THE SNOW QUEEN'S GIFT.

Once upon a time two people, who had been married a great many years, were sitting beside their stove, in their comfortable little house, talking to each

"Why did the good Heaven never give us any children?" asked the old man of the old woman. "It seems strange that tipsy Peter Petervitch should have four great sons, and I none, and that women who know nothing of the care of a household should have many daughters, while you have not even one, Veda Nekrasof."

"It is the will of Heaven, Vanza Nekrasof," replied the wife; "but I would be very glad to have a daughter. She would be such a pleasure to us. Fancy her, with her flaxen hair—just what mine was when I was girl-her round, blue eyes, and her plump, white arms, pouring out tea for us on a win-ter night, sitting here and singing to us. We should dress her like a little queen, for you have plenty of money, Vanza! and if she married she should have such a necklace of gold coin as "Bah! and why should she marry? You women always think of that," said

"Well, she should not marry, she would love us too well; but she would be sought in marriage," said the old wife. "We both come of handsome families. My little Ivanyetta would be a beauty, and so good.' "Yes, Ivanyetta would be her name,"

said Vanza. "I like it. Hark! what

"The beating of the snow drift on the door," said Veda. "No, a knock," said Vanza. He arose and went to open it. A white figure stood without in the snow, tall, slender, and seemingly wrapped in

It seemed to Vanza to be no mortal woman, yet he felt that it was no evil "The Christmas days are coming," said the figure. "I bring you a present.

Take care of it. Give it to no other. Swear?" "I swear," said Vanza. He held out his arms. The white figure laid something in them. A great drift of snow rushed in between them

as she did so, and seemed to sweep her The next minute he stood within his room, holding in his arms the most beautiful child his eyes had ever rested

"Heaven has heard us, Veda," he said, "This is nothing evil; and, re-

member, I promised never to give it to Veda crossed herself and took the babe in her arms. A great mother-love welled up in her heart for it; a great

joy, impossible to express. On the next day they had the child baptized, and now they were happy, for no parents had a sweeter, lovelier child. "The angels brought it from heaven," The little Ivanyetta grew apace. She never disobeyed her parents. She was devout and neat as well as beautiful.

When she was a tall, young maiden with long, golden braids down her back, she allowed old Veda Nekrasof to do none of the household work. Often the old people sat beside the stove while she sang to them and brought them hot there are four pair of trousers hanging tea, and remembered the days when they wished for a daughter. They were very happy, but happiness cannot keep age away. They grew old in twenty years, for they were already long past middle age when the child came to them. And now the young men of the neighborhood began to sue for the hand dred soul to share the joys and sorrows of Ivanyetta Nekrasof—the tall, young that walk, twin like, with us through all son of the doctor, the schoolmaster's the varied scenes of life?" "Well, nephew, the young tea merchant, who | widow," sighed the old deacon, in reand all the people said-

"We cannot give our child away. We have made a vow before Heaven. For a long while Ivanyetta was, glad to hear them say so, but one day a stranger came, a youth from Denmark, who sang divinely, who said things to her that no one had ever said before. She lost her heart to him, and now it seemed cruel to her that her fate should be like that of no other maiden on earth. She wept in secret, but she was too good to disobey those whom she knew as mother and father; and so they loved each other—the young Dane and herself, and waited.

"We are growing very old," said Vanza Nekrasof; "in due time God will take us away from earth. Then Ivan-yetta will be alone. We cannot give her away, but after us it will be as God

"May you live long, my good father," said Edwin the Dane. "Meanwhile, I will be a brother to Ivanyetta." And while Edwin's soft moustache changed to a long beard, and his shoulders broadened and his frame grew taller.

She was thirty when Venza Nekrasof and his wife one day fell ill of a fever that swept through the village. It was a pestilence which spared none that it touched; but Ivanyetta kept her place beside their bed and held their hands

When they died she wept bitterly, but the fever did not touch her. The old people lay at rest at last. Their beside the bier knelt Ivanyetta, her her lover, watched her from afar. She | will feel called upon to-to-" had forbidden him to approach her.

The solemn service began. The more reverent veiled their eyes, but the young people who looked up saw a strange sight. The snow was drifting through a window in the roof, and falling upon the head and shoulders of Ivanyetta. She did not stir. The prayer went on, the music wailed over the dead. The friends arose; all was ready for the burial. But, behold! at the foot of the altar the pile of drifting snow, that half-covered the form of the kneeling girl, arose toward the motionless bodies of the adopted parents.
"Look, Edwin, look!" whispered a

The lover uncovered his eyes. He had been praying and weeping; he

ried his friend.

