

OUR STORY TELLER



KATE'S ESCAPE.

"O H, dear, I wish he would come!" Kate Talbot looked at her watch, and then ran out into the hall to compare its enameled hands with the dial of the old clock on the landing.

She was a tall, handsome girl, with bright brown hair. Her eyes, large and soft, of a peculiar hazel tint, were full of dreamy languor, and the white and pink bloom of her cheeks betokened very plainly that she had never turned day into night and night into day, after the approved fashion of metropolitan belles.

"Here he come, and he is not alone." And within thirty seconds Miss Talbot was on the steps, inclining her head to Rosmere Wylie, and holding out an eager, fluttering little hand toward her father.

"No letter, papa?"

"None, Katie."

Rosmere's quick eye scanned Kate's countenance as she stood there,



"NO LETTER, PAPA?"

a single rose among her dark tresses, and one hand slightly holding together the folds of her blue casimere shawl. How plainly he saw the expression of keen disappointment that fluttered across her perfect features!

"Kate," said Mr. Talbot, quietly dismounting from his horse, "somehow it is difficult for me to believe in this gay cavalier of yours."

"Papa!"

"Out of sight, out of mind," is a very old proverb, you know, my dear, and it is just possible, among the attractions of a fashionable watering place, that he has forgotten."

"Never, papa! You and Rosmere always were unjustly prejudiced against him."

Kate spoke with very genuine enthusiasm. She believed in Bruce Gaynor just as implicitly as she believed in the sunshine at her feet, and it seemed impossible that anyone else should for a single second doubt his truth and sincerity.

Rosmere Wylie looked at her with grave intentness. Suppose that Bruce was faithless! He sternly checked within himself the upspringing throb of his heart. Was it for him to build up a palace of happiness on the wreck of Kate's love?

And Rosmere Wylie resolved to go to Saratoga and survey the field for himself.

Bruce Gaynor was walking up an down the piazza, in the afternoon sunshine. It was certainly very considerate of him to give the young ladies such a fine opportunity of admiring his beautiful eyes and rich Spanish complexion and exquisite figure.

"Have you heard who arrived this morning, Gaynor?"

Col. Melford's hand, laid slightly on Gaynor's shoulders, arrested his sauntering movements.

"No; anyone worth cultivating?"

"Miss Montessor."

"Miss Montessor, the heiress? Why, I thought she was to be among the White Mountains."

"She has changed her mind apparently; at all events, here she is. There's a chance for you, young man."

Bruce Gaynor's handsome eyes sparkled.

"Introduce me."

"Can't, unfortunately; haven't the honor of a personal acquaintance myself, but I can tell you who can."

"Who?"

"Wylie; he came yesterday—Rosmere Wylie, you know; he's a cousin or something of the golden damsel. And there she is now!"

Bruce Gaynor winced a little.

"What! that fat, dowdy little creature by the door? Why, I thought she was a beauty?"

"No, she is, considered from a financial point of view. My dear fellow, don't be hypocritical!"

"Then, she's as fat as a day."

"Very possibly, but only think of her bank stock and railroad shares! Think the matter over."

Bruce Gaynor did think the matter over and made up his mind in very short order.

"Good evening, Mr. Wylie," he said, half an hour or so later, as he encountered Rosmere. "I believe I had the pleasure of meeting you at Wellington."

Mr. Wylie inclined his head.

"I understand Miss Montessor is your cousin, and I have resolved to ask at your hands the privilege of an introduction."

"I shall be happy to oblige you," said Rosmere, with the least perceptible shrug of his shoulders.

So Mr. Gaynor was formally presented in the lists as a candidate for the smiles of Miss Emily Montessor.

She certainly was not handsome. Her hair was thin, and her eyes didn't both look in the same direction. But then Bruce remembered her money.

"I don't really know what to do about Kate Talbot," thought Mr. Gaynor to himself, uneasily twisting up the pink envelope that had wrapped her last glowing, impulsive, loving little epistle. "I was a great fool to allow myself to get so entangled, but it isn't too late yet to back out gracefully. I guess I won't answer her letter; women are generally pretty quick to take a hint of that sort."

Thus cogitating, Bruce Gaynor lighted his cigar with the pink envelope.

And Rosmere Wylie watched the curious developments of the little life drama that was being enacted under his eyes with contemptuous indignation.

"A heartless scoundrel!" he thought. "Kate will be well rid of him. And yet, poor girl, she believes in him."

