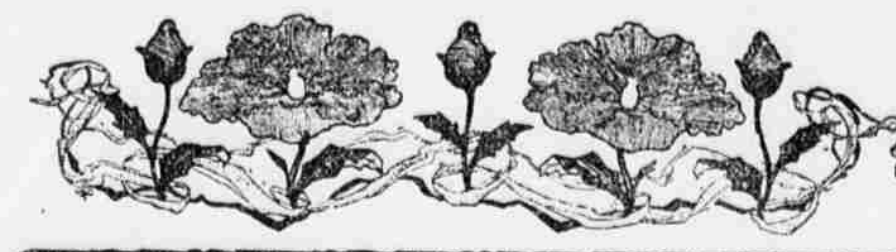


A BALLADE OF A GIRL YOU KNOW.

The girl that plays, Do you know her?
You smile. Ah! it is plain you do,
Then shall I not forthwith infer
You know her small comeries, too,
The piece you ask for's always new
And course; or old—seen its best days;
She'll give you something else in lieu,
The girl that plays.
The girl that plays. She cannot err
In judgment, taste. So here's your cue;
Pose coolly as a connoisseur
Though musically a yahoo.
Indorse her, though you never knew
The bass clef from a paraphrase.
And she'll think very well of you,
The girl that plays.
The girl that plays is clavier
Of keys that never meet the view;
An excellent interpreter
At Capitol Court. But, sad and true,
That "out of practice" bugaboo
Drives more from her by hitless ways
Than all her music gathers to
The girl that plays.
No man remains long heart whole who
Within her range enchanted stays;
She's always "running" something
through.
The girl that plays.
—Edward W. Barnard.



A FANTASTIC STORY

By L. M. H. D.
Copyrighted, 1903, by The Authors Publishing Company

"Why don't you write stories, Eva? You are such a capital hand to make up a story that hasn't an atom of truth in it, and tell it in a most convincing manner?"

"Thank you for the compliment," Eva replied. "I might be tempted to try it if I really thought I could sell them. The fact is," she continued, "people are too willing to listen to a bit of scandal, are too anxious to find out something detrimental to their friends, and will believe any kind of a story which furnishes fuel for the fire of gossip."

"Why, Eva Werner, do you think I would believe evil stories told of my friends. I would not care to hear them, no matter how well they were told."

a few moments had breathed her last. "Will received the money and, as you know, failure has followed all of his investments. Did you ever notice a way he has of glancing behind him, as if looking for some one?" asked Eva.

"Why, yes," replied Mrs. Rhodes. "I never heard this story before, and I do not believe in the power to conjure, although I know many southerners do, especially the negroes."

"Well," said Eva, rising. "I must be going. As this happened many years ago, I trust you will not repeat it, for



"You are only human," replied Eva, "and the best of us may be tempted and fall. By the way, did you hear that Will Wilkins is on the verge of failure?"

"Yes, Jack said yesterday that his friends were afraid he would lose the remaining bit of property he owns. It seems strange that a man of his age and experience, who has had so much money to use, cannot make a success of some of his ventures."

For a few moments there was silence, then Eva said, very quietly, "Did you ever hear that Will came by his money in a very peculiar manner; that a negro woman—a beautiful mulatto—who had been his grandfather's slave, and had been educated by him, held control of the property during the life of Will's father? After the death of Mr. Wilkins, senior, Will was obliged to care for the negroess until she died, in order to get possession of the money."

"I have never heard any such nonsense," replied Mrs. Rhodes. "I have always supposed that Will's father left him the money, but I did not know he has been such a kind friend to us since we moved here that I would not like to believe any ill of him."

"Well, there are truths stranger than fiction," Eva continued. "Have you never heard that she cast a spell over him—conjured, the colored folks call it—because, during her last sickness, he angered her? It seems that he was very anxious to marry, but could not do so because he had no money, and the last night of her life, as he sat by her bedside, she said to him: 'It will not be long, Will, before I'll be gone, and then you can have the money to do with as you please.'



"Why don't you write stories, Eva?"

Whether he had been drinking or was weary with watching and nursing, no one knows, but he snapped out: "It seems like a thousand years, and I am tired of waiting."

