

When Betsy Hoskins Married.

When Betsy Hoskins married,
Alas, alas the time!
For music lost its measure
And poetry its rhyme;
The blue skies blurred their azure,
The dark clouds never tarried,
But every one
Came on the run
To hide the sun,
When Betsy Hoskins married.

When Betsy Hoskins married,
Alas, my jig was up,
And all the wine of living
Turned bitter in the cup;
The summer time grew winter,
A grievous weight I carried
Along the way
By night and day,
All black and gray,
When Betsy Hoskins married
Me.
See?

—William J. Lampton.



ROBERT GRALE, HERMIT

By GEORGE TREBOR.

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There stood a rude and dingy hut leaning against the eaves of a knoll, and built of sticks and boards thrown up by the tide. A flaring light burned within, and gleamed through the crevices and the jagged holes that served the purpose of a window. A man disheveled, gray and decrepit, came out and carefully drew to the rickety door after him. He paused awhile in contemplation of the night, and listened to the mournful breathing of the surf. Then he climbed to the topmost point of the knoll and gazed long over the stretch of water to the distant harbor where shone the myriad lights of the city, and in musing, said:

"Ye're there, somewhere—I know yer must be—drinkin' and revellin' and spendin' yer bit of money in a fool's paradise; while the neglected wife and wee one seek asylum of yer decrepit father."

Then he clenched his bony hands and muttered, while the night breeze played about his tattered raiment. He looked away along the ribbon of winding white beach and descried an atom moving at the water's edge, growing larger as it advanced; and he watched it until taking the shape of a man, it bore around the foot of the knoll and disappeared beneath the overhanging crags. The watcher descended by the path he had come; passing the hut, he waited in the shadow until the man again appeared, then stepped out and blocked his way.

"What do you want here?" His tone was harsh and stern.

The other hesitated.

"What have ye done with the wife and wee one?" he continued, harsh and stern as before.

"She left my bed and board and took the youngster with her."

"Because you neglected and ill-treated her, and because you will not work. She came to me yesterday in her trouble, not knowing elsewhere."

"It's a lie—I can get no work to do!" and the younger man tried to pass.

"The lie's your own," rejoined the older, ever hard and stern. "Not so fast!" and he gripped the other by the arm. "She wants not you, she's ill, and wants rest and quiet, and she shall not be disturbed."

"I will see her—see what she means," and he thrust the older man roughly aside. "You cannot harbor a man's wife. There's a law. Besides, you quarreled with your own wife—don't forget that," and again he made to pass.

Stung by the taunt, the older man struck out a blow, and yet again. Then they grappled and struggled fiercely in the moan of the surf beneath the



"Ye're there, somewhere—I know ye must be—drinkin' an' revellin'!" stars, until at last by a mighty effort the elder man flung off the younger and stood alone.

"I'm yet your master!" he cried, breathing sharp and heavily. "Never yet had son the right to judge his father, far less taunt him with what he knows naught of. You speak of a law 'gainst harboring your wife. I know another law, and 'bide by it. If you cannot do for them I can, decrepit as I am—and will. Go away—and come not nigh me, else perhaps no law may save you!" And he waited.

Then rose the groveller to his feet and turned to go.

"Stop!" The elder man's tone grew calmer. "Here, ye may see them, but do not waken them," and he turned and led the way into the hut and softly drew aside a rudely hung curtain where the mother and the child lay sweetly sleeping. Then they turned, passed out, and the younger man hung his head while the other spoke.

"Go away and make yourself right with God, and search, and when the chance comes, though small it be, take it and bide by it uncomplaining. The chance will grow, and God's bounty come; to those who first make them-



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A PERVERTED XMAS PRESENT.

Business Instinct Highly Developed in Little Freddie.

It was Christmas Eve, Freddie was on his way home from the Sunday school, where he had been a regular attendant for several weeks. His annual conversion had been rewarded in a substantial way, for he had not only feasted upon the good things of this world, but he bore under his arm a beautiful blue and gold book that showed him how to get to the other world. He was well pleased, for ever and anon he would look at the book and fairly glow over it. As he passed the house of an old maid, whose life he had often made miserable, the old lady noticed how he regarded his Sunday school present and rejoiced exceedingly.