Yet Rosmere Wylie felt a certain thrill of delight as he thought of Kate Talbot free, disenchanted once from the glamour that had hung around her life.

August was gone; the golden orb of the full September moon was looking calmly into the curtained recess of the huge bay window where Bruce Gaynor sat by Miss Emily Montessor.

"My Emily! my heart's own," he murmured.

"Do you really love me?" Hissed the charmer.

"Ah, Emily, I have felt of late how utterly impossible it will be for me to be happy away from your smiles. You will marry me, dearest? You will give me the right to call you my own?"

"But, Bruce," faltered the fair one, "I am so much older than you."

"A year or so, perhaps, darling; but what does that signify to hearts that are congenial? Say yes, darling."

And Miss Montessor said "Yes."

"But I really am afraid to let my niece know, I'm sure she will oppose it."

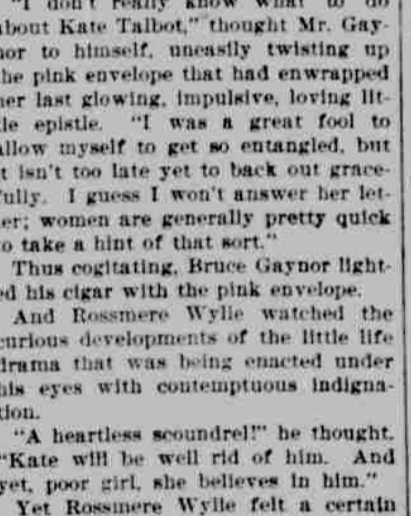
"My love, we will spare her the opportunity; we will go quietly to church to-morrow and be married."

"Oh, Bruce!"

Mr. Gaynor's handsome eyes flashed in triumph; he was sure of the prize at last. Poor, forgotten Kate!

The sudden wedding of the middle-aged Miss Montessor with the chief exquisite of the season made a nine days' sensation at Saratoga. Kate Talbot heard of it in due time and cried a night before she began to realize that she had had a fortunate escape. And Rosmere Wylie came back from Saratoga just in time to catch her heart on the rebound.

While Mr. Wylie and Miss Talbot were gathering grapes and whispering



TRUS COGITATING, BRUCE LIGHTED HIS CIGAR WITH THE PINK ENVELOPE.

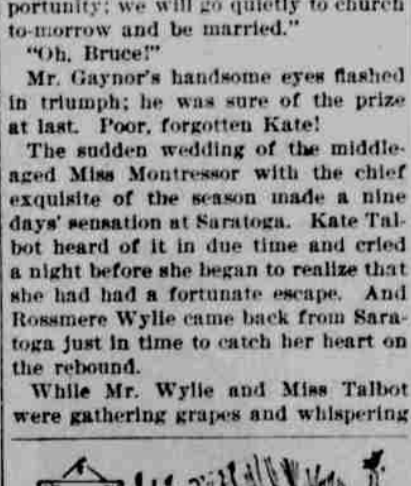
exceedingly interesting little nothings under the green shadow of the arbors at Wellington, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gaynor were enjoying the grandeur of Niagara.

"Sublime!" ejaculated Bruce, gently pressing the hand that lay on his arm.

"Very nice," said Emily absently.

"But I'm so disappointed about this letter from Emmy."

"Who's Emmy?"



TRUS COGITATING, BRUCE LIGHTED HIS CIGAR WITH THE PINK ENVELOPE.

"Why don't you go to work? Why do you waste your time begging?" "Did you ever beg?" "No, of course not."

"Then you don't know what work is." —Tit Bits.

"What are you reading with so much interest?" "I've found a lot of ads in this magazine that have not a hint of Napoleon in them."—Chicago Letter Oct. 4.

LAWS FOR NEBRASKA

WORK OF THE SOLONS IN THE LATE LEGISLATURE.

A Brief Resume of the Principal Bills Passed During the Recent Session of the Nebraska Legislature—Necessitated Signed by Governor Holcomb Since Adjournment—Constitutional Amendments Submitted.

A Total of 129 Bills Passed.

