

SOCIAL DUTY.

The doorbell rings, The portal swings, My lady comes a-calling, In velvet dressed, Her veil close pressed; The formal talk's appalling.

The style, the day, The church, the play— Whatever line she fancies; Ten minutes pass; She says, "Alas, Time flies!" and off she dances.

No real word said From heart or head, No thought to live in beauty; Her list she checks; What name's the next? She's doing social duty.

—Lydia A. Cooney-Ward in Woman's Home Companion.

A DIPLOMATIC ADVENTURE.

How an Effort Was Made to Obtain Possession of an Important Letter and the Result Thereof.

I was wandering through the grounds of a London exhibition one evening when a short, foreign looking man, clothed in evening dress, approached me and said in a low tone:

"Have I the honor of addressing Mr. Godfrey Vance?"

He handed me a letter, saying abruptly: "Be good enough to read this letter. It will serve to introduce me."

The communication was from Count Antonio Delarocca of Milan, whom I had aided some months before by carrying off for him a famous Greek statue from an English country house. It was very brief and merely said:

Sir—This letter will introduce to you my good friend, Herr Fritz Moskovitz, who is anxious for you to undertake for him a difficult mission. I have told him that you are the one man in England who can hope to carry out such a work with success, and, wishing you all good fortune, believe me, yours, DELAROCQA.

We left the exhibition grounds at once, going to my abode.

"In the first place, my good sir," he exclaimed, talking in an excited undertone—"in the first place I must tell you that this business is difficult almost to the point of impossibility. Friday morning next about 3 o'clock Count Rodolphe will cause to be posted or post with his own hand at the pillar box facing his house in Percy street, Mayfair, a certain letter addressed to the Berlin foreign office. It is absolutely vital to me and to the cause I represent that that letter should never reach its destination, and I am commissioned to pay \$10,000 to the man who will hand that letter to me intact—exactly as he finds it."

"Is not 3 a. m. rather an unusual hour for the dispatch of diplomatic communications?"

"Most certainly it is, but the count is not like other men. For the past four years—in fact, since he first came to the embassy—he has been in the habit of posting this document between 3 and 4 o'clock Friday mornings."

"I presume that the obvious and old fashioned method of obtaining the letter by force is out of the question. Otherwise we might waylay the person posting the letter, overpower him and depart with the document."

"Useless, quite useless, for it would simply mean that the outrage would be discovered almost immediately, and then the contents of the letter would be telegraphed to Berlin, defeating our plans most entirely. No; the essence of the whole affair, my good sir, is that the letter should be removed and handed to me without the embassy people having the slightest knowledge of the fact."

Next morning I went to Percy street, Mayfair, to survey the ambassador's house. Thirty-one Percy street, the mansion in question, was a dull looking, gray abode exactly similar to the other houses in the street. Facing the house on the other side of the street was a pillar box—the receptacle, it seemed, where the count was in the habit of posting his communications to Berlin.

Had the pillar box been a receptacle easily shifted the matter would have been as easy as smoking a cigarette, for we should simply have had to divert the policeman on the beat away from the street by means of a fictitious drunken disturbance, and then we could have driven up in a van and carted the box away. But I must think of something else.

And then of a sudden there flashed upon me an idea, coming whence I knew not, but it seemed to me that a voice spoke in my ear, and this it was that I said:

"Substitute another pillar box on the opposite side of the street. Place the genuine box with a notice saying that it is temporarily disused and that letters are to be posted opposite. Clear the streets of the police by means of a row and wait with a van at the corner of the street till the document is posted. Swoop down, collar the box and drive off."

I jumped into a cab and drove to a certain hostelry in the East End where I knew I should find plenty of my pals, who for a few dollars would throw themselves into any adventure of the kind.

In a few words I conveyed to them what I wanted done. Two of the men, burly fellows, known as Jim Thursday and Bill East, were to devote their powers to quarrelling and getting "run in" at the corner of Percy street, while another two were to keep watch at the corners of the street. The remaining man, Tom Rogers, was to assist me in depositing the pillar box and removing it when the time came.

