

HERE'S A QUEER TRAMP.

Saved Young Lady's Life, and Named Price.

New York, May 25.—The Don Quixote of tramps has been heard from. He was discovered by Miss Blanche Fairley, who, while out driving in her carriage near Philadelphia, had a runaway accident. A shabbily dressed man, evidently a tramp, stopped her horses and saved her life. She offered him money. He refused it, but asked for and got a kiss as his reward. Miss Fairley justifies her action thus: "I see nothing wrong in kissing an unknown man who has saved one's life, or rather in permitting an unknown man to kiss one after he has, say, prevented one from meeting a horrible death. There can be no ethical error in it."

"It is true that many people look upon it as little less than a sin to be kissed by anyone save a person to whom one is engaged to be married. We all know that every rule has an exception, and there are times when the rule regarding kissing can be broken without breaking anything in the code of ethics."

"I think that I was justified in permitting an unknown man who was evidently a tramp to kiss me, as he had saved my life. He risked his own life to save me from a horrible death. Had it not been for his gallantry and heroism I should have been ground to death beneath the wheels of my own carriage or my brains might have been battered

out against a telegraph pole. "I offered him money because he seemed to be in need of it. I consider it an act of gallantry on his part to have refused the money and to have asked for a kiss. Whenever the knights of old helped a lady in any manner they demanded a kiss or some token from the lady for the deed they had performed in her behalf."

"A kiss was considered a proper reward for the brave knight of old. If the tramp who saved my life had accepted the money I would have thought it just, and yet I am sure there would have crept into my mind thoughts that he had only a mercenary object in view when he risked his own life to save mine."

"But when he spurned my silver and asked only for a kiss I could not but think that it was gallantry of the true type, even if it did come from the heart of a man in rags and tatters."

"I am sure that there are many men in the highest society who would have hesitated to stop my horse in its mad rush."

"There seemed to be a streak of the romantic in my rescuer, for his request for a kiss was clothed in verse. I cannot remember all of the poetry he quoted. One thing I remember was: 'Her eyes like stars shine through the twilight of my soul.'"

ITS BAPTISM OF FIRE.

Town of White Horse Suffers Very Heavy Loss.

Vancouver, May 23.—Fire cleaned out the town from the postoffice to the telegraph office, the two main blocks. Quarter million loss.

That was the laconic telegram received from White Horse, the Yukon town at the head of navigation, telling of the settlement's baptism by fire this morning. The conflagration started in the early hours, and it was six hours before it was got under control. It had its origin in a small store on First Avenue, between Elliott and Main streets, and was just stopped before the Government telegraph office was reached.

GREAT WAREHOUSE SAVED.

The large warehouses owned by the White Pass & Yukon Company, on the eastern side of First Avenue, next to the river, were saved. They caught several times from the intense heat, but the damage in that quarter was small. The depot was burned, but its contents were saved. So far as is known no lives were lost. Several people had narrow escapes, but none of the buildings were very high. The estimated losses were made up early today, and may be subject to some change when the losses on stocks are more fully known. They follow:

Taylor & Drury, clothing, \$20,000; Seward's grocery, \$12,500; G. McLennan, hardware, \$15,000; Bennett news and book store, \$10,000; jewelry store and drug store in Windsor block, \$10,000; Whitney & Ped-

ler, general store, \$50,000; White Horse Hotel, \$20,000; Mr. Nicholls' drug store, \$5,000; Capt. P. Martin's grocery, \$10,000; Dominion Hotel, \$20,000; Unsworth's hardware store, \$9,000; Hotel Grand, John West, \$15,000; P. Burns' shop and cold storage plant, \$25,000. Total \$246,500.

Besides these larger buildings practically every restaurant and public rooming house in the place has been destroyed. Even were they left the source of supply is gone, unless the White Pass & Yukon sheds be tapped.

HUNDREDS ARE HOMELESS.

There are hundreds of people in White Horse waiting for the opening of navigation to proceed to Dawson. All are left without a home, except such hurry up accommodations as can be afforded in private houses.

