Gulver's Joke

By Suse Clements Willia

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"I don't know any girls; simple reason," laughed Blake Narbel. "You see. the pater grew to be a woman hater after mother's death. We have retreated before civilization ever since."

"I'll give you a couple of mail introductions back east," laughed Culver. "I know a lot. You write a nice little letter, and I'll send it."

"I guess you'd have to write the letter, too," chuckled Narbel, "I never wrote to a woman in my life."

"You never can tell till you try," suggested Culver. "I wish you'd try now. It would keep you busy until I finish this letter."

He went on with his writing, and Narbel good humoredly picked up a pen. There was a pack train going down from the mines tomorrow, and he could understand why Culver wanted to finish off the letters he was writing back east. The train went down one week and back the next, affording them bimonthly communication with the outside world.

"Whom shall I address it to?" he demanded.

"Miss Lucy Mears," laughed Culver. Then two pens scratched over the paper, Culver's with easy, rapid movement, Narbel's painstakingly. He was less accustomed to writing, and Culver had finished half a dozen letters before the other's pen was still.

Culver laughed over the effusion, in which the writer had pictured his dull life and had pleaded for permission to open a correspondence. He explained fully his relations with Culver as business partner and chum and hinted at possibilities of matrimony.

Had he been in earnest instead of merely seeking a means of killing time while Culver was occupied he could not have done better,

In the morning Culver came across the sheets and, with a wicked chuckle, slipped them into an envelope and addressed them to Lucy Mears, anticipating that elderly lady's surprise when she should open the envelope back in the New England town.

Narbel, clearing up the table that evening, noted the absence of the sheets, but concluded that Culver had torn them up along with his own odd sheets and thought no more of the mat- ing of fate." ter until a month later a letter came



ON THE STEP STOOD NARREL AND THE GIRL OF THE PICTURE.

which clearly was not from the San Francisco firms with which he had business dealings.

Culver laughed so heartily when he had read him the first few paragraphs that he had become silent, and he would read no more, devouring the contents, while Culver chuckled over the girlish letter the elderly spinster had indited. It was more like the letter of a schoolgirl than of a woman of forty.

It was a girlish letter, if not schoolgirlish, full of excuses and explanations that the writer had been tempted to answer because of the sincerity of the communication and Culver's recommendations. Culver reflected that It had been a capital letter and wondered how long he should let it run on before he should disillusionize Narbel with a prose portrait of Miss Lucy as he remembered her.

Before he decided to stop the fun a photograph arrived, a picture of a young girl with frank, honest eyes and n face that won even Culver's admiration, though he shouted in his glee as he recalled Miss Lucy, with her prim ways and angular features.

He had intended to give the hoax away, but this was too good to be abandoned, and he listened with a smile to Narbel's rhapsodies, until one night Blake shocked him with the announcement that Miss Mears had consented to marry him and that he was going east to get her.

As gently as he could Culver explained the deception and sought to dissuade his friend, but Narbel would have none of it. "It may be as you say," he agreed coldly. "But my word

"But she's forty if she's a day," pleaded Culver. "Surely, Blake, you don't want to marry a woman seven years older than yourself."

"I shan't have any woman saying that I broke faith," he said soberly, "The train from the mines is going down tomorrow. I shall go with it." He was as good as his word. When the train tolled back across the sandy wastes the foreman declared that he had seen Narbel board the eastbound limited, and Culver gave up his time

to fixing up the house.

There was little to do in the orchard. The plants would not bear before the following year, by which time there would be a spur of track to the mines, and they could ship the fruit. Meanwhile all he had to do was to see that the trees were irrigated and that no stray cattle got in. It was easy enough, with the help of the men, to set up a shack for himself and leave

the old house for Narbel and his bride. He even had time to ride over and tell the men at the mine of the toke. and when at last word came over their wire that the pair was due to come out with the train they all gathered at the ranch to welcome the new Mrs. Narbel

They rode out to meet the dust cloud which marked the track of the long line of wagons across the alkali, but the figure in the buggy beside Narbel was so swathed in duster and vells that no hint of her appearance could be gained, and the men, with many a nudge and smile, fell in behind and rode along.

