

# GOOD Short Stories

Talking about "graft" and "grafters," the other day, "Bib Bill" Devery remarked: "Say, the people as talk about graft are the gingerbread. If you had the right scent you could go off on a hop too after grafters some night, and land a long ways from the Bowery. Some of the ablest grafters are in that high-toned class where to mention their names with 'graft' would be as bad as lightin' a cigar in church Sunday morning. Say, did you hear about the deaf and dumb man that got his hands dirty tellin' 'sunny stories'?"

Some weeks ago, several friends of Senator Blackburn found him absorbed in the act of reading the President's message. As he read, he chuckled to himself, and finally their curiosity became so aroused that one of them approached the Senator from Kentucky, and asked for the joke. "It has just occurred to me," solemnly observed the Senator, "that Mr. Roosevelt's English does not coruscate with the pyrotechnic scintillations of obsolescent linguosity which so extensively illuminated the incubations and ululations of President Cleveland."

In his "Random Recollections," Charles H. E. Brookfield, a highly esteemed actor on the London stage, says: "I remember a piece which we produced at the Comedy Theater, written by a popular author, and very strongly cast, which amused us all so much that we could hardly release it. Charles Hawtrey used every now and then to warn us: 'Now don't speak too soon on that; there's certain to be a big laugh, and we don't want them to miss the next line.' We rehearsed for six weeks. On the first night nothing went wrong—but the piece. There was not one laugh nor one round of applause from start to finish. We took off the comedy in ten days, during which we rehearsed as a stop gap a conventional three-act farce with no literary pretensions. I think it ran for a year."

Nat Goodwin, Daniel Frohman, and several other men were standing in the lobby of Daly's Theater in New York the other day before the matinee, when some one suggested to Goodwin that he would be afraid to go on the stage in the second act of "The Billionaire." In this act the scene represents a theater, with a stage, seats, and boxes. There are people in the seats and boxes and a performance on the mimic stage. Goodwin was dared to occupy one of the boxes of the mimic theater. He said he wasn't afraid, and, when the second act began, walked out on the stage, much to the surprise of every one, including the actors. "Don't get frightened," he said to the leading comedian, Jerome Sykes, in a voice loud enough to be heard all over the theater; "it's only your old college chum. Aren't you glad to see me? I was looking for Mrs. Osborne's playhouse and drifted in here by mistake; that's all. Now, go ahead with your little show. Don't mind me. I'll be good." On the mimic stage the players were trying to continue the performance, but the real audience would not have it so. They had recognized Mr. Goodwin, and the ovation he received was tremendous. Finally a little page was able to announce that "Mrs. Patti has disappeared." "Fortunately, I am prepared," broke in Mr. Sykes, in his part as manager, rising and leaning toward the box in which Mr. Goodwin had been sitting, but it was a moment too late—too late, too, for the green calcium light to be thrown on the face of Mr. Goodwin, innocent as it was of make-up, as Mr. Sykes had hastily given instructions should be done. But the bird had flown, and this bit of by-play was lost to the audience.

### CRADLE OF LIBERTY.

Places in New England that Abound in Interest.

If the most sacred buildings in Boston and Philadelphia are properly rivals in claiming the title of the Cradle of Liberty than here in the Champlain Valley of Vermont is surely the scene of its birth, comments a writer in Harper's Magazine. From this eye of Rochester Mountain one may see the great "lake that is the gate to the country," as the Indians named Lake Champlain; one may see the Otter up which the paint-smeared savages crept to make their murderous attacks deep in Connecticut and Massachusetts; one may see where Teonderoga lies in shameful abandonment, the spot where Champlain fought the red men of 293 years ago, where the French built their most important fort in the chain that ran from Montreal to New Orleans; where Amherst took it from them; where our dashing friend and leader, young Lord Howe, fell and was securely buried.

