

THE FAMILY STORY



...PAYING A DEBT...

TILLMAN GRANT had come to the end of his tether and he knew it. He made no fuss about the matter, and any of his friends who met him that evening could not have told from his manner that anything was wrong. Grant had taken big chances to increase his fortune and now he realized that the jig was up, exposure might come in a week, or it might be delayed for a month, but it was sure to come, unless he had £1,000 in hard cash, and that amount he knew he could not get. Of course if exposure could have been staved off for some years everything might come out all right; old Monckton might die and young Monckton come into the business.

Old Monckton, Grant's employer, was a hard-hearted skinflint who would have no mercy when investigation showed that his assistant was a defaulter. He was hard, even to his own son, and it wasn't likely that he would show mercy to one who was no relative of his.

On the other hand Stillman Grant, who was a calculating young fellow, had many times helped young Monckton when in trouble of a monetary nature. He did this not because he liked the young man particularly, but because he was his employer's son and would some time come into the business.

Young Monckton owed Grant money, but even if he paid it all that night it was not enough to cover the defalcation, and so was useless.

Grant had taken the money, not in any momentary weakness, but because he calculated he could make himself a rich man by the use of it. These calculations turned out to be erroneous, and for months Grant had been exercising his ingenuity to stave off exposure. He had not deluded himself with any false views as to what would happen when exposure came. He had made up his mind. There should be no trial with imprisonment at the end of it. He knew an easier way out of the difficulty than that. He had bought a quantity of morphine which he knew, when the time came to take it, would insure him a swift and tolerably easy death. He knew that six or seven, or perhaps ten years' imprisonment was the penalty come into the business and then you will get back the money you have lent me with handsome interest; but if I am cut off in one of my spees, which is more than likely, then you will get back all your money with interest at several thousand per cent."

As the young man said this he drew from an inner pocket what Grant saw was evidently an insurance policy.

"There you are, my boy, with the first year's premium paid," said Monckton, as he threw the policy on the table. "I'll live it with you, because you are a steady, sober fellow. If I can't pay the next premium when it falls due you'll pay it for me and charge it up to the account I already owe you. You see, my friend, you are quite safe as far as your money is concerned, whether I become a staid, respectable and rich man of business, or whether I am cut off in the flower of my youth."

Grant lay back in his chair with his eyes partially closed as he picked up and examined the document. He saw it was all right and perfectly legal. At last he said, in a low tone and with deliberation: "I think you might have spent your money much more profitably, Monckton, than in paying a year's premium on your life. Bless me! you will live till you are 90."

"I hope so," said the young man, "but meanwhile you take care of that document, and if the time ever comes that there is money collectable on it you are the man who is to have it. As you see, I have made the policy solely to you."

"Thanks, old man," said Grant, as he placed the policy on the table.

"Well," said Monckton, "I must be off. Won't you come out and take a drink?"

"I think not," said Grant; "I'm busy to-night, but if you wish a drink, have a glass of wine with me."

"I don't mind if I do," said young Monckton.

Grant pushed towards his the glass of wine in which he had sprinkled the morphine, then he poured out wine for himself in another glass. "Here's to you," he said, drinking.

Young Monckton drank off the wine and smacked his lips after. "That has a curious taste, Grant," he said; "what is it?"

when I am not sleeping well. You will find it very soothing."

"Well, good night, Stillman, old fellow."

"Good night to you, Monckton, and pleasant dreams."

"Oh, I'm not going to dreams yet awhile," said Monckton. "A few of us are to have some games at the Raquet Club."

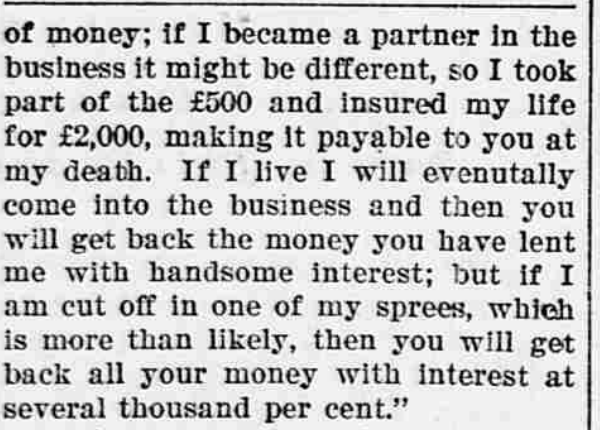
"Ah," said Grant, "that's a long distance from here. Better have a hansom. Come, I'll see you out."

They walked down the stair together and at the door young Monckton said: "Yes, I think I will have a hansom. I feel rather drowsy."

"Oh, you'll be all right when you get into the fresh air," rejoined Grant. The young man staggered slightly, as if he were intoxicated. The other watched him go down the street and hall a cab.

