

## NOBLES' REVENGE.

HE GOT EVEN WITH THE AUTHOR OF THE SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMP.

The Actor's Letter of Congratulations to Postmaster General Vilas Withdrawn For Sufficient Reasons, Which Appear In This Story.

Milton Nobles, the actor and author, and Senator Vilas were schoolmates in Madison 35 years ago, and they went from the schoolhouse to the war together. Nobles thinks a good deal of his old schoolmate and is proud of the distinction he has won among the great men of his party.

When the special delivery stamp made its appearance, Senator Vilas, who was then postmaster general, received many complimentary letters, among them one from Nobles. The rest of the story is best told by the author himself:

"When I wrote this letter of congratulation to the general, I hadn't had occasion to use or receive any of the stamps, but the idea came to me to be a good one. I was spending a week at home in Brooklyn at the time. One bitter morning about 3 o'clock I was awakened by what seemed to me to be the ringing of all the fire bells in Brooklyn. Shoving my head out of the second story window, I could see a muffled figure on the steps below jerking the bell with savage fury. 'What is it?' I asked. At that moment the bell wire broke, and the figure fell backward down the steps. The snow was knee deep, and the wind was blowing 50 miles an hour. As the figure rolled down the steps I could hear some choice specimens of explosive English in a familiar accent, mingled with something about 'letter, special delivery.' After removing chains and bolts I opened the outer door, and the messenger blew into the vestibule in a sheet of snow.

"'What is it? What have you got?'"

"'Letter.'"

"'What the Helen Blazes are you bringing a letter here for at this time of night?'"

"'Special delivery, sir, please.'"

"'I backed into the hall and slid my hand all over the wall, trying to find the matchbox. The vestibule was full of snow, and I had commenced sneezing.'"

"'Come in and shut the door!' I yelled. Bang went the door and out went my match just as I had got the gas turned on. The messenger bumped up against me in the dark, stepped on my toes and shook a shovelful of snow off his shoulders about my feet, filling my slippers and dropping down my back. I finally succeeded in lighting the gas, signing the book, pushing the messenger out and bolting the door. Then I went up stairs with my prize. I examined the long blue stamp carefully. It was the first one that I had received. Then I devoted about five minutes to wondering what the dickens it was all about. After a time it occurred to me to open it and see. The handwriting was unknown, but the refrain was familiar. Here it is:

"SHEBOYGAN, Wis., Jan. 19.

"Milton Nobles, Esq.,

"DEAR SIR:—You will doubtless be surprised at receiving this letter from an entire stranger. But I feel that I was born to be an actor.

"I am but 35, 5 feet 6, light curly hair, blue eyes and have played several parts with the Sheboygan Amateur society. I enclose notices. My family object to my going on the stage, but I feel that it is my duty, and as I would only join a first class company my friends urged me to write to you. Should like to play lovers' parts. I saw you play in Milwaukee last fall. Can come next time. I have also written a play. Could you lend me \$30? Yours to command,

"L. ARTHUR JONES.

"(Stage name—E. Forrest Melotte.)"

"P. S.—The new special delivery stamp has just got here, and I put one on to see how it works.

"By the time I had finished reading this letter I had a chill. Three hours later I had such a cold that I could not open my eyes. I remained in my room for treatment for three days. On the fourth day I became convalescent, and the first labor I performed was the writing of the following letter:

"BROOKLYN, Jan. 28.

"Hon. W. F. Vilas, Postmaster General, Washington:

"DEAR SIR:—Quite recently, in a moment of unguarded enthusiasm, I wrote you a letter congratulating you upon the brilliant stroke of genius which manifested in the promulgation of the special delivery stamp.

"Recent events have given me a wider knowledge of the subject and opened my eyes to the pernicious consequences likely to follow your gigantic blunder.

"I desire to withdraw my letter and enter a protest against your making any use of the same as an apparent endorsement of your new departure or with a view to your securing a situation in the future. This need not necessarily interfere with our friendship, but between friendship and business the line must be drawn somewhere, and I choose, for reasons conclusive to myself, to draw it at the 3 a. m. special delivery. Very truly yours,

"MILTON NOBLES.

"I cut the special delivery stamp from the Sheboygan letter and pasted it on the envelope, and, including both in another letter, I sent them to a friend in Washington with a few lines of explanation and instruction. The next stormy night my friend, following instructions, hired a special messenger, and at 3 p. m. he began ringing Postmaster General Vilas' doorbell. First a servant came, then the general's secretary, but the messenger was firm; he must see the general. Thinking probably that war had been declared in Haiti and a midnight session of the cabinet called, the general slipped an ulster on over his nightshirt and went down to the door. The messenger shoved the letter into his hand and bolted on a double quick.

"The obnoxious stamp has not been called in, but I had my revenge on the postmaster general."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Obtaining.

"Madam," said Meandering Mike, "hev ye got any cold coffee?"

"No," replied young Mrs. Tokins in a tone of sympathy, "but you wait a few minutes and I'll put some in the refrigerator and cool it for you."—Washington Star.

## Railroad Time Tables.

### PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

IN EFFECT NOVEMBER 15, 1896.

Philadelphia & Erie Railroad Division Time Table. Trains leave Driftwood.

EASTWARD.