"At that the savage blood, long dormant in her veins, began to boil, and white to the lips with coming death, she said, 'So you want me to die, eh? Well! just remember, Will Wilkins, that, like the rest of my race, I believe in conjuring. Listen to me! You shall have the money, but ill luck will follow it; every time you make an investment it will fall; and I will always be at your elbow.' These words spoken, she fell back on her pillow and in

NOT BUILT FOR TWO.

Size of Telegraph Operator's Cage Puzzled Convivial Gentleman. Wedged in a corner of one of the entrances to Jefferson Market is a little V-shaped telegraph office of the Western Union Company. It is said to be the smallest office in New York and to do more business in proportion to its size than any other office in the great system that extends the length and breadth of the land.

When the rather tall and comely young woman in charge of the office enters for business every morning one of the clerks in an adjoining dairy pushes a chair in after her and closes the door. There is room for no other furniture except a small shelf for the instrument and a hat peg. A strange operator doing business with persons pushing telegrams through the little window would need pads on her funny bones, but the one there regularly knows how to dodge the jolts.

"Say!" said a florid, portly man who had just been let off with a reprimand in the neighboring police court, as he cooled his fevered insides with a glass of buttermilk.

The operator peeped through the little window at him.

"Do you wish to send a message?" she asked.

"Not today," replied the man. "No message today. I was only wonderin' how you'd manage, some fine mornin', a year ma'd make you wear an extra skirt and do up your hair in an upholstered pompadour?"—New York Times.

BURIED BEAUTY IN OLD PARIS.

Architectural Experts Find Much That Has Been Covered Up. It has been known for some time that the roadway in front of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, in Paris, is much higher than it originally was, and that the view of the entrance suffers in consequence. The architectural expert of the Louvre Museum, M. Redon, has discovered that the Louvre is also buried beneath the ground to a far greater depth than the original plans warranted. M. Redon concludes from his investigations that, as planned at first, the Louvre was to have been encompassed by a moat, the excavation of which was prevented by the houses that surrounded it at the time. Afterward, when the houses were got rid of, the idea of the moat was forgotten, and the land rose naturally to its present height, hiding over 24½ feet of the building. The Committee for the Preservation of Old Paris intends, under M. Redon's supervision, to clear away the earth and disclose the magnificent stonework of which the base is constructed.—Paris correspondent London Telegraph.

The Bostonese For It.

She was a spectacled lassie from Boston and had taken charge of a country school.

"Well, how are you getting along?" he asked.

"Very nicely now, thank you," she replied; "but it was hard at first."

"Is that so?"

"Oh, yes. You see, in the beginning I tried moral suasion as a corrective measure, but failing in that I resorted to a tangible instrumentality."

"A what?" gasped the simple-minded trustee.

"A tangible instrumentality," she replied sweetly—"a good, stout hickory switch, don't you know."

Before Fame Called.

That the thorns and thistles lining the way to success are not soon forgotten is instanced by a remark of Clyde Fitch to an applicant for a part in one of his productions.

"Well," said the young lady with a sigh of relief after having obtained a promise of a part in the play, "it is so pleasant to have something to live on besides hope—parts are scarce this fall."

"Yes," replied Mr. Fitch, a reminiscence, far-away look in his eyes, "I lived on hope for ten years— and, with a smile—so did my landlady."—New York Times.

Three Words of Strength.

There are three lessons I would write,
Three words, as with a burning pen,
In tracings of eternal light,
Upon the hearts of men.

Have Hope. The clouds environ round,
And gladness hides her face in scorn,
Put off the shadow from thy brow:
No night, but hath its morn.

Have Faith. Where'er thy bark is driven,
The calm'st disport, the tempest's mirth,
Know this: God rules the hosts of heaven,
The inhabitants of earth.

Have Love. Not love alone for one,
But man, as man, thy brother call;
And scatter like a circling sun,
Thy charities on all.

—Schiller.

England's Anti-Corset Crusade.

Although the latest anti-corset crusade has not yet reached London, its promoters are carrying the cause into Birmingham, where they hope to find champions among both sexes. "And why not among the men?" the members inquire. "It is for the captivation of man that women usually lace, and if the stern sex is known to frown on the custom the result ought to be abolition of the practice." So far, however, the membership of the league is small and it has shown no indication of accomplishing any more than its predecessors.

