

Wanted a Boss

West Virginia, the Mountain State, is full of interesting characters. Back of the rather aristocratic little town of Philippi are fastnesses not yet disturbed by the onward march of civilization. A well-known politician was canvassing through that section for votes, when he came to a cabin where a young woman was holding a man on the ground by his ears.

"Done got enough?" she asked.
"I give it up," he said. Then the girl released the man, who went away, looking very much abashed.

"What's the trouble?" inquired the politician.

"Thar wa'n't no trouble," replied the girl. "He jes' ast me ter marry 'im, an' I've allus said I wouldn't marry any man I could whop. Kinder looks like I couldn' fin' one. I've tried moe' of 'em round hyar, an' none of 'em ain't any good. I tol' 'im all about it, an' I didn' want ter whop this un much, but he jus' went down soon as I tackled 'im. I reckon I'll hev ter be an ole maid. I kain't abide havin' no man that ain't mo' of a man than me."

Good Old Time

I'd like to be a boy again without a woe or care, with freckles scattered o'er my face, and hayseed in my hair; I'd like to rise at 4 o'clock and do a hundred chores, and saw the wood and feed the hogs, and lock the stable doors; and herd the hens, and watch the bees, and take the mules to drink, and teach the turkeys how to swim so that they would not sink, and milk a hundred cows and bring in wood to burn, and stand out in the sun all day and churn, and churn and churn; and wear my brother's cast off clothes and walk four miles to school, and get a licking every day for breaking some old rule, and then get home again at night, and do the chores once more, and milk the cows and feed the hogs and carry mules a score; and then crawl wearily upstairs and seek my little bed and hear dad say, "That worthless boy, he doesn't earn his bread." I'd like to be a boy again, a boy has so much fun; his life is just one round of mirth, from rise till set of sun. I think there's nothing pleasanter than closing stable doors, and herding hens and chasing bees, and doing evening chores.

Crouse and Thurston

There isn't a republican paper in the state so small or lowly that it can't heave a brick-bat at ex-Governor Crouse since he introduced that anti-Thurston resolution. And by the gods, a man who could perpetrate such scamps as Joe Garneau and Hilton on the state of Nebraska deserves a good shower of missiles on every occasion that presents itself.—Superior Journal.

C. W. Hollowbush, formerly of Sutton & Hollowbush, may be found at Frank M. Rector's confectionery store, 1211 O street, where he will be pleased to see his friends, and meet the public. Mr. Friedman, of Sweetland Candy Kitchen Philadelphia, is our candy maker.

Crouse's Glass House

That man Morton Smith will get a head put on him some day the way he walks into people, but all right, he is good for it. Here is what he says of Crouse. "Crouse's administration was productive—and the product was peculiar. Defaulter Hilton and other men and things might be mentioned; but the one feature of supreme radiance was Garneau, the World's fair commissioner, the soda biscuit nabob. Things scintillated for a while in Chicago. The airy, fairy Lillian drove Sandow the strong man and Garneau the cracker man, tandem."—Beatrice Times.

MUSICAL MENTION

JOHN RANDOLPH

Xaver Scharwenka gave a recital in Omaha the other day. At present Scharwenka is better known as a composer than pianist, for despite his previous great reputation as a player his recent appearances have not created the impression expected. Almost all the greater pianists of the present day are pupils (generally "favorite pupils") of Liezt, or follow the school of Chopin as exemplified in that great pianist and teacher, Leschetitsky.

Scharwenka is a pupil of the older Kullak method, and when I heard him, besides possessing the undeniable advantages of that school of playing, such as wonderful fluency in octave playing and admirable wrist technique, he also had a heavy colorless style of chord playing which may have been peculiar to himself. Besides this his technique was not at that time impeccable, and his interpretation was somewhat disappointing compared to that of Joseffy and Paderewski. It would be interesting to hear him give a recital of his own compositions, for many of them are valuable and rarely heard. One of the most interesting, to me at least, of modern concertos for pianoforte is the one in B minor of this composer—the first and most virile of his concertos.

We are to have a pianist of considerable reputation, technically at least, at the Funke opera house, May 15. I have never heard Mr. Leopold Godowsky, who is a Russian pianist at present connected with a school of music in Chicago, but

from his published programs he plays from memory a phenomenally large and difficult repertory of compositions of the highest rank. The "Musical Courier" of New York in an article (not a paid advertisement) says that Godowsky has more digital facility than Paderewski—which is certainly high praise of his technical attainment as a virtuoso. Of course he may not be temperamentally so great. In re Paderewski, however, the same paper accuses that player of being a great hypnotist. I do not know. I know he impressed me as the greatest artist I ever heard.

Madame Clara Schumann, the venerable wife of Robert Schumann, has recently suffered a stroke of apoplexy and is compelled to give up all teaching as of late years she has given up all public performance. This old lady once a great pianist and until very lately a teacher of reputation is an interesting link with the days of Mendelssohn and Schumann—almost of Beethoven.

Despite Paderewski's alleged parsimony and the newspaper reports of his judging American artistic progress by the increase in door receipts at his recitals, I see in Harper's Weekly a statement that he has left \$10,000 in this country to establish a series of prizes for triennial competition by American composers. Here is an opportunity for spicing riagenius.

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