Then a new difficulty arose. How was the pillar box to be obtained?

"What is to be done about getting a

box?" I asked the men. There was silence for a moment, and then East, scratching his head, said gruffly:

"Try old Bennett, the iron founder in Goodge street, wot got five years' stretch for passin' flash coin. 'E's out on ticket now and is up to makin' a fancy pillar box as soon as wink at yer."

Having bidden them hold themselves at my disposal for final instructions, I went straight to Goodge street, where I found the worthy Bennett in a surly mood owing to slackness of trade. He smiled when I asked him if he could build for me a pillar box to the government pattern in the time at our disposal.

On reaching home I wrote briefly to Herr Moskovitz informing him of my scheme and adding that I hoped to have the pillar box and letter safely at my house between 4 and 5 on the following Friday morning. I asked him to be waiting at my residence to receive the document and to bring the promised reward with him, as I would only part with the letter in exchange for the same.

All went well, and on the following Friday morning the van with the pillar box, my assistants and myself set out for Percy street, where we arrived at 3:10. I noticed with satisfaction that the night was very dark, which fact was of course advantageous. I at once dispatched Thursday and East to do their "quarrelling act," the other two men taking up their places at the corners of the street.

At 3 o'clock I heard loud shouts and curses proceeding from our two friends, and a moment later two policemen were hastening in the direction of the noise. The coast thus clear, we drove up to the ambassador's house and in a twinkling deposited the dummy box, which was an exact duplicate of the genuine article on the opposite side of the street.

"Now for the notice of temporary disuse," I said with a laugh, and in an instant afterward the mouth of the genuine pillar box was closed with gummed paper and the following notice posted in front of the time table of postal deliveries:

Notice.—This pillar box being in temporary disuse, the public will oblige by posting communications at the temporary box across the road. By order.

This work completed to our satisfaction, my pal and I climbed back into our van and drove noiselessly down a side street, from which we could watch all that happened outside of Count Rodolphe's mansion.

I confess that, hardened and experienced as I was, a terrible thrill of nervousness went through me as I stood in that van with my companion waiting. The return of the policemen from the station before the conclusion of the business would ruin all; nay, if a chance youth on the way home from a dance were attracted by the notice on the box and lingered to look at it, we might be equally overthrown.

It was therefore with a feeling of relief that I amounted to positive joy that I beheld at about 3:15 the door of the house open and a young man, evidently the ambassador's secretary, glide into the street. He held in his hand the letter, and I saw him run up to the genuine box and peer at it for a moment in surprise.

Then, with some expression which of course we could not catch at that distance, he crossed the road and, having deposited the letter in our box, returned with all speed to the house.

Not a soul was in sight—the street was silent as the grave. We quickly tore down the notice which had done us such good service and removed the paper from the mouth of the box. Three minutes later we were driving away quickly in the direction of my house. We arrived at 4 a. m. and found Herr Moskovitz awaiting us in intense excitement.

"Well," he cried, gesticulating with both hands, "well, have you succeeded?"

"Perfectly," I replied. "Here is the box and here is the key. We have not touched or looked at the letter, believing it to be private."

"You have acted well," he returned quickly. "And now to obtain the letter."

With hands that trembled so violently that he could scarce insert and turn the key the excited man knelt down and drew forth the envelope. As he looked at the superscription a cry of disgust escaped his lips, and he tore it open. One glance at the letter seemed to suffice, and it transformed him utterly. He strode across the room and shook his great fist in my face.

"Fool! Simpleton! Imbecille!" he yelled, each word having the malignity of a blow. "You have failed after all and made a fool of yourself and me."

He flung the letter at me and darted from the house, uttering curses as he rolled down the stairs.

I took up the letter and read these words:

Dear Mary Anne—Master sittin' up late tonight, as per usual, with his blessed letter ritin and sich like. I 'ave a few minits to rite to say as 'ow I 'opes this finds you as it leaves me, in 'alth an' spirits, tho' 'dog tired, and please to meet me at the Marble arch at 3 sharp next Sunday, from your lovin' GEORGE.

