

Current Literature.

FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

My faithful dog—his actions fairly talk— Gambled about me on our morning walk, And being frivolous, for he was young.

Their Wedding Tours.

"Beautiful doughnuts?" murmured Mr. Zebediah Bird, taking immense mouthfuls with huge relish to testify his appreciation.

"I aint goin' to have him honnerin' at me to come home 'fore I'm ready," she said sagely.

"That's so, Miss Shappy," assented Mr. Bird heartily. "But the aint no need o' bein' without where you are, I do love —"

Miss Sappy dropped the tea-pot cover and scalded the cat. It was very embarrassing to have him do it right here at the table.

"your cooking," he finished, looking up in mild surprise at the usual careful-handed Miss Sappy.

This time she dropped the tea-pot cover off on purpose as she was filling his cup, splashing the hot liquid in his face as she noted with some satisfaction.

Mr. Zebediah Bird was well-to-do, old, and wanting a wife. He had buried his last one a little more than a year ago.

"She's a savin' critter," he said to himself, chewing his straggling chin-whiskers as he looked her over thoughtfully.

As for Miss Sappy, she was not un-mindful of the "chance." She had long seen things going to rack and ruin over at the "Bird's-nest" as it was generally called.

"Miss Sappy——" began Mr. Bird cautiously. "Have another doughnut," said Miss Sappy encouragingly, passing the plate.

That settled matters. "Sposin' you and I jog along together, Miss Sappy!" he suggested insinuatingly.

"Sposin' we do," assented Miss Sappy. Miss Sappy's heart "swelled like the Solway," but she contented herself with this mild form of words.

"Well, I will," said Miss Betsey. "It's just this way, Zebby, you see, he don't know no more about bridal-tours than a six weeks baby, an' so he thought he must do something uncommon to tell you an' I guess he did!

"No, but that's a five-minute job. You aint so used to them things as I be," he added, smiling on her with the condescension of experience.

Miss Sappy smiled faintly, conscious to a fluttering wish that he were not quite so used to it.

She was only forty-five, according to the last census. Should she let the coveted and long-deferred glory of a bride clip through her fingers?

"Zebby, dear," she said coaxingly, "I want a tour."

"Tore what!" said Mr. Bird. She explained. It seemed foolish to Mr. Bird. None of his other wives had ever had "tores" (that was the way he spelled the word in his mind) and it made him wonder if she wasn't really a little "weak."

"We couldn't both leave to once, Sappy," he said indulgently. "There's the chickens and all the chores out round—'twouldn't do."

"I wanted a tour," repeated Miss Sappy, sadly. "Might go first one and then the other," I s'pose he suggested jocularly.

"Well, we might," said Miss Sappy slowly. "They don't us'ally, but it's better than none. Well, Zebby, you go first, an' then I will."

So it was settled. The wedding came off duly and Miss Sappy, or Mrs. Bird as we must now say, was fairly installed in the Bird's-nest. Mr. Bird thought he would like to take a trip "down East where he was always born and brought up," and Mrs. Bird had no objection.

"Now, sir!" said Mrs. Bird. When Miss Sappy used to say "now, sir!" it meant something. When she that was Miss Sappy said it, it meant something still.

"I aint goin' to have him honnerin' at me to come home 'fore I'm ready," she said sagely. "The chickens can take care of themselves. I'll speak to one of the neighbors about 'em. I'm just going off for a tour by myself and I'll look out and get back the day 'fore he does so it'll be all right."

She left on the very next train. No Down East wilderness for her. She had always longed to see a great city, and all things come to her who can wait.

They had agreed that the tour should occupy three weeks; an unheralded dissipation for Mr. Zebediah Bird. He had mentioned two, his wife wished for four; they had finally compromised on three.

Mrs. Bird made her way directly to Boston; finding a room in a respectable quarter she proceeded in business fashion to "do" the city. Her tour was quite extensive, embracing the recesses of the Common, a morning visit to the State House, a peep at the Household Art Rooms, which she believed to be the Art Museum whereat a neighbor's friend's son's had seen wonders on her wedding tour, a curious invasion of a place whose haughty placard, not the public library made her wonder insatiably "what in creation it was then,"

and many other things, the which if they were all herein set down neither the editor of this paper nor any other would find room to print them. Three weeks! Three years would not have sufficed for her sight-seeing. Each new morning brought a fresh delight. She was taking out her crimping pins one frosty morning, trying to decide to which of half-a-dozen places she would go first, when a loud treble knock at her chamber door set all her false teeth chattering.

She opened the door a cautious crack, and somebody else burst it open to its full width, bounced in and flung herself in the chintz rocker, shaking with laughter.

"Lor, Betsey, why didn't you say 'Its me!' said Mrs. Bird, recognizing the sister whom she had more than once seen when the last Mrs. Bird was yet living. "But what are you laughing at? Are your nerves unstrung? Or is my friz on crooked," she asked falteringly, or "my wig on too far back?"

