

MISS NEW SOLOMON.

HOW SHE REACHED A DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP.

Testing Two Claimants For a Beautiful Bicycle—Justice Finally Triumphant In a Difficult Case Through Knowledge of the Masculine Nature.

The judge, the renowned Miss New Solomon, sat dignified in her seat of honor. Her decisions were famed the world over for clearness and justice. Great nations submitted their disputes to her for arbitration and were pleased to learn from her the truth of their positions. That she should sit dignified was therefore not to be wondered at, but there was perplexity in her countenance now. There was a case before her the like of which never had been known since her great namesake sat in judgment over two women who contended for a baby. In all her lawbooks, in all her experience, there was no suggestion of precedents for such a case as this.

As the matter stood to a casual observer it was this. Mr. George Wheeling, a beautiful mustached young man, dressed in gray knickerbockers, dark red sweater, brown and yellow golfing stockings and improved wheeling shoes, claimed that he was the sole and only owner of a fine silver and gold plated bicycle that was in the court for her honor to look at.

But there was another claimant, a young man just as beautifully mustached as Mr. Wheeling and quite as handsome otherwise, who appeared in brown corduroy knickerbockers, gray sweater, yellow and red golfing stockings and quite as improved shoes. This claimant was Mr. William Bicking.

Neither had witnesses, and so the learned judge questioned them and cross questioned them, but each seemed equally truthful, and the judge paused for the first time since she had sat in that high seat. Finally she arose from her chair and ordered the courtroom seats stacked around the sides. The audience was sent to the galleries, where it waited with breathless interest as the brawny court attendants carried out the judge's orders. The reporters were not disturbed, being inside the rail, and only the swish of the pencils broke the silence as the judge turned to Mr. Wheeling and said:

"Take that wheel, sir, and ride the best you know how." And the judge sat down and busied herself taking the hairpins out of her hair and then putting them back again.

Mr. Wheeling blushed very prettily as he gave his very baggy knickerbockers a twitch and prepared to mount. As gracefully as a bird he rose and settled in the saddle and began to ride. There was not a woman there whose heart did not jump. The men, of course, tried to see a fault, but even they could not help noticing that Mr. Wheeling seemed to fit the wheel exactly. A look fitting across the judge's face as of a smile was translated by one of the reporters as an indication that the decision was going in favor of the rider, and she sent out a full report of a decision then and there for the newsgathering organization of the city.

Mr. Wheeling rode in and around the massive pillars, backward, forward, turning all the beautiful figures, and in all the ways that pretty riders know how. The fitter on Judge New Solomon's mouth became a smile. As Mr. Wheeling dismounted Mr. Bicking came daintily forward, and as airily as a falling leaf landed in the saddle and began to ride. The applause that followed Mr. Wheeling's performance died away in wonderment.

When the reporter saw Mr. Bicking riding as gracefully as Mr. Wheeling, she gazed into the judge's face and saw there, instead of a decisive smile, a look of surprise, followed by the same old look of perplexity, whereupon she reached wildly for the nearest telegraph operator, and the recipients of the association's reports took out several columns of interesting matter and announced that the case was still under consideration.

When Mr. Bicking dismounted, the critics could point out no difference between the riding of the two graceful young men, and the judge looked as if she would like to have a good cry, but she bit her lips and restrained herself.

Here was a case that needed a measure entirely different from the usual method of deciding such things, and the judge determined to decide it according to masculine human nature as she understood it. So she stood up, and with a wave of her hand that silenced even the whispering of gossiping men, she spoke in measured tones and syllables: "Thus does this court decide. Listen, that you may distinctly hear. Rather than render a decision unworthy of this court, or fail to render one in any case, I do declare that the bicycle in question shall be bestowed on Miss Laura Bloomer unreservedly."

Mr. Wheeling turned to leave the court, giving Mr. Bicking a look that said plainly, "Anyhow you won't have it," while Mr. Bicking burst into tears.

