(4)

Going to a Dinner Party.

"Now, we haven't got much time to get ready, my dear," suggested Mr. Spoopendyke, cheerily, "and I won't be late at a dinner party. I want you to fix up so as to be the best-looking woman at the table. You can get ready in an hour can't you?"

"I think I can," replied Mrs. Spoopendyke, with a titter. "Oh, yes, I can dress in that time, and I hope you won't be disappointed in me," and the little woman began to take down her back hair.

"You might get my shaving tackle for me," said Mr. Spoopendyke, appropriating the only mirror. "And now I think of it," he continued, after a pause, "my dress coat needs a button. Sew it on, won't you?"

Mrs. Spoopendyke lugged out the coat and hunted through a broken-down old bag after a button.

"Got that button sewed on yet!" inquired Mr. Spoopendyke, lathering away comfortably.

"In a minute, my dear," responded his wife.

"Well, hurry up; I want you to put these studs and sleeve-buttons into my clean shirt."

Mrs. Spoopendyke gradually got around to those offices, and laid out the habiliment in readiness for her lord.

"Did you take those stitches in my gloves?" inquired Mr. Spoopendyke.

"Oh, yes, certainly," replied Mrs. Spoopendyke, going right to work at it.

"Well, then, you can brush my vest and pantaloons, and by that time I'll be ready to have you tie my cravat."

A few moments more found Mr. Spoopendyke arrayed completely.

"Come—you ready?" he demanded, having assured himself that his wife had not accomplished a single step toward her toilet.

"Not quite, dear," responded the lady, with one-half her hair in her mouth and the other half crackling under the brush.

"What's the matter with you?" he asked. "Didn't you say you could get ready in an hour? Didn't you hear me tell you when I came in that we only had an hour to dress in? What have you been doing? Why can't you go as you are? You look well enough."

"I was busy fixing your things," faltered Mrs. Spoopendyke, "and I couldn't do two things at once."

"O, no! You can't do anything at once. Why didn't you have my things fixed this morning? Why don't you keep house somehow? That dress you've got is good enough. Why can't you go in that dress? If you've got to put on all the frills you won't be ready till next fall. Ain't you most ready now? Think I'm going to stand around here like a jug of mineral water?"

Mrs. Spoopendyke twisted up her hair and jammed in the pins. Then she put on her hat and twitched it first to one side and then the other; put one hand up behind and shoved it forward, and then caught hold of it in front and pulled it down.

"Well, if you're ready, let's start," growled Mr. Spoopendyke. "You've been long enough for a telegraph wire, now. Come on."

"Oh! I haven't got my dress on yet," pleaded Mrs. Spoopendyke. "I'll be through in a moment."

"Dod gast the dress!" ejaculated Mr. Spoopendyke. "Where's my paper? Give me my paper and I'll read a month or two. You won't be ready till spring. Where's that paper?"

"Take a book, dear," recommended Mrs. Spoopendyke, blushing deeply and glancing around nervously.

"I don't want any measly book," retorted Mr. Spoopendyke. "I want the morning paper. Find that paper the first thing you do, and then you get ready in four seconds."

"I think you'll find the paper behind—behind the bookcase," said Mrs. Spoopendyke, as red as a brick, and she hustled into her skirt, and began clawing at it behind in an effort to loop it up straight. "I'm almost ready," she giggled hysterically, as she drew on the waist and buttoned it up nervously. "I'll be ready before you could turn the paper inside out," and she snatched a ribbon from the drawer, tied it into a bow, pinned it at her throat and backed away from the glass to see how it looked.

"I want to know whether you're going to find that dod gasted paper for me," thundered Mr. Spoopendyke.

"I'm all right except my cloak," jerked out Mrs. Spoopendyke, "if you'll hand me my cloak "we'll start right away. It's in the closet there." And Mrs. Spoopendyke flopped down on the floor and began putting on her shoes.