Skaguay has been wired for temporary relief, but in the meantime the situation is a painful one. Guests in the hotels are baggageless, and only have such clothes as they recovered from the burning buildings. A conflagration just when navigation is opening on the Yukon, and White Horse's busy time is usually starting is a double calamity. The brief business season of the north will be over before the merchants are again in proper shape to take full advantage of it. Already, however, with true western energy, new businesses are rising on the ruins of the old.

BANK FAILS; ASSETS, \$21.

Liabilities of Concern in New Nevada Mining Town, \$78,227.

Goldfield, Nev., May 25.—The Goldfinch Bank and Trust Company, with liabilities of \$78,227, has failed. The assets so far discovered are \$4,821, of which \$4,800 is in notes. There was \$16 in the vault and a five-dollar gold piece was found under the counter.

The most disorganized state of affairs seems to exist in the books of the bank. J. B. Young, president of the bank, is also president of the Goldfinch Lida Investment Company. Two checks drawn on the John Cook Bank here, by W. R. Hale, of San Francisco, each for \$5,000 in favor of Francis L. Burton, promoter of the Goldfield Lida Investment Company, were recently paid by the insolvent bank. One of these checks was dated the 23rd and was paid on the 20th. It was evidently presented at the Cook Bank by the Goldfield Bank and Trust Company, as it is stamped "No Funds." W. R. Hale having no account there.

The bank has two debit slips, one for \$36,300 and another for \$7,200 account stocks and bonds as collateral.

San Francisco, May 25.—J. B. Young, president of the Goldfield Bank and Trust Company, declared that he had nothing to do with bringing about the crisis in the bank's affairs. According to Young, he sold his bank and denies that he fled Goldfield. On the contrary, he says, he came to San Francisco for a brief trip and that he intends to return to the mining town as soon as possible.

Young does not believe that the liabilities of the bank will exceed \$100,000, and he says that it should have assets enough to meet this amount.

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Panama Seaports.

Panama has no open seaports except the two railway terminals and Bocas del Toro, the centre of a large banana industry, to the north of Colon.

Plum Pudding.

Plum pudding was originally plum porridge and served for breakfast, not dinner.

Do Your Share.

A little thought will show you how vastly your own happiness depends on the way other people bear themselves toward you. Turn the idea around and remember that just so much are you adding to the pleasure or the misery of other people's days. And this is the half of the matter which you can control.—George S. Merriam.

Disquieting Suspicion.

"Do you enjoy your wife's teas and receptions?" "No," answered Mr. Cumrox, "to be candid, I do not. I can't help harboring a suspicion that if I didn't happen to be her husband Mrs. Cumrox wouldn't consider me of sufficient social consequence to be invited."

Tact.

George (nervously)—I'd like ever so much to marry you, Kitty, but I don't know how to propose. Kitty (promptly and practically)—That's all right. George. You've finished with me; now go to papa.

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THE FORCE OF FEAR.

Fright Was the Cause of the Death of Frederick I. of Prussia.

There are several well authenticated cases where fright was the cause of death. An English surgeon tells of a drummer in India across whose legs a harmless lizard crawled while he was half asleep. He was sure that a cobra had bitten him, and it was too much for his nerves, and he died.

Frederick I. of Prussia was killed by fear. His wife was insane, and one day she escaped from her keeper and, dabbled her clothes with blood, rushed upon her husband while he was dozing in his chair. King Frederick imagined her to be the white lady whose ghost was believed to invariably appear whenever the death of a member of the royal family was to occur, and he was thrown into a fever and died in six weeks.

But perhaps the most remarkable death from fear was that of the Dutch painter Pentman, who lived in the seventeenth century. One day he went into a room full of anatomical subjects to sketch some skulls and bones for a picture he intended to paint. The weather was very sultry, and while sketching he fell asleep. He was aroused by bones dancing around him and the skeletons suspended from the ceiling clashing together. In a fit of horror he threw himself out of the window. Though he sustained no serious injury and was informed that a slight earthquake had caused the commotion among the ghostly surroundings, he died of nervous tremor.

