

The Sealed Locket

CHAPTER I. The sun hung smiling in a cloudless sky, one flower-scented morning in early June, as Arthur Tremont proudly led Nellie Monteith to the altar, his chosen bride. Merrily rang the wedding bells. All nature seemed in tune. It always does, you know, to one who is about to marry his heart's idol, and some folk claim that the surer way Heaven could provide for man's happiness would be to have him always on the eve of being married to his lady-love, taking care, of course, that the ceremony was never actually performed. "Yes," remarks an acrid spinster, "but aren't the women entitled to some degree of happiness hereafter as well as the men?" Be that as it may, certain it is that all their merry, as a marriage bell on this occasion, for "the bride is the sun shines on." It is likely that the old "saw" particularizes the bride in this instance, because the groom probably knows no better than to be happy even though the sun may not shine; or, because it is a settled conclusion that there is no happiness in store for him in any case even though the sky were as full of shining sun as it is of stars.

On the Farm.

IRRIGATION IN INDIA. Nowhere is irrigation more important than in India. The nature of the climate and the inequalities of the rainfall make irrigation necessary. Much of the work is under the direct control of the government and vast sums of money are required in keeping the reservoirs and canals in best condition. The storage of water in tanks for irrigation purposes is very common in southern India, while canal irrigation, in which the water is drawn directly from the river, has been practiced on a large scale and most successfully in the northwest provinces, the Punjab, etc. In Madras presidency alone there are 60,000 storage tanks, varying from the small works formed by earthen embankments, to costly reservoirs constructed by government and having a surface area of 6,000 to 8,000 acres. Canal irrigation takes water from rivers arising in lofty mountains which can be depended upon for unfailing supplies. In tank irrigation, on the other hand, the supply of water is more or less dependent on local rainfall, either directly or through the medium of the smaller rivers which dry up in hot seasons. In addition to these two systems there remains the method of irrigation more extensively used in India than any other, viz., that by wells, and these are generally within the scope of the operations of the public works department. A recent official report shows a total of 49,000 miles of canals and distributaries. The crops to which irrigation is most extensively applied are wheat and rice. In 1900, 3,000,000 acres of rice crops were saved from entire destruction in Bengal by these canals, and the absolute necessity of irrigation is so prominent in other parts of India.

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operation in Russia with an annual production of 48,000 tons. An additional factory is now in the course of construction, which will be supplied with the most improved machinery. The Russians commenced cultivating rice in the early '80s; it was almost unknown in the Indian Empire, the supply being imported from India and subjected to a high duty which confined its use to the wealthy classes. PROTEIN FEEDS FOR HOGS. In some German tests with pigs to determine the advisability of feeding large quantities of nitrogenous material, a ration of peas, beans, barley, wheat bran, lupines, peanuts, with a little milk and buttermilk, produced at a cost of 9-10c per lb. These results are very promising, and that feeding hogs almost exclusively on nitrogenous foods is unprofitable. SLOP FOR GROWING PIGS. To a quart of shorts and a gallon of oil meal scalded with a spoonful of boiling water and stirred until thoroughly cooled, add 1/2 lb. This makes a fine slop for growing pigs. TEA FROM A LAMP POST. Hot Water, Coffee and Cocoa Provided by a Slot Machine. There seems to be no limit to the capabilities of the automatic penny-in-the-slot machine. The utility of this system of supplying small articles direct to the public has grown wonderfully of late years, and there has recently been erected in Leicester square London, an automatic lamp post, which provides hot water, hot coffee, and hot cocoa, delivered in liquid form, and also heat tea in globules, chocolate, cigarettes, etc. The way in which the water is heated by the gas burners at the top of the lamp is extremely ingenious, says the Golden Penny. The water to be heated, curious as it is not at the top of the lamp post, but at the bottom, in a tank inside the lamp pedestal holding forty or fifty gallons of water. A very small quantity of water is carried over the lamp flame and is there converted into superheated steam and this steam is taken through carefully insulated pipes and heats the water down below, a gallon at a time. Cold water is brought in by a small pipe from the street main, passes through the forty gallons or so of hot water, and then, slightly warmed, runs up to the top of the lamp and coils in a spiral many times round and round just over the flame until it reaches a small "superheating boiler" right at the top. As the water passes around the coils and into the boiler it gets converted into steam, and as the boiler at the top is closed by a pressure of about twenty pounds to the square inch, the steam gets much hotter than boiling water. When the steam in the little superheating boiler has risen to a pressure of about twenty pounds to the inch it blows down a pipe toward the water to be heated, and the decrease of pressure allows a little more water to come into the spiral vaporizer from the main automatically.

