

THE BACHELOR'S BUTTON.

Some years ago, when I was a single man, and dreaming (as single men do) of double bills yet destined to arrive, I went to a concert at the musical hall of Boston.

Here was an anti-heretic position to find one of the most devoted of knights, to be remembered as the most honest lover in such a plight? And to make it worse, I could not see how I was to escape from this inevitable dilemma.

I must go down to that dear one's mind as the nefarious plotters of her bracelet. To find her out was impossible; but a bright light struck me, as my eye lighted on a newspaper lying on the coffee-room table. I rang the bell, inquired of the waiter when the local paper was published. 'To-morrow, sir,' he answered. I sat down and wrote an advertisement; it was in the following words:

The lady, whose dress got entangled in a gentleman's coat button in leaving the concert last Wednesday, will call at, or send to the newspaper office, will hear of something to her advantage.

There, I thought, as I gave the advertisement to the boy, and five shillings to pay for insertion in the Traveller—there, that will not give me a clue to escape from a very unpleasant dilemma, and at the same time to know who my enchanter is, the fates must be very unpropitious.

My plan being thus far adopted, I ordered dinner, and waited patiently, or rather impatiently, for the appearance of the newspaper next morning. It was brought up to my room, damp from the press, and then I read, in all the glory of large type, my interesting announcement. But my stars! with what an advertisement it was followed, in the very same column? I only wonder that my hair did not stand on end, as I read as follows:

TWO DOLLARS REWARD—Lost or stolen, on the night of the concert at the Hall, a gold watch chain, with a blue coat with brass buttons, and a lady on leaving the Hall. Any one finding such information as will lead to the recovery of the bracelet, or the capture of the thief, if it was stolen, will receive the above reward, on applying at No. 7, Cambridge Place.

Here was a pretty plight—to be advertised in the public papers as a pick-pocket, when my only crime was, like that of Othello's, that of "Loving not wisely, but too well."

My determination, however, was quickly adopted. I went up stairs, put on the very identical delinquent blue coat, so accurately described, and taking the paper in my hands, proceeded to No. 7, Cambridge Place.

I knocked at the door, and asked the servant who answered, the name of the family. Having heard, I said—"Is Miss Raymond in?" "Yes, sir," replied the servant woman; "who shall I say wants her?" "Tell her," I replied, "that the pick-pocket, with a gentlemanly address, with blue coat, and brass buttons, who stole her bracelet, is here, and wishes to return it to her."

The woman stared at me, as though I were mad; but upon repeating my request to her she went in and delivered my message.

Soon there came out, not my fair one, but a woman of a different aspect. "With all that's best of dark and bright, Meeting in sweet converse," she said, but a stalwart brother.

"That," I said, handing him the bracelet, "is Miss Raymond's property; and, as you perceive, I wear a blue coat with brass buttons, and am flattered to think my manners are not ungentlemanly. I am bound in candor to say I am not a pick-pocket."

"Then, sir, you shall have the reward," said the brother, taking out his purse. "No, I replied, 'forstranges it may appear, though I am no pick-pocket, I stole the lady's bracelet.'"

The man looked puzzled; but when I told the truth, and pointed to my advertisement in the same paper as proof that I did not want to walk off with the property, he laughed heartily at the whole story, and not the least at his sister's description of the gentlemanly pick-pocket.

Col. Ingersoll Left Us. We deeply regret to announce that Col. R. G. Ingersoll and family have probably finally abandoned Peoria as a place of residence.

In common with the entire mass of our citizens we shall deeply miss the Colonel and his family from among us, and in common with that same mass we wish them abundant prosperity and unalloyed happiness in their new home.

Milk producers on the Kankakee river are about to build steam barges to carry their milk to cheese and butter factories.

English experience is that the consumption of a ton of roots produces, on the average, fourteen pounds of mutton or beef.

Peoria, Ill., man has a fish farm stocked with 80,000 California salmon and 20,000 brook trout.

Six average sized figs contain of fattening matter a pint of cod-liver oil, and one does not have to be disgusted after eating them, either.

Wilson's Albany strawberries are a month earlier than 1877. They were from Norfolk, Va., and sold at \$4 a box.

A Swede in Rockford, Ill., has invented and patented a machine which, it is said, knits a stocking, in one piece, at the rate of about one a minute.

The Texas stock-growers own, in the aggregate, 1,024,000 head of cattle, besides horses and mules, and have an enclosed pasture containing 682,000 acres.

A Dennison (Texas) paper says:—'Forty-two thousand bales of cotton, or about two hundred and eighty cars, were shipped to Chicago during the month of December.'