They all turned in at the ranch gate but Narbel awung his wife out of the buggy and took her into the house. "Mrs. Narbel will be glad to meet you when she has had a chance to tidy up," he said, with a grave face, "but she wants the dust off first."

Culver took the horse to the stables and then rejoined the waiting group on the grass plot in front of the house. (Culver knew now why Narbel had insisted upon a grass plot.) They had not long to wait, for presently a gasp from the crowd caused Culver to turn, and there on the step stood Narbel and the very girl of the picture. She was smiling now as she acknowledged the various introductions. Culver was the last to come up, for he had not recovered from his amazement until Narbel called to him.

"I feel that I ought to be very grateful to you," she said in a low voice, "even though you were trying to play a joke."

"The joke seems to be on me," he sald lamely.

"I don't think there is any toke," she said decidedly. "It was just the work-

He turned to receive the farewells of the men from the mine, and more than one joked him on his vivid imagi nation. It was clear that they thought he had been fooling them, and he was glad that he was at least saved their jeers, but it was with no pleasant anticipation that he followed Narbel and his wife into the house.

"You builded better than you knew, Jack, when you sent that letter I wrote in jest.

"But this is not Lucy Mears," he stammered. "I thought you were going to keep faith at any cost."

"Aunt Lucy died a year ago," smiled Mrs. Narbel. "I suppose no one wrote you. As I was the only Lucy Mears I got the letter."

"And I got the sweetest little woman on earth," supplemented Narbel.

"And I," wound up Culver, "I don't know whether I should be praised or kicked. I think I'd prefer the latter." But instead he received the praise.

Very Unusual.

I knew a girl-great glory, what a peach-

I couldn't figure how she saw her future lord in me. Fact is, she couldn't either, though in

cold or sunny weather We gadded round to picnics, balls and theaters together.

theaters together.

She knew me so completely that she couldn't fall in love—

That is, at least, she didn't, though 1 wood her like a dove.

In brief, we never married; in its stead we're bully friends

"happy ever after" in the way the story ends. -S. W. Gillian in Judge.

Man's Appreciation.

Mrs. Wedderly-The audacity of our cook! She told me this morning that she didn't want me fussing around the kitchen

Wedderly-Guess I'll go right down

and interview her. Mrs. We are Are you going to

discharge been

Wedderly-I should say not! I'm go-Ing to raise her wages! - Chicago

An Absentminded Professor.



The Professor-What does that foolish fellow mean by so persistently of fering me an umbrella on such a lovely day as this?

SARAH. HUSTLING DONALD HEROINE

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"Look here, Jim" began Colville one evening, when her brother James came home to supper, "in walking past the tavern this afternoon I saw a strange young man."

"Yes, there is one there," was the re-

"Who is he?"

"I can't tell you much about him. His name is Ripley, I believe, and he's come down from the city for a four weeks' vacation. He was asking me about boating and fishing."

James Hailiday was a carpenter of the village of Branchville. His sister

Sarah kept house for him. Sarah Halliday had lived for thirtythree years and no man had hinted of matrimony to her. She never pretended to good looks, but she always insisted that she was tender hearted and had emotion sufficient to make a great actress. Her fallure to bring men to the point had rankled, and she had finally made up her mind to do a little hustling for a husband. She had seen the young man sitting on the hotel veranda with his feet cocked up on the railing, and he had at once been marked down. He had looked after her in an eager way, and she flattered herself that she had made an impression.

"If Mr. Ripley is all alone down here he must be lonesome," she said to her brother Jim after supper.

"Yes, he may be." "Then you'd better saunter up to the tavern and show him that you want to be friendly. You can bring in, if you want to, that I noticed him this afternoon. We've got the mill pond here, and we've got a boat and fishing tackle, and it seems our duty to make the strauger's stay as pleasant as possible. You know how you'd feel if you were away from home.

