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THE EVENING GUARD.

HOBSON'S NEW RECORD

Kisses One Hundred and Sixty-three Women in Chicago.

JUST HOW THE LIEUTENANT DID IT

Some Women Who Wanted to Shake Hands Changed Their Minds and Kissed. Men Cheering—Eccentricity of the Lieutenant of the Fair Sex Caused Recourse to Strategy—He Finished in Good Form.

Say that I am old and sad, say that health and wealth have missed me, say I'm poor, but also add—Hobson kissed me!

—Ballad of an Ancient Dame, A. D. 1903.

Lieutenant Richmond P. Hobson, promoter of the gentle art of kissing, was kissed just 163 times the other night on the stage of the Auditorium in Chicago. A cold blooded man kept tabs and volunteered the further information that several women secreted twice. This lip exercise occupied three quarters of an hour and was witnessed by 4,000 persons. Lieutenant Hobson finished in good form, though the same cannot be said for several of the women.

The kissing climax came at the end of Lieutenant Hobson's desultory talk on naval affairs off Santiago during the recent war. He talked under the auspices of the naval reserve and the Press club. At the conclusion an invitation was extended to all who wished to meet the hero to walk in line upon the stage. Almost the whole audience formed in line.

The first woman to place her lips beneath the mustache was Mrs. Thomas Dewerson Knight, the second Mrs. Towle of North Carolina. Hobson looked down the long line and saw it thick with women. He bowed himself into an easy position and gave his capillary system a safe in case of an unexpected or forcible attack from heavy draft and dealt out his good things in a quick, business like manner.

The lieutenant was quiet and gentlemanly in action. The women extended their right hands, which he grasped with the right hand that sent the Merrimack to the bottom. Back would go a woman's head, her eyes would look into his and then he would bend over and plant a smack directly on her lips. Then a goodly shake of the little hand and the little woman passed along murmuring, "Oh, isn't he lovely!"

The eccentricity of headgear interfered somewhat with the success of the business. The lieutenant was occasionally compelled to dive low and bob up beneath the widespread hats. Again, the agitation of the women precluded the possibility of exercising the tactical knowledge he possesses. They waited not, but rushed in, striking him on the nose, between the eyes and in the mouth with the protruding front of their elaborate millinery creations. Once or twice he was noticed to halt in an enthusiastic whisper, gently tilt her back backward, kiss her, place the hat back in place and send her on her way rejoicing.

Lieutenant Hobson appears to be thoroughly drilled in his part. He loses no time. There are no lingering osculations—just plain, brotherly kisses. He knows his duty, and he does it like a man. He cuts off mushy conversation by speeding the parting and welcoming the coming. He does not say "Next," but means it.

Occasionally women shook hands with him who had determined not to kiss him, but temptation overcame them, and at the last moment they furnished amusement by relenting, turning back and taking what was theirs without the asking. The general salutation was: "Lieutenant, I have read so much about you. Oh, I'm happy to meet you!" and the naval hero was ready for the next. Meanwhile the crowd of men shouted cheers of encouragement—"Don't weaken, lieutenant!" "Kiss them to a standstill!" and other like remarks, punctuated with yells and shrill whistling.

Lieutenant Hobson in his talk did not dwell at any length on his own exploit in sinking the Merrimack. He told how well the Spanish treated him, how he was released and how he hoped the war would result in a great and powerful navy for the United States. He complimented the Spanish on their bravery and Illinois upon the record of her sons on land and sea. His voice was not quite strong enough to be heard with advantage in the big Auditorium, but he acquitted himself with much credit. —Special New York World.

Hobson Waltz Now.

It is now the Hobson waltz. The Atlanta girls were the ones to start the Hobson waltz, and they came very near waltzing the nation's hero to a frazzle. It was at the Capital City club, and Hobson was the lion of the occasion. Like all army and navy men, he is a perfect waltzer. When the dancing began and Hobson asked one of the girls to dance, he came very near sealing his doom. The word went round that So-and-so had danced with Hobson. Before he had had a breathing spell he was whirling around with another fair young woman. Panting for breath, he continued to dance until almost exhausted. —Special New York World.

Holds the Record as a Mail Handler.

W. H. Patten of Chattanooga, a postal route agent on the Chattanooga and Rome division of the Southern railroad, broke the record recently in an examination. He handled 10,815 cards, distributing them to post-offices in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and Mississippi, in five hours and 27 minutes, with only 19 errors. His percentage was 99.89 out of a possible 100. Chief Clerk Welch says this beats the world's record, and is the best ever made in an examination either in the United States or England. —Memphis Commercial Appeal.