It required but little imagination for the mind's eye to see the path that Ethan Allen and his band took to gain, at this fortress, our first great victory in the revolutionary war. From where the church spires marked the seats of Rutland, Pittsford, Brandon, Whiting, Castleton and Middlebury, one fancied he might almost see again, the tall, rugged "mountain boys" stalking the trails to the rendezvous with Allen at Shoreham—newly noted now as the birthplace of Levi P. Morton.

All of these villages are prosperous and beautiful places to-day—the summer resorts of well-to-do folks from a score of distant cities. Even the edge of the rich valley, where the lake waters lap the Vermont shore, now shows the beginning of a movement to stud the lakeside and the islands in the lake with the summer hotels and palatial mansions set in great estates.

### BENEFIT OF TONICS.

Need Is Manifested After Illnesses of All Sorts.

The need for medical tonics is manifested after illness of all sorts, and in conditions of physical depression which so readily expose the sufferer to the inroads of disease that they are commonly regarded as themselves but initiatory symptoms of diseases.

Young children and the aged, particularly, obtain benefit from tonic medicines, especially in states of malnutrition without definite signs of disease; but in youth and middle age it is frequently better to improve depressed vitality by strictly hygienic measures.

Flabby muscles, due to illness or disease, respond to no tonic so well as to massage and gradually progressive use. Quick, light exercises are invariably better than heavy and laborious exercises.

The value of moderate muscular exercise as a tonic to the heart is well recognized by physicians. The absolute quiet sometimes enjoined upon persons suffering from certain diseases of the heart is a measure employed, as a rule, only to meet a crisis. When the crisis is passed progressive muscular exercises are prescribed.

When the intestinal tract suffers from lack of tonicity, variety in diet is usually a better and more effective remedy than medicine. Oatmeal, peas, beans and certain cereals, although they contain an immense amount of nutrition, are difficult of assimilation, especially when not subjected to thorough cooking. The digestive organs may be strained by the task of reducing such concentrated foods to the uses of the body.

A diet composed largely or exclusively of milk used for a time may in itself prove sufficient rest to the stomach to

enable it to regain its normal activity. Many other "restful" foods might also be temporarily employed.

It must be stated that many who are supposed to suffer from a need of general tonics suffer rather from the lack of work to employ their hands and brains. The pleasure of accomplishment is one of nature's own tonics. Of the many who are worried and driven by daily cares and whose health actually suffers therefrom, most might escape the ill effects by temporary diversion. Some "fad" might well be cultivated. The tonic effects of travel or change of scene cease to be effective when the depressing physical effects of the daily grind have been carried to the last extreme. It is difficult to prescribe rest in small and frequently repeated doses for the restless, driving man of affairs. To such a "hobby" is of the greatest use. It may become a valuable aid to the acquisition of renewed health.—Yonita's Companion.

### JUSTICE IN MOROCCO.

Scene at the Summary Execution of an Assassin.

An article describing the arrest and execution of the Moorish fanatic who murdered Dr. Cooper, a British missionary, in Fez, on October 17, appears in the London Times from the Fox correspondent of that journal. After mentioning the arrest of the assassin in the shine, where he had taken refuge, the correspondent says:

"Within half an hour the assassin was brought into the sultan's presence. His majesty, who was seated in a chair under a tall archway, in full sight of all his viziers, officials and some hundreds of troops, ordered the prisoner to be brought before him. Mr. Hastings and myself stood by his majesty's side, in order that we might hear what passed. The murderer was a man of apparently some 40 years of age, of tall stature and not unpleasant countenance.

"He confessed to deliberately shooting Dr. Cooper because he was a Christian. Up to this time the news of Dr. Cooper's death had not been received. The sultan therefore ordered the man to be publicly flogged for his attack upon Dr. Cooper, and the man received several hundred blows from leather thongs across his hips and thighs, administered by soldiers in the presence of his majesty and the entire court and troops. He bore this thrashing with great fortitude, and on its completion was able to rise up without assistance and walk.

