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SOLID QUARTER SAWED OAK DROP DESK CABINET, piano polished. One illustration shows machine closed (head dropping from sight) to be used as a center table, stand or desk, the other open with full length table and head in place for sewing. 4 fancy drawers, latest 1900 skeleton frame, carved, paneled, embossed and decorated cabinet finish, finest nickel drawer pulls, rests on four casters, adjustable treadle, genuine Smyth iron stand. Finest large High Arm head, positive four motion feed, self threading vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved locker wheel, adjustable pressure foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, head's handsomely decorated and ornamented and beautifully nickel trimmed. **GUARANTEED** the lightest running, most durable and nearest noiseless machine made. Every known attachment is furnished and our Free Instruction Book tells just how anyone can run it and do either plain or any kind of fancy work. A 20-Years' Binding Guarantee is sent with every machine.

IT COSTS YOU NOTHING to see and examine this machine, compare it with those your storekeeper sells at $40.00 to $60.00, and then if convinced that you are saving $25.00 to $50.00, pay your freight agent the $15.50. WE TO RETURN YOUR $15.50 if at any time within three months you say you are not satisfied. ORDER TO-DAY. DON'T DELAY. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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Test of His Girl's Love.

He was about 40 years old, prosperous in appearance, good looking as to person, intelligent of countenance, polished as to manner, and in all respects a really presentable fellow. A party of four were talking around a table on which sat a bottle or two with their accompanying glasses and there was a blue haze of tobacco smoke in the room.

"For a number of years," he said, taking the lead in the conversation, "there has been a question in my mind which has remained unsettled, and I am going to submit to you for adjustment, as it were. I have been happily married for 10 years, and my wife is a woman of excellent judgment and good sense, but I have refrained from submitting the question to her for reasons which will appear when you have heard the story. When I was 25 years of age I lived in one of the interior towns of New York state, and having a good position there in a bank, was considerable of a citizen socially as well as in other regards. I may say, I think without egotism, that I was the 'catch of the town.' Very naturally, then, when the belle of the place and I began to make a specialty of each other gossips said nature was taking its course and immediately began their calculations as to when the happy affair would eventuate. I was thinking the same way, and really felt flattered that the young woman had selected me out of all her admirers as her choice.

"She was unusually pretty, tall, graceful, blonde as a summer sky, and with money enough to have made her attractive even if she had been homely as a hedge fence. Like all pretty girls, however, so circumstanced, she was coquetish and uncertain, and the dozens of admirers she had hanging about her all the time did not tend to steady her a great deal. I was the one, though, of them all who received her most marked favor, and in the course of six months we became engaged to be married. To say that I was pleased when she accepted me scarcely expresses it, and yet I was not altogether satisfied. Possibly it was not her nature to satisfy a man as he would want it to be satisfied by the woman who was to be his wife, but one should not expect everything, and I accepted the gifts the gods gave and let it go at that. At least I did for some two months, and then I bethought me of a plan to test the woman of my choice. I thought I loved her, possibly I did not. I fancy some would say I did not, or I would not have been in such a doubting humor.

"Be that as it may, I was determined to make a test, and I did. In a town about a hundred miles away lived my half brother, who was not anxious to have me marry the girl, notwithstanding the material advantages of the union, and he was willing enough to take his share in making the test when I proposed it to him. She did not know him at all, so when I had him come over to my town and took him to call on her as Mr. Hart she had no idea that he was any other than represented. He was a handsome fellow, much handsomer than I was, and the smoothest chap with women I ever saw. He was a fine brunette, while I was red-headed, and nobody on earth would have taken us for kinsmen. Our call was extended until after 11 o'clock, and when I came away I had a feeling that if it had been anybody else except my brother I would have been jealous. He left at 8 o'clock the next morning, and two days later I wrote him a letter to Miss Blank, which he was to copy and send to her.

"This he did, and in due course received an answer, and from that a regular correspondence grew, which very soon called for three or four letters a week. He would send her answers to me and I would write an answer and send it to him, which he would copy and forward to her. At the same time I became more attentive than ever, and began to insist on her naming the day when we should be married. She thought June was the prettiest month for a wedding, and at last we came to an indefinite conclusion that we would marry in June. Meantime my letters to her over the signature of Mr. Hart became more intense, as did hers to him, and at last I proposed to her. Now you would suppose that a girl would not accept a man until she knew more about him, and particularly not when he was only a hundred miles away and could come in person and make his proposal, but I'll be blamed if she didn't. She did it with a whirl, too, that almost made me dizzy. I explained that I could not come, as my friend—meaning myself—would suspect something, and it would not do to offend him when we knew exactly how we stood. She felt just as I did about it, she said, and the only way to dispose of me was to spring it on me and have it over all at once.