"I always said he wasn't a bad boy at heart," she remarked to herself. "Oh, if his father and mother could only see him this blessed moment as he thinks of the home above and resolves to live just as the little boys and girls in the book."

But listen, Freddie is also remarking to himself.

"This is a pretty good book, by gee! It must have stood the Sunday school people in about a dollar. Your nibs is in great luck. I must hurry around to the second-hand book store before it closes up. I ought to be able to trade a book like this for half a dozen d'Nevo novels at least."

The Demon of the Pit.

A din of voices shouting hoarse,
A whiff of sultry steam;
A little truth, a mass of lies,
A score of false alarms
And standing in the midst of it
We see the Demon of the Pit!

A hundred faces, white and strained,
Aye heaving to behold
The man whose name throughout the land
Is hailed the leader bold;
And standing in the midst of it
We see the Demon of the Pit!

Another shout! Another cheer!
A shuddering, fevered brow;
The King of Yesterday goes down,
Another rules to-day.
But moment over all of it
We hail the Demon of the Pit!

A crash of wasted, blighted hopes,
A shroud of sorrow;
Another life is strangled up,
To join the awful crowd;
And grinding in the midst of it
We see the Demon of the Pit!

A ruined mill, with crumbling walls,
Ten thousand starving men;
"How long, O Lord? How long?" they cry,
The bottom jumps again,
And floating over all of it
The King in Demon of the Pit!
—McLamburgh Wilson.

Pat's Lesson in Golf.

Pat had been helping the greens keeper construct several tees at the new golf links, and during the noon hour had been given a few lessons in driving. A day or two later he was telling his friend Casey about it.

"Faith, Casey," he said, "this game they call golf is a funny game. Yez have a little white ball an' a long stick wid a knob on the end av it, an' yez put the white ball on a little hape av sand. Thin the game is to haul all an' knock the ball so far yez kin never find it again."

"An' did yez hit the ball whin yez tried?" asked Casey.

"Did O?" said Pat. "That's the funny thing about golf. Shure, the first time I hit it, O! never touched ut!"

Sympathy Misplaced.

Edward L. Adams, representing the United States as consul general at Stockholm, Sweden, was for several years editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. While occupying that position he wrote an obituary notice of a neighbor's child, whose trousers had caught fire during a Fourth of July celebration, burning the little fellow so badly that he died in consequence. Mr. Adams ended his article with the statement that the sympathies of friends would go out to the bereaved parents. His shock the next day may possibly be imagined when the types made him say that "the sympathies of a large circle of friends will go out to the burned pants."—New York Times.

The Fond Parent's Pride.

A reporter was endeavoring to find out the particulars of an accident that had befallen a boy, and was asking the questions necessary in such cases of the father of the injured boy.

"Did the little fellow stand the operation well?" asked the reporter.

"Like a major—came through it all right."

"Did he have to take anything?" continued the reporter.

"Not a god darn thing but chloroform," was the proud reply of the admiring parent.

Cure for Insomnia.

One of the best and simplest cures for insomnia is said to be the odor of raw onions. They should be crushed to a pulp in order to free all the juice. Snuff this substance for ten minutes after retiring. It is said to quiet the most nervous person and relax the most overwrought nerves. It is hardly pleasant, but is said to be efficacious.

Took Eight Turkeys, Left \$200.

John Krider, a farmer near Lebanon, Pa., discovered that his flock of eight turkeys had been stolen one night last week. Farmer Krider, however, is not mourning, for the robber dropped a wallet containing ten twenty-dollar bills. It is supposed the thief obtained the money while ransacking some residence in the neighborhood.—Georgetown (Ky.) News.

Christmas Box.

The familiar term Christmas box comes from the old-time custom of placing alms-boxes in the churches Christmas morning to receive donations from the congregation for the benefit of the poor. As the alms were not given out until the next day, Dec. 26 came to be known as "Boxing day."

THE SAVING FACTOR

CHIEF CAUSE OF CONTINUED BUSINESS PROSPERITY.

Value of Protective Tariff More Thoroughly Tried and More Completely Demonstrated Than at Any Period in Our History.

It was the Springfield Republican which said nearly six months ago that "the tariff is now on trial as the great causative and saving factor in the business prosperity." The Republican was right. How well and successfully has the wisdom of Nelson Dingley and his associates been vindicated. That our present tariff was the great causative factor of our present prosperity few even among free traders will question. The fact was proved and settled long ago. That it is the great saving factor of our prosperity has also been proved and settled.

