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C, & N. W. R. R., 8:30 a. m., 2:40 p. m.
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U. P. R. R., 11:40 a. m.
O, & R. V. to Lincoln, 10 a. m.
B. & M. R. R., 8:40 a. m.
O. & N. W., 7:30 a. m.

OFFENS

C, & N. W. R. R., 11 a. m., 11 p. m.
C. B. & Q., 11 a. m., 9:30 p. m.
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And suddenly dropped into what seemed like a hole
Where wonder of wonders they found a new land,
While fairy-like beings appeared on each hand.
There were mountains like ours, with more beautiful green,
And far brighter skies than ever were seen,
Birds with the hues of a rainbow were found,
While flowers of exquisite fragrance were growing around.
Not long were they left to wonder in doubt
A being soon came they had heard much about,
'Twas Santa Claus' self and this they all say,
He looked like the pictures we see every day.
He drove up a team that looked very queer,
'Twas a team of grasshoppers instead of reindeer,
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But he took them on board and drove them away.
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All our Gloves we are sending to Bunce,
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Saying I also took these to friend Bunce's store.
Santa Claus then whispered a secret he'd tell,
As in Omaha every one knew Bunce well,
He therefore should send his goods to his care,
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ON THE TRAIN.

In the midst of the rush and bustle which appear to be inseparable from the entrance and exit of railway trains, a young girl was timidly making her way through the Philadelphia depot to the train bound for New York. She was a dainty slip of a creature, who, though fairly launched into her twenties, might readily have passed for sixteen, so uncertain, so timid and fawn-like was every glance and motion. This would be the first journey that Bessie Sheldon had ever made alone, and despite the determined spirit in which she had entered upon it her poor little heart beat very faintly beneath her fur-trimmed English walking jacket.

Bessie was going to do something more than make a short visit alone; for, six weeks before, the kind uncle who had acted a father's part to his pretty orphan niece had failed in business, and influential friends had obtained for this little shrinking violet a position as governess in the family of a wealthy gentleman residing on the Hudson. She was to spend a few days with a cousin at Princeton, then go to New York and put up at the Gilsey house, where her future patron, Mr. Colburn, had appointed to meet her.

"How close and unpleasant this car is said Bessie, to herself, when the agony of purchasing her ticket was past and she had actually embarked on the train; and I am not certain whether I am in the right one."

Presently she summoned courage to ask the gentlemen in front of her. He was evidently absorbed in his paper, for she was obliged to repeat her question. Then he turned around, removed his cigar, and looked her full in the face.

"If you please, am I in the right car for New York?" faltered Bessie, blushing deeply.

"Yes," he replied, with a suppressed smile, "this car goes to New York, but I scarcely think it is the right one for you, as it is a smoking car." Then he added, kindly seeing her confusion, "You are not accustomed to travel by yourself, perhaps?"

Bessie admitted, with another blush, that she had never done it before in before in her life.

"Then, if you will remain here a few minutes," he said, rising and folding up his paper, "I will go and see if I cannot find you a pleasanter seat."

In a short time he returned and asked her to accompany him into the next car, where he established her in a comfortable seat, then said—

"If you will allow me, I will sit by you and render you what service I may."

Bessie thanked him for his kindness, accepted his protection, and they presently glided into conversation.

He was apparently about thirty, blonde, agreeable looking, and very polished. He was, moreover, evidently accustomed to ladies' society, and Bessie's timid reserve gradually melted away before the genial warmth of his manner. He was returning from Washington, where he had spent, several weeks, and had some very entertaining things to relate concerning the doings at the capital. Bessie was surprised to find how soon she reached Princeton, and was greatly shocked at herself for the little pang of regret that she experienced at parting with her new acquaintance, who saw her safely deposited in her cousin's carriage before he bade her good-bye.

"How foolish I would be," she remarked, mentally gathering herself up into a little bundle of dignity and setting it resolutely back upon the carriage cushions, to let my thoughts dwell upon a mere chance acquaintance, whose name even I do not know, and whom I shall most probably never see again. I am determined to conquer this lunacy."

And she succeeded so well in this resolve that her visit passed off delightfully, and four days later found her safely arrived in New York city. As she stood irresolutely on the sidewalk in Desbrosses street, wondering what horse-car she should take to reach the Broadway stage, and was afraid to join the crowd on the crossing who had committed themselves to the keeping of a solitary policeman, a voice close beside her asked, "Will you accept my arm to cross the street? I think I would be a more suitable escort than that formidable officer of justice."

Bessie looked up with a start into the face of a tall, handsome man bending over her, with his brilliant black eyes devouring her pretty, childlike features, and in her confusion she suffered him to draw her hand within his arm. She shrank perceptibly, however, from his unnecessarily close pressure, and when he had safely piloted her across she thanked him, said "Good afternoon," and attempted to withdraw her hand, but he retained it with gentle force.

