



TRIAL BY FIRE.

There are colonels and majors and generals and some old captains who hold that Isabel Hampden was the most attractive woman who ever graced the frontier...



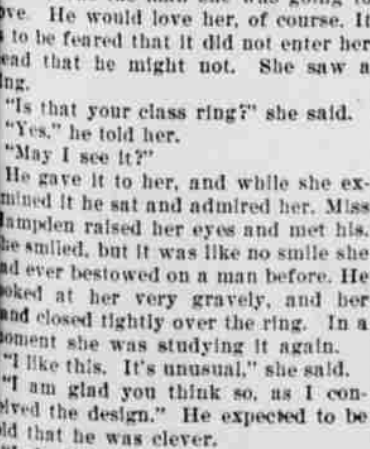
SOBBING AS IF HER HEART WERE UTTERLY BROKEN.

blitten with a desire to obtain the unattainable, and he was not one to dally. He went behind the scenes. "Whom are you going home with, Miss Hampden?"



DON'T BE A GOOSE, JACK.

of a sensation. I've grown a bit hardened, perhaps. Custom has dulled the edge—which was fearfully keen and cutting, at first—of being told that I am only breaking a heart.



"MAY I SEE IT?" SHE ASKED COOLLY.

the tepees. It was the agency of the Indians that young Ardsley had fought two decades before; and the General's wife was nursing herself not to show that she remembered this.

Ardsley's ring. The fire did not touch the letters. I understand now why they never could tell me which was his grave.

three of them married. He proposed to the heroine in nicely read lines, and was rejected by her with a perfection that spoke her practice.

When the laugh had subsided, the hero arose from his knees. He walked to the footlights and sighed.

"Ah! well," he said, "I have one crumb of comfort. I am not the only man in this place who is in the same fix."

The astounded Ardsley looked about him, and he picked out the entire number by their faces. Miss Hampden dropped her head in her hands and laughed with the rest.

Between the acts, Ardsley made inquiries and learned the truth. He was bitten with a desire to obtain the unattainable, and he was not one to dally.

"Whom are you going home with, Miss Hampden?" "I fear no one will take me after the light Mr. Graves has put me in."

"So you have refused the entire army?" he asked, as they walked home. "Not quite."

"The entire department?" "Well, a fair percentage of it," she admitted. "Are you going to refuse me?"

"I can't say until you are offered." "And I accept you now."

FRUIT CURES. The Effect on Health of Almonds, Grapes and Strawberries.

According to a celebrated health expert, blanched almonds gave the higher nerve or brain and muscle food, and the man who wishes to keep his grain power will do well to include them in his daily bill of fare.

The New York Times says in reference to this one of the latest fads: "In the tenth century, an investigator has discovered, many medical authorities over the remarkable curative virtues of grapes; while a certain Van Sweeten, of a more modern date, is said to have recommended in several cases the eating of twenty pounds of strawberries a day."

Mr. Carlisle has frequently noticed that short and gentle, but perfectly appreciable rainfalls have occurred without showing any registration. On the other hand he has noted that slight registrations are sometimes made when there is no moisture falling.

After much experimentation Mr. Carlisle hit upon the scheme of introducing in the electrical circuit some additional clock work, the effect of which is to delay the graphic register five seconds. That is to say that if a certain amount of rain is caught by the gauge receptacle it will be five seconds before it is recorded.

Give the Stupid Boy a Chance. Here is a lesson and perhaps encouragement for parents who have a stupid boy, for no doubt there are a few stupid boys in this closing century.

It is said that when Isaac Barrow, one of the greatest of English preachers, was a boy, his father thought him very stupid, and used to say that if pleased God to take from him any of his children he hoped it would be Isaac.

The Bishop's Triumph. The late Bishop Selwyn delighted to tell the following ray incident in his varied experience: While Bishop of Litchfield he was walking one day in the Black Country, and observing a group of colliers seated by the roadside in a semi-circle, with a brass kettle in front of them, inquired what was going on.

Korean Paper. Korean paper is superior to that of either China or Japan, in both of which countries it is in demand for umbrella covers, roofing and as a substitute for window glass.

Single men are always drafted into war first. This may cause a lot of old bachelors to hurry up and get married.

his contract he preached a sermon on "Sunshine from Between the Weeds," and at the close he announced to his hearers the name of the wheel he rode and advised them to get only good ones.

The good people of Louisville, Ky., were recently startled by the appearance on the streets of that city of a stylishly dressed young woman with a pipe in her mouth. The pipe was of briar root, with silver mountings and a curved amber stem.

