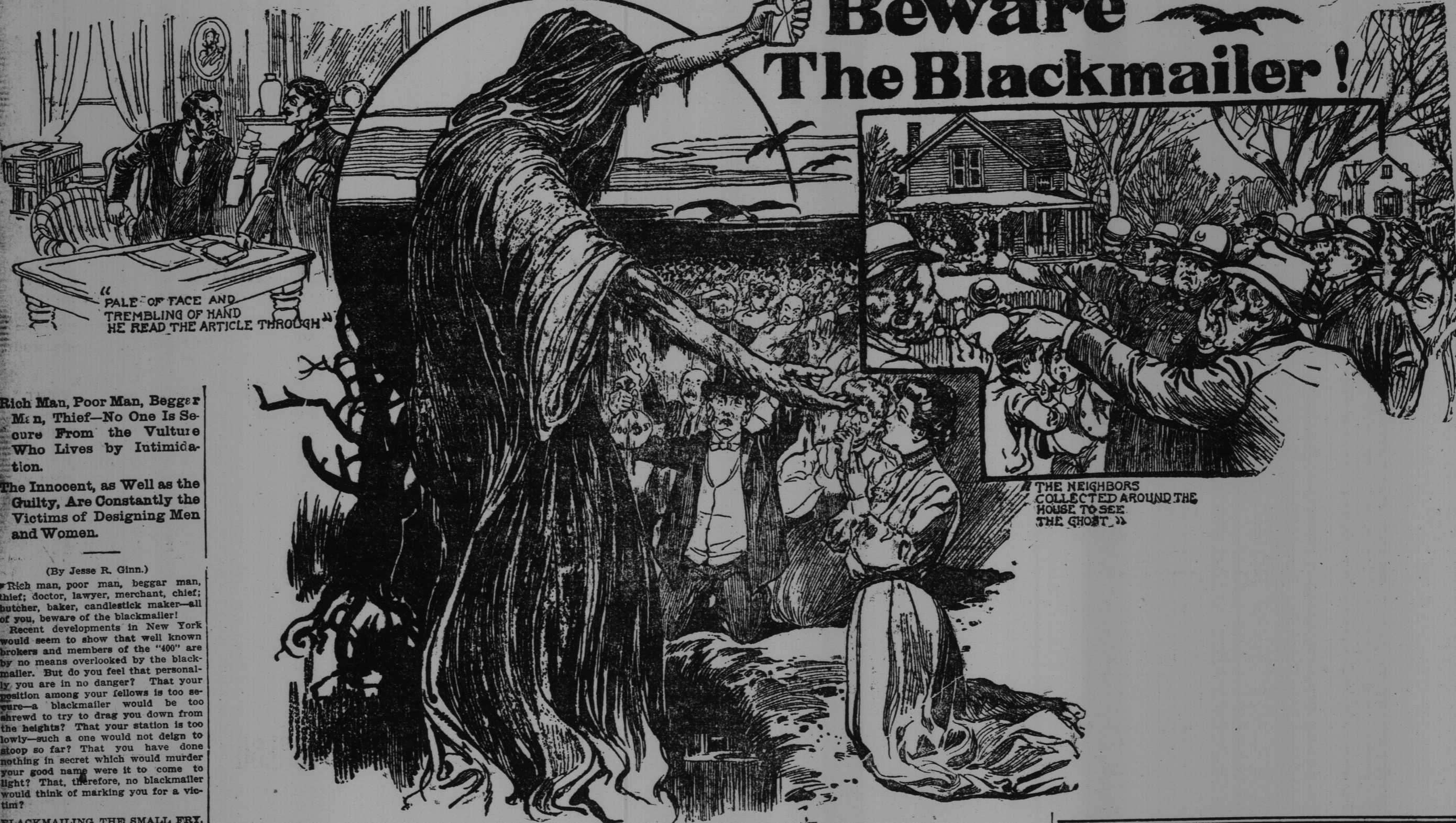


ST. JOHN STAR, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1905.

Beware the Blackmailer!



Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Thief—No One is Secure From the Vulture Who Lives by Intimidation.

The Innocent, as Well as the Guilty, Are Constantly the Victims of Designing Men and Women.

(By Jesse R. Ginn.)

Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief, doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief, butcher, baker, candlestick maker—all of you, beware of the blackmailer!

BLACKMAILING THE SMALL FRY.

Is this your frame of mind? Yes? Well—

I have in mind a certain man whose income is not over fifteen hundred dollars a year, whose name is not known outside the small business circle of which he forms a part, who has never made any particular hit in it, and who, in brief, is just such a man as goes to make up the run of the race.

To him a year or two ago, there came a stranger of glib tongue and a ready pen. "Mr. So-and-so," he said, in substance, "I have called to see you about a little personal matter to which, I feel sure, you will appreciate my calling your attention. It is this: could you tell me whether the statements here set forth are correct as he realized that what to all intents and purposes, was a proofsheet of an article that had been prepared for publication in the leading newspaper of the city.

The business man recognized the style of type in the headings and body of the article almost as soon as he realized that staring him in the face in cold type was a correct and detailed record of an incident in his life that he had taken particular care to hide. Pale of face and trembling of hand, he read the article through, then he gasped:

"But it would ruin me among my friends to have this appear in the—"

The caller was exhorting to cool down, as the other hesitated to answer, "if you say that the information contained in the article is not true, that is the end of it. If you prefer not to have the public get hold of the information, I despatch that can be arranged quite easily. In fact, we are not anxious to put you in this light before your friends. But we have been at some expense preparing the article. If you would care to defray the expenses—"

It turned out to be \$50. With a sigh of relief, the business man handed over that sum and put his name to a receipt which explicitly stated that the money had been paid to defray in full expenses to which the holder had been put in the giver's name; and, bidding his victim good-day, the blackmailer departed to intimidate the next victim on the list by sticking under his nose a "proof" of an escapade in his life.

For nearly three years this man worked this game, weekly bleeding several victims of the inconspicuous type described. He would probably be at the game today but for an attack of heart disease which caused him to be gathered to his fathers. During all the time he levied blackmail it is doubtful whether his income was ever less than \$150 a week, gathered in sums varying from \$25 to \$50, according to the money value he placed beforehand on each of his victims, not one of whom could truthfully give the testimony that the article had been prepared for publication in the—

In fact, it had not. The blackmailer "stood in" with a struggling printer, who set up and printed the articles in the style of the—, and when a victim saw a "proof" he at once jumped to the conclusion that unless he stopped it, this article would appear in the— forthwith.

wait. Mrs. A. must be forced to resign, and resign in favor of Mrs. B., doing so in a graceful little speech, perhaps, in which she would plead ill health. But how to force her to do so?

That was the puzzle until Mrs. B. recalled to mind that in Mrs. A.'s girlhood, when she was at boarding school, she had carried on what the other girls of the school had called a weak flirtation with a young man of good town. Mrs. B., counting on the well-known feminine trait of treasuring all letters of a love-like nature, and the careless habit of a writer of a love letter not to date it, set out to secure a package of the epistles which had been written to Mrs. A. ten years before by the young man. By what means she was successful I do not know—suffice it to say that she got hold of a score or more of letters in which the customary expressions of youthful love and affection were used—nothing more. But the great and all-important thing was, they were undated, and with no date line they read as if they had been written but yesterday.

And straightway Mrs. B. began dropping hints in the club and elsewhere—hints that she could deny with apparent innocence were they traced back to her—about an attachment between the president of the club and a certain young fellow everybody who was anybody knew. Naturally, gossiping about her name. In her dilemma she sought her husband, and explained the situation to him; she had shrewdly guessed that the letters had been stolen, and a hasty search had confirmed her suspicions. He advised patience—there was nothing else to do, for Mrs. B. had covered up her trail very adroitly, and neither husband nor wife suspected her.

