

A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS.

How a Couple Obtained Consent to Their Marriage.

"What on earth are we to do?" cried pretty Lydia Darrell almost tearfully. "I won't marry old Fiebel-Jones—not if all the aunts in the world told me to." "Marry me and defy the old cat!" "Yes; that's just what I should like to do, but one must consider things." "You mean money?" "Yes; I mean money. You see, if Aunt Judith had any rational ground for objecting to our marriage, if she said you drank or were already married—or of course I know you are not—but I am supposing a case—" "Don't you think you might suppose something a little less uncomplimentary?" "No; certainly not. What does it matter in supposing? Well, then it would be different, and I should feel that, however wrong she might be, she really meant well. But when she only says that you are one of the most arrogant opponents of all the noblest and purest aspirations of our sex—which means that she suspects you of laughing at her bloomers—why, then, I know that it is not me that she is thinking of but herself! All the time she was waiting for me to marry Fiebel-Jones because he flatters her to the top of her bent and calls her a pioneer and all that sort of nonsense."

"Do you think that punching his head would do any good?" "No; I'm quite sure it wouldn't, or I should have told you to do it long ago. But, for all that, Aunt Judy can do what she likes with all my money until I come of age, and if I marry without her consent before I am 21 all my property goes into trust, with her as trustee, and she can allow me as much or as little as she likes. If Aunt Judith were an ordinary aunt, one might expect that she would come round when she found out what a dear you really are. But I know she would be only too delighted to get the money for her movements and societies, and I should never get a penny. So we must wait till I am 21."

"If I could only get round her in some way. If this was in a novel, there would be dozens of ways. I should drop on her in a railway accident and soothe her last moments with my brandy flask."

"You forget that she is a teetotaler. If you had met as many teetotalers as I have, you wouldn't bet. I know one who simply winks down a trifle that is stiff with brandy and vermouth, though he wouldn't touch either honestly out of a glass, or I might be in the way when her horses bolted."

"Oh, she doesn't keep any?" "She would in a novel. And I should stop them at the risk of my life, and she would fall on my neck and call me her preserver."

"I should like to see that!" cried Lydia, with a delicious trill of laughter. "Liddy, you have no imagination," said Bob Falk, with dignity. "I am sure the scene would be most dramatic, especially if Lady Judy happened to be in bloomers. And her remorse would be so great that she would give me her consent written on a visiting card, or perhaps my shirt cuff, to prevent mistakes."

"How can you talk such nonsense! But you have given me an idea. Couldn't you save her when she is out bicycling?"

"What from? And how am I to find her at the right moment?" "Well, really I should have thought that a man could have arranged all that in a minute."

"Seems as if the surest plan would be to arrange the accident. One might bribe a tramp to attack her and allow himself to be driven off by one, and then he would probably be killed, and for the rest of my life. Or one might get a generous friend to do the tramp part in disguise, only I can't at the present moment think of any man who would be such a jay. Besides, your Aunt Judy is just the kind of energetic female who would insist on seeing the villain safe in jail after the rescue. Then I should have to give myself up to save him. The plan is not so brilliant as it seemed at first."

"No; it isn't; very far from it. But listen to me. On Monday Aunt Judy starts on a bicycle ride to Scotland alone. She wishes to show that one woman in bloomers can go through the length of England without coming to grief. Now, my idea is that you should accompany her."

"Myself? Do you think she will take on to the elopement?" "Oh, she is not to know. I will get out the route she goes by, and you will follow at a distance and keep her in sight. Then if she gets into any difficulties—and I feel sure she will—she can rush to the rescue and save her eternal gratitude."

"Supposing she sees me on the route, and smokes the tea?" "You must take care, my dear, that you keep behind her all the time so she won't be able to see you."

Bob Falk was very much in love with pretty Lydia Darrell, and he had attempted anything that bore the smallest promise of advancing the date of their marriage. Besides, at that moment the young woman of the library, who, knowing them by sight and dividing a love affair, had humbly left them alone in the back room for a few minutes, returned with an apologetic and at the same time decided expression.

For one of the results of Lady Judith's harsh policy in ordering that "not at home" was to be said to Mr.

Falk and in exercising a strict censorship over the letters received by her niece was that Lydia had hit upon the idea of the library as a meeting place, and Bob put messages in the agony column when he wished to communicate with her. Lydia of course could write to him.

"In consequence of information received," as the police say, Bob Falk started in pursuit of Lady Judith partially disguised in a suit of very old clothes and a peculiarly villainous cheap hat.