Edwin rushed forward. But at that guess I'll take a walk." instant the doors were opened for the bearers, who had lifted the bier to their shoulders. A great drift of powdery snow swept in. Some people afterward said that they saw a woman in white fur, with a child in her arms, following in the funeral train; but from that moment human eyes never again saw the beautiful form of Ivanyetta Nekrasof.

The Princess Beatrice. Beatrice, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland, leads a dreary sort of life divided between O-borne, Windsor, and Balmoral. She has no definite duties except now and again to stand in full dress near her Royal mother at some excee ingly uninteresting State cere-

Que waks in Windsor Park be majesty of England is still with her. Full of fun and high animal spirits, she is bound down by a rigid Court eliquet which must be insufferably galling.

HUMOR.

About the only person that we ever heard of that wasn't spoiled by being lionized was a Jew named Daniel.—G. Sensible advice to all-Says Aaron to Moses, "I've got trichinois!" Says Moses to Aaron, "You shouldn't pork fare

on!"-Punch. A double Experience—"Shall I read you a pretty story, Effle?" "Has it got a moral to it?" "Yes, darling." "Then, Mumsey, I'd rather not. A story with a moral is like jam with a

powder in it.' If a girl has pretty teeth she laughs often, if she's got a pretty foot she'll wear a short dress, and if she's got a neat hand she's fond of a game of whist; and if the reverse, she dislikes all these

As a lady was viewing herself in a mirror, she said to her daughter: "What would you give to be as hand-some as I am?" Just as much," replied the daughter, "as you would give to be as young as I am."

"How do you like my spring clothes?" asked Leander. "Pretty well," replied Hero, doubtfully, and then added: "But I think I should like you better in a walking suit." He sat wrapt in silent thought for about five minutes, and then got up and walked slowly away in the suit he had on.

It was their first night aboard the steamer. "At last," he said, tenderly, "we are all alone, out upon the deep waters, of the dark blue sea, and your heart will always beat for me as it has beat in the past?" "My heart's all right," she answered, languidly, "but my stomach feels awful."

Refinements of modern speech.-Fair Intense One-"Have you seen the old masters at Burlington house?" Bashful youth (fresh from Marlborough, and better at cricket and football than æsthetic conversation)-"No that is-I | thoroughbreds, many of which could mean, yes!" Fair Intense One-" Are they not really quite too too!!

Everybody on the Champs Elysees, Paris, stopped one day to turn and look at a certain young lady. She attributed this admiration to her new dress and personal charms, but no! it was an advertising agent of an umbrella firm who had pinned on her chignon a business the Sierra Nevadas, and made his ride

She raised a paper rule to strike her husband, and, as it happened, the rear end of it grazed her chin and drew blood, whereupon she tumbled all in a heap in the middle of the floor and howled piteously. But he only remarked with the utmost composure: "My love, it's a poor rule that won't work both

"Little baby is very ill, Charley; I am afraid he is going to die." "Well, if he dies, mamma, he won't go to the bad place." "Why, Charley, how can you know that?" "O I know he can't, mamma, he's got no teeth to gnash." Ohio is said to be excited because the son of a Baptist minister has married the daughter of a Jewish rabbi.

sumption of pork is certain to create St. Joseph, he was one hour behind Chronicle Herald. "You ain't taking any stock in wom-an's love, eh?" "No," he answered, despondently, "it's all flummery. "Very strange," added his friend. "You didn't use to talk that way."

up in my closet waiting to be patched, and not a stitch taken in them yet." "Deacon," said a widow, as she heaved a long drawn sigh, and softly raised two tear-bejeweled eyes to his, "don't you sometimes have a yearning

was believed to be so rich-but to each | ply, "I've kinder had a yearning all the evenin', but I thought maybe it was them cold beans I eat for supper." Calabash Sam—Why He Consented to Ab ruptly Leave Gunnison City.

Leadville Chronicle.] Three months ago, when two hundred of the leading citizens of Gunnison City met in convention on a street corner, there were seven or eight Michigan men among the crowd. When Colonel Parker presented the following resolution it was a Michigan man who

"Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to wait upon Calabash Sam, late of Deadwood, and inform him that after sunrise to-morrow this crowd will open fire on him with the intention of furnishing a corpse for our new graveyard."

The committee of five went out to find Samuel and deliver their message. He sat on a bench at the door of his shanty, a shotgun across his knees and so the years passed on, bringing no change to the girl's beauty. She was fair and young, and delicate as ever, mittee read the resolution. Then he silence while the chairman of the committee read the resolution. Then he

"That means me, does it?" "They don't like my style of carving and shooting, ch?"