So the contest narrowed itself down to which could stand the suspense the longest. Several weeks passed; still Mrs. A. showed no inclination to break down under the strain. Another month—and Mrs. B.'s patience gave way. She made an informal call on her victim, and during the course of her stay, in a friendly and laughing way, asked if the other had any idea of resigning the presidency of the club owing to the mean things that were being said about her; and if she was, maybe she was thinking of saying a good word for her caller for the position.

Intuitively Mrs. A. at once formed the conclusion that the person who had the package of undated letters was none other than Mrs. B. She so informed her husband, but that was all she could do; she did not know for a certainty that Mrs. B. was the possessor. So once again husband and wife decided to wait for further developments.

They came a week later, when Mrs. A. was almost beside herself with anxiety. Some one anonymously sent the letters to a member of the club who was known to be more or less an enemy of Mrs. A. Perhaps they were sent with the idea that this third woman would make known enough of their contents to force Mrs. A. to resign the presidency. If that was the object it failed miserably, for the letters were at once placed in the owner's hands, with a statement as to how the bearer had received them, and when the wife held them out to her husband he smiled, took them and tossed them into the fire burning in the old-fashioned open grate.

That was the end of the scandal. Mrs. B., realizing that she had played her trump card and lost, quietly resigned from the club; and since then she has been "cut" by the members of the set which her aspirations to lead had caused her to try blackmail.

Holding letters over a person's head is a favorite and frequently successful method of the blackmailer. A certain titled woman of London engaged in an

indiscreet correspondence with a young man about town. In the course of time he lost his patrimony in riotous living, and was reduced to dire straits, when a man of his acquaintance offered to give him a lump sum of a thousand pounds in exchange for the letters written to him by the lady of title. The bargain was struck, the lady was made aware of it, and one by one the letters were fed to her at \$200 each, until he had secured possession of all except eight. Then her money ran out, and she threw herself upon the mercy of her husband, who showed his forgiveness of her conduct (or was it fear of a scandal?) by paying over a lump sum for the remainder of the letters. All told, the letters cost the distracted writer and her husband a little over five thousand pounds.

THE PROPERTY BLACKMAIL.

Of course, you have destroyed all the letters that could be used against you did they fall into designing hands; or perhaps you've never written any. Very well, but how about your property? Let us call the man who wanted to own a certain corner lot in a certain section of an eastern city, John Jones. He made numerous attempts to buy it, but each succeeding time the owner asked a higher price, and at no time would listen to the figure named by the Joneses.

Some two or three weeks after Jones had made his last futile attempt to buy the property, the rumor began to circulate in the neighborhood that the house was haunted. Now, the residents of that part of the city were all lately come from parts of the old country where the belief in ghosts is deep-seated and haunted houses are numerous. So the rumor gave way to conviction. Many persons began to declare that they had actually seen ghosts flitting by the windows of the house, and by night the neighborhood collected around the house to see the ghosts. One night the crowd became so large and excited that the police had to be called out, and in this way the matter got into the newspapers.

From the beginner of the talk about the property, the rumor began to be bravely tried to laugh it away. But when the papers took it up, he became in some haste for the value of his holding, and set about to sell it. On every side he met with discouragement—no one wanted to take over a haunted house at the figure he named. At this juncture John Jones once more appeared upon the scene. "I'll relieve you of the house at the figure I first named," he said. The bargain was struck, and it was marked that shortly after the deed was transferred the talk of ghosts died down, and so far as known has never been renewed in connection with this piece of real estate.

EVEN THE GREAT DO NOT ESCAPE.

A former Mayor of New York, now dead, against whom not a breath of scandal was uttered during his more than four score years and ten, and who was held in high esteem by the entire city, was walking along the street one day when he saw a young woman, evidently faint and in distress, and went to her assistance. On regaining her composure, the young woman thanked him profusely, and on the plea that she would like to tell her father the name of the man who had been so kind to her, managed to secure his personal card.

