

Remarkable Dispatch.

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BY EMERSON BENNETT.

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the Western Union Telegraph Company, on Broadway, for the purpose of sending a dispatch to my friend, George Moyers, the artist, who implored of me to join him instanter at West Point, where he had pitched his tent for the purpose of doing a picture or two of the scenes enacted in that romantic locality during glorious War of Independence.

I am a lawyer, and in '76 was a "rising junior." I had been fagging cruelly, sparing myself no amount of labor, and when on that July day my longed-for vacation was at hand, I felt like a schoolboy about to get away for the real genuine holidays.

As I approached the grating and awaited by turn to pop in the measage. I became interested in a young lady, richly but plainly attired, whose svelte figure was simply perfection, and whose golden hair was wound round the back of her graceful head in massive and luxurious pleats. Of course any man of a certain age obeys the impulse which bids him gaze on a fair face or a faultless form-it is but nature's tribute to the beautiful flushed. -and in mere obedience to this mysterious law, I strained eagerly forward to obtain a glimpse of her fcatures, but without success.

"When will this message be for-warded?" she asked, in a low and musical tone.

The clerk muttered something that I could not hear.

"Oh, I hope it will go at once. How much am I to pay?"

The phicamatic employe proceeded to count the words, and announced that the message would cost two The young lady put her hand in her

pocket, started, colored violently, became deadly pale and palpitated: 'I have left my purse at home,

what am I to do?" The clerk bit his pencil and said

nothing. "I live out of town and the mes

sage would be too late," and in her perplexity she turned and faced me. She was perfectly charming. Lustrous violet-blue eyes, and long, sweeping lashes-eyes sad yet joyous, bright, tender. A delicately formed nose, slightly retrousse, which imparted a piquancy to the face such as one only sees in Greuze's portraits. Her golden hair came low upon her forehead, and she wore a hat sur-

that almost swung across her shoul-My voice was scarcely audible as I gaid :

mounted by a rich dark-blue feather

"I beg your pardon. I inadvertent ly heard your conversation with the clerk. Will you permit me to relieve you from any embarrassment by allowing me to pay for the dispatch?"

She started as I spoke, and, bestowing upon me a haughty glance that almost amounted to defiance, exclaimed:

"We are strangers, air, and I cannot accept your offer, however courteously meant," and she turned from

felt nettled and strangely irritated. A keen sense of injury smote I resolved to act. Plunging my hand into my pocket, I seized upon two silver dollars, and, finging them. the clerk, gruffly cried, "Send that lady's message," and, striding from the building, sprang into a passing

What a fool!" I muttered, as we rumbled along. "What a blooming idiot to indulge in two dollars' worth of chivalry!" And then her defiant loveliness came back to me, and I feit elated, triumphant.

She might be Lady Clara Vere de Vere for aught I knew to the contrary; but be she gentle or simple, she owed me two mighty dollars.

George Moyers met me at the dock at West Point.

"You never behald such a charming ranch as I have dropped on!" he exclaimed, as we strolled up the hill. "It's all honeysuckle and sunshine, birds whistling, and a rustic porch over every window, and a summer house instead of a stoop, and a landscape in every corner, and such food And he joyously kissed the tips of his fingers as he waved them in the direction of our temporary home-

Our ranch was all that George had painted it, commanding a view of the lordly Hudson, with its glorious and varied scenery. As we sat on the stoop lazily smoking our cigars, I related my adventure with the "Fair One With the Golden Locks."

Why, I used to think you a hardheaded, shrewd, solld business man, laughed George, "but now I shall never see a two-dallar bill that I will not think of my friend Tom Kendrick loafing around telegraph offices for the purpose of paying for the dispatches of damsels who have forgotten their purses."

Our life at West Point was an enchanting monotony-a plunge in the river at seven, breakfast at nine, no letters to read or write-thank Heaven-a prolonged smoke. George sketched. I read a trashy novel, with the full knowledge that it was rubbish of the most uncompromising kind, but excited in its flimsy fiction nevertheless; and then to the dock to meet the steamer-this get, together with that of attending the evening parade at the Point, we regarded in common with all the guests at Coz-

It was a grilling day in the July of | zen's Hotel, and indeed of the village, 1876, as I sauntered into the office of in the light of a serious duty; and be the weather fair or foul, wet or dry, stormy or calm, the arrival of the boat found us on the dock, like a pair of detectives, awaiting the landing of some party telegraphed as "wanted."

Six weeks had glided away as hough I had been in dreamland, and the hour was not far distant which was to summon me to work. The shadow of New York was upon me.

