

## Over the Wire.

(Copyright, 1905, by T. C. McClure.)  
Job Strong kept a grocery in the town of Medina, and he was an old bachelor. It had been said of him a hundred times over that he was the homeliest man in the state.  
Job Strong had a brother living in Brunswick, and, as each had a telephone, messages often passed between them. The grocer had a good voice. It was deep and rich and clear, and he was accounted one of the best singers in his church choir. One day when he went to hello for Brunswick he found himself answered by a new voice. It was that of a female, and it stirred his heart at once. It was pitched to a gentle cadence. It reminded him of his own New Orleans molasses gently gurgling from the spigot into a customer's jug. It rolled along the wire like a new fire on a bike, and he held on to it as long as possible. Curiously enough, that deep, rich voice of his awoke an answering echo in the heart of the operator at Brunswick. She thought of knights and cavaliers and squires and dames, and it was with a sigh that she switched him over to the brother.

It may be giving away the plot too soon, but there is a curious coincidence here to be explained. The Brunswick operator was an old maid named Miss Judkins. She had reached the age of forty and for the last twenty years had been a match for Job Strong in homeliness. "As homely as Miss Judkins" was a saying for thirty miles around. They said of her that she had once scared a cow to death by entering the barn and that when farmers drove to town they double hitched their horses to the posts on her account. And, like Job Strong, she didn't know that anything was amiss.

After the first call over the wire Job Strong had a longing to hear that voice again. Not many hours had passed before he found an excuse. This time he did not inquire for his brother, but asked about the price of real estate and other things in Brunswick and also introduced himself. The operator could do no less than give her own name in reply, and thus began the courtship, for such it truly was. At least three times a day the grocer had something to say over the wire and found a ready and sympathetic listener. He had a picture in his mind's eye of the lady with the voice that thrilled, and whether he was weighing out sugar or drawing molasses it was ever before him. She was tall and stately and gentle and smiling and would make a wife to be proud of. Miss Judkins also hugged a mental photograph to her heart. It was of a knight on a black charger.

When three months had gone by the grocer determined to visit Brunswick and know the worst or best. He found himself absentminded by day and sleepless by night, and this wouldn't do at all. The first he knew his rivals would be selling wagon grease 2 cents a box cheaper than he was and drawing away his trade. He notified Miss Judkins of the day, and she put on her Sunday dress and extra false hair for the occasion and also got a substitute for the day. Two hearts were beating tumultuously as Job knocked at the door. Then two people surveyed each other for a moment and set down, and there came a painful silence. It was broken at last by Miss Judkins' brother, who was present. After letting out a guffaw to be heard forty rods he exclaimed:

"Well, may I be darned!"  
This aroused the sister to action, and with flaming cheeks she turned on Job Strong and severely said:

"Sir, how dare you come here and play such a trick on me?"  
"Trick! Trick! What do you mean?"  
"You are passing yourself off as Mr. Strong of Medina, but you can't be he!"

"And I expected to see Miss Judkins instead of you."  
"But I am Miss Judkins."  
"And I am Mr. Strong."  
"I'll be darned again!" shouted the brother after another guffaw.

"Sir, this is unbearable!" said Miss Judkins as she rose up.  
"Miss, it is a joke that I don't understand at all," replied Mr. Strong as he also rose up.

"I expected to see a rather handsome man."  
"And I a rather handsome woman."  
"But instead of that you are the homeliest man I ever laid eyes on."  
"Ditto."  
"You insult me, sir!"  
"And you insult me!"  
"Good lands, but if I'd have known you were the man you are I wouldn't have wasted a minute on you!"  
"Ditto again!"

"Look a-here," said the brother when he could stop laughing, "you two are foolish to quarrel. Destiny has brought this about. You are well matched for homeliness. You both take the cake over anything I ever saw. If you don't get together you will never have another chance on the face of this earth. Julia, you know that I've told you a million times that you'd scare crows into fits. Mr. Strong, you'll excuse me, but I've seen more beauty in old stumps than you can boast of in your face. I'm going outdoors to laugh. Get together."

It is a pleasure to record that they followed the well meant advice, although there were some awkward intervals, and that they were married six months later and have lived as peacefully since as if they had each taken a prize at a beauty show; also that New Orleans molasses at a fixed price per the year round continues to be a drawing card at Strong's cash grocery.