"The evening of the day on which I received her letter of acceptance, so to speak, I called on her, as I did every night nearly, and incidently I mentioned Hart—who, by the way, had never seen any of the letters she had written—and she said with a coquettish little smile that she didn't understand why he had never come to see her again, because she liked him and believed he liked her. I told her I had asked him as a special favor not to come because I was afraid of him and she chaffed me and said I was a 'jealous old thing' and that if I kept people away as I was keeping Mr. Hart she never would know anybody, and a whole lot more of the same sort.

"When I left her that night we had fixed the date of our wedding for four weeks from then, which would make it on the 15th of June. The next morning I sent her a letter saying that I understood my friend—meaning myself—would be out of town the following Sunday and I would come over on the morning train, arriving at noon, and would call at 2 o'clock and we would arrange for an elopement, as that seemed to be the only way to get rid of the 'old man'—meaning myself. I also told her to wire me Saturday evening, letting me know if my friend—meaning myself—had gone as he thought of doing.

That evening being Friday, I called as usual, and informed her that I was called out of town and would be gone from Saturday evening until Monday noon and would probably meet Mr. Hart, as he was to come down from his town on a matter of business in which we were both interested. I told her I would be glad to deliver any message she might like to send but she said Mr. Hart had neglected her shamefully and she hadn't any message to send to him, and, what was more, that she never expected to see him again. She showed some little anxiety when I spoke of expecting to meet Hart, but it was so slight as to have escaped the notice of any ordinary observer. Saturday afternoon we took a walk, ending it at the station at 5 o'clock when she saw me off. I told her good-bye so seriously that she laughed at me and said that I was saying it as if I never expected to see her again. You must know that I was not entirely without feeling.

"I stayed on the train until 7 o'clock and got off at a junction to wait for a train that would get me back home about 11 o'clock. I kept to my room next morning, sending the hotel boy to the postoffice at noon for my mail, in which I received from Hart the telegram which he had received the evening before. It read: 'Coast clear. Expect you tomorrow,' and signed with my own name, a little subterfuge, as Hart explained to me, to throw the telegraph operator off any suspicion. At 2 o'clock I was at her front door and, as is the custom in smaller towns, she opened it for me herself. That she was startled at my presence was plain to be seen.

"'Oh,' she gasped, 'I thought——'

"'Yes, I know you did,' I interrupted her. 'You thought it was Mr. Hart. You are not mistaken. I am Mr. Hart. Here is your telegram to me,' and I handed it opened to her.

"She gazed at me for a full minute, a dozen contending emotions plainly visible in her face, as the scheme unfolded itself to her, and then her lips tightened across her teeth and she fairly hissed at me:

"'You contemptible cur!'

"She slammed the door in my face. Of course, after that there could be nothing but an end to our amicable relations, and the end came for all time. We never spoke to each other again and the gossips had all they could do to find out why we had broken our engagement, but they never knew, for she nor I nor my brother ever told the story. I am telling it now for the first time, and because I have been wondering all these years whether she was right or not when she said I was a contemptible cur. What do you say?"

Every man of them was plunged into profound thought by the question, but not one of them answered.

Glorious News

Comes from Dr. D. B. Cargile, of Washita, I. T. He writes: "Four bottles of Electric Bitters has cured Mrs. Brewer of scrofula, which had caused her great suffering for years. Terrible sores would break out on her head and face, and the best doctors could give no help; but her cure is complete and her health is excellent." This shows what thousands have proved,—that Electric Bitters is the best blood purifier known. It's the supreme remedy for eczema, tetter, salt rheum, ulcers, boils and running sores. It stimulates liver, kidney and bowels, expels poisons, helps digestion builds up the strength. Only 50 cents. Sold by Dr. STONE, druggist.

LIFE AND VIGOR ARE GREATER.

Human Existence Is Longer Than It Was a Century Ago.

Within half a century the average length of life has been extended over 10 years, says the New York Press. For a long time it was fixed at 33 years, and that is regarded as the length of a generation, but now it is close to 45. It is noticeable that with the lengthening of the average of life has come the lengthening of the age of mental and physical activity. The statistics prove that mental and physical vitality are not mere matters of years, but that they depend upon judicious conservation of the vital forces.

There can be traced in contemporaneous history a noticeable increase in the length of human vitality. In this day we find men undertaking great enterprises at an age when their forbears were in their dotage and proving themselves capable of long and sustained effort equal to that of the most lusty youth. The number of graybeards on bicycles gives evidence that the age of full physical vitality has been advanced greatly. The age at which men in our day go into enterprises demanding concentration of thought, physical strength, buoyancy of spirits and the sustained courage that can come only from sound health proves that the man of mature age is able to do his full share of the world's work.