FRENCH BRIAR PIPES. They Don't Come from France and Are Not Briarwood. "The manner in which an article may come to be universally sold under a name to which it is not legitimately entitled and that, too, without any intent to deceive on the part of either the dealer or the manufacturer," remarked a well-known tobacco man, "is illustrated by the trade in pipes."

A Wonderful Solar Engine. At Longwood, near Boston, last Monday a solar engine of ingenious construction, which has been under construction for several months, was given a highly successful test with cold water in the boiler, the formation of steam being almost instantly.

This boiler is one of the peculiar features of the solar machine, which would puzzle any one unacquainted with heliodynamics. It is of copper, about eight inches in diameter and as long as the curved mirror, in the focus of which it is placed.

Kiss Richie for Me. Col. Richard C. Parsons, Jr., whom the President nominated for Secretary of the embassy at Rome the other day, is the son of Col. Richard C. Parsons, of Cleveland, Ohio, who was years ago in Congress from that district, and was one of the most intimate friends of Secretary Salmon P. Chase.

Righteous Indignation. Miss Williston—How is it, colonel, that you have no medal? All the other officers in your regiment have lots of them.

Constructive Australian Acts. The roof of the Australian museum at Sydney, which had been destroyed by termites, or "white ants," had to be replaced with a covering composed largely of steel and copper.

A Modern Miracle. Mrs. Churchleigh—Our new minister possesses the most wonderful persuasive powers I ever knew a man to possess.

Noncommittal. Carrie—Did John come up very close to you when he proposed? May—Well, I hope you don't think he went across the street and shouted his love over to me.

SUPPOSE WE SMILE. HUMOROUS PARAGRAPHS FROM THE COMIC PAPERS.

Pleasant Incidents Occurring the World Over—Sayings that Are Cheerful to Old or Young—Funny Selections that Everybody Will Enjoy.

Almost Discouraged. Clara—I thought he would never kiss me. "How long did you have to wait?" "Fully five minutes."

Unprofitable. Judge—Is it true, my man, that you quit the gang and reformed? Prisoner—It's a solemn fact, yer Honor. Dey give me de job of pleikin' women's pockets an' I couldn't find more'n one or two a month. I had ter look fur somethin' else ter do.—Detroit Free Press.

His Interest. "Are you taking much interest in the Spanish-Cuban war?" inquired the European statesman. "I should say I am!" replied the capitalist; "compound interest."—Washington Star.

Found Out. Visitor (in insane asylum)—How long have you been inside? Inmate—Ever since the people on the outside found out that I knew they were crazy.

The Difference. Customer—What is the difference between those two hats? Clerk—About the only difference is in the price. One is marked a dollar higher than the other.

Quite a Difference. Shorty—How far is it to the postoffice? "About twenty minutes' walk." "For you or for me?"—New York Press.

A Streak of Luck. Block—I had great luck at the races to-day. Morgan—Picked a winner, eh? Block—No; but when I reached the track I found I'd left all my money at home in my other trousers.

His Assurance. Old Billy—What assurance have you to offer that you really love my daughter? Anxious William—Why, I have promised to come and live with your family as a member of it for her sake. I wouldn't do that for mere money, 'pon my word.

He Had Been There. "Were you ever caught in a sudden squall?" asked a passenger of the steamboat captain. "Well, I rather guess so!" replied the captain. "I'm the father of three pairs of twins!"

He Was an Understudy. Smith—So your wife has gone on a three weeks' visit. Jones—Yes. Smith—Don't you miss the directing hand of the household department? Jones—Not at all. Her mother lives with us, and she didn't go on a visit.

At the Opera. She—You don't understand German, do you, Mr. Binks? Little Binks—No—er—not much. She—I wondered at you applauding so vigorously when the principal actor said he was too indisposed to continue.—Judy.

A Reasonable Hope. "Yes," said Mr. Gillipins, "I think my son Daniel has a bright future ahead of him." "How's that?" "He's just got the agency for one of the best kinds of stove polish I ever saw."

Just His Luck. "I never saw such a chronic kicker as Jenkins is." "What's his latest grievance?" "He found a \$5 bill this morning and is grumbling because a man to whom he owed \$3.75 saw him pick it up."

She Couldn't Guess What It Was. Mrs. Maundley—Do your daughter and her husband live happily together? Mrs. Oldham—Alas, I'm afraid not. My daughter says they do, but every time I go to visit them there seems to be something present to mar the serenity of their lives.

