

PETER'S CREEK ELECTRIC ROAD.

Though Jane French and Susan Lathrop were twin sisters, and though they lived only fifteen miles apart, yet they had not seen each other for three years.

It was not because they were bad friends—no, no! Jane invariably spoke of Susan with emotion and gave it as her opinion that whatever might be said to the contrary, no one, to her mind, ever seasoned tomato pickles the way that Susan did. As for Susan, she was given to remarking that Jane made a bed with more celerity and neatness than any woman of her acquaintance. By this it will be seen that a feeling of most affectionate cordiality existed between the two.

But neither of them found it easy to take the horses away from their work for two days, and even if such a thing could be accomplished now and then, it was impossible for either woman to achieve the journey without some sort of a man-body as conductor of the expedition.

It was not that Jane and Susan were timid drivers, but that it hardly seemed womanly for them to ford two streams and dash up hill and down, as the peculiarities of the road required them to do. Such a display of courage they would have considered as distinctly masculine as the riding of a diamond-framed wheel.

It must not be supposed that the part of New York state in which this occurred was unenriched by railroad activity. Dear no! By riding thirty-three miles, thus describing an acute triangle, and waiting five hours



at the junction, it was possible for Jane to go to Susan, and for Susan to go to Jane.

"It's preposterous!" said Jane. "Outrageous!" said Susan. So they did not visit.

"There's rumors afloat of one of them electric roads to be built straight 'long Peter's Creek," John Lathrop told Susan, his wife. "That'll take you straight to Jane's, and no change in cars nor nothing."

"Laws!" cried Susan. "How soon'll it be builded?" "But three years," said Lathrop, and laughed. But Susan was serious.

"How many hours'll it take to get from here to there on a 'lectric car?" "Hours! Minutes, you mean, woman! Less'n fifty minutes'll do the bit."

"What? Me get to Jane's in fifty minutes!" It seemed incredible. Then a resolution was born in the economical soul of Susan Lathrop. "I'll wait till that there road is done," she declared. "It'll be a savior."

Jane heard of this resolve and commended it. "As Susan says," she remarked to her husband, "it'll be real economy to put off visitin' till that there road is done."

"Yes," acquiesced Hank French, "when we get the 'lectric it'll be quicker to go anywhere than to stay at home."

"Eh?" said Jane, looking perplexed. "Yep," growled Hank; and, vexed at his wife's lack of appreciation of his humor, relapsed into silence.

But three years is a long time going by. The sisters stood it with what fortitude they could. But a thousand things had happened of which they desired to speak. People had died—people they both knew—and Jane and Susan had no opportunity to discuss deathbed speeches, likelihood of trances, details of funerals, or the situation of the bereaved families. Beula Jones had used shaker flannel instead of all-flannel pinning blankets for her baby, and Susan had no chance to tell Jane. Lila Gibbs had been married in green poplin—the ideal—and Jane had lacked an opportunity to tell Susan. Pete Hines was converted and was almost exploding with his pent-up oaths; Si Lewis had taken to drink since he married his second wife. Was it not pitiful that these events had remained undiscussed? Moreover, there were domestic matters of still greater importance—but these it would be a breach of confidence to mention.

The twins got so that the first news they read in the Weekly Herald was that which related to the construction of the electric road. When the teams were put at work upon the roadbed, Susan and Jane were as happy as birds. When the first rails were laid they excited like successful politicians the morning after election. Each was busy upon a frock which she intended to wear to the house of the other; each was full of ebullient anticipation at the thought of giving a surprise to the other.

The time of waiting passed. A morning of rain dawned, and at each end of the road a bright yellow car stood waiting to make its initial journey. Jane—in her new frock—was in one car, bound for Susan's, her arms filled

with bundles containing gifts, her heart fluttering like that of a happy girl. Susan—in her fresh gown—was in the other car, destined for Jane's, her lap heaped with presents, her heart dancing like an accepted lover.

The cars started by the watch, spit blue fire from the furious wheels and gave fire from the frantic trolleys, and made the run in fifty-eight and fifty-nine minutes, respectively, passing each other on the way.

The summer rain turned into a down-pour, and all in the deluge Jane climbed the hill to Susan's house, and Susan plodded along the common to Jane's.

