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ABIGAIL JANE'S VALENTINE

By Frank S. Chiswick Copyright, 1902. By the S. S. McClure Company

"If a man come to see me Wednesday an' Saturday evenin's for sixteen years an' then"—Prudence Howell's head bobbed vigorously, setting every individual curl in motion.

Si had always meant to marry her, but somehow he had never told her so. He was a complacent, prosaic fellow.

He had never thought of such a tragedy as Abigail Jane's weeping of long waiting. He had always found her alone Wednesday and Saturday nights.

And of course Abigail Jane must understand all this; she was such a sensible little woman. It never dawned upon him that she would like to hear such words from his lips or to walk down the street with her small hand snuggled against his big arm.

"How you do take on, Prudence!" she protested. "I ain't beholden to any man to marry me. I'm comfortably fixed. Me an' Si is good friends, an' he likes to come here of evenin's. I ain't expectin'—"

"Well, it's Valentine's day, Abigail Jane, an' perhaps he'll send you something by mail. Maybe he can't put his feelin's into words as easy as my Henry could. Would you mind lookin' in my box while you're at the postoffice?"

Ten minutes later Miss Abigail Jane, with her grandmother's china silk shawl folded over her shoulders, walked down the quiet street to the post-office. It was her daily custom, whether she expected mail or not.

This morning she caught sight of a square envelope in the box, and her heart beat wildly as she approached the postmaster's window.

"Here you are," he exclaimed cheerily—"two letters for Mrs. Howell and one for you. Must be a valentine." And he grinned broadly at the joke which had done service with every applicant at the window that morning.

A valentine! The word found an echo in her heart. She clasped the precious missive to her breast and hurried homeward.

"Honest?" cried her sister as Abigail Jane stopped with the Howell mail. "He sent you a valentine? Well, I didn't suppose he had the nerve. You might stop here an' open it."

But Abigail Jane shook her head and fluttered away to her own cottage. No one should share this sacred moment with her. Nervously she tore off the wrappings and with a cry of joy held a photograph of Si at arm's length. Then—but never mind; women have done such things ever since the day of the first daguerreotype.

Once she turned it over and was puzzled by the printing on the back: Join our photograph club before it is too late and get a dozen like this for \$1.50. LINTON, the Photographer.

And his hearty laugh fairly shook the windows. "Wonder if old Miss Thompkins got one. Like as not the married women got 'em too. This is a great joke. Eh, Abigail?"

"I—I thought perhaps it might have been just for"—Silas Hopkins wheeled round suddenly and stared at her. Two tears rolled down the cheeks, now pale and drawn looking. He frowned, not at the tears, but at his own thoughtlessness. His eyes were suddenly opened. The complacency, the careless habit of years, fell from him in the twinkling of an eye.

"Abigail Jane," he whispered huskily, "you'd a right to one all by yourself. I thought you knew all along that I loved you."

"Oh, yes, I know it, Si, but I sorter wished"—And this time the tears gleamed like diamonds on rose colored cheeks.

"Henry Howell" exclaimed that worthy's wife as she laid down her needle. "I've just got to run over an' see Abigail Jane. Somethin' tells me this is the crisis of that girl's life."

"Well, be careful you don't slip. It's freezin' tonight," answered her husband, settling back in his chair.

Mrs. Howell's imperative knock at her sister's front door was answered by Si Hopkins.

"Come right in, Sister Prudence," he exclaimed, shaking her hand warmly. "You're just in time to settle this dispute. We're goin' to be married next Wednesday a week, an' Abigail Jane insists the ceremony's got to take place at your house, with Henry to give away the bride, bein' as she has no father. Now, I want the weddin' here, where I've courted her two nights a week for sixteen years."

And with a laugh that belied her sharp words Mrs. Howell kissed the glowing face of Abigail Jane and hurried home.

Gray Horse Wnted. James O. Reeves Company want one work horse; same must be gray.

The Columbia Lodging House Well ventilated, neat and comfortable rooms, good beds. Bar in connection where best goods are served.

