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All For Nothing.

Sweet Mamie was a fair young thing, But her papa was gamey; And when he heard the doorbell ring He softly said: "Now, Mamie, He's got to leave by half-past ten! (Sure, he was not to blame; he Was getting rather tired by then) "Yes, dear papa!" said Mamie. But when it got to half past ten The cool young man who came, he Stayed on like the other men, And pale and wan grew Mamie, There came a voice chock full of sand— She thought it said, "Obey me!" She up and told the young man and He said goodby to Mamie. Now Mamie, as she went to bed, (She went, though, all the same!) She sobbed and wished that she were dead— So mortified was Mamie, Then she stole up to papa's door Before she said her lay-me. Alas! That noise was papa's snore; And O, how mad was Mamie!—New York Press.

A WHEEL STORY.

"No, this is not the story of her first attempt to ride, but it is my story of an attempt to teach her to ride. "She was a sweet sister, was this maiden, a sweet sister of John Jones, when she came to me one evening just as old Sol was hiding his fire-red visage back of the trees in the far west, and asked me in an entrancing, apologetic way if I wouldn't assist her in her bicycle practice, "as Brother John has a pressing engagement and can't be with me, and, anyway, he says you know more about bicycling than he does." "Say, just then I could have hugged John Jones, and his sister, too, for that matter, but John was not there, and as for his sister—well I did not dare. "Mr. Jones had been the possessor of a bicycle about three days, and as we wended our way side by side to her home to get the steed of steel, she informed me that she was doing 'just lovely.' And she also ventured the remark that she actually believed she could ride alone, only she got so terribly frightened. "When we arrived at Miss Jones' home she engaged herself for a few minutes, saying she wished to don an appropriate costume, and when she emerged from the house a little later, clad in a neat-fitting garb of the bloomer type and leading a diamond-frame machine, why, it simply took my breath away. Oh, but she looked chipper, chic and debonair, and my heart was at once smitten with her, though I always had a peculiarly sympathetic feeling for her. She certainly was the most beautiful and sweet morsel of femininity I had ever seen on my pleasure to gaze upon. There was no doubt about this, this lesson would be extremely interesting. There would be no skirts to get entangled in the wheels and chain and to bother her in her awkward manipulations of the same, and the time spent in teaching her to properly manage the steed would surely be just so long a time of unalloyed pleasure. "Miss Jones and I walked to a street seldom traveled after sundown and the walk over the intervening thoroughfares was an exceedingly short one. We arrived at our destination. The first thing was to show her how to mount and this was a stunner. I had assisted many young ladies in their efforts to master the bicycle, but all of them wore drop frame machines and they all wore skirts. This case was far different. However, I got on and off the wheel, using the step, 'man-fashion,' and explained to her in detail every succeeding movement. Then Miss

