

ANNIHILATION.

If I could know, as none can know,
That when my life is ended, I
Shall perish, like the aëreous glow
Of rounded stars that die;

HARRY'S MAIDEN AUNT.

"It's too bad, really!" cried Mr. Harry
Sturgess, walking up and down the room
in an exuberance of indignation and sym-

"I wouldn't have believed it of
your uncle—to turn you out of the office
and cast you, penniless, upon a cold and

"It was the third time," gloomily an-
swered the handsome young man, who
sat at the window, absently drumming at

"Well, I've done with them, and it
shall never happen again if I've a will of
my own," said Mr. Philip Booker, with

"But what will you do about those
betting bills, since your uncle refuses to
pay them?"

"I'll pay them myself, so soon as I'm
able, and be done with it all. You see,
old fellow"—turning around and serious-

"I've come to the conclusion to face
fortune boldly and win my own way in
the world. I'm only eight-and-twenty,

"But you haven't been used to it—
what can you do?" said his friend, hop-

"Well, I've been thinking it over, you
see, and have concluded that the best
plan will be to emigrate to America, and

"Phil, I've just thought of the best
thing in the world for you to do! You
shall marry my Aunt Priscilla!"

"The other looked up in surprise.
"Who mean that maiden aunt of
yours down in Hampshire, who is so

"The very same!" responded Sturges,
enthusiastically. "She's very rich, and
the best woman in the world! Her estate

"Phil, I'm much obliged, I am sure,"
said the young lady pleasantly; "but how
am I to get my hat, now that you have

"I will try, nevertheless."
She watched him with interest, and
when he kept his footing on the treacher-

"How beautifully you did it! Do you
know that I have seen others attempt it
—and fail? I used to wish to try it my-

"Indeed, I should not imagine Miss
Courtenay called me a tom-boy."
"Indeed, I should not imagine Miss

"Do you know her?" she asked, a lit-
tle curiously.
"I have seen her. Indeed I have sev-

"Since you are so frank, I must make
a similar confession. I have more than
once seen you strolling past by the

"I am greatly indebted to chance for
bringing us together at last," he said
gallantly.
"You are Mr. Harry Sturgess' friend,

"It was part of it, originally. When

my great uncle, Colonel Pepper, died, he
left his estate to my Aunt Priscilla, with
the exception of one remote little corner,
which he generously clipped off and be-

A week later saw the friends established
in the fancifully named Pepper-box—a
little brick cottage, half covered with
vines and wholly buried in an exquisite

Harry Sturgess paid frequent visits to
his aunt, excusing his friend on the
score of his "state of health," though in
forming him that Miss Priscilla had ex-

Mr. Booker regarded these favors with
suspicion, and was very careful to keep
out of sight of Harry's maiden aunt.

But one evening, strolling along the
stream with Sturgess, equipped with
fishing rod and tackle, they passed the
terrace and beheld walking there, quite

One was tall, sallow and stately, dressed
in black satin, and carried a lace parasol
over her elaborately frizzled head. The
other was much younger, and simply at-

"My aunt, Miss Priscilla Courtnay,"
said Harry Sturgess, "and her compan-
ion, Miss Sophie Courtnay. What do
you think of her?" he added, with an in-

"Well—yes, certainly, for one of her
age. But I pity that poor little com-
panion."

"Oh, nonsense! My Aunt Priscilla is
not the dragon you evidently think her,
nor is Miss Sophie tyrannized over, I as-

"So I should think," murmured Bok-
er, as he saw the young lady kneel on
a gravel walk and dig away at the root
of a rosebush. "Is she generally called

"It's her own choice. She's a clever,
active young woman, who can turn her
hand to anything, as occasion requires,

Philip rather doubted this assertion,
when on the following day he again had
a glimpse of the two ladies, seated in a

Philip caught the sound of her voice,
sweet and clear, but rather wearied, he
thought; and he saw her, on discovering

"Poor little woman!" he murmured to
himself, as he passed on. "I wish there
were some worthy curate, or doctor, or