By the time the quarry had passed the one hundredth milestone from London Bob was unable to resist an involuntary feeling of admiration for her pluck. She rode hills which most of her sex would have walked. She took no heed of the chaff which from time to time floated round the unaccustomed spectacle of her bloomers. She kept up a steady pace and stuck to her arranged route with an accuracy that materially helped the pursuer.

At the close of the third day, during which she had beaten her previous record, Lady Judith stopped at a wayside hostelry. Hitherto Bob had avoided the hostelry which she favored with her patronage, but now there was no help for it. He must either put up in the same building or ride on five miles to the next town.

He thought that if he avoided the front of the house and faced himself among the people in the bar parlor she would never notice him. After all, if she did she was scarcely likely to suppose that he was there on her account. He loitered about for some little while in order to give her time to settle down in her place and then walked in to the bar. The next minute he emerged again with singular alacrity.

"What the devil am I to do?" he supposed they won't have her in the best rooms in that up and she's too tired to go on. If I interfere, it is to 10 to 1 that I do no good and 40 to 1 that she only hates me all the more for feeling her. It seems brutal to do nothing or at least not to try, but no woman could forgive a man who had seen her in such a plight. By Jove, if there were only some evidence! All's fair in love, especially in a case like this."

He prowled disconsolately to the back of the building, cursing his luck and wondering what he should do. There he saw an individual who evidently combined cycling with photography. A brilliant idea sprang up in his brain. He engaged the amateur photographer in conversation and explained his desire. The kodak changed hands, and so did the glowing new films. Then Bob Falk took busy snapshots of the back and front of the building in order to divert suspicion from his real purpose. After that he conveyed the kodak to the bar.

Some little time after her return from Scotland Lady Judith received a very singular letter. It ran:

Dear Lady Judith—I have a dozen of the enclosed. What should you recommend me to do with them? Yours truly, ROBERT FALK.

The inclosure was a photograph. She removed the silver paper hastily and saw. Well, you see when the landlady of that hotel positively refused to admit her to any of the rooms used by ladies on the ground that her costume would do harm to the establishment she had consented to take her meal in the barroom and put up with an article rather than proceed further in her exhausted state. She had regretted this weakness ever since. She only hoped that no knowledge of the insult which she had allowed to be heaped upon the cause would come to the ears of her strong minded sisters.

Now she saw before her eyes a visible presentment of the scene herself in her seminally garments seated at a small table to the right discussing provisions, to the left a knot of common men and the apparatus of the bar. It was bad enough to be exiled from her proper place. There was the worse thought that by her presence in the bar she had given tacit encouragement to the curse of drink.

Bob Falk married Lydia Darrell with her aunt's consent, and no one could ever make out why Lady Judith changed her mind so suddenly, least of all Professor Fiebel-Jones, who thought himself aggrieved.

Aunt and niece did not see much of each other after matrimony.—Madame.

A Problem Solved.



"I was wondering how I'd get over without climbing."

Sandy's Good Joke. Thirteenth Floor Tenant—Sandy, what are you laughing about?

Elevator Boy—I've got such a good joke on Mr. Striplin. He says to me 'while ago,' 'Sandy,' he says, 'don't you know what floor to put me off at, ye infernal Irish idiot!' An Irish Scotch-haw!

For one of the results of Lady Judith's harsh policy in ordering that "not at home" was to be said to Mr.

100's of Men and Women

are unable to enjoy the fruits of their labor because of kidney trouble brought on by the work which they are subject to. When the first sharp pain comes across the small of the back it is a warning that something has gone wrong with the kidneys. At this time delays are dangerous and by taking Doan's Pills immediately many years of suffering may be avoided.

Here are a few proofs that Doan's Kidney Pills are a positive cure for backache:

MR. M. E. SANDERS, Fairbank, Ont., writes: "I suffered intensely with pains across my back and am pleased to report that after taking one box of Doan's Pills I feel entirely cured, and can recommend them to all."

MR. G. WILLIAMS, Brantford, Ont., writes: "I was suffering with back pain, but after using three boxes of Doan's Pills the lameness entirely disappeared. He highly recommends Doan's Pills to others."

MR. R. T. ARNOLD, Davisville, Ont., writes: "I was troubled with severe pains in my back, but after taking one box of Doan's Pills I feel greatly improved, after taking the third box was completely cured."