M. W. QUAD.

## KIDNAPED.

(Copyright, 1905, by American Press Association.)  
There was to be a double wedding between Donald Syphax and May Southworth, parties of the first part, and Pembroke Hughes and Della Hiccox, parties of the second part. The parties of the first part had sent out their cards and made all preparations, when they were astonished to learn that the parties of the second part had determined to postpone their share in the ceremony.

What was the occasion of this sudden change of program?  
The truth was (and the parties of the first part learned it) that the parties of the second part, having heard that both couples were to be given a hot time on the wedding night by their friends, concluded they would not only escape the intended attentions by delay, but have an opportunity to join in what was in store for the Syphax-Southworth pair. The latter couple had no choice but to be married on time or recall the invitations. They decided to come to the scratch, but to put in practice a plan for outwitting the others.

Miss Southworth's wedding took place in her father's home, situated at the end of a long block of stone front houses on one of the principal dwelling streets of the city. The ceremony was to take place at 10 o'clock, and the bride and groom gave out that they would take an 11 o'clock train for parts which they declined to mention to any one whatever. An automobile was to be in waiting to take them to the station with a chauffeur they could trust implicitly, for he was a brother of the groom.

An enthusiastic number of friends attended the wedding, including Mr. Hughes and Miss Hiccox. The ceremony had been performed, the bride's health had been drunk in the supper room, and the couple went upstairs to get on wraps preparatory to their departure. A dozen automobiles stood ready without, armed with tin horns. The lever hallway was crowded with guests, holding old slippers and rice, waiting for the couple to come down and pass out. Considerable time elapsed, and some one became suspicious. A committee went upstairs and after a prolonged search came back with the information that the bridal pair were not to be found.

The merry crowd were not to be cheated entirely of the sport they had anticipated. Bob Southworth, a brother of the bride, suggested that a couple peronate the one that had escaped and asked the Hughes-Hiccox couple if they would make the ride to the station in the automobile intended for the bride and groom. They willingly accepted the part and, accompanied by Bob Southworth, who had made the suggestion, and his sister Lucia, came down the staircase, received the shower of slippers and rice, went out and got into the automobile. Then the mock bridal party rolled away, followed by the other autos, the attendants tooting the horns and firing roman candles.

Now, it appeared from the first that the bridal auto was stronger and faster than any of the others and possessed a chauffeur who was bent on leaving them behind. He threaded his way skillfully through the streets, not to a railroad station, but to the outskirts of the city, and from the outskirts on a country road. The mock bridal couple enjoyed the ride immensely, but soon noticed that the fun was over, for not one of the following autos was in sight. Then they began to think of returning, but the proposition was received with a burst of laughter.

"You're in the hands of the enemy," said Bob Southworth. "Lucia and I have you in charge, our brother Ned is chauffeur, and we're going to make this a double wedding after all."  
"What do you mean?" cried Della Hiccox, aghast.

"Why, we're making for the Buckingham House. There's no way of getting away from it after 11 p. m. and no train to get back to town or if you could leave the hotel. We're going to leave you there together, and you can stay or not, as you like. We'll give you a parson to hitch you—he's provided for and waiting—and if you don't use him there'll be the biggest scandal our set has known in years."  
"And you were in league with Donald and May?"

"They concocted the scheme. They escaped through the scuttle in the roof and came down and out through another house in the block."

They were going like a hurricane and in an hour pulled up at their destination. Meanwhile the pair had consulted, invented plans of escape only to throw them aside and at last came to the conclusion that since they must be laughed at it would be better to be laughed at without a scandal. When they reached the goal they found a parson waiting and all ready for a wedding. Those in the auto were preparing to return without them when they consented and were married, inviting their abductors to be their wedding guests.

After further deliberation they decided not to face the crowd of merry-makers they had left and spent the bridal night at the Buckingham.

When the party in the automobile returned to the house, where dancing and feasting were in progress, and announced the second half of the double wedding the house was made to ring. Some one proposed to take automobiles and go to the Buckingham, but the kidnappers would not consent.

ADELAIDE RUTH KILD.

## His Inventive Genius.

(Copyright, 1905, by American Press Association.)  
Johnny Bounce and I were schoolmates and fast friends. Johnny was younger than I, but stronger. Every boy who could lick me availed himself of the opportunity just for the fun of it. Johnny could lick most of them and, noticing that I needed a friend, began to lick every boy that licked me. This had a wholesome effect, and I was soon let alone. Indeed, I am not sure that I did not impose on some of them, knowing that a dread of John's big fist would deter them from giving me a deserved punishment.