"S'pose I'm going to hunt around for that measly cloak?" howled Mr. Spoopendyke. "Can't you get your things for yourself? I want my paper, and I want it now."

"I can tell you what was in it," said Mrs. Spoopendyke. "I can tell you all about it while I dress." and she looked up at him piteously, with her face all flushed.

"No doubt," retorted Mr. Spoopendyke. "You know all about it. All you want is a can of oil and ten men swearing at you all day to be a printing press. When are you going—"

"Now, I'm all ready, dear," smiled Mrs. Spoopendyke, who wasn't anything of the sort. "You won't need to read now for we're going."

They started off together, arm in arm, Mr. Spoodendyke growling and his wife hitching at her various garments as they went along.

"Another time we're going out to dinner you get ready the day before, you hear?" demanded Mr. Spoopendyke.

"Yes dear," responded his wife, and then she thought to herself, "I'm very glad he didn't insist on looking for that paper."—[Brooklyn Eagle.

A Great but Uncompleted Work.

One day when young Abu Ben-high-dad was looking about in the great library of that eminent Arabian scholar, Sheik Daned-bing Macmohammed, his eyes fell upon twenty large volumes, all on one subject. He expressed his surprise and exclaimed:

"Oh Sheik, tell me, Allah bless us, what's in them there books? It strikes me, O Sheik, that the writer must have been a fellow of exhaustless wind."

"Thou mistakest, O Ben-high-dad; thou art but a superficial observer. Know, young fellow, that these are the works of the high and mighty Hash Haroun con-found-ed, a man who married early in life and supposed he had therein attained the correct thing. Now then, O Ben-high-dad, listen! In those books are recorded all the complaints and fault findings which Mrs. Haroun-confounded committed to the ears of that mighty man during their wedded life. And lo! Ben-high-dad, the great Hash Haroun died, leaving his work, as we see, but a fragment, though 20 volumes had been written."

Hereupon the eminent Shiek Macmohammed ceased to speak, and the young Abu Ben-high-dad waked away, whistling a melancholy air of Arabia.

Money Orders.

"Over $51,000,000 in hard cash passed through our hands last year," said Mr. William Plimley, the General Superintendent of the Money Order Department in the New York Post-Office, yesterday.

"By our hands I mean the whole department. New York does about one-eighth of the entire business of America. I can safely say that the system now in vogue is as perfect as we can reasonably expect it to be, no matter how much polishing we give it.

"It seems incredible that this vast affair is so young in years. It was only sixteen years ago that C. F. McDonald conceived and started the idea of the Money Order department into life. Before that it was only by the most elaborate care and lynx-eyed precaution that even small amounts of money could be sent from one point to another with any certainty of safe carriage, but now its safety has become such an assured fact that people never consider the idea of losing their money at all, but simply make out an order and send it on its way. Whoever hears of a loss nowadays? Mr. McDonald, the originator of the scheme, is now at his head. He is the chief of the money-order system in Washington. A recent recommendation of his in relation to the fees charged for sending money through the money-order department is a reduction from ten to five cents on amounts not exceeding $5; and on orders over $5, and not over $10, a reduction from ten cents to eight cents and an extension of the limit of the amount that may be sent in any one case from $50 to $100. I am in favor of Chief McDonald's recommendation, and think, though I'm by no means sure that Postmaster James, now that he is in the Cabinet as Postmaster General, will view it favorably also."

"What is the smallest amount you ever made out an order for?"

Mr. Plimley considered a moment, and then touched a little electric button on the side of his desk. The desk is a curiosity. It has 8 or 10 buttons on each side, a bronze plate over each one, setting forth in black letters exactly which clerk in an indicated department may be expected to answer. On the top is another long row of buttons, and at each end are more, eight and nine being grouped together on one plate in some instances. While the General Superintendent talked to the reporter yesterday his business went on as usual. He touched one button and immediately a clerk appeared with a bundle of checks and withdrew. Mr. Plimley signed two or three checks, touched a button and they were taken away by another clerk. He went right on and signed several more, touched a third button, when a third clerk appeared, and so on through the whole interview. Mr. Plimley now pressed one of the mystic buttons, and in half a minute a uniformed clerk stood by his side.