"He was then ordered to be publicly exhibited in the streets; and, mounted upon a donkey and guarded by soldiers, he was taken from the palace for this purpose.

"It was at this moment that the news of Dr. Cooper's death was received. The sultan, who was still seated in the great courtyard of the palace, ordered the public exhibition of the murderer stopped and, after consultation with his viziers, he commanded the man's immediate execution, requesting Mr. Hastings and myself to be present, together with all the viziers.

"In a quarter of an hour all was over. The murderer was shot in the arsenal square, which had been quickly cleared of the usual crowd of people. He remained extraordinarily plucky to the end."

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### Point Tresse" Lacc.

"Point tresse" is a very rare kind of lace made of human hair. Its production was confined to the early part of the sixteenth century. Margaret, Countess of Lennox, the mother of the wretched Darnley, sent from the tower, where she was imprisoned when her son, Lord Charles Lennox, married the daughter of Boss of Hardsleke, a piece of this kind of lace to Mary Queen of Scots. This curious little square of point tresse was worked by the old countess' hands from her own gray hair.—London Globe.

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### LITTLE TOWN ALMOST BURNED OUT

Shops and Stores Destroyed at Springfield, Neb.—Whole Business District Wiped Out

Springfield, Neb., March 21.—Fire early Thursday destroyed every place of business in this village, entailing a loss of \$50,000.

Ten stores and shops were burned, the largest loss being that of W. M. Kreek, dry goods and groceries and warehouse, \$20,000.

Spearman's bank building and a number of smaller structures were also badly damaged. The town has no protection.

The blaze started in Bates' drug store and is supposed to have been of incendiary origin.

Springfield is a small town in Sarpy county, through which runs the Missouri Pacific railroad. Among the burned buildings was that of the telephone exchange.

### Killed By a Woman.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 21.—Superintendent of Police Bull said today that his opinion as to who killed Edwin L. Burdick had not been changed at any time since the murder.

"I believe a woman killed Burdick," he declared, "and I suspect the same woman now that I did the day of the murder. I believe Mr. Cusack and the district attorney are of quite the same opinion."

The foregoing statement was made by the superintendent in an interview denying a published report which quoted him as saying:

"It looks more like Pennell's job than at any time since the murder."

Former District Attorney Thomas Penney said today:

"Not a dollar of Mr. Pennell's life insurance will go to Mrs. Burdick." Mr. Penney made this statement in view of the publication of a report that only \$25,000 of the enormous insurance carried by Mr. Pennell was made payable to his estate. The circumstances have given rise to surmises that Mrs. Burdick might be the chief beneficiary.

The general manager of a New York insurance company, confirmed the statement of Mr. Pennell. "Mr. Pennell has \$30,000 life insurance in our company," he said, "and this is made payable to his estate. From all I have heard I believe that the rest of his life insurance will be found to be payable to his estate or to his family."

### The Stranger Died Alone.

Grand Island, Neb., March 21.—At five o'clock this afternoon the dead body of a neat appearing man was found in his room at the Union restaurant. The man had come to the restaurant late last night. At 9 o'clock this morning a chambermaid about to make the room noticed a man in bed, and presumed he was sleeping. Late this afternoon the maid went to the room and noticed that the man was in exactly the same position. An investigation proved that he was dead.

In a letter written to "My dear wife" and addressed to Mrs. O. L. Erickson, the writer said he had had a fall and hurt his side, but expected he would be better in the morning.

He is believed to be a hiveryman and until recently in business at His g. His death was undoubtedly due to natural causes. Cash to the amount of \$25 was found in his clothes.

### Caught Between Two Trains.

Phillipsdale, R. I., March 21.—Three women were instantly killed and a fourth was probably fatally injured while walking from Pawtucket to this place on the tracks of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad today. The victims in trying to avoid a train were struck by an engine on another track.

### May Not Be a Suicide.

Beatrice, Neb., March 21.—Dr D. A. Walden returned tonight from Hoag, where he had an autopsy on the remains of Paul Schindler, who was found dead there last night.