Jones tried it. First I firmly grasped the handle-bar with one hand, holding the frame in front of the saddle with the other. Miss Jones reached over my arm, took hold of the grips, put her right foot on the step, made a lunge for the saddle—and kerflop, we both landed on the hard road. I was underneath, the wheel made up the second layer of the pile, while Miss Jones sat, not too gently, on top of the whole, I thought one of the handle bars had punctured my side and that I was swallowing a heterogeneous mass of bicycle spokes, good solid clay and rubber tires. Miss Jones did not get off the heap at all, but sat there half sobbing, half laughing, and said she hoped I was not injured, that she was so sorry, etc. With an almost herculean effort, I rolled from my position under the wheel and its fair but heavy burden, and after pulling myself together, gave Miss Jones my hand and helped her to her feet. I inquired if she were hurt, but she rejoicingly informed me that she came out unscathed and was ready for another trial. "I was not much injured—no—but whatever thoughts I had had of spending an enjoyable evening were rudely dispelled from my mind. No, I was not injured, but I could almost swear that one of the pedals of that machine had cut out a few square inch of my shin bone and I imagined I could feel it dangling about my ankle. I was also aware of the fact that there were several non-repairable punctures in my trousers and that my anatomy was bruised and sore in more places than I could enumerate in a three-page article. "To tell the truth, I was not at all anxious to continue the demoralizing lesson, as I was sure that this experience would be the death of me, but I wouldn't for an instant think of telling my fair companion that I had to give up. "No! she should be the first to say it was time to postpone the practice until another day. I was in hopes the wheel was in such condition, after the hard fall, that it would be impossible to use it, but outside of a few scratches it came out of the tumble as did its owner—not in the least damaged. "Well, we tried the mounting business over again, and this time I was prepared for the shock and she did land on the saddle most beautifully. After I had balanced the seemingly uncontrollable wheel and told her to get ready for the start off, she said to me that she could ride fairly well now that she was on and if I would just take hold under the back of the saddle and follow her in that way she thought she could pedal forward very well. I did as she told me and after giving the wheel a slight push moved off. Yes, she went it alone all right. All I had to do was to follow her. At first she went slowly, at what you would call a dog trot, then she increased her speed. And still all I had to do was to follow her! "As we were booming merrily onward, she on the bicycle and I on foot, she asked me if I didn't think this most exhilarating sport. Of course, I said it was. Then she said she enjoyed it so much that she would continue on this same course until she became tired, when she would dismount, and after a rest we would return homeward. "Well, I trotted and trotted and trotted after that wheel, and I thought she never would stop. She went and went and went and I believe if I had not hated to hear that I sometimes became fatigued she would have been going yet. But she did finally stop, and in sheer exhaustion I fell to the roadside, and when I had time to recover my breath and look about us I found we were away out in the country, at least three miles from home. She sat down at the roadside, a little way from me. Then she talked. "She dilated upon the beauties of the summer's evening, the multi-colored foliage of the trees, the iridescent clouds which looked like rare jewels hung in the western skies, as the rays of the now obscure sun cast indescribable glittering tints over them. But poor me, my body and mind were racked with pain, and I did not appreciate our surroundings. After the fall, then the unusual exercise, every muscle and nerve in my body seemed to tingle with electric shocks. I was just about done up and when I would think of the return journey my heart would nearly bound from its natural and best location. Every breath I took seemed to be drawing huge chunks of solid air into my lungs, instead of the pure, country atmosphere which I was actually taking into my system. I was tired, sore and disgusted with everything, even with the maiden at my side, whom I now thought one of the ugliest, most unattractive persons it had been my misfortune to meet. I was thinking, thinking deeply, thinking some things I would not dare think aloud, when I was suddenly brought to my senses by

my fair companion saying: "Well, I'm ready." So was I—I had to be, and I at once arose and grabbed up that wheel. Of course, before I could start her homeward it was first necessary to get her on to the bicycle, and I trembled as I thought of the task before me. This time I braced myself against a fence and held on to that wheel like grim visaged death, and when Miss Jones boarded it in really artistic style, I was greatly pleased. I started her off gently and then took hold of the saddle again, prepared to trot home back of the young lady like a dog following its master. I was congratulating myself upon the little trouble experienced in getting her started, when the front wheel of the bicycle began to wobble and chug! went the off handle bar into a fence. Luckily, I was on the opposite side of the wheel, and pulling terrifically at the high handle bar I got it and its burden again perpendicular. This time I asked her if she were injured, and showing me an awfully bruised hand, she bravely replied, "a little, but its immaterial." Why, the skin was scraped off the whole side of her hand, but she bore it like a heroine. And right here I wish to say that I began to think just a wee little bit more of Miss Jones than I had while we were sitting at the roadside away back. Once again she started homeward and by the way she pumped and pushed those pedals I know she was mad about that accident, and as she gained speed, I also began to realize my powers of endurance would give out ere long, unless she reduced her gait. At last I let her give up, but I said nothing to her. I led her guide on homeward, as I thought she would soon notice my absence, and then would dismount or fall off, I cared not which. But she went on and I gradually lost sight of her in the darkness that was growing upon the face of the earth. I was glad that she had gone and I leisurely climbed upon a rail fence at the roadside and sat there meditating. I was mad clear through and the more I meditated the angrier I got. But at last it dawned upon me that it was not the proper thing for me to be sitting upon a wayside fence and leave a young lady to take her own way home after nightfall. Horror of horrors! suppose she had fallen from her bicycle and at this very instant was lying in the road, possibly with a broken leg or injured in some other way, so as to be unable to move. Suppose a team of spirited horses were approaching and the driver could not see that prostrate form and ran over it. Ugh! the very thought made my blood run cold. I jumped from the fence and started in the direction in which Miss Jones had gone. I walked along slowly, but as more horrible possibilities came to my mind I went faster until at last I was running as fast as I could, but even then I thought I was going at a snail's pace. Half a dozen times I imagined I saw Miss Jones on the ground ahead of me, but always found it to be but a hallucination of my wild and disordered brain. I did finally reach town and because I had not found Miss Jones lying on the road in a pool of blood I was sure that she had been spirited away or kidnapped. "I rushed to the home of her parents. Her brother John was sitting on the porch smoking a horribly rank stogy and when I excitedly asked him where his sister was he looked at me as though he considered me a lunatic, I implored him to tell me, for the love he bore his sister. "He looked at me again, then slowly turned his eyes toward the side of the house. My eyes followed his and there Miss Jones stood, cool and collected with a heavenly smile on her face, and how beautiful she looked. But I fell to the ground in a dead faint and when next I realized anything I was in my own room at home, with my dear mother at my bedside. I looked at her questioningly, and then said: "Mother, how many weeks have I been ill?" She looked frightened, then answered: "Why my dear son, you've been here but a few hours. John Jones and his father brought you here. Tell me what the trouble is." After getting over my astonishment I told her about my awful experience of the evening. She laughed at me and comforted me, but say, I tell you I got even with that John Jones for palming his sister off on me that night. You want to know how I did it? Well, I just took her from him, from his mother, from his father—I married her, that's what I did."—Budget.

