

BILL MASON'S BRIDE. (Scene—A railway station.) "Half-past ten o'clock—yes, and a dark night too. Tom, take a look at the switch lights—bring a stick when you are through on time. Well, yes, I guess so—she left the last station all right. She'll come round the curve a jumping—Bill Mason comes down to-night. "Don't know Bill! why he's engineer!—been on the road all his life! I'll never forget the morning he took his trunk of a wife. "Twas the summer the mill-hands struck—they were off work every one. They cut up a row in the village and killed old Douvan's son. "Bill hadn't been married an hour, when down came a message from Mrs. Mason. Ordering him to go up there and bring down the night express. He left his girl in a hurry and went up on number one. Thinking of nothing but Mary and the train he had to run. "And Mary sat by the window to look out for the night express. Ah! sir, if she hadn't done so, she'd have been a widow I guess. For it must have been high on 12 o'clock when the mill hands left the ridge, and came down, the drunken devils—and tore up a rail from the bridge. "Well, Mary, she heard them working, and she knew there was something wrong. So she just snatched up a lantern and went off to the bridge alone—she couldn't come here to tell us—more'n a mile—it wouldn't do. For in less than twenty minutes Bill's train would be coming along— "Then down came the night express—and Bill was making her 'limb! And Mary hung on to the lantern—swinging it all the time— "And by Jove! Bill seen the signal— "And stopped the night express. "And there found his Mary a-crying—all in her wedding dress— "Laughing and crying for joy, sir, and holding on to the light. "Hullo! why there's the train, sir—Bill Mason's on time to-night!"

Expression Among Poultry. No inhabitants of a yard seem possessed of such a variety of expression and so copious a language as common poultry. Take a chicken of four or five days old and hold it up to a window where there are flies and it will immediately seize its prey with little twitterings of complacency; but if you tender it a wasp or a bee at once its note becomes harsh and expressive of disapprobation and a sense of danger. When a pullet is ready to lay she intimates the event by a joyous and easy soft note. Of all the occurrences of her life that of laying seems to be the most important, for no sooner has a hen disburdened herself than she rushes forth with a clamorous kind of joy which the cock and the rest of his mistresses immediately adopt. The tumult is not confined to the family concerned, but cackles from yard to yard and spreads to every homestead within hearing till at least the whole village is in an uproar. As soon as a hen becomes a mother her new relation demands a new language. She then runs clucking and scolding about and seems agitated as if possessed. The father of the flock has also a considerable vocabulary. If he finds food he calls a favorite hen to partake, and if a bird of prey passes over with a warning voice he bids his family beware. The gallant chauticleer has at command his amorous phrases and his terms of defiance. But the sound by which he is best known is his crowing. By this he has been distinguished in all ages as the farmer's clock or alarm—as the watchman that proclaims the divisions of night.

"A Darned Fool." This is by no means the worst story we have read of the brave old Admiral Napier. When Sir Charles Napier was in command of the channel squadron before the Russian war he one day anchored with the fleet off Queenstown. He, with his officers, were invited during their stay to be the constant guests of the Earl of P., and the castle was lively for a while with blue and gold uniforms. One night the family assembled in the castle for family prayers before retiring, as was the custom of the household; one of the ladies read a chapter in the Bible, and then the Earl prayed. On the special evening in question the chapter chanced to be the account of St. Paul's shipwreck, and Lady P. was reading it. The admiral hearing something about nautical affairs, listened with rapt attention until Lady Flora read, "They cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day." "Darned fool!" exclaimed the admiral, who had completely forgotten everything except the fact that a great error in seamanship had been committed. When he again realized his surroundings he said, "I really beg your Lordship's pardon, and crave that of the ladies, but the man was a fool, and it's a wonder he didn't tear the whole stern out of her." The apology, amid much suppressed mirth, was accepted.

The post-office officials at New York city are down on postal cards, and Postmaster James declares they are nuisances, and says that they decrease the sale of postage stamps at least \$1,000 a day. The average daily sale of postal cards was 50,000, although 100,000 have been sold in one day. There was a gradual but steady increase in their sale and a corresponding decrease in that of postage stamps. He wished the cards would be abolished.

Thoughts For Saturday Night. Assurance and integrity, under the white banner of seeming modesty, clear the way to merit that would otherwise be discouraged by difficulties.

No company is far preferable to bad, because we are much more apt to catch the vices of others than their virtues, as disease is far more contagious than health.

For the honest people, relations increase with the years. For the vicious inconveniences increase. Inconstancy is the defect of vice; the influence of habit is one of the qualities of virtue.

