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ELI PERKINS' RIDE.

HOW AND WHEN HE LOST HIS REPUTATION FOR VERACITY.

A Thrilling Experience on One of the Coldest Nights of a Cold Winter in Iowa—A Telegram That Was Inspired by the Ambition of a Candidate For Congress.

I have traveled over the Alps when we started on wheels in Italy, were put on runners at the monasteries of St. Bernard and the next day came tumbling down into the wheatfields of Switzerland and the Rhone. Then I have jinrikishad through Japan and wheelbarrowed in China. But the most exciting trip of my life was taken in our own country, out in Iowa. It was one of the coldest night of a cold winter. I lectured for the college at Osage City, northeast from Cedar Rapids, one night, and the next night I was to be at Grinnell college, near Des Moines. I had to ride down through the central part of Iowa, on the old Iowa Central road. To do this I was compelled to drive 30 miles across the prairie, from Osage City to Mason City, in order to strike a 5 o'clock morning train for Grinnell.

Thirty miles over the prairie in a northwest storm, with the thermometer 15 degrees below zero, was a test of strength, nerve and bodily caloric. But we made the trip. Once our sleigh tipped over, and our blankets and robes blew away. It was a hurricane, and even our hot soapstone took to the wind. Once we got to circling around on that 30 mile prairie, and the driver threw up his frozen hands and screamed:

"We's lost!"

But the stars came out, and we whirled around toward the north star and struggled on.

In the gray of the morning with what joy we saw the straggling lights of the little station of Mason City, now a place of 8,000 people! I remember well how I rolled out of the sleigh and tottered up to the station door. It was all dark within. I knew the morning train hadn't gone. We had won, but, oh, with what cost!

Knocking on the door, then pounding louder, the agent finally opened it.

"Has the 5 o'clock train gone south to Grinnell?" I asked, with tremulous voice.

"What?"

"Has the train gone south?"

He looked at me in amazement and said:

"Gone, man! Gone? Why, she went last September. She is a summer train. But," and he looked kindly at me, "she will go again in June. If you must go on her, you can sit around here in the depot and wait."

What did I do?

Why, I went right over to a log hotel and went to bed, and sleep smothered my sorrows.

Sleep! Sleep!

At 10 o'clock I crawled over to the depot and opened the wires on President J. B. Grinnell of the Iowa Central. This, by the way, was the original man whom Greeley told to "go west." Grinnell went west, and it was he who founded the city of Grinnell, where I was to lecture. He built the college there. The railroad, the town, the college and the lecture course were all his. And I threw myself into his arms with this telegram:

"Please give me an engine. Get me to Grinnell tonight!"

"Any engines needing repairs at Mason City? If so, send Perkins down," came over the wire from Grinnell.

"No. 6 wants a new firebox," went the answer.

"O. K. Send 6 with Perkins. Get him here or kill him," replied Grinnell.

In 30 minutes we were off. We went bounding over the old iron rails between Ackley and Marshalltown, and how we flew! Villages became splotches of maroon paint. Telegraph poles blurred like wagon spokes in the sun.

We blew the whistle, but the train beat the sound into Marshalltown, and the agent came out and looked the wrong way. We had passed the town, and the whistle was still behind.

Well, we got to Grinnell and struck the audience on the stroke of 8. President Grinnell hadn't told them about the ride. The audience thought I came on a regular train or drove over from the next station. When I tried to tell them about my trip, they only laughed. They didn't believe me. Alas! that was the day, that was the night, that I lost my reputation for veracity, and all these years I have struggled to get it back. I am a vestryman now and a member of the Young Men's Christian association, but nothing will get back my lost veracity, except perhaps this open confession, now for the first time made.

When I asked the venerable President Grinnell years afterward how he came to telegraph, "Get Perkins to Grinnell or kill him," he said:

"Well, my son, you see I was running for congress then, and I didn't have any record to run on. All I had done was to condemn land for right of way and kill immigrants on our trains. I was dying for a record to run on—one that would bring me the sympathy of the people, and it occurred—mind me," he said it slowly, "it simply occurred to me as a business man—I beg pardon for saying it," and the tears came to his eyes—"but it occurred to me if you could be killed on our train then, and the people should find it out, why, I would be nominated and unanimously elected."

Then he added, with a long sigh, "Your coming and the lecture you delivered notified me with the people—I was d-e-f-e-a-t-e-d!"—Eli Perkins in Magazine of Travel.

In the Slums.

Country Boy—Where do you live?

Street Gamin—I live in a tenement house.