hear the most important speech of the season. Every seat in the house was occupied and the galleries were thronged when Mr. Fielding rose to deliver his first budget speech. Hon. Mr. Fielding was not present at the opening hour and Mr. Lount of Toronto, was put up to kill time by speaking on the trade mark design act, which he did amid uproarious applause for half an hour, when he collapsed, and Mr. McMullen came to the government's relief with a cheese inspection bill. Then Mr. Fielding began by claiming the indulgence of the House as an inexperienced man following a long line of able finance ministers. The first part of his statement compared the revenues of 1896 with the two last previous years, giving statistics which had long been public property. On the whole the record of the year 1896 showed a revenue buoyancy of \$350,000, compared with the previous year's. On the other hand the expenditure for the year ending last June was less than the previous years. Coming to the current fiscal year to end June 30th next, Hon. Mr. Fielding estimated the revenue at \$37,300,000, and expenditure at \$47,000,000 larger at most. He did not think the deficit would reach a million dollars but it might be \$600,000. He gave reasons for the increased expenditure over the previous year in the militia, public works and post office departments, that the government would have done with less money if they had had the preparation of the estimates. This year the government would make its own estimates and administer the revenues and it would be found the accounts would balance next year. He expected the capital expenditure for the current year would be \$3,425,000. Adding to the prospective deficit, which he would assume to be \$550,000 taking away the amount which would go into the sinking fund, the debt would be increased \$1,070,000 during the year ending next June. Faking up the year 1897-98 Mr. Fielding estimated the current expenditure at \$38,250,000. The tariff would be estimated to produce next year \$37,500,000. This would leave a deficit of three quarters of a million. It would be necessary to revise the tariff to provide additional taxation to cover this deficiency. This led to discussion of tariff policy and the finance minister gave a historical sketch, beginning with the Confederation compact under which he said the Maritime provinces were promised that taxation would not be increased, and proceeding to 1879, when he recited the predictions of the founder of the N. P. After dealing with the financial position of the country at some length, Mr. Fielding proceeded to the trade question. He declared his belief that Sir John McDonald had yielded to the clamor for protection against his better judgement. The national policy was not the result of the deliberate judgement of the Conservative party and they must admit to-day that it had been a bitter disappointment. It was adopted under the pressure of a depression. It was to revive everything. Mr. Fielding then recited some of the predictions made by the promoters of the National Policy. It had failed to cause the infant industries to grow to be self-sustaining. It was to secure reciprocity with the United States in three years at the outside, but it had failed in that respect. It was, he said, to remove all the distress whether in agriculture or manufactures, that existed, and was to lead to great prosperity and the rapid upbuilding of the country. Immigrants were to flow in and employment furnished for all. The present leader of the opposition said this was the supreme test of prosperity. If we are to have a country at all, he added, it must be by bringing people into it. The liberal policy now was to bring people into the country. Taking the question of population as the test of prosperity the results of the census of 1891, the last official figures to hand, were distinctly disappointing. Mr. Fielding read a mass of statistics culled from the returns by which it was seen that the increase disclosed by the census of 1881 was 18.7 per cent and by the count of 1891 it was 11.76 per cent, a decrease in growth of a little over 7 per cent. The growth of the country was therefore in point of population very much slower under protection. In point of population, he said, the growth of the older provinces from 1871 to 1891 was more than three times as great as the growth during the decade that was spent wholly under conservative rule and wholly under a protective tariff. The population of the Maritime Provinces in 1871 was 767,000; in 1881, 870,000, an increase of 103,000; in 1891, 880,000, an increase of 10,000. At the rate of 2 per cent per annum, the natural increase of 870,000 persons would have amounted to 174,000, instead of which there was an increase of 10,000. In other words the increase for