When we left school to go out into the world (we were pretty big boys then) I said to John Bounce: "Johnny, I want you to understand that I owe you a whole lot. If I ever get a chance to make a stand off for what you've done for me, I'll do it."  
"Oh, you don't owe me anything, Tom," he said. "Besides, I guess we'll both get along pretty well."

I didn't see John after our parting for years. Then one day a man came into my office of very forlorn appearance. I put my fingers in my pocket to get out 10 cents when I noticed the fellow looking at me with a quizzical expression.

"You don't know me, Tom?"  
"No, I don't."  
"I'm Johnny Bounce."

My heart sank, for I knew that the world had been too much for John. However, I gave his hand a warm grasp, asked him to sit down and tell me what he had been doing. He said he hadn't had much success thus far, but he had "irons in the fire," some of which he thought would pan out very big. I had heard of these "irons" before in connection with men who had lost their grip on the world and knew that instead of irons they were gases. But I saw that John was sincere, so I did not discourage him.

"You can't run a thing like that, John," I said, referring to one of his schemes, "without being 'grub staked.' I haven't any capital to put in, but I wish you would let me lend you what you need from time to time. I've got \$10 here in my— No? Don't need it? Well, whenever you do come right in here and get it."

I knew perfectly well that he needed money, but could not bring himself to take it from me, whose equal he had been in everything except an ability to punch boys' heads, and in this he had been my superior. I was obliged to let him go without affording him relief, but I took his address, resolving to find some indirect way of giving him money. But I was very busy at the time and put the matter off. Besides, I am not an inventive genius and failed to think of any method of lending John Bounce money without appearing to give it.

One morning a woman came into my office and said she had heard John Bounce, who boarded with her, speak of me. She said that Bounce owed her \$87.45 for board, and she would like me to tell her if he had any property on which she could levy. I told her that Mr. Bounce was a perfectly honorable man, but was trying to carry through certain schemes without sufficient capital. She left with a check for the amount of her bill. A week later I received a note from John regretting that the woman had thought it necessary to adopt such strenuous measures and assuring me that one of his irons was at white heat and he would soon call and return the amount. I admired his plan of enabling me to help him indirectly.

John never came to see me. His pride, his sensitiveness, whatever it was, wouldn't let him. One day a long while after the board bill episode I received a note from an undertaker telling me that a man named John Bounce had died in a boarding house. A letter from me had been found in his room, and since there was no money to bury him it was deemed advisable to notify me. The amount required was about \$100.

I was sorry now since poor John was gone that I had not been able to do more for him. I inclosed a check for the amount and authorized a call for more. I did the latter as an excuse to my conscience for not attending to the matter personally. I couldn't bring myself to such a melancholy duty.

A few months later I received a note from one who wrote that he had been an intimate friend of the late Mr. John Bounce, the inventor. It was proposed by several of Mr. Bounce's friends to place a headstone at his grave. There were four men ready to contribute \$50 each. The cost of the stone would be \$250. Knowing that I had been a schoolmate of Mr. Bounce, he had ventured to write to know if I would make one of five. I at once sent my check for \$50.

A year passed. One morning I received a note from a lawyer stating that John Bounce had died a few days before (my half stood on end with astonishment), that Mr. Bounce had left me his sole heir (I wondered), that Mr. Bounce had patented a mechanical toy, and that a toy manufacturing company stood ready to give \$25,000 for the sole right to manufacture (I grasped my desk for support).

This wonder turned out to be a reality. I accepted the offer, and when the check was paid me my eyes filled with tears. My poor, dear Johnny Bounce had succeeded after all, but too late. My thoughts were only on that genius for inventing methods by which I could give him money without wounding the feelings of either himself or me.

NUD WESSEY BATES.

### For Sale.

One Percheron Stallion ten years old, weight 1,700, two coming two year old black Percheron stallions. These animals are of excellent quality, and will sell or trade under good guarantee very cheap. Address

A. E. MARLATT,  
Maxwell, Neb.

### Notice to Boys.

Notice is hereby given that any boy found using air guns or 22-calibre guns on the streets of this city will be promptly arrested. This applies to all, and no exceptions will be made.

I. L. MILTONBERGER,  
Sheriff.

# What are Your Groceries Costing You?

Look over your pass book and see the difference you are paying. It pays to pay cash.