SILK CHEAPER THAN A BRIDGE.

Train Load of Fabrics Risked to Keep a Railroad Bridge Intact.

"At Harper's Ferry on one occasion the flood in the Potomac was so great that it threatened the destruction of the costly railroad bridge, which was seen to shake in its unsteadiness," said former Governor Thomas G. Jones, to a Birmington Age-Herald reporter. "When everybody present was looking each moment to see the bridge go down President John W. Garrett of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad arrived upon the scene. Appreciating the necessity of instant action, he gave an abrupt order for a loaded train of freight cars standing on a side track to be run with the locomotive on the bridge and kept there.

"'But, Mr. Garrett, that is a trainload of silk,' said the local superintendent.

"'I don't care; run out the cars!' commanded the great master of railroads. 'It would be easier to pay for the silk than to build a new bridge.'

"The 'silk train' was run onto the bridge and the structure was saved. The silk was being sent by rail across the continent from San Francisco, at which port it had been received from China and Japan. Garret was a great man—one of those who have added in the material development of America. In emergencies he was very resourceful, as was demonstrated in perhaps a small way by the Harper's Ferry incident."

BUT THE LETTER WENT ASTRAY

"My wife solemnly affirms that she will get a divorce if I say anything about it," said Jones, with a smile. "But it is too good to keep, so here it goes. Mrs. Jones had been ailing for some time, and falling into the hands of one of the neighbors who is a faith curist she became imbued with that peculiar belief. I laughed at her, but she was convinced that she could be cured only through faith. As her illness was nothing serious I said nothing more, congratulating myself that I was ahead what a doctor would have charged her.

"It ran along for some time while my wife continued to gain, and at last she announced that she was fully cured.

"'Now, then, John Henry,' said she, 'I never again wish to hear you say anything about mind cure being all imagination. I am sure that I would have been a dead woman if I hadn't taken the treatment that I did. And to think he never set eyes on me.'

"'He never what?' I gasped.

"'Set eyes on me. I took the absent treatment. I sent Professor Fake $5 to treat me by his famous treatment.'

"'Do you mean to say,' said I, 'that you sent a faker $5 to treat you?'

"'That's just what I did. And to think the most wonderful thing about it was that I was aware the moment that he received my letter and opened it although he was a thousand miles from me. Why, I commenced gaining right from that moment. It is simply wonderful. You can say what you like, but you can't deny that I am a well woman, and all through the wonderful absent treatment that I received.'

"I should have said something right then and there had I not heard the postman's whistle and gone to the door to get my mail. There was a letter for my wife from the dead letter office and when she opened it out dropped the letter to Professor Fake. She had misdirected it and the faker had never received it."

UNCLE SAM'S FLOATING DRYDOCK.

Now Being Built in Maryland for Use in Louisiana.

There is now being constructed at Sparrow Point, Md., what will be the largest floating drydock in the world. It is being built for use by the navy department, and when completed will be towed to Algiers, La., a voyage of 2,000 miles. It will then be placed in position at the naval station there for the use of all vessels in service in the Carribean and Mexican waters. The dock is being built in conformity with a plan to strengthen all the Southern naval stations and to provide there facilities for the handling of the largest vessels in the United States navy.

While the contract capacity of the new drydock is 5,000 tons, the real capacity is really considerably larger than this. As now estimated a vessel displacing 18,000 tons can be successfully floated and supported by the dock, though it is probable that no effort will be made to place any ship of such dimensions within it. The work is really gigantic and outclasses that done on the Havana drydock in use during the Spanish war. The Havana drydock, by the way, has passed out of the hands of the United States government and now belongs to the government of Vera Cruz, to which it was sold. The feat of traveling from New York to Havana, which at the time was thought to be a very notable one, has been duplicated by a second trip from Havana to Vera Cruz, and the practicability of the floating drydock again demonstrated.

The new drydock is to be built at the cost of $810,000, and will be complete in every detail. It will consist of five pontoons, three of which compose the bottom and the other two the sides of the dock. The extreme length of the dock is 240 feet, while the extreme width is 126.

The dock is complete in itself, having its own engines, boilers and operating machinery and complete quarters for its crew. It can be towed anywhere, is a saflable property and is altogether one of the most desirable acquisitions that have been made to the United States navy since the upbuilding of that navy began.

The arrangement by which the dock is operated is very ingenious. Each pontoon is fitted with forty watertight compartments with a drain pipe leading into them. These individual drain pipes then feed into a large drain pipe in either side. All these pipes are connected with pumps, which are operated by central engines at either side. When desired, these engines can be made to run independently of each other upon separate compartments or they can be made to individually operate them all. By this device all possibility of a general breakdown is almost removed, since in event of accident to one set of machines the other can be set in motion to do the entire work of the two.

