

THE MOUNTAIN AND THE VALLEY.

I. Have you ever heard, my laddie, of that wondrous mountain-peak...

III. But sometimes a man more venturesome and plucky than the rest...

II. One may start out some fine morning when the sun is shining bright...

IV. Here dwell artists, poets, statesmen—men of letters and renown...

Now, my laddie, where will you dwell when you grow to be a man...

—Gertrude Morton, in St. Nicholas.

BILLY'S SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION.

By WILLIAM H. HAMBY.

"It strikes me," began Billy Houck, judicially squinting his left eye...

Fifteen minutes of the time had been wasted. The minister hurried himself nervously at the subject and began to grow eloquent with earnestness...

This sentiment was received with emphatic approval. Several even volunteered to shed their blood if necessary...

"Supposin' we go back to our seats and hear the rest of the sermon."

"Don't get too violent, now, boys; they may come out wonderful when they learn some. If about twenty of you will join in and follow directions, we'll help make men of 'em."

"There was a craning of necks, the preacher paused, and a tingle of excitement touched the crowd."

When Billy proposed a plan there were always plenty of volunteers to carry it out.

"The 'shinin' lights' referred to were six young men from Sarvis Point who had been making life burdensome for Buckeye Ridge for three months."

It had worked very satisfactorily. When there was a public meeting they simply waited until it was well started and then one, with his spurs dangling, would slowly walk in and take a seat.

"Four men on each side rose up quietly and closed in, a solid line across the door. Four rose up on each side of the aisle, and four came down the aisle after the pointers."

Their special delight was to disturb the Methodist preacher, for the Justice of the Peace belonged to that church.

"Don't get excited now, boys," he said, mildly. "You ain't goin' out that door and it'll be better not to make a fuss, and I wouldn't use any cuss words—there's women and children here."

When Billy explained his plan for a school of instruction on public behavior, some of the timid ones advised against it.

"One fried egg fried on both sides and the other fried egg on the other side," muttered the waiter as he was leaving the table.

"Let's have them arrested for disturbing the peace," suggested one.

"In a few minutes the salesman heard much commotion in the kitchen. There were loud words and they were punctuated with sounds which seemed like blows."

"Ain't any law agin' a man comin' in and goin' out when he pleases," snapped a friend of the Billy idea.

"I'll be hanged if there won't be trouble mighty quick if you don't clear that door," said the leader of the pointers, starting forward.

"Maybe," suggested a weak-eyed class leader, "they will get some good out of the meeting. We should not keep the vilest sinner from the house of the Lord."

"The audience had caught its cue and was singing with nervous loudness. The pointers drew close together. They looked ugly. Their hands were at their hip pockets; several revolvers were half drawn."

"Well, now, I ain't overy strong on religion," said Billy, "but it strikes me the circuit rider at Buckeye Bridge has a right to do his talking without any interference from Sarvis Point. I ain't objectin' to these sinners goin' to the house of the Lord. It's on them leavin' it too soon. Educate 'em. A little information on manners won't keep out the grace, and maybe it will act quicker."

"The rowdies glanced around the circle and knew these men were not bluffing, nor were they to be bluffing. They parleyed a minute among themselves."

"We don't have to go back," said the leader.

"In a few minutes the salesman heard much commotion in the kitchen. There were loud words and they were punctuated with sounds which seemed like blows."

"Maybe not," said Billy; "then I'm afraid we'll have to carry you."

"The circle drew a little closer, alert, ready."

It was a beautiful night and the little church was crowded. Buckeye Ridge thought a great deal of its church, and when "preachin' day" was fine, saint and sinner flocked together in crowds.

"The services proceeded with the best of order."

The minister was slightly annoyed. For, of course, no one could listen while his attention was being spurred away from the subject. There was the sound of heavy feet, stamp, stamp, stamp, and the click, click, of a spur.

"The pointers stirred in their seats and one of them swore under his breath."

Once more the preacher rallied. With a supreme effort he got the attention of the congregation. The sound of feet again, again the click, clink, clink of spurs. By the time the third was finally seated the minister was so distracted he gave out a hymn and sat down to try to collect his thoughts.

"Just stay where you are, boys, till all the crowd's gone."

No one came in during the singing, but as soon as the minister renewed his attack on the text, another pointer came dashing his spurred feet down the aisle; a little later another, and so on to the sixth.

"Now, Dick," said Billy, "read us a chapter on Etiquet."

Dick produced a nine hundred page compendium of universal knowledge and read twenty pages on how to dress, how to care for the hair and nails, how to dance, how to carry on conversation and how to act in public. He read

"While I am not what you would call a widely traveled man," observed the deacon, "I have noted that every town has its bar, its sponger, its smart Alec, its blatherskite, its richest man, a few pretty girls, its weather prophet, its neighborhood feud, a considerable number of lunatics, its woman who tattles, its justice of the peace, its man who knows it all, its boy who carries on in church, its middle-aged old woman, its widower who is too gay for his age, its girl who goes to the postoffice every time the mail comes in, its legion of bright men who know how the editor should run his paper, its woman who thinks she could cut a dash in society if she were only East, and its man who laughs at his own jokes."

JAPAN'S FUTURE.

Not Yet a World Power, But Will Be, Says Count Okuma.