The brother dutifully obeyed orders. He found Mr. Ripley smoking a cigar on the veranda. He mentioned Sarah, the mill pond, the boat and the black bass waiting to be caught, and Mr. Ripley replied that he should surely take advantage of the situation. He didn't set any date, however, and when he came home to supper on the following evening the brother observed to

"What do you think, Sarah? That Susan Jones has somehow managed to



SHE CRIED TO HIM AGAIN AND AGAIN. get acquainted with the stranger, and he's over at her house playing croquet,"
"Jim, you don't tell me that for a fact!" she gasped.

"Of course I do!" "Humph! The freshness of Miss Susan Jones must be seen to at once." And it was. Miss Sarah speedily and, leaving her brother to eat alone, she started for the Jones house. Mr. Ripley and Susan were just finishing their last game. Sarah walked up to Susan and whisperingly asked for an introduction and forced the issue. When she returned home Mr. Ripley accompanied her, and he didn't leave the house until 10 o'clock. He had made himself very agreeable, and when he had departed Jim observed:

"By thunder, Sarah, but 'sposin' you could marry a feller like him!"

"I mean to!" was Sarah's laconic re-

The next day Jim was left out of it. Sarah and Mr. Ripley took the boat and went fishing, and before they returned she thought she knew her man pretty well. He was romantic. He was inclined to be a hero. He quoted poetry. He sighed to find and love a heroine. When Jim came home that evening there was a twinkle in his eye, and after hearing about the fishing trip he sald:

"Mr. Ripley seems to be a feller who rets acquainted with folks pretty fast. I just saw him walking home with Tille Graves." "You don't mean it!" exclaimed

Sarah as she paused in the act of pouring out the tea. "That's what I saw. She was at the tavern to see the landlord's wife, and

'spose she was introduced." "Well, I'll put a stop to that pretty sudden. I told Mrs. Graves only last cial assessment upon the lots, lands and week that Tillie was altogether too

miesiten.

Again Jim was left to eat his evenig meal alone while the sister started out with aggressive steps. She saw Tillie and Mr. Ripley at the gate while she was yet a long way off. She walked straight up to them and observed that it was a beautiful evening for seeing the mill dam and bore the stranger away. When the pouring waters of the dam had been sufficiently admired the young man was walked to the Halliday homestead and kept busy quot ing poetry and drinking cider until 11

In the course of a couple of weeks at least half a dozen girls were introduced to Mr. Ripley by the landlord's wife, and each and every one of them set out for a flirtation with him. Each and every one of them came to grief. however. Sarah was in evidence, and when she butted in the others had to butt out. At the end of a fortnight she felt herself as good as engaged. Mr. Ripley had praised her strength and skill in rowing, her luck in fishing and street, from the south line of Commerher emotional temperament, and she had several times caught him glancing at her as a man only glances when his admiration is aroused. He had been asked to ten three or four times, and assessment roll number 128, and that the two had boated and fished every the committee on streets and public ways afternoon, and all was going well. "How's it coming out, Sarah?" asked

brother Jim one morning at the breakfast table. "There's only one thing needed," she

replied. "Haven't you noticed that he

is always talking about heroes and

heroines?

"If I were a heroine he'd pop the question inside of twenty-four hours." "But how can you be?"

"I can't say just now, but I'm going to think it over during the day." That afternoon she received a note from Mr. Ripley excusing himself from calling on the ground of a slight illness, and two hours after she had read the note she learned that he was sitting on the plazza with the Widow

and wanted a third. on. Sarah had learned that Mr. Ripley arose and breakfasted at 8 o'clock. He then spent an hour on the veranda smoking and reading. The mill dam was not a bundred feet away and in

Phelps, who had had two husbands

plain view. carless boat floating down upon the dam. She cried to him again and again, and it was plain to him that she must be swept over the falls and drowned. The best thing he could do, however, was to fall over his recking chair and roll down the steps. Right under his eyes the boat went over the dam, and right under his eyes a sawmill man, who had never longed to be a hero, fished Sarah out with a long pole. She was a heroine, but insensible. They her around in the sawdust. They car-Jim and the doctor. She was wrung out and put to bed, and it was two days later when Jim was permitted to

"Now, then, what in the old Harry hour in the morning?"

