

TALES OF THE CUPID

SOME AMUSING STORIES OF UNIQUE "MATCHES."

Courting in Church—A Passing Glance, for Once Leads to a Happy Marriage—Uncle Rastus' Courtship—Old Dutch Charley.

A young gentleman living in the city of Moneton happened to sit at church in a pew adjoining one in which was a young lady for whom he conceived a sudden and violent passion and felt desirous of entering into courtship on the spot, but the place not suiting a formal declaration he hit on the following plan: Politely handing his neighbor a Bible open with a pin stuck in the following verse: II Epistle of John, 5 verse: "And now I beseech thee lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another."

She returned it with the following: Ruth, II chapter, x verse: "Then she fell on her face and bowed herself to the ground and said unto him, why have I found grace in thine eyes that thou shouldst take knowledge of me seeing I am a stranger?"

He returned the book, pointing to the xxi verse of the II Epistle of John: "Having many things to write unto you I would not write them with paper and ink, but I trust to come unto you and speak face to face that our joy may be full."

From the above interview it is reasonable to suppose that the marriage took place soon after.

A Passing Glance.

When my friend Jack was leaving home to come to Assinabolia his aunt accompanied him to the station, and there bade him an affectionate farewell. As the train was leaving the station he noticed his aunt in conversation with a tall, fair and very attractive looking young lady. Jack was much struck by the latter's appearance and could not keep from thinking of her all the way, and wondering who she was. He made up his mind she was the one being in the world for him. Immediately on his arrival he wrote to his aunt asking about the young lady. The reply was favorable—Viola was single.

Jack managed with his aunt's assistance to start a correspondence. They became very much attached through their letters, and when they met for the first time it was to be married. All arrangements about the wedding had been made by letter. Jack found out after they were married, that Viola had seen him that memorable day at the station and had inquired of Jack's aunt who he was. It happened that they both confided in the same person, and as a consequence all came out right. The old lady is very proud of the match she helped to make, for they are indeed a happy couple.

Uncle Rastus' Courtship.

In one of our southern towns live two old darkeys, relics of slavery. The old man is one hundred and three years old and had been married seven times, all of his wives being dead when he met Aunt Tisha. Aunt Tisha was eighty-three, and had been married five times. She was a Virginia darkey, but had been sold into Alabama during slave time, and had come to this town after the war. Aunt Tisha is a good, sweet-faced old darkey, her complexion a dark ginger-bread color, her face surrounded by white woolly hair. Uncle Rastus is a spry old man, although bent nearly double with age, but his eyes are bright and they glance kindly at you from behind his large steel rimmed spectacles. It was several years since Uncle Rastus' seventh wife died and he was anxiously looking for the eighth, when some friend recommended Aunt Tisha. He did not know her, but was willing to meet her. This friend pointed out Aunt Tisha to Uncle Rastus one day on the street and he proposed then and there. Aunt Tisha answered him very indignantly: "Go long nigger, what do I want wid yo. Yo too ole to tak care yoself widout a wife." She calmed down, however, after reaching home, and asked the lady for whom she was working to write an apology to Uncle Rastus. Soon after she had dispatched her grandson with the letter she saw, through the kitchen window, as she was washing the dishes, Uncle Rastus coming up the street in his old ox cart. She ran out into the street, with the dish towel in her hand, and hailed him. No one knows what they said to each other, but they made up the differences and agreed to marry next day, she bringing him in to sign a paper giving her full possession of his property, consisting of a log cabin, an ox and ox cart.

Old Dutch Charley's Courtship.

I was at the station when Old Dutch Charley's lady came. He had told us why he was there; so, when the dashing-looking stranger stepped from the train, we all knew that this was the city lady who had been recommended to Old Charley, by a mutual friend, as a suitable life-partner, and who had now come over to have a look at Old Charley, and stay a while on probation. Old Charley couldn't leave his horse, so Tom Johnson, the mail carrier, appointed himself master of ceremonies, and, escorting her out to the road, formally introduced her to Charley, handed her into the cutter, and then—the vile reprobate—he put his arms around her neck and kissed her.

It was a wicked shame of Tom, and Old Charley didn't like it a bit. Three or four days later the lady appeared at the station alone, and told those present why she was leaving. "It's that plagued pet pig o' his'n! He's just not on that pet pig, an' bound to have it in the woodshed, an' every time the door's opened it comes terain' in, racin' all over the hull house, an' trackin' up the floors! It's just gallin'! He says he can't bear to kill it, but he can't keep me an' it both."