"Never mind, Jane," said John Lathrop to his sister-in-law. "You just make yourself to home. Susan'll be back in no time. Don't you move out of this here house till Sue gets home. She's been frettin' and stewin' fur ye till I up and said 't' her I guess she made a mistake in livin' with me. It was you she ought 't' have had."

So Jane staid and looked after Susan's children and cooked for Susan's husband, and watched every car for the appearance of her sister.

As for Susan, she broke down for a moment when she found that her journey had been in vain.

"No, see here, Susie," argued her brother-in-law, Hank French, "what use is it to cry? Jane'll come racin' home like Maud S. when she finds you're here. You stay right where you be."

So Susan did as she was bid, and visited with Jane's husband and hemmed Jane's napkins and made a new kind of pickle for Jane out of some overripe string beans.

But on the third day Jane concluded to go home. And on the third day Susan concluded to go home. And so—but that's really the end of the story.

"They're a fool invention to my mind, them 'lectric cars," said Jane to her husband.

Susan dropped tears in the bath as she bathed the children.

"There's too many new fangled things in these parts," she said to the children. "Next time your ma goes anywhere she's goin' to drive the horses, and then maybe she git something that she wants."

THE ORANGE FREE STATE.

The Education of Its Children One of its Primary Concerns.

The Orange Free State, which is now invaded by the British, expends about \$150,000 annually on roads, \$300,000 on bridges, and large sums, for so small a country, on public buildings. In fact, nearly one-third of the entire revenue of the state is absorbed by educational grants and public works. This would be a very fine showing for countries outside of Africa. The government of this Boer state is very careful about the education of the children of the land. For this purpose a permanent fund of \$100,000 is set aside. The educational department is a very thorough one. This department is under a superintendent, who has under him a corps of inspectors and sub-inspectors. There are about 85 government schools, with a staff of 150 teachers. These schools are exclusive of private and non-aided schools, such as those which are maintained by the Catholics, the Anglicans, and other religious denominations. The great majority of the citizens of the Orange Free State are, from the circumstances of their Dutch origin, members of the Dutch Reformed church. This is the established church of the land. There is a congregation in nearly every little village of the country. The government annually contributes about \$40,000 to the support of this religious sect. It is paid into the church synod, to be used as that body deems fit. This synod meets every other year, in the month of May, at Bloemfontein, the capital. It is composed of the pastor and a lay member of each congregation. The following denominations also have churches in the Orange Free State: The Episcopalians, Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians. The Orange Free State has a sort of Maine liquor law. It was passed in 1883. This statute absolutely forbids the sale of alcoholic stimulants of any kind to the tribesmen and to people of color generally. It prevents its sale to any one except in towns. There is no license granted for the sale of drink outside of municipalities.

"What's the difference between a bet and a wager?" asked the man who thinks there are too many words in the English language. "A bet," said the friend who always wears a dress coat after 6 o'clock, "is something you make with a man, which has to be paid, no matter who loses. A wager, is something more refined. It's made with a woman, and is not considered collectible unless she wins."—Washington Star.

Keeps Her Old Hat. The collecting of lace is not the only hobby of the princess of Wales. She has a remarkable lot of hats and bonnets, consisting of all those she has worn during the thirty years she has led London fashions. Each hat or bonnet, carefully put away, bears the date of the season of its use.—Washington Post.

Meant What He Said. Smith—Is your new clerk a good man? Jones—Never saw his equal; he works just like a charm. Smith—But I was under the impression that charms seldom work. Jones—Well, you heard what I said.

No. 1001 West 42nd and 43rd St. Shake into your shoes Allen's Foot-Powder, a powder for the feet. It makes tight or New Shoes feel Easy. Cures Corns, Bunions, Swollen, Hot and Sweating Feet. At all Druggists and Shoe Stores, 25c. Sample sent FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

Too Deep for Her "Not two lumps of sugar, Tommy; the paper says sugar may go up." "But, ma, if I eat more, then folks'll sell more, an' that'll make 'em keep th' price down."—Indianapolis Journal.

Lane's Family Medicines. Moves the bowels each day. In order to be healthy this is necessary. Acts gently on the liver and kidneys. Cures sick headache. Price 25 and 50c.

A cheerful friend is like a sunny day, which sheds its brightness all around.—Sir John Lubbock.