Coroner Walden considered the circumstances very suspicious. The opening was larger than would be made by a 22 caliber bullet, the rifle did not appear to have been used and it was lying under the foot of the bed covered with a blanket. Schindler's body lay in the door about half way outside. The range of the bullet was almost directly downward from the left shoulder, piercing the lungs and heart. The ceiling of the shanty where he lived is so low that no one of his height could hold the rifle in the position necessary to inflict such a wound. The head of the bed was flush with the door.

Dr. Walden, sr., said that he was unable to find the bullet, that he removed everything from the viscera and searched and re-searched but no bullet could be found. He did not attempt to explain this strange feature. "The inquest will be continued."

### Prisoners Saved Sheriff.

Walnut Ridge, Ark., March 21.—Sheriff James E. McCall, in company with his wife and baby and having in charge two prisoners, while attempting to cross the swollen Black river was thrown into the water by the overturning of the skiff. The baby was drowned but the sheriff and his wife were saved through the aid of the prisoners who afterward went unattended to the county jail and knocked for admission.

### CASTRO TO QUIT

PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA TENDERS RESIGNATION.

### HAD FIVE YEARS TO SERVE

BEGAN AS DICTATOR, BUT LATER LEGALLY ELECTED.

### NEWS AT WASHINGTON

Intimation Given That Office Will Stay in Family or Congress May Refuse to Accept Resignation.

Caracas, March 23.—President Castro has resigned. He placed his resignation of the presidency of the republic of Venezuela in the hands of the president of congress after reading the presidential message.

Senor Castro handed over the exercises of the presidential functions to the president of congress.

In the ordinary course of events President Castro's term would have ended February 20, 1908. He was elected president of Venezuela, in February last for six years, beginning February 20, 1902. He had been elected provisional president of Venezuela on March 30, 1901, by the constituent assembly. Senor Castro, when the presidency changed hands sometime previous to that date, had proclaimed himself president and the United States government in November, 1899, had officially recognized the de facto government headed by him.

The action of the constituent assembly legalized his position and invested him with the full powers of a presidential ruler to the limit of its authority. Up to that time while being generally recognized as president of Venezuela he had in reality been simply dictator of the republic. A year later, as already stated, the Venezuelan congress ratified his election and regularly installed him as president of Venezuela for a term of six years, dating from February 20, 1902.

Washington, March 23.—The first intimation received by Secretary Hay of President Castro's resignation was given him by the Associated press dispatch announcing the fact. He would not discuss the matter, however, beyond stating that the news was unexpected. Herbert W. Bowen, Venezuela's plenipotentiary here, likewise had not been informed until shown the dispatch. Until officially advised he said he would be unable to give expression to any views on the subject.

From an authoritative quarter, however, it was learned that this move on the part of President Castro has long been contemplated. Representations were made to him several months ago by the leaders of Venezuela that his resignation would have the effect of enabling the people of that country to present a solid front to the world in the matters in controversy with the several powers. The statement was made that the resignation is the result of a secret agreement with the leaders referred to that President Castro should temporarily relinquish his office pending the adjustment of the matters which Minister Bowen has in hand. It was intimated by the Associated press informant that while President Castro nominally gives up his office it is the intention to keep it within the family by an arrangement to make Castro's brother vice president so that he would succeed to the presidency.

It is the belief here, based on information which has been up to now kept inviolate that the present plan is to allow President Castro to remain out of office for a short time and then re-elect him at the next election Mr. Pulido, the Venezuelan charge d'affaires is absent from Washington and it was stated is now on his way to the Venezuelan capital. Secretary Hay tonight received a dispatch from Mr. Russell, the United States charge at Caracas, confirming the report of President Castro's resignation, but stating that he doubted if the Venezuelan congress would accept it.

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### Murder in First Degree.

Des Moines, March 23.—James Burns, accused of the murder of Corcoran, was found guilty of murder in the first degree this morning, after the jury had been out fifteen hours. Life imprisonment was recommended.

