

THE HOBO-QUEEN.

She began her career as the daughter of a section-foreman on the B. & M. railroad. Her father came from Ireland direct and so did her mother, whence it will be seen she is of Irish parentage straight, which accounts for the keen wit and shrewd thriftiness that make great all Irishmen who are great. But she wasn't born a queen. She is what might be styled a self-made queen—all except the title, which was bestowed first by a hobo and afterwards accepted as fitting by the whole of the Black Hills and the west half of Nebraska.

The children of a section foreman grow up at the section house and learn to help the old folks. The girl learns to cook for the gang of workmen and the boy learns to do railroad work. When they are grown up the girl marries some other foreman's son and the boy does the opposite and so the race of section foremen is perpetuated. The queen did all of this except getting married. She learned how to manage the kitchen and to make money from boarding the laborers. Things went from worse to better with her until the authorities, sensible of her ability and giving her added responsibility each year, finally put her in charge of a boarding-train. A word or two of the boarding-train and the boarders:—

A boarding-train looks very much like an ordinary string of freight cars—on the outside. Inside the doors, however, things are fearfully and wonderfully made. Half a dozen cars on one end of the train are fitted up as boudoirs where twenty-two men are snugly packed into each car on two-story double bunks. That's human freight with a vengeance, especially in summer-time. Then come the two kitchen-cars filled with steel ranges and immense boiling cans and pots, with a sand-oven in one corner, where the hobo chef spends the night converting a barrel or two of flour into bread for the next day. Beyond the kitchen are the dining cars where thirty men sit at each board (and eat everything in sight three times before the sun goes down.)

It was as the presiding genius of this sort of hotel on wheels that Maggie made her reputation and earned her title. It is no small matter to run such an outfit successfully. There are endless supplies to look after, crooked cooks to watch in the kitchen and careless flunkies in the dining-cars. The meals must be varied and always first class; there must be an abundance of fresh meat and all things else; the men must be kept satisfied or they will quit and then the authorities fall heavily upon the "Boarding Block" and make all kinds of trouble. There are no gentlemen on such a train—they are all hobos—and a very marked degree of skill is requisite to handle both the stomachs and the tempers of 150 railroad men successfully,—and afterwards to collect toll for it. A hobo has no more respect for a board bill than the rest of us and so one must be a hawk as well as a manager. And then there is the commissary where the men get their tobacco and shoes and overalls and some other things. One must be an artful salesman, able to convince a hobo that he needs twice as much as he wants and that the matter of fit is of no consequence. Why I have seen Maggie sell a number six hobo a pair of number ten shoes many a time, and make him positively happy over the transaction—she furnishing waste paper for packing. The hobo queen was every thing and everywhere around the train.

She could show the cook how to save twenty cents on flavoring extract or she could quell a riot in a dining-car with equal grace. I have seen her come into an angry crowd of hobos like a pillar of fire and have watched the magic effect of her not exactly feminine "What t'll's wrong? Its a wonder some o' you wouldn't have the grace t'die off!" Her smile would draw a crowd and her frown would make a scattering. She was mistress of any situation she was ever a part of. Naturally, such associations will coarsen any character and the queen has not proven exempt. She is thoroughly familiar with the hobo-character,—which is an essentially low and vile one,—and she perhaps understands how to keep up her end of a conversation that would not be just the right thing in a drawing-room. But along with her business ability and prosaic practicability there is a rare sweetness and purity of character that is simply remarkable considering the environment. The contrast is a strong one and particularly attractive because the type is so seldom found in rough, frontier countries, where it is not only so much easier but so much more customary for women to be bad than to be good. The hobo queen deliberately goes ahead through whatever of filth she may meet,—simply because its business and there's money in it,—but she never once loses the simple dignity born of conscious purity and strength of character. She likes to read novels. She enjoys Shakespear. She talks intelligently on a great many subjects and has all sorts of sensible ideas about things. She has executive ability enough to run a county fair if it should come her way. I used to ask her why in the world she was out in that wilderness running a train of hobos. "Well" she would say, "its nobody's d— business why I'm doin'g it, but I know how its done and there's money in it. See?" And Maggie is getting rich.

T. E. WING.

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First publication Aug 24
SHERIFF SALE.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of the district court of the third judicial district of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein Charles W. Oakes is plaintiff, and Kittie Melick et al are defendants, I will, at 2 o'clock p. m. on the 24th day of September A. D. 1895, at the east door of the court house in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to-wit:
Lot number eleven (11) in block seventeen (17) in Kinney's "O" street addition to the City of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska.
Given under my hand this 21st day of August A. D. 1895.

Sept 21. Fred A. Miller, Sheriff.

C. C. Flansburg
Att'y at law
Brownell Block
SHERIFF SALE.

First publication Aug 10.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of district court of the third judicial district of Nebraska within and for Lancaster county Nebraska in an action wherein The Pitcher and Baldwin Company is plaintiff, and Sophia Sonnedecker, et al are defendants, I will at 2 o'clock P. M. on the 10th day of September, A. D. 1895 at the east door of the court house, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to-wit.

Lot number two (2), in block number twenty eight (28), Pitcher and Baldwin's second addition to University Place, Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 5th day of August A. D. 1895.

Sept. 7. Fred A. Miller, Sheriff

First publication Aug 24.

SHERIFF SALE.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of the district court of the third judicial district of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein Charles W. Oakes is plaintiff and Joseph W. Winger et al are defendants I will, at 2 o'clock p. m., on the 24th day of September, A. D. 1895, at the east door of the court house, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to wit:

Lots number two [2] and seventeen [17] in Orr Sang's subdivision of a part of the southeast quarter [S. E. ¼] of section twenty-five [25] township ten [10] range six [6] east of the 6th principal meridian, in Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 21st day of August A. D. 1895.

Sept 21. Fred A. Miller, Sheriff.