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AND WANTING A WIFE.

and Nobody Wanted Him-Two Women in an Embarrassing Position-People Think They Should Whether They Like to or Not.

STONY BEACH, July 30 .- Something very curious occurred here eyesterday afternoon between the hours of 2 and 4. My friend and I must have thought on the same subject a great deal to day, for every time we have looked at each other we have laughed. Even the mastiff has appeared to observe this unusual hilarity, and has gazed at us often with intent questioning expression. As many as five times this forenoon we have said, "I hope nobody will hear of it," and then have reassured ourselves by saying, "They wont be likely to speak of it, and I'm sure that we shall be silent."

An hour ago, however, we knew that "it had got out." Cap'n Asel has recovered from his rheumatism so far as to be able to be hobbling about collecting items. If we were in "society" his services would be

priceless for a society journal. Cap'n Asel has been a good deal out of temper since he was kept at home, for he knew he missed a good many things. But he has expressed deep thankfulness that he was up and permitted to attend Mr. Jonas Rankin's funeral, which took place in Mrs. Rankin's house. Cap'n Asel and his Prince Albert coat were present; the Cap'n said it was as good a funeral as he had had in some years. The fact that the new widder hed separated from her husband made the services a deal more interestin'. The house was crowded in consequence of that fact. "Ef I hadn't er gone a full hour before the time set," went on Cap'n Asel, as he sat in our tent the next day, "I shouldn't er get no seat. I should er staid jest the same, for was bound ter see if the widder took it hard; but it aint no great fun for a man with one leg to stand through a whole funeril, with the takin' leave of the corpse into the bargain. And it was the takin' leave that I partic'larly anxious about. P'raps you aint never thought nothin' 'bout it, but you c'n jedge mighty well if 'a person's got much feelin' ef you watch um clost when they are a takin' leave of the remains. I allus mean to be where I c'n hev a good view of 'em at that time. Wall, Randy, she was jest as calm as a mill pond. She didn't shed a tear. She looked uncommon pale and holler-cheek ed, but she didn't cry a drop. Fact is, it was as calm a funeril, take it all 'round, as any I ever attended. And Mr. Rankin, he was one of the pleasantest men ye ever see. But he aint ben mourned like some as has ben known to speak sharp once'n a while. There wa'n't no sobbin', even when they sung the hymn tune. I've noticed that when the singin' begins the cryin' is usually more harder. But if it hadn't er ben for the corpse you'd hardly known this was a

Randy can't expect nothin', of course." It was thus Cap'n Asel discoursed to us after these services. As we listened to him we wondered how many of the people hereabouts made it a point to be where they could have a "good view" of the mourners. We wondered also if there could be anything more barkaric, more ghoulish, than a cerwork can be done better now. An elegant line | tain set of country people can be at the time of a death in their midst.

funeril. Still, 'twas consid'able interestin'.

I s'pose John'll hev what prop'ty his father

left. Some money in the bank, I expect.

Cap'n Asel has just stopped at our tent. He didn't say a great deal, but he looked a great deal. It is clear he is displeased, deeply displeased, with us. He stood firmly planted between his crutches, and glared more than he talked.

"Women is fools," was the first thing he said. We assented cheerfully to this remark, and our assent seemed to exasperate him. He lifted his right crutch and set it down deep in the sand. "Fools they be," he said louder. Then he added: "Mebbe you think it's smart of ye to throw away chances. But you'll be sorry when it's too late. Do you think ye c'n pick and choose, do ye? I tell ye, women can't do that. Especially women as aint so young as they was. I aint no patience with ye."

With these words he turned and stumped away, evidently not daring to trust himself to speak any further.

