FLASH.

THE FIREMAN'S STORY.

Flash was a white-foot sorrel, an' run on [No. 3;
Not much stable manners—an average horse to see;
Notional in his methods—strong in loves an' hates;
Not very much respected, or popular 'mongst his mates.

Dull, an' moody, an' sleepy on "off" an' quiet days;
Full of turb'lent sour looks, an' small scarcastic ways;
Scowled an' bit at his partner, and banged the stable floor—
With other tricks intended to designate life a bore.

But when, be't it day or night time, he heard the alarm bell ring,
He'd rush for his place in the harness with a regular tiger spring;
An' watch with nervous shivers the clasp of buckle an' band,
Until it was plainly evident he'd like to lend a hand.

An' when the word was given, away he would rush an' tear,
As if a thousan' witches were rumplin' up his hair,
An' wake his mate up crazy with its magnetic charm;
For every hoof-beat sounded a regular fire-alarm!

Never a horse jockey would worship an, admire
Like Flash in front of his engine, a racin' with a fire;
Never a horse so lazy, so dawdlin', an so slack
As Flash upon his return trip a-drawin' the engine back.

Now, when the different horses gets tender-footed an' old
They ain't no use in our business; so Flash was finally sold
To quite a respectable milkman; who found it not so fine
A-bossin' of God's creature outside o' their reg'lar line.

Seems as if I could see Flash a moopin' along here now,
A-feelin' that he was simply assistant to a cow;
But sometimes he'd imagine he heard the alarm-bell's din,
An' jump an' rear for a minute before they could hold him in;

An' once, in spite o' his master, he strolled in 'monst us chaps,
To talk with the other horses, of former fires, perhaps;
Whereat the milkman kicked him; wherefor, us boys to please,
He begged the horse's pardon upon his bended knees.

But one day, for a big fire we were makin' a dash,
Both o' the horses we had on somewhat resemblin' Flash.
Yellin' an' ringin' an' rushin', with excellent voice and heart,
We passed the poor old fellow, a-tuggin away at his cart.

If ever I see an old horse grow upwards into a new,
If ever I see a driver whose traps behind him flew,
'Twas that old horse, a rompin' an' rushin' down the track,
An' that respectable milkman a-tryin' to hold him back.

Away he dashed like a cyclone for the head of No. 3,
Gained the lead an' kept it, an' steered his journey free:
Dodgin' the wheels an' horses an' still on the keenest "silk,"
And' furnishin' all that district with good respectable milk.

Crowd a-yellin' an' runnin' and vainly, hollerin' "Whoa!"
Milkman bracin' an' sawin', with never a bit of show;
Firemen laughin' and chucklin', an' hollerin', "Good! Go in!"
Hoss a-gettin' down to it, an' sweepin' along like sin.

Finally come where the fire was, halted with a "thud,"
Sent the respectable milkman heels over head in mud;
Watched till he see the engine properly workin' there—
After which he relinquished all interest in the affair.

Mooped an' wilted an' dawdled—faded away once more;
Took up his old occ'pation of yotin' life a bore;
Laid down in his harness, and—sorry I am to say—
The milkman he had drawn there drew his dead body away.

That's the whole o' my story; I've seen, mor'n once or twice
That poor dumb animals' actions are full of human advice;
An' if you ask what Flash taught, I simply answer you, then,
That poor old horse was a symbol of some intelligent men.

—[Will Carleton, in Harper's Magazine for October.

A WIFE'S MISTAKE.

Mrs. Hopgood prided herself on being one of the best housekeepers. She was one of those rapid housewives who pursues an atom of dust as a hunter might pursue a stag. No blood-natured fly ever dared to buzz within her dainty walls. No cat purred on her hearthstone. Plants were tabooed because their leaflets would fall. Canary birds were ruthlessly excluded lest they should scatter seed. Sunshine was excluded as an arch-enemy. "It brings flies and fades the carpets," said Mrs. Hopgood. As for Mr. Hopgood and the children, they lived mostly in the kitchen.

"I can't have the boys' muddy boots tramping over the carpets, and the girls sewing in the parlor," said Mrs. Hopgood. "As for Hopgood, I don't care where he sits. One place is as good as another where he is concerned.

The Hopgood family took their meals in the kitchen.

"I've got a dining-room as nice as anybody's," said Mrs. Hopgood; "with a real carved sideboard, with a marble top, and silver polished till it's better than a looking-glass. But where's the use turning things all upside down, just for one's family? Common crockery ware and good bone handled knives are just as good for everyday use."

"Mamma," said Elsie Hopgood, a cheery-checked girl of sixteen, "I should like to sit in the parlor sometimes. Mrs. Momfort and daughter use theirs every evening, and it looks so pretty and pleasant in there.'

"Stuff and nonsense!" said Mrs. Hopgood, sharply. "I keep house myself, after my own fashion, and I give others leave to do the same."

"But, mamma," replied Elsie, "I was thinking how I should like to invite all the girls here some evening, and have tea, and afterward some little games. I've been asked out so many times without responding, and really I am getting ashamed to go."