The new reporter had been assigned to a "feature story" on the incidents of seafaring life and discovered this interesting note:

Captain Yandarm of the schooner Blue Blazes found himself in a peculiar predicament off the coast of Florida last Saturday morning. On Friday night the ship encountered a violent gale, which blew away the wake of the vessel, and it required the hardest efforts of the night watch to avenge the sleeping crew that morning.—Baltimore American.

Lucky Bird. "Don't you feel sorry for a bird in a gilded cage?" inquired the sentimentalist.

"No, I don't," answered the short haired man. "A bird in a gilded cage is about the only creature in the animal kingdom that gets its rest, heat, light, food and janitor service without its costing a cent of money or a stroke of work."—Washington Star.

From the Diary of a Wife. I am completely disheartened. Tonight I entered the parlor suddenly, and I found my husband lying on one side of my lovely new sofa cushions. How impossible it is for a woman to make a home in the true sense when she is married to such an insensate man! Sometimes I feel that I should be glad to die.—Detroit Journal.

Ideal Happiness. She—What was the happiest moment of your life? He—Well, I think it was one evening last week when I entered the parlor of my boarding house and saw a strange sign on the plan.

She—Is that? And the sign? He—Closed for repairs.—Exchange.

The Hottest Courtroom. "Oysters are in season now, aren't they, Mr. Bluff?"

"About now, I think, Miss Flint. There is some doubt about it, you know, but I never really doubt about ice cream soda. Will you indulge in a glass?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Periodical Famines Expected. Since the first great famine of which there are records devastated the land in 1770, when 10,000,000 perished in Bengal alone, India has scarcely passed a decade free from scarcity of grain in one district or another. The British government expects a drought about twice in every nine years, a famine once in every 11 or 12 years and a great famine about twice in a century.—Review of Reviews.

Tobacco. Numerous observations prove that the use of tobacco is a potent cause of disease of the eye. Total blindness from degeneration of the optic nerve has been traced to this cause. Recent observations point to tobacco and alcohol as the great causes of color blindness, and this accounts for the fact that it is much more common in men than in women.—Health Culture.

Woman, Why? You have sallowness, pimples, eruptions, discolorations. Why resort to cosmetics and powders to hide the effects? Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills regulate the system and restore to the cheek the healthy rosy bloom and peach blush of youth. From one to two pills a dose will clarify and purify the complexion in short order. 10 cents for 40 doses.—157

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A Thoroughbred. "Yes, she's well bred. There's no doubt about that."

"She has always seemed to be."

"Why, her little brother tells me that she eats her pie with a fork even when only members of the family are present."

A Joke. Willie—Say, did you propose to my sister last night?

Father—Oh—ah! Why, Willie—Willie—Cause everybody in the house has been gazing the life out of her.—Detroit Free Press.

His Soul in His Mission. "Dudley Simpson has got the India craze dreadfully."

"He has."

"Yes. He wanted to name their new baby 'Kicking Mooney.'—Indianapolis Journal.

Regular Russell Sage Lock. Ida—Why did old Aunt look so pleasant when he was having his picture taken?

She—He rode down and the conductor forgot to take his fare.

On Their Bridal Tour. She—How much do you love me, dear? He—A good deal, dear. Our expenses are \$19 a day at this hotel.—Detroit Free Press.

Defined. Mrs. Wiggles—What is a Philistine? Mr. Wiggles—Oh, anybody that you don't agree with.—Somerville Journal.

With the Stars Allocated. "Do you think the shirt waist men wear corsets?"

"He will if he's here to stay."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Old Fashioned. Mr. Jigger—I see Mr. Rumpwau, the circus man, was married the other day. That was something of a come down for him.

Thingumbob—Why so? Meddler—The wedding was nothing but a one ring performance.

Evidence to the Contrary. "It says to be a gentleman," he said sarcastically.

"Oh, I don't know," replied the other. "I notice that prizefighters pull down a good deal of money occasionally."—Chicago Post.

Let's Class. Lord Sayvan-De Livrus—Ah, but your leisure classes in this country have no titles.

Miss Sharpe—Nonsense! What's the matter with "Bobo," "Weary Willie," "Dusty Roads," and so on?

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What is CASTORIA

Castoria is for Infants and Children. Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by Millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. Castoria cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. Castoria assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels of Infants and Children, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

Castoria is an excellent medicine for children. Mothers have repeatedly told me of its good effect upon their children." DR. G. C. OSGOOD, Lowell, Mass.

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ARCHER, M. D. Brooklyn, N. Y.

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