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A CLOCK ON A STRIKE.

IT WAS WORSE THAN AN INFERNAL MACHINE IN EFFECT.

Devoted Brother Has an Interesting and Exasperating Experience with s Queer Going Timepiece-What Was the Matter with the Clock.

This is a story about a clock which made a great deal of trouble for two people and gave the same two people very poor opinions of each other. The brother says that no woman in the world save his sister could have had such amazing ignorance about clocks in general, and this one in particular, while his sister declares that only her brother, of all men on earth, would have allowed a little bit of a clock to make a fool of him before a carload of strangers.

The trouble with the clock was that it wouldn't keep time. There was no reason in the world why it wouldn't; it just wouldn't, and that was all there was to it. This was painful to the young woman for several reasons. It is only necessary to mention one; the timepiece had been given to her by her betrothed. He thought it was a little gem of a clock, and that it would please her. She agreed with him as to the beauty of the delicate little affair, and was pleased for a time. Then she began to get worried; then she got nervous, and lastly alarmed. This was all of course because the thing would not go and, because she feared he might think she had broken it, or, worse still, as she herself confessed between time, that she hadn't sense enough to make a clock go, while her irreverent and impertinent brother suggested sweetly that he was more likely to think that it was her

"face which had stopped a clock."

The family were in the country when the clock was received, and when the time drew near for the arrival of the betrothed clock giver affairs began to be desperate. The young woman declared that that clock had to go. The clock simply wouldn't. She would wind it up-it would always wind without the slightest resistance—but it would not go. She shook it, she turned it upside down, she coaxed it, she laid it on its face and then on its back, and the hands

were still froze to the face of the clock. "Albert," she said to her brother, "you must take this clock over to town and get it repaired. It must be repaired; it must go." Now town was ten miles away, and

Albert did not see why any one should make so much fuss over a clock, and such a little clock, too, as that was. But when arguments and pleadings could not move him he yielded to tears, and, town. In the car he placed the clock on the seat beside him and rested his hand on it. Then more trouble began. That clock began to strike. It went into the striking business in a calın, determined

It struck right along, up grade and down grade, around curves and on straight tracks. The brother felt a fainting around his heart. The people in the car who had first been amused began to be annoyed. The young man's face got red; it got warm; his hair became bathed with dainpness, but he clung to the clock like a Trojan. He had an idea that he might be able to hide it or smother it or close it, he didn't know which, and so he kept his

hand tightly pressed on it. And all the time that infernal ma chine just "sawed wood." It had struck a gait which it liked, and it kept it up without a break. It showed no signs of getting tired or of running down. It was striking along at a 2:20 gait when the train reached the town. It continued to strike when the brother made his escape from the car. It went on striking up the street until the brother wanted to throw it over a fence and then commit suicide. No burglar alarm was ever more persevering than that clock. No clanging fire engine ever made more noise and caused more excitement. The clock was striking away industriously and cheerfully when the brother ran into a jeweler's shop and threw the thing down on a counter.

"For heaven's sake stop it!" he cried. But it had stopped. There it lay on the counter as dumb as an oyster and as

silent as a tomb. "Well, I'll be hanged," said the brother breathlessly. "What's the matter with it anyway?" he asked, looking at it as if it were a dynamite cartridge.

The jeweler picked it up. "Look out!" cried the brother. "That thing will start up again if you touch

But it didn't. It never made a sound, only in a minute came a gentle and

rhythmic ticking. "There's nothing the trouble with it," said the jeweler, setting the hands and then examining the little infernal machine. "You see," he added with a sympathetic smile, "this is a repeating clock. You can make it restrike the last hour by touching this spring. You have been winding up the repeating sounder, but not the clock. And you must have held your hand on the spring when you kept it striking. It's all right now. All you

want to do is to wind the clock more and the repeater less." "Oh!" said the brother with a gasp-

and that was all. Now the brother says that any woman who doesn't know enough to wind a clock doesn't know enough to live. And the sister says—well, every brother knows what sisters can say.—New York Tribune.

A New Rope. The outside bearing surface of ordinary steel wire rope is often confined to a single wire in each strand, causing excessive wear of the exposed wires. A Birmingham firm has produced an improved form of rope in which the strands are flattened. This shape considerably increases the wearing surface, making it possible to use much smaller wire, and giving greater flexibility to the rope with

THE MYSTERY UNRAVELED. A Clever Newspaper Man Divines the

"What is it?" "Who is hurt?" "Anybody been run over?"

