

## ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE.

Dramatic Reunion of Count de St. Croix and His Flame.

The Count de St. Croix, belonging to one of the noblest and wealthiest families in France, became engaged, after a long courtship, to a lady his equal in position and fortune and famous for her beauty.

Shortly after the happy day was appointed which was to render two loving hearts one the count was ordered immediately to the siege of Sebastopol, so he girded on his saber and at the head of his regiment marched on to the battlefield.

During the count's absence it happened that his beautiful affianced was stricken down with smallpox. For weeks she hovered between life and death, but recovered only to find her beauty hopelessly lost. The disease had assumed, in her case, the most virulent character and left her not only disfigured, but seared and scarred to such a frightful extent that she became hideous to herself, so she resolved to pass the remainder of her days in the strictest seclusion.

A year passed away, when one day the count, immediately on his return to France, accompanied by his valet, presented himself at the residence of his betrothed and solicited an interview. This was refused. He, however, with the persistence of a lover, pressed his suit, and finally the lady made her appearance, very closely muffled in a veil.

At the sound of her voice the count rushed forward to embrace her; but, stepping aside, she tremblingly told him the story of her sorrow and burst into tears. A heavenly smile broke over the count's handsome features as, raising his hand above, he exclaimed: "It is God's work! I am blind!"

It was even so. When gallantly leading his regiment to the attack a cannon ball passed so closely to his eyes that, while it left their expression unchanged and his countenance unmarked, it robbed him forever of his sight.

It is unnecessary to add that their marriage was shortly after solemnized, and, despite their afflictions, they lived to enjoy great happiness.

## Electrons.

Nothing exists within the entire range of the most powerful tele-spectroscope that humans can make but electrons. Every phase of matter on earth, and the same kinds or elements are to be seen on every clear night glowing in many millions of distinct suns, can be resolved into primordial basic electrons. Hence I have repeatedly asserted that nothing exists but electrons. Electrons at rest are not matter—they are pure electricity. No atom of any chemical element can appear in space until electrons revolve around each other. Specific speeds, distances of orbits, numbers of electrons revolving and directions of their revolutions determine what elementary atom shall be formed. This is the set, rigid and basic fact of modern science.—Edgar Lucien Larkin in New York American.

## Welsh Miners' Superstition.

Women, like rabbits, are of ill omen to the miner. In many places, particularly in Wales, if a pitman meets or sees a woman on his way to work he will turn back, for such an encounter is held to forebode evil not only to the man himself, but all his associates. At Oswestry some years ago a woman was employed as messenger by one of the collieries and in the course of her duties met many of the colliers on their way to work. The men immediately told the manager that they could not run the risk of ill luck entailed in meeting a woman on the way to the pit and threatened to strike if she were not dismissed.

## Japan's Sacred Island.

Kinkazan, the sacred island of northern Japan, now one of the most attractive spots for sightseers, was held so holy in the ancient days that no woman was allowed to land upon its shores, although it was visited yearly by hundreds of devotees from whom the priests reaped a rich harvest. But in 1873, when the temples were handed over from Buddhism to Shintoism, it lost much of its sacredness, and since that time the buildings have been gradually allowed to fall into decay, several having been completely destroyed by fire.

## How Far Eye Can See.

The ability to discern the stars. Alcol at the tail of the Great Bear has been held to be the test of the limit of human vision unaided by any glass. Very rarely is the eye of such power as to see the satellites of Jupiter, though there are on record two or three instances, the third satellite being the most distinct of those seen.

## HUMOR IN BATTLE.

A Laugh That Snapped the Tension and Saved the Day.

Many a time has that sense of humor which is the heritage of the sons of Uncle Sam been as a sheet anchor to them. Danger deadly enough to make the bravest pause has lost its terror when touched by this saving grace.

"I remember well how a timely little pleasantry in a moment of deadly peril turned utter defeat into victory for us at Port Republic," considered by Stonewall Jackson the most desperate of all his desperate battles," said an old veteran of the "Stonewall" brigade of the Confederate army.

"General Shields' line of battle, composed of the flower of the Union troops then in the Shenandoah valley, stood with its right flank resting on the Shenandoah river and its left clutching firmly to the steep shoulder of the Blue Ridge mountains; stood there like the mountain ridge itself, not to be moved, not to be flanked. High on the slope above and in front of the left wing a well posted battery of eight powerful field guns poured destruction into the Confederate lines.

"Stonewall Jackson must have those guns. Not only was this necessary to victory, but also to save himself from complete defeat, for to attempt to withdraw his men in the face of that deadly shell fire meant rout. Already two Georgia regiments had hurled themselves against the battery and then reeled, crushed, to the rear. General Taylor's Texans, veterans of San Jacinto in the Mexican war, had twice stormed up the steep slope to the muzzles of the guns, only to stagger back, leaving half of their officers on the field.