Fear of any financial or commercial panic is now past, although we have experienced enough to provoke a dozen crises had it not been for the great saving factor of our protective tariff. The trial has been prolonged and thorough. The pessimistic free trade press has made the most of every fall in the prices of our securities, every petty failure, every shut down of a factory or industry, even though caused by a strike. Most alarming statements have been made, some containing but a small portion of the truth, and yet the people have refused to be frightened, the commercial world has not abated its confidence in the situation, and prosperity has lost none of its hold, simply and solely because we are living under a protective tariff that was not only the causative factor of our prosperity, but is also the saving factor of that prosperity.

There has been no similar period in the existence of the nation when we have been sorely tried, commercially and financially, as during the past six months, and yet so far as the tariff has any influence upon the situation not a single man has been

ity, providing that we do not further reduce our duties. Moreover there is no reason why we should not enjoy still increased prosperity if we should increase the duties upon commodities, which would insure a home production instead of importations on commodities amounting to nearly half a billion dollars annually.

Much as we need greater protection to certain industries, it is perhaps better on the whole that we do not change the tariff in any respect for some time to come. Let it remain as it is, the great saving factor, as it has been the causative factor of our prosperity, which need not cease so long as we are wise enough to let well enough alone.

Nullification.

"To urge reciprocity is to confess that a forbidding tariff is not good for nations, as compared with a lesser restriction; that the tariff which excludes is not good in comparison with the tariff which admits. Reciprocity acknowledges the disadvantages and injuries resulting from absolute 'protection' or exclusion. It is a qualification."—St. Louis Republic.

No fault can be found with this definition by a free trade newspaper. It is obviously and unquestionably true that to enter upon the system of reciprocity in competing products is to declare that protection is wrong. Protection contemplates the exclusion of competitive products. In contemplates that the Republic shall do its own work. Reciprocity in competitive products contemplates that an increased and constantly increasing share of the Republic's work shall be done by foreigners. The two policies cannot go hand in hand. They completely nullify each other.

Those Reciprocity Treaties.

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association has unanimously adopted resolutions favoring reciprocity with Canada. To be sure, it is not to be doubted that reciprocity treaties, such as have been discussed, would be advantageous to the manufacturer. But wouldn't it be at the expense of the farmer? Isn't it proposed to trade to the Canadian a market for his agri-

THAT ENTERING WEDGE.



thrown out of work and not a single wage has been reduced. The strikes, particularly in the building industries of the country, have resulted in the idleness of more than a hundred thousand men for a greater or less portion of time during the past few months. The exorbitant high price of raw cotton has made its use almost prohibitive, and it has been necessary recently to meet this enhanced price of raw material by a slight reduction in the wages of operatives. The falling off in building and constructive enterprises has reduced to some extent the demand upon our iron and steel industries, and yet the business being done is very satisfactory. The railroads of the country have been for months, and are still unable to handle all the business offered them, and the gross and net earnings of nearly every road in the country is still around high water mark regardless of the fact that the quotations of the stock of those roads have fallen in some cases from 20 to 50 per cent.

It may be that the holiday business will not be the greatest we have known, and may fall off a trifle from that of last year and the year or two preceding. It will, however, be tremendous in volume, and will show that the income earners of the country have still a large surplus to spend in harmony with the sentiment of the season. The outlook for another year is bright indeed. With the promise that no further change shall be made in our tariff law beyond the Cuban reciprocity treaty, we are sure of a huge volume of employment and a maintenance of the high wages now enjoyed by all. Never in our history was a tariff law so thoroughly tried and so thoroughly vindicated as has been the law under which we are now living. There is no reason why, for a decade or even for a generation to come, in spite of all precedents, we should not continue to enjoy prosper-

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A Lost Argument.

The Democratic party in advocating free trade for the United States has always pointed to England as the most prosperous country in the world because it was a free trade country. But the growing demand in England for protection takes that argument away from the Democrats. When England, that has long prided itself upon free trade, turns away from it, the United States will be wise to adhere to its policy of protection that has made this country the most prosperous in all the world.—Freeport (Ill.) Journal.

Rough on Rats.