When it is proposed to float a vessel the valves in the various compartments are opened. The dock, which floats at the draught of four feet, is then lowered with the onrush of water into the various compartments until it reaches the desired depth. By simply closing the valves the depth can be readily controlled, while if desired a vessel of thirty feet draught can be taken in.

The vessel is then floated in and carefully centered over the keel blocks on which it is expected to rest. The pumps are then started and slowly, as the water is drawn out of the various compartments and discharged through the drain pipes, the dock rises, lifting its great burden out of the water. As the vessel rises it is secured in its position until it finally reaches a height of four feet above water, permitting every part of it to be reached by the repair machanics without difficulty.

One of the greatest advantages afforded by the new arrangement, however, is the ability to dock the drydock itself by a simple device. This is accomplished by having the pontoons detachable so that one at a time each one can be raised out of the water and repaired. This is accomplished in this way: If it is desired to dock the middle pontoon the fastenings connecting it with the other pontoons are removed and it is allowed to float loosely. Water is then admitted to the end pontoon and side walls and the middle pontoon floats up until a set of lugs on its bottom corresponds to the upper connecting lugs on the side walls. This brings the middle pontoon entirely out of water. The middle pontoon in turn has sufficient capacity to dock both end pontoons at once, and one of the side walls can be tilted out of water by filling the other one. By these various means the entire under water surface of the dock is made accessible for repairs.

STREETS THROUGH CHURCHES.

Odd Places of Worship in the Old World.

One of the best known instances in this kingdom of churches with streets through them is that of St. John the Baptist's church in Bristol, says Tit-Bits of London. Here we have the church situated right over the ancient gateway into the city on the Avon, and the towering spire standing high above the neighboring houses and streets is a remarkable sight, as one surveys it from the roadway below. The Church of St. John the Baptist in Bristol is a very old one. It occupies the whole width of the famous city wall, and what was part of the old fosse or dith. On each side of the central arch that cuts through the tower of the church is a smaller opening for pedestrian traffic, and these were made so late as the present century. Before they existed the sides of the gateway were part of the church, too. One of the most interesting, as well as most curious, cases of a roadway through a church is that of the Bell Tower at Evesham.

MEN AND WOMEN.

Ex-Secretary of State John W. Foster has just completed the manuscript of a very important work upon the history of American diplomacy. The book will be published next fall.

Professor Eliot of Harvard the other day received from several Harvard alumni now serving in the Philippines a large and valuable collection of native arms, ornaments and manuscripts for the university museum.

Six Presidents—Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Van Buren and Buchanan—served as Secretary of State. General Grant was Secretary of War ad interim and performed the duties of that office for five months.

Sir Richard Webster, the new English master of rolls in succession to Sir Nathaniel Lindsay, was born in 1842, and is the second son of Thomas Webster, the famous lawyer. He is a Charterhouse alumnus, and has been Attorney General three times.

There is a story in the Senate that General Hawley, speaking for ten or twelve minutes in a short speech, once spoke 225 words a minute. The average speed of Senators in dictating letters is only 100 a minute, and in addressing the Senate only 110.

Fine printing. Statesman Job Office.

Market Reports

The local market quotations yesterday were as follows:

Wheat—48 cents at the Salem Flouring Mills Co.'s office.

Oats—26 and 28 cents (buying).

Hay—Cheat, buying $7 to $7.50 timothy, $8.50 to $10.

Flour—70 and 75 cents per sack; $2.75 per bbl.

Mill feed—Bran, $13; shorts, $15.

Butter—15 to 17c, buying.

Eggs 12 cents, cash.

Poultry—Chickens, 6 to 7c per lb; young chickens (fryers) 10c; live weight.

Pork—Fat, 4¼ gross, 5½ net.

Beef—Steers, 4@4¼c; cows, 3½@3¾c; good heifer, 4c.

Mutton—Sheep, 3 to 3½ on foot; sheared 2½ to 3c.

Veal—6½ and 7c dressed.

Potatoes—20@25 cents, buying; new potatoes, 75c.

Wool—15 to 16 cents, market weak.

Mohair—25 cents.

Hop Twine—14 cents per pound.

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INDUCEMENT

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June and July

Have you been satisfied with the flavoring extracts you have been using, of any-ones-make? To introduce our own make "Diamond Brand" we will give free with a One Dollar purchase of Coffee, Tea, Baking Powder, Spices, etc. Two ounces of any kind of flavor, and the purchaser furnish the bottle. Be sure and bring a large enough bottle, we cannot get 2 ounces in those 2 ounce or 25 cent panel bottles of other stores. With a 50c purchase a bar of nice toilet soap.

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