"That's what they kick on." "Well, I won't go. You haven't got nuf men in the whole valley to drive Calabash Sam a rod. Return to the convention and report that I'm here

"I forgot to menshun," continued the chairman, in a careless voice, as he forms were placed upon a bier in the aisle of the old church. The neighbors that the convenshun had adjourned. The committee thus finds itself in an knelt, many of them weeping. Close | embarrassing situation, and it sees only one way out of it. Onless you'll agree head cowed upon her hands. Edwin, to pi k up and travel, this committee

"To begin shooting, you mean?"
"Exactly, Samual, exactly! You may have already observed that two of the committee have got the drop on

"Corpses which are riddled with buckshot have a very unpleasant look," continued the chairman, as he rested his chin on the muzzle of his gun.

"Yes, that's so." "And it's kinder lonesome, this being the first plant in the new burying

"And so, take it all around, the committee kinder indulges in the hope that you will see fit to carry your valuable society back to the Black Hills. You may have observed that three shotguns,

"Right off?" "Yes." "Right up this trail?"

"Very well. While the committee feels sorry to see you go, and wishes you all sorts of luck, it hasn't time to shake hands. Step off, now, and for fear you ain't used to walking, we'll keep these guns pinted up the hill until you turn the half-mile bowlder. Trala

The plug hat is a sort of social guarantee for the preservation of peace and order. He who puts one on has given a hostage to the community for his good behavior. The wearer of a plug hat must move with a certain sedateness and propriety. He can not run, or jump, or romp, or get into a fight, except at the peril of his headgear. All the hidden influences of the beaver tend toward respectability.

Across The Plains.

St Jeseph (Mo.) News. In 1859 St. Joseph was the western termines of railroad communication Beyond the stage coach, the saddle horse and the ox trains were the only means of commerce and communication with the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Slope. In the winter of 1860 there was a Wall street lobby at Washington trying to get \$4,000,000 for carrying the mail overland one year between New York and San Francisco.
The proposition was extremely "cheeky,"
and William H. Russell, backed by
Secretary of War Floyd, resolved to
give the lobby a cold shower bath. He therefore offered to bet \$200,000 that he could put on a mail line from Sac-ramento to St. Joseph that should make the distance-1,950 miles-in ten days. The bet was taken and the 8th of April fixed upon as the day for starting. Mr. Russell told his partner and general manager of business upon the plains, Mr. A. B. Miller, what he had done, and asked if he could perform the feat.
Mr. Miller replied: "Yes, sir, I will do
it by pony express." To accomplish
this Mr. Miller purchased 300 of the fleetest horses he could find in the West and employed 125 men. Eighty of those men were to be post riders. These he selected with reference to their light weight and their known daring and courage. It was very essential that some parts of the route should be run at the rate of twenty miles an hour. The horses were stationed from ten to twenty miles apart, and each rider would be required to ride sixty miles. For the change of animals and the shifting of the mails two minutes were allowed. Where there were no stage stations at proper distances tents sufficient to hold one man and two horses were provided. Indians would sometimes give chase, their cayuse ponies made but sorry show in their stern chase after Miller's make a single mile in a minute and fifty seconds. Arrangements being completed a sig-

nal gun on the steamer at Sacramento roclaimed the meridian of April 8, 860, the hour for starting, when Border Ruffian, Mr. Miller's private saddle horse, with Billy Baker in the saddle, bounded away toward the foothills of of twenty miles in forty-nine minutes. The snows were deep in the mountains, and one rider was lost for several hours in a snow storm; and after the Salt Lake Valley was reached additional speed became necessary to reach St. Joseph on time. From here on all went well until the Platte was to be crossed at Julesburg. The river was up and running rapidly, but the rider plunged his horse into the flood, only, however, to mire in the quicksand and drown. The courier succeeded in reaching the shore, with mail-bag in hand, and traveled ten miles on foot to reach the next relay. Johnny Fry, a popular rider of his day, was to make the finish. He had sixty miles to ride, with six horses to do it. When the last courier Anything that tends to retard the con- arrived at the sixty-mile post, out from n excitement in Ohio .- Philadelphia | time, a heavy rain had set in and the roads were slippery. Two hundred thousand dollars might turn upon a single minute. Fry had just three hours and thirty minutes in which to win. This was the finish of the longest race, for the largest stakes, ever run in America. When the time for his arrival was nearly up, at least five thousand people stood upon the river bank, with eyes turned toward the woods from which the horse and its rider should emerge into the open country in the rear of Elwood, one mile from the finish. Tick, tick, went thousands of watches! The time was nearly up! But seven minutes remained! Hark! a shout goes up from the assembled multitude. "He come! he comes!" The noble little mare, Sylph, the daughter of Little Arthur, darts like an arrow from the bow and makes the run of the last mile

