

DEATH OR MARRIAGE.

The ancient clock in Deacon Shermer's old-fashioned kitchen was slowly chiming the hour of nine. It was no smart toy, of the bronze or alabaster, but a tall, square, solid piece of the last century, looking not unlike a coffin case set on end in the corner—a clock that lasted through four generations, and, judging from appearances, was quite likely to last through several more.

There was a great ruddy fire of chestnut in the red brick fireplace; and the candles in the brightly-polished brass sticks were twinkling merrily from the high wooden arches, where they shared the post of honor with a silver and a couple of vases, each containing a fresh rose from the hedge that skirted the clover field behind the barn.

Timothy, said Mary Shermer, decidedly, "if you don't behave yourself, Tim!"

What she would do Mary did not say; the sentence was terminated by a laugh that set the dimples around her mouth in motion, just as a beam of June sunshine plays across a cluster of ripe cherries.

Mary Shermer was just seventeen—a plump, rosy girl, with jet black hair, brushed back from a low forehead, and perfectly-arched eyebrows, that gave a bewitching expression of surprise to a pair of melting hazel eyes.

"Come, Mary," said Tim, moving his chair where he could best watch the flush of the fire-light upon her face, and picking up the thread of the conversation where he had dropped it.

"Nonsense, Mary! You know what we'll do. Promise to marry me before Christmas. I tell you what, Mary, it's all very well for you to keep putting a fellow off, but I can't stand it.

"You know I love you, Tim—what's that?"

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snuggly reposing in the pocket of her gingham dress.

"No, nor tain't in my pocket, either."

"Well, I never knewed anything so strange in all my life," said the deacon.

"It is strange," faltered hypocritical Mary.

"Yes, it must," said Mary tremulously.

"But, father, I am not sleepy."

"Go to bed, my child," reiterated the deacon, with good-humored authority that brooked no opposition.

"If Tim will only keep quiet a little while longer," she thought, sitting on the stool where the newly-risen moon streamed in chilly splendor.

With a heart that beat quick and fast like the strokes of a miniature hammer, she drew the key from her pocket, and proceeded, in spite of the nervous trembling of her fingers, to fit it into the lock.

"Indeed! indeed! father!" cried Mary, bursting into tears.

"You did, eh? And may I ask what for?"

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All Sorts. Logic.—It rains or it does not rain; it does not rain, therefore, it rains.

A HEALTHY old fellow, who is not a fool, is the happiest creature living.

The royal family of Great Britain costs the treasury \$2,377,370 in gold annually.

The Japanese census shows only three thousand criminals in a population of over thirty-three million souls.

The success of Josh Billings is exceptional. There are thousands of young men who do not know how to spell, and yet they are not worth \$250,000.

In the upper portion of the North Payette Valley, Northern Idaho, there is found a bird about the size of a pigeon, with light brown body and dark-er brown wings, which is known as the "fool-chicken," on account of its apparent stupidity when in danger.

There are 728,000 gallons of beer consumed annually in England. In Germany the number of gallons is 146,000,000 and in the United States 297,000,000 gallons.

Last March a man named Emory Prattle, a machinist in the employ of the Michigan Car Company at Detroit, made a bet with another man as to which could hold out the handles of an electric battery which a traveling nuisance had on Campus Martins, Seattle.

Capt. W. C. Manning, lately arriving in Denver from travels in New Mexico, gives curious details of a village between three and four centuries old, situated in the northwestern part of said Territory, just south of the Colorado line.

The New York correspondent of the Boston Journal writes: "One of our railroads runs by the county buildings, and the owner, who has been gathering for some time the speediest horses of the country, has a quiet stable out of the city, about an hour's ride away."

There are a large number of smaller hotels in New York, well managed and equipped, such as the St. Cloud, Sturtevant, Coleman, etc.

Brooklyn, with its 400,000 inhabitants, does not boast of a single hotel, depending upon New York to supply its needs.

The Grand Central comes under the head of second-class hotels; its rental is about \$80,000, without stores.

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Something About the Hotel Business of New York. The Fifth Avenue, including stores, rents for \$200,000. The lessees pay rent, assessments, and repairs a total of \$250,000.

The Windsor is leased for ten years at \$125,000 per annum, including the whole building, which cost over \$1,000,000.

The St. Nicholas hotel is \$95,000, without stores. One year this house netted \$400,000 profits. It accommodates 600.

The Metropolitan rental is \$105,000, which includes several stores. It accommodates 225.

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A Wealthy Belle Elopes with a Negro. A Norristown (Pa.) letter to the New York Herald says:

The usually staid, quiet and aristocratic portion of Bucks county, known as Warminster township, is just now greatly excited over a somewhat strange event.

The betrothal of Miss Thompson, a beautiful, refined and accomplished daughter of his employer, shortly afterward Palmer was taken ill, and Miss Thompson attended to him until the family prevented it by having him removed elsewhere.

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The Metzler Chair! Can be had at the following places: Harrisburg, ...

Piles! Piles! Why say this damaging and troublesome complaint cannot be cured, when many evidences of success might be placed before you every day...

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