"What is the smallest money order ever sent?"

"One cent, sir."

"Many of them?"

"Very few. They were probably sent for a joke. Quite a number have been sent for 5, 10 or 15 cents, but people in general fail to see the wisdom of paying a fee of ten cents for sending five."

"Very good."

The clerk bowed and withdrew, and Mr. Plimley turned to the reporter and said:

"The increase in the amount of money we handle will interest if not astonish you. The number of money orders issued during the fiscal year was 7,240,537 for the whole United States. This in money reached the enormous sum of $100,352,818.93. Over a hundred millions passed in absolute safety through our hands. The fees paid to the Post Office Department reached the aggregate of $916,452.80. For the transaction of all this an immense amount of correspondence is necessary. We wrote nearly 40,000 letters last year."

"You spoke of the increase."

"True. If you are not tired of figures I will give you some more. In 1879 we had 1,161, 378 transactions, amounting in money to $43,652,273.37. This was an increase over 1878 of 100,119 transactions and $5,000,000. The next year, 1880, showed 1,351,095 transactions, amounting in all to $51,231,740.04. This was a gain over the previous year of 189.720 transactions, and $7,578,475.67. The work is constantly increasing. The average of all the orders is $13."—[New York Sun.

Nature's Sweet Restorer.

Dr. J. S. Jewell, says the Chicago Times, delivered a lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association at Farwell hall recently, his subject being "Sleep and its Derangements." He said that he knew of no more important subject than that of sleep, and it was important that people should know more about sleep and its derangements than is generally known. Sleep was evidently a state in which the brain was principally concerned. No other part of the system was affected by sleep as the brain was. It was a singular affair, he said, to have a person alive and active drop into a sudden state of unconsciousness. Yet that was sleep, for in sleep the mind had apparently ceased to act altogether. Various theories for the cause of the process of going to sleep had been advanced. It had been supposed that the brain became exhausted, worn out from that constant activity, and then dropped into what was called sleep. But his theory was that sleep was produced by anemia—a lack of blood for the brain. In sleep there was always less blood circulating through the brain, he said, than when a person was awake. When fatigue came on, and the individual sought to fall asleep, blood ceased to rush to the brain. The brain became fatigued, just as the muscles of the body, sometimes one portion and sometimes another. This excitation irrited the nerve fibres of the brain, and by a self-regulating mechanism sleep was produced. Epilepsy, which snapped consciousness in the twinkling of an eye, the speaker held, was substantially sleep while it lasted. So with fainting, when the heart refused to send blood to the brain. He illustrated how he had produced sleep by pressing upon certain arteries to prevent blood rushing to the brain. The fact that some people could not sleep when they first lay down he attributed to a too rapid flow of blood to the brain, and he advised various methods to superinduce sleep, such as irritating the body with a flesh brush to attract the current of blood from the head, and lying on an inclined plain, with head higher than the lower extremities.

Brain health, he said, imperatively demanded sleep. Restlessness in the early hours of the night was owing to the fact that the person had been doing something to cause too much blood to rush to to the brain; perhaps overwork, or excitement from reading or study, was the cause. Toward morning such persons might get a fitful, broken sleep, but when they arose in the morning they would feel nerveless and exhausted. He cautioned his hearers to avoid active mental work late at night, and just before retiring. Again he said it was wrong for persons to retire with a hot head and coldness in the lower extremities. Sleep under such conditions was impossible. Sleeplessness might arise from the injudicious use of stimulants, such as tea and coffee. Neither of these stimulants should be taken by nervous persons in the evening. As sleeplessness simply meant insanity, sooner or later, the speaker said that nervous persons who could not sleep should use something to diminish the nerve power. He believed that chloral, or some of the bromides, could be used without any pernicious results therefrom.

Parvenu Genealogies.