One exquisite afternoon found us, as usual, on the lookout for the boat en route to Albany. Tourists from all climes under the sun were passing backward and forward, and George's excuse for gazing at the pretty girls was on the plea of "studying character."

"I never saw such a colorless lot." growled my companion, as the boat commenced to glide from the dock. 'As ugly as-ah, that's comething over there in deep mourning—the girl with the hay-colored hair.'

My heart leaned. It was the young indy whom I had ncountered at the telegraph office. My eyes caught hers and she

The boat was passing along the dock.

She spoke rapidly to her companon, a tall, aristogratic-looking young man, toward whom, in that single instant, I conceived a deadly aversion. This man instantly quitted her side and rushing to the stern of the boat

"Your name and address; I want to get out of your debt"-his tone as though he were addressing a lackey. "You are not in my debt," I defiantly retorted.

The boat had almost passed from the dock.

He sprang upon a seat, and rapidly wrapping a silver dollar in a greenback, I know not of what value, cried, as he flung it:

"Catch! Debt with interest and thanks."

The boat had passed away from the dock. I was not the "boss" baseball player in the Manhattan Club without being able to make a fair catch. I caught his missile as it came flying through the air. With all my strength I sent it spinning back to him. It struck him, and a savage thrill of pleasure ran through me as I saw him apply a handkerchief to his face.

The steamboat had passed away, and my heart's longings were with that fair girl who was being borne from me, whither I could not tell.

What was this haughty beauty to me? What link between us? None, save an act for which a newlybreeched schoolboy would flout me. Her husband, too. Strange to say, I never admitted the possibility of her being united to that man-whenever the thought came to the surface, I did not give it breathing time, but sent it down to the unfathomable depths of undefined idea.

Upon my arrival in New York I found a letter which compelled me to take the night train to Boston. ordered my berth to be made up without entering the sleeping compartment, and smoking a cigar before turning in.

It was bright daylight and we ter shook me up. I rolled out of my berth and stood gathering my impedimenta together preparatory to going in for a wash, when a conductor exclaimed:

"Please to let these ladles pass,

My fellow travelers were standing anxious, like Mr. Sterne's starling, to get out. I muttered an apology for blocking the way, and, turning, cast a short, sharp glance at two ladies.

One of them was the young girl whom I had encountered at the telegraph office.

. . My holidays had passed away, and work, grim, gaunt, earnest, was upon her up, Kendrick; I'll hold myself in 1901. me. Letters to be replied to, papers to be hunted up, appointments to be made and kept, law books to be consulted, opinions to be given, and every pigeon-hole in my waking existence deranged by the tortures of physical crammed to the uttermost limits of anguish. I would willingly have its endurance. Bitterly I reviled the given a hundred, two hundred, yea, ill-fortune that glosed my lids in the five hundred dollars for a respite, but cars; bitterly the ill-luck that forced the chance was too good to throw

gality .- Cotton.

me into a corner beneath the bony knuckles of time; bitterly the mock ing destiny that dashed the cup from my lips thrice when the brimming nectar was within reach of them. My work was heavy, and demanded a ceaseless vigilance. My work stood between me and her image, thrusting it aside with an iron and unswerving hand.

It was a murky, drizzling morning in December, upon the eve of the Christmas holidays. pleasing gratification of even seeing my bed upon the preceding night, as I was compelled to read up a case involving a series of the most important issues, and my night's rest went down before the interest of my elients. It was a disputed will case, and I

had been retained for the defendants. Miss Isabelle Van Zandt died on the preceding August, bequeathing the bulk of her vast property to her nenhew and niece, the children of a deceased sister, and a comparatively small residue to a sole brother, who now disputed the will on the grounds of undue influence and the mental incapacity of the testatrix. On our side it was alleged that the testatrix was of sound mind at the time of her demise, and that the bequests were the result of natural affection, and that she was further

influenced by the fact that the plain-

tiff was extremely wealthy and un-

married. There were two weak places in our The first, that Miss Van armory. Zandt had been estranged from her nephew up to within a few days of her death; the second, that Miss Van Zandt was generally considered somewhat eccentric. Her nephew, Mr. Edward Appleton, had married "a penniless lass wi' a lang pedigree" con trary to the expressed wishes of his aunt; and it was solely owing to the influence of his sister Mabel that he was, at the eleventh hour, restored to the good graces of his offended relative.

It was late when I arrived at court and, in addition to my brief, I was incumbered with a ghastly headache which, at every throb, led me to imagine that my skull was in imminent danger of exploding as though through the agency of nitro-glycerine.

The plaintiff had a cloud of witnesses in attendance, and the case, from the magnitude of the property at stake, excited very considerable interest.

