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A Million a Minute

A Romance of Modern New York and Paris

..... By Hudson Douglas .....

(Continued)

"Voila la p'tite maman!" cried the volatile Frenchman exuberantly, and, bursting forth ere the train had well slowed down, threw his arms about a fashionably dressed matron who might almost have passed for his sister. She returned his embrace with equal fervor, quite disregarding the general public which was taking an unaffected interest in the distinguished-looking young man with whom the handsome grande dame seemed to be on such intimate terms. Then she held him at arm's length to see what he looked like after his prolonged absence in foreign parts, and Cornoyer beckoned Quaintance forward.

"There is here a Yank in the train who is my friend," he cried ecstatically, "and you must make him come home with us.

"This is my little old mamma, he remarked to Quaintance, hat in hand before his mother. 'She speaks no English like me, but she is the goods.' And, leaving the two together, he turned to where a tall footman in quietly sumptuous livery was occupied in extracting their light baggage from the compartment, and who received him with an irrepressible grin.

"Hole, Gaston. Im glad to see you and Paris again. How do we drive? Omnibus or barouche? Barouche, eh? And the baggage by cab? This gentlemans also.'

Quaintance was protesting vehemently to Madame Cornoyer that he could not avail himself of such hospitality, but quite in vain until that question was settled for them by a most unlooked-for arbiter. O'Ferral came quietly forward, and at sight of him Cornoyer was moved to the utmost excess of rapture while Madame Cornoyer welcomed him warmly as an old friend. Quaintance was inwardly overjoyed to see him, but shook hands stolidly, after the fashion of the Anglo-Saxon. And then the argument was renewed till O'Ferral informed them that he had already made all arrangements for the newcomer's accommodation. Whereupon Cornoyer expressed grave dissatisfaction with him and his high-handed methods, but, having made careful record of his address, drove off, content, with his mother.

"What in creation are you doing here?" Quaintance asked, once more wringing his friend's hand as they went forward to claim his belongings. "You're the most unexpected sort of fellow I ever came across! How did you know I'd be here today? Was it chance that brought you along in the nick of time, or—"

"Of the last time," he answered, squaring his shoulders again. "We've come through the mill since then, sweetheart, but—thank God! we're none the worse.

"Waiter! We want some dinner—the best you can do, only don't bother us. And bring us a bottle of that same Burgundy, will you. It's a lucky bin."

All they said to each other over that meal concerns themselves only. But it may be stated, that, when it was over and Quaintance had ordered coffee a special brew to be made according to methods imparted to him by a merchant from Mocha whom he had once met on his travels, they both fell silent, looking about them with eyes that were very friendly and well disposed toward the others there. And they were still sunk in such wordless contentment when a cheery voice recalled them from the clouds.

"H'lo, Quaintance!" it said, and they looked up swiftly at the grey-haired individual in very correct evening dress, who had come forward and stopped beside them.

Qaintance sprang to his feet, hand outstretched.

"God! but I'm glad to see you, O'Ferral," he cried. "Dagmar, this is a little surprise I planned for you. I didn't know whether O'Ferral was in town till I phoned from the bank. A chair, waiter! Where's that coffee? Fetch me my coat—I want my cigar-case. Or will you have something to eat first, O'Ferral?"

"I've dined, thanks."

"Then have a cigar."

Quaintance plunged a hand into his overcoat-pocket, pulled forth his case and a couple of letters, which he would have tossed to one side had not he caught sight of the postmark on one of them.

He lit a match for O'Ferral, and kindled his own Havana, with frowning eyes on the envelope. Then he slit that open.

"Your pardon," he said to the other two, "but I want to see what this fellow says—and forget him."

His wife turned to O'Ferral, to whom she had much to tell. Their voices sounded far away and indistinct to him as he stared through a thin blue curtain of smoke, at the paper before him. And he stared at it for so long that she at length took him to task.

"What's the matter, Stephen?" she asked, and her eyes grew anxious as she observed the bewilderment in his face.

He looked at her for a moment as if she had been a stranger, and then at O'Ferral.

"I wish you would read that to me," he said in a puzzled whisper. "I don't seem to get the sense of it. That wine must have gone to my head."