"Pardon me," he said, in a low tone, gazing intently into her eyes, "but I see you are a stranger in the city, and my conscience will not consent to part with you just yet. Tell me what I can do for you now. Where do you wish to go?"

"To the Gilsey House," faltered Bessie, feeling instinctively distrustful of her unknown companion.

"Then you want a Broadway stage," he said. "But why do you go to the Gilsey House?"

"Because," she replied, "I have friends there who are expecting me."

"Let the friends go, sweetheart," he whispered, bending closer over her. "Come with me, and I will take you to a much handsomer hotel, where I will enter you on the books as my wife, and will pay your bill." And he attempted to clasp her waist as he spoke.

But the hitherto timid, shrinking girl sprang from him, and standing erect with flashing eyes, she said fearlessly—

"If you do not instantly leave me, I will claim the policeman's protection." Then, hailing a passing car, she sprang on to it, and left him standing on the sidewalk, biting his lips at his discomfiture.

How she found her way into a Broadway stage and reached the Gilsey House Bessie hardly knew afterward, but it was a great comfort to find that she was expected there and her room already engaged. No sooner was she in it than her excited feeling found vent in tears; then she bathed her face and proceeded to refreshen her toilet generally, and these arrangements were just completed when a card was brought to her with "Maurice Colburn" on it.

All Bessie's diffidence returned as she followed the waiter down to the parlor, and it required no small effort to enable her to lift her eyes to the face of the gentleman who rose from the sofa at her approach and advanced to meet her.

But was she dreaming, or was her brain affected by the exciting scene through which she had just passed? The person whom she now confronted was none other than her chance acquaintance on the Philadelphia train, and Bessie as she gazed at him in a bewildered manner, was conscious of a still sharper pang than she had experienced on parting with him at Princeton. This, her first romance, then, was the father of a family, and she his hired governess! Surely fate was merciless to the unprotected girl.

"Miss Sheldon," said Mr. Colburn, retaining the hand he had taken, "this is a most agreeable surprise."

But poor Bessie had cast down her eyes before his earnest gaze, and felt overpowered with shame and confusion as she murmured some unintelligible commonplace by way of rejoinder.

"You look fatigued," said Mr. Colburn kindly, "do you think you will be sufficiently refreshed after luncheon for your ride? The cars are warm and pleasant. The run rapidly, also, and we do not go further up than Newburgh, where the carriage will meet us."

"Oh, yes, I shall be quite equal to it," she said, smiling faintly; and she struggled so bravely for the mastery over her feelings that during luncheon she conducted herself with lady-like composure, and passed nobly through the trying ordeal of the tete-a-tete ride that followed.

It was quite dark when they reached their destination, and Mr. Colburn remarked, as he placed Bessie in the handsome coupe that stood waiting for them:

"The children have been allowed to sit up later than usual to-night to welcome you. You will find them boistorous, Miss Sheldon, but they are not in the main evil disposed, and I think you will get along nicely with them."

Bessie replied that she believed she would, as she was fond of children, and knew how to make allowance for them. And when, twenty minutes later, they drew up before a handsome villa, from which issued a cheerful stream of light, and half a dozen merry, honest-looking little rogues came crowding around their mother at the pleasant front door, the life upon which the young governess entered did not look very formidable.

"Miss Sheldon, I am very glad to see you," said Mrs. Colburn, cordially extending her hand.

"Uncle Maurice, where's my velocipede, and why didn't papa come home with you?" asked the eldest boy, thrusting his hands into the pocket of Mr. Colburn's great coat.

"My husband is in Washington," Mrs. Colburn was saying, as she led the way to Miss Sheldon's apartment. "We expected him home before this, but my brother-in-law volunteered to go to New York for you in his stead. Maurice is a most amiable, obliging young man. But, my dear Miss Sheldon, how ill you look. Pray retire at once, and I will send your tea here."

And Bessie Sheldon was ill in body and mind. The discovery that Maurice Colburn was a single man filled her with conflicting emotions; but not once did she lose sight of the distance which circumstances had placed between them. His brother's hired governess must not suffer her thoughts to dwell on him, she told herself, and during the weeks that followed she conducted herself so judiciously that she had reason to be satisfied with her own course.

Mrs. Colburn was very affable, and the children took readily to their new governess, so that her duties were comparatively easy; and though Maurice Colburn lingered at the house, saying that he must take care of his sister-in-law, Bessie shrank from his society so persistently that he ceased to seek hers, and turned to the children for amusement.

One day, nearly a month after the young governess had been domesticated in the Colburn family, she was returning from a walk with some of her charges, when the eldest boy, who had remained at home, came running toward her with some letters, and exclaimed, as he delivered them—

"Oh, Miss Sheldon, papa's come, and he's brought me a velocipede, and Harry a pistol. Come in, Miss Sheldon; he wants to see you."