I saw through the whole business at once. The man was merely a valet or butler, and the letter was a servant's communication to his sweetheart instead of an ambassador's letter to his government. We had come away too soon.—Pittsburg Press.

A Social Formality.

"What do you propose to do with this man?" said the stranger in Crimson Gulch.

"We ain't goin' to do nothin' to him," said Rattlesnake Pete, "only jes' show him that we don't feel under no obligations whatsoever. We're goin' to take him out an' stan him up in a wagon under a tree with a rope around his neck, an' then we're goin' to drive off an' not have any more sociability with him."—Washington Star.

Remarkable Rescue.

Mrs. Michael Curtin, Plainfield, Ill., makes the statement, that she caught cold, which settled on her lungs; she was treated for a month by her family physician, but grew worse. He told her she was a hopeless victim of consumption and that no medicine could cure her. Her druggist suggested Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption; she bought a bottle and to her delight found herself benefited from first dose. She continued its use and after taking six bottles, found herself sound and well; now does her own housework, and is as well as she ever was—Free trial bottles of this Great Discovery at Geo. A. Harding's Drug Store. Large bottles 50 cents and \$1.00.

To Cure Constipation Forever. Take Cascarets Candy Cathartic, 10c or 25c. If C. C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

A Minister's Mistake.

A city minister was recently handed a notice to be read from his pulpit. Accompanying it was a clipping from a newspaper bearing upon the matter. The clergyman started to read the extract and found that it began: "Take Kemp's Balsam, the best Cough Cure." This was hardly what he had expected and, after a moment's hesitation, he turned it over, and found on the other side the matter intended for the reading.

Dissolution of Partnership.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned as Griessen & Hallwyler has been dissolved by mutual consent.

A. H. GRIESSEN, G. HALLWYLER.

Mrs. J. K. Miller, Newton Hamilton, Pa., writes, "I think DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve the grandest salve made." It cures piles and heals everything. All fraudulent imitations are worthless.

GEO. A. HARDING.

For Sale.

Moving picture entertainment outfit with calcium light attachment and gramophone talking machine; good as new. Cost \$225 and will sell for \$160. Also have light wagon to trade for heavy one. Inquire of J. A. Thayer, real estate agent, Oregon City, Ore.

An Editor's Life Saved by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

During the early part of October, 1896, I contracted a bad cold which settled on my lungs and was neglected until I feared that consumption had appeared in an incipient state. I was constantly coughing and trying to expel something which I could not. I became alarmed and after giving the local doctor a trial bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the result was immediate improvement, and after I had used three bottles my lungs were restored to their healthy state.—B. S. Edwards, Publisher of The Review, Wyant, Ill. For sale by G. A. Harding Druggist.

Acker's English Remedy will stop a cough at any time, and will cure the worst cold in twelve hours, or money refunded. 25 cts. and 50 cts.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

"I had bronchitis every winter for years and no medicine gave me permanent relief till I began to take One Minute Cough Cure. I know it is the best cough medicine made," says J. Koontz, Corry, Pa. It quickly cures coughs, colds, croup, asthma, grippe and throat and lung troubles. It is the children's favorite remedy. Cures quickly. GEO. A. HARDING.

SICK HEADACHES. The cure of overworked womankind are quickly and surely cured by Karl's Clover Root Tea, the great blood purifier and tissue builder. Money refunded if not satisfactory. Price 25 cts., and 50 cts. C. G. Huntley, the Druggist.

"After doctors failed to cure me of pneumonia I used One Minute Cough Cure and three bottles of it cured me. It is also the best remedy on earth for whooping cough. It cured my grandchildren of the worst cases," writes Jno. Berry, Loganton, Pa. It is the only harmless remedy that gives immediate results. Cures coughs, colds, croup and throat and lung troubles. It prevents consumption. Children always like it. Mothers endorse it. GEORGE A. HARDING.