Aaron and Carrie Baites and White Beveridge are to be tried for complicity. Corcoran was fatally drugged and then robbed in the Baites resort two months ago.

### Pure Water for Engines.

Chicago, Ill., March 23.—The management of the Union Pacific closed a contract with a Chicago company today for the construction of twenty-five water purifying plants to be constructed on that system between Omaha and Salt Lake City. The order is the largest of the kind ever given in this or any other country, and contemplates the expenditure of at least \$1,500,000.

### GREAT FIGHT IS ON.

Revolution in Full Swing in Santo Domingo— Rebels in Full Possession.

San Domingo, Republic of Santo Domingo, March 21.—The revolutionists have attacked and captured one of the forts defending this city. Many men were killed on both sides. The fighting continues.

The garrison at Fort San Carlos, about two miles from this city, has declared itself in favor of the revolutionists.

President Vasquez is absent in the interior of the republic.

General Pepphi at the head of a force of revolutionists, attacked the fort at 1 o'clock this afternoon and released the political prisoners.

Many persons have been killed or wounded in the streets. The stores are all closed and business is at a standstill.

Serious consequences are expected to result from the fighting between the government forces and the revolutionists.

The revolutionists are in full possession of the city of San Domingo. They have taken charge of the cable office and of the government land lines.

Foreign Minister Sanchez has sought refuge in the United States consulate. The fighting continues.

Assistant Governor Echenique and the commander of the government forces, General Pena, have been killed.

It is expected that the government troops outside the city will attack the revolutionists who are in San Domingo.

General Wos Gil has assumed command of the revolutionary forces. The number of men killed or wounded is not known, but it is reported many have been killed on both sides.

Washington, March 21.—United States Consul General Maxwell, at San Domingo, has cabled the state department that a revolution has broken out in that city, and at the hour he sent the cablegram heavy firing was in progress.

### No Foundation For Charges.

Washington, March 24.—Secretary Root today took official action on the charges made by Estes G. Rathbone against Brig. Gen. Leonard Wood.

He made an endorsement on the papers, saying that no answer to the charges was required from General Wood and no action will be taken thereon; that it was known to the secretary of war that the charges in every respect were without just foundation.

The secretary refers to the part taken by the military governor in the postoffice cases in which Rathbone was defendant, saying that General Wood at every step had the approval of the secretary of war and exercised only such control as was necessary as military governor.

He refers to the game of "jalali" and declares that the gift accepted by General Wood had no relation whatever of any official action of his, but was part of the expression of gratitude of the Cuban people toward the representative of the United States, and to have refused the gift would have been discourteous and unjustifiable.

The action of the customs officials in reference to the gift, the secretary says, was strictly in accordance with the law and official propriety. The endorsement closes as follows:

"There is no foundation for the charges."

### Gas Explodes in a Mine.

Springfield, Ill., March 24.—A terrible explosion of gas in the mine of the Athens Coal company at Athens, Menard county, twenty miles north of Springfield, today resulted in the death of six men and one being seriously injured.

An entry in the mine had been for some time stopped up on account of gas, and this morning an attempt was made to open it by drilling another entry, in order to allow air to enter and the gas to escape.

While engaged in this work a miner fired through to the stopped up chamber, causing a terrific explosion of gas, which had accumulated in the chamber. Nine men were in the mine and as a result of the explosion six were killed outright and one was badly injured. Two men escaped. Some of the men killed were 100 feet away from where the explosion occurred.

### Iowa Having a Snowstorm.

Des Moines, Ia., March 24.—During the night three inches of snow fell throughout Des Moines valley. Reports from all over the state indicate that the storm is general but the railroads will not experience any difficulty, unless it should turn suddenly cold and freeze.

Peoria, Ill., March 24.—Today a heavy, wet snowstorm started to fall in considerable quantities.