A few days later she wrote the form letter, against whom not a breath of scandal was uttered during his more than four score years and ten, and who was held in high esteem by the entire city, was walking along the street one day when he saw a young woman, evidently faint and in distress, and went to her assistance. On regaining her composure, the young woman thanked him profusely, and on the plea that she would like to tell her father the name of the man who had been so kind to her, managed to secure his personal card.

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police and had an officer assigned to present with him in his office when the young woman should make her appearance at the hour named in the reply of her intended victim. And when the woman walked in the officer recognized in a notorious character—and she got out of town that night.

TREATMENT OF BLACKMAILERS.

A somewhat similar use of the police was made by another man who, at one period of his life, began receiving anonymous letters, in which he was accused of certain indiscretions. Finally, when he despaired of securing any trace of the writer, he met an acquaintance on the street, and after the usual greeting, the latter said casually: "I understand you've been receiving some anonymous letters lately."

Instantly the thought sprang to the man's mind that here was the author of the letters. Admitting that he had received such letters and engaging the acquaintance in seemingly earnest conversation concerning them, he quietly led the other to the door of a police station house. As Jack would have it, the captain there, he as the Russians may build heavier fortifications and bring more battleships into the Pacific ocean for the sole purpose of defying Japan? There remains one requirement which offers the promise of actual peace. "This is the engagement on the part of Russia that she shall never again maintain armaments of any sort upon the Pacific coast. This would mean freedom for Russia and equality for Japan. What else is it but a continual burden to be obliged to build forts and ironclads? This single condition would be worth more in money value to Japan than any possible indemnity. Japan could immediately afford to cut down all her military and naval equipment. What else would she have for money? What nation has any quarrel with her or has the slightest wish to do her injury?"

In fact we might look forward to a general agreement among the few governments which border upon the Pacific coast to make this sea in reality what it is in name—a neutral ocean upon which no ships of war should ever sail. Why not? Is there anything in the ruling tenets of Christendom which would forbid? And if two or three Christian nations—England and the United States and France—would lead the way, is it probable that Japan or China would object to accept this small installment of Christianity? Meantime the Pacific powers have The Hague tribunal, inaugurated by Russia. Let them agree to resort to this court, touching all matters of difference upon any of the shores of that ocean. One objection may occur to this proposal for peace. It is the pride of Russia or rather the pride of a few soldiers and bureaucrats at St. Petersburg who have involved the suffering and innocent Russian people in this disastrous war, and like all stupid and obstinate people, they would like to have their own way at whatever cost to others. But these very people must suffer the loss of their pride in any possible settlement of the issue with Japan.

IDEAL TERMS OF PEACE.

The fact is, Russia has lost its prestige as a great military power. The one thing that Japan wants is the disinterested promise from Russia that she will refrain from further threats to break the peace upon her Pacific frontier. It is the sacrifice of no just pride to agree to such a reasonable appeal. Why does not Japan make this her one condition and let all the rest go? This would be to gain all that she has fought for.

Let us observe first what the occasion of the war was. Shall Japan and naval preparations which Russia was making on or near the Pacific coast and opposite the Japanese islands, Russia was plainly menacing Japan. Her fleets and fleets were a sort of continuous declaration of war against her neighbor. If no warships had been brought into the Pacific ocean, and if Port Arthur had not been fortified, it is safe to say that there would have been no war.

Russia might have peacefully built all the railroads which Manchuria for which China would have given concessions, and enjoyed all commercial rights upon the ocean which any nation requires, without needing a gunboat to defend her trade. Why should Russia have insisted upon gathering the means to threaten Japan? For no reasons which the modern mind can justify. "We have now the clew to the conditions for a lasting peace. Shall Japan insist upon holding Sakhalin and other points of vantage? Shall she lay claim to a suzerainty over Korea? Shall she demand hundreds of millions of indemnity? All these things leave the roost in the ground to breed further mischief. What is the good of an indemnity, to be wrung from the oppressive taxation of Russian peasants, if the Japanese must presently go on to open Japan? What is the good of an indemnity, to be wrung from the oppressive taxation of Russian peasants, if the Japanese must presently go on to open Japan? What is the good of an indemnity, to be wrung from the oppressive taxation of Russian peasants, if the Japanese must presently go on to open Japan?