"Rowing," she answered.

"How came you to lose the oars?"

"I wanted to be rescued." "Oh, I see. You wanted to be a heroine, ch. and you wanted to give Ripley a chance to play the hero?"

question. Naw"

"But he surely called?"

"How could be call when he took a plied the brother.

"Did he see me all wet and wopsy?" "Of course, and that's why he skated!"

Poor Sarah! She had hustled, but she had lost.

NOTICE TO IMPROVE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON Council of the City of Astoria: That said Council hereby declares its deterdenned another dress, fixed up a bit, mination and intention to improve Exchange street from the west line of 9th street to a point eight feet west of the east line of 8th street. Said improvement shall be made by grading tion of a drain on Melbourne avenue said street to the established grade to from the alley-way running through the full width thereof, constructing ce- block 17, to a point 70 feet south of the ment side walks on both sides thereof south line of Taylor avenue, as per aswith corners on Sth street and with all sessment roll number 124, was made by necessary drainage. The side walk shall an order of the common council due and be six feet wide with a two foot park payable on the 8th day of September. space between the curb and the edge of 1906, by ordinance number 3276, conthe side walk, and from curb to curb firming said assessment roll, that the folthe street shall be graded nine inches lowing are the names of the persons below the sub grade with a sufficient against whom the assessment is made, the same which said lots, lands and crown in the center and filled in and and the amount owing by each, to-wit: macadamized with crushed rock to the depth of nine inches when thoroughly Aho, Paul 5.00 rolled and gutters shall be constructed Bostrom, Hanna ... 8.00 on both sides of the street,

In matters of detail said improve ment shall be constructed according to Forsman, Charles 8.50 extended by Cyrus Olney. the plans and specifications therefor to Holm, Andrew 6.00 be prepared by the City Surveyor as Hilstrom, Mattilda 14.00 hereinafter provided and general ordin- Hendrickson, Henry 12.25 ance No. 1901 and any matter of construction and drainage found necessary to make the improvement safe or or substantial shall be done by the contractor whether specified or not, without extra charge,

That the costs and expenses of said improvement shall be defrayed by speCITY NOTICES.

premises benefitted by the same which Lucason, Helen ... 8.00 said lots, lands and premises are in- Matlin, Michael 6.00 cluded in the special assessment district Mathsen, Henry 6.00 benefitted, to-wit Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 Niemelin, Frank 10.00 in block 47, and lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Neimelin, Albert 4.00 ney in Clatsop County, Oregon.

OLOF ANDERSON, of Astoria.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT special assessment roll number 128. made for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of improving 10th cial street to the north line of Exchange street, has been filed with the auditor and police judge and numbered special has been appointed a committee of the council to sit with the board of assessors to examine, correct and equalize the NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT same, and that Saturday, the 8th day of September, A. D. 1906, at the hour of

OLOF ANDERSON. of Astoria.

Dated Astoria, Oregon, August 29th, A. D. 1906,

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT.

the assessment made for the construction of a sewer on 18th street, from a be presented in writing. point 15 feet south of the north line of Grand avenue, to the south line of Exchange street, as per assessment roll Next morning as the young man on number 125, was made by an order of a vacation sat smoking, he heard some the common council due and payable on one calling his name. He looked up, the 8th day of September, 1906, by orand there was Sarah Hailiday in an dinance number 3277, confirming said assessment roll, that the following are the names of the persons against whom the assessment is made and the amount owing by each, to-wit:

Foard, Tillie 3.34 ing by each, to-wit: Marine Engineers Beneficial Ass'n. .47 Noonan, E. P. 6.00 Patton, Frank 5.84 Auditor and Police Judge of the City "Has he sent me any flowers?" she Rehfeld, Maria 3.33 Schernackau, A. ... 36.85 Salte, A. E. 18.00 Schamberger, Joseph 17.00 skate that very forenoon?" bluntly re- | Vragnizan, John, Heirs of 24.68 Welch, James W. ... 41.28 Welch, D. H. 17.51 Ziegler, Pauline 46.00 By order of the common council, OLOF ANDERSON.