Cane Granulated Sugar, 17 pounds ..... \$1.00  
Tulip Patent Flour, per sack ..... 1.45  
Gothenburg Patent Flour, per sack ..... 1.45  
Gothenburg O. K. Flour, per sack ..... 1.40

3-lb pa'l Swift's Silver Leaf lard.....	.40	25-oz K. C. Baking Powder.....	.20
5-lb pa'l Swift's Silver Leaf lard.....	.65	5-lb can K. C. Baking Powder.....	.80
5-lb pa'l Swift's Premium lard.....	.70	Pumpkin, per doz \$1.10, per can.....	.10
Ferrie Vius Maple Syrup per gal.....	1.25	Hominy, per doz \$1.10, per can.....	.10
Corn Syrup 10-lb pail.....	.40	Kraut, per doz \$1.10, per can.....	.10
Lewis Lye per box.....	.08	Sliced peaches (in heavy syrup)	per can.....
Diamond C Soap, 8 bars.....	.25	per can.....	.20
Pearl White Soap, 7 bars.....	.25	Standard Corn, per case 1.60 per can	.08
Gold Dust, 4lb pkg.....	.22	per can.....	.10
Paddle Bluing 10c size.....	.07	Standard Tomatoes, per case 2.25,	per can.....
Paddle Bluing 5c size.....	.04	per can.....	.10
Kingsford's Silver Gloss Starch	per pkg.....	per can.....	.06
per pkg.....	.08	Fresh Peas, per doz 1.10, per can.....	.10
Kingsford's Corn Starch per pkg.....	.08	Cove Oysters large can, 8 oz.....	.15
Best Gloss Starch per pkg.....	.05	Cove Oysters small can, 4 oz.....	.08
Best Corn Starch per pkg.....	.05	Sugar Cured Bacon, per lb.....	.16
Sapolo per pkg 3c, 3 for.....	.25	Salt, best grade, per 100 lb.....	.75
Ammonia per bottle.....	.09	Soda Crackers wooden boxes	per pound.....
Seeded Raisins 12-oz pkg.....	.08	per pound.....	.06
16-oz Seeded Raisins, per pkg.....	.10	Oyster crackers wooden boxes	per pound.....
Curants 12-oz pkg.....	.10	per pound.....	.06
Bulk Raisins, large, per lb.....	.08	Full Cream Cheese per lb.....	.20
Cocoanut, the best, 4-lb pkg.....	.15	Shredded Wheat Biscuits, 13c per	pkg, 2 for.....
Cox's Gelatine 13c, 2 pkgs.....	.25	per pkg.....	.25
Knox Gelatine 13c, 2 pkgs.....	.25	Grape Nuts, per pkg 13c, 2 for.....	.25
Royal Baking Powder 1-lb can.....	.45	Mary's Oats, large size, per pkg.....	.25
Dr. Price's Baking Powder 1-lb can.....	.45	Duke's Mixture tobacco 16-oz pkg.....	.35
10-oz can K. C. Baking Powder.....	.08	Horse Shoe Tobacco per pound.....	.45
15-oz can K. C. Baking Powder.....	.13	Yankee Girl Tobacco 18 oz plug.....	.35
		Kerosene oil per gallon.....	.15

Cash counts. Buying groceries or any other kind of goods on time costs you greater interest than any bank in the country would charge you. Then it saves that dispute about your account. If you don't believe it give it a trial.

## Wilcox Department Store.

### The Thor Electric Washer & Wringer.



dries throughout the world.

Come and Examine this Labor-Saving Machine.

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**Nature's Remedy**  
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**N-R TABLETS-N-R**  
CURES CONSTIPATION, DYSPEPSIA, RHEUMATISM,  
Better Than Pills For Liver Ills.  
Get a 25¢. Box Sold Everywhere.  
A.H. LEWIS MEDICINE CO., ST. LOUIS, U.S.A.  
McDonell & Graves, Agents, North Platte.