No man is defeated without some resentment, which will be continued with obstinacy while he believes himself in the right, and asserted with bitterness if even to his own conscience he is detected in the wrong.

It appears to be among the laws of nature that the mighty of intellect should be pursued and cooped by the little, as the solitary flight of one little bird is followed by the twittering petulance of many smaller.

There is nothing more to be esteemed than a manly firmness and decision of character. I like a person who knows his mind and sticks to it, who sees at once what is to be done in given circumstances and does it.

If this life is unhappy, it is a burden to us, which is difficult to bear; if it is in every respect happy it is dreadful to be deprived of it; so that in either case the result is the same, for we must exist in anxiety and apprehension.

Hints for Married People. Married couples should study each other's weak points for the same reason that sailors look out for holes in the ice—in order to keep clear of them. Unfortunately, however, they often use their knowledge of such tender spots for a very different purpose, spring no pains to give them a rub on every possible occasion. Hence "domestic difficulties" are inseparable. Women have immense power over the men, and they know it; but alas! they not always exercise their influence wisely. The wife and mother should be the primary orb of the domestic system, the centre of attraction to all the members of the family group; for when wives are "repeated bedders" and husbands and father and sons, flying off at a tangent into space. Men should remember that many of our highest privileges are founded on concessions and concessions it is so in the world political, and the policy that makes a state prosperous and happy is not bad as a domestic policy. The wife and husband! If they would acquire the right to ask a friend home to dinner without notice, neglect not to respond favorably to the partner of joy and sorrow in his at a new bonnet, or a new silk dress. It is a faithful saying that the wife is the husband's opportunity, and the converse of the proverb is equally true. It is one of the misfortunes of unregulated families that both wife and husband insist upon having the last word. Nothing can be more improper. The last word is an "infernal machine," and married folks should no more struggle for it than for a hundred-pound shot with the fuse lighted.

What Ailed Him. One of our dry goods clerks called round to see his girl the other evening. She observed that he appeared very queer, and as he had been paying her pretty shabby attention she sniffed a proposal. She determined to assist the young man. "George, dear," she said, in a sweet voice, "what's the matter with you this evening?" "There ain't nothing the matter," replied George, twisting uneasily in his chair. "I think there is," she said, with great interest. "Oh, no, there ain't," returned George. "What makes you think so?" "You appear so restless," she explained. "You act as if there was something on your mind." "It ain't on my mind," observed George; "it's—then he suddenly caught himself, and stopped. "What is it—where is it, dear?" entreated the young miss; "won't you tell your darling?" "It's on my back," blurted George, with an effort. "On your back?" repeated the young miss, in astonishment. "Yes," said George, desperately; "it's a porous plaster, and it itches so I can't keep still." The young lady fainted.

Cream and peaches once a week, Kiss your girl on the right-hand cheek; Apples green and apples dried, Kiss her on the other side.

That evinces wretched taste— Take your girl about the waist, Lift her to her pink toe-tips, And plant it squarely on her lips.

That's good enough if the girl will let you; If she don't, don't let it fret you; But wait till she kisses some other fellow; Then with a betch caress his smeller.

The last advice is shockingly rude, And shows the writer in a jilted mood, You bet he has no girl to kiss On lips or cheeks, to give him bliss.

The latest State of the Poll— Baldness.

He Conquers Who Thinks he Can't. "Where there's a will there's a way." That is a truism which is but half understood. It is said that a contest once arose between the ugliest and the handsomest man in England for the hand of a lady of worth and beauty. The homely man won the prize. When Disraeli made his maiden speech in the English parliament, he was laughed down, but not discouraged. Knowing what was in him, realizing well the power of the will he declared, "The time will come when you will listen to me." That day came, as all the world knows. Obstacles which would alarm ordinary minds he brushed as cobwebs, and pushed to the foremost position in English politics, proving that he conquers who believes he can. "Faint heart never won fair lady," or anything else worth winning. Young man, aim high take counsel of wisdom, and you are almost sure to win something worth having. How many young men are there whose watchwords are "press on and push through." Too many there are who believe that success comes more from luck and favoritism than from ability. Many an able and worthy man has been disabled in the battle of life by trusting to outside support, leaning upon friends or waiting for a government appointment, and neglecting the power within. It would be interesting to know, if the number could be discovered, how many there are who use more than a tenth of the brain and heart power they really possess? Here and there you find one who moves the world, but they are few and far between. Livingstone achieved distinction in Africa, we hope Stanley has taken up his predecessor's mantle and knows now what he did not know eighteen months ago—that the Bible is a better civilization and protector than the rifle. Who ever enters upon an enterprise in doubt is already a failure. "Only be thou strong and of good courage" is an injunction which was not given to Joshua alone.