At this point Dutch Charley ran in, wildly excited.

"Ach! Katie, Katie, what for you go by der house away? What for you sthay and marry me not?"

They retired to the lower end of the platform, held a short consultation, then started toward the road.

As they passed, Old Charley beamed upon the interested group at the door, and said: "Tomorrow we go by der preacher an' git marriet wunst!"

The neighbors say that the chief feature of the wedding feast was roast pet pig. BEL BUCHANAN.

GEMS AND TRADITIONS.

Wonderful Virtues Ascribed to the Turquoise—King John's Rings.

Traditions and superstitions in connection with precious gems are many and varied. For example, the turquoise is believed to be especially rich in virtues. The Germans claim that by its varying shades it turns telltale on the caprices and moods of its wearer. Cardau, the famous Italian physician and philosopher, asserted that turquoise mounted and worn as a finger ring secured a horseman from all injury and added with commendable caution that he had a beautiful turquoise given him as a keepsake, but never tested its virtues, not caring for the sake of experiment to risk his life. Shakespeare caused Shylock to say: "He would not have lost his turquoise ring for a whole wilderness of monkeys." Camillus Leopoldus, a writer of past centuries, wrote much that was interesting about jewels. He names a number that are either no longer found or else they are creations of his imagination. Leonardo states that the alicoria, not alone renders a man invisible, but "being held in the mouth allays thirst." The stone, doubtless of his fancy, is found in the intestines of a capon that has lived seven years. Again he tells of the bozoor, a red, dusty, brittle and light stone, which is taken from the body of some animal, and is infallible against melancholy. He credits Queen Elizabeth with wearing a bozoor. Four famous rings of historical interest were those presented by Pope Innocent to King John. The monarch was urged to note with extreme care the shape of the rings, their number, color and matter. The number, four, being a square, typified firmness of mind, fixed steadfastly on the four cardinal virtues. The blue of the sapphire denoted faith; the green of the emerald, hope; the crimson of the ruby, charity, and the splendor of the topaz, good works. The rings themselves represented eternity, with neither beginning nor end; gold, which was the material, and, according to Solomon, the most precious of metals, signified wisdom, more to be desired than riches and power.

WHAT THE SUN IS.

One of the Great Multitude of Fixed Stars Is Described.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer: The sun, around which the earth moves at a distance of about 93,000,000 miles, a distance of about 93,000,000 miles, stars. It is an intensely hot body, shining by its own light, while most of the planets are cool bodies and do not, therefore, give out light of their own. Compared with the earth, the sun is a globe of enormous dimensions. To make up its bulk 1,300,000 bodies as large as the earth would be required. When viewed through a telescope dark spots may often be seen upon the surface of the sun. If one of these spots be carefully noticed, and observed again after a few days, it will be found to have moved farther toward the western side of the sun's disk, where it finally disappears. After an interval it reappears on the eastern side, and arrives at the position where it was first noticed in about twenty-five days, furnishing us with proof that the sun rotates on its axis in that time.

An Envoying Wife's Way.

San Francisco Report: J. D. Moffatt, a well-to-do citizen of this city, had trouble with his wife and on December 20, last, he published a notice that he would not be responsible for his wife's bills after January 1. The lady was quick to see her opportunity. She realized that for ten days between the dates mentioned her husband would be responsible, so she went all over San Jose and bought everything she wanted and a few things that she did not want. She was quite pleased with her success and managed in the ten days to buy up several thousand dollars' worth of goods. When the bills came home the husband tore his hair. But the shopkeepers demanded their pay. They were told to go and whistle for it. Now suit has been brought against the hard-hearted husband, and in addition to the original bills he may have to pay court costs and lawyers' fees.

Managing Her.

Pretty Wife (poutingly)—That Mrs. De Plaine has a dozen dresses hand-somer than the only good one I've got. Smart Husband—A homely woman like that needs rich attire to attract attention from her face. You don't. (Pretty wife subsides).—New York Weekly.

ABOUT GARGOYLES.

Many of Them Were Fine Works of Sculpture.

