

Current Literature.

One of Tuppin's Scrapes.

Jazer Tuppin's was a middle-aged bachelor who entertained rather remote intentions of ever becoming a Benedict.

"The rooms are very pleasant," said Miss Mina Fingen, with the pretty indescribable accent which Americanized German maidens never entirely lose.

"You are not to say that word here," laughed Miss Mina. After Tuppin had been for a season encoined in this harmonious household, he secretly congratulated himself upon the happy chance which had brought him there.

The red coals in the grate and the easy chair and warm slippers were all conducive to thought, and Jazer Tuppin yielded to the influence.

A gentle rap here startled the comfortable bachelor from his reverie, and when he opened the door a soft grey dress shimmered in the lamp-light.

"An unlooked-for honor," exclaimed Tuppin, beckoning the wearer to come in, for it was none other than Miss Mina bearing aloft in her hand a bottle of liniment which she offered Tuppin with a smile.

"The servant is out, so I brought it myself," explained the intruder, refusing the implied invitation, with a shake of her pretty blonde head.

"It was kind in you to bring it," said Jazer, placing both his hands over the small ones which held the bottle toward him.

"I must go," said Mina softly, but she did not withdraw her hands.

Tuppin in his fit of gratitude might have committed further indiscretions, had not the arrival of a bevy of his chums in the lower hall at this juncture put Miss Fingen to rout.

"Ah! you are alone, my friend," said Jazer Tuppin, one evening, as Miss Fingen twirled about on her stool and encountered his gaze bent upon her from the doorway where he had been standing for some moments.

"No, I'll not come in, he continued in reply to the smile which greeted him; "Hetchkins and I are going to run down the river for a few days' duck shooting. They say the water is brown with them, this spring. So I must go to pack up. That was a pretty song you were singing. Is it something new?"

"Yes," said Mina dropping her brown lashes thoughtfully. You mentioned it one evening; I thought you would like me to learn it. I was practicing it to sing for you, and now you are going away."

"Only for a short time," interrupted Tuppin hastily, noting the shade of disappointment in the lady's voice, and pleased with the deference she had just shown him. "You will have time to learn it while I am away."

Jazer had approached the piano, and when Miss Fingen lifted her lashes he noticed that her eyes were filled with tears.

or go?" he asked with evident concern, placing his hand upon the sloping shoulders in the soft grey gown and looking earnestly into the brown eyes raised to his.

"You know I do," murmured Mina gently. He could not resist the temptation to press a brotherly kiss upon the pouting red lips in token of adieu.

One step leads to another, and so it came about that before spring time had gone Tuppin found himself bestowing unlimited caresses upon his young German friend in a manner not altogether brotherly. Often in calmer moments his reflections were not entirely pleasant.

"Well, sir!" cried Fritz Fingen in a grand rage when Jazer cautiously announced to him his intention to travel.

"Well, sir, is there to be a wedding before or after that?" "Wedding!" exclaimed the urbane man of fortune, "what wedding? What do you mean?"

"I'll show you what I mean!" shouted the irate brother, approaching offensively near and jerking a silver-mounted weapon from his pocket; "you'll find out my sister isn't to be treated in this shabby way. If you travel you'll take her with you as your wife, or answer to me for it."

"I—I don't know that she would comply with such a proposition," stammered Tuppin in confusion. "The fact is, we entertain nothing more than a brotherly and sisterly affection toward one another, and it is fully understood to be such."

"Is it indeed?" sneered the menacing brother, "then sir, I should think, from the affection you bear her, that you, like a brother, would provide her a marriage portion from out your thousands."

"Did Mina send you here for this?" white with suppressed rage, and quivering in every fiber.

"She knows nothing of it. I am her protector, and we will arrange this matter between ourselves," replied Fritz, placing a chair against the door and seating himself upon it.

"I have been watching your little game for the last year, always with full intention of bringing you to terms at some time or other. Just sit down, Tuppin, and consider the matter calmly for a few moments. I can wait for you."

Tuppin did down, and remained for some little time in obstinate silence. He had fully decided that he could never marry Mina, who with her gentle and kindly ways and womanly tact for darning and dainty cookery was all very well as a friend. Her sweet, and her many little acts of kindness fully appreciated, but Tuppin had never imagined her as his wife; he could not do so now, without secretly smiling at the figure she would cut among his set.

"I'm not a marrying man, Mr. Fingen, and, as I told you, have regarded Mina with nothing but brotherly affection." Jazer finally blurted out with some hesitancy and an ill-assumed show of indifference. "As a brother, I am willing to share my good fortune with her in whatever way may seem advisable. You probably have some plan to suggest."

"That I have, my wealthy relative," chuckled Fritz, pushing a note toward Tuppin, who sat at his desk, idly fingering a pen-wiper which Miss Mina had fashioned; it's for ten thousand dollars; and nothing less is to be considered."

Argument and eloquence had little effect upon the sturdy brother. In the end Tuppin dashed his name across the proffered paper, and in doing so rendered himself a poorer and wiser man.

"It is out of the brotherly regard I feel for you that I have done this thing," explained Jazer that evening preparatory to bidding Mina good by. "You have been a kind good sister to me, and I hope you will sometime get a good husband to help you enjoy your marriage dower."