Wanted Men and women to sell our special supporting bracelets. Makes crocheting, etc., easier. 62 1/2 N. 7th St., for 25c. Send for sample and agent's terms. Deekas & Lauer, 601 La. Ave., Washington, D. C.

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Winter suspends the activity of certain microbes, but does not destroy their life.

I am sure Piso's Cure for Consumption saved my life three years ago.—Mrs. Thos. Robbins, Maple Street, Norwich, N. Y., Feb. 17, 1900.

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Russia's army boasts of feminine medical officers.

A vigorous growth and the original color given to the hair by PARKER'S Hair Balsam. Hairdressing, the best cure for corns. Itca.

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Quackery gives birth to nothing.

Go to your grocer to-day and get a 15c. package of Grain-O

It takes the place of coffee at 1/4 the cost. Made from pure grains it is nourishing and healthful.

Send that your grocer gives you GRAIN-O. Accept no imitation.

FAIR WOMEN SPEAK.

Pe-ru-na Works Wonders for the Gentler Sex in Catarrhal Ailments.



MRS. COLONEL HAMILTON.

MISS ANNIE WYANDOTTE.

MISS CLARA STOECKER.

That Pe-ru-na has become a household remedy in the home of Mrs. Colonel Hamilton is well attested by a letter from her, which says: "I can give my testimony as to the merits of your remedy, Pe-ru-na. I have been taking the same for some time, and am enjoying better health now than I have for some years. I attribute the change to Pe-ru-na, and recommend Pe-ru-na to every woman, believing it to be especially beneficial to them." Mrs. Hamilton's residence is 259 Goodale street, Columbus, Ohio.

Mrs. Margaretta Dauben, No. 1214 North Superior street, Racine City, Wis., says: "I feel so well and good and a healthful now that pen can not describe it. Pe-ru-na is everything to me. I feel healthy and well, but if I should be sick I would know what to take. I have taken several bottles for female complaint. I am in the change of life and it does me good."

Have you catarrh of the head, throat, lungs, stomach or any other organ of the body? If so, write to Dr. Hartman at once. He will send you directions for treatment without charge. Address Dr. Hartman, Columbus, O.

A congestion, inflammation or ulceration of the mucous membrane, whether of the head, stomach, kidneys, or other organ, is known to the medical profession as catarrh. It is known by different names, such as dyspepsia, Bright's disease, female complaint, diarrhoea, bronchitis, consumption and a host of other names. Wherever there is a congested mucous membrane there is catarrh, acute or chronic.

Miss Annie Wyandotte, queen of the operatic stage and dramatic soprano, says: "Fifteenth St. and Jackson Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

"Dr. Hartman: "Dear Sir—Pe-ru-na has been my salvation. It has given me back a beautiful voice, a gift of God. It has brought me once more to my old profession. I can talk now, and sing, where before I could scarcely whisper. Can you wonder at my delight? I wish every person who is suffering as I suffered might know Pe-ru-na. Only those who have been afflicted can ever know the intense satisfaction and gratitude that comes with a complete cure. My voice was completely gone. April 15 I felt so elated over the restoration of my voice that I inserted an advertisement in The Star for vocal pupils. The advertisement, which cost me 65 cents, brought me five pupils, and that was the beginning of my present large class. Yours gratefully, "Annie Wyandotte."

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Miss Clara Stoecker says: "I had chronic catarrh for over a year. I tried many remedies, but found no relief until I saw an advertisement in the paper of your treatment for chronic catarrh. I tried it and I think I am now well. I recommend Pe-ru-na to all my friends who are afflicted with catarrh. Miss Stoecker lives at Pittsburg, Pa.

Mrs. Margaretta Frits, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., writes: "I extend my sincere thanks for the good advice you have given me. I do not believe I would be living now if it were not for you. I had a catarrh of the blood for four months, and the doctors could help me but little. They operated on me three times. It was very painful and I only obtained little relief. I was so weak I could not turn in bed. Then I applied 't' Dr. Hartman. I did not know whether he could help me or not, but I followed his advice, and used only three bottles of Pe-ru-na and Man-a-lin. Now I am well and as strong as I ever was, thanks to your remedy. Pelvic catarrh has become so frequent that most women are more or less afflicted with it. It is usually called female disease."

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