The plaintiff's case was ably, eloquently and argumentatively stated by his counsel, and about twenty persons who had been on terms of alleged intimacy with the deceased were examined as to her eccentricities, and also with regard to her visibly decaying mental powers, antecedent to her demise.

My associate cross-examined such those witnesses as he deemed shaky, and, by dint of a series of artful and elaborate queries, totally irrelevant to the question at issue, succeeded in driving a number of these witnesses into a state of mental irritation bordering upon frenzy, and the remainder into a condition of hapless and irrevocable bewilderment.

When he had duly impressed the jury with the conviction that the individuals who had appeared before them were each and all possessed of a natural taste for perjury, he proceeded to state the case for the defense, and in a brief but incisive statement painted the conduct of the plaintiff in such hideous colors as to justify the refusal of the tears of a solitary angel to wipe the record out.

If our case was indented with weak points, it likewise bristled with strong ones, and one upon which we placed an unlimited confidence was the fact slowing into the depot when the por- of the deceased lady's having tele- Professor Ferdinand Fischer, of Gotgraped to her nephew, a few days tingen, at 160,000,000,000 tons; in ducing profitable crops. An excess prior to her death, to come and re- England only \$1,500,000,000 tons; ceive her unqualified forgiveness. The in Belgium, Austria-Hungary and substance of the dispatch was written by herself, copied by her niece and each. The store of Russia is but imtransmitted by the latter to Mr. Ed- perfectly known. North America can ward Appleton, who acted upon it im- produce 684.000,000,000 tons, and mediately.

The existence of this dispatch was questioned. By a piece of extraordinary good luck the original, in the handwriting of Miss Van Zandt, had known quantity. Germany's coal been procured, and, with a cool, selfand said:

"We propose to place Miss Appleton on the stand now;" and, turning to me, half-whispered: "You take reserve.

Up to this particular moment I had preserved a masterly inactivity; my head was splitting, and my ideas were

& Gambling &

Play not for gain, but sport. Who plays for more Stakes his own heart; perhaps his wife's too.

They say this town is full of cozenage,

And many such like libertines of sin.

As nimble jugglers that deceive the eye, Disguised cheaters, prating mountebanks,

Gambling with cards, or dice, or stocks, is all one thing:

Gaming is the child of avarice, but the parent of prodi-

A gamester, the greater master he is in his art, the ree man he is.—Bacon.

A gamester, as such, is the cool, calculating, essential spirit of concentrated, essential selfishness.—Beacher.

It is getting money without giving an equivalent for it.-

away: I could not afford to lose the pportunity, so, by a vigorous effort, I drew myself together, and, glancing rapidly at the marginal notes scrawled on my brief, I turned toward the stand, and, blinded with pain, drawled:

"You are Miss Mabel Appleton?"

"Niece of the late Miss Isabelle Van Zandt?

"You recollect Tuesday, the 27th of

July last?" "Perfectly." "You are acquainted with Miss Van

Zandt's handwriting?" "Intimately."

"You recollect sending a dispatch to your brother at Montreal?" "I do.

"At the request of your aunt?" "Yes; she wrote the substance of the dispatch.

"Will you have the goodness to inform me if you have seen this document before?" handing a half-sheet of note-paper all written over. She raised her veil.

The court swung around me: Mabel

Appleton held the original draft of

the dispatch for which I had paid the two dollars. That "bit o' writin' " is now framed and glazed, and suspended in a gold the exciting cause of the ascent of the frame in my wife's boudoir, and many

a time do we refer to that memorable 27th of July, when I paid two dollars for a dispatch that was destined to do so much for her, and so much for me.-Good Literature.



It is said that the use of an oil or gas engine on the farm results in a saving of from twenty to fifty per cent, as compared with horses.

Tests of reinforced concrete barges and pontoons have been conducted by the Italian Government since 1897, and the results have been so gratifying that several more of the strange constructions have been ordered.

Consul-General William H. Michael, writing from Calcutta, says that a young engineer of Dalsing, Seral, In- are supplied with undestrable subsoil dia, has invented a machine which disposes of the wood in the stems of jute at the rate of 60,000 stems per

The quantity of sulphuric acid in mine water varies according to the district and condition of the mine. Some mine water has been found to contain only a few grains, while the water in other workings often contains over 100 grains a gallon.

According to the Engineering Record, a concrete tank at the San Antonio gas works has been in service for three years, holding heavy Texas oil without showing any leakage whatever, although there is a general all soils, having been found as valuabelief that oil destroys the cohesion ble on light lands with rententive of concrete.