Little Miss Rollins, the child wonder, will sing in the Grand Concert at Congregational church February 16, 1900.

MANY A LOVER. Has turned with disgust from an otherwise lovable girl with an offensive breath, Karl's Clover Root Tea purifies the breath by its action on the bowels, etc., as nothing else will. Sold for years on absolute guarantee. Price 25 cts., and 50 cts. C. G. Huntley the Druggists.

WANTED—SEVERAL BRIGHT AND HONEST persons to represent us as Managers in this and close by counties. Salary \$800 a year and expenses. Straight, bona-fide, no more no less salary. Position permanent. Our references, any bank in town. It is mainly office-work conducted at home. Reference. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. THE DOMINION COMPANY, Dept. 3, Chicago

"I think I would go crazy with pain were it not for Chamberlain's Pain Balm," writes Mr. W. H. Stapleton, Herminie, Pa. "I have been afflicted with rheumatism for several years and have tried remedies without number, but Pain Balm is the best medicine I have got hold of." One application relieves the pain. For sale by G. A. Harding Druggist.

Educate Your Bowels With Cascarets. Candy Cathartic, cure constipation forever. 10c, 25c. If C. C. C. fail, druggists refund money.

The CALIFORNIA ROSE CO., Los Angeles, Cal., are headquarters of the coast for nice field grown ROSE BUSHES. All the latest and best sorts. Send for a catalogue today.

"I had dyspepsia for years. No medicine was so effective as Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. It gave immediate relief. Two bottles produced marvelous results," writes L. H. Warren, Albany, Wis. It digests what you eat and cannot fail to cure. GEO. A. HARDING.

Patent Record. "Money to patent good ideas may be secured by our aid, address The Patent Record, Baltimore, Md."

John Durr Poseyville, Ind., says, "I never used anything as good as One Minute Cough Cure. We are never without it." Quickly breaks up coughs and colds. Cures all throat and lung troubles. Its use will prevent consumption. Pleasant to take. GEO. A. HARDING

Nasal Catarrh quickly yields to treatment by Ely's Cream Balm, which is agreeably aromatic. It is received through the nostrils, cleanses and heals the whole surface over which it diffuses itself. Druggists sell the 50c. size; Trial size by mail, 10 cents. Test it and you are sure to continue the treatment.

Announcement. To accommodate those who are partial to the use of atomizers in applying liquids into the nasal passages for catarrhal troubles, the proprietors prepare Cream Balm in liquid form, which will be known as Ely's Liquid Cream Balm. Price including the spraying tube is 75 cents. Druggists only mail. The liquid form embodies the medicinal properties of the solid preparation.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

For sale, fifty-five acres of land, cheap, good location on Highland road, about three miles from Oregon City. House and lot in good location in Oregon City, easy terms. Also 167 acres of good timber land on the Columbia river. DANIEL WILLIAMS, Oregon City, Or.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

Beauty Is Blood Deep. Clean blood means a clean skin. No beauty without it. Cascarets, Candy Cathartic clean your blood and keep it clean, by stirring up the lazy liver and driving all impurities from the body. Begin to-day to banish pimples, boils, blotches, blackheads, and that sickly bilious complexion by taking Cascarets,—beauty for ten cents. All druggists, satisfaction guaranteed, 10c, 25c, 50c.

FERRY'S SEEDS

Thousands of gardeners depend on Ferry's seeds every year and never suffer disappointment. Cheap substitutes bring loss, not paying crops. It pays to pay a little more for Ferry's seeds. Five cents per paper everywhere, and always worth it. Always the best. 1900 Seed Annual free. D. M. FERRY & CO., DETROIT, MICH.

Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. Digests what you eat.