"Is it a man in a fit?" High above the seaseless rumble and roar of traffic rose human voices in anxlous inquiry, and the dense throng at the

Reason of a Tremendous Blockade.

feverish energy that marked the closing hours of another day of toil, and the hurrying homeward of restless, eager thousands. The swiftly moving streams eddying whirls in this dizzy vortex and then diverge and move onward again, each in its destined course, had suddenbecome blocked and chaos reigned. Pushed toward the common center by the ever hurrying throngs afoot, in carriages and in street cars, and unable to extricate themselves, men, women and children gasped for breath, and the hither and you like the resistless ebb

and flow of a mighty sea. A policeman on the outskirts of the dense throng climbed a lamppost, and from his elevated position surveyed the

"Give him air," he shouted sternly, waving his club. "Give him air!" "What's the matter?" inquired a hun-

dred voices as he climbed down. the street, disappeared down a short the Prince of Wales." flight of stairs, from which a few momouth, and in the same stern, uncompromising way he walked a block farther and sent in a fire alarm.

Meanwhile the surging multitude at State and Madison grew every moment more appalling and inextricable.

Something must be done. Fiercely elbowing his way through ing "God Bless the Prince of Wales." the crowd, a newspaper reporter at last Of course the whole house rose en was seen bearing down toward the cen-ter of the compact mass. His hat was royal box and the applause was deafenoff, his hair flying in the wind, and his ing. The prince immediately left the face was deathly pale, but with set teeth | box and demanded an explanation. Mr. and dilated nostrils he tore his way along, thrusting to the right and left was only the overzealousness of a too every one who opposed his progress.

a passage for them to the outside, and, |you often hear people say in a theater as if by magic, the vast concourse dissolved; the converging streams of humanity whirled and eddied as before, and the business heart of the great city throbbed again.

The reporter had conjectured rightly. s caused by two wo hired girls.-Chicago Tribune.

"Very" with a Verb. "Pleased," in the expression "very pleased." is nothing more than the past participle passive of "please" used as an adjective. "Very," so far as I am ware, is never used with any other part of a verb, and then only when that part has become adjective by usage. following quotation from Pope's "Dunciad" shows its use as an adjective: Thou triumph'st, Victor of the high wrought

day, And the pleas'd dame, soft smiling, lead's

A similar use of the word is when we say a person's face has "a pleased ex-pression." This being the case it is as correct to say "very pleased" as to say "very much pleased." Annandale's "Imperial Dictionary," subject "Very," has: "Among old writers very was frequently used alone to modify a past participle, and it is still to some extent so used; thus, Sir W. Jones has 'very concerned; Gibbon, 'very unqualified; Sydney Smith, 'very altered,' etc."

As there is no verb unqualify, unqualified can be nothing else but an adective, and concerned and altered come under the same part of speech. When we say, "I am very pleased," there is no action implied, but there is simply a description of the state or condition in which one is at the time of speaking .-F. C. Birkbeck Terry in Notes and Queries.

Her Rule of Life.

Mrs. Little was a woman greatly respected in the little neighborhood where she lived. Her friends and neighbors often spoke of her knowledge of Bible teachings, and few were the occasions when she did not remind them of her

bor one day, "that you can always remember some suitable quotation for verything that happens?" "Oh, I don't know," responded the good woman with a pleased smile, "un-less 'tis because I always act on what I opinions.—Buffalo Courier. say. Now, whenever I see folks provoked

I jest associate it with 'Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.' "I've always acted on that myself. I made it a rule when I was young never

Youth's Companion. The Pottery Tree of Brazil. The pottery tree, found in Brazil, is curious and useful. One would scarcely expect to find pots and jars and pitchers growing in if not on a tree, but the material for them certainly grows in this tree. It is found in the form of silica, chiefly in the bark, although the very hard wood of the tree also yields it. To make this curious pottery the bark is burned, and what remains is ground to powder and mixed with clay. - Harper's Young People.

Mollie Fancher wears a pretty birthday ring. The setting is modern, but the gem itself is said to have been found at Pompeii. It is an orange red sar-

THE PRINCE AT THE PLAY. How. His Royal Highness Attends the

English Theaters. The royal box is booked in the usual way of business and charged to the Marlborough house account. The price is not increased from the ordinary library tariff, and the stories told about a nominal price or a larger one being paid by royalty only exist in the imagination of

this inquiry, and the dense throng at the papers who invent such tarradiddles.

grow denser still. It was just before
sometimes it happens that a box cansunset, and the mighty heart of Chicago's business center throbbed with the cided upon. When this is the case it is put nicely to the party who has booked the royal box if they could see their way to obliging his royal highness, and the result is of course invariably in the afof humanity that are wont to meet in firmative. The prince, however, is very reluctant to have this done, and always wishes that the party obliging shall be as little inconvenieced as possible-so much so that when told that the box has been conceded he generally remarks: "Why did you disturb anybody on my account? I could have come here another evening. Please see they are thanked in my name." In the rare case crowd in the streets and on the side- of a refusal representation is made to his walks overflowed into alleys and surged royal highness, and they try for a box at another theater.