The large number of negroes who have rented farms in Alabama and gone to farming for themselves, has caused a great scarcity of hands among land owners who desire to farm their own land.

The fruit-growers of St. Joseph, Mich., have resolved that for the coming season the sizes of boxes for the sale of small fruit must be a full quart measure, and that peaches, pears, plums, grapes, etc., are to contain one-sixth bushel in each basket.

An Atlanta paper says the sheep feed and Texas are all large logs are cut up into veneers not more than an eighth of an inch thick.

Southern planters are beginning to use Paris green very largely for the destruction of boll worms and army worms in their cotton fields.

In 1846, dressed hogs sold in Iowa at \$1.75 per hundred pounds. At that low price packers lost heavily, being unable to dispose of the product, which was actually given to steamboats to burn for fuel.

The production of tobacco has recently become a very important agricultural interest in Pennsylvania. It is asserted that the State now produces more tobacco than the Connecticut valley, and it is believed that in a few years its crop will be larger than that of Connecticut, Virginia and Missouri.

It is not an unusual thing for the Chaplains of political and legislative bodies to introduce some political advice or suggestions in their petitions to the Almighty.

A letter from Paris, France, to the Lancaster Farmer, says that many plans have been tried to prevent sows from devouring their young; the mother's voracity is due to the pain the young inflict on her when first commencing to suckle.

The word "panic" has a curious origin. According to Herodotus the god Pan was supposed to have assisted the Greeks in the battle of Marathon.

An old Methodist preacher going around among the members of his congregation, came across an old lady in spectacles.

The first bank in the United States was the Bank of North America, organized January 17th 1782, at Philadelphia, and it is still transacting an extensive business in the Quaker City.

A correspondent writes, asking for a "remedy for an apple tree worm." How can we prescribe until we know what is the matter with the worm?

A Boston man was bitten by a rabbit and died of hydrophobia. Muzzle your rabbits at once.

Yes, let's have an American kitchen at the Paris Exposition. The cook must be seated on the cold cook stove reading a novel.

The "go West" fever has again struck many of the Eastern communities with its old-time force.

Under the present management board is put at from \$8 to \$10 per week. Very few women who work for a living can afford to pay such prices for board, and those who can, of all others, have no difficulty in finding plenty of nice places.

Glasgow, Scotland, is the most drunken place in the world, and by no means the most moral in any other respect, but the people are, notwithstanding, such intensely conscientious observers of the Sabbath that, on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's recent visit to the Duke of Hamilton, the Glasgow Workingmen's Protest-Association memorialized the Prince of Wales, praying him not to arrive at Hamilton on Sunday.

As a colored resident of Detroit was breasting the storm with a new umbrella over his head, he was halted by a friend and brother, and asked: "Is that your umbrella?" "Yes, sah—cost me two dollars," was the prompt reply.

"Mr. Savage," said the other, very solemnly, "when a man will buy a two-dollar umbrella to keep the wet off a fifty-cent suit of clothes, what'd he do to talk 'bout 'conomy?"

Captain Maryatt, in his novel of Midshipman Easy, relates how horrified Mrs. Easy was when the young woman who professed her services as wet nurse, blushing informed her she was neither wife nor widow.

"What," said Mrs. Easy, "and yet you had a baby?" "Oh, but please ma'am," replied the girl, "it was such a little one, and besides, Sally Serogge, who is not married either, had twins last week!"

Since the doctors have raised the howl that the bits of wash-leather and India-rubber used in the manufacture of mince pies are unwholesome, if not absolutely injurious, the mince-pie industry has been almost revolutionized, the manufacturers using past-board and basswood veneering, instead of objectionable ingredients.

It is said of Ethan Allen that he once attended a church where the minister made an estimate, the result of which was that out of the whole human race, not more than one in a thousand would be saved.

Some literary friend has said that "a man reads a book for entertainment and instruction. A woman skips all metaphors and similes, and looks for the volume to find out whether the dark-skinned misanthrope married the blue-eyed consumptive."

An unknown hater of Louis Napoleon has badly mutilated a picture in the Paris Luxembourg, by the celebrated Melissier. It represented the late Emperor at the head of his staff. The picture was similarly damaged three years ago.

"Will you always trust me dearest?" he asked, looking down into her great blue eyes with unspoken affection. She was a sales woman in an uptown shirt store, and she told him business was business, and he'd have to pay cash every time.—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

Josh Billings says: Never take a bull by the horns, young man, but take him by the tale, and then you can let go when you want to.

The Rothschilds have a comfortable little fortune of \$3,400,000,000 and are still making money.

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