Auditor and Police Judge of the City of

Astoria. Dated Astoria, Oregon, August 29th.

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

1906.

the assessment made for the construc-Hannus, John ... 9.00 Jakkolaa, Maria 6.00 Johnson, John ... 8.50 Joula, John ... 21,00 Kaukonen, Jacob 35.00 Korpela, Matt ... 3.00 Kamara, Isak 18.50

Kankonen, Frans 23.00

Lahti, Lars ... 3.00

CITY NOTICES.

Peninsula Land & Trust Co..... 89.00 Pentila, John ... 3.00 Auditor and Police Judge of the City Palo, Matt 6.90 Riippa, Richard 10.00 Souppi, Jacob 3.00 Soumi Temperance Society 14.50 Toivonen, Moses 5.00 Thompson, August 15.00 Utterberg, Ava 4.50 Winters, James J 23.00 By order of the common council. OLOF ANDERSON.

Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria.

Dated Astoria, Oregon, August 29th, 1906.

NOTICE.

special assessment roll number 127, made for the purpose of defraving the 2 o'clock p. m. in the council chambers costs and expenses of improving Duane in the city hall, has been fixed as the street from the west line of 10th street time and place of the meeting of said to the west line of 6th street, has been board of equalization. All objections to filed with the auditor and police judge, said assessment must be presented in and numbered special assessment roll number 127, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been ap-Auditor and Police Judge of the City pointed a committee of the council to sit with the board of assessors, to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that 8-31-10t Saturday, the 8th day of September, A. D. 1906, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. in the council chambers in the city hall has been fixed as the time and place of Sarah planned fast from that time NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the meeting of said board of equalization. All objections to said assessment must

> OLOF ANDERSON. Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria.

Dated Astoria, Oregon, August 29th, A. D. 1906.

.. NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the assessment made for the improvement of 4th street, from the north line Astoria Company 81.00 railroad track, as per assessment roll Bracker, Theo. 26.85 number 123, was made by an order of Cramer, G. P..... 7.50 the 8th day of September, 1906, by or-rolled her on a barrel. They dragged Douglas, Abbie A. 41.00 sessment roll, that the following are the ried her home on a slab and sent for Foard, Martin 5.66 assessment is made and the amount ow-

Finnish Evang. Church, Trustees of 28.00 Astoria Iron Works\$301.50 were you doing in that boat at that Ingails, H. H. 5.66 Fox, John 65.00 Kelly, Timothy J., Heirs of 8.67 Kamm, Jacob 120.75 By order of the common council,

OLOF ANDERSON, of Astoria

D. 1906, 8-31-10t

NOTICE TO IMPROVE.

the Common Council of the City of Astoria: That said Council hereby de-Weinhardt, Louise ... 3.00 clared its determination and intention known as McClure's Drain No. 1, from a point ten feet east of the west line of 9th street to a point 100 feet west of the west line of 9th street. Said repairs shall be made by taking up the old drain and placing in new tiling where the same are broken and replacing the rock and refilling the excavation after the drain is repaired.

In matters of detail said improvement shall be constructed according to the plans and specifications therefor to be prepared by the City Surveyor and any matter of construction and drainage found necessary to make the improvement safe or substantial shall be done by the constructor whether specified or not, without extra charge.

That the costs and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be defrayed by special assessment upon the lots, lands and premises benefitted by premises are included in the special assessment district including all lots, lands and premises so benefitted, towit: All of blocks 72, 73, 88 and 89 Erickson, John ... 7.00 out and recorded by John McClure and

> OLOF ANDERSON. Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria,

8-28-10t



MEN AND WOMEN. Use Big & for unnature discharges inflammation irritations or ulceration