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### CECIL NOTES

C. A. Minor has finished lambing at Cecil and has moved one band to the Dowerly ranch near Well Spring.

L. M. Morgan of Rhea Siding was in Cecil one day last week.

Grandma Nash's dog, Frita, was run over and killed by the train last Saturday.

The Cecil village now has the advantage of a circulating library and many have showed their interest by drawing books. This information is given so that all lovers of good wholesome literature may have their wants fully satisfied.

Uncle Joe Osborn has his new Vela and has been taking lessons on running it. He has learned to stop the critter without saying whoa.

Clyde Franklin and wife were incoming passengers Saturday from Lovelock, Nevada. Clyde is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Franklin and came home to take

charge of the ranch while his parents are making a trip back east.

The Cecil school gave an Easter programme last Saturday night in the hall which was very entertaining and enjoyed by all present.

W. H. Grant, our school teacher, gave a good Easter sermon Sunday. Mr. Grant will hold services in the hall on Sunday every two weeks. All are invited to attend.

Mrs. Carter is working at Grandma Meltons.

Mrs. Carter's boy, Malvin, is attending school at the Cecil hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Wait Crawford of Morgan attended Easter services at Cecil Sunday.

Harold Abalt made a trip to Heppner Friday last coming back Sunday.

There will be a dance at the Cecil hall Saturday April 21st, given by Mr. Taylor of the Junction.

# A Willful Woman

By OSCAR COX

It was in the reign of King Edward of England, the fourth of that name, that John Ochiltree, a young farmer living in the county of Kent, met a lass called Mary Griggs at a Maying and conceived a strong love for her. He danced with her round the Maypole and looked at her languishingly, but his modesty and the strength of his love tied his tongue so that he could say nothing to her.

And so he danced and ogled and ogled and danced, but never a word could he say to the girl.

Mary had been keeping company with Richard Doyle, a maker of armor, but the moment he laid eyes on John Ochiltree Doyle saw that she was lost to him in favor of his rival. He drew away sulky, thus leaving the field to the man who had supplanted him.

The day after the Maying John waited for Mary to come out of her father's thatched cottage and joined her. He managed to wish her "good morning" and said that the crops promised to be good and that one of his cows had calved, but besides this he said nothing. Mary was a girl of spirit and would not help him out. She said to herself that he should talk to her like any other man or she would have none of him. He continued to show her by his expression that he was enamored of her, and when he looked at her his eyes had a melancholy expression.

Now, as soon as John got away from her his tongue was unloosed, and he could say what he liked. He told his mother of his trouble and convinced her that it was impossible that he should tell Mary his love and ask her to marry him.

"Then," said his mother, "Mary must propose to you."

"She will never do that," sighed John.

"She must be made to. My son wishes her for a wife, and he must have her. Besides, Mary is a good girl and will have a good dowry. I wish her for a daughter-in-law. I have made up my mind that, since you are unable to ask Mary to be your wife, she shall claim you for her husband."

"And how will you do that, mother?"

"Never mind, so that I do it. We women have to get through the world by exercising our wits. We are not men, to force our way, so we have to plan."

Things went from bad to worse between John and Mary. Determined to force him to declare himself, she encouraged her former suitor. This made John ill, and so great was his illness that his mother feared he would die. She went to Mary and, telling her of John's condition and the cause, begged her to do that which was expected of the sterner sex—ask John to be her husband. Mary vowed that she would be no man's wife who had not the courage to ask her, and though John might die, she would not do his part for him.

Not long after this a sheep belonging to a neighbor was found in John Ochiltree's fold. John was arrested for sheep stealing and thrown into prison. "The lad has lost his mind for love of you," said John's mother to Mary. The lass was secretly troubled, but tossed her head and said that a man who was afraid of a girl had no mind to lose.

John was tried and convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

Then Mary began to regret that she had refused to be persuaded. But it was now too late. She had driven John into insanity, for she believed what his mother said, or she had unintentionally bewitched him so that he had stolen a sheep. She sat at home mourning her sad fate at losing a man so defective. John's mother brought a request from her son that Mary would be present at his execution.

Mary declared that she could not endure such a sight and would not go. But she was at last persuaded to grant this last boon to a man she was now persuaded she had driven to the scaffold, and on the morning of the hanging she went there with her lover's mother.

A crowd was gathered around the culprit. John, with the rope around his neck, had ascended a few steps of the ladder. He stopped and, seeing Mary below, said to her:

"Mary, save me!"

"How can I do that, John?"

"It is the law that if one about to be executed be claimed in marriage by any woman he shall go free."

"Is that so?" Mary asked of the sheriff.

"If you claim this man in marriage I dare not hang him."

"Oh, Mary," cried John, "have mercy on me!"

