

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW
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From "The Scandal"
The Bachelor Club's Official Paper
Bachelor (to a certain maiden whom he had called up six nights in succession): "Rose, there is something I want to ask you tonight. I am afraid almost to ask you for fear you will say no, and I am praying you'll say 'yes.' This has been on my mind the last few days continually but I resolved to say it tonight—I must say it tonight. Do you think you'll say yes, darling?"
Rose (snuggling closer): "Yes, dear."
Bachelor: "Tomorrow is Tuesday and the Club holds its weekly meeting. Have I your permission to attend?"
Note.—Since that time he can be found each night in the Club rooms playing pedro.

The brothers and lady friends are to be complimented on the social and financial success which marked the basket social of December 11. A record crowd was out and the best time of the present season marked the occasion. The club rooms were in a tidy condition and presented food for considerable favorable gossip. The hall was blessed with a pleasing effect, due to some artistic work on the part of Tad, Guff and Stuffy. These gentlemen had some new and novel ideas worked out with cedar boughs and Oregon grapes. While the dance hall was so inviting the other rooms were no less tastefully decorated. Brother Zip had a gang of painters and cleaners under his watchful eye the early part of the week, so that the quarters were spick and span throughout. Whenever a clean-up is staged in the rooming, Brother Zip usually heads the work and plays an untiring part in the role. As a profitable item for the success of our social functions Brother Zip has no peer. And further more he has enjoyed this rating for a goodly number of seasons. Getting back to the basket social and the evening's fun we can say that it was mostly all fun and excitement, dancing was the main bill of fare till the orchestra was dismissed at about 11:45. Then the auction commenced and such bidding as there was! The most coin relieving auction the writer ever witnessed and that is taking in quite a few, including the annual stock show at North Portland, where they bid in five or six figures and use conveyors to cart off the money, goods go high there, but the baskets went higher here. A large measure of the fact and credit goes to Dodo, who showed earmarks of a professional auctioneer. This is a real credit as he volunteered for the position. Anyone that can get top prices for every basket deserves a large amount of praise and he sure filled the bill. Our popular president, Floozy, was led to the altar of sacrifice when he was bid up to \$8.50, his last smuckie, for a fifteen cent basket of candy. He was courageous and laid down the account, then informed the various ones that "it" was fine. During the bidding on the last basket, which went to a record price of \$23, Zip and Tobey had a financial battle with Tobey coming out on the winning end. Zip hung on till he had the farm mortgaged and for a sticker couldn't be beat, except by his more opulent opponent.

The auction netted approximately \$200, which, as has been the custom of the club, to devote to Christmas cheer in the community.

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THE GOLDEN EGG
By Cecille Langdon

(By 1925 Western Newspaper Union.)
ANTA CLAUS was expected to arrive in prodigious grandeur around Helmsby Corner. The name applied to a block of tenements a good deal above squalor and the general unsightliness of the slums, although its population mainly represented poor, while thrifty people. The men were hard working and sober, the women industrious and rarely slatternly. In fact, old John Helmsby, who owned the square of buildings, had selected a reputable clientele as to tenantry, and in lower circles Helmsby Corner held a certain air of aristocracy.
Ivan Vidal was a decided institution of the place. Old residents could remember him back for ten years. He was a little, bright-eyed man whose constant smile and eager, friendly ways scattered sunshine.
"I have to work hard. I have a big family, you know," Ivan delighted to tell strangers and new friends. And then he would count on his fingers.



"Grandpa, Grandpa, and the five little children," and the lovelight would come into his eyes as he enumerated them specifically: "Heteena, Rachel, Ruth, Jacob and Levi."
But the big family did not entirely represent kith and kin of the generous hearted fellow who had come from his home across the water with a wife, to lose her in a year, and to have her aged father and mother, neither now fit for hard work, as pensioners upon his bounty. How gladly and unselfishly this was awarded, the uniform willing kindness and care of Ivan manifested to all the world. He did not earn much and their quarters were confined, but not only did he manage to make the old people comfortable, but when a close friend, a widower, died, Ivan adopted his little ones.
"I have none; they shall be as my own," he pledged himself, and never failed in the sacred pledge.
Ivan was a peddler of pins, needles, yarn, and hose.

An incident occurred about six months before Christmas that gave Ivan a secret to keep, but the result of which he did not experience until later. One day quite a distance from the city, seated eating his humble lunch on the veranda of a road house he overheard two men talking. They mentioned a name that caused Ivan to prick up his ears. It was that of Anna Helmsby, the daughter of his wealthy landlord. Ivan was quick witted, pieced together the facts named, and comprehended that one of the men expected to have Miss Helmsby meet him soon in her automobile and they were to elope. Enough was gleaned by Ivan to confirm the fact that the fellow was a meretricious scoundrel already married, and only after the money of the rich heiress.
It was by pure circumstance that an hour later Ivan came upon Miss Helmsby in her automobile. In his



line, but convincing way he told her of the true character of her fiancé. She believed him, and pale and in tears returned home, offering him money for his service, which Ivan refused, and imploring him to keep the entire matter secret.
Ivan had forgotten all about this incident as time passed on. It was nearing holiday time when he came home from one of his trips with a bag full of farm plunder for the little ones and a great fat white goose. It was to signalize their Christmas dinner and was an object of immense interest to the expectant children. Little Levi had set some hay under the fowl, "to lay an egg on," he put it, and the spirit of the season infected all hands.
Then a queer thing happened. John Helmsby dropped in several times during the week. He evinced a new and mysterious interest in his poor tenant. Then, just a day before Christmas, he brought his daughter with him. Mr. Helmsby had been told all about the goose and the expectant egg, and his daughter had to be shown the prized fowl by little Levi.
She gave Ivan an intense look as she departed, and the honest peddler was mystified just then. Not later, however, on Christmas morning, when Levi burst into the room excitedly with the incredible announcement:
"Oh, father, father, the goose has laid a golden egg!"
And there in his hand was the evidence—a gilded paper-mache egg, and inside of it was found two \$1,000 bills, Ivan Vidal's reward for saving a young girl from a life-time of misery, and keeping his knowledge a secret.
The poor, honest fellow wept for joy as he realized how much the great gift meant to himself and those he loved upon that blessed, happy Christmas morn.

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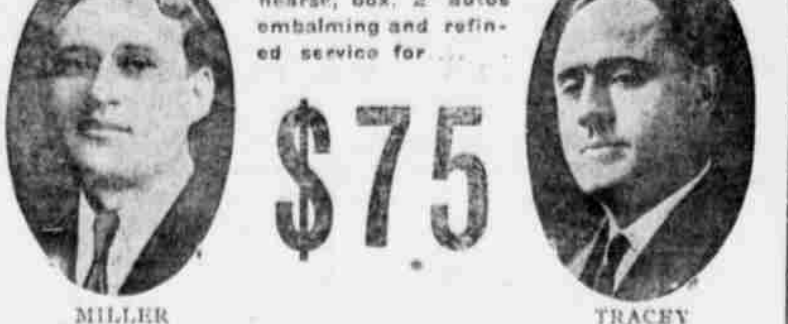
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