

Sonnets of an Engaged.

I.

Last night—how long ago it seems—he brought me this;
It makes my finger fairly seem to blaze—I wonder what a stone like this one weighs?
It's larger than May Thorne's is, or I miss My guess by half a mile. What blissful bliss
It was that filled me when he stooped to raise
My hand and slipped this on. I seemed to gaze
Through heaven's portals, as we climbed to kiss.
How early he departed, though! There may
Have been some cause of which he was aware,
And he alone, for I have found today
Two brass suspender buttons lying where
He pressed me to his heart and failed to say
So much I longed to hear him murmur there.

II.

I think that we should quarrel: I must blame
Him for some fault, and frown and make him fear
That I have ceased to love him, dear old dear!
For, after all, is loving not a game
That must be played by rule if one would claim
It's sweets in fullest measure? 'Tis the tear
Preceding bliss that makes it more than mere
Mild satisfaction by a fairer name.
I'll hint at dreadful things I've heard, and when
We've been estranged a day or two I'll learn
That he is innocent, and fondly then
With outstretched, eager arms, he will return,
And I, clasped to his manly breast again
Will snuggle to him, filled with unconcern.

—Chicago Record-Herald.

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ITALIAN WEDDING CUSTOMS.

Some Features of the Ceremony as
Conducted in the United States.

In some of the popular churches on Baxter street, in the centre of the Italian colony, of New York, the marriage record reaches the startling proportion of from twenty to thirty a day, and more on Sundays, during the early spring months. The summer is comparatively marriageless, but during the last of October and the months following until the new year the record reaches its zenith again.

The Indian believes in love and he also believes in early marriage. Many of the girls put on the veil and orange blossoms when only fourteen years old. With the Italian marriage is a duty. There is an old saying that an unmarried man is no man. Single women are absolutely unknown. Even with the progressive Italian born on American soil a bachelor girl with her characteristic independence would be a monstrosity. Some years ago Italians in this country used to send to Italy for their wives. Nowadays they

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are marrying more and more the Americanized Italian girls of the colony, although the custom of importing the bride still prevails to some extent.

"Love and live" is the motto of the Latin quarter. Those who have followed its decree have worn away an inch or two from the solid steps of the Baxter street edifice of worship and matrimony. The worn steps also bear witness of those who go to see. In the Italian world for three successive Sundays the bands are given from the pulpit, and by this means the entire colony keeps tabs on the brides, as it is no doubt due to this foreknowledge that few marriages are solemnized without the church being of least half filled.

The Italian girl has a much easier time with her trousseau than has her American sister, for it is the duty of the Italian bridegroom to furnish both the wedding dress and the going-away gown. As the conventional honeymoon and going away costume has not yet come in style with the Italians, the latter dress is worn on the first public appearance of

the bride after the wedding. The only other place on the American continent where the bridegroom furnishes the wedding outfit is among the Zuni Indians where the man weaves it. The wedding dress of white satin or silk, the quality and number of yards being regulated by the financial state of the groom. Orange blossoms of wax are always in evidence, and the bride carries a bouquet of fresh white flowers. In addition to the wedding gown it is incumbent unto the Italian bridegroom who wishes to do the correct thing to bestow upon the bride certain jewelry. Aside from the regulation ring she generally receives a watch and chain, a brooch, and a pair of ear rings.

The ceremony over, carriages convey the party from the church to the house or hall where the celebration is to be held. A hall is generally hired for a few hours of the evening, and this is the most approved method, although many who cannot afford the elegance of a hired hall very sensibly hold their jubilation in their own place, however small.—Leslie's Weekly.

I don't care for the ballet anymore, preferring my upholstery in furniture.

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Some Old Baptist Churches.

The proposed union of the Baptist and Free Baptist churches in New Brunswick calls attention to the fact that there are many churches of the first named denomination that have a record of over a century. One of the Sackville churches was established in 1762, though a reorganization has since taken place. The Canterbury, N. B., church was organized in 1797 and the Nashwaak and Salisbury churches in 1800. In Nova Scotia the churches, dating each over a century, are those at Wolfville, 1778; West Onslow, 1791; Lower Granville, 1780; Zion, Yarmouth, 1797; Newport, 1790; Maitland, 1800; and Bridgetown, 1801.

This Week's Bulletin

Anything Here You Need.

Fur Goods.

2 Men's No. 1 quality Raccoon Coats, worth \$60, to clear at \$45. 4 Men's Raccoon Coats \$40 quality, to clear at \$25. 6 Wombat Coats, worth \$18 to \$22, to clear at \$14.50. 3 Men's Fur Lined Coats, with Otter Collars, to clear \$32.50. A lot of Fur Caps to clear at \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50, less than 1/2 of regular values. 5 Men's Fur Coats left, to clear at \$2.75, \$3.50 and \$6.00

Overcoats.

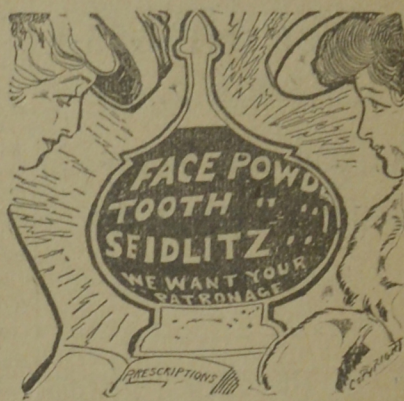
Men's \$12 Progress Brand Overcoats to clear at \$8.50. \$10 Overcoats to clear at \$6.50. Men's Beaver Cloth Overcoats, navy and black, to clear at \$5.00. Men's Beaver and Melton Cloth Reefers, well made, to clear at \$3.75 and \$5.00, worth 1/2 more. Men's 3 Buckle Overshoes Jacques Cartier Brand, to clear at \$1.75. Men's Felt Boots, Lace or Congress, 20 per cent. reduction.

Boys' Overcoats and Reefers.

This week we will offer our entire stock of Boys' Overcoats at \$2.75 and \$3.75, worth double. A few Boys' Reefers, to clear at \$1.95 and \$2.75. Keep this list, as the prices will hold good as long as the stock holds out.

WATCH NEXT CHANGE WEDNESDAY

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17508

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Reduced rates on all railways. In buying tickets over I. C. R., C. P. R., or N. B. S. R., buy single ticket for Fredericton and ask for Standard Certificate.

Everybody interested is cordially invited to attend.

W. W. HUBBARD,

Corresponding Secretary.

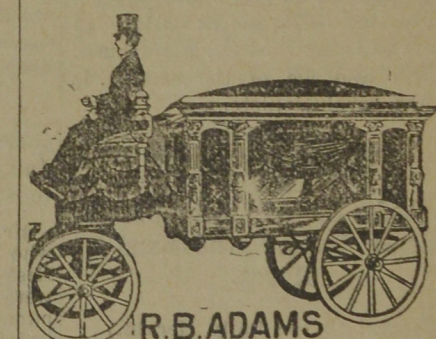
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