Artificially digests the food and aids Nature in strengthening and reconstructing the exhausted digestive organs. It is the latest discovered digestant and tonic. No other preparation can approach it in efficiency. It instantly relieves and permanently cures Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Heartburn, Flatulence, Sour Stomach, Nausea, Sick Headache, Gastralgia, Cramps, and all other results of imperfect digestion. Prepared by E. C. DeWitt & Co., Chicago. For sale by Geo. A. Harding.

A Personal Matter

A well painted house is like a neatly dressed person—always attractive and pleasant to look upon.

YOUR HOUSE Can be repainted and freshened up at a very reasonable price—paints until the sun makes any more marks and cracks in it.

Leave Orders at Ely's Store... MURROW The Painter

FARMERS... Your team will have the best of care and Full Measure of Feed At the City Stables. W. H. YOUNG, Prop., Successors to W. H. Cooke Livery Rigs on Short Notice. Telephone No. 42.

AURORA HOTEL AND RESTAURANT. Rates \$1 Per Day and Upwards. Livery and Feed Stable in Connection with the House. Horses and Buggies to Let at Reasonable Rates. Bar supplied with the finest wines, liquor and cigars. Weinhard's Beer on draught. JOHN YOUNGER, JEWELER, Opp. Huntley's Drug Store, FORTY YEARS EXPERIENCE IN Great Britain and America.

W. S. HURST & CO. Produce and Commission Merchants. Highest market price paid for Wheat, Oats, Hops, Potatoes, Wool, Onions, Green and Dried Fruits. Call on or write W. S. HURST, Aurora, Or. H. E. IRWIN, Agent, Harlow. GEO. KNIGHT, Agent, Canby.

4-POUND CATALOGUE FREE. THIS BIG CATALOGUE contains 1906 pages, in 1800 illustrations, the largest, most complete and lowest priced catalogue ever published. It is the LEWIST WHOLESALE CHICAGO PRICES IN EVERYTHING. It is the largest wholesale catalogue in the world. It contains everything you buy and will prevent him from overcharging you on anything you buy; explains just how to order, how much the freight, and how much the postage will be on anything to your town. The big book costs us nearly \$1.00, the postage alone is 34 cents. OUR FREE OFFER. Cut this ad. out and send to us to help pay the 34 cents postage, and the Big Book will be sent to you FREE by mail postpaid, and if you don't think it is worth 100 times the 34 cents you send, as a key to the lowest wholesale prices of everything, say so and we will immediately return your 34 cents. WHAT THE PRESS SAYS ABOUT THIS CATALOGUE. "It is a monument of business information."—Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune. "A wonderful piece of work."—Washington National Tribune. "The catalogue is a wonder."—Manchester (N. H.) Union. "Sears, Roebuck & Co. is one of the largest houses of its kind in Chicago."—Chicago Inter-Ocean. "The big catalogue forms one of the best shopping mediums that could possibly be sent into a district."—Beverly's Monthly Chronicle. "This catalogue is a vast department store bottled down."—Atlanta Constitution. "The catalogue is certainly a merchandise encyclopedia."—Chicago Epworth Herald. "A law should be passed compelling the use of this catalogue in all public schools."—The Hon. G. A. Southworth. We could quote thousands of similar extracts. Send 13 cents at once and you will receive the 4-pound book by return mail. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.), CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U. S. A.