### Fire at Grand Rapids, Mich.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 24.—Fire at the large greenhouse plant of Henry Smith, just west of this city, resulted in the loss of one life and \$53,000 damage to property today. The blaze started in the boiler room, presumably from the explosion of a lantern carried by Daniel McQueen, one of the employes who was afterwards found dead. The flames spread to the boarding house where the employes lived and then to the other buildings.

### NEBRASKA

George Henderson of Bostwick, one of the best known men in Nuckolls county, dropped dead one day last week in front of his house.

Wayne Methodist church has an eighteen hundred dollar pipe organ, the gift of Mrs. J. H. Pingrey of Wayne.

Henry Ferren died at his home near Smartville of dropsy. Mr. Ferren had been a resident of Johnson county for more than twenty years.

John Armstrong, of Nebraska City, charged with stealing \$72 from his father, was bound over to the September term of the district court in the sum of \$500.

Omaha Passenger No. 12 ran into the rear end of a freight train about three miles west of Minden, severely injuring Traveling Engineer C. A. Dixon of McCook. The way car and one freight car were consumed by fire. The wreck was due to the heavy fog.

The supreme court dismissed the appeal of Bishop Bonacum against Father Murphy of the Seward Catholic church, and affirmed the decision of the lower court, enjoining the bishop from interfering with the priest in the conduct of his charge.

Six cars loaded with coal, enroute to Beatrice from Manhattan, Kansas, jumped the track at Taylor's Sliding a few miles south of Blue Springs. The track was completely torn up for about fifty yards. The accident was due to a rail spreading. No casualties occurred.

The coroner's inquest over the body of the dead fireman, Hayes, killed in the Gilmore wreck, which has been in session at Papillion for the past few days, was finished. The verdict of the jury was death by accident. This clears Operator Second and places the blame on no one.

Mr. Miller, who has been the agent for the Burlington in Tecumseh for the past fourteen years, has been granted an extended leave of absence and will locate on his farm near Hakesburg, Ia. Mr. Miller's health has been alling for some time. J. D. Poe, formerly of Firth, has been named as Miller's successor.

The party of surveyors who have been at work on the northern section of the Burlington link from Ashland, to Sioux City, Ia., arrived at Home and will pitch their tents and remain for two weeks. The party working at Pender has been compelled to abandon work, owing to the high water.

The regular annual institute of the teachers of Cass and Sarpy counties will be held in Plattsmouth, beginning August 17. Those to assist in the work are: Former State Superintendent L. D. Harvey of Wisconsin Superintendent James M. Caughlin of Wilkesbarre, Pa., and Frank M. McMurray of Normal, Ill.

The north bound train on the B. & M. from Atchison was wrecked about two miles south of Nebraska City, and as a result twelve freight cars are completely wrecked. Brakeman S. T. Jensen was pinned down under a car and badly mangled. He was taken to the Neals hospital at Nebraska City, where he died.

Mrs. Warren Brittan of Callaway, is suffering from a severe case of blood poisoning. One of her fingers had been burned an she wore a mitten while the finger was sore. The red lining of the mitten poisoned the burn. At the present time one of her arms and the entire right side of her body are swollen. Light hope of her recovery is entertained.

Otto Hallstein, the 17 year old son of George Hallstein, was found dead at a railroad crossing one and a half miles east of Seward. He had been to a dance at Bee and was returning home alone, and it is supposed that the fast freight on the B. & M., which passes Seward about 4 o'clock in the morning, struck him as he was crossing the track. The buggy was broken into pieces and the team went home, about eight miles. The body was not found until Leonard Hallstein, an older brother, drove from home to find out what the trouble was.

Last weeks delegates from Humboldt, Dawson, Porter, Nemaha and Salem telephone lines met in Humboldt and resolved to associate themselves under the name of the Richardson County Mutual Telephone company. Officers were elected as follows: Crush of Salem, president; Zook of Spencer, vice president; Hummel of Porter, treasurer; Page of Dawson, secretary.