9:04 a. m.—Train 8, daily except Sunday for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 9:23 p. m., New York, 9:23 p. m., Baltimore, 9:09 p. m., Washington, 7:15 p. m. Pullman Parlor car from Williamsport and passenger coaches from Kane to Philadelphia.

9:58 p. m.—Train 6, daily except Sunday for Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 4:30 A. M., New York, 7:33 A. M., Pullman Sleeping cars from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passengers can remain in sleeper until 10:30 A. M.

9:55 p. m.—Train 4, daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 8:52 A. M., New York, 9:23 A. M., on week days and 10:28 A. M. on Sunday; Baltimore, 6:20 A. M.; Washington, 7:40 A. M. Pullman cars from Erie and Williamsport to Philadelphia. Passenger coaches from Philadelphia to Erie and Williamsport to Baltimore.

WESTWARD.

7:21 a. m.—Train 1, daily except Sunday for Ridgway, DuBois, Clermont and intermediate stations. Leaves Ridgway at 3:10 P. M. for Erie.

9:50 a. m.—Train 3, daily for Erie and intermediate stations.

5:25 p. m.—Train 11, daily except Sunday for Kane and intermediate stations.

THROUGH TRAINS FOR DRIFTWOOD FROM THE EAST AND SOUTH.

TRAIN 11 leaves Philadelphia 8:30 A. M.; Washington, 7:20 A. M.; Baltimore, 5:50 A. M.; Williamsport, 10:15 A. M.; daily except Sunday, arriving at Driftwood at 5:25 P. M. with Pullman Parlor car from Philadelphia to Williamsport.

TRAIN 3 leaves New York at 8 p. m.; Philadelphia, 11:20 p. m.; Washington, 10:40 p. m.; Baltimore, 11:50 p. m.; daily arriving at Driftwood at 9:50 a. m. Pullman sleeping cars from Philadelphia to Erie and from Washington and Baltimore to Williamsport and through passenger coaches from Philadelphia to Erie and Baltimore to Williamsport.

TRAIN 1 leaves Harrisburg at 6:20 a. m., daily except Sunday, arriving at Driftwood 7:21 a. m.

JOHNSONBURG RAILROAD.

(Daily except Sunday.)

TRAIN 19 leaves Ridgway at 9:20 a. m., Johnsonburg at 9:28 a. m., arriving at Clermont at 10:35 a. m.

TRAIN 20 leaves Clermont at 10:45 a. m., arriving at Johnsonburg at 11:41 a. m. and Ridgway at 12:10 p. m.

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It is as thin as tissue, but perfectly opaque and so strong that a strip of it three inches wide has proved to be capable of sustaining a quarter of a hundredweight. Over 160 works and editions are now printed on this paper. This special advantage has very largely helped Oxford to retain the leading position which it originally gained by being nearly the first, if not quite the first, printer of books in the kingdom and by the prestige of its name.—Chambers' Journal.

## Sherlock Again.

"Ah," said Sherlock Holmes, sitting down on the corner of the editor's desk, "I see you have just received a story from a young woman in a lawyer's office."

"How can you tell?" asked the editor. "Can you recognize the typewriting?"

"No. Don't you see, the string is tied in a regulation true love knot? That is the young woman end of it. And instead of ribbon she has used red tape."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The most wonderful statue in the world is in Yokohama. It is a seated image of the god Dia-butsu, and its height is 63½ feet. The total weight of this great statue is 450 tons, 500 pounds of which is pure gold.

The first English work on anatomy was by Thomas Vicary, in 1548.

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Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue, in order that they should see twice as much as they say.—Colton.

In the very best behavior of which we are naturally capable there is still some measure of selfishness.—Lutheran.

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## American Life Insurance.

In no country is the business of life insurance on a sounder or more conservative basis than in the United States. There were some attempts made in the early years of the century to start life insurance companies, but life insurance was not popular in those days, it being regarded by many, as the quaint remark of a writer of the period puts it, as "wicked to insure their lives, or to travel in steamboats against wind and tide." The three largest companies at present doing business began in 1841, 1843 and 1859.

The remarkable development in the business began after the civil war, and it has grown with an unexampled progress. The great conservative life insurance companies stood the shock of the financial convulsions of 1873 and 1893 better than other financial institutions, and the words of the famous mathematician, De Morgan, still remain true, "There is nothing in the commercial world which approaches, even remotely, the security of a well established life office." The three large companies receive annually in premiums and other income about \$100,000,000, their assets aggregate about \$600,000,000, and they have outstanding insurance to the amount of about \$2,400,000,000. The natural presumption arising from a study of the development of such an enterprise is that to have maintained its place in the great field of competition it must have subserved a purpose of great benefit to society.—Catholic World.

## Mr. Stalate Lett.

"Oh, Mr. Stalate," she said, without taking her eyes off the clock, "I want to ask you something about your tastes in the way of cookery."

"I'm charmed to have you take such an interest," was the unnecessarily earnest reply.

"Do you like bacon and eggs for breakfast?"

"Why—er—sometimes."

"I hope you will speak frankly, because if you don't like them we can tell the servant as soon as she comes down stairs to prepare something else."—Washington Star.

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In the very best behavior of which we are naturally capable there is still some measure of selfishness.—Lutheran.



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