At this the judge rose up, and in a voice that echoed through the courtroom said:

"Decision withdrawn, for it is plain to see now that the wheel belongs to Mr. Bicking. Poor fellow, take it!"—New York Sun.

Dr. Collyer's Appetite.

The Rev. Robert Collyer, while at the breakfast table of one of his friends in the country near Boston, was asked by one of the family, "Mr. Collyer, do you enjoy as good an appetite as you have in years past?" To which he replied, "My dear, if I lose the appetite I now have I hope no poor man will find it."

As Usual.

Lipper—In what frame of mind was Farringer when you saw him this morning?

Chipper—Same as usual—all frame; no mind.—Richmond Dispatch.

MINING OF PHOSPHATES.

Where Deposits Are Found and How They Are Prepared.

The Florida phosphate deposits are of great importance, yet their existence was discovered so recently and their extent is still so uncertain that few persons not engaged in the sale of fertilizing materials have much knowledge of the large industry which has sprung up in the Peninsular State. It has practically created a new city—Ocala—which had a population of but a few hundred in 1870, but is now a thriving business center with modern improvements, banking facilities and ample railway and transportation facilities. Engineering, the leading engineering journal of the world, makes the following statements concerning the region, which are of considerable interest as coming from an unbiased source: "There is no phosphate region in the world known today that possesses so many advantages for successful mining as the Florida deposits. The grade of material is the highest average that is being worked anywhere. The facilities for moving the products to points for distribution are good. The average distance from mines to ports for shipments is about 150 miles.

"The distributing stations for the hard rock district are Port Tampa, Fernandina, Brunswick and Savannah, the largest tonnage being moved from Fernandina, where storage bins are located and loading facilities are good. Port Tampa, the terminus of the Plant system of railroads, is constantly adding facilities for prompt handling of cargoes of phosphate and at present very nearly equals Fernandina in the amount of its shipments. Railroad are numerous and cheaply constructed when necessary to extend them into new sections. The machinery needed to mine and prepare the material is simple and inexpensive compared with that generally used in other mining operations, and the cost of a plant with sufficient land to work upon is within the reach of small investors. The working days at the mines are about 280 during the year. The climate is healthful, laborers readily obtained at a fair compensation, and skilled operatives are at hand who are becoming familiar with the business.

"The mining camps are generally well regulated, and proprietors and employees can reside at the mines with safety and with little inconvenience, as supplies of all kinds can be readily obtained at the towns located in the near vicinity of all the large mining fields. Telegraph and mail facilities are within easy access of nearly every mining camp in the state. Florida phosphates are mostly shipped to European ports and are manufactured into fertilizers in England, Ireland, Germany, France, and quite recently shipments have been made to the Sandwich Islands. Foreign agents of consumers and dealers in phosphates have their offices near the center of production, and contracts for delivery and prices are commonly fixed at a point of shipment, the material being sold at a price per unit of its contents of phosphate of lime. The Florida phosphates are all used in the manufacture of commercial fertilizers and superphosphate."—Boston Transcript.

THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

He Finds It Hard to Accustom Himself to Ordinary Hours of Living.

"My chief trouble now," said the retired burglar, "is about my hours. I have been so long accustomed to working nights and sleeping days that I find it difficult to change back to the hours of other folks. Instead of having my breakfast at 7 o'clock in the morning I have it at 7 o'clock in the evening. Some folks make their dinner the last meal in the day, but I never could get used to that. I can sleep better on a light meal, so I have my dinner in the middle of the day—I mean the middle of the night—and my supper about 5 o'clock in the morning.

"This schedule works all right for the first half of the night. There's plenty of life then, and I can go to the theater and one place and another, but after dinner, I must say, I find it pretty tedious. When I was at work and my mind was occupied, I never thought anything about it, but now it is different. This is a bigger town than it used to be, and it's open all night. There's plenty of occupations nowadays that people work at all night, but the people that work at 'em are working at 'em. You don't see 'em around the streets, and the general fact remains that most people work days and sleep nights, and the cold fact is that from dinner time to supper time I feel sort o' lost.