Then we knew that what we had said we would keep hidden in our hearts was abroad The Picture Frame Factory, on the ridge. Every fisherman and his wife and children would know it. Either Cap'n Asel had been near the tent and had listened, or the parties of the other part had

> Yesterday afternoon, at twenty minutes after 3, while we were reading novels calmly in our shelter two people appeared at the entrance. They were Mr. Thomas Simms | way and his sister, Mrs. Waters. Mr. Simms was dressed in a light gray suit and he carried a cane. There was a curious look of resolution and fortitude on his face which my friend and I both remarked directly. They had never called on us before, and we tried to conceal our surprise. Mrs. Waters was very anxious in appearance and face. We offered them seats, but Mrs. Waters said she thought she would go down to the beach and see the waves come in; and she had just had a letter from her son Francisemphasis on the last syllable, as usualwhich she had not yet had time to read thoroughly. She would leave her brother and call for him soon. Her brother was im- your pardon!" proving in a wonderful manner of late. She had not known his liver to be so active in three years as it was now.

Having given us this information, she walked away, leaving her charge sitting like one of his own nightmares in our tent.

We glanced at him in curiosity and some amazement. The expression of determination deepened every moment; he seemed, in face and attitude, to be fast becoming rigid with some concealed decision.

My friend made an observation on the fact that the shore was now very gay where the cottages and hotels were.

Mr. Simms said, "It is," and then turned to me and gave me this corroboration of his sister's words: "It is true that my liver has become very

active," he said; "all physicians have always

told me that if I could get my liver to be active, I should soon be all right." "Then we must congratulate you," said I. "Thank you; you are very kind." Our caller remained silent for a time, both

hands resting on his cane, his eyes on the We believed him to be engaged in contemplation of his liver, and we would not | he asked in his pleasant, wheedling way. disturb him. Finally he raised his eyes and said, "Yes

think I have reason to believe that my | phrodite rising from the sea." liver is again active." We murmured something, and waited, not

daring to start any subject unconnected with bodily ailments of Mr. Simms. Again he looked up, and this time he said,

with his eyes on me, "I come more particularly to call on you.' Carlos rose instantly, looking unnaturally

"I will take a stroll on the beach," she said, and left us.

I felt myself getting as rigid as my visitor looked. Could it be possible-but no. If a woman always knows when she is loved she certainly does not always know when she is, granite.

as Maria Jane Yates once said, "agoin' to

"I called," said Mr. Simms, with a still more perceptible show of resolution, called to ask if you would marry me." my muscles had somewhat stiffened beneath a vague expectation I believe I was

"But I am not half as good a nurse as my friend would be," I responded immediately: "That's what I told my sister," said he with flattering frankness, "but she said you were stronger. Do you

stronger?" (anxiously.) I told him I did not think there was much difference on the score of strength, but that I was sure my friend had a far greater aptitude for nursing an invalid. As for me, I really did not think I could accept the position. I hoped he would excuse me.

He appeared to find no trouble in excusing me; his mind was now turned toward my friend. He asked if she would be back soon. He suggested that I might signal to her. I went out and waved my handkerchief. feeling a malicious pleasure in doing so, and making sure that we would each have an offer of marriage from the same man in one and the same afternoon.

"My sister Harriet," said Mr. Simms, when I returned to the tent, is contemplating a second marriage, although she has given me her promise that it should be her life-work to take care of me. It is very inconsiderate of her, very. If my liver had not, very unexpectedly, become more active. should have been hardly able to sustain the emotion her disclosure caused me. It is very ungrateful of her, very. I have allowed her to take care of me for nearly six years. I have confided all my symptoms to her. She knows them all. It would require a long time before any one else could know every symptom as well as she does."

Mr. Simms spoke as if his symptoms were very valuable possessions which he had bestowed upon his ungrateful relative.

I said hypocritically that I should think it must be very interesting to know so much of disease as Mrs. Waters must necessarily have learned from her long association with him. Before he could reply the drapery at the entrance was put eagerly aside, and Carlos entered with the air of expecting to find me alone.