### Don't Spend \$3.50 When Fifty Cents Will do the Work

Prof. W. M. Hayes, Asst. Secty. of Agriculture of the United States says about Stock Food: "These balanced rations are often found by analysis to consist of the tailings of mills, elevators and breweries, mixed with molasses and salt, to make the compound palatable to the cattle, and one of the largest Stock Food Companies is said to use fine sawdust, finely ground, to cheaply bring up the weight of his product, instead of buying a superior and expensive balanced ration containing high fattening qualities and acting as a tonic. He has paid a high price for a feed containing along with ordinary grain, finely ground alfalfa hay and other common food stuffs, \$5.00 to \$25.00 per ton, a high percentage of refuse, and non-nutritious matter, some of which may be positively dangerous to the health of his stock."  
Make your own stock feeds and remedies by using Skidoo Horse and Cattle Tablets for horses, cattle, sheep, swine and fowls; proper dose in tablets. Mix in feed or salt. They contain no sawdust, ashes, chopped feed or bran. Ask for and try once Skidoo Condition Tablets or Skidoo Worm, Kidney, Chicken Cholera, Cathartic, Heave, Fever, Hog Cholera, Distemper, Pink Eye, Colic, White Plague Preventive, or Blister Tablets, or Louse Killer, Spavin Remedy, or Barb Wire Liniment. Distributed by THE BLUE BELL MEDICINE CO., Capital Stock \$300,000.00. Watertown, S. D., U. S. A.

FOR SALE BY JOHNSON'S CASH RACKET STORE.

## The C. F. Iddings Co. COAL

Rock Springs Lump and Nut  
Maitland Lump and Nut  
Hanna Lump and Nut  
Colorado Lump and Nut  
Pennsylvania Hard Coal (in Stove and Nut Size)  
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We carry the largest assortment of high grade coal in the city. Try us with your next order.

Call Phone 7. We have it.

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ALL KINDS OF MEN smoke the Forest King cigar. Taste is not a matter of social position—the clerk appreciates a good smoke as well as the merchant.  
No better at the price than the Forest King cigar. Price 5 cents.

J. F. SCHMALZRIED.

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Also Woodturning. WINDOW SCREENS

..... A Specialty.

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My services are worth all they cost. If you go to a cheap man you will probably fail to sell or be compelled to sell at a sacrifice. The only reason any auctioneer is cheap is because his services are not worth much. For terms and dates write or wire at my expense. Phone E504.

### NOTICE.

Associated Land Company, a corporation, and W. W. Ryan, first and real name unknown, defendants.  
Will take notice that on the 8th day of March, 1909, Frank Stanley, plaintiff herein, filed his amended petition in the District Court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, against said defendants, the object and prayer of which are to have Section 25, Township 16, Range 22, in Lincoln county, Nebraska, sold for the payment of a certain judgment, which plaintiff recovered against the defendant, the Associated Land Company, in the District Court of Douglas county, Nebraska, on the 12th day of December, 1906, which judgment is for the sum of \$500.00 and costs of suit; and for a decree, adjudging that the defendant, W. W. Ryan, first and real name unknown, holds the title to the above described land in trust for the defendant, Associated Land Company, and that said real estate is in fact the property of the Associated Land Company, and for general equitable relief and costs of suit.

You are required to answer said amended petition on or before the 19th day of April, 1909.  
Dated March 8th, 1909.  
m9-4  
FRANK STANLEY, Plaintiff.

SHERIFF'S SALE.  
By virtue of an order of sale issued from the district court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, upon a decree of foreclosure rendered in said court wherein Martin H. McCullough is plaintiff and Minerva A. Chase et al are defendants, and to me directed, I will on the 24th day of April, 1909, at 1 o'clock p. m. at the east front door of the court house in North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy said decree, interest and costs, the following described property, to-wit: West half of no. 2000 acre tract and east half of north west quarter of section 17, Township 5, Range 33, West of 6 P. M.  
Dated at North Platte, Neb., March 19, 1909.  
I. L. MILTONBERGER,  
Sheriff.

Serial No. 02830.  
Notice for Publication.  
Department of the Interior,  
U. S. Land Office at North Platte, Neb.

Notice is hereby given that Alvin Zauler of North Platte, Nebraska, who, on July 15, 1902, made homestead entry No. 19573, Serial No. 9128, for south half northeast quarter and lots 1 and 2, Section 4, Township 12, north Range 35 west of the Sixth Principal Meridian, has five years' notice of intention to make final five year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver at North Platte, Neb., on the 5th day of May, 1909.  
Claimant names as witnesses: Charles Meyer, William Faska and Joseph Everlanck of Dickens, Neb.; and William Garman of Wallace, Neb.  
\*m9-6  
J. E. EVANS, Register.

### Estray Notice.

Taken up on about November 1st, 1908, on section 36, town 15, range 32, by the undersigned who there resides, one white and black heifer about two years old branded on left hip, and under crop on both ears. The owner must call, prove property, pay charges and take animal away or it will be disposed of according to law.

W. B. McNEEL.