

The Diplomatic Newsboy. "An American friend had told me that I could trust no one in New York," said the tourist from Sweden. "He advised me to take great care of my money unless I was willing to pay for experience. So I have been extremely careful—with one exception.

"I sat on a bench in Madison square the other day when a bright eyed, ragged little boy came running up with a bundle of newspapers. I bought one, handing him a quarter in payment. "I ain't got no change," he said. "Then go and get change," I told him.

"He hurried away and soon was lost in the crowd. A man sitting near me on the bench smiled and remarked, "Well, you are easy."

"Interested in my paper, the minutes slipped away until I had forgotten all about the boy and the coin. As I was folding up the paper to go he came running to me again, hot and breathless.

"Here's yer quarter," he said. "Pay me tomorrow. I can't get no change." "The incident impressed me. I turned to the man on the bench and remarked with some satisfaction: "And yet you said I was easy! You see, the boy is honest."

"I did not say that the boy was dishonest," he replied, "but I did say that you were easy, and the proof of that is that you have made him a present of the quarter, which is just what he intended that you should do."

"Really, you New Yorkers are all diplomats or cynics."—New York Press.

Difficulties of Smokers. The Turks are now a nation of smokers, but early in the seventeenth century the priests and rulers denounced smoking as criminal, and Amurath IV. ordered its punishment by death in the cruelest forms. One playful punishment consisted in thrusting the pipes of smokers through their noses.

In Russia, at the same period, the noses of smokers were cut off. The powers ecclesiastical were strongly opposed to the new habit, and Popes Urban VIII. and Innocent X. thundered in turn against the terrible vice of smoking. The papal thunders, however, proved powerless against the charms of St. Nicotine, although there was much reason in those decrees which were directed against the custom of smoking and snuffing in church. Pope Urban excommunicated all who should be guilty of so unbecoming a practice, and later Innocent X. solemnly excommunicated all who should take snuff or tobacco in St. Peter's church at Rome.—All the Year Round.

Almost Disbelieved Her Eyes.

"Among the memories of my boyhood," said a New York man, "there is one odd one which is particularly vivid. It is a conversation that I overheard one morning as I walked toward the Boston high school between two women.

"The women were talking about babies—their size, weight, health, and so forth.

"Why, when I was a week old," said the first woman, "I was such a little baby that they put me in a quart pot and put the lid on over me."

"The other woman was amazed and horrified. "And did you live?" she asked.

"They say I did," her friend answered.

"Well, well, well!" exclaimed the second woman. "And she glanced at the other almost doubtfully."

"Doubtful—I will guarantee to paint anything called for."

"Dealer—Good! Do me a speaking likeness of a dumb waiter."

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THE DARING OF NELLIE

By EDWIN J. WEBSTER

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Nellie Williams was afraid of mice, spiders and caterpillars, but she was not in the least afraid of men. In fact, she was accustomed to having men, and strong, brave men at that, wait on her and be deeply concerned when she was cross and much pleased when she smiled. Perhaps the fact that Miss Nellie had laughing brown eyes and dimples and hair which seemed to have spared the sunlight had something to do with this apparently contradictory state of affairs.

The season at Colorado Springs had been dull, and the proposition to make up a camping party and explore the mountains was enthusiastically received. Nellie, of course, was one of the party. She was the life of it. Dick Folsom was another of the campers. Dick was good natured and big and strong, yet he was mortally afraid of Nellie's displeasure.

It befell one day that Dick and Nellie wandered together down to the little mountain village near the camp. Nominally they went for the mail. Personally Dick didn't care whether the mail came or not so long as he could have the privilege of going for it with Nellie. The mail came in on time, however, and the coach was about to start out on its trip up the mountain side when an idea struck Nellie.

"Oh, Dick," she cried, "let's get on the coach and ride up until we meet the other coach coming down! We will be late for luncheon, but I've never ridden on a regular mountain stage-coach. It will be no end of a lark."

Dick was very favorably impressed with the idea of a ride on the coach with Nellie as his companion. But the postmaster looked worried. He was a bearded ex-miner, who had seen rough times in the early days of the west. Now he combined the duties and dignities of postmaster, landlord of the little hotel and express agent. A pretty, daintily dressed girl was a rare and welcome vision to him, and he was obviously much embarrassed at seeming to oppose her wishes. But he called Nellie and Dick to one side.

"Begging your pardon, lady," he said hesitatingly, "but you had better not go out with the coach today. You see, it's pay day up in the mines, and the coach is carrying quite a bit of gold. Holdups don't happen often nowadays, still there is always a chance of one on pay day some other day."

But Nellie Williams, like many another pretty girl, was somewhat self-willed.

"A holdup!" she exclaimed. "How romantic! Certainly I won't put off my ride. Probably there isn't any real danger of one, and, anyway, I don't believe they would really hurt me, do you?"

The grizzled postmaster shook his head deprecatingly. But the good effect of this was spoiled by the look in his eyes, which plainly said he didn't believe even a bandit hold would have the heart to hurt her. Dick tried to persuade the girl not to take the ride, but she insisted. She was going; if Dick didn't want to he could stay. After that Dick would have gone had he known to a certainty that there were a dozen holdups scheduled.

For an hour the coach swung up hill and down, through the beautiful west-



"HOW DARE YOU POINT YOUR GUNS AT US?" SHE CRIED.

ern scenery. Nellie was in high spirits and Dick too happy to feel really worried. Then the coach turned a sharp curve and the scene changed with a suddenness that sent the hearts of the occupants of the coach to their throats.

From behind a clump of bushes at one side of the road and a rock on the other two men sprang out. Each wore a rude mask and carried a rifle. The rifles were pointed at the occupants of the coach, and the stern command "Hands up!" rang out. It was a hold-up.

The driver and the guard threw up their hands without hesitation. They were brave men, but they were covered and knew the men in the road meant business. They would shoot, and shoot to kill. If Dick Folsom had been riding with only the guard and the driver, he would have done the same. But when Nellie was with him it was different. His hand slipped to his rear pocket and at the same time he tried to thrust his body

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