BIGGLE BOOKS. A Farm Library of unequalled value—Practical, Up-to-date, Concise and Comprehensive—Happily Printed and Beautifully Illustrated. By JACOB BIGGLE. No. 1—BIGGLE HORSE BOOK. All about Horses—a Common-Sense Treatise, with 74 illustrations; a standard work. Price, 50 Cents. No. 2—BIGGLE BERRY BOOK. All about growing Small Fruits—read and learn new contains 43 colored life-like reproductions of all the varieties at 25¢. No other illustrations. Price, 50 Cents. No. 3—BIGGLE POULTRY BOOK. All about Poultry; the best Poultry Book in existence, to-day; with 100 colored life-like reproductions of all the principal breeds; with 100 other illustrations. Price, 50 Cents. No. 4—BIGGLE COW BOOK. All about Cows and the Dairy Business; having a great deal, contains 8 colored life-like reproductions of all breeds, with 130 other illustrations. Price, 50 Cents. No. 5—BIGGLE SWINE BOOK. Just out. All about Hogs—Breeding, Feeding, Butchery, Diseases, etc. Contains over 50 beautiful illustrations and other engravings. Price, 50 Cents. The BIGGLE BOOKS are unique, original, useful—you never saw anything like them—so practical, convenient. They are having an enormous sale—12c. West, North and South. Every one who keeps a Horse, Cow, Hog or Chicken, or grows Small Fruits, ought to send right away for the BIGGLE BOOKS. The FARM JOURNAL. Is your paper, made for you and not a misfit. It is 22 years old; it is the great booted-down, hit-the-nail-on-the-head, quill-iron, you-have-and-it, Farm and Household paper in the world—the biggest paper of its size in the United States of America—having over a million and a half regular readers. Any ONE of the BIGGLE BOOKS, and the FARM JOURNAL 8 YEARS (remainder of 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903) will be sent by mail to any address for A DOLLAR BILL. Sample of FARM JOURNAL and circular describing BIGGLE BOOKS free. WILMER ATKINSON, Address, FARM JOURNAL, PHILADELPHIA. CHAS. F. JENSEN.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR. Get this ad. out and send to us with \$1.00, and we will send you this BEST APPROVED PARLOR GEM ORGAN, by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if you find it exactly as represented, the price is the same. You see and get for better than organs advertised by others at more money, pay the freight. OUR PRICE \$35.00, less the \$1.00 deposit, or \$34.00 and freight covered. THE PARLOR GEM is one of the most beautiful and sweetest toned instruments ever made. From the illustration you see of its beautiful appearance. Made from solid quarter-sawn oak or walnut as desired, perforated by six, full patent, body, beautiful acoustical design panels and many other handsome decorative and ornamental, making it the VERY LATEST STYLE. THE PARLOR GEM is 6 feet high, 45 inches long, 23 inches wide and weighs 50 pounds. Contains 8 octaves, 11 stops, as follows: Diapason, Triplet, Dulciana, Melodia, Celeste, Arpeggio, Bass Coupler, Tremolo Coupler, Brass Forte and Ten Harmonics; 3 Octave Coupler, 1 Tone Bell, 2 Grand Organ Reeds, 4 sets of Orchestral Toned Resonatory Pipe Quality Reeds, 1 set of 3 Pure Sweet Melodia Reeds, 1 set of 31 Diapason Reeds, 1 set of Pleasur Soft Melodia Reeds, 1 set of 31 Harmonic Reeds, which are only used in the highest grade instruments; fitted with Remond Coupler and Ten Harmonics, also best Dulce fella, 17 others, etc., bellows of the best rubber cloth, 3 1/2 bellows stock and 1000 leather in valves. THE PARLOR GEM is furnished with a built-in piano French mirror, nickel plated, ornate, and every modern improvement. We furnish free a handsome organ stand and the best organ instruction book published. GUARANTEED 25 YEARS. With every PARLOR GEM ORGAN we issue a written binding 32-page guarantee. If for any reason you are dissatisfied and wish to return it, we will refund your money. If you are not perfectly satisfied, 50% of these organs will be sold at \$35.00. ORDER AT ONCE. DON'T DELAY. OUR RELIABILITY IS ESTABLISHED. If you have dealt with us ask your neighbor about us, write the publisher of this paper or Metropolitan National Bank or Corn Nat. Bank, of Chicago; or American Exchange Bank, New York; or Chicago and North Western Railway, Chicago. We are one of the largest business houses in the world and employ nearly 1000 people in our own building. WE BELIEVE IN \$22.00 and up. \$15.00, \$11.00 and up also everything in musical instruments at lowest wholesale prices. Write for free special organ, piano and musical instrument catalogue. Address, (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—don't fail.) SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.), Fullon, Desplaines and Wayman Sts., CHICAGO, ILL.