Among the less authentic anecdotes of Napoleon I. is one which represents him as tearing up the genealogy which obsequious heralds had prepared for him, on the ground that he was "the first of the Bonapartes." Yet it is perfectly certain that the parvenu Emperor indited a book of elaborate ceremonial, and was as careful to chronicle the roll of his ancestral "cittidini" as he was to postdate his birth by one year, so that he could claim to have been born while Corsica was a part of France. After Joachim Murat had "aspired to descend" to the throne of Naples, an array of brand-new ancestors appeared in the Libra D'Oro, and henceforth only disagreeable people recollected that his Majesty had once been a garcon in a Parisian cafe. Barnadotte, when he became Prince of Ponte Corvo, displayed a tendency to silence regarding his father, the notary, who, when his son ascended the Swedish throne, suddenly acquired a conveniently noble lienage. Beaumarchais, after he became a courtier, ostentatiously spoke of the days when he was a watchmaker's apprentice. But at the same time he took good care to let fall the time-piece of the sneering noble, who begged him to see what was wrong with it. Lord Campbell was the son of a humble Fifeshire minister. Yet, by the time he was a Queen's counsel he began to inquire about his arms and ancestors, and soon afterward he had acquired a touching beljef in his descent from some of those Scottish Kings whom M. de Witt has portrayed.

We have all heard the story of the Highland chief who was indignant when a flatterer hinted that his ancestor had entered the Ark with Noah, "for the Mactavishes always had a boat of their own." In a Welsh geanology of prodigious length there is this casual remark in the middle of it: "About this time came the flood"—a claim as modest as that of Rabelais' Pantagruel, or of the Spanish family, in whose gallery there is a picture of Noah ushering into his vessel a gentleman with a bag wig and sword, and with a bundle of papers under his arm, ostentatiously labelled "The title deeds of the Quiros estates."

Republicanism is no barrier to the pursuit. A "Knickerbocker family" in New York looks down from an aristocratic height on the descendants of the Jacobean adventurers, while there is not a wider gulf between the lineal representatives of a Saxon Thegn and the last city Baronet, than there is between the Bostoner who "lives on the family homestead," and the Irish immigrant who has just been landed from the Cunarder's steerage. To have a "coachman with a bug on his hat" is the pride of a Fifth avenue aristocrat; and "Boss Tweed," when he started a carriage, displayed on its panels the arms of the Marquis of Tweeddale. Genealogy in itself is an agreeable study when it deals with sages, warriors, and Statesmen. It is only when it lands us near Newgate or New South Wales that the science becomes embarrassing. Dr. Johnson politely begged Mrs. Porter not to be distressed simply because one of her uncles had been hanged, for "he had several who ought to have been;" and Sydney Smith, when questioned about his grandfather, quietly observed that all he knew was that "he disappeared about Assize time, and the family had asked for no particulars."—[London Standard.

An Old Preacher's Criticism.

In an interesting note to the Norwich (Conn,) Bulletin a clergyman of that city writes: "My personal acquaintance with the Rev. Dr. Nott dates from the day when, nearly 60 years ago, he called at my father's house to invite me to come up to preach for him. I was very ready to accept the invitation. From that day my intercourse with the family has been frequent and intimate. The last time I preached for him, though really an exchange with his colleague, Mr. Harrison, I enquired for him as I entered the house. His granddaughter replied with a smile, 'He is in his study preparing for the Sabbath.' I was not sure that he knew me till walking down to the church in the afternoon he observed, 'My ancestors and yours came from the same place.' (Old Saybrook.) I said to him, 'Doctor, it must be a relief to you to have a colleague at your period of life. 'He helps me a little, but I keep right on; it is better to wear out than rust out.' At the close of the afternoon service he turned to me. 'I am glad that you happened along to preach for me to-day. I have a cold in my head; I don't know that I ever heard you preach before; I may have.' His criticisms upon my preaching at the ministers' meeting had not made me oblivious to the fact that he had heard me before. Speaking of criticisms, Dr. Palmer, in a tribute to Dr. Daggett, notices the excellence of of his criticism in the ministers' meeting. Instituting no comparison, I cannot but recall the critisms of Dr. Nott late in life, his mind occasionally flashing out despite the failure of his mental powers generally, and his memory in particular. At the close of an earnest discussion upon the advantages and disadvantages of expository preaching, when it came to the Doctor, he said: 'After all, brethren, it depends a good deal upon the manner. A poor cook will spoil any dish, and a good cook will make almost any dish palatable.' It takes rank with Dr. Daggart's suggestion that a British barrister, when asked the secret of his success, replied, 'If I have had any it is this: When I have made a good point I suffer nothing to jostle it.'"