"To us, lying in reserve, in full view of that bloody mountain side, there galloped up an aid from General Jackson.

"Charge that battery and take it!" he shouted to our commanding officers, pointing to the bristling guns. "General Jackson says he must have those guns—he must have them!"

"A murmur ran down our line. None, neither friend nor foe, ever accused the Stonewall brigade of being afraid. But when we looked up at those grisly guns, yawning, black mouthed, beneath their smoke canopy; when our eyes swept up that fatal slope, now gray with southern dead, we came about as near knowing fear as ever a soldier wishes.

"And just then there came from a hunk and ragged private in the front ranks the drawing words:

"Say, boys, let's we-all-I chip in an' buy them air guns for Ole Jack!"

"A roar of laughter rolled rioting down the line, snapping the tension. The commanding officers, seizing the opportune instant, started the charge. The gray lines, close on their heels, swept up the slope, laughing, shouting, falling, yelling, dying—to victory!"

"A little timely humor had saved the day for the Confederate army!"—New York Times.

## PIDGIN ENGLISH.

Language Used In Shops and Homes In Chinese Ports.

In Shanghai in all shops one finds Chinese familiar with English, but often using much pidgin English. "Pidgin" is supposed to be derived from several changes on the word "business," which was first shortened to "busin," then through the form of "pishin" and finally became "pidgin." Pidgin English is the language used in trade and households in the ports of China, where the Chinese and foreigners deal with one another. It is similar in its origin to the mixture of languages known as Lingua-Franca in the Levant and in other parts of the Mediterranean. It is a direct translation of Chinese into English and strictly idiomatic. For instance, they say, "That book, pay my," instead of "Give me the book."

The Chinese tailors speak fluently in this odd English. An American lady went to a Chinese tailor in Shanghai to see him regarding putting feather in a muf. The tailor seemed a trifle dazed as to what she wanted and said, "B'long allo same chicken fur?" He wanted to prove his intention of treating his customer right and told her, "My b'long allo same you, you b'long allo same my—b'long my velly good friend," and later, wishing to ask after one of the lady's daughters, remarked, "Miss A. have catches master?" When this was said China had not come out for woman's suffrage.—Amy W. Hotchkiss in National Magazine.

## ELIZABETH ISLAND.

Its Curious Little Colony of Zoological Total Abstemious.

Recent investigations on the little known and rarely visited Henderson or Elizabeth Island have led to the discovery of a complete and curious little colony of zoological total abstemious.

The island, which is uninhabited, is situated about 120 miles northeast of Pitcairn Island—itsself sufficiently out of the way, but famous as the home of the descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty.

There is no water on it, not even a swamp, and it is only six miles long, yet it harbors quite a menagerie—a kind of rat, a lizard, described as very abundant, and no fewer than four kinds of birds, all peculiar to the island. These are a fruit pigeon, a lorikeet or honey eating parakeet, a little rail or crane and a reed warbler.

The strange thing about the inmates of this curious little natural aviary of coral rock, surrounded by waves instead of wires, is that two of its inmates are birds, one especially associated

with fresh water—the rail and the warbler. These, like the rest, must do without drinking unless the dew can slake their thirst or they have acquired tolerance for sea water as a beverage.—Argonaut.

## PANGS OF HUNGER.

Contractions That Sound the Call of the Empty Stomach.

When the stomach is empty it at once begins a series of contractions. It is these that give us that empty feeling, that sensation, not of pain, but of yearning, which we call the pangs of hunger.

The stomach is a bag made of layers of muscle and mucous membrane, plentifully supplied with small glands that secrete a fluid called the gastric juice "and discharge this into the stomach, where it mixes with the food therein contained and prepares it for digestion.

In the normal stomach—that of a baby—as soon as the stomach has emptied its contents into the intestines the hunger contractions begin. In adults many distracting agencies prevent the contractions from starting at once. That is why most of us do not feel hungry the moment we have finished digesting a meal. Babies do. This has been proved by experiments by A. J. Carlson. In infants there is no mental distraction; they have not yet acquired habits of eating.

The Journal of the American Medical Association says: "An infant given only four ounces of food exhibited phenomena of hunger—that is, called for more after about two hours. When seven or eight ounces of the same food were furnished the call for food was delayed for three or four hours. If the child was given a limited amount of food at bedtime it waked up much earlier than when the feeding was carried to the point of satiety.

