a prize from the groom.—Pearson's Weekly.

### LEGAL ADVICE.

A Story Showing How Foolish It Is to Try to Get It For Nothing.

A young lawyer moved into a town where there was only one lawyer before—an old judge.

A close-fisted old farmer thought there was a good chance to get some legal advice from the young man gratis, so he dropped into his office, told him how glad he was that he had come into town, because the old judge was getting superannuated, and contrived in the course of his talk to get the legal information he wanted, and then bidding him good morning he was about to leave when the young man asked for his fee. "What for?" said the old man. "For legal advice," replied the young lawyer. "How much is it?" "Five dollars." The farmer declared he would never pay it, and the young lawyer told him if he didn't he would sue him. So the farmer trotted down to see the old judge, whom he found hoeing in his garden, and said, "Judge, I went this morning just simply to make a neighborly call on that young scamp of a lawyer who has just come into town and he charged me \$5." "Served you right," said the judge. "You'd no right to go to him." "Well, have I got to pay it?" "Certainly you have." "Well, then, if I must, I must. Good morning." "Hold on," said the judge. "Aren't you going to pay me?" "Pay you, what for?" "Why, for legal advice, of course." "What do you charge?" "Ten dollars." The result of which was the old fellow had to pay \$5 to the young lawyer and \$10 to the old one.

Moral.—Don't try to get legal advice for nothing.—Exchange.

### PUBLIC SALE

OF VALUABLE

### REAL ESTATE!

Estate of William Saul, deceased. By virtue of an order of the Orphans Court of Montour County, Pennsylvania, the undersigned will expose to public sale on the premises at Washingtonville on

Tuesday, July 30, 1907

at one o'clock P. M. the following described real estate:

FIRST: Hotel Stand. All that certain message, tenement and lot of South by lands of Washingtonville in the township of Derry in said county, bounded and described as follows, on the North by Front street, on the East by lands late of Joseph Hartman, deceased now William Saul estate and tract herein after described, on the South by lands of Martin Kelly estate and on the West by Water street, containing one half acre of land more or less,—whereon are erected a

LARGE TWO STORY FRAME HOTEL, large Livery Barn and other necessary outbuildings; a good well of water at the Hotel. This is one of the best Hotel stands in Montour county.

SECOND: All that certain piece or parcel of land in said township of Derry, adjoining the above described lot, described as follows:—Beginning at the corner of the lot above described in the centre of the public street leading from Washingtonville to Jerseytown, called Front street, thence along line of lands of above described lot and Martin Kelly estate South two and one-half degrees West sixty-two perches to centre of creek, thence up the creek South seventy-seven and three-quarters degrees East five and twenty-five hundredths perches to post in creek, thence by other lands of Joseph Hartman's estate North two and one-half degrees East, sixty-four and fifteen hundredths perches to centre of public road or Front street aforesaid, thence along said Front street South seventy-eight and three-quarters degrees West five and twenty-five hundredths perches to post in public road corner of first described lot, the place of beginning, containing two acres of land.

This last tract can be cut up into building lots. It adjoins the line of the Borough of Washingtonville and being in the township the taxes are much lower than in the Borough.

The sale will commence at one o'clock sharp.

Terms of sale, 50 per cent. to be paid at the striking down of property and the balance in one year from confirmation of sale by the court, with interest, to be secured by mortgage. All conveyancing to be paid by purchaser.

For further information call upon the undersigned.

THOMAS K. GRESH, Administrator, Washingtonville, Pa. WM. KASE WEST, Atty., Danville, Pa.

### Orphan's Court Sale

OF VALUABLE

### REAL ESTATE!

Estate of David Clark, Late of the Borough of Danville, deceased.

Pursuant to an order of the Orphan's Court of Montour County to heretofore made, the undersigned, as acting executrix of the last will and testament of the said David Clark deceased, will expose to public sale upon the premises, Nos. 104 & 106 Mill Street, Danville, Pa., on

Thursday, Aug. 8, '07

at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the said day the following described real estate of the said decedent, to wit:

All that certain message or tenement and town lot of land situate in the First Ward of the Borough of Danville, in the County of Montour and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, viz: Beginning at the southwest corner of lot of Elizabeth Gosh on the eastern side of Mill street, thence in an easterly direction along the said lot of the said Elizabeth Gosh and at right angles with Mill Street aforesaid ninety-five feet to lot of William L. Sidler, thence in a southwesterly direction along the said lot of the said William L. Sidler and parallel with Mill street aforesaid twenty-five feet to a corner of the said lot of the said William L. Sidler, thence in a westerly direction along the said lot of the said William L. Sidler and at right angles with Mill Street aforesaid ninety-five feet to the northwestern corner of the said lot of the said William L. Sidler on the eastern site of Mill Street aforesaid, thence in a northwesterly direction along the said eastern side of Mill Street aforesaid twenty-five feet to the said southwestern corner of the said lot of the said Elizabeth Gosh, the place of beginning with the appurtenances, and whereupon is erected

A TWO STORY BRICK BUILDING solely occupied by offices.

TERMS OF SALE:—Twenty-five per cent. of the purchase money shall be paid in cash at the striking down of the property and the balance thereof shall be paid on the absolute confirmation of the sale.

Deed to be delivered to the purchaser or purchasers thereof on such absolute confirmation of such sale and upon payment of the entire purchase money, and the cost of writing such deed shall be paid for by such purchaser or purchasers.

CORDELLA E. GEARHART, Acting Executrix of the last will and testament of David Clark deceased, Danville, Pa., July 3rd, 1907. Edward Sayre Gearhart, Counsel.

### Moisten the Buttonhole.

Every man knows the difficulty and agony of a refractory collar stud. With a breakfast to eat, a train to catch and an appointment to keep, few things are more maddening than the collar which simply will not ally itself to the stud. But few things are so easy to remedy. All that is necessary is to dip the thumb and forefinger in water and slightly moisten the obstinate buttonhole. Then the stud slips in without a murmur.

### A Fact.

De Style—Call a man a brick and he feels pleased. Gunbusta—He does. De Style—But call him a hard, red, inanimate, oblongated object and he'll resent it.

### SHERIFF'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

### REAL ESTATE

By virtue of a certain Levari Facias issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Montour County and to me directed, will be exposed to public sale at the Montour County Court house in the Borough of Danville, in the County of Montour and State of Pennsylvania, on

Saturday, Aug. 10, '07

at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the said day the following described real estate, viz:

All that certain message, tenement and lot of ground situate on the east side of Mill Street, in the Third Ward of the Borough of Danville, in the County of Montour and State of Pennsylvania aforesaid, bounded and described as follows, viz: On the south by lot of Henry L. Gross, on the east by ground reserved for a public alley, on the north by lot formerly of Margaret Keiner, now of David R. Eckman, and on the west by the line of Mill Street aforesaid, bounded and described as follows, viz: On the north by lot of Henry L. Gross, on the east by ground reserved for a public alley, on the north by lot formerly of Margaret Keiner, now of David R. Eckman, and on the west by the line of Mill Street aforesaid, bounded and described as follows, viz: On the north by lot of Henry L. Gross, on the east by ground reserved for a public alley, on the north by lot formerly of Margaret Keiner, now of David R. 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