O'Ferral glanced at the bottle, more than half full.

"You must have a very weak head, Steve," said he concisely, and took the sheet from his friend.

But his expression also changed as he perused the epistle. He opened his eyes very wide and pursed up his mouth.

"Read it aloud," Quaintance ordered. "It's from San Francisco, Dagmar—from the lawyers there. Go on, O'Ferral. We're listening."

And O'Ferral obeyed, with good will.

" 'Dear Sir,' " he began, " 'We duly received your favor from Paris, enclosing certificate of your marriage to the ward of our late client, Mr. Miles Quaintance, as also proof of your identity, which we have since satisfied ourselves is competent. And in this connection we beg to express our profound regret that we were misled into recognizing Mr. Dominic Seager in your place, but, as you yourself were admittedly the chief contributor to that mistake, we trust you will not hold us unduly blameworthy.

" 'We note that you and your wife wished, at the time of your wedding, to forfeit all claim to our late client's property, and the steps you took to do so.

" 'You have evidently forgotten, however, that there is a considerable difference in time between France and the United States of America. The certified hour of your marriage was 12.10 a.m., in Paris, which in San Francisco would be 3.50 p.m. of the previous day, 7.05 p.m. in New York. We have taken the highest legal opinion on this point, and it coincides with our own, viz., that Mr. Miles Quaintance, an American citizen, making his will in Ameica and for the benefit of American heirs, did so on the basis, only and absolutely, of American time.

" 'We have therefore felt compelled, acting under our late client's explicit instructions, to forward the liquid assets of his personal estate to the bank in New York, to which you kindly referred us. And we wait your orders as to the disposal of the testator's real property.

" 'Trusting to be favored with your confidence—We have acted for the late Mr. Miles Quaintance for twenty years—and assuring you of our best efforts on your behalf, we remain, yours faithfully, Scroggie, Naylor & Touchwood.' "

Quaintance's cigar had gone out. He was gazing witlessly at his wife, while she, no less perturbed, looked blankly back at him. O'Ferral glanced at his watch and was silent, waiting for them to speak. And time ticked away, unheeded.

The restaurant was beginning to empty. There were vacant tables all round them. The world without was hushed by the snow.

Quaintance sat up suddenly and his bent brows relaxed. His wife leaned forward. O'Ferral regarded them both approvingly, with twinkling eyes.

"Well?" he demanded, and Qaintance turned to him in surprise.

"I had forgotten that you were there, O'Ferral," he said simply. "But it's all true. There's no doubt about it.

"And we're not going to buck against fate any more," he informed his wife. "We've hurt ourselves too badly at that game already."

"You mean that we must keep all that money?" she asked.

"Most of it. We can't well help ourselves. But we won't let the charities suffer, and—we'll forgive Miles Quaintance—as much as we can. We'll take it that he at least meant well by you and me, dear."

O'Ferral pulled out his watch again.

"Time flies," he averred, "and so must I. I only looked in on my way uptown to shake hands with you both. And, d'you know, Steve, that you're been thinking it out at the rate of a million a minute!"

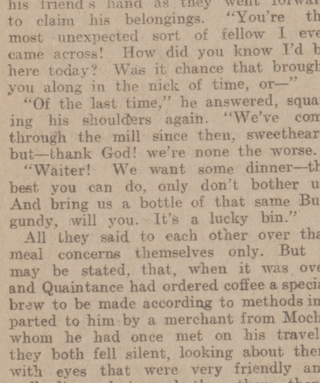
"The simplest thing in the world," O'Ferral explained. "Our Paris publishes a list of passengers leaving New York for these parts. So that I knew several days ago when and where I might look for you. What's brought you over here, eh?"

"It's a good thing I didn't come on in my car from Cherbourg," said Quaintance. "I should have, if I hadn't been in a bit of a hurry. You haven't seen or heard anything of —of that girl of mine on this side, have you?"

"Not a sign of her. Is she here?"