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He was a midshipman on board the Sloop "Hermes" at the beginning of the Crimean War, and distinguished himself in several of the most important fighting lines in ships of different classes. Since then his services have been varied by important appointments at the Admiralty, and he was Director of Naval Ordnance at a time when the most radical changes in systems of armament for battleships were being brought about in spite of much opposition from some old officers who still believed in muzzle-loading guns, and would have none of the new-fangled breech-loaders, until public opinion, educated by scientific artists of a new school, prevailed over prejudice. With Sir John Hopkins as second in command is Rear-Admiral Gerard H. C. Noel, one of our youngest flag officers, who only joined the service forty years ago, and has risen to be a post captain at the age of 36. 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CIGARS AT A FUNERAL.

Curious Customs in Vogue Among the Poor in a Mexican Town. A funeral among the poor in Jalapa, Mexico, is a sight long to be remembered. First come the coffin-bearers, carrying the stained pine box on their shoulders, for there isn't a hearse or even a carriage in the whole city of Jalapa. The coffin is gaudily decorated with long streamers of black muslin, with ornaments that a child of this country would associate with mourning, a mottled crowd, shodless, and often hatless. But however poor or miserable, they always live things up and music. There is always a band, and it always plays the "Washington Post" march. When the grave is reached the mourners themselves comfortably, and women who have child proceed to light up cigars and cigarettes. While they smoke and chat the carpenter, he does not usually desecrate the name of ungodly, but carefully removes "from the coffin all the streamers and ornaments, sometimes even the body itself is removed and buried alone in cases where the family of the dead is too poor to throw away their cigars form in line, and march back again to the city, while the band continues to play the "Washington Post" march. At the beginning of the war between America and Spain the city band of Jalapa discontinued its practice of playing "Yankee Doodle" and "Hat in the Ring," but Jalapa still carries its dead to the funeral, martial strains of the "Washington Post" march. WHERE TOBACCO IS NOT GROWN. World's Largest of the Sacred of Great Britain. The cultivation of tobacco in Great Britain was prohibited by an act of parliament passed in 1782. Tobacco had been successfully cultivated in England, but when Charles II. commenced to derive revenue from the imported leaves, so heavy a tax was imposed on the home-grown article that it was almost impossible to grow it. In spite of all laws to the contrary right down to the reign of George III., the tobacco was finally stopped by an act passed in 1782. The plantations in Yorkshire were then destroyed, and the planters imprisoned and heavily fined. Large sums for those days were paid as penalties. In Ireland the cultivation was not finally stopped till 1831. The second in command of the fleet, he was promoted to the rank of captain in command of a gunboat to the Canadian lakes, and remained there until 1867. He was a lieutenant in the "Hermes" in 1875, as captain of the "Discovery," he started on an Arctic expedition, but was wrecked in the time to commission another ship for the Mediterranean, where he served at the bombardment of Alexandria, and subsequent operations in the East. He was captain of the Thunder and Dreadnought, the rear-admiral and commander-in-chief of naval forces in the Pacific. He was also captain of the Channel Fleet in Rear-Admiral Blackburne, one of a distinguished family, who commanded the Naval Brigade on shore during the Zulu War, and gained a great distinction there. In the Egyptian War he was captain of a gunboat, and was in the connection of the Zulu War, and gained a great distinction there. In the Egyptian War he was captain of a gunboat, and was in the connection of the Zulu War, and gained a great distinction there. THE RESERVE FLEET. Selection for command of the Reserve Fleet now being brought together in the South Sea Islands, is very much on circumstances. Under certain conditions Sir Compton Domville would be entitled to it, or at least to a high position. He is a very distinguished officer of distinction, but has little experience in handling a fleet at stern tactics. If the command were to go to him, he would have to be given a short cruise, it might be given to a junior flag officer. Lord Charles Bessborough would probably have been the man's choice had he remained at home, but it is a far cry from China to the English Channel. It were to be a Vice-Admiral, command either Sir Compton Domville, Admiral Dale, or Sir Harry Duff Assheton would be selected. The latter is a Rear-Admiral, and Rear-Admirals to choose from, in either of whom the "service" would place implicit confidence, and it would surprise no one to hear that an important administrative appointment had been given up in favor of sea service with the Reserve Fleet, but it could only happen if there were changes of hostilities, which happily seem remote at present. As to the efficiency of our fleets on distant stations, we need have no anxiety so long as Vice-Admiral Sir John Fisher commands in North America waters, Rear-Admiral Palfrey in the Pacific, Vice-Admiral Sir Edward H. Seymour in China Seas, Rear-Admiral Archibald Douglas in our Southern waters, and Rear-Admiral Hugo Pearson in Australia. All are sailors of distinction, and most of them have won promotion by gallant service.

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