10 years was less than the natural increase should have been for one year. The aggregate population of the three chief cities of the Maritime Provinces, Halifax, St. John and Charlottetown, was in 1881, 73,712 and in 1891 it was 74,113, an increase of 400 in ten years. The number of farmers and farmers' sons engaged in farming was by the census of 1881, 656,712 and by the census of 1891 there was 649,506, a decrease of 7,206. The numbers increased in British Columbia and the northwest territories, but the old provinces show a decrease in number of farmers during this ten year period under the National Policy of 36,042. The decrease of farmers in Ontario was 2.5 per cent., in Quebec 4.6 per cent., in Nova Scotia 15.9 per cent., in New Brunswick 15.8 per cent and in P. E. I. 1.3 per cent. The rate of natural increase which can properly be credited to a country like Canada is 2 per cent per annum. This would be 20 per cent in ten years, so that by adding one-fifth to the population of 1881 and adding the immigrants we get the population which should have been found in 1891, the natural increase on the whole population of 1881 gives 865,000 and the number of immigrants officially certified as entering the country during the decennial period was 886,000, giving a total increase of 1,751,000. The actual increase found by the enumerators was 509,429, thus showing a loss of 1,241,000. If the anticipations of the promoters of the national policy had been realized our own people would have remained with us and all those immigrants as well, so that in estimating the loss as compared with the gain we would have had if predictions had been fulfilled it might fairly be claimed that the natural increase of those who went away should be counted. But without these and at the very lowest estimate the loss of population amounted to about a million and a quarter of souls. The number of immigrants into Canada at the census of 1881 was 669,348 or 14.3 per cent of the total population. In 1891 the number was 645,507, a little less than 14 per cent., the increase 36,159. The number of immigrants as already stated certified as coming into the country during the 10 years was 886,000 so that the net loss of immigrants 850,000. These general results are borne out by the details. The census found fewer Irish and Scotch in Canada in 1891 than 10 years ago. The Scotch had decreased by nearly 8,000 and the Irish by over 36,000. During the same period of Irish alone 655,000 had emigrated from Ireland to the United States. The immigration into Manitoba and the Northwest for the years 1881 to 1890, both inclusive, numbered according to the blue books, 258,814. The population in 1881 was 118,706, which, with the 258,814 official immigrants, should have enabled the enumerators to find at least 377,570 residents in the Territories and Manitoba. All they did find was 254,164 a loss of over 122,000 settlers, and as the department of agriculture reckoned each settler at a value of \$1,000, this meant a loss to the country of 122 million dollars. (Hear hear from the government benches.) Mr. Fielding having finished with the disastrous results of the operation of the National Policy, he read, amid liberal cheers, the trade resolution of the liberal convention of 1893, in which occurs the sentence: "We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound." This was loudly cheered by the liberals and he added, "We accepted this platform, adopted at Ottawa, as the declaration of principles which we are bound to follow." Mr. Fielding remarked that the government had been importuned to bring the liberal principles into operation at once. But no reasonable man expected the government to introduce the trade all at one stroke. We must consider the interest of labor, the interests of commerce and interests of banking. Hon. Mr. Fielding amid great opposition laughter, proceeded to explain how the conditions had changed since the Liberal platform was adopted. At the time the Liberal party had reason to believe that the United States adopted tariff reform and abandoned protection. This proves to be a mistaken view. There might still be grounds for hoping that the U. S. would agree to reciprocity, but under present conditions it would never do to reduce our tariff so that we would have nothing to offer them (Tremendous cheers from the opposition benches.) It was a good policy to hold our hands and not extend to that country concessions that we would otherwise be willing to give. (Opposition cheers.) Still we are bound to give tariff reform. (Laughter.) The Dingley bill was not a reason why we should not frame our policy in the interest of free trade with those countries which want to trade with us, and another for those who are not. We propose to have a general tariff and that tariff will be much the tariff of