"Ah," laughed the unconscious happy Gretchen, "it will not be long before I do that. I shall send for Frederick to come, for now that I have so much money, we need not wait no longer. Ah, no! we may soon be married. You do not know of Frederick?" continued the maiden, observing Tuppin's bewildered countenance. "He is my fiancé; we have been engaged for many years, but a minister is always poor, so we have waited."

"I'll be hanged," said Tuppin to Hotchkiss several years afterwards, when alluding to the affair, "if I didn't think the little thing loved me! Of course she never committed herself, but she acted mightily like it, and how else was a fellow to tell, I'd like to know?"

"By asking her, my dear boy," laughed Hotchkiss. "Oh, well, I never did that," remarked the victim, thoughtfully knocking the ashes from his cigar; and then the friends relapsed into silence, for it was twilight, the witching hour of reflection.

—J. H. Swalm.

SPEECH AND SILENCE.

Soft words are dear, Making sweet music in Love's tranced ear; But Silence hath a spell That breatheth more than any tongue can tell.—Clinton Scollard in Youth's Companion.

THE BEAUTIFUL WEST INDIES.

A Healthful Climate and Magnificent Scenery—Plain and Cordillera.

Those islands are as distinct in features as in origin. Some are suggestive of a period when a large portion of our continent was submerged in the ocean. Others are towering masses of trap rock, with cone like summits, declaring their volcanic descent. Others for ages have been in a progressive state—the work of the invisible zophite architect.

From December to May the climate is delightful and healthy, even along the coast, where, in the summer months, yellow fever occasionally occurs. The mountainous regions or cordilleras, where the wealthy planters have their elegant residences, are blessed with a perennial springtime and exempted from epidemic influences.

A belt of intervening plain lies between the ocean and the blue cordillera and is brightened with tracks of guinea grass, corn, sugar cane and groves of cocoa and plantain proudly tossing their palmated heads in unison with the rustling airs.

Another Fortune Made. Omaha Man—Are you making a fair living out of your Kansas farm? Kansas Man—Living? Why I'm rich. You see, there was a little piece of poor ground back of the dugout which was not fit for anything. Well, one day brother Jake dreamed there was gold under it, and the next morning he offered me \$100 for it, on long time, of course, for he hadn't any money, and I sold it.

Comfort in English Hotels. The guests of the hotel spend very little time in their rooms. The smoking room in the English hotels could be copied with advantage in the United States. There is nothing more dreary in the world than the reading room or gentleman's waiting room of American hotels.

Youthful Gallantry. Ethel—Now I am going to be nurse and play I'm taking the baby in its carriage to the park. Roy (who has a penchant for Ethel)—Well, then, I'm going to be your p'lice-man.—Harper's Bazar.

Food products from all parts of the world are to be exhibited in Amsterdam during June and July.

GUM, FRESH AND FRAGRANT.

How It is Gathered—Its Native Forest. Adulteration.

A lump of clear, genuine spruce gum, fresh and fragrant from its native forest, is not to be despised as a chewing substance, and if everybody could get the real article, instead of cheap, adulterated stuff, the army of chewers would be vastly augmented.

Most of the spruce gum handled by the dealers comes from Canada and northern Maine, while Vermont and New Hampshire contribute a moderate quantity to the total yield. The best gum comes from no particular section, but always from the biggest spruce trees, and it begins to run in July or August, when, in these high latitudes, the sun becomes so hot as to crack the bark.

Up in Canada much of the gum is picked in the autumn, beginning as early as October, but there, as in Maine, the best time for the work is during the deep snows of the winter, when snowshoes are used, or in the early spring, when a man can travel along at a lively rate on the heavy crust, above the underbrush.

There are two or three firms in Maine which buy large quantities of gum from lumbermen and pickers for the purpose refining it, as they say. But, as a general rule, the refining consists of adulteration with rosin.

Teeth and Physical Condition. In a recent address on dental surgery Sir James Paget dwells upon the high functions of the molars, which, he says, stand half way between the dead and the living—that is to say, between the food to be consumed and the tissues formed by it.

Conclusions as to color blindness may be reached too precipitately. A wrong judgment in colors may be occasioned by the effect of simultaneous contact, or the effect of one color on another on the retina of the eye.

Charlie's Evening Prayer. Charlie, after his evening prayer, was adding some improvised petitions. He prayed impartially, as his memory served, for all his friends, for the people next door and around the corner, and added, with the same intently abstracted tone, "I won't pray for old Dr. Hart's folks, for we don't visit there."—Harper's Bazar.

Henry M. Stanley, the explorer, takes snuff when traveling in very hot regions. He says that it helps to preserve his eyesight.

SCALDS and BURNS should have Prompt and proper care or they may prove very dangerous and perhaps FATAL. ACCIDENTS are constantly happening. A kick of a horse or cow may cause a bad bruise; the slip of an axe or knife may result in a serious cut. Any of these things may happen to one of YOUR family at any moment. Have you a bottle of PERRY DAVIS' PAIN KILLER ready for use in such cases? It has no equal for the cure of Scalds, burns, cuts, swellings, bruises, sprains, sores, insect bites &c.—All Druggists sell it. PERRY DAVIS & SON, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

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