

A CLERK'S ROMANCE.

The life of a Government clerk is at a monotonous one, as in nearly all departments the clerks have the same routine work day after day, said a venerable Treasury clerk, 'and when there is a bit of gossip to relieve the monotony of his life it is taken up with a relish and retold till it blossoms out in many different forms.'

What is disturbing the monotony now? inquired the reporter.

'Well, I am getting to that. Six years ago last March a bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked young fellow of 23 received an appointment through political influence in the division I am employed in: You know that was before the days of civil service reform. He was quick and intelligent, and it was not long before he was familiar with the work as the oldest clerk in the office. For a year or so he was a most efficient clerk, and always on time. With sorrow I began to notice that he was becoming dissipated; that his work was behind, and instead of the frank, independent expression that he had when he first came in the office, was a careless devil-may-care sort of a look. I remonstrated with him, and told him, and told him he would be dismissed, and justly, too, if he did not shake the companions he was associating with. His only reply would be: 'I can take care of myself; you needn't fret about me.' His downfall didn't surprise me much, for I had seen a number of young men go just his way who had come in the departments honest, sober young fellows, and leave it broken down in health, and careless as to how they made their living. Things went on this way until the present administration came into power, and the heads of the different bureaus were changed. Consequently a great number of new clerks came in. Among these was a pretty young lady with large brown eyes and a fascinating smile. The clerks, both male and female, immediately took to her, and she became a general favorite. The young men in the office never lost an opportunity to have a few minutes chat with her, but that is as far as it ever went. Though she treated all pleasantly none were ever invited to call on her. The young fellow I spoke about had gotten so that he seldom had anything to say to any one. In the course of time he made the acquaintance of the pretty young clerk, and that evening one of the older ladies, with the best intentions in the world, told the young lady not to get too intimate with that man, as he was considered a 'rounder' or, in other words, dissipated.

'She said she liked him, and thought there was a great deal of good in him if he had the proper encouragement. He seemed to be a gentleman, and that if he did anything wrong it was only through carelessness. After this the two young people were together constantly when not at the office, and a most wonderful change came over him. He stopped drinking, attended to his work with a will, and, when not somewhere with her of an evening, stayed in his room and read. I was pleased to note the change, and knew that all would come out well. She had only been in the office about six months when he came to me one day and said he was going to resign, as his salary was not sufficient to support a wife as he would like to, and that he had secured a position as bookkeeper in a wholesale grocery house in New York. He went away and I heard nothing from him. We often spoke of him at the office, but no one ever dared to ask the young lady clerk about him, for they remembered how she went for the old lady who spoke of him to her. Several weeks since I was surprised when the young lady came to me, as the young man had before, and said she would be pleased if I would send her resignation to the Secretary. I asked her jokingly if she was going to be married. She blushing admitted she was, but would not say to whom. I suspected and felt pleased. This morning she and her husband called to see me, and it proved, to be the young man I suspected. He told me that he had been very fortunate since leaving the office, and was now head bookkeeper for the concern to which he went from the department, and attributed all his success to the pretty young bride at his side. They left this evening for New York, where henceforth will be their home. It does my heart good to see a marriage like that.'

THE INCREASE OF BALD HEADS.

To a person who has a moderately well-supplied pocket-book and a thoughtful turn of mind, there can be no more fruitful theme for meditation than to go into our large halls, theatres, churches, and other places of public resort, and securing a seat in the gallery or in the rear part of the room, look at the heads of the audience, for no other purpose than to ascertain by actual count how many show signs of baldness. Unless the experimenter has been in the habit of counting for this subject, he will be surprised to learn that, in most of the Eastern cities, fully thirty per cent. of the men over thirty years of age show unmistakable signs of baldness, while nearly twenty per cent. have spots on their heads that are not only bald, but actually polished with

the gloss that is supposed to belong to extreme old age alone. I have been in the majority of the churches and theatres in all the large Eastern cities, as well as in Chicago, St. Louis, and other places of the West, and have verified my assertion by actual count. From my observation I find that bald headed men are most plentiful in New York and Boston. After these come Philadelphia, Washington, and the Western towns. I say men, for two reasons: 1. Because women usually wear their hats or bonnets on such occasions, thus covering their crowns. 2. In case their hats are removed, their hair is combed up so as to cover any possible bald spot, or else there is an artificial switch to hide the defects of nature. So, without indulging in any speculations regarding what may be, I will confine myself to what is to be seen.