A novel plan is being experimented with in Australia with a view to ridding it of the rabbit plague. A newspaper is placed at the mouth of the burrow, and the hole is then stopped with earth. The rabbits are said to be so frightened by the rustling of the paper that they will not approach the spot again, preferring to die in the burrow.

The available coal yet stored in the 13 estimated by France about 17,000,000,000 tons Baron von Richthofen has stated that China has a supply nearly as great, Japan, Borneo and New South Wales have considerable coal; Africa, an unshould last another thousand years. show exhaustion within fifty years. In the United States the production has increased from about 6,200,000 tons in 1891 to nearly 45,000,000 in

An Excuse.

Little Dick, the village "bad boy," was wading through a shallow swamp catching frogs with a small landingnet. He had just caught a fine specimen and transferred it to his bucket. when a young lady who was out for a walk happened along.

"Little boy," she said. "don't you know it's very cruel to catch those poor little froggles?"

Dick straightened up and looked at her. She wore a gorgeous "creation" on her head, and something in its trimmings attracted his attention. "I want 'em to wear on my hat," he said .- Youth's Companion.

Wooden Clothes Are Next.

Wooden hats, coats, carpets, lowels, as well as "wooden shoes," are promised by Professor Emil Claviez, wooden clothes. After being ground into pulp, as for paper, the wood is impregnated with chemicals and woven into yarns.

The building of the Chicago drainage canal has been the means of so improving the caultary conditions in | power. reduced 67.5 per cant

a larger proportion of air, warmth and moisture in the soil. Drainage benefits the land also by affording a ready outlet for all excess of water, thereby preventing stagnation and removing a source of evil, The bad effects produced by an excess of water-all of which are, of course, removed by drainage-may be enumerated at length. One evil produced is the consequent diminution in the quantity of air within it, which air is of the greatest consequence not only in promoting the chemical changes requisite for the preparation of the food for plants, but likewise to the roots themselves. Excess of water injures the soil by diminishing its temperature in summer and increasing it in winter-a transposition of nature most huriful to perennials, because the vigor of a plant in spring depends greatly upon the lowness of temperature to which it has been subjected during winter (within certain limits), as the difference of temperature between winter and spring is sap. The presence of a large quantity of water in the soil also alters the result of putrefaction, by which some substances are formed which are useless to plants. An increase in the proportion of moisture in soils has a powerful effect upon its saline constituents, by which many changes are produced diametrically opposite to those that take place in soil where the water is much less in quantity; and in this way the good effects of many valuable constituents are greatly diminished, as for instance, the action of carbonic acid upon lime and green materials, and gypsum upon carbonate of ammonia The proportion of plant foods avail-

able in the soil for the use of crops is largely influenced by drainage and the amount of surplus water in the soil. The directions of the currents which occur in wet soils are entirely altered by drainage; in undrained soil are altogether from below upward -being produced by the force of evaporation at the surface-consequently the spongloles of the plants water; but when the land is drained the currents are from the surface to the drains, and the roots are, consequently, supplied with fresh aerated Drainage increases the abwater. sorption of carbonic acid, also the atmospheric supply of food, and creates a tendency in the plant to produce leaves possessing a different structure from those which the same plant produces in dry situations. other important point is that on land that has been drained the system of subsolling can be adopted with tenfold advantage, which is an object of the highest importance, for there is no doubt that the use of the subsoil plow has been satisfactory on almost bottoms as upon those of a more compact and stiffer surface, rendering solls drier in wet weather and mor moist during a season of drought. That a tenacious and impervious subsoil must be relieved from the water collected and retained on its surface before the earth can be fitted for the growth of vegetable matter has been most clearly and satisfactorily ascerfained. The best mode of effecting this object may be a question, but it is probable that under-draining with tiles will be found the most econom-A cold soil is never capable of pro-

of water in the soil, in addition to its injury to the soil, also produces a constant dampness of the atmosphere, which has been shown to be injurious to plants, especially by diminishing evaporation, thus rendering the process of assimifation slower, and in some sections and on certain farms malaria results; in fact, there is every reason to believe that surface water which is for the most part stagnant, is by far the most injurious, because satisfied demeanor, my associate rose but England's supply will begin to in this manner the currents produced during the heat of summer-namely, the period at which vegetation should be most active-will of necessity be entirely from below upwards, being produced by the evaporation of the water upon the surface of the soil, the consequence being that the roots of the plants, instead of being supplied with water charged with the valuable plants foods, will be supplied with water which has existed so long in the soil that it will have lost these vegetable ingredients, and will, moreover, be charged with excrementitious matters. No system of drainage can diminish the quantity of water which a soil receives; it can only affect the quantity which it retains and prevent stagnation by allowing it to escape freely that continual currents are produced so long as any excess of water remains. Drainage will not fail to pay a percentage upon the cost far greater than many other investments, as that land which was been reclaimed by drainage will oftentimes require no manuring for years, the herbage, too, being of a peculiarly different species from that hitherto produced, as well of Dresden, who is said to expect to as being far more nutritious.—Phila-teach all human beings to wear delphia Record.