"She sailed the day before I did," Quaintance asserted, and, having at length secured his baggage and set out for the Rue St. Roch, where O'Ferral had his quarters, he plunged into a full and true account of his surprising adventures in that connection since he had last seen the correspondent. He had not yet concluded when they reached the rooms on which his friend had taken an option for him, and no more was said while his trunks were being conveyed to the snug entresol suite adjoining O'Ferral's own apartment. Into which

(To be Continued.)



Fashion Hint for Times Readers



A NEAT LITTLE PERCALE MORNING FROCK.

The striped percales make charmingly fresh and dainty play frocks for small girls, and these wide percales launder splendidly. A green and white striped pattern was used for this cool-looking little dress and the model is exceedingly simple. front and back being made with a wide box pleat down the centre and a pleat set at each shoulder, the bias cut of the side seams giving plenty of swing to the skirt. Cuffs, yoke and belt are made of white pique set in under strappings of the percale, and white pearl buttons on the front box plait add a pretty finish.

COUNCIL AT LAST MEETING TRANSACTED MUCH BUSINESS

Milford Water Extension Debentures are Voted Down and Other Work Held Up—Engineer Peters Director for Another Month

A considerable amount of routine business occupied the attention of the common council at their final meeting yesterday afternoon, and more than three hours were consumed in dealing with the reports of the various boards.

The proposition to issue debentures to the amount of $13,000 to provide for the extension of the water system to Milford was voted down, a number of the aldermen expressing the opinion that similar work in the city was needed before extensions in Lancaster. The proposed extension of the water main out Adelaide road at an estimated cost of $10,000, was also turned down. It was decided to build a new engine house on the west side at a cost of $4,725, and a resolution was adopted providing for an issue of debentures to the amount of $131,000 to cover expenditures for wharves, warehouses, water extension, etc.

Engineer Peters will be retained for another month as director of public works and at the expiration of that period will resume the position of consulting engineer. Among the communications sent in was one from the New Brunswick Telephone Company asking permission to lay conduits in Union, Mill and Main streets.

The common clerk read the returns of the recent election and the successful candidates were declared elected.

The report of the treasury board was adopted with the exception of the application from R. R. Smith, a civil servant, for a rebate of five per cent on his taxes. This was referred back.

The first three sections of the board of works report were adopted. Section four recommended $300 be taken from the amount appropriated for public squares and used for the purchasing of trees.

Ald. McGoldrick said that last year there was $2,100 appropriated for the squares and there was an over-expenditure of $98. He did not see where the money was coming from.

Ald. Pickett suggested that a competent gardener be engaged and that he secure competent help. The work on the squares last year was not satisfactory.

Ald. McGoldrick said the director had appointed Mr. Mullin, who was assistant to the late Mr. Beattey for eight years.

The section was adopted.

Section five, recommending the purchase of a Champion street sweeper for $175, was finally referred back by a vote of 7 to 6.

A supplementary report of the board of works recommending that Andre Cushing & Co. be allowed the use of No. 2 shed and George McKean No. 3 shed at Sand Point for storing dry lumber, and that J. Hunter White have the use of No. 1 shed for storing molasses, was adopted.

The report of the safety board was taken up. Sections recommending the renewal of a lease in Queens ward to Jane Sullivan, and one in Prince ward to G. C. and Mary E. Jordan, were referred back. Section 11 recommended the building of an engine house in St. John, west, at an estimated cost of $4,725.

Ald. Frink opposed this as unnecessary and moved in amendment that the section be struck out. If an engine house was built at all it should be as near as possible to Sand Point. He thought the old No. 8 building might be utilized.

Ald. Baxter spoke in favor of the recommendation and claimed the site selected was the most suitable both for the warehouses and the residential district.

Ald. Scully and Ald. Sproul spoke in support of the section and it was finally adopted by 11 to 3. Those voting against were: Ald. Frink, Rowan and Pickett.

Section twelve, providing for the payment of salaries of Policemen Olive and Linton, created discussion but was finally carried.

Section thirteen recommended that in case of a vacancy in the force during Sergt. Hipwell's leave of absence the chief be authorized to fill it. This was adopted with the provision that "the police force should consist of not more than forty men, exclusive of the chief."

John McDonald, Jr., and Christopher J. Kane were granted the privilege of erecting cold storage plants in the market, subject to the approval of the director.