"Then you had better stay at home," said Mrs. Hopgood, polishing vigorously away at the stem of her silver card receiver. "I think I see myself with all the young folks in town capering on my brussels carpet, and cake crumbs and melted cream daubed over everything."

Elsie made no answer, but her countenance quickly fell.

"I wish mamma was like any one else," she said to herself, the tears obscuring her eyes. "I wish she was like Kate Prickett's mother, who lets her have company every Thursday evening. John Elton wants me to marry him. If I married him I could have a house of my own, and do just as I pleased."

"Mother," said Mr. Hopgood, a week or two afterward, with a troubled face; "is it true that our Elsie is out walking evenings with John Elton? He is a worthless, dissipated fellow, and no fit associate for any girl."

"Mercy on us! I don't know," said Mrs. Hopgood, with a perturbed face. "I supposed she was with Kate Prickett or Clara Momfort. I'm a great deal too busy with picking and housekeeping to run at a giddy girl's heels the whole time. But I am going to commence cleaning to-morrow, and then I'll warrant I'll give her enough to do to keep her out of mischief."

"Mother," said Isaac Hopgood, gravely, "sometimes I think that if we made home a little more attractive to our children—"

"Oh, nonsense!" quickly interrupted his wife. "I suppose you'd like us to have tableaux, like Mrs. Momfort; or a magic lantern like the Mickfords. Our children have not been brought up in that way."

Mr. Hopgood said no more. Mrs. Hopgood, to use her own expression, was "in the thick of house cleaning" the next day, with the carpets rolled into heaps, the floors spattered with soap suds, and her head tied up in a pocket handkerchief when the door suddenly opened.

"Take care of my pan of soap suds and soda!" she cried shrilly. "Oh, it is you, is it, Ally?"

"Yes, mother, it's me," said Alexander, her eldest son, who had just gone into business as junior partner to his father. "I say, do leave off washing a minute and attend to me! Ryerson's in town—my old chum, you know—only for one day, and I have asked him to dinner."

"To dinner!" almost screamed Mrs. Hopgood, dropping her brush in consternation; "Alexander Hopgood, are you crazy? Of course I can't have him to dinner; look at the confusion this house is in."

"Oh, he won't mind that, mother; Ryerson is a thoroughly good fellow. Just let him sit down to anything with the rest of us."

"I shall do nothing of the sort, Alexander," said Mrs. Hopgood, rather severely, compressing her lips. "You are aware that I do not approve of your inviting company at any time, still less at such a period as this. If you have been fool enough to ask him, you may get out of the scrape the best way you can."

"But mother——"

"I don't want any more discussion on the subject," said Mrs. Hopgood dauntingly away with the brush.

Alexander went out, slamming the door.

"Well," quoth Alexander, to himself "if I can't ask a friend to dinner at home there is at least the alternative of inviting him to the hotel. I never did such a thing before, but I don't see how else I can manage."

So Alexander Hopgood entertained Mr. Ryerson at the hotel, and gave an unlimited order for iced champagne and dessert. And the upshot of it all was that Alexander Hopgood was brought in at eleven o'clock at night by two waiters, hopelessly intoxicated.

"Don't be f-fraid, mother," stuttered he, brandishing an empty bottle, as he became dimly conscious of her white scared face bending over him. "Go on with your washing. It's a heap jollier at the hotel than it is at home. Freedom forever. Hooray!"

"Oh, what shall I do?" sobbed Mrs. Hopgood when the waiters were once out of the house, and the roll of the cab wheels had died away. To think—only think that a son of mine should ever stoop to disgrace himself thus."

"It's your own fault," said Renny, the second son. "You'd not let Ally bring his friend here to dinner."

"Hold your tongue!" sharply retorted Mrs. Hopgood, wincing beneath the prick of home truth. "Call Elsie; I need help."

"Oh, mother," cried Fanny, the younger girl, running down stairs in haste, "Elsie ain't here."

"Not here?"

"No, mother, she hasn't been to bed at all—and there's a note on the table directed to you."

"Open it mother," said Isaac Hopgood.

"This is a sad night for our household. My God, has our home become so distasteful to our children that they fly from it, like rats from a falling house?"

The note was short enough as it read:

"Dear mother: I am tired of living in the kitchen. I have run away with John Elton, and before you see me again I shall have entered upon a new future."

Mrs. Hopgood broke into hysterical sobbings. Mr. Hopgood hurriedly read the hurriedly scrawled paper with a face cold and set like steel.

"Run away with John Elton," he repeated slowly; "then God help her, for he is as great a villain and scoundrel as ever lived, and she has sealed her own doom. Mother, mother, this comes of your housekeeping."

"It wasn't my fault, Isaac," sobbed Mrs. Hopgood, rocking herself backward and forward in a chair into which she had dropped.

"It was your fault," retorted the husband, almost savagely. "You made the very name of home a mockery to your children, and set your soul inside a scrubbing pail, and now you are reaping the bitter harvest, my dear."