"What sort of a house is that?"

"Well, it's a house where poor folks keeps the dishes that they expects to use if they ever have anything to cook."—Good News.

THE "NEW WOMAN."

She does not "languish in her bower,"
Or squander all the golden day
In fashioning a gaudy flower
Upon a worsted spray;
Nor is she quite content to wait
Behind her "rose wreathed lattice pane
Until beside her father's gate
The gallant prince draws rein."

The brave "new woman" scorns to sigh
And count it "such a grievous thing"
That year on year should hurry by
And no gay suitor bring.
In labor's ranks she takes her place
With skillful hand and cultured mind
Not always foremost in the race,
But never far behind.

And not less lightly fall her feet
Because they tread the busy ways;
She is no whit less fair and sweet
Than maids of olden days,
Who, gowned in samite or brocade,
Looked charming in their dainty guise,
But dwell like violets in the shade,
With shy, half opened eyes.

Of life she takes a clearer view
And through the press serenely moves
Unfettered, free, with judgment true,
Avoiding narrow grooves.
She reasons, and she understands,
And sometimes 'tis her joy and crown
To lift with strong yet tender hands
The burdens men lay down.

—E. Matheson in Chambers' Journal.

The Academy of Forty.

"The Academy of Forty" is the ambitious title of a new society of women formed in Washington. Its president and moving spirit announces that the organization is not intended to rival the French immortals, but is more after the order of the old fashioned debating society, but with modern improvements that rather lift it above the range of the old societies. Its meetings are to be conversations at which various questions will be discussed under the critical inspection of a competent corps of judges, which will be known as the committee of censors. Criticism will be passed upon the pronunciation, grammar and language of the participants. While the organization by name is limited in numbers, there is provision from honorary membership to which gentlemen and members outside the Wimodaughsis, of which society it is an outgrowth, may be admitted, so that the society is practically unlimited.—New York Sun.

Keeping Out of Debt.

The woman who expects to enjoy prosperity, self respect, peace of mind, the esteem of her friends and the good will of her tradesmen must flee from debt as she would from the plague. The woman to whom these things are matters of indifference, who doesn't care about the world's opinions or her creditors', must avoid debt also, for the reason that duns have so many ways of making life unpleasant. An account book aids the woman who is struggling to escape debt, because it enables her to keep track of her expenses and to stop spending when she is reaching her limit. A savings bank account is another way of escaping debt. The woman who is saving money generally takes such a pride in watching her little hoard grow that she is able to deny herself many costly luxuries for the pleasure she takes in saving. And denying oneself costly things means avoiding debt.—New York World.

Ladies' Maids.

"Ladies' maids have a hard time of it these days," said a member of that guild the other day when she was talking to a massage cure, to whom she had gone for instructions. "I've got to learn to give massage now, or I can't be sure of my place any longer. And I must get the real professional thing, for my lady has been massaged so much she knows all about how it ought to be done. Then I've had to become a good chiropodist and to learn enough about physical culture to go through her exercises with Mrs. ——, because it bores her to do it alone. In the meanwhile my salary is $30 a month, just what it was when I only knew those things that a lady's maid always had to know. I guess the next thing will be for me to learn homeopathy and filling teeth!"—New York Mercury.

A traveler in India attributes his immunity from fever and sunstroke during five years to having the linings of his hats and caps made of yellow material.

GOLDEN MEDICAL DISCOVERY

Many years ago Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., compounded this medicine of vegetable ingredients which had an especial effect upon the stomach and liver, rousing the organs to healthful activity as well as purifying and enriching the blood. By such means the stomach and the nerves are supplied with pure blood; they will not do duty without it any more than a locomotive can run without coal. You can not get a lasting cure of Dyspepsia, or Indigestion, by taking artificially digested foods or pepsin—the stomach must do its own work in its own way. Do not put your nerves to sleep with so-called celery mixtures, it is better to go to the seat of the difficulty and feed the nerve cells on the food they require. Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Biliousness and Nervous Affections, such as sleeplessness and weak, nervous feelings are completely cured by the "Discovery." It puts on healthy flesh, brings refreshing sleep and invigorates the whole system.

Mrs. B. Hanna, of [illegible], says: "I regard my improvement as simply wonderful [illegible]

Mrs. Hanna.

[illegible] bowels regular and sleep [illegible]

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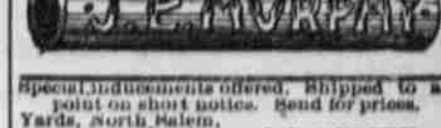

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