In dealing with the report of the water and sewerage board section four recommending that the upper flat of City Hall be fitted up for the water offices and that the upper flat of the Leinster street offices be rented to Gilbert G. Murdoch for $100 per annum was adopted with a proviso that the latter agreement could be terminated at thirty days' notice.

Section seven recommending the extension of the water main in Charlotte street (west) to Lancaster street, 200 feet, was adopted by a two-thirds vote as it required an issue of bonds.

Section eight recommending favorable consideration of the matter of extending the water system out Adelaide street as far as the rope walk, at an estimated cost of $10,000, provided the property owners agree to pay 5 per cent annually on the cost of construction created discussion.

Ald. Frink thought if the property owners wanted the extension they should make it themselves.

Ald. Scully thought the water should not be taken out unless the sewerage system was also installed.

Ald. Pickett claimed that other sections of the city had been trying to get water extension, but had been unable to do so on favorable conditions. He moved as an amendment that Egbert street, Sandy Point road, as far as the ice company's barn and Park street, be also included in the recommendation.

The section was referred back.

Ald. Frink was instructed at his suggestion, to communicate with the minister of public works regarding the charge for water against buildings of the dominion public works department.

A resolution was passed that the work of repairing the Marsh bridge aboideau be proceeded with under instructions from the recorder.

The bills and by-laws committee reported changing the dog tax to $1 and $2.

Ald. McGoldrick said there should be a "pound" and a pound-keeper.

Ald. Pickett said that under the present law the council could appoint a pound-keeper. The park policemen had been appointed pound-keepers in the limits of the park.

Ald. Baxter suggested that the aldermen should be appointed pound-keepers, but the other members were not anxious.

The change was approved.

The section relating to a license for bill boards was taken up and Ald. Pickett told of the change to five cents a running foot. He moved adoption of the bill.

Ald. Baxter moved that two cents a running foot be charged, and Ald. McGowan moved that the bill be struck out.

Ald. Frink said he had thought this was a small matter, but from the way the aldermen had been buttonholed it appeared to be a matter of considerable importance to some people. He would vote against the amendment.

Ald. Baxter's amendment carried by a vote of 7 to 6.

The section relating to rifle shooting galleries, was adopted.

The order of business was suspended for Ald. Baxter to introduce two resolutions concerning an issue of debentures. He moved that debentures of $131,000 be issued to provide for expenditures on wharves and warehouses, the water extension, etc., denomination $500 each, payable in forty years and bearing interest at 4 per cent.

Ald. Frink seconded the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

The second resolution to issue $13,000 debentures to provide for laying a water main to Milford, caused discussion.

Ald. Pickett said it was not fair to extend the water system to Milford when it had been refused in Adelaide street and Douglas avenue. He thought they should look after the needs of the city first. He claimed there was no guarantee on the investment and it was bad policy to expend a large sum like that without a guarantee of adequate return.

Ald. McGoldrick supported Ald. Pickett and Ald. Frink, in speaking of the proposition, said it was not a sin of the present council but had been inherited. The pipe had been lying in the road for several years.

Ald. Baxter said if any reliance could be placed on the engineer's estimate of cost or estimated revenue, the extension would not be a charge on the rest of the taxpayers.

Ald. Pickett contended that an estimate of revenue was not sufficient. There should be a guarantee.

Ald. Scully also spoke against the proposition, and on a vote being taken it was defeated.

Ald. Baxter will present a new resolution calling for an issue of debentures to cover the cost of the pipe, about $7,000.

Ald. McGoldrick moved that Hurd Peters be retained one month longer at his present salary, as director of public works. He explained that Mr. Peters had two or three jobs under way including the rebuilding of the Wiggins wharf and repairs to the east side ferry floats, and Engineer Murdoch had about all he could do at present.

Ald. Elkin—"I think it's about time this farce stopped. This has been going on long enough and I move that Mr. Peters be made consulting engineer at his former salary of $1,080. If you keep him until everything is cleaned up you will have him for years to come."

After discusston it was decided on the suggestion of Ald. Baxter that Mr. Peters be retained in his present capacity and he should then be made consulting engineer.