Standing in the hallway, through which Bessie must pass to reach her room, were Mrs. Colburn, Maurice and the new arrival, whom his wife drew forward to present to the governess.

When Bessie raised her eyes to the face of her pupils' father she shrank back, crimsoning like a guilty thing. Then murmuring some inaudible excuse, she turned and fled up-stairs to her room

"Your governess appears to have nerves," said Mr. Colburn, in an indifferently surprised tone, changing color as he spoke, however.

"Miss Sheldon is not very strong," said his wife, "and I fear she has palpitation of the heart. I will go and see what ails her."

"I cannot remain a day longer in this house," Bessie was saying to herself when Mrs. Colburn tapped. And accordingly she told her patroness that she had received a letter from Princeton requiring her to hasten there immediately.

Mrs. Colburn looked perplexed, but perceiving that the girl was bent on going, she gave all the requisite assistance to further her departure, saying, however, that she hoped they would see her back again before long.

An hour later Bessie was speeding away on the afternoon train to New York. Whither she was going she scarcely knew herself, but was presently roused from a painful revery by a light touch on the shoulder.

"Mr. Colburn!" she exclaimed, with a start, as Maurice bent over her.

"Yes," he said, in a low, husky tone, "I followed you; for if you were to go out of my mind thus, Bessie Sheldon, all my life's light would go with you. Listen to me now, I beseech you."

Almost mechanically Bessie suffered him to sit beside her, and it seemed as though fate were closing around her as she listened to his earnest declaration of love at first sight, strengthened and matured by several weeks' observation of her pure and exalted character.

On the train she had first sought his protection, and on the train she spoke the words that constituted him her protector for life.

Six weeks later they were married from her cousin's house in Princeton; but it was not until she had been a happy wife for many months that Bessie Colburn told her husband the part his brother had played in her Desbrosses street adventure.

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WHAT THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA SAID TO THE GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The Retailer.

A great many years ago the governor of North Carolina received a friendly visit from the governor of South Carolina. After a real North Carolina dinner of bacon and yams, the two governors lit pipes and sat in the shade of the back verandah with a demijohn of real North Carolina corn whisky, copper distilled, within each reach. "There was nothing stuck up about these governors," says a North Carolina state historian, in the homely but vigorous language of his section. "There they sot and smoked, and sot and smoked, every once in a while taking a mutual pull at the demijohn with the aid of a gourd which they used as a democratic goblet. The conversation between the two governors on the subject of turpentine and rice, the staples of their respective states, and the further they got into the subject the lower down they got into the jug, and the lower down they got in the jug the dryer the governor of South Carolina got, who was a square drinker and a warm man with about a million pores to every square inch of his hide; which enabled him to haste in a likely share of corn-juice, or other beverage, and keep his carcass at the same time well ventilated and generally always ready for more, while the governor of North Carolina was a more cautious drinker, but was mighty sure to strike bottom at about the twelfth drink, like as if nature had measured him by the gourdful. Well, they sot, and smoked, and argued, and the governor of North Carolina was as hospitable as any real southern gentleman could be, for he ladled the whisky out in the most liberal manner, being particular to give his distinguished guest three drinks to one, and guaging his own dose with great care, for fear that if he didn't he might lose the thread of his argument and the demijohn might run dry before the governor of South Carolina should be ready to dust out for home, in which case it would look like he had not properly observed the laws of hospitality, which would have been a self-inflicted thorn in his side for years to come, and no amount of apology could ease his mind or enable him to feel warranted in showing his countenance to his fellow-men, especially in his home district, where for generations it had been a point with every gentlemen to keep his visitor well supplied with creature comforts, and to hand him a good gourdful as a stirrup-cup when about to take his departure for the bosom of his family. Singular to relate, the cautiousness manifested by the governor of North Carolina was of no avail, for at one and the same moment the jug went dry and the governor of North Carolina, much to his subsequent mortification when he learned the fact afterward, dropped off into a quet sleep, while the governor of South Carolina kept up his argument, holding the empty gourd in his hand in close contagiousness to the demijohn, and wondering at the apparent absent-mindedness of his hitherto attentive host, to whom, after a minute and a half of painful silence, he made use of but one remark: 'Governor don't you think it's a long time between drinks?' the remark being overheard by George, the body-servant of the governor of North Carolina, who, knowing there was something wrong took the woods, where he remained in seclusion for three days, but the governor of South Carolina, receiving no reply from the governor of North Carolina, mounted his horse and rode sadly homeward with an irrepressible feeling at his heart that there was coming to be a hollowness in friendship, and that human nature was in danger of drifting into a condition of chaotic mockery."

Ever since the occurrence so touchingly described by the conscientious historian, a common form of invitation to join a social glass has been, "As the governor of South Carolina said to the governor of North Carolina, it's a long time between drinks." The form is as efficacious as that used by the itinerant minister when called upon in turn by two into one at short notice—"Jine hands."

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