Bear No Match for Horse.

Roadwarmer, a well-known California race horse, killed a bear a few days ago. Roadwarmer was one of the string of racers that Ralph Vernon was taking to Covelo for the winter. When the bear was in reach the horse squared around and a battle royal commenced, the horse using his hoofs to good advantage. When Vernon managed to get the horse away the bear was lying in an unrecognizable mass and the horse was uninjured.

WHY THEY FAVOR IT

DEMOCRATIC FONDNESS FOR COMPETITIVE RECIPROCITY.

It is Regarded as an Important Step in the Direction of Free Trade, a Half Loaf That is Much Better Than No Bread.

Democratic leaders in Congress and elsewhere are sitting up of nights to advance the cause of something of their own devising which they are pleased to call "reciprocity." They say it is the reciprocity mentioned as an economic possibility by McKinley and Blaine. In the first place no republican of weight has ever suggested reciprocity in any form that could interfere, in the slightest degree, with the protection of American wages, which are much the highest in the world, or with fostering the wise development of industries on our own soil. No prominent republican has ever proposed reciprocity in any except non-competitive products, and not specifically in regard to those. None has ever touched on the subject save as a generalization worthy of thought, but secondary to republican protection, giving to that beneficent policy the full party recognition it has always had, and always will have, unless the party moves off its old foundations. But what sort of reciprocity are democratic managers urging upon public attention, claiming to have borrowed it from eminent republicans? It is a slash at all protection, an entering wedge to rip up the Dingley tariff in competitive or any other products. It is simply a renewal of the fight, on shifted ground, for democratic free trade.

Thus democrats in Congress are declaring that the Cuban tariff concession "is unquestionably a breach in the wall of protection," and that democratic votes will go to the measure for that reason. Representative Wil-

THE MONKEY AND THE BUZZ SAW.



lams, the Democratic leader in the house, insists that the Cuban bill is an example of reciprocity, and that reciprocity is a concession to the "democratic demand for untrammelled trade relations." A democratic paper remarks that while reciprocity is a quibble and an anomaly, it should be welcomed by Democrats as a step toward a tariff for revenue only, and on the ground that half a loaf is better than none. President Roosevelt recommended the Cuban concession as a "unique" provision to assist a new nation which this country created and over which this country holds a peculiar restraint. Few republicans think that the United States is still under fiscal obligations to Cuba, or that any point of honor is involved in the action of Congress yet to come. As far as the democratic party is concerned, it is fighting protection, not trying to benefit Cuba.

Thomas B. Reed's last magazine article, published after his death, which occurred less than a year ago, was a powerful argument against reciprocity as far as it had been defined within his experience. "If you will examine reciprocity in detail," he wrote, "you will find that, in nearly every case, the national revenue is sacrificed for the benefit of individuals." Probably the Cuban bill, if it goes through, will work that way, no matter what sentiment of supposed honor or generosity is felt by any of its advocates. Mr. Reed opposed the Cuban tariff reduction in these incisive words: "For the republicans to desert the beet sugar interest is to desert the farmer in the one conspicuous and clear case where his industry is fostered. Under the tariff as it now is all the sugar needed by this country can be made by the people of this country. That is in accord with our system. When we throw our markets open to the world in all things, then it will be time to do it for sugar." Mr. Reed was a statesman of long experience in Congress. Senator Allison, with similar training, said recently: "Reciprocity is a beautiful theory, but I am convinced that it cannot be put into practice." Reciprocity has grown a little more definite in one respect. It is democratic ammunition, and seized by them with eagerness as a national campaign draws near. It finds them without an issue. Republicans decline to hand them an issue on a reciprocity free trade platter.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Bad for Cuba.

As for the Cubans themselves, it would almost be a crime against civ-

SEVENTEEN ARE DEAD.

Rock Island Trains Meet Near Willard, Kan., with Fatal Results. TOPEKA, Kan.—Seventeen persons were killed and fifty-seven injured in the Rock Island wreck at Willard Wednesday morning. Most of the injured are in hospitals at Topeka. The doctors announce that all will recover. Carelessness of trainmen caused the wreck. Instructed to meet a special train at Willard, the engineer and conductor of the ill-fated passenger, noting that a freight train stood on the sidetrack at Willard rushed through, thinking that the cars they had seen were the ones they had been instructed to pass. Failure to scrutinize the number of the engine was directly responsible for the collision. Had the engineer compared the number of the train at Willard with his orders the accident would have been avoided.

