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An Unintentional Wedding

By MARJORIE CLOUGH

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"Dear me," said a middle aged gentleman who was walking away from a station where he had just been to see his daughter off for school, "I've forgotten to give Jessie the ticket." He stopped, felt in his vest pocket and pulled out the pasteboard. "By Jove, isn't it lucky I met that young fellow? I hope he's got money enough with him to pay her fare. Anyway, I can do nothing about it now. The train's gone."

The meeting with the young fellow was by no means accidental. There was a youthful attachment between him and the girl which was unknown to any one except the lovers. The youngster knew she was going away for her last year of schooling, and he had come to the train for the final parting. The meeting was a pretended surprise. The father said: "Going on this train? If you are I would like to have you keep an eye on my little girl." On the impulse the youngster replied, "Yes, and it will give me great pleasure to take care of her!" He boarded the train with some loose change in his pocket and nothing more.

Such is a brief statement of the antecedents of a very interesting young couple who pulled out of the station on an express train that did not make its first stop for an hour.

"I didn't know you were going," said the girl, with a happy smile.

"I didn't intend to; I'll have to borrow from you to pay my fare."

"Good gracious! Papa forgot to give me money or the ticket."

"You haven't a ticket?"

"No."

"Well, here's a pretty how de do."

Soon after the train started the conductor came through slowly, taking tickets. The young man arose and, putting his lips close to the conductor's ear, whispered:

"See here. I've left my money at home and haven't anything to pay fare with. Pass us on and I'll pay up at the end of the journey."

"Runaway couple?"

Here was a chance for sympathy. "Yes," was the reply.

The conductor passed on and when he had gone through the train came back and asked the young man what he proposed to do. Unfortunately the lover was unable to satisfy him.

"I don't see what I can do for you," said the conductor. "I'm afraid I'll have to put you off."

The protestations and appeals of the young couple attracted the attention and the sympathy of the passengers. Several of them gathered round the conductor to get information concerning the matter. They were told, among other things, that the young couple were elopers. That at once won the hearts of the inquirers. All the world loves a lover, and a gentleman after inquiring as to the price of the tickets needed took out a five dollar bill and asked if any other gentleman would match it for the benefit of the youngsters. It was duplicated at once, and their fare was paid and the problem solved.

Then the young man asked for the addresses of those who had put up the money that he might return the loan.

"No loan at all," said one of the lenders, "a wedding gift. Wasn't that your intention?" looking at the man who had advanced the other half.

"Certainly it was, and here's another five for the parson. My advice

to the young people is to get spliced at once. They will probably be intercepted at the end of the route. Got a clergyman aboard, conductor?"

The suggestion of a wedding captivated the passengers. Several men went through the cars calling for a parson, and one was found.

"What's wanted?" he asked, joining those near the young couple.

"These two wish to be married," said one.

"Tie 'em up quick," said another. "They may be overhauled at the first stop."

"Do you wish to be married?" asked the minister.

"Y-e-s," faltered the young man.

"N-o," cried the girl, blushing crimson.

"No always means yes with a woman," sang out a voice behind the couple.

"Stand up," said the parson.

"I won't," cried the girl. "This is awful."

Her lover whispered something in her ear. She blushed deeper than ever and covered her face with her hands.

"Give her time," "She'll be all right in a few minutes," "Don't hurry her," and such brief suggestions were made by the lookers-on.

Then the young man whispered again. "We can't get out of this any other way. We can keep it secret till you have finished school."

Taking her hand, he pulled her on to her feet. A lady furnished a plain gold ring, and the clergyman began the marriage service, got a sonorous yes from the groom, a whispered one from the bride, and it was all over.

Then the passengers insisted on the bride and groom standing at one end of the car to receive congratulations. They were impelled to do so, and a carload of people passed in review.

At the end of the term the girl returned from school and made a confession. After a family conference it was decided to announce the marriage as having taken place on the day the pair went traveling together.

"When the Turkey Said 'Goodby.'"

The five turkeys we had taken on subscription were stolen from us some time Wednesday night, and no trace of them has been found. We don't regret the loss so much because we'll be minus Christmas and New Year's dinners, but since the turkeys came we've written some sassy editorials about the meat trust, holding ourselves high and independent of it, and now we'll have to help out the blamed trust by purchasing a couple of cans of sardines to fill the void caused by the loss of the turkeys.—Atlanta Constitution.

A BRUTAL SYSTEM.

The railroads in our country kill an average of 8,000 persons a year and injure eight times as many more, most of whom are workmen.

Can it be possible that there is no remedy for this wholesale slaughter? Is there no compassion for the women and the children who remain? Must workmen themselves pay the price not only for their personal mishaps, but out of their earnings pay also for the mishaps of their fellow workers? Shame on any law or system which penalizes the workers for accidents for which they are responsible to only a limited extent, freeing from practically all care and responsibility those whose interest are being served by faithful men who gave their lives so that the world might be a gainer.—Rev. Charles Stelzle.

Let's
go
down
to
Ed
Young's
Tonight

Trade Union Notes.

The Bank Clerks' union of New York city threatens to strike unless wages are raised.

The United States Steel corporation has within a few months laid off 46,000 men and is still laying them off.

Nearly 1,700 agreements between employers and their employees, affecting directly 2,400,000 working people, are in force in Great Britain.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen has purchased a large lot at Cleveland and will erect a national headquarters building.

William H. Frazier of Boston was re-elected international secretary-treasurer of the Seamen's union, and the headquarters office will remain in that city.

In Oregon by direct legislation the voters have got rid of the fellow servant rule and the assumption of risk and contributory negligence features in the employers' liability laws.

More than 90,000 railway employees in Italy have made a demand for an increase in their wages amounting to \$8,000,000, while the government is ready to grant an increase of \$4,000,000.