"Save him," whispered the culprit's mother.

Mary hesitated. "No," she said at last; "let him hang."

John staggered, then seemed rallied. He climbed nimbly up the other rungs of the ladder, and the sheriff was about to swing him off when Mary cried:

"Hold! I claim this man in marriage!"

John was taken down, and the lover, of whom the one could not and the other would not till death was imminent, fell into each other's arms.

John's mother had stolen the sheep and placed it in her fold to bring about the result and force Mary to make the proposition. And yet we are told that women have not the heads that men have to accomplish results.

### OUR FEARFUL FIRE LOSSES.

Most of Them Are Caused by Untidiness and Carelessness.

The fire loss in the United States is about \$250,000 a day, or an aggregate of \$750,000,000 a year. Careful observation from detailed statistics compiled on the subject shows that most of this loss would be prevented by the observation of reasonable precautions, particularly in the direction of more tidiness. Sixty-five per cent of all fires take place in homes, and cases show that 90 per cent of all fires are due to carelessness, ignorance or both.

The 45 per cent occurring in homes, it is readily shown, would never occur if persons had taken reasonable care in respect to tidiness. Rubbish is the chief cause, and rubbish does not necessarily mean the accumulation of paper and things of that character in and around buildings, but the unnecessary accumulation of old furniture, magazines, carpets, supplies of all kinds in cellars and attics which accumulate dust and lie there for years.

What applies to the home in respect to rubbish is true to a marked degree in many business premises. Just a little thought and the expenditure of a little time along these lines generally would greatly reduce the fire loss. The absence of fire extinguishers in the average home or business premises is a serious omission. Careless handling of matches, careless use of oil, the accumulation of oily rags and waste material and a host of small matters like these are the causes of a great many fires and a great deal of loss.—Lumber Trade Journal.

**AERONAUTICS IN WARFARE.**

Why Napoleon Did Not Favor the Use of Observation Balloons.

It is on record that the first employment of aeroplanes to observe the positions of an enemy were made during the French revolution. It was a Dr. Contelle who produced hydrogen gas from the decomposition of water. He had been interdicted the employment of sulphuric acid in this preparation, as there was a lack of sulphur for the making of gunpowder.

Dr. Contelle was ordered to put himself at the disposal of General Jourdan, who commanded the army of the Sambre and Meuse. On presenting himself to Duguesnoy, a commissioner of the convention, that dignitary rose in wrath, exclaiming: "A balloon, a balloon in the camp! You look to me like a suspect. I am going to begin by having you shot."

Contelle returned to Paris, and his balloons were afterward put to use at Bonn, at Coblenz and at Andernach. At the last named place General Bernadotte, the ancestor of the present reigning house of Sweden, was invited to go up in a balloon. "No," responded that careful man, "I prefer the road of the asses."

There was a school of aerostation at Meudon, which Bonaparte closed after his return from Egypt. As nothing could prevent other nations from using like air fliers, the balloons, he claimed, might become an embarrassment to all the armies, without any special advantage to the French army.—Cri de Paris.

### "Hobson's Choice."

"Hobson's choice" may best be translated, "that or nothing." Tobias Hobson was a carrier and lincloper at Cambridge, who erected the hand some conduit there and settled "seven lays" of pasture ground toward its maintenance. But the story about him, as told by the Spectator, is as follows: "He kept a stable of forty good cattle, always ready and fit for traveling. But when a man came for a horse he was led into the stable, where there was great choice, but was obliged to take the horse that stood nearest to the stable door, so that every customer was alike well served, according to his chance, and every horse ridden with the same justice." Milton wrote two quibbling epigrams upon this eccentric character.

### Muddled Thinking.

It would be foolish to say that a dynamo and an electric light are the same thing, that green apples is a term synonymous with indigestion, that an architect's plans are the same thing as a completed building or that sex attraction is but another name for the social institution called the family. In the same way it is an evidence of muddled thinking to maintain that being good is the same thing as being religious.—Bernard J. Bell in Atlantic.

### Why Ammonia Cleans Clothes.

Ammonia, the great spot remover of the American people, is really a gas dissolved in water. It belongs to the alkali family, and on account of its mineral origin is the foe of all oils and grease, which explains the easy way it disposes of spots that soap and water cannot affect.

### Recovered Too Soon.

"I thought she knew you?"

"I expect she does. I was engaged to her at one time."

"But she married you?"

"Yes; you see, she threw me over, and then I didn't take to drink."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

### Improved the Opportunity.

"I'm sorry I asked the girl to clean the typewriter."

"Why?"

"She took fifteen minutes to clean the type and two hours to make her hair finger nails afterward."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

It requires very little trouble to find fault. That is why there are so many critics.—Holmes.

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