The Observer.

MORO, OREGON:

FRIDAY..........JAN. 12, 1906

Personal Talk With You.

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A NEW YEAR ADVENTURE

[Original.]

It was the first day of the year. The wind was blowing icy cold, driving the snow into drifts. A dead leaf here and there dancing on a naked branch was all that was left to remind one of the verdure that had once covered the landscape.

A traveler on horseback was making his way through the snow, vainly endeavoring to keep his cloak wrapped about him, the wind struggling equally to tear it from him. He was looking about him for a place of shelter, for the days were short and the sun had just set at half past 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Coming to an imposing house standing in large grounds far back from the road, he turned his horse's head between two pillars and entered. He had traversed but half the distance to the house when the front door opened and a man stepped out whose rapier, feathered hat and broad lace collar betokened a cavalier. Descending the steps, he quickly came on between the great trees that lined the way as if bent on some errand of importance. As he approached the traveler he scarcely seemed to notice him.

The latter drew rein and said:

"A happy New Year to you, sir."

The man stopped, glared, half drew his rapier, replaced it and was passing on when the stranger added:

"Can I get shelter in yonder house?"

"There is no one there except a woman, and she has not been used to waiting even on herself."

"Where are the men?"

"One of them is before you; the other—well, the other was one too many, and he has gone away."

"You speak in riddles, sir. Do you think the woman, or rather the lady, will be obliged to remain the night alone?"

"Mayhap she will."

"Possibly then she may be glad of the protection even of a stranger."

"You had best go on and find out for yourself."

He showed no disposition to further converse and passed on, the stranger continuing his journey toward the house. On reaching the porch he threw the reins on his horse's neck, and in another moment a loud rap on the knocker indicated his presence. No one replied to his summons, and he knocked again and again, still with no reply. He turned and looked at the flying snow, shivered and, turning again, tried the door. It was unfastened. Entering, he passed through a broad hall and was about to go up the winding staircase when in one of the rooms he saw a woman sitting at a table, her head resting in her hands, her elbows on the table. Surely the man she had met was right. She was a lady and one endowed with a refined beauty. She looked straight before her and seemed no more interested in the stranger than the other had been.

"Madam," he said.

She did not turn her eyes, and he tried again to secure her attention.

"Madam, I crave your pardon for entering unannounced. I am a weary traveler and would gladly rest for the night under your roof. I met a gentleman without who told me you were alone. May I not serve as a protector?"

The woman now for the first time noticed him. Turning her eyes slowly upon him, she said:

"You are welcome to stay here, but not as my protector. I shall need no protector."

Whether she forgot his presence or not, she paid no further attention to him. He began to think that he had stumbled on a haunted house; that the man he had met and this woman were not flesh and blood, but the wraiths of departed occupants of what was now a deserted house. However, having received permission to remain overnight, he went out and stabled his horse, giving him a feed, then, returning to the house, went to the kitchen, where he found sufficient cooked food to furnish him a supper. Having eaten, he went again to the room where the lady had been sitting. She was not there.

A fire was ready on the hearth, and, taking the flint from the mantel, the traveler put sparks to it, then lighted a lamp and sat down at the table. There were books on it, and he tried to read, but wonder prevented, and somehow he wished the lady, be she ghost or flesh, would relieve his loneliness. Then he fell to thinking what had become of her.

Might she not be off her head, and if so she should not be left alone? He resolved to go and seek her. Taking a candle, he went through all the rooms on the ground floor and, not finding her, mounted the staircase. On reaching the floor above he called:

"Madam!"

The only answer was in his imagination, which created myriads of responses. He would have turned and retraced his steps, but wonder spurred him on. He explored one bedroom after another and at last came to one in which his dim candle showed him a figure on the floor. He shuddered lest it be the lady, but it was no woman lying there. Lowering the candle, it showed him the dead body of a man with a fresh sword thrust in the chest.

With a cry, the stranger fled from the room and the house. Getting out his horse, he rode to an inn, where he spent the rest of the night. A few days later in the city he read in a morning newspaper how Sir Richard Clyde, a country baronet, returning from the city on New Year's day after having seen the old year out with a party of convivial friends, found there one Herbert Steele, his wife's former lover. There had been a murder, after which Sir Richard gave himself up. Lady Clyde had disappeared.

A Modern Miracle.