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Pepper-box! How do you relish life in
that diminutive abode? Spicy, isn't it?"
"It could not be otherwise with Harry
for a companion. A more genial and

He accompanied her to the foot of the
garden, looking down into her bright,
expressive face and thinking what an
attractive one it was, though certainly

He told his friend of the interview.
"See appears to be really an interest-
ing and superior young lady," he said

"Well, yes; she's clever and sensible
and very self-reliant."
"Do you know I think it a pity she
isn't married? I have an idea that she

"I've heard her say she would rather
marry a poor man."
"Really! But then she has no idea
what that means. Fancy now, my ask-

"Well, I rather think she'd go—if she
liked you. I don't doubt but that she
would be willing to milk the cows, and

"And I would prefer to marry a wom-
an whom I could love and esteem, were
she as poor as Job's turkey!" asserted

"Oh Mary go and call the cat home."
Next day Mr. Philip Booker said,
rather hesitatingly:

"Harry, don't you think it would be
as well for me to call on your aunt and
thank her for all her kindness?"

"She'd be delighted. Will this morn-
ing do?"

So a few hours after saw them solemn-
ly ascending the steps of the terrace
and then shown into a large and hand-

"Your aunt is really quite a stately old
lady," Philip remarked.
"Old lady! Why, Aunt Priscilla is
only twenty-six!"

"Twenty-six! Why, Harry, she must
be—excuse me—certainly in her fifties.
She has gray hair!"

"Oh, you are mistaking Miss Sophie
Courtenay for my aunt. What an odd
fancy! Why, that old lady is my aunt's

"Harry, you're joking."
"Not at all. It is as I tell you. You'll
see when I introduce you."

"But—you said your aunt was old."
"I said she was no chicken—nor is she
at twenty-six. It was you who called

"And you called her plain!"
"I said she was no great beauty; nor
is she. The fact is, that because she

"Ma," observed a little girl, reflect-
ively, one night, as the first stars came
out, "don't you think when those stars

"The man who wrote a little pamphlet
entitled, 'How to Get on in the World,'
was put off a street car the other day be-

An American young lady singer went
to Europe bearing the name of Mary
Jane Boggs, and her cognomen is now

"Ma," observed a little girl, reflect-
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"The large stone hand of an idol in a
Chinese temple recently fell off and se-
verely injured a worshipper beneath.

"Satan finds some mischief still for idol
hands to do."
"Your're the plague of my life!" ex-
claimed an angry husband. "I wish the

A philosopher has discovered that the
rib from which woman was formed was
taken from the right side of man. Which

A Marylander shot a colored man in a
tree on his farm the other day, and when
the negro came tumbling down, appar-

Chicago has dental rooms run on the
barber shop plan, but the man who bears
"Next," when his turn comes is not in

"Tell your mistress that I have torn
the coverlet," said a gentleman to a fa-
cious domestic of his lodging house.

"Very well," replied the chambermaid,
"Miss West will likely put it down as
rent."

Before cutting a man's head off in
China the authorities considerably make
him drunk. The beauty of this system

"What is the color of that judge's
robe?" asked a lawyer of a stenographer.
"Well, I may be mistaken," replied the

An observing pedestrian has made the
startling discovery that the reason why
woman cannot succeed as well as man

A witty lady says that since so many
apartment-houses have been put up on
Back Bay, Boston, and so many single

Herr Fandt, of Dresden, uses wires
heated to redness by electricity to cut
glass, or rather break it. But there does

At a fashionable wedding in New York
the ceremony was performed under a
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SHORT BITS.

Em-employment—a printer's.
A green house—a new congress.
The country for good appetites—Hun-
gary.
Every living novelist is entitled to a
storied earn.

The thieving Apaches live by hook, but
not by Crook.
The most elastic of parlor diversions is
a rubber of whist.

A new broom ought to sweep clean,
for it is generally well handled.
The chord of sympathy is often best
expressed by a cord of wood.

By what means do spirits materialize?
Echo answers, "Material lies."
None but the most inhuman would
think of pulling down the blind.

What do men never wish to be in and
yet labor hard to possess? Bonds.
Ships are very polite. Even the stern
propeller generally has a graceful bow.