one minute and fifty seconds, landing upon the ferryboat with five minutes and a fraction to spare. A Woman Outwitted. In the Central Court, London, a prisoner accused of counterfeiting coin requested permission to ask a question just before the case went to the jury, and the prosecution counsel conceded the favor, or rather requested the judge to concede it. The prisoner was a straight, well-built fellow of 35, clearly convicted on the evidence. "I wish to ask the policeman," he said, "on whose information he arrested me?" The question was objected to as tending to reveal detective's secrets. The prisoner tried it again: "Was it a woman who gave you the information upon which you arrested me?" A second time objection was made, but the judge commanded the officer to answer. "It was," he replied. "Do you see her in court? Is that the woman?" asked the prisoner, pointing to a rather showily-dressed woman with handsome features, but a cold, disdainful expression of face. "It is," answered the policeman. "She is my wife," the prisoner said, calmly, and, receiving permission from the judge to say a few words, he added: "I have served seven years on a similar charge to that now preferred against me. If I am again convicted you will give me at least one and twenty years, and that will end my life. Before you do so I would like you to know the whole truth of this affair. I married young. My wife unexpectedly showed extravagant tastes and very expensive habits. I was very fond of her, and did all I could to content her. Honestly I could not keep pace with her desires, and we took to coining. She was with me in all my operations, aided in the work, assisted in passing the money. When we were taken the evidence was just as strong against her as against me. In answer to questions I put to my counsel I was told that if I pleaded guilty and said I had compelled her to help me, she would get off. I did so, and she was acquitted. I was sen-tenced to seven years' penal servitude. I served my full time, and came back to London determined to lead an honest life and restore my wife to an honest home." He went on to tell how he had found her living with another man, a former comrade named Foster, and had forgiven her faithlessness after a desperate struggle with himself, and had set to work to earn an honest living. The woman pleaded for delay in breaking off her illicit connection, but finally could hardly see.

"What is it?" he cried. "Is it a mantle of white fur that has fallen on Ivanyetta's shoulders?"

"It is snow from the window above," cried his friend.

"It is snow from the window above," cried his friend.

"It is snow from the window above," cried his friend.

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"Well, after looking the matter all over, in convinced that these diggins won't pan out low grade ore, and I took the former coiner into custody on the woman's information, and the package which she had put in his hand was found to contain false silver coinage.

> scription was taken up for the prisoner. Life's Brief Candle-

clearly, and with a few questions the judge tested the truth of it. He then

ordered the jury to acquit, and a sub-

This "death" business is a strange affair. Here we sit, smoke, chat, and discuss with a friend to-day. To-mor-row we read of his death, and next day send flowers to his funeral. What is it that goes away from us? And being out, where does the thing go to? It doesn't seem exactly fair to put a fel-low here with faculties and chances, and just as he begins to see how to use the one and improve the other to take him away again. We had no choice about coming, and we have none about going. So where's the free agency idea ing in!-Joe Howard.



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Iowa Get, 18th, 1879.—I am almost surprised at your Pastless. They have worked like a charm on me. I am just twice no musch of a man as I was before taking. I was on the verge of the grave, I thought, and there was no cure for me, but new I am in good house of the cure for me, but new I am in good house of the parket of the cure.

West Vingnia, Aug. 28, 1879.—I received your medicine, and I believe it has cured me, for which I am very thankful. Inclosed please find 25, for which please send me another but the market was the first read. You have done a great thing for me.

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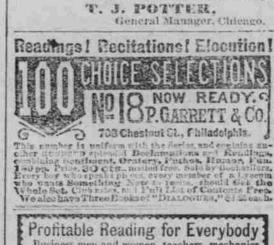
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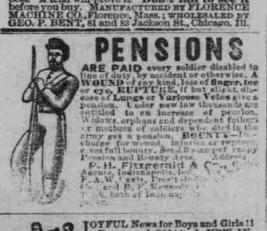
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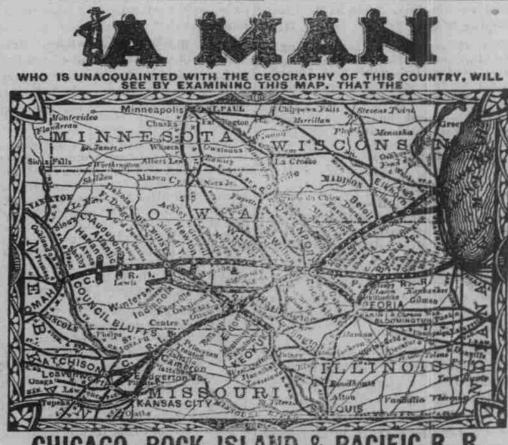
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