"Mr. Simms wishes to see you," I said, and immediately left them. Here was an opportunity for a life-long

chippering up of Mr. Simms. went beyond hearing and sat down on the cliff, trying to look up at the sea. It seemed to me that I had hardly seated myself before the gentleman left the tent, Sarmatian

and went and stood on the edge of the bluff, looking for his sister. She came directly, and the two walked away over the ridge. Then I returned to my abode. I found my friend standing in

the middle of the floor. "I told him," she said, "that I thought there were nurses trained specially for the liver; or if there were not he could hire one and train her. He seemed somewhat offended. I assured him that I did not even know when any one was bilious; I was ignorant of the difference between chyme

"In short," I asked, "you refused him?" "Yes," she said.

This happened yesterday. You must admit that we two women must be deeply interested in anything like this. But we had not told any one, though the silence was hard. It was also superfluous, for to-day everybody knows it.

Marsh Yates brought us some perch and he burst out laughing the instant he saw us; | World's Ticket Agent, Corner Johnson and Onand he continued laughing while he skinned the fish. The woman who lives on the hill slope near us, where we get our milk, said, apropos of nothing, that we "must not be too particular." Captain Asel has made the general assertion that "women was fools." Mrs. Marlow from the ma'sh end, where the Simmses board, took occasion to stop here this morning, and she winked so much as she talked to us that we felt it difficult to look at her. When she left she said, also with apparently entire irrelevance, that "some folks went through the woods and picked up a crooked stick at last."

"It almost seems," said my friend just now, "as if people think we ought to have accepted Mr. Simms. But do you suppose they think we should both have accepted

HE MADE A MISTAKE.

He Didnt Own a Post-Office Eox, and Don't You Forget it.

Dakota Bell.

"Excuse me said a little, nervous man in the post-office, as he tapped a large man on the shoulder, "but you are going off and | the leaving your box unlocked-leaving the door wide open, sir-dangerous practice, by the

"Hey?" said the big man as he turned around and looked down at the little man. "Your box, sir, you are walking off and leaving it open-thought I'd call your attention to it, sir-you might have lost something valuable, sir, if I had not happened to

"Say, will you keep yer hands off'n me, an' let me alone!" and the big man looked very, very big to the little man.

"Oh, yes, certainly, sir, certainly-I just happened to notice that you were going and had forgotten to lock your post office box here, and thought I would call your attention to it, sir. No offense intended, sir-beg

"I aint got any box-I jes' saw that one open an' looked through to see if there was little, measly letter-carrier in here that am lookin' for. He brushed agin me on the street one day, an' I'm goin' to lick him the first time I see him. He's a little squinteyed man about your size, an' when I get holt of him I'm goin' to raise him up an' lam him down onto the face of the earth about a dozen times! Want to delay me any long

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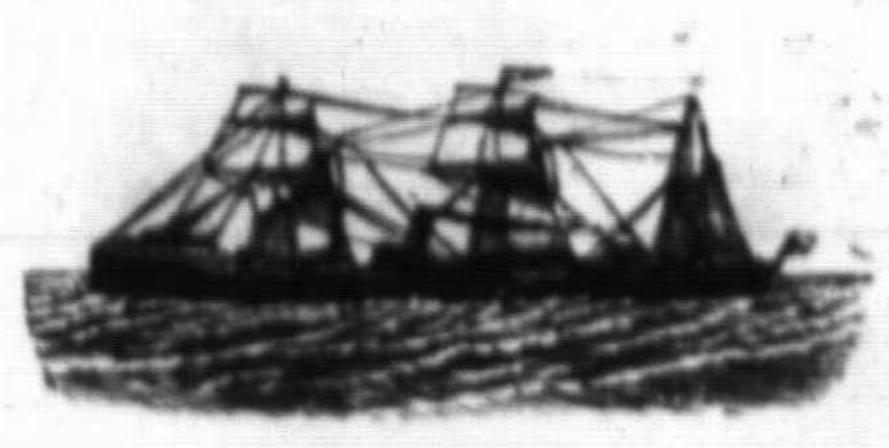
What She Admired.

"And you say you are fond of pictures," "Oh, yes, and especially classical subjects. greatly admire the painting of 'Herma-And it was apparent from his prolonged silence that her pronounciation, had grated harshly upon his ear.

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