A Syracuse man has a hat made of the
last straw which broke the camel's back.
When the button comes off the back
of a man's shirt, his cholera begins to

The man who lost a night's sleep dur-
ing the war will soon apply for a pen-
sion.
There is a tailor in town who speaks
of another in the business as one of his

In France a reporter generally makes
a writing desk of the back of the indi-
vidual he interviews.
"Does death end all?" Well, no; it
merely begins some things. The fight

The new drink is called a dude cocktail,
and is made out of mush, gravel,
chopped ice and fresh milk.
Small boys should pass around dicta-

Logic is logic, and it does not follow
that Noah brewed beer in the ark be-
cause the kangaroo went on board with

A Galveston paper advertises for "a
first class driving horse for a lady that
must be young and gentle, easy to man-

The festive cockroach toils not, neither
does he spin, yet Solomon, in all his
glory, could not make a raid on a plate

She sang, "I want to be an angel,"
and he swore that she was one already.
To this she blushingly demurred. Then

With the man of to-day life is a pa-
thetic, heroic and unavailing struggle
against baldheadedness. It is a waste of

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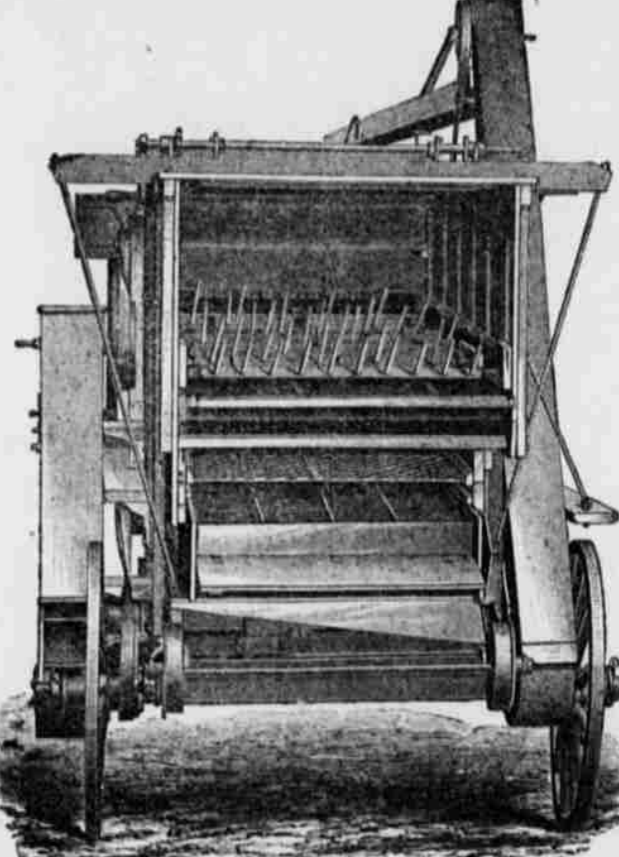
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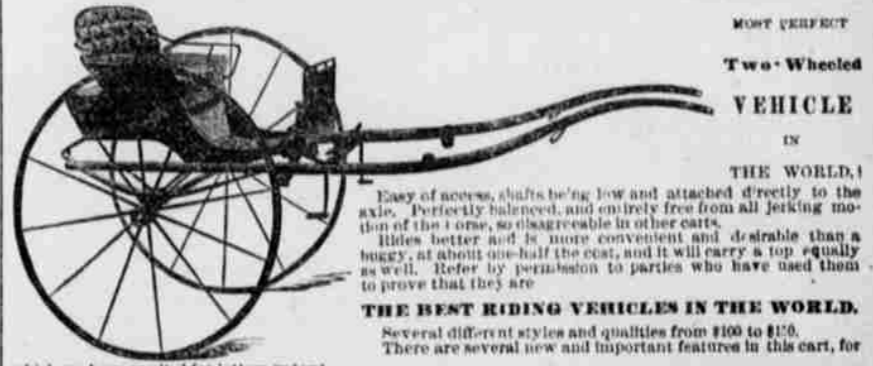
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