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A HOODOO LOCOMOTIVE.

Engineer's Ghost Haunts One Which Is to Be Sold as Scrap.

The remains of the old Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern engine 107 have been shipped to Cincinnati to be sold to the junk dealers. The engine had a remarkable history and has been regarded as a hoodoo for years.

About five years ago, just east of Roxabel, O., the engine exploded for some reason, which has never yet been disclosed, and the engineer, Robert Earnst, was blown into an adjacent cornfield and instantly killed. The remains of the engine were gathered up and brought to Chillicothe, where they were placed in the "boneyard," along with other wrecks.

A short time after the end was testified by the report that the engine was haunted. An engineer who had crossed the "boneyard" after night declared that he had seen the old engine sitting at the throttle as natural as life. Others saw the same ghastly sight, they claimed, and the terror finally became so great that people were afraid to pass the corner near which the engine stood. Ever since it has been regarded as a hoodoo, although the ghost stories gradually died away. But those who lived near the place will never forget how intense the terror was for a time. Whether the ghost will accompany the engine to Cincinnati remains to be seen. —Special Cincinnati Enquirer.

MAY EXPORT GRAVEYARDS.

Venezuelan Wishes Yankee Ingenuity to Devise Waterproof Iron Affairs.

The National Association of Manufacturers at Philadelphia has received from Rudolph Delgo, the manager of its warehouse at Caracas, Venezuela, a request for designs and specifications for an iron graveyard.

The Venezuelan government wishes to reinter the bodies of 25,000 dead. The country is principally flat, and great difficulty has been experienced with graveyards, particularly in Caracas. Heretofore they have been built of stone, but these were not waterproof. The Venezuelans concluded that American ingenuity could solve the problem of the proper care of the dead. They wish the cemeteries placed above the level of the rivers. Iron affairs, ornamental, they believe will answer their purposes.

American architects will be asked to submit designs for iron graveyards. As soon as these are secured they will be submitted to Manager Delgo and by him to Venezuelans. If one of these proves satisfactory, the iron workers of Pennsylvania will be asked to bid for the construction. —Special New York World.

GRAND NOSE CONVENTION.

Movement on Foot in Austria to Hold One Yearly.

Nasography is the latest branch of scientific research to occupy the attention of the foreign savants. There is a movement on foot in Austria, the home of the most celebrated nasographers, to hold a grand "nose convention" yearly. The study of the nose as an indication of character has made rapid strides in Austria of late, although the devotees of the new science have been subjected to no end of ridicule.

The adept holds that "the nose is the man." Historical characters with prominent nasal organs have been carefully studied with a view to the promulgation of certain foundation principles of the new science. Thus, for instance, Catherine de' Medici and Elizabeth of England are frequently cited to show that the arched nose is a mark of cruelty; St. Vincent de Paul to prove that the cloven nasal organ is a sign of benevolence; Caesar and Napoleon to show that the long nose is the mark of military genius, and so on down the list. —New York Herald.

Some Gainers by the War.

The vice president says he is a direct gainer financially by the late war, and the reason he gives is a decidedly novel one. From his coming to Washington up to the outbreak of the war an average of 100 babies a month were named after him, or at least their fond parents so informed him by letter. Other rich officials and senators have been through the same experience, and, as a rule, rather enjoyed sharing their names and bestowing small checks until the aggregate sum of the latter obliged them to halt. In this particular direction his value has fallen off considerably, for the youngsters nowadays whose parents want to start them off under the halo of somebody else's name are christened Dewey, Schley, Roosevelt, Hobson and all the rest of the recent heroes. —Chicago Record.

Refuses Trephra Prison Fare.

Joseph Cohen, a Russian Hebrew of Hamilton, O., indicted by the last grand jury for the alleged theft of \$15 from Michael Sheff of Middletown, O., is puzzling his jailers as to how he subsists on his slender diet. He refuses to eat anything but bread and onions, discarding the usual prison fare. He says that his religion will not allow him to eat anything not cooked according to his custom, and that rather than sacrifice his religion he will continue on with the bread and onions. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

Only One Essential Lacking.

It is announced that capitalists propose to turn Havana into a health resort. This will be done easily by building a large hotel at that place. All that is needed to make a health resort is a large hotel, an orchestra and mosquitoes. Havana already has the orchestra and the mosquitoes. —Boston Advertiser.

A Convenient Memory.

Spain, in its continued protests against alleged injustice and oppression of the weak, exhibits a cheerful willingness to forget all about the reconcentrados. —Washington Star.

Bargains in Real Estate.

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