Truly miraculous seemed the recovery of Mrs Nellie Holt of this place, writes J O R Hooper, Woodford, Tenn. "she was so wasted by coughing puss from her lungs. Doctors declared her end so near that her family watched by her bedside 48 hours, when, at my urgent request Dr. Kings' New Discovery was given her, with the astonishing result that improvement began and continued until she finally recovered and is a healthy woman today." Guaranteed cure for coughs and colds, 50c and $1. Marsh & Medler Wasco. Trial bottle free.

EDITORIAL FLINGS.

The average horse show is now ranked among the costume plays.—Baltimore American.

The military fence which Russia is planning to throw about Poland will not be constructed from native Poles.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Those life insurance presidents may insist that they have been vindicated, but we do not notice that any babies are being named after them.—Washington Post.

A sister of Chairman Shonts of the isthmian canal commission is going to convert the workers on the canal to total abstinence. We don't know which of the family has the harder job.—Washington Times.

A fashion authority dictates that large diamonds must be worn this season instead of small ones. Certainly the edict commends itself as soon as published. In a country so prosperous as this small diamonds are not worth picking up.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

CHINESE MUSIC.

What Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity, Knew About It.

The remarkable extent of the knowledge possessed by Dr. William Whewell, at one time master of Trinity, Cambridge, is well illustrated by the following story, taken from the "Life and Work of Dr. Momerie."

Two of the younger dons, growing rather jealous of the master's reputation for omniscience, determined that they would discover something of which he knew nothing. They pitched upon the subject of Chinese music. How should he know anything about it? They did not, so they went to an encyclopedia and read the subject up.

The next time they met Whewell at a dinner party they led the conversation gradually in the direction of music, when they began to discourse upon the music of the Chinese and gave out all their recently acquired information.

Whewell was silent, much to their satisfaction. Evidently he knew nothing about the matter. But just as they were beginning to rejoice in their triumph he said:

"Might I ask, gentlemen, where you got your information?"

"Oh, yes," they replied. "We picked it up out of such and such an encyclopedia."

"Ah," said Whewell, "I was thinking so. I wrote that article thirty years ago, and it's full of mistakes."

The Lilac.

Like the tulip, the lilac is believed to have come westward from Persia via Turkey in the sixteenth century. Its name is Persian. In the English language the color is called after the tree, but the tree originally received its name from its color since it is clearly traceable to certain Persian and Sanskrit adjectives meaning "blue" or "indigo colored." The "lilaj" of Persia was the indigo plant. Probably the first mention of the lilac in English is in Bacon's essay on gardens. He favored the spelling "lilacke."

Ham Balls With Tomato Sauce.

Mix well together two cupfuls of finely chopped ham, a few grains of cayenne pepper, two tablespoonfuls of thick cream, one cupful of grated enne pepper, two tablespoonfuls of cold boiled rice and one well beaten egg. Shape with a wooden spoon into small balls, roll in crushed cracker crumbs and fry in deep fat to a golden brown. Serve on triangles of hot buttered toast, pouring over half a pint of thick tomato sauce.

Don't seal a letter of introduction. The person to whom it is given is supposed to inform himself of its contents.

Don't write carelessly. Spell correctly and be painstaking about your punctuation and the language in which you express your thoughts.

THE DANGER TO THE CHILD

May be real or the snake may be a harmless one, but there is danger that menaces every child's life if the mother is deficient in womanly health and functional vitality.

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CONTEST NOTICE.

Department of the Interior,
United States Land Office,
The Dalles, Or., Dec. 26, 1905

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Robert J. Ginn contestant, against homestead entry No 11632, made October 22, 1902, for N 1-2 SW 1-4, NW 1-4 SE 1-4, SW 1-4 NE 1-4, section 12, township 1 S, range 18 E, WM, by Richard E. Hall contestee, in which it is alleged that said entryman has not resided on said tract or cultivated the same for more than six months last past. That said entryman moved his family from this state to the state of Utah, more than one year last past, and he and his family are nonresidents for more than a year last past, and during all said time last mentioned have wholly failed to reside upon or cultivate said land, or caused the same to be cultivated or improved and have entirely abandoned the same. That said alleged absence was not caused by his employment in the army, navy, or marine corps of the United States in time of war. Said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegations, at 10 o'clock a m, February 17, 1906, before HS McDanel, county clerk, at his office in Moro, Oregon, and that final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a m, February 24, 1906, before the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in The Dalles, Oregon. The said contestant having, in proper affidavit, filed December 7, 1905, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication. Michael T. Nolan, Register
6t5f(13-196)

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