When he goes to a theater it is his expressed desire to be treated exactly the same as one of the ordinary audience. Little displays of flowers, bouquets, satin programmes, etc., are all very nice, but the prince does not care for them, and would much rather do without them. Another thing which annoys him is that he should be drawn atten-"I don't know," he answered, and with tion to by the performance on his arrival gloomy, lowering brow he strutted up of the national anthem or "God Bless

As he said on one occasion, "Why ments later he emerged, wiping his should the amusement of every member of this audience be disturbed for my sake?" This was at the Olympia theater during the run of "Fun on the Bristol." As soon as the reyal box became occupied everybody was astonished to see the orchestra suddenly stand up in the middle of the performance and begin play-Jarritt arrived and explained that it patriotic band conductor. This con-Reaching the center of the throng he cluded the incident, but it was accepted seized two individuals by their arms, and as a precedent, and the same intimated in the same resolute, fearless way opened to the managers generally. This is why toward the close of the performance: "Why, there is the Prince of Wales over there in a box, and they never played "God Save the Queen." What a shame!" The prince always waits until the

final curtain has descended before rising to leave. This is his invariable ru who had met in the exact center of the much so that he has sat out the entire street and stopped to tell each other the harlequinade of a Drury lane pantotroubles they were having with their mime. There are three or four theaters only where he ever breaks this rule. They are those houses which have no royal entrance, and here the prince anticipates the final curtain by two or three minutes, so that his departure will not disturb the carriage traffic of the remainder of the audience.

Immediately the prince is announced to have visited a theater the booking rises, barometerlike, to a good heat This is in reference to the booking public, but beyond this when his royal highness likes a play he invariably recommends it to all his friends. In many other ways the prince is always thinking of the drama. When he sees a benefit aunounced for some well known artist who has often ministered to his amusement, or some poor player who has fallen on bad times, he immediately puts his name down for stalls or boxes to a substantial amount.-London Morn-

The Fogy Not Without His Uses. Isn't it about time that some one attempted a defense of the "old fogy?" In these days there is no one more decried. He is popularly supposed to block the wheels of enterprise, to stand in the way of progress, and nearly every association has two or three of these people whom the members would gladly throw overboard if they could. The odd thing about all this is the fact that the "old fogy" has usually been one of the creators of the very body which seeks to be rid of him. In the beginning he was indefatigable; he labored long and earnestly to procure funds, and was at considerable rsonal sacrifice to put this or that institution on its feet.

Now that things are finally settled and paid for and everything is in good running order he is disposed to let well attainments by some apt quotation.

"How is it, Mrs. Little," asked a neighwill not do at all for the young blood enough alone for a little time. But this which is constantly pouring in. The new element is full of progressive ideas and suggestions of innovations, and when it meets resistance on the part of the "old fogy" there is a clashing of

How to Light a Solid Body. Cadogan Morgan was the first electrician to experiment with electric light in solid bodies. This was in 1785. He to let the sun go down when I was mad. first inserted two wires into a stick of And so it is with other things, and I wood and caused the spark to pass be s'pose that's one reason I remember."— tween them. This had the effect of illuminating the stick a beautiful blood red. An ivory ball, an orange or an apple may be lighted in the same manner. Some experimenters prefer the lemon for this purpose, it being very sus-ceptible to the electric discharge, flashg forth at every spark as a spheroid of brilliant golden light. The wires used for this purpose should be brought with-in about half an inch of each other inside the lemon.—St. Louis Republic.

Thomas Hardy's Methods. Thomas Hardy, the novelist, has been telling something about his home and nethod of work. If he turns out 3,000 words in a day he thinks he has done well. He usually begins work between 10 and 11, and writes until luncheon. He has never tried the typewriter, but donyx, with a funeral urn cut in intaglio, he writes with copying mk, unphrasung donyx, with a funeral urn cut in intaglio, his MS. by the copying press, so as almad is set very simply in Etruscan gold. ways to have a second copy of his work.

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