Good Horse Flesh.

The chest in all breeds of horacs should be wide, deep and round, and ribs well inclined to the rear. These conditions are necessary to ensure officient breathing capacity and staying

The lower line of the chest towards gontal to the ground. Any undue in- Globe.

Drainage permits of earlier crops dication of want of power of endurance.

The abdomen in race horses should be round, and not too full. Too large an abdomen seriously interferes with speed, by exciting an undue pressure on the lungs, and thereby affecting the breathing capacity. Where speed is not required, this part of the body may be more fully developed.

The back and loins of all horses should be short. On first thought, a long back gives us the impression that such a condition is conducive to speed; but on reflection it is found that such is not the case. Undue lengths of back and loins are generally associated with soft, "herringgutted" animals, and necessitates the expenditure of much more muscular energy in raising the forequarters than when the distance from the withers to the croup is short. The top line should incline shortly towards the croup, and, passing over this part, should continue in a gentle down-ward sweep to the tail. Short back and loins are also necessary where weight-carrying power is required.

The loins should be short, flat and A slight convexity might be admitted, but a tendency to reach and hollow backs should be carefully guarded against.

Breadth of loins is a very important point in all classes of horses, for it is over this region that the strongest and most powerful muscle in the body is situated—the long, broad muscle which extends from the peivic bones to the last three or four bones of the neck, and the action of which is responsible for the rising of the fore part in galloping, jumping and rearing, and for lifting the hind quarters during the action of kicking.

We have already noticed the bones and tendons of the leg from the knes and hock down to the ground. Suffice it to say that, in proportion to the kind of work the horse has to perform, so should the size and shape of these appendages be regulated .- W. T. C., in the American Cultivator,

Bowel Diseases of Poultry.

Sometimes it happens that diarrhae occurs in flocks where the management has been good, and at once the difficulty is diagnosed by the farmer or poultryman as cholera, or some other contagious disease that may be unknown. The cause is usually the free use of very watery green food. When rye, grass, tender weeds and other bulky foods are largely consumed by the fowls the result may be a laxative effect, but this occurs mostly when the green food is very young. at which stage of growth it contains a large proportion of water and very little solid matter. The effect is more readily noticeable when the birds have had but little green food, being kept during the winter and spring on a grain diet. The remedy for the difficulty mentioned is to confine the birds in their yards for a few days, feeding them twice a day on a ration of ten parts cornmeal, two parts sifted ground oats and one part fine bran. adding a gill of linseed meal and a teaspoonful of salt to every quart, cooking the whole as bread.—Weekly

The Bug Nuisance.

Dr. H. T. Fernald, of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment College, says that five-sixths of all the living creatures of the globe are insects, and that not more than one timates that \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 worth of damage is anually wrought by insects, and that known means of protection, properly used, could prevent about two-thirds of this loss. He is, therefore, impressing the necessity of a close study by all classes of people of this question, with the hope of saving forests, shade trees and crops.

Not to Be Continued.

According to J. E. Wing, unless one is certain that his lambs will go early to market, say an age of not exceeding three months, he had better dock them. Tails are unneccessary appendages to a modern sheen and are apt to get fouled. A docked lamb has a square look and seems fatter than one with a tail. What blood goes to nourish a useless tall would add to the growth of the body, no doubt .-Weekly Witness.

To Get Rid of the Groundhog.

There is practically but one cure. Bisulphile of carbon will smother the peats in their dens. Saturate a rag with two tablespoonfuls of the stuff, and push it down the hole as far as you can, then stop the hole up with sod or earth, and go away sorrowfully, for you have committed murder. Bisulphide of carbon is very explosive; have no matches or around .- D. W. Brown, in the Indiana Farmer.

Value of Quail.

It is said that the quall has been known to destroy sixty different kinds of weed seeds, and it is a fact that about five per cent, of his food is. made up of seeds that are harmful to the farmer. He also destroys annually large numbers of injurious hugu.-American Cultivator.

The Rash Plumber.

To save foolish workmen from incurring unnecessary risks, says the Builders' Journal, is well nigh impossible. Almost every year some rash, that city that the death rate from the abdomen should be nearly hori- out and does a job of work.-Loudon thoughtless young plumber rushes