"Poor devil," said Grant to himself, as he turned away. "He was an unlucky chap to come in at that moment on that particular errand. There is a time for everything, and that was not the time for insurance policies. I suppose that, not having premeditated the murder, I have left some loose clew that will enable the police to trace the thing to me. Still I shall be no worse off than I was an hour ago, and after all, nothing matters very much. Bet a fiver I'll be caught."

But he wasn't. The medical men said the young fellow had died of a disease with a long name, and then the insurance company claimed it had been defrauded by the fact of his having the malady concealed from them. Thus was the honest man defrauded out of his insurance money, and he was nabbed by the police for his defalcations before he could purchase more poison. In one of her Majesty's prisons he now regrets the fate of his friend.—Detroit Free Press.



COME, I'LL SHOW YOU OUT.

observed in its construction, etc., will be useful. A supply of eighteen tons of ice can be stored in a space of twelve feet square and ten feet high. In building an ice-house, the chief points to be considered are the exclusion of air from under or around the body of ice; proper ventilation over the ice, and proper surface draining around the ice-house. Any little crack that admits of the inflow of warm air will play havoc with a body of ice. Hence waterproof paper should interline the walls, so as to exclude every possible chance for the admission of a current of air. If there be too much sawdust placed around ice it is liable to ferment and develop heat to such an extent as to melt the ice. Four inches of sawdust or chaff is sufficient to place under the ice, and eight inches is sufficient on the sides of a house with a single wall, and four inches in case of a twin wall. A twin wall is made by boxing the studding on both plates and sills, so that they shall alternate with each other. Two by six may be used, and they may be placed two feet apart; twelve-inch boards will answer for plates and sills. This permits each studding to project two inches past the center of the wall and prevents the air current from setting. The studding must be papered with waterproof paper and then caulked.

TAMED HER UNRULY PUPIL.

Thrashed Him and His Sister and Expelled Them Both.

There is one young school teacher in Long Island who need never be out of a job. So completely did she succeed in quelling a rebellion last week that offers from other places have already been received, but the school directors will not hear of her departure. Her name is Ella Hart, and here is how she came to establish herself so firmly in her present position:

John Coleman, who is a boy of tender years, but tough tendencies, has for several days been living under the shadow of the rod. Miss Hart has an official whip, and Friday her experienced observation told her that John Coleman was ripe for castigation and she called him up to receive his due. The operation proceeded with complete success for a few moments. Johnnie Coleman gave all the evidences of mortal anguish customary to such occasions. He squirmed and twisted and rended the air with lamentations, protestations and ejaculations of penitence.

Stella Coleman, a stout girl of 16 years, sister of Johnnie, heard the walls of her brother and appeared as a rescue and punitive force. She dashed into the room like a young whirlwind and attacked the teacher with a rush. The boy took advantage of the diversion to rub himself a few times where he felt that rubbing was necessary and salutary and then joined in the attack. Miss Coleman scratched vindictively and reached for her teacher's hair. Miss Hart proceeded methodically and according to the most approved principles of pedagogics. She first captured the girl's hands and then tripped her up, threw her and sat on her. Then she reached for her whip and thrashed Miss Coleman until all the fight and most of the family affection were thrashed out of her. After that she caught Johnnie Coleman and began on him all over again.

Having completed her work conscientiously and thoroughly, she expelled both the offenders and appeared before the trustees, scratched and somewhat battered and disheveled, but triumphant, and reported her action. She was sustained and the school will probably continue its exercises peacefully.

Fog and Gas.

Prof. Lewes of London states that London fog deprives coal gas of 11.1 per cent of its illuminating power, and an incandescent burner loses 20.8 per cent of its efficacy. The reason given is that the spectrum of these lights approaches very nearly that of the solar spectrum, being rich in violet and ultra violet rays. These are the rays which cannot penetrate a London fog. This is thought to be the reason why the sun looks red on a foggy day. The solid particles floating in the aqueous vapor of the atmosphere absorb the violet rays and only the red rays of the spectrum pass through. It is further stated that the old argand burner more successfully resists a London fog than any of its later rivals.

An Unfortunate Offer.

Adolphus Duddington (pleadingly)—Don't be cruel and hard-hearted, colonel. Give me your daughter's hand, and I promise she shall never be separated from her family.

Col. Bluntly—That's precisely why I object to the marriage.—Detroit Free Press.

Might Be True.

Doctor—There is one thing in the scriptures that puzzles me, and that is to what the longevity of the ancients can be attributed. Have you any theory to offer?

Minister—It may have been owing to the fact that there were no physicians in those days.

The hotel clerk who puts on a brilliant front is not the only pebble. A great many newspaper men use paste too.

There is always room for one more corner in the soup.