Let us look at some of the old rain-water spouts, or gargoyles. It is only recently that the word gargoyle has found its way into our dictionaries, says Chambers' Journal. Even technical glossaries of repute passed it over a few years ago. But now it is not only included, but chosen for illustration, in lexicographical works that are enriched with wood cuts. This advance in public estimation is probably the result of the exception wave in the waters of sanitary science now passing over us, which has drawn attention to the manner our ancestors made provision for the limitation of one of the evils with which they had to contend. We find our predecessors not only contrived a means to prevent the damp that would have ensued if rain-water had not been diverted from falling off their roofs into the foundations of their buildings, but so treated these discharging spout heads from their gutters as to make them give considerable ornamentation. The application of the term gargoyle to these contrivances is said to be due to the dragon-like character that was at first given to them, coupled with the fact that there was a particular dragon known by that name that kept the district around Rouen in trepidation. Directly these fantastic spouts came into use they were treated as works of art, in so far as two were never made alike. Those who have studied the subject aver that many of them are fine works of sculpture and they are often so adroitly placed as to bring out the salient points of a fabric and conduce to its pleasing effect. They were employed from about the middle of the thirteenth century, and were gradually improved in form and delicacy of design and execution. At first they were somewhat short and thick, but after a time were made longer, to project further, and with more elegant details.

A THRIFTY INDIAN GIRL.

Marrying Her Was a Most Excellent Investment—Three Years' Savings.

In 1892 the "Seger" school was built in Oklahoma territory, among a colony of Cheyennes and Arapahoos, considered among the wildest, most backward and nonprogressive of all Indians, says the Omaha Bee. Fortunately the superintendent of the new school, Mrs. John Seger, had already gained their confidence in another capacity, so that when they were asked to put their children in school they said that they would, as soon as they were weaned. And they carried this out literally. One of the girl pupils, who entered the school when it was opened, has had quite a remarkable record. Having no previous education and leaving her really savage home for the first time, she has demonstrated what education is doing and will do for the red man. There is a system in nearly all the government Indian schools by which those pupils who are both industrious and frugal may earn money in the sewing room, on the farm or in some one of the school's other industrial departments. Of course, this must be outside their regular work. This young girl, after taking a regular course as a scholar, was judged capable of filling a salaried position. In the course of a short time she filled not one but several, and worked in the sewing room besides. Out of her savings she bought a wagon, harness, team, organ, bedroom set and a sewing machine, all in view of her prospective marriage to a young Indian to whom she was engaged, and when they were married she took enough savings with her to build a neat home. All this was accomplished in three years' time.

The Cycle of Truth.

What a marvelous completeness there is in a scripture record! It rounds the cycle of truth, opening with a paradise in which there was neither mourning nor crying, nor travail; narrating, in pages stained with blood and tears, man's bitter heritage, self-caused, of weariness and woe; and ending with the new heaven and earth, on the air of which no stifled groan, nor sigh, nor dirge can ever break. The pain of misunderstanding will be no more; since we shall see eye to eye, and know as we are known. The pain of suspense will be no more, because we shall behold the purposes of God in their ultimate and beneficent outworking. The pain of wanting love will be no more, because in that happy land, as the children sing, love is kept by a Father's hand, and cannot die. The pain of bereavement will be no more, because death cannot intrude into that glad City of Life. No cypress tree grows there, no mourning garb is ever seen in those streets, no funeral cortege ever winds its slow length along them.—F. B. Meyer.

Praise for the Duke.

The Duke of Wellington once said: "The greatest compliment I have had paid in my life was once when our fellows got into a scrape in the north of Spain and had been beaten back in some disorder. I rode up and rallied them and led them back and they recovered the lost ground. Just as I rode up one of the men stepped out of the ranks and called out: 'Here comes the man who knows how.'"—Corahill Magazine.

How Far Is That?