Here are a few observations taken in Boston. Trinity Church: 543 men; 71 actually bald, 46 indications of baldness. King's Chapel: 86 men; 38 actually bald, 14 indications of baldness. Hollis Street Theatre, orchestra at performance of the Mikado: 63 men; 27 actually bald, 10 indications. Boston Theatre—Judic: 126 men; 51 actually bald, 43 indications. [From A Bald and Toothless Future, by Virgil G. Eaton, in Popular Science Monthly for October.]

MANAGEMENT OF A BIG HOTEL.—The management of a great hotel is as arduous and exacting a task as any allotted to man—at least that is the belief and opinion of all managers I have ever met. It is easy enough to perform the duties which devolve upon the manager, for there is nothing more to be done than to personally know that the guests of the hotel are being properly entertained and to see that they are made to feel perfectly at home. There is the great secret of success—making your guests feel as though they were welcome as under their own roof and giving them when possible personal evidence of the fact. The details are looked after, in all first-class hotels, by a competent and efficient corps of clerks and assistants with well paid attaches throughout the building, thus relieving the manager of a vast amount of work. And yet he must be within call when wanted, and it is to the advantage of the hotel he represents for him to be seen as much as possible. Promptness is one of the requisites, for guests become dissatisfied permanently when they suspect neglect, and if their small wants are quickly satisfied they will often overlook some of the larger defects. Success can be summed up as due to regularity, promptness, courtesy and a strict surveillance of details and the art of convincing your guest at once that he is heartily welcome. He will always come again.

THE WORLD'S COINAGE.—The whole amount of gold coin issued from the mints of the world in the year 1885, is stated to be in round numbers, \$75,500,000, and of silver coin, \$77,800,000. Of the gold, \$37,500,000 was coined by Great Britain and her colonies, and \$25,000,000 by the United States, leaving \$10,000,000, as the product of all other countries. Of silver, Great Britain, Australia and India coined \$33,000,000 the United States \$29,000,000, and all the other countries, \$15,800,000. In addition to these amounts, stamped ignots were issued from various mints.

This makes the increase of the gold coinage of the world for 1885 about 2 per cent., and of the silver between 2 and 3 per cent. The old coinage of the world is now estimated at \$3,250,000,000, and the silver including total circulation, at \$2,755,000,000. The total value of gold and silver produced throughout the world from the discovery of America to the year 1865, is estimated at \$4,600,000,000 gold and \$6,200,000,000 silver, and aggregate of \$10,800,000,000. Since 1875, the average annual product of the two metals together has been a little more than \$200,000,000, so that the present total of \$2,350,000,000. Up to the year 1879, the annual product of gold exceeded that of silver, but the reverse is now true, the figures for 1884 being \$30,800,000 of gold and \$48,800,000 of silver.

The present emperor of China, whose reign is only now about to begin, was called to the government of that country under highly unusual circumstances. The Emperor Tung Che having died without issue, the succession to the Chinese throne passed out of the direct line, and a cousin of the deceased monarch, scarcely four years old, was chosen in his place under the title of Kwang-Su, or, 'Succession of Glory.' Kwang-Su will take the reins of government at the beginning of the Chinese New Year, now near at hand. The act of formal assumption will be preceded by the sacrifice of the winter solstice, which is performed before sunrise on the morning of the 21st of December at the Altar of Heaven. The emperor kneels in front of the tablet of the Shang-tif (heaven), in which position he is regarded as being in the centre of the universe. In his prayer he acknowledges that he is inferior to heaven, and to heaven alone. A bullock is then offered as a sacrifice. The ascent of the throne and the marriage of the emperor takes place in the following year.