How to kill industry: Vote the Democrats into power.—Moravian Falls (N. C.) Yellow Jacket.

PEACE PARTY IS ASCENDANT.

Heads of Departments at St. Petersburg Against War.

ST. PETERSBURG.—There is a strong indication that through the czar's personal acts the peace party is completely in the ascendant. M. Bezobrazoff, the head of the war party, has gone abroad; Foreign Minister Lamsdorf, who, from the beginning has favored peace, is now completely rehabilitated, and Viceroy Alexeff has been made subservient to the foreign office in the Russo-Japanese negotiations. His extensive powers are curtailed and he can make no move without the czar's personal approval. In fact the fresh instances conveyed through Ambassador Cassini to the authorities at Washington of the recognition of the rights acquired by the Chinese treaty is largely attributed to Count Lamsdorf's influence.

Diplomatic circles consider Count Lamsdorf's accession of power as a hopeful sign. M. Witte, council of state, has been counseling peace. At the recent council of state, M. Witte, with his old time eloquence, pleaded the cause of peace, pointing out the disastrous consequences of war, saying Russia had everything to lose and nothing to gain. It is thought if peace prevails M. Witte will again become a great power in the government.

THE ROSEBUD RESERVATION.

The Bill of Congressman Burke Relative Thereto.

WASHINGTON.—The bill which Congressman Burke of South Dakota introduced and which has been reported favorably from the Indian affairs committee of the house provides that the lands in the Rosebud reservation shall be sold for \$2.50 per acre, 50 cents per acre to be paid when entry is made, 50 cents within two years after entry, 50 cents within three years after entry, 50 cents within four years after entry, and 50 cents within six months after the expiration of five years after entry. The settler may commute his entry by paying the full price and receive patent as provided for all homestead entries. These lands are to be disposed of under the general provisions of the homestead and township laws of the United States and shall be opened to settlement by proclamation of the president. Union soldiers and sailors of the civil and Spanish wars are to have the same preference as prescribed in the general homestead laws. Sections 16 and 36 of each township are ceded to South Dakota for school purposes.

RECONCILED TO WAR.

Russia's Rejoinder Not Expected for a Week, but Japan is Prepared.

TOKIO.—Japan does not anticipate Russia's rejoinder for at least one week. In the meantime the nation is prepared and grimly reconciled to war. Political and other distinctions have disappeared and the country is patriotically united. The government is receiving many offers of contributions in the event of war, amounting to many millions of yen. The Japanese people would welcome an honorable peace, but are resolved to fight before receding from their position in oriental affairs.

They fear the aggression of Russia and believe if it is not stopped now it will never be stopped. They are confident that their demands are fair and moderate and their diplomacy, which has been patient, has gone to a reasonable limit. They expect the world's sympathy in the struggle and have a splendid confidence in their army and navy. In the event of reverses or a national disaster it is thought that England and the United States would intervene to preserve a balance of power in eastern Asia.

CITIZEN TRAIN NO MORE.

Brilliant but Erratic Genius Succumbs to Attack of Heart Disease.

NEW YORK.—George Francis Train died Monday night at Mills hotel No. 1, where he has lived for some years. Heart disease was the cause of his death.

George Francis Train was born in Boston, March 23, 1829. He was orphaned in 1832, his father, mother and three sisters dying at New Orleans of yellow fever. He organized the firm of Train & Co., shipping agents with offices in this country and in Australia, and started the first clipper ships to California in 1849. He promoted several railroads and made an independent race for president in 1872. He was noted as a prolific writer and for his eccentricities.

He has a career which has carried him to all parts of the world and left his impress in many lands. He has been prominent as a promoter, lecturer, political speaker and author.

Nominations by the President.

WASHINGTON.—The president sent to the senate the following nominations:

Consul General—Fleming D. Cheshire, New York, at Alukden, China.
Consuls—James W. Davidson, Minnesota, at Antung, China; Edwin V. Morgan, New York, at Dabay, China.

Socialists to Meet.

OMAHA, Neb.—The executive committee of the national socialist party, in session in Omaha, issued a call for a national convention to meet in Chicago May 1. The call, after stating the result of the referendum vote on place of meeting, says the basis of representation shall be one delegate for each hundred members in good standing and one delegate at large from each state. The building in which the convention is to be held will be announced later by the local committee.