THE WREN BUSH.

An Old Custom Still Observed in Ireland at Christmas.

Among the many odd customs still observed in Ireland at Christmas few are more curious than the practice of carrying about "the wren bush" on St. Stephen's day, and antiquaries are puzzled to explain why the poor little "king of all birds" should be put to death on the festival of the first martyr.

The most probable explanation is that the wren was sacred to the Druids and was used by them in divination and other pagan rites at the festival of the winter solstice, which almost coincided with Christmas, and consequently the clergy urged their converts to destroy the birds which were associated with such unholy rites, just as St. Patrick's relentless destruction of the images of serpents, used in the ancient pagan worship of Ireland, gave rise to the legend that he—

Gave the snakes and toads a twist
And banished them all forever!

This seems the more likely, because "dread," the old Irish name for "wren," also means "a Druid," and old folk still call "Jenny" the "Druid bird" and say that she has the gift of prophecy and that those who can interpret her twitterings as she hovers about a house or flies from bush to bush can read the future. In the library of Trinity college, Dublin, there is a curious document describing how to interpret the notes of the wren.—Maud E. Sargent in Longman's Magazine.

Lawyers and the Law.

I expect it'd be only a poor lawyer couldn't argue a tack into a cow—"a" out of her again, too, 'r that matter—"Mr. Weskin ain't no poor lawyer. He's fine 's they make. Of course a good deal of the time no one knows what he means, but that ain't nothin' ag'in him, 'r I think with a lawyer you generally don't. It's a part of their business not to let no one know what they mean, 'r 'f law was simple no one'd ever get fooled."

It takes another lawyer to see what a lawyer is doin', anyhow. When a lawyer says anything is so to me I never take no time to disbelieve him, 'cause he'd never got to be in the law a tall if he wasn't able to prove the truth of his own lyin'.—"Susan Clegg and Her Friend, Mrs. Lathrop," by Anne Warner.

Fatal Blunder.

"He is gone!" she wailed. "He is gone forever!" "Don't be downcast," her friend urged. "He may come back." "No, no; I shall never see him again. I gave up the letters he had written to me."

Had Her Appetite.

Harry—Molly, you look good enough to eat. Molly—All you have to do is ask me to dine. I'll do the eating at night.—Boston Transcript.

Animals and Rain.

Much as animals dislike rain, none of them save the squirrel build themselves shelters to keep it off. Monkeys set their backs against tree trunks as a protection from driving rain, but never make a protective roof. It is a common sight to see a drenched herd of cattle huddled together on some exposed common in a downpour of rain when they have no choice or chance of shelter. But even the orang-outang, which builds a small sleeping platform in the trees, never seems to think of a roof, though the Dyaks say that when it is raining heavily it sometimes covers itself with the leaves of a large fern.

Hanging a Scythe.

As a youth Daniel Webster was somewhat opposed to physical labor, but he was quick at repartee. While mowing he complained to his father that his scythe was not properly hung. "Hang it to suit yourself, Dan," replied the paternal. The boy immediately hung it on a tree near by. "There, father, it's hung to suit me now."

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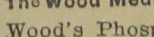
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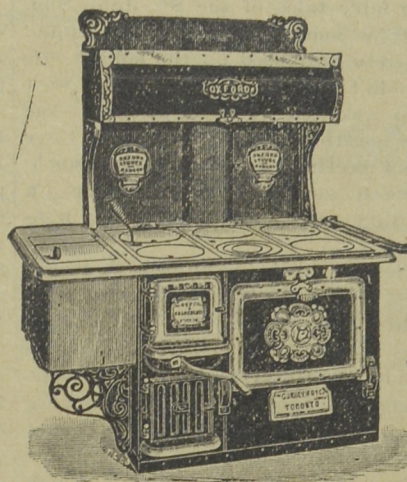
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