"But I'm not discouraged. I don't suppose I could change the habits of a lifetime in a minute, and I shall just keep on trying till I get my hours shifted around again like other people's."—New York Sun.

Trunk Labels.

"I wish you would have a porter come up and wash the labels off my trunks," remarked a well dressed man as he signed his name to the book at the Continental last night. The guest as he spoke pointed to three big trunks that stood in the baggage room. The trunks were covered with the various labels that indicated that they had made a long continental journey. In days gone by these labels were the proper thing, and the man just home from Europe considered those glaring tags as almost sacred. But fashion has changed this year, thanks of the Prince of Wales setting the pace, and now these glaring showbills indicative of travel are no longer in vogue.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

A Redeeming Feature.

A.—My dwelling is bounded on the north by a gas works, on the south by an india rubber works, on the west by a vinegar manufactory and on the east by a glue boiling establishment.

B.—A nice neighborhood, I must say. A.—Quite so; but it has one advantage. I can always tell which way the wind blows without looking at the weathercock.—Humoristische Blätter.

A Dinner at Solon Chase's.

D. A. Boyle of Bedford tells the following: "I remember once when Senators Fyfe, Hale, John D. Long of Massachusetts, Delamater of Illinois and several others were at Turner fishing and called on Uncle Solon Chase. Hale, by the way, used to go to school to Chase somewhere in that neighborhood, and Long, I think, was born down there. Well, they all happened to call on Chase that day, and he invited them to his house for dinner. He had a house-keeper whom we all called the hired girl. She was a strange old soul and subject to 'tantrums,' Chase called them.

"Of course she managed to have a 'tantrum' on this particular day, and when Chase got his company down to the house the girl refused to get dinner, and the only things eatable in the house were baked beans and blueberries. But that didn't bother Solon very long. We set the blueberries and the beans on the table, and then Chase made a little speech of welcome, winding up by saying, 'Gentlemen, I guess what's good enough for me is good enough for you. Let's eat.' They did eat and had fun enough over that meal to make it digest well, you bet!"—Lewiston Journal.

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In a Hurry.

Guest—Geewhittaker! You've spilled that coffee all over me!

Waiter—Very sorry, sir, but I was hurrying to get through.

Guest—I'm in no hurry.

Waiter—No, sir, but it's most time for a gentleman to come in wet always fees me, sir!—New York Weekly.

Knowledge and Money.

Rags—Some people have more money than they know what to do with.

Tags—They seem to know what to do with the dimes I ask them for.—Detroit Free Press.

Garble originally meant to cull over, as beans or peas would be examined to free them from pebbles. Wyclif's translation of the Bible says that "Gideon garbled his host."

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Inspired a Noble Poem.

It was the late Daguerrotypist Healer of Chicago who inspired Longfellow to write "Hiawatha." Mr. Healer was one of the most eminent of his profession, and in 1851 the London World's fair awarded him the prize medal for daguerrotypes. One of them, a picture of the falls of Mimiheha, came into the poet's possession and furnished immediate inspiration for the poem. In testimony of his debt to Mr. Healer Longfellow sent him a bound volume of his poems with his signature and compliments on the flyleaf.

A Fatal Triangle.

Within the triangle formed by the cities of Nashville, Atlanta and Knoxville more than 70,000 union soldiers perished during the war. The great battles of Nashville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Knoxville and the numerous battles between Chattanooga and Atlanta were fought in this region. In no other part of the country were the horrible features of civil strife so strikingly exhibited.—Knoxville Sentinel.

Family Eyes.

Friend—Why didn't you ever marry?
Maiden Lady—Because, by the time my relations thought I was old enough to marry, the men thought I was too old.—New York Weekly.

As the sword of the best tempered metal is most flexible, so the truly generous are most pliant and courteous in their behavior to their inferiors.—Fuller.

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