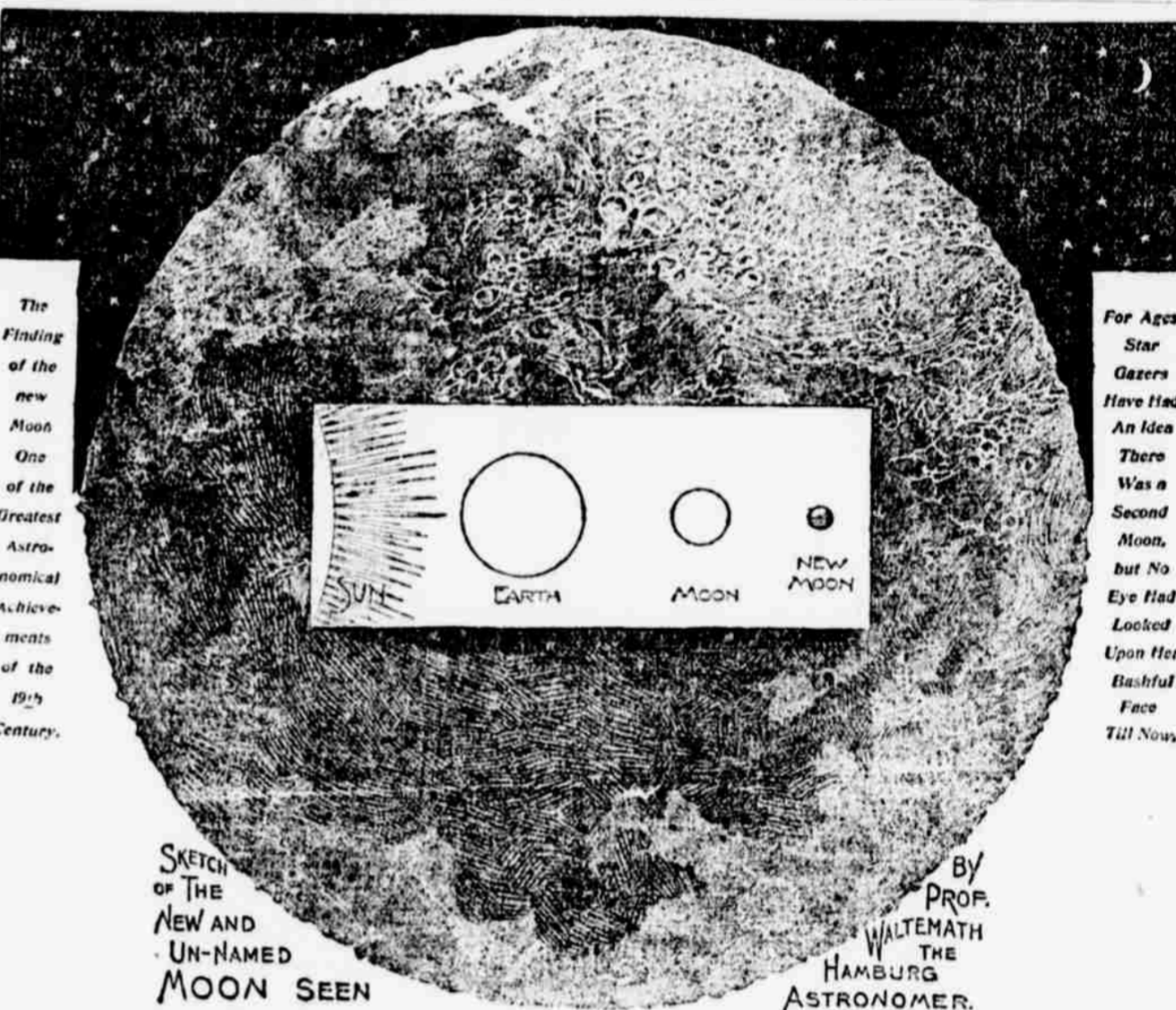
"Ladies are requested to remove their hats as far as possible," was inscribed on the cards of admission to a recent entertainment in the suburbs of Boston.

A NEW MOON JUST DISCOVERED.

The Long Sought Second Satellite of the Earth Discovered by a German Astronomer.

BY GARRETT P. SERVISS.

The news that Dr. George Waltemath of Hamburg, Germany, has discovered the long-sought second satellite of the earth will be received with great interest by all astronomers and by the people generally. For centuries the idea that there might be a second moon attending the earth has been entertained by some astronomers. Various observations of circular spots seen crossing the surface of the sun, and unknown luminous planets in the sky, have been thought to lend probability to the theory that there is such a second moon attending our planet. Occasionally it has been located by astronomers. According to one astronomer, the second moon of the earth is very close to us, so near, in fact, that it goes around in about three hours and twenty minutes. According to other theories, it is at a greater distance from the earth. Some one suggested many years ago that the reason the earth's second moon was never seen was because it traveled round the earth at such a distance and with such speed that it kept continually on the side away from the sun, and consequently was always in the earth's shadow. Being unilluminated by the sunlight and having no light of its own, it would not in such a situation be visible even as a faint star. But if Dr. Waltemath's discovery is correctly reported, it would appear that the earth's second moon is much more distant than the moon we know, and would be gradually improved in form and delicacy of design and execution. At first they were somewhat short and thick, but after a time were made longer, to project further, and with more elegant details.