A triumph of science as well as of mechanical art was achieved recently at the Brush Electric Light Works, in Cleveland, Ohio, in the successful testing of a mammoth electric lamp, said to be the most powerful generator of light ever made by man. Its illuminating power is fifty times as great as that of the ordinary electric light, being equal to that of 100,000 candles. The lamp was built to order for the British Government, and is to be used in the British navy, to scan the sea for torpedoes and to furnish light in night engagements and manœuvers. With the aid of a simple reflector a beam of light, it is estimated, can be projected 15 miles sufficiently strong to read by. An engine of forty horse-power is required to produce the light.

Recovery of Eyesight.

From the Portland Telegram.

About a year ago an old miner 60 years of age, by the name of J. C. Chaffa, residing in Douglas county, about 60 miles northwest of Roseburg, lost the sight of his eyes from cataract. The old gentleman is very poor and had to depend on his labor for the means of subsistence. His case was so pitiable that his neighbors made up a purse for him and he was brought here to the city and placed under the care of Dr. J. B. Pilkington, the occulist, who found it necessary to cut open the eyeball to remove the "opaque lens." Assisted by Dr. Harvey, at the National Hotel, two weeks ago to-day, Dr. Pilkington performed Von Graafe's great operation for the removal of cataract, with so much success that the old miner was to-day enabled to walk alone and unaided to the doctor's office, when his eye was examined by several of our citizens. Mr. Chaffa said that he suffered no pain from the operation, and since that time has been perfectly at ease. He can see quite a distance, though his eyes are not yet strong enough to bear the full rays of the sun, but so confident is he of his perfect recovery that he will return home by to-morrow's train. The operation is one that reflects great credit on our local surgical talent, and convinces sufferers that Portland is indeed a metropolis where skill is to be found in the medical profession equal to that of older and more pretentious cities.

Bridal Tours.

An eminent physician of New York, upon the occasion of his daughter's marriage, prohibited her from going on the usual bridal tour. He did this from the considerations of health and delicacy which are not generally borne in mind. the first experiences of a bride are such as she would naturally want retirement and rest rather than ostentatious publicity. A young couple in public cars and at hotel tables, cannot keep the prescious and happy secret all to themselves. Their newly-formed relation tells itself in a thousand ways. Of this the bride is conscious, and the ordeal to a sensitive young woman is most trying. Then the sudden change in the life of the woman is liable to bring on physical derangements which may last a lifetime, for the shock to an exaltation of her feelings re-act on her body, often injuriously. So the New York doctor we have been speaking of ordered his daughter with her young husband, to enter at once upon the duties of a new home, and to postpone the tour until at least a month had passed away. Of course, there is another side of this question. It may be that even the fondest affection would not continue if two people were forced to spend all their time together without the distraction necessitated by travel, and the reserve necessary to be kept up in public places. This is an interesting topic, and one which might form a profitable subject to debate in women's societies. It is a subject, also, upon which women physicians might be heard to advantage.—[Demorest's Magazine.

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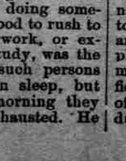

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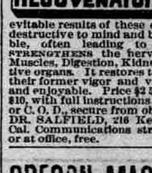

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