



A LOCK OF HAIR.

good bit darker than it was when she was a child of 6. Her father gave me that lock and I've carried it—well, a good many years. Now are you satisfied?

"Yes," said the lawyer, slowly. "But was Lydia?"

And then he barely escaped with his life to tell the rest of us of Smollett's detection in the character of "a gay Lothario."

HAD TWENTY-FIVE BABIES.

Mrs. Swartwood, Married 27 Years, Has 20 Living Children. Mrs. Samuel Swartwood of Wilkesbarre, Pa., is the mother of the largest family in the United States. Although a comparatively young woman, being only 41 years old, she is the mother of twenty-five children, twenty of whom are living. The youngest is only a few weeks old, and gives promise of being like his brothers and sisters, hale and hearty.

Mrs. Swartwood is a remarkably well-preserved woman. She was married when very young, and her first baby was born fourteen months after her marriage. There have been but five years since during which the household has failed to be blessed with a baby. These years were 1874, 1883, 1887, 1888, and 1896. But two of them were in succession, and in the succeeding years twins were born.

Of the entire twenty-five children there were but the two sets of twins, which were born in 1889 and 1893. One of each set of twins is dead. Mrs. Swartwood can recite the hour and day each child was born.

Regarding her married life, Mrs. Swartwood talked freely. "I was married when I was 14 years old. I loved Will when I was a girl and I wanted to be married. Ever since we have been very happy, and I would not change places with any rich woman. Look at these children! Ain't they riches enough, and every one living at home except the two girls that got married. It's nice for father and me to have them all here, although it does crowd us a bit. We haven't got a big house, as you can see, and every bit of the space is used. Walk into the dining-room there and look at the table."

It was a table to look at, of generous width and very long. It bore plates and knives and forks for twenty-two people. At intervals were great piles of bread.

"It keeps me and the girls pretty busy looking after the eating and washing for our big family," resumed Mrs. Swartwood when I came out of the dining-room. "Father makes all out \$79 a month, and the boys bring in about \$90 a month, and while we get along nicely we have nothing to spare. We've given all the children as good schooling as they can get around here."

"What do you think of married life?" I ventured to ask. "Well, I ought to know, I guess. Who was it said married life was one long, sweet dream? Grover Cleveland, wasn't it? Well, I agree with him. It has been to me. Every woman should get married, I think. I don't know much about the new woman, but if she don't believe in married life I don't want to know anything about her. What's as happy as having children to love you and you loving them?"

"None of my children has been a source of grief, trouble, or anxiety to me, and I think God has been especially kind to give me so many. Yes, sir, you can put me down as believing in the married woman who believes in having children."

Mr. Swartwood, is an engineer on the Jersey Central railroad.

World's Big Bosta.

The English marine publication, the Syren, says: "We British pride ourselves that the aggregate tonnage of British ships approximates that of the merchant tonnage of the world."

But Smollett withered him. "Do you mean to say my wife has been to see you?" "Yes." "Where is she now?" "I prevailed upon her to go home and wait till I had seen you," said the lawyer, chuckling wickedly. Smollett put on his hat and did not appear in the office again that day, much to the disturbance of certain stocks in which he was known to deal heavily. But in the afternoon he was seen driving with his wife in the park and later they occupied a box at the theater. Paget dropped in on him a day or two later. "Has the divorce been settled out of court?" he asked. "Now I suppose you think you're smart, don't you?" returned Smollett. "Well, I'm always glad when I can bring families together instead of separating them, if there isn't any money in it for me," said Charlie, sanctimoniously. "Huh!" grunted Smollett. "And in this case the evidence was so dead against you. Any woman could have made a perfectly clear brief out of it."

"Oh, I don't suppose you will be satisfied till you know it all," growled Smollett. "That lock of hair was—"

"Was Lydia's. Her hair has grown a

The Marriageable Age.

A spinster who is still living in hope says the marriageable age is anywhere between the seminary and the cemetery.—Chicago Daily News.

The Typewriter Invention.

A statistician has proven that the invention of the typewriter has given employment to 500,000 people, but he fails to state how many cases of weak stomachs it has induced. All people of sedentary occupation need Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. It helps nature to bear the strain which ensues from confinement.

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