Of course poor Alexander Hopgood was unable to lift his throbbing head off his pillow next day, and his mother never left him until afternoon.

When at last she came down stairs, the parlor blinds were thrown wide open, a flood of sunshine streaming in, the table neatly set in the dining room, and flowers on the table, and new books, games and puzzles scattered around.

Mrs. Hopgood gazed around her with a bewildered air. She hardly knew her own home.

"This is the way in which we must live henceforth," said her husband, cheerily. "Let in the light and sunshine; teach Ben and Fanny that home is something more than an empty name, and try, in as far as we can, to retrieve the errors of our past life."

Mrs Hopgood mutely bowed her head. "I will try, husband," she answered.

Financial Reasons.

"I won't sell you my vote, nohow," said old Slocuss to the man who had come to "see" him.

"Why not?"

"Fur three reasons: Fust, I kin earn half a dollah diggin' taters in the time it would take me to go and vote. Second, it would cost me $1 fer ex team to go to the pollin' place. Third, ye on'y offer me $2, an' t'other side has already gin me $3 ter stay away and not vote at all, which brings up the finanshal reasons on that side ter $4 50."—[Detroit Free Press.

Boston's satirical Post says: "People needn't wonder at the scarcity of good servant girls. If a girl is good for anything some fellow's going to find it out and marry her."

FASHION NOTES.

Old green with brown or red forms a fashionable contrast of colors.

Old green, old Sevres blue and old rouge are among the new shades for autumn goods.

India cashmere camel's-hair will remain in favor, notwithstanding the revival of the repped woolen goods.

Gathered mull sun-bonnets, with bows of ribbon on the crown, are worn in the country by ladies and children alike.

A row of short thick curls is added to the low English coiffure worn by ladies who have spent the summer in Europe.

A white seagull is a stylish ornament for trimming the large new felt hats that have brims of the most exaggerated size.

Polonaises are revived for early autumn wear, and are made with paniers, or without, as the wearer's figure may require.

Buckles of old silver are being used to trim overdresses and slippers. They are placed in the straps of bows of satin or velvet ribbon.

Much of what is called ficelle lace is merely white Spanish lace colored in the flax gray ecru shades that are called ficelle colors.

Feather turbans and straw hats with velvet crowns, worn with cheviot or cashmere suits, are admirably adapted for the cool days of fall.

Amazon cloth and Henrietta cloth that is heavily twilled are the two woollen stuffs that will be most used for the next season's dresses.

The large detached flowers used on summer satines are repeated on the dark calicos and low-priced wool goods for every-day winter dresses.

Silk mitts for autumn are "solid," that is, they have no lace figures as borders on the hand and arm. They are more stylish in black and dark red silk.

Stockinguet or wool webbing, for making Jersey jackets, is imported in dark old green, ruby and strawberry reds, and in electric blue and seal brown.

Watteau overdresses are in great favor with young ladies. The large fold at the back, which is the principal feature of the dress, is caught up below the waist to form drapery.

At present the preference is for plain goods for new dresses, but there will be many combination dresses that will be partly made of striped goods or of large figured fabrics.

The new Pompadour lace is similar to Breton laces, with the addition of flowers in relief made of muslin, and worked in button-hole stitch; a single flower is in each point or scallop of the lace.

Short round basques are becoming fashionable, instead of the long cuirasses that turn up at the edges when the wearer is sitting. These are in square battlements, or in leaf points, or slender curves, and the edges are heavily corded.

Military styles are in vogue, such as braiding in crossway rows on jackets, and there are military collars of white linen worn high around the neck, and fastened by a ring and ball that is passed through the buttonholes on each side of the front.

Chiscle velvets, with figures in bold relief, are made into dress skirts to wear with velvet polonaises. Spanish lace, passementerie, and chenile fringe trim the overdress, but the skirt is rich enough to dispense with trimmings, and even the narrow balayeuse finish will be unnecessary.

NOTICE.

To the Farmers and Mechanics of Oregon, Washington Territory and Idaho:

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Explained at foot of this column.

Portland Business Directory!

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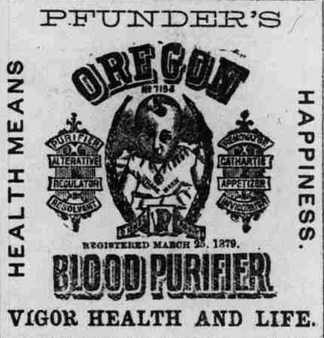

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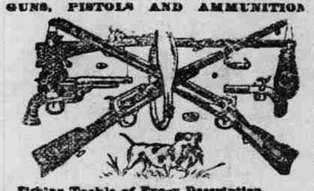

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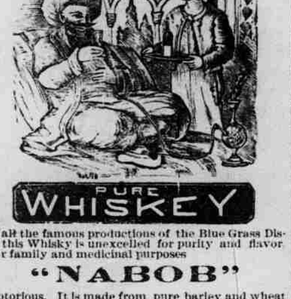

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