to-day. (The finance minister was here interrupted by cheers and wild outbursts of laughter from the opposition side.) There would be some reforms, but the principle would be the same. Hon. Mr. Fielding then, amid the cheers of his supporters, declared that he proposed to establish a preferential tariff with the favored countries, especially Great Britain. Mr. Fielding continued at some length dealing with various phases of the fiscal question and announced the tariff changes as follows: Spirituous or alcoholic liquors, spirits of wine, etc., formerly \$2 12 1/2 per gallon, to be \$2.40 per gallon. Alcoholic perfumes, bay rum, cologne, etc., in bottles of more than 4 ounces each formerly \$2 12 1/2 gallon and 40 per cent. ad valorem, to be \$2.40 per gallon and 30 per cent ad valorem. Nitrous ether, ammonia, etc., formerly \$2 12 1/2 per gallon and 30 per cent., to be \$2.40 per gallon and 30 per cent. Ginger wine, etc., under 26 per cent. proof, formerly 90 cents per gallon, to be 95 cents per gallon and more than 26 per cent proof, formerly \$2.25 per gallon to be \$2.40 per gallon. Medicine or medicated wines containing not more than 40 per cent. proof, to be \$1.50 per gallon. Cornmeal, formerly 40 cents per barrel now 25 cents per barrel. Rice, uncleaned, formerly three tenths of a cent per pound to be 1/4 of a cent per lb. Wheat, formerly 15 cents per bushel, to be 12 cents per bushel. Wheat flour formerly 75 cents per barrel to be 60 cents per barrel. Books, printed periodicals and pamphlets not including blank account books or Bibles or hymn books, formerly 6 cents per pound to be 20 per cent. Advertising pamphlets, show cards, circulars, chromes, etc., formerly six cents per pound and 20 per cent., to be 35 per cent. Sulphuric acid, formerly four tenths of a cent per lb. to be 25 per cent. Acid phosphate, formerly 2 cents per lb. to be 25 per cent. Sulphuric ether and chloroform formerly 2 cents per pound to be 25 per cent. Medicinal liquid preparations, formerly 50 per cent. to be 35 per cent. Paraffine wax, formerly 2 cts. per lb., now 30 per cent. Printed music, formerly 10 cts. per lb., to be 25 per cent. Newspapers partly printed, formerly 25 per cent. to be 20 per cent. Straw board, formerly 30 cts. 100 lbs. to be 26 per cent. Paper hangings, not printed on plain unground paper, formerly 1 1/2 cts. per roll, 25 cts. to be 25 cts. Lubricating oils composed of petroleum costing less than 25 cts. per gallon, formerly 6 cts. per gallon, to be 5 cts. per gallon. Crude petroleum, imported for fuel, formerly 3 cts. per gallon to be 2 1/2 per gallon. Coal oil, refined, formerly 6 cts. per gallon, now 5 cents per gallon. Sugar, refined, formerly \$1.14 per 100 lbs., now 1 cent per lb. Raw sugar, 1 cent per lb. as before. Glucose, formerly 1 1/2 cts. per lb. to be 1 1/2 cts. per lb. Syrups and molasses, formerly 1/2 ct. per lb. to be 1/2 ct. per lb. Cigars and cigarettes, formerly \$2 per lb and 25 per cent., to be \$3.25 per lb. Cut tobacco, formerly 45 cts. per lb and 12 1/2 per cent., to be 50 cts and 12 1/2 per cent. Manufactured tobacco, formerly 35 cts. per pound and 12 1/2 per cent., to be 45 cts per lb and 12 1/2 per cent. Indian corn for distillation 7 1/2 cts per bushel, other corn free; formerly 7 1/2 cts per bushel. Ornamental window glass, formerly mixed duty, to be uniform 30 per cent. Plate glass, bevelled 35 p. c. silvered. Pianofortes and organs, formerly 35 per cent. to be 30 per cent. Cotton bolts, formerly 22 1/2 per cent. to be 25 per cent. Printed Cottons, formerly 30 per cent. now 35 per cent. Damesk of linen, stair linen, etc., formerly 15 p. c. to be 30 per cent. Embroideries, laces, etc., formerly 30 per cent., to be 35 per cent. Jeans, satins for corsets, etc., formerly 25 per cent. to be 35 per cent. Collars and cuffs, formerly mixed duty to be 30 per cent. Shirts, formerly mixed duty, to be 35 per cent. Twine and cordage of all kinds, formerly mixed duty, now 2 1/2 per cent. Binder twine, formerly 12 1/2 per cent to be 10 per cent until January, 1898, and then free. Coal, bituminous no change. Earthenware jugs, formerly 3 cts. per (Continued on page 8.)

THE TARIFF

OTTAWA, April 23.—Dalton McCarthy, M. P., took his seat in the House this afternoon, for the first time this session. A large number of prominent people from all over the country are here to listen to the tariff announcements. A number of newspaper men have arrived to