Lo Premier Pe.—Adam. Why are Swedish gloves like naked babies? Because they are undressed kids. "Are those soaps all one scent?" inquired a lady of a juvenile salesman. "No, ma'am, they are all ten cents," replied the innocent youngster.

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This will only last for Two Weeks.

We shall then be receiving our new goods from England and the sale will close.

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### SILKS, SILKS, SILKS, SILKS AT 50 CENTS A YARD.

Over one hundred patterns, pure Silks, choice designs, most fashionable colors, at fifty cents a yard. There is nothing in Guelph of the same quality, at anything near the price.

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J. D. WILLIAMSON & CO. Guelph, July 18, 1877.

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    - GREENS—Moyune Gunpowders, Silver Leaf Gunpowders, Moyune Young Hysons, Uncolored Japans, Imperials, Fwankays
  - Our teas are all selected for their superior drawing qualities. Special discount on purchases over 5 lbs.
  - COFFEES.** Our stock comprises the best grades of
    - Old Government Java, Laguyra, Maracajob, and Rio.
    - Roasted and ground, daily, on the premises, thus retaining all the natural aroma and flavor of the berry.
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  - Amber, Honey and Standard Syrups.**
  - TOBACCOES.** Chewing, Smoking, Cigars.
  - FRUITS—DRIED.** Valencia Raisins, Layer Raisins, Loose Muscatel, Sultanas, Seedless, Vostizza Currants, Black Peas, in cases—selected Do. do. in tins, Elise Figs, French Prunes, Tunis Dates. "These goods are the finest exported."
  - CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.** Peaches, Pears, Cherries, Pineapples, Strawberries, Succotash, Green Peas, Corn, Beans, Tomatoes.
  - TABLES.** Besides many other articles in season, not here mentioned. Cheap for Cash or Trade.
- CANNED GOODS.** California Salmon, Portland Lobsters, French Sardines, Cove Oysters, Fresh Mackerel.
- CURED HAMS AND BACON.** Choice and Butter.
- Burnett's Extracts & Seasonings.** The Finest Goods Manufactured.
- Soaps of all kinds.** Pickles and Sauces.
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- FARMACEOUS GOODS.** Carolina Rice, Arracan Rice, Pearl Sago, Rio Tapioca, Pearl Tapioca, Corn Meal, Oatmeal.
- DESSERT FRUITS.** Currants, Valencia Oranges, Melsin Lemon, Pineapples, Tutti-Frutti, Romaine Walnuts, Fifties, Almonds.
- DISCUTS & CONFECTIONERY.** Cream, Wafers, Soda, Abernethy, Cream, Lemon Butter, Sultana, Graham, Oyster crackers, New York Ginger nuts, Ginger Snaps, Caudles and Sweetmeats of all kinds. Cheese, Butter, Eggs, Hops.
- CROCKERY.** China Sets, White Stone Sets, Figured Stone Sets, Chamber Sets, Tea Sets, Bowls, Jellies, Plates, Bakers, And a full line of other kinds, Mill Pans, Cream Crocks, Butter Dishes, Jugs, Flower Pots, &c. Selling at the manufacturers' prices.
- GLASSWARE.** Tumblers, Goblets, Lamp, Lamp Glasses, Glass Pipes, Glass Sets, Fruit Jars, &c. &c.
- Wall Papers and Window Blinds** in great variety—cheap.
- MISCELLANEOUS.** Tubs, Fills, Brooms, Washboards, Brushes, &c., Ropes, Wire and Wooden Baskets, Dye Stuffs, Stationery, School Books, Purses, Wallets, School Bags, Spectacles, Violins, Viola Strings, Brin Pipes, Fancy Goods, Combs, &c.
- Boneless Codfish, Herrings, Oysters in can and bulk—in season.
- Acton, June, 1877. **JAMES MATTHEWS.** Conveyancer, Com. in Q. B., Issuer of Marriage Licenses, Insurance Agent, &c.

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I am making up a large stock for the present season, from the best material, and at a very low price. Call and see our Handsome Buggies.

Now is a good time to secure bargains. Strict attention given to Horse-Shoeing & General Blacksmithing.

JAMES RYDER. Acton, Feb. 26, 1877.

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