"No, dear land, do!" laughed Miss Betsey. "You're all as right as you ever was I guess! But can't help laughin' if 'twas to save me. You'd better come home and see to Zebby, Miss Sappy!"

"He haint got home!" "All there is left of him!" said Miss Betsey.

"He haint gone and eloped with another woman?" "That set this unaccountable Miss Betsey off into another hysterical giggle, which she brought up with a sudden snort, and the exclamation "No, but he thinks you have!"

Mrs. Bird saw there was something serious, so she sat down to listen seriously.

"If he aint sick or dead or eloped off with anybody, I don't see anything to laugh over—to cry over, I mean, and if you could stop long enough to tell me, I should be glad," she observed meekly.

"Well, I will," said Miss Betsey. "It's just this way, Zebby, you see, he don't know no more about bridal-tours than a six weeks baby, an' so he thought he must do something uncommon to tell you an' I guess he did!

Mrs. Bird showed signs of "going off," but checked herself and went on. He got his ticket straight to Portland (the lady knows how he done that when he never got a ticket 'fore in his life.) And you know we live on an island out a little way and when the harbor's friz or its winter weather you can walk out or ride out or anything right on the ice. Well, Zebby he thought he'd walk. I would save money and perhaps you've found out already he's kind o'snug though not what you'd call near. Well,

he undertook so walk. 'Twas ice, mind you, and Zebby's an old man. I expect he never was great on ice anyway. The wind it blew a perfect hurricane, and down he went the very first thing on his knees. He crept along a spell and then he riz up and the wind would give him another knock-down blown an' down he'd go.

"So he had to creep along, risin' up once in a while, an' they was some men on the shore out huntin' or something with a gun. And what should they do but take it in their heads 'twas a bear! It looked just like one, reely! Black, an' big an' creepin' along so, I don't wonder, I'm sure. An' they fired at him. O! don't you go to faintin' over that. They didn't come within forty rows of apple-trees of him. But it scart him awful. He riz up and begin to wave his arms at 'em and whispered to 'em (haint you ever noticed how he loses his voice sometimes?) an' they thought 'twas a bear pawin' at 'em more'n ever. So up they go along shore to get some dogs to put on him. But he didn't wait for that. He scabbled along on his hands and knees until he got across—and then he couldn't walk, he'd been crawlin' so long. He crawled up the bank to our house, and I hollered out amazed-like, 'Zebby, is that you?'

"Yes," says he, 'what there is left of me.' An' truly, there wasn't much. His trousers were all wore through and his knees were bleeding and his hands, too. I did him up as well as I could, and fixed him, but do you know the creature wouldn't hear to stayin' another day nor a half a day. He said he'd had enough of tores, and he was going home to his wife.

And I thought in my soul he would have a fit when we got there and didn't find hair nor hide of you. He would have it that you'd run away. All I could say I couldn't get that out of his head. So I told him to stay still and I'd go find you. And such a time as I've had a-doin' it! Raced all over Boston without the least hope o' finding you only I caught a streak o' your red feather coming out of a horse car and put me on track of you."

Mrs. Bird could do as many as two things at once, and with the close of her visitor's narrative she strapped the last buckle of her shawl-strap, snapped the catch of the satchel and stood arrayed for the trip home, which was to end her bridal-tour. "Zebby" welcomed her with incredulous joy. The chickens were dead but he forgave her. The pump was frozen but she was pardoned.

"Anything, Sappy, anything under the sun, moon or stars but another bridal-tore!" ANNA F. BURNHAM.

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Bang Up. It isn't every girl who will tell on herself, but one did. She came to the store and returned a fine pair of bangs she had bought the day previously.

"Can you not sell me some that will not come off?" Come off? Why, these will stay on with very little care, said Briggs. "Oh, they are horrid. They catch on collar buttons and pulled off." Beverly fell on the chair and screamed "What!" while the young lady departed bangless and without her change.

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THE NEW LAWS.

The Numbers and Titles of Bills that Passed—Those Signed by the Governor.

[From Salem Statesman.] Following is a list of all the bills that passed both bodies of the legislature, and that have received the signatures of the president and speaker, and that have been handed to the governor. The list also shows all that have received the signature of the governor at the present time. He will have until Wednesday to consider those bills that have not yet received his signature:

- HOUSE BILLS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR. No. 26—To incorporate Heppner. 128—To incorporate Drain. 52—Amending act creating Morrow county. 109—Amending Springfield charter. 203—Amending East Portland charter. 247—Amending Ashland charter. 93—Fix time of holding county court in Gilliam county. 113—To incorporate Sellwood. 109—Amending Eugene City charter. 3—Creating Wallowa county. 218—Fixing time of holding circuit court in Douglas county. 14—Prescribing time and place of holding circuit court in 7th judicial district. 223—Amending Arlington charter. 248—For relief of school district of Linn county. 12—To provide for time of holding circuit courts in 1st district. 86—To provide for publishing reports of county finances. 254—To provide county commissioners for Columbia county. 222—For pay of per diem, etc., of 14th biennial session of legislative assembly. 33—Amending act creating Klamath county. 22—To incorporate Albina. 19—To incorporate Myrtle Point. 31—To incorporate Joseph. 18—To relocate the county seat of Yamhill county. 109—To prevent persons from unlawfully wearing badge of G. A. R. 123—Increasing salary superintendent penitentiary to \$1500. 149—To define boundary line between Yamhill and Tillamook counties. 13—Relating to sale of liquors to minors. 186—Defining southern boundary of Linn county. 66—Creating Malheur county. 204—Creating office of recorder of conveyances for Multnomah county. 145—To prevent deception in sale of dairy products. 60—Amending school law. 94—Amending school law. 59—Amending school law. 90—For relief of A. W. Presley. 270—For sustaining the credit of the state of Oregon, and making specific appropriations for carrying on the state government, etc. 32—Portland bridge bill; vetoed and passed over veto. 27—Portland water bill; vetoed.

HOUSE BILLS IN THE HANDS OF GOVERNOR.

- 147—Amending school law. 102—For "Labor" holiday. 124—Amending sec. 90, title 6, chap. 7, miscellaneous laws. 44—For selection and sale of state lands. 137—Amending sec. 52, title 3, chap. 7, misc. laws. 211—Relating to Portland fire dept. 238—To authorize Tillamook county to negotiate a loan. 261—Amending Dallas charter. 43—Adding kindergarten work to public school system. 82—Amend sec. 32, chap. 7, misc. laws. 132—Amending county judges' salaries. 46—Providing bounty on certain wild animals. 198—Granting P. & W. V. R. R. right of way through River View cemetery. 72—Amending school laws. 28—Incorporating Medford. 24—Amending Newport charter. 55—Relating to sheriffs' fees in Coos and Curry counties. 115—Regulating sale of opium, etc. 107—Relating to state printer. 167—Amending sec. 18, title 3, chap. 41, misc. laws. 30—For organization of national guard of Oregon.

SENATE BILLS SIGNED.

- 89—For foreclosure mortgage executed by Baker City academy. 67—Authorizing cities 10,000 inhabitants to build armories. 3—Incorporating Cottage Grove. 134—Amending Hillsboro charter. 94—Amending Albany charter. 16—Incorporating Prineville. 151—Amending Sec. 6, chap. 49, misc. laws. 152—Amending Jacksonville charter. 117—Amending Astoria charter. 135—Authorizing construction of dykes across Duncan slough. 156—Fixing time holding circuit court in 5th dist. 153—Amending Portland charter. 90—Amending Marshfield charter. 135—Amending act creating Crook county. 102—Incorporating Silverton. 163—Amending McMinnville charter. 149—Amending Dalles City charter. 26—Amending Salem charter. 62—Repealing title 3, chap. 29, miscellaneous laws. 180—Relating to Sixth judicial district. 81—Hare's swamp-land confiscation bill. 119—Incorporating Baker City. 137—Incorporating Grant's Pass. 165—Reapportioning the state into senatorial and representative districts. 166—To establish board of railroad commissioners. 54 and 55—O. R. & N. Lease bills; not signed, but became laws by limitation.

SENATE BILLS IN GOVERNOR'S HANDS.

- No. 113—Creating office of county recorder. 112—Amending Pendleton charter. 133—Authorizing Or. Ry. Bridge Co. to bridge the Willamette river between Marion and Yamhill counties. 103—Relating to wire fences east of Cascade mountains. 37—For official publication of decisions of supreme court. 95—For return to Oregon and burial of

the body of the late Gov. Gibbs. 161—For recovery of property escheated to the state. 20—To prevent fraud in obtaining certificates of registration of cattle. 162—Amending section 8, chapter 8 of general laws. 66—Regulating practice of dentistry 6—Amending section 347, title 4, chapter 4, civil code. 107—To provide for sale of certain lands to Lee cemetery. 27—For constructing cattle crossings under public roads. 48—To provide mode of procedure in ascertaining boundary lines. 155—Authorize dyke across Isthmus slough, Coos county. 154— 35—For protection of live stock and for pay for stock killed by railroads. 30—Amending section 5, title 1, chapter 150, miscellaneous laws. 175—Insurance law. 178—Amending Halsey charter. 80—Defining vagrancy and prescribing punishment. 125—Declaring what shall constitute irreducible school fund. 51—To provide fees of witnesses in Clatsop county. 57—To authorize county courts to expend county money in constructing roads. 106—Amending school law. 10—To reimburse certain counties. 83—To protect stock growers. 164—To authorize construction of bridge across Willamette river at Oregon City. 182—Directing governor to call a special election in November, 1887. 184—Changing time of holding court in the sixth district. 176—For fish commissioner.

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