SUBJECTS FOR THOUGHT.

The question, How much pleasure will such a thing afford me? is a more frequent one than is the proposed pleasure of a worthy and elevating nature? Contrast the pleasures of health and vigor with those of dissipation and excess. The devotee of the latter chooses what will bring to him the most immediate gratification, and thus degrades himself lower and lower. But could he be brought to choose instead the higher kind of delight—that of the free step and the clear brain of bounding health—the lower kind, which wars against it, would soon become distasteful. So with the pleasures of idleness compared with those of industry, of wasteful expenditure with judicious thrift, of dishonest gains with an unsullied honor of crimes committed under the misnomer of liberty with the life which finds true freedom in obedience to just laws—on the one hand the pleasure is degrading and ruinous, on the other it is uplifting and progressive.

We can all recall instances in which our instinctive intentions were those of integrity and honor, purity and truth, but in which subsequent reflection has led us into an entirely opposite line of conduct. The truth is that plain common sense notions of right and wrong do not need reasoning about, but obeying. Bishop Butler says:—Let any honest man, before he engages in any course of action, ask himself:—Is this I am going about right, or is it wrong? Is it good or is it evil? I do not in the least doubt that this question would be answered agreeably to truth and virtue by almost any fair man in almost any circumstances. After such a decision, to philosophize and speculate upon the matter is dangerous, and, when inclination throws a weight into the scale in favor of the wrong, it will most likely be fatal.

Grief anticipates age. Dwelling on the inevitable past, forming vain hypotheses as to what might have been if this or that had or had not been, acquiring a craze for recounting what has occurred these acts do more harm to future health and effort than many things connected with real calamity. Occupation and new pursuits are the best preventives of mental shock and bereavement.

It is by recognizing and respecting the quality of pleasure, rather than its quantity, its kind, rather than its degree its source, rather than itself, that we learn to appreciate the truth that the purest and most enduring happiness is but the natural effect of the wisest, worthiest, and most noble life, and is always inseparable from it.

A Quaker was once advising a drunkard to leave off his habit of drinking intoxicating liquors.

Can you tell me how to do it? said the slave of the appetite.

Quaker: It is just as easy as to open thy hand, friend.

Drunkard: Convince me of that, and I will promise upon my honor to do as you tell me.

Quaker: Well, friend, when thou findest any vessel of intoxicating liquor in thy hand, open the hand that contains it before it reaches thy mouth, and thou wilt never be drunk again.

Surely this was a simple remedy. The toper was so pleased with the plain advice that he followed it and became a sober man.

IN A PERSIAN TOWN.—How noisy and crowded are the streets! Every one talks at the top of his voice, as though the person addressed were deprived of hearing. Venders of enticing sweet meats and clarified butter expose their tempting wares. Oh, sweet beet root, and onions and carrots have I, cries the costermonger, displaying his stocks in trade on the back of his donkey, and seems to drive a brisk trade. Every one appears to be out of doors. Beggars appeal to our charity, raising themselves from the heaps upon which they lie, basking in the sunshine; if you give them something they are content, but if their prayer is unheeded, it is because you are a Christian dog, or the son of a burned father, and with alternate vituperations and further scorchings they again subside. We wind beneath long strings of camels; each beast is tied by a cord or iron chain to the back trappings of the one that precedes it. With an unpardonable breach of good manners one pokes his nose familiarly into the carriage. Some of them are fine, handsome beasts, still wearing their winter coats of thick, shaggy brown hair; a long fringe of it hangs about the neck; the legs, also, are covered as far as the knees with soft masses, which look like knickerbockers. Women bestride manfully their steeds. In a small square there is a circular platform open to the public, and although it can hardly be called a public building, is one of interest to many. It is planned after no particular form of architecture, and is certainly not the creation of an artistic mind. The basement is a sakkoo or platform raised a few feet from the earth, and anything more dismal cannot well be conceived, for this is the execution ground, the long pole in the centre