"Carlson cites these observations as evidence of the close parallelism between the time of emptying the stomach and the appearance of the hunger contractions which initiate the sensation. He suggests that the more frequent calls for food during the day are obviously due to the fact that the gastric hunger contractions must reach a certain degree of intensity before they cause the soundly sleeping infant to wake up."

When a man draws in his belt to stave off the pangs of hunger he merely applies a mechanical pressure to prevent the contractions of his stomach.

"Perhaps, after all," remarks the learned editor, "the sensation of hunger is a better guide to gastric conditions than has been admitted in the past, so that we ought to cultivate a familiarity with it more intelligently than is the custom with the majority of persons."

## Relic of Noah.

The desert of Carlitte in the Pyrenees, close on 10,000 feet above the sea, contains no fewer than sixty lakes of varying sizes. These, according to local tradition, were left at the time of the flood. When the waters subsided, it is said, Noah and his family landed on the Puy de Prigue, one of the highest peaks in the district. Proof of the truth of this tradition is found in an iron ring to which, the peasants declare, the ark was moored when the landing was effected.

## Sharks' Lane.

Before the isthmus of Suez was pierced by the canal there were very few sharks in the Mediterranean, the passage through the straits of Gibraltar not being to their liking. Now, however, they come in by way of the canal and in such numbers that in more than one watering place on the Mediterranean and also on the Adriatic, the sign has gone up, "Beware of Sharks!"

Where George Elliot Went to School. The ancient cottage at Griff, Warwickshire, in which nearly a century ago was held the first school attended by George Elliot, is situated two miles from Nuneaton, exactly opposite the entrance gates of Griff House, which for twenty years was the residence of George Elliot's father, Robert Evans, the original Adam Bede, and subsequently tenanted by Isaac Evans, the Tom Tulliver of "The Mill on the Floss."—London Times.

Impostor and Malefactor. Carlyle used to tell of an old Scotch woman who, speaking to her family, said: "There's two sons, baith doin' wool in Glasgow. Tane's an impostor, and tither's a malefactor." It was found that she meant "upholsterer" and "manufacturer."

Where the Coat Comes. "Does it take much money to send a boy to college?" asked the boob. "No," replied the cheerful idiot. "It's keeping him there that takes the coin."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Coral Tooth Powder. The debris left from coral made into articles of jewelry, etc., is crushed, scented and sold as tooth powder at a high price by east Indian perfumers.

## Merry Moments

As We Journey Through Life Let Us Laugh by the Way

## Teeth and Wisdom.

"I shall be dreadfully stupid now," said the wife, who had just returned from the dentist's.

"Why so, my dear?" asked her husband.

"I have had all my wisdom teeth pulled out," she replied.

"Of course, my love," said her husband, with the best intention in the world, "you know it is nothing but a superstitious idea that wisdom teeth have anything to do with wisdom. If you were to have every tooth in your head drawn it couldn't make you any more stupid, you know."

He succeeded after awhile in smoothing matters out, but it was a narrow escape. — Philadelphia Ledger.

## Never Had a Chance.



"Why have you never run for office?"

"Well, when I was younger I was too poor to make a campaign; now that I am rich, I don't care to."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

## Faith Misplaced.

Mrs. Evans was making a call on Mrs. Francis and they were enjoying a chat about some of their neighbors.

"Mrs. Greene," said the hostess, "is a woman who suffers much for her belief."

"Indeed," replied the caller wonderingly, "and what is her belief?"

"Why," continued the hostess, "she believes she can wear a No. 3 shoe on a No. 6 foot."—Exchange.

## Finance.

Mrs. Touchley—I hated to do it, but I had to take some money out of my husband's pockets while he was asleep last night to pay for his birthday present.

Mrs. Chargely—Mercy! I wouldn't dare do such a thing. I used the market money and then had things charged to him.—Kansas City Star.

## A Lesson in Politeness.

"But, daughter, why didn't you tell the young man to stop kissing you?" asked the mother.

"Why, mother, you know you taught me never to interrupt any one!"—Yonkers Statesman.

## Stung Is Right.



"What does your father see in me that makes him object to our getting married?"

"Nothing."

"Then what's the trouble?"

"That's just the point. He sees nothing in you."—Pittsburgh Press.

## Medical Advice.

"Doctor, how can I prevent my husband from talking in his sleep?"

"Well, you might try giving him a few opportunities in the day time."—Pittsburgh Post.

## Her Marriage Vow.

Her Dearest Friend—Do you really obey Charley?

Mrs. Newlywed—Certainly. He tells me to please myself and I always do.—Judge.

Grumpy Old Bach Evidently.

"Did you tell the boss you were going to be married?"

"No; he's down on all unions."—Boston Transcript.

## A REMINDER!

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