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STORES, ETC. THAT ARE OPEN EVENINGS.

JEWELER AND GOLDSMITH. A fine selection of jewelry of all description can be seen at the establishment of W. Tremaine Gard, on Charlotte street. Visitors requiring souvenirs of the town cannot do better than call and inspect Mr. Gard's selection. Some fine specimens of Antwerp cut diamonds are exciting a great deal of interest at the moment.

HIGH CLASS TAILORS. Someone has said that the finest asset a young man can possess is a good suit of clothes, and there is a deal of truth in the saying. Edgewood and Chalmers, 104 King street, have just received per steamer Anand the latest London novelties with exclusive designs. Those requiring a high class suit of clothes should give them a call.

ICE CREAM. For dessert can be had without trouble and at slight expense by sending your order to T. J. Phillips, 213 Union street. Phone 1,240. Your order will have prompt attention. Any quantity, but only one quality—the best.

CANDY STORE. She only answered "Ting a ling" to all that he could say. She seemed to live on "Ting a ling" by night as well as by day. He said to her, "I'll marry you; but all that she could say was "Ting a ling, ting, ting a ling, ting." The young lady had tried some Ting a ling candy made by A. J. Russell, on Union street.

INDENTAKER. Death must always be a painful subject, but when it comes—as come it must—it is gratifying to know that our dear ones have the greatest care and attention shown them in the last offices. T. Fred Powers, of Princess street, pays special attention in this respect, and one cannot do better than entrust him when occasion arises.

GENTS' CLOTHING AND FURNISHINGS. A store which is situated in a very convenient place, is that of E. Komlensky & Co., 43 Mill street, as its handsomeness to the depot makes it much sought after by people coming in of going out of the city. A full line of the latest gents' clothing and furnishings are carried by Mr. Komlensky.

ONLY REST. If you want style, there are other places—the Clifton House gives inside and outside comfort, is near all trains and steamers, and its rates are low. Corner Princess and German sts.

HAIR RESTORER. If your hair is falling out, or you are troubled with dandruff, Dr. Jack's famous hair restorer will positively grow hair and cure you of dandruff. It has been thoroughly tested in this city for months past and there are hundreds using it and recommending it. Dr. Jack's hair restorer is sold by all the leading druggists and barbers.

THE REFORMER. Rushing into the smoking car for Atlantic City, an old man cried excitedly: "A corker! Who's got a corker sign the first?"

ROYAL DAIRY LUNCH. A plate of Boston Baked Beans and a mug of steaming hot Boston Coffee, 10c. A 21-Meal Ticket for \$3.50 or six meals for \$15.00 (good till used); or a bang-up Dinner for 25c. These are a few of the good things you get at the most popular lunch room in the city. GEO. A. WHITTAKER, Manager.

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL. If you are dissatisfied with your present position and salary, drop into the office of the International Correspondence Schools, 295 Union street, any evening and learn how you can improve both. Circulars and information FREE.

Tobaccoconist. There is nothing more delightful when strolling in the park than to smoke a good cigar, or a pipe of your favorite tobacco. If you are in want of either the genial Oscar has erected a delightful bungalow wherein you can obtain them, and indulge in a quiet game of pool to pleasantly while away an hour. Pop in and see him.

RESTAURANT. It is seldom so much care is displayed in the cooking and serving of a meal as is met with at the Boston Restaurant, 29 Charlotte street. The menu comprises nearly everything that even an epicure could ask for. The speciality is the after theatre lunches, whilst the dinners in the middle day are very popular.

LEVER STABLE. Short Bros, 49 Union street have pleasure in informing their patrons and the public that they have added new carriages and coaches to their well known stock. They are prepared to fill orders at all hours on the shortest notice. Coaches in attendance at all boats and trains. Buckboards and barouches with careful drivers for picnic parties. Phone 253. T. A. and H. J. Short, proprietors. D. H. Short, manager.

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