As 1 to 80. If this is so, the relation of the masses of our two satellites is a very singular one, as it happens to be almost precisely the same as the relation of the earth's mass to that of the moon. That is to say, the earth weighs about eighty times as much as the moon, and according to Dr. Waltemath the old moon weighs about 80 times as much as the new moon, which he is said to have discovered. But it differs from the present moon in one very remarkable particular. The average density of the great moon is less than that of the earth, while according to Dr. Waltemath's figures the average density of the new moon must be about the same as the earth. In other words, while it is a very small body, it must be heavy in proportion to its size. In regard to the effect which such a body revolving around the earth (as Dr. Waltemath says it does, in a period of about 177 days) would have upon our planet, it may be remarked that any heavenly body has upon the earth in the raising of the tides in the ocean, and in the atmosphere. Now a body weighing only 1-80 as much as the moon, and at the same time more than 2 1/2 times further away, would possess practically no tidal influence. The height of the tide which it could raise in the ocean would be measured only by hundredths of an inch instead of several feet, as in the case of the old moon. Its influence upon the atmosphere would be correspondingly slight. Nevertheless, a body of such a mass as Dr. Waltemath says the new moon has would unquestionably affect the motion of the old moon to a perceptible degree, and might account for the irregularities in the motions of the moon, which have for long puzzled astronomers and which in fact were partly the cause of the original speculations concerning the existence of a second moon. As to the visibility of the alleged new moon, it may be said that if it were capable of reflecting the sunlight as brilliantly as the larger moon does it ought not to be a difficult telescopic object to see. It should appear to be about one-two-hundredths as great as the full moon. Allowing for its greater distance, it would then, if its surface is equal in power of reflection to that of the moon, show about one fifteen-hundredths of the light that is received from the moon. Evidently, however, it cannot

The following data will accurately describe and locate the new moon to all astronomers:

OIL CRAZE IN INDIANA.

Pathetic Story of an Old Man's Gratitude for Unexplored Riches.

Indiana now has the oil fever almost as bad as Pennsylvania had it more than a score of years ago. Near the town of Peru two unsuccessful efforts were made, but finally a little syndicate was formed to try again, says the Philadelphia Press.

Up to the tenth day after the drill was started no one paid any particular attention to the work, unless it was an employe in the railroad shops, who would stop while passing to and from his work to inquire how deep the hole was or chat a few minutes with the workmen. But before the sun set on the eleventh day every man, woman and child of the 8,000 residents knew that oil had shown up in the pipe and on the following day, when the black, ill-smelling stuff began to flow over the top of the casing the excitement became wildly, uproariously intense.

Many small fortunes have already been made and others will be realized by persons who less than a year ago were scarcely in comfortable circumstances. One of the most notable of these is Charles Artis, an old colored man. He had grown old and become infirm in the performance of odd jobs

Another Relic of Pompeii.

Another Roman villa has been dug up at Boscoreale, on the slopes of Vesuvius, near Pompeii, where the great find of silver ornaments was made two years ago. The walls are covered with beautiful frescoes, chiefly landscapes and marines. One represents a bridge over a river, with an angler fishing with a line. Four wine jars were in the cellar and seven skeletons have been found in the excavation.

Cancer from Eating Meat.

The officers of a leading London hospital believe that the general increase of cancer is due to excess in meat eating.

Two Crowns of Iron.

The crown of Roumania is composed of gun metal—made, in fact, out of a bit of old cannon captured at Plevna; that of Portugal has gems in it which have caused it to be valued at \$8,000,000. The iron crown of Lombardy, which, by the by, is the oldest diadem in Europe, is only six inches in diameter. The question usually asked by those who behold it for the first time is, Where is the iron? For to all appearances the crown consists of a broad circle of gold ornamented by an enameling of flowers. This, however, is but the outward case—within the corner rests the iron itself. It is fashioned out of one of the nails by which Christ was fastened to the cross. The crown now rests in the Cathedral of Monza, Italy, and is under the care of the monks of the establishment. These holy men call attention to the fact that while no attempt has ever been made to clean the baser metal, still there is no sign of rust upon it—a fact which conclusively proves its sacred origin.

His Business.

Brink—Higbee knows how to take people. Coley—He ought to, he drives a cab.