Upon seeing at Willard a freight train on the siding Engineer Benjamin threw open the throttle and under the impetus of full steam the passenger train leaped out into the darkness at a rate which the passengers declare to have been fully sixty-five miles an hour. Not a note of warning of fearful impending danger ever made itself known to the sufferers.

General Superintendent Gruber of the Rock Island made this statement to the Associated Press.

"The engineer of the passenger train had orders to wait at Willard for the extra stock train. He passed on, mistaking a freight train on the siding at that station for the extra stock train. This caused the wreck. Nobody else is to blame, so far as our information goes."

WHY FARMERS OBJECT.

Sound Reasons for Their Opposition to Free Trade in Agricultural Products.

It is easy to understand that Canada would be glad to enter into a reciprocity agreement with the United States that should include natural products only. Equally obvious is the reason why she should decline to swap trade privileges in manufactured products. Her natural products seek a nearby market, and it would be tremendously to her advantage if she could sell her surplus in the United States instead of shipping it to Europe. But in industrial production she is only a beginner. She is trying to develop her manufacturing industries. In the event of free trade in natural products Canada would do all the selling and

TO ANSWER REYES NEXT WEEK.

Secretary Hay Has Completed Revision of Reply to Colombia. WASHINGTON—Secretary Hay has completed his final revision of the answer to be made by the American government to the protest filed by General Rafael Reyes, the Colombian minister, against the action of the United States regarding affairs on the isthmus.

The communication is a long one and sets out in detail the position of the administration on the various points raised and grievances recited by General Reyes in his note submitted to the state department in the latter part of December. The reply has been given very earnest consideration by the president, Secretary Root, who assisted in its preparation during the time Secretary Hay was ill, and by Secretary Hay himself. The paper, to be given with General Reyes' note, it is expected, will be sent to congress probably next week.

REPORTS ARE DISQUIETING.

Threatening Activity of Russian Cruisers at Vladivostok.

TKGIO.—The Russian reply to Japan has not been received. It is reported from Vladivostok that the Russian squadron there is preparing for action.

An extra edition of the Official Gazette has been issued, containing army and navy orders prohibiting the publication of any reports about movements of troops or war vessels from this time on. Otherwise the Japanese authorities are not interfering with press messages.

According to another report, a Russian cruiser has left Port Arthur with a small military force on board, its destination is unknown, but is probably Chemulpo, Korea.

ARBITRATION CONFERENCE.

Prominent Speakers to Advocate the Hague Tribunal.

WASHINGTON—The international arbitration conference is to meet here next Tuesday and on the afternoon of that day at the Lafayette theater a mass meeting will be held in furtherance of the arbitration movement. Prominent persons from all over the country are expected to speak on that occasion, those already having promised to do so including Cardinal Gibbons, Andrew Carnegie, Rabbi Hirsch of Chicago, President Wilson of Princeton, Governor Durbina of Indiana, Edward Everett Hale and Clark Howell of Atlanta.

The object of the conference is to consider the question of the adoption of a treaty between the United States and Great Britain by which the two nations will agree to resort to the Hague tribunal in a certain specified class of cases.

To Revise Drawback System.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Representative Lovering (Mass.) introduced two bills for the revision of the drawback provisions of the Dingley law. One bill is designed to encourage the export trade in drugs and chemicals by remitting the internal revenue in the shape of a drawback on domestic alcohol used in manufactured articles for exports. The second bill relates to drawbacks on imported raw material.

Sues Captain Lemly.

WASHINGTON — Robert Burton Rodney, a paymaster with the rank of lieutenant commander on the retired list of the navy, has brought suit for \$50,000 damages against Captain Samuel C. Lemly, judge advocate general of the navy, for alleged long continued "pecuniary and naval grade losses" and indignities. The complainant alleges that Captain Lemly has usurped practical supremacy in the naval department and is depriving the complainant of legal rights.

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.—Bacon.