The legislature just adjourned passed a total of 129 bills, exceeding the number of any previous legislature for many sessions. The total number passed in 1893 was seventy, in 1891 seventy-seven, and in 1889, 118. Of the bills passed this session seventy-four originated in the house and fifty-seven in the senate. A few of the more important are mentioned: House bill No. 434, appropriating \$73,000 for the new university building. This was won by a hard fight, owing to the financial condition of the state, the only other appropriations for buildings in the state being \$15,000 for a wing for the asylum for the blind at Nebraska City and \$12,000 for a kitchen for the soldiers' home at Grand Island. The judicial apportionment bill house roll No. 184, gives another district judge to Lancaster county, the only increase made in the state. Union college at College View, will now be able to grant diplomas to its graduates by reason of house roll No. 383. The bill prohibiting the sale or use of oleomargarine and butterine and its manufacture except for export, senate file No. 78, is claimed to effect Nebraskans as closely as any bill that was passed.

The legislature also reduced the interest on state warrants from 7 per cent to 5, which will make a very material saving to the state.

The Australian ballot law was amended by senate file No. 231, so that hereafter no one can run as a republican or democrat or use any party name except the regular nominees, unless the words "by petition" follow on the ballot. This is to prevent misleading by the use of such designations as "straight democrat," "independent republican" and similar designations. It also allows women to sign nomination petitions for officers for whom they can vote at the election.

The age of consent bill, house roll No. 248, makes more stringent the laws protecting girls and places Nebraska among the very few states, less than a half dozen in all, making the age as high as eighteen years.

The sugar and chicory bounty bill, house roll No. 67, has been fully discussed in the press and is well understood.

Two very important irrigation bills were passed, house roll Nos. 332 and 443, covering every feature of irrigation as existing in Colorado, California and other states.

Two important bills relating to town-ship organizations were also passed, house roll Nos. 66 and 77, allowing more nearly a fair representation to inhabitants of towns, by allowing a supervisor to every 1,500 inhabitants instead of 4,000, as now provided, and making other important changes.

The state banking bill, house roll No. 101, is the bill of interest to the banking interests of the state. It creates a series of regulations of state and private banks and creates many safeguards for those who are the patrons and depositors of such banks.

By the provisions of house roll No. 110 the registration of voters is no longer necessary in towns of less than 7,000 inhabitants, and the number of days of registration is made half of what it has been, being three days in the fall and but one day for revision before the spring or special elections.

A list of stockholders in private and state banks is required by house roll No. 238, to be kept for information of the public at all times.

Insurance legislation resulted in two bills, senate No. 132 and house roll No. 246. These allow the formation of assessment and local premium life insurance societies and allow the mutual fire insurance companies to extend their operations to all property instead of being confined to farm property alone, as now. It is also provided that if Nebraska life insurance companies are in any way discriminated against by other states that the insurance department shall impose the same reductions on insurance companies from such states seeking to do business in Nebraska. Governor Holcomb vetoed house roll No. 246, an act to authorize the formation of mutual fire insurance companies in cities and towns.

There are many estates settled under the law of 1889 relating to estates of deceased persons, which was declared by the supreme court to be unconstitutional, and by senate file No. 79 all court proceedings under that act are validated and declared legal.

House roll No. 60 makes it unlawful to sell to minors cigarettes or cigarette material and imposes a penalty.

There has been a flourishing industry in Nebraska of late years in daylight burglary, because if caught and convicted the highest penalty for entering or breaking into a house by daylight was three months in the county jail, with free board at the county's expense.

It is now a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary from one to seven years, and the horde of professionals who have been favoring the state with their presence will probably seek new locations in other states.

Another law, house roll No. 87, is for protection to the farmers. Hog stealing, like daylight burglary, has been much carried on because it was only a misdemeanor when the value of the pro-

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erty taken was \$35, but by the new law the stealing of cattle or of hogs, regardless of value, is made a felony.

The supreme court commission was continued for another term of three years, by senate file No. 9 and by senate file No. 8, bills of exception are allowed in all cases tried by inferior courts or bodies exercising judicial functions. It applies to pending as well as to future cases and is of great interest to litigants in attachment cases in this state.

It has been necessary under the decisions of the supreme court that county auditors should advertise and let separately each bridge built. Senate file No. 258 provides that the board may advertise and let by the linear foot all bridges to be built for a year.

It has heretofore been impossible for public officials to give as sureties on official bonds the guarantee companies that insure the fidelity of private officials, but by senate file No. 340, such bonds may now be accepted.

Hereafter all attorneys in the state will be admitted only by and in the supreme court, instead of the district court, and more stringent provisions and higher qualifications will probably be the result of senate file No. 42.