Let me think a minute—wait a minute. You think that Japan has become a world power? Count Okuma leaned forward. "A world power? Oh, no—not yet! Supposin' you read us a Chronicle or two."

The Powers used missionaries and scholars in China as the first step toward the Chinese invasion. And they failed. And China will naturally hesitate now to accept any good medicine of civilization from the Powers' hands.

"But there is the law of nature. Any country will die out if she blindly attempts to oppose it. You cannot swim against the current of the age."

"We Japanese must strike anybody who shall menace the peace of Eastern Asia. But we must not invade any country. That is our nation's thought and wish."

"That'll do, Alf," said Billy. "We'll save Washington's Farewell speech till the boys come agin. Guess we might adjourn."

"Governor," he said, "I want to recommend to your notice Sebastian Turo. This young man would fill a place of trust with discretion and integrity."

"I won't budge an inch," came the retort.

"He is one of the best men," said the bank president, solemnly. "Moral, high minded, generous to a fault—"

"I'll show you if you won't," said the other angrily. "I'll teach you a thing or two."

"With a laugh the Governor interrupted the bank president."

"I want one egg fried on one side, and the other egg fried on the other side, and I want them quick," the salesman added.

"I was a will case. We were trying to break the will of an elderly gentleman, who, ignoring his relations, had left the bulk of his property to a total stranger."

"I want one egg fried on both sides and the other fried egg on the other side," muttered the waiter as he was leaving the table.

"The first question put to the defense's witness was: 'What do you know about the character of the deceased?'"

"I want one egg fried on one side, and the other egg fried on the other side, and I want them quick," the salesman added.

"He was a man without blame, beloved and respected of men, pure in all his thoughts, and—"

"I want one egg fried on one side, and the other egg fried on the other side, and I want them quick," the salesman added.

"But I interrupted the witness."

"I want one egg fried on one side, and the other egg fried on the other side, and I want them quick," the salesman added.

"I got it," the man answered, "from the tombstone."

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FARM TOPICS. GOOD GENERAL FERTILIZER. One of the best general fertilizers the world has ever used on a soil...

PLANT FOOD. As long as farmers manures were the chief fertilizers used upon crops...

HOG PROOF FENCE. After years of experience with woven wire fences we have found best results from those woven in squares...

FEEDING SLOWLY. I covered the ensilage with chaff and tarred paper and put on the weight. The ensilage kept well until opened...

Good Health and Fresh Air. Good health and fresh air are the only perfumes permissible to-day. The time has gone by when it was considered elegant to breathe an overpowering fragrance of musk or patchouli...

Benzine Fires. Benzine is apt to ignite spontaneously in chemical cleaning works at the moment when wooden materials are pulled out of the benzine wash. The ignition is caused by electric sparks. The fires are more frequent in the coldest weather and more frequent in dry, pure air than in damp, dusty air...

THE NEW DOCKS IN GIBRALTAR are large enough to hold the biggest vessel in the British navy.

BUSINESS CARDS. G. M. McDONALD. ATTORNEY-AT-LAW. Notary Public, real estate agent, Foreign secured, collections made promptly. Office in Synicate building, Reynoldsville, Pa.

DR. L. L. MEANS. DENTIST. Office on second floor of First National bank building, Main street.

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E. NEFF. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. And Real Estate Agent. Reynoldsville, Pa.

SMITH M. MCCREIGHT. ATTORNEY-AT-LAW. Notary Public and Real Estate Agent. Collections will receive prompt attention. Office in the Reynoldsville Hardware Co. Building, Main street, Reynoldsville, Pa.

SPORTING BREVITIES. Walter Christie won the fifty mile automobile race in Florida in 1h. 11m. 20.15s.

W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., was elected commodore of the Sarawak-Corinthian Yacht Club.

The Van Cortlandts and the Thistles won in the semi-final round for the Dewar Curling Cup.

Guy Lyman, of the New York A. C., won the two handicap skating races at West New York Field.

Charles S. Ross carried off the honors in the automobile race on the Grand-Daytona Beach, Florida.

Columbia defeated Company K, of the Seventh Regiment, in a hockey game by a score of 8 to 1, in New York City.

Irving School defeated Columbia in the opening game for the interscholastic hockey championships by a score of 3 to 1.

F. S. Howell, of Albany, N. Y., won the final round in the handicap golf tournament at Pinehurst for the Berkshire Cup.

The Crescent A. C.'s hockey team defeated the Wanderers by 2 goals to 1 at the Clermont Avenue Rink, in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Lucien Merigane, the world's champion fencer, gave an exhibition with the foils in the Grand Central Palace, New York City.

The Drub and the George, of the North Shrewsbury, won the first ice yacht race for the championship pennant of the North and South Shrewsbury Rivers.

Mike Bowserman, the Kentucky horseman, is credited with saying that really good brood mares in all sorts are scarce just now in the United States than he has ever known them to be.

MARKETS. PITTSBURGH. Grain, Flour and Feed. Wheat—No. 2 red... \$1.09

BALTIMORE. Flour—Winter Patent... \$1.15

PHILADELPHIA. Flour—Winter Patent... \$1.15

NEW YORK. Flour—No. 2 red... \$1.19

LIVE STOCK. Union Stock Yards, Pittsburg, Cattle.