F. X. Schempp Proprietor

GOOD DRY WOOD All Kinds I have good sound wood which is delivered at reasonable prices

For Cash. W. C. MINNIS Leave orders at Neuman's Cigar Store.

MIESCKE'S MEAT MARKET Will meet the lowest prices quoted by anyone on meats. You always GET GOOD MEAT when Miescke fills your order.

316 COURT ST. Don't miss the place.

OSCAR OF SWEDEN

KING IS SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE TODAY.

Occasion is Made a National Holiday—Sweden's Ruler Has Recovered From Long and Severe Illness—Queen Sophia Has a Record for Her Charitable Deeds.

Stockholm, Jan. 21.—King Oscar is seventy-five years old today and all Sweden and Norway has joined in congratulating him on the anniversary. It is a gala day in Stockholm and everyone is observing the holiday.

King Oscar has almost completely recovered from the protracted illness from which he has been suffering for the last two years and which caused him to retire temporarily from the arduous duties of his high position.

Queen Sophia, who does not attend balls, operas or other festivities on account of ill health, celebrated

her husband's birthday by distributing a large sum of money among the poor and needy. The queen, in fact, devotes nearly her entire time now to charitable and religious work. Her most cherished occupation is to alleviate distress, and being strongly impressed by religion, she is vividly interested by the religious movements of her time.

More than one charitable institution has been founded through the initiative of the queen, above all the "Sofiahemmet," or Sophia House, in Stockholm. She has on many occasions started the idea of important works of charity—for instance, when she formed and carried out the plan of the great fancy fair in Christiania for the benefit of the families of the wrecked fishermen from Finnmarken.

Everything is in the name when it comes to Witch Hazel Salve. E. C. DeWitt & Co. of Chicago discovered some years ago how to make a salve from Witch Hazel that is a specific for Piles, For blind, bleeding, itching and protruding Piles, eczema, cuts, burns, bruises and all skin diseases DeWitt's Salve has no equal.

S. G. Williams, of Baker City, the first superintendent of the Bonanza mine, is dead, aged 67.

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Bring Your Bill to Us and Get Our Figures.

Grays' Harbor Com. Co. Opp. W. & C. R. Depot

Walter's Flouring Mills Capacity, 150 barrels a day. Flour exchanged for wheat. Flour, Mill Feed, Chopped Wheat, etc., always on hand.

Rheumatism Positively Cured By Oil and Sweet Spirits of Eden. Money-back Goods. A. C. KOEPPEN & BROS., Sole Agents for Pendleton.

EAST OREGONIAN UNKNOWN NUMBER GUESSING CONTEST

Every Subscriber to Have an Opportunity to Guess on a \$100 Rubber Tired Buggy

As an Expression of Our Good Will Toward our Subscribers and to Increase our Subscription List

We Will Give Away, Absolutely Free, a Cushion-Tire Buggy, now on Exhibition in the Show Window of the A. Kunkel & Co. Implement House, Two Doors South of the East Oregonian Building.

The East Oregonian has purchased from the A. Kunkel Implement Co. a \$100 cushion tire buggy. It is a beauty, strong, servicable and well finished. For each year's subscription to the Weekly at \$1.50 or for every similar amount paid on the daily or semi-weekly the subscriber is entitled to one guess at an unknown number of three figures, that will be placed in a sealed envelope. This is not a drawing, lottery, or gift enterprise of any kind.

How to Participate. Each receipt for \$1.50 for the Daily, Weekly or Semi-weekly East Oregonian, to any address, the person to whom the receipt is issued, will be given an opportunity, absolutely without cost, to have a guess at the unknown number, and the person or persons guessing nearest that number will receive as a present and without any compensation whatever, and merely as an expression of good will on the part of the East Oregonian toward its subscribers, the \$100 cushion tire buggy advertised in this paper and on exhibition at A. Kunkel & Co's implement house two doors south of the East Oregonian building.