County boards are allowed by senate file No. 19 to employ attorneys other than the county attorneys when necessary.

Dentistry is to be regulated by a state board, such as the state medical board, by the provisions of senate file No. 29.

The penitentiary is to be taken out of the present hands, if possible, by house roll No. 697, which provides for three appraisers, one to be appointed by the lessee, one by the board of public lands and buildings and one by the governor, to appraise the value of the property and the state to buy it and take charge of the convict labor itself for the next two years.

House roll No. 500 was prepared largely by Auditor Moore and requires a uniform series of vouchers for all claims against the state, properly sworn to, and all persons who have any expectation of getting any money for services or material furnished will have to comply with its provisions.

School districts are hereafter required to keep a register of warrants issued and to pay them in their order, and to register them and to pay 7 per cent thereon, by house roll No. 117 and senate file No. 25.

Any one who has school land leased will need to pay interest only to the date of purchase, instead of for the whole calendar year, as now required, by the new bill, house roll No. 161.

House roll No. 15, allows children in a school district that are nearer to the school house in an adjoining district than to their own, to attend in the adjoining district.

House roll No. 283, allows pupils to attend a high school out of their county on the payment of tuition of a small amount when there is sufficient room for them.

Because so much comment has been caused by the purchase of supplies for the legislature in advance of its session, a new law, house roll No. 585, prescribes that only \$500 worth of supplies can be bought by the secretary of state, and that he shall take charge of all supplies on adjournment and keep them over for the next session.

A branch of the soldiers' home is established at Milford, to be kept free of charge for two years by house roll No. 284, and the building and grounds to be given for \$800 a year rent thereafter if desired by the state, or an option on purchase for \$13,000.

The maximum rate case, decided by Judge Brewer, has been ordered appealed to the supreme court of the United States and appropriation made therefor by house roll No. 208.

A legal newspaper is defined to be one having at least two hundred bona fide subscribers and having an existence of at least one year, by house roll No. 602.

Some of the larger counties are interested in house roll No. 560, which allows a county to be divided by a majority vote instead of a three-fifths vote as now required.

The bill passed over the governor's veto, house roll No. 139, vests the appointment of the board of fire and police commissioners of Omaha in the governor, attorney general and land commissioner.

The twelve constitutional amendments to be submitted at the next presidential election are all important and provision is made for voting for all by one single mark. They are as follows:

Senate file No. 271. Proposed constitutional amendment providing for permanent investment of school funds.

Senate file No. 273, authorizing the legislature to fix salaries of state officers.

Senate file No. 274, providing that government of counties and metropolitan cities may be merged.

Senate file No. 275. Two-thirds of a jury may render a verdict.

Senate file No. 276. Legislature may create appellate court.

Senate file No. 278. Number of supreme court judges to be increased from three to five.

Senate file No. 281, providing for three railroad commissioners to be elected.

Senate file No. 283. Legislature may fix salaries of judges of the supreme and district courts.

Senate file No. 284. Legislature may abolish any office that it creates.

Senate file No. 286. Legislature may once each four years increase the number of judges of the supreme and district courts.

Senate file No. 288. Votes may be by ballot or such other method (voting machine) as may be prescribed by law.

Senate file No. 289, relating to donations by city or county to works of internal improvement.

Since adjournment of the legislature Governor Holcomb signed the following bills:

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House roll No. 612—Making appropriation for the payment of miscellaneous items of indebtedness owing by the state of Nebraska.

House roll No. 550—Prescribing the manner in which two or more proposed amendments to the constitution are to be submitted to a vote of the people.

House roll No. 15—Providing for the attendance of children of school age at a school in a nearer district than their own.

House roll No. 585—To provide for the method of purchasing supplies for the legislature and to regulate the use and the care of same.

House roll No. 110—Providing for the preservation of books, for the registration of voters in cities of the second class having over 1,000 inhabitants.

House roll No. 46—To authorize cities of the second class and incorporated villages to borrow money or issue bonds for the purpose of enlarging or improving water works systems.

House roll No. 382—Providing for the formation of new school districts and defining the boundaries of existing districts.

House roll No. 283—To provide for free attendance at public high schools.

House roll No. 392—To prevent the introduction of contagious diseases and to make quarantine laws for that purpose.

House roll No. 457—Providing for the appointment of officers in villages.

House roll No. 519—To appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for additional shelving and vault for the state library.

House roll No. 420—To provide for the relief of Dakota county, Nebraska.