Drawing Comparisons. Charley—My papa is the kindest man in the world, I bet. He says he'd give every dollar he's got to make me happy. Willie—My papa's better'n that. He never blows about the things he does when he was a boy.

They Get It Honestly. "Why is it that women always lay so much more stress than men do upon the value of a pedigree?" "They inherit it from Eve, I guess." "From Eve? I don't see what she had to boast of in that line." "It wasn't much, but she wasn't made out of clay, while Adam was, and I'll bet she never got through reminding him of her superior origin."

The Remedy. She—Are there not moments in your life when you are not satisfied—when there is something lacking? He—Yes, indeed! She—At such times I always take refuge in music. And what do you do? He—I advertise!—Hettie Welt.

First One a Record. Jack—What an original girl Mabel Decker is! Fred—I never noticed it. Jack—I proposed to her last night, and she didn't say that she had hoped we might always be just good friends.

Too Dangerous. "Why is it that Davidson never goes out with the boys any more?" "He has developed a habit of talking in his sleep about things that he does in his waking hours."

How It Was. Browne—Smith must lead a double life. He says he gives that man money for policy's sake. Towne—Yes; that man is Smith's insurance agent.—New York Evening Journal.

It Was Rather Suggestive. Jack—I thought you were engaged to Miss DeLillibbons? Tom—So I was; but it's off now. Jack—What was the trouble; did she break the engagement? Tom—No; I did. I happened to be in the store where she is employed the other day and heard her call for "cash."

Good Advice to Young Authors. It is possible to give good advice without intending to do it. Some time ago an inspiring writer in New Zealand wrote to Mr. Ruyard Kipling for advice which might enable him to succeed in the occupation he had chosen. In due time he received the following note from Mr. Kipling: "No man's advice is of the least benefit in our business (and I am a very busy man). Keep on trying till you either fail or succeed." Mr. Kipling could hardly have said more if he had written the man a letter to cover a ream of paper. The young author who is ambitious of literary success, and who has in him to succeed, will not be discouraged by repeated failures; but will learn something from every failure, and persevere until he finds appreciation. If he never finds such appreciation, the proof is pretty positive that he does not possess the qualifications for success; and he has hardly wasted his time, since beyond question he enjoyed the work, or he would not have done it.

Going Around the World. A traveler can now go around the world in fifty days.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Pisek, Bohemia, is probably the only "dogless" town in the world. In consequence of a death from hydrophobia the authorities ordered every dog in the place killed.

A remarkable long-distance telephone talk was between Captain Jacques in New York and Simon Lake in the cabin of his submarine boat, the Argonaut, eight miles out in Baltimore harbor and sixty-five feet under water.

When a man has reached 81 years and has worked at blacksmithing unceasingly for sixty-five years one might expect him if he abandoned the anvil evermore, but a smart old fellow down in Maine asks no release in these circumstances and continues merrily on.

Boston's municipal legislators are considering the advisability of borrowing \$750,000 for the establishment of twenty playgrounds for the children of the streets. The committee on cities favorably reported a bill providing for this improvement.

A prying correspondent has discovered in Piscataquis County, Maine, a family of six children, the oldest of whom (twins) are not yet quite 4 years of age. Other twins are two years younger, and the others 4 weeks. In each case of the twins there are a boy and a girl.

It is said that a flower has been found in South America which is visible only when the wind is blowing. The shrub belongs to the cactus family, and is about three feet high, with a crook at the top. When the wind blows a number of beautiful flowers protrude from little lumps on the stalk.

A letter from Japan says that, although it is only eighteen years since the first newspaper was published in Japan, there are now 575 daily and weekly newspapers. There are thirty-five law magazines, eleven scientific periodicals, thirty-five medical journals and an equal number of religious newspapers.

The late Justice Daniels of New York was one of the many persons afflicted with the dread of being buried alive. "I request," he wrote in his will, "that interment shall be delayed until after my decease shall have obviously and certainly taken place, and excluding reliance as to that fact on the opinion of any physician, as such opinions have so often proved to be mistakes."

It is related of President John Tyler's nephew, William Tyler, who died a few days ago in Conkling, Washington County, Tenn., at the age of 85 years, that he had lived all his long life in the house in which he was born, and that the building was once owned by John Sevier, the pioneer, who there planned with Colonel Isaac Shelby, in 1780, the battle of King's mountain.

A minister in Springfield, Mass., is said to have received a bicycle as a present from the manufacturer on condition that it should be advertised by him from the pulpit. In order to fulfill