Ald. Elkin said all he wanted was to stop the same old motion coming in month after month.

The report of the appeals committee was adopted. Consideration of the report of the salaries committee was deferred until today's meeting.

On motion of Ald. Baxter the common clerk was instructed to send a communication to Ald. Hamm expressing the sympathy of the council in his illness and their regret at his retirement from public life.

The annual reports of the Free Public Library and the Slaughter House Commissioners were received and ordered printed with the city accounts.

The following communications were referred to the various boards and committees:

Petition from William Taylor for a sewer in Bridge street.

A request from the New Brunswick Telephone Company to lay conduits for their wires from the corner of Union to Mill, along Mill to Main and along Main to Douglas avenue.

J. J. Gordon, and Sleeth, Quinlan & Co., and Hon. H. A. McKeown, their solicitor, notified the city that they had appointed appraisers to appraise the value of the buildings and lots in Union street (west), and they asked the city to appoint appraisers to act with them.

Policeman Gosline applied for half pay for time lost through illness.

Employes in the ferry service applied for an increase in pay.

Communication from the secretary of the league of American Municipalities inviting the city to join the league.

Communication from R. B. Kessen, general manager Bank of New Brunswick, requesting the city to construct an asphalt sidewalk opposite their new building in Union street, Carleton, and offering to contribute one-half of the cost.

Petition of tax collectors asking increase in commissions from 2 1-2 per cent to 5 per cent.

Application of Charles Hughes for lease of lot in Germain street, Carleton.

Communication from E. W. Paul asking for payment of the sum of $14.09 spent by him for repairs in consequence of the state of a retaining wall.

It was after 6.30 when the meeting adjourned.

Those at the meeting were: Ald. Sproul, Rowan, Frink, Holder, Willet, Elkin, Scully, McGoldrick, Baxter, Pickett, Christie, Kelley and McGowan. The absentees were Ald. Baskin, Lewis and Hamm.

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When it Has Reached the Chest, is Developing Into Bronchitis and Threatens to Become Pneumonia.

There's No Time for Delay or Experimenting—It's Time to Use Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

It seems too bad that there is not more pain and suffering associated with a cold, for then there would be less tendency to neglect treatment.

So gradually and stealthily does a cold pass from its simpler form of a cold in the head into inflammation of the bronchial tubes and then on to the lungs that many do not realize their condition until pneumonia is upon them.

Ordinarily, of course, the cold is thrown off, but with the system run down and weakened there is every reason to expect that a cold will end seriously.

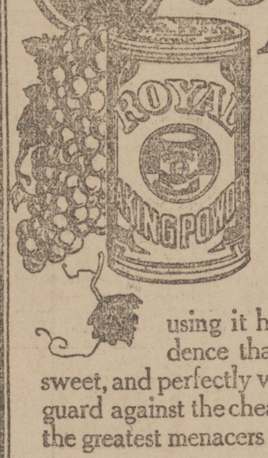
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There are many reasons why you should use Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine. It is more thorough and far-reaching in its effects on the system than any mere cough medicine can possibly be. It keeps the cough loose and open, it aids expectoration and allays the inflammation.

It does more than this. It cures the cold as well as the cough. It is direct, positive and almost specific in action.

Mrs. Geo. Good, Tichborne, Addington Co., Ont., writes: "It is with pleasure that I certify to the wonderful success of Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine as a cure for colds. It is the best and surest treatment for coughs and colds that we have ever been able to find." 25 cents a bottle, at all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

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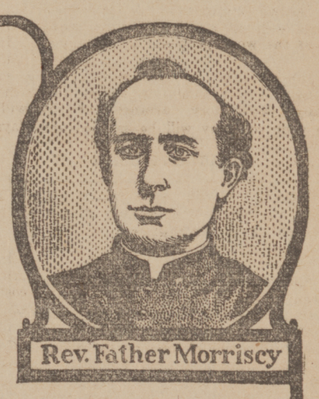
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The Times Daily Puzzle Picture



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"Your hair is rarest gold," he cried;
"You are the girl I've picked."
But after they were married he
Soon found he'd been gold-bricked.

Find him.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.
(Upside down, behind head.)