House roll No. 501—To allow the board of supervisors of Clay county, Nebraska, to compromise the tax sales, the unpaid tax for the year 1874 on certain lands in said Clay county.

House roll No. 492—Appropriating \$900 for a card catalogue for the state university.

House roll No. 67—To punish cattle stealing and to punish persons receiving or buying stolen cattle, and to punish all persons harboring or concealing thieves.

House roll No. 642—Providing for manufacture of imitation butter for exportation outside the limits of the state.

House roll No. 385—To appropriate the matriculation fees of the Nebraska state normal school for a library fund for the use of said school.

House roll No. 234—Appropriating \$5,400 for the relief of Mrs. Weese.

House roll No. 590—Authorizing the state treasurer to transfer \$10,681.79 from the saline land fund to permanent school fund.

House roll No. 445—Fixing the boundary lines of Arthur county.

House roll No. 446—Defining the boundaries of Deuel county.

House roll No. 268—To compel institutions transacting a banking business to keep a list of shareholders for the inspection of the officers of the association.

House roll No. 447—Defining the boundaries of Grant county.

House roll No. 174—To provide for the apportionment of fines, penalties and license moneys in cities and villages having a part of all of two or more school districts within their corporate limits.

House roll No. 101—To establish a state banking board, define and designate state banks and regulate said banks whether commercial or savings.

Senate file No. 79—Legalizing orders, judgments, decrees and findings under the decedent law of 1887, and amending and repealing the act of that year.

House roll No. 348—The age of consent act.

House roll No. 455—Providing for the levy of a tax to create a special fund for the erection of court house and other county buildings.

House roll No. 284—Establishing branch soldiers' and sailors' home at Milford.

Senate file No. 379—Authorizing the issue of bonds by counties, townships, precincts, cities and villages. To construct or aid in the construction of highway wagon bridges across boundary rivers of the state.

Senate file No. 181—The Omaha canal bill.

Senate file No. 159—Authorizing cities of more than 5,000 and less than 25,000 inhabitants to acquire and maintain public parks and borrow the money for such purposes.

House roll No. 31, by Robinson—Reducing interest on state warrants to 5 per cent from and after presentation for payment; emergency clause.

House roll No. 631—Salary appropriation bill.

House roll No. 611—Miscellaneous claims bill.

House roll No. 82, by Beck—To authorize investment of county sinking funds in registered county, city, town or school warrants.

House roll No. 632—General appropriation bill.

House roll No. 560 by Jenness—For the division of a county by a majority vote.

House roll No. 607, an act annulling the prison contract and appropriating \$35,000 for the purchase of Contractor Dorgan's plant, the price to be fixed by appraisers appointed by the governor and board of public lands and buildings.

House roll No. 66, relating to township organization and supervisor system.

Senate file No. 132, regulating mutual benefit associations.

LAWS FOR NEBRASKA

WORK OF THE SOLONS IN THE LATE LEGISLATURE.

Appropriations Itemized.

Bills that have become laws make appropriations as follows:

H. R. No. 611, claims	\$ 60,000 00
H. R. No. 612, claims	25,722 21
H. R. No. 631, salaries	828,078 00
H. R. No. 632, general appropriations	1,075,472 21
H. R. No. 284, Milford soldiers' home	1,000 00
H. R. No. 519, library shelving	2,000 00
H. R. No. 382, matriculation fees	2,300 00
H. R. No. 462, library catalogue	600 00
H. R. No. 286, maximum rate case	21,648 75
H. R. No. 494, university	76,000 00
H. R. No. 534, relief Henry Leishach	50 00
H. R. No. 355, relief William Weese	5,400 00
H. R. No. 420, relief Dakota county	2,215 24
H. R. No. 607, penitentiary contract	86,000 00
H. R. No. 71, legal, fire expenses, officers etc.	85,000 00
H. R. No. 581, legislature expense, incidentals	40,000 00
H. R. No. 118, relief drought sufferers	50,000 00
H. R. No. 525, procuring feed and seed	200,000 00
Total	\$2,702,128 61

One hundred and twenty-four bills have become laws, ten were vetoed, and three of that number were passed over the veto. Six bills have been vetoed since the legislature adjourned.

The laws passed, except those with an emergency clause, do not take effect until August 1, 1895.

Something new could be said of the manifestations of the opal every week. The greatest ingenuity is seen in working it into new and beautiful forms with the aid of diamonds.