For each \$1.50 paid the holder of the receipt will have an opportunity of making one guess. For example if you send \$1.50 for one year's subscription to the Weekly or \$2.00 for one year's subscription to the Semi-weekly you are entitled to one guess. If you pay \$5.00 for one year's subscription by mail to the Daily you will get three guesses. If you pay \$7.50 for one year's subscription to the Daily delivered by carrier you will get five guesses, or if you pay \$3.75 for six months of the Daily by carrier you are entitled to two guesses.

No commission is allowed to any agent or solicitor for securing subscribers under this offer, and the person so subscribing does it with the understanding that the East Oregonian is accepted as payment in full for the money paid. Unknown Number—How Prepared. Monday, January 18, the following committee of business men met at the office of the East Oregonian and formed the unknown number that will get the \$100 rubber-tired buggy. The committee consisted of M. A.

Rader, the furniture man, E. T. Wade, the real estate dealer, G. A. Robbins, proprietor of the Owl Tea House, Glenn Winslow the jeweler, and A. Kunkel, the implement man.

Ten numbers from one to naught were cut from a calendar. These numbers were sealed up in 10 different envelopes by the committee. The 10 envelopes were placed in a hat and thoroughly shuffled and shaken. Three members of the committee then took out one envelope each, which were marked one, two, three, in the order in which they were taken out.

These three envelopes were then placed in a larger envelope and sealed and delivered to the chairman of the committee, M. A. Rader to keep until the day the buggy will be drawn. The remaining seven envelopes containing the other numbers were then burned in the presence of the committee, thus insuring an absolutely unknown number.

Each and every one of the committee was thoroughly satisfied with the absolute fairness of the method of selecting the unknown number, and signed the following statement: "We, the undersigned, were present at the East Oregonian office Monday afternoon, January the 18th, and assisted in forming the unknown number according to the plan published, to be used in the East Oregonian guessing contest.

Under the rules of forming the number, it is impossible for anyone, not even the members of this committee, the publishers of the East Oregonian, or anyone else to know what the number is. (Signed.)

E. T. WADE, A. KUNKEL, M. A. RADER, GLENN WINSLOW, G. A. ROBBINS.

Upon the day when the envelope is to be opened and the buggy awarded to the person guessing nearest to the number, the numbers will be assembled in the order in which the envelopes are marked. It may be as low a number as 012 or as high as 987. As a matter of course, it must be three different figures, as no figure was used twice. Somebody will get a splendid \$100 present when the 975 receipts have been given out. The unknown numbers will be

formed by putting together the three numbers in the order as marked, one, two, three, on the envelopes on which they are contained. The unknown number will not be assembled until the guessing contest is completed, hence no one will know what it is until it is publicly announced to subscribers.

Limited Competition. The number of receipts issued in this contest will be limited to the number of guesses possible in the range of the numbers between 012 and 987, as the unknown number must be composed of a figure within those limits. The unknown number cannot be less than 012 nor more than 987.

To be a perfectly fair and legitimate guessing contest the number to be guessed at must be and remain absolutely unknown. There must be no chance for the East Oregonian, the committee, or any subscriber to know the number and this plan will insure that result.

The receipts for this guessing contest will be numbered in duplicate, but the stub will be only for the purpose of identifying the subscriber who is the successful guesser. Each subscriber writing the guess number on the back of his receipt, each on the making his or her own guess at the unknown number. As soon as the receipts are all sold the guessing contest will be over and the successful guesser awarded the buggy.

How the Guesses are Made. On securing a receipt the subscriber person wishing to guess will write his guess on the back of the receipt in ink or indelible pencil, writing only one guess on each receipt, and depositing the same in the sealed box provided at the East Oregonian office for that purpose. Subscribers of town will be allowed to send their guess in the same manner, and their guess in the same envelope, send the same in a sealed envelope, plainly marked "East Oregonian Guessing Contest," and they will be deposited in the box. The envelope in the box will not be broken until all the receipts in the guessing contest are sold—975 receipts in all. Subscribers can get their receipts any time after the committee has met and drawn the three numbers which will give the lucky holder of the receipt with the same number the buggy.