A Creaking Hinge

Is dry and turns hard, until oil is applied, after which it moves easily. When the joints, or hinges, of the body are stiffened and inflamed by Rheumatism, they cannot be moved without causing the most excruciating pains. Ayer's Sarsaparilla, by its action on the blood, relieves this condition, and restores the joints to good working order.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla has effected, in our city, many most remarkable cures, in cases which baffled the efforts of the most experienced physicians. Were it necessary, I could give the names of many individuals who have been cured by taking this medicine. In my case it has worked wonders, relieving me of

Rheumatism,

after being troubled with it for years. In this, and all other diseases arising from impure blood, there is no remedy with which I am acquainted, that affords such relief as Ayer's Sarsaparilla.—R. H. Lawrence, M. D., Baltimore, Md.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla cured me of Gout and Rheumatism, when nothing else would. It has eradicated every trace of disease from my system.—R. H. Short, Manager Hotel Belmont, Lowell, Mass.

I was, during many months, a sufferer from chronic Rheumatism. The disease afflicted me grievously, in spite of all the remedies I could find, until I commenced using Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I took several bottles of this preparation, and was speedily restored to health.—J. Fream, Independence, Va.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla,
Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.
Sold by all Druggists. Price \$1; six bottles, \$5.

of which was formerly but too often adorned with a grim and ghastly head. Except in extreme cases the penalty of death has been almost abolished: still from time to time the executioner has an opportunity of revelling in the odiousness of his vocation. Comedy and tragedy are strongly blended in this life. Dirty, bare-footed little children, clad in very short shirts, or even in nature's garb only, are playing, unmindful of the horrid place, making the Persian equivalent for mud pies, from the dust which may have been dyed with the blood of a score of malefactors.



Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon, on 12th November, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, twice per week each way, between Keswick Ridge and Millville from the 1st January next.

The conveyance to be made in a suitable vehicle drawn by one or more horses.

The Mails to leave Keswick Ridge on Monday and Thursday of each week at 12 o'clock, noon, reaching Millville at 5.30 o'clock, p. m.

Returning, to leave Millville on Tuesday and Friday of each week at 8 o'clock, a. m. reaching Keswick Ridge at 2 o'clock, P. m., on same days.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Keswick Ridge, Millville and Upper Keswick Ridge and at this office.

J. DEWE,

Chief Post Office Inspector

Post Office Inspector's Office, }
St. John, Oct. 1st 1885.



MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon, on 12th November, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, twice per week each way, between Canterbury and Woodstock from the 1st January next.

The conveyance to be made in a suitable vehicle, drawn by one or more horses.

The Mails to leave Canterbury on Tuesday and Saturday of each week at 11.30 o'clock a. m. reaching Woodstock at 1.30, p. m.

Returning to leave Woodstock on same days as soon as practicable after arrival of day mail train from McAdam Junction, reaching Canterbury in two hours from time of despatch.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Canterbury and Woodstock and at this office.

J. DEWE,

Chief Post Office Inspector

Post Office Inspector's Office, }
St. John, 1st Oct., 1885.



MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon, on 12th November, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed contract for four years, twice per week each way, between Canterbury Station and North Lake from the 1st January next.

The conveyance to be made in a suitable vehicle drawn by one or more horses.

The Mails to leave North Lake on Monday and Thursday of each week at 6.30 o'clock, a. m., reaching Canterbury Station at 11 o'clock, a. m.

Returning to leave Canterbury Station on same days immediately after arrival of day mail train from McAdam Junction reaching North Lake in four hours and thirty minutes after despatch.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Canterbury Station and North Lake and at this office.

J. DEWE,

Chief Post Office Inspector

Post Office Inspector's Office, }
St. John, Oct. 1st 1885

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OCTOBER, 27,

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