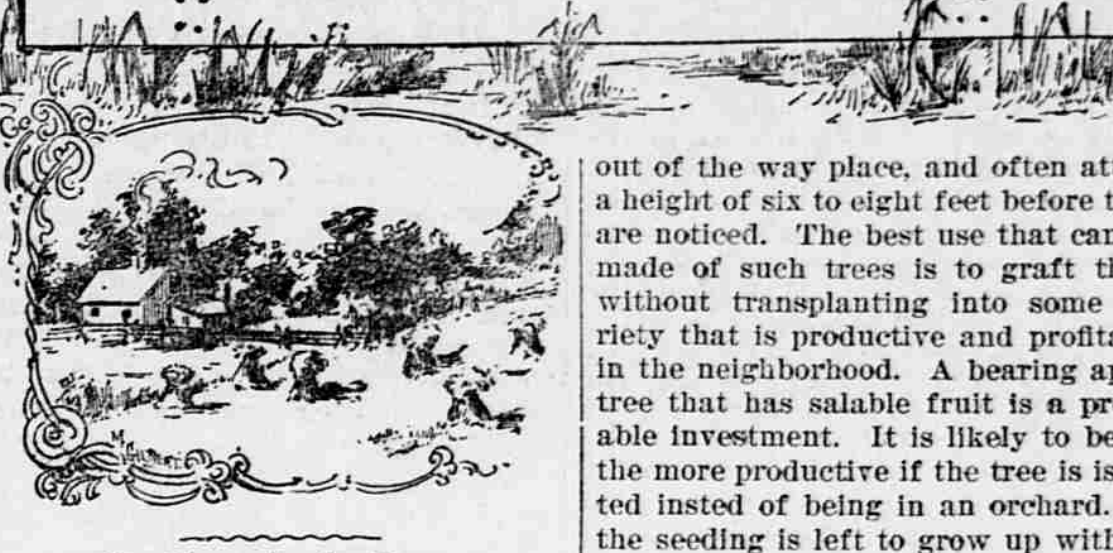
HE WATCHED IT AS IT SLOWLY SETTLED, forgetting the door was locked; then he rose hurriedly, drew the bolt back and opened the door.

"Hullo, Charley," Grant said when he saw who it was. The son of his employer entered with a radiant look on his face.

"Well, Stillman, I have come to secure my debt to you. I have made up my mind that you shall not suffer by my having borrowed money from you."

"Oh, that's all right," said Grant carelessly. "I don't need the money."

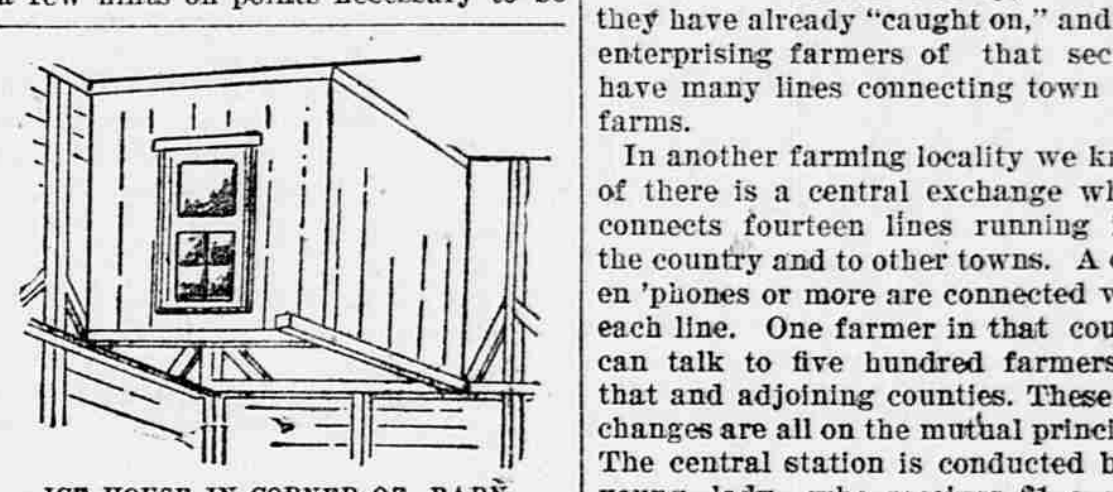
AGRICULTURAL



Ice House in the Barn.

The idea that a costly ice-house is requisite for the profitable storage of ice is not borne out by those who have improvised storage at comparatively trifling expense, says the Journal of Agriculture. A corner in the barn can be adapted by any farmer at all handy with tools, at a cost exceedingly small when compared with the advantages which a liberal supply of ice during the heated season will confer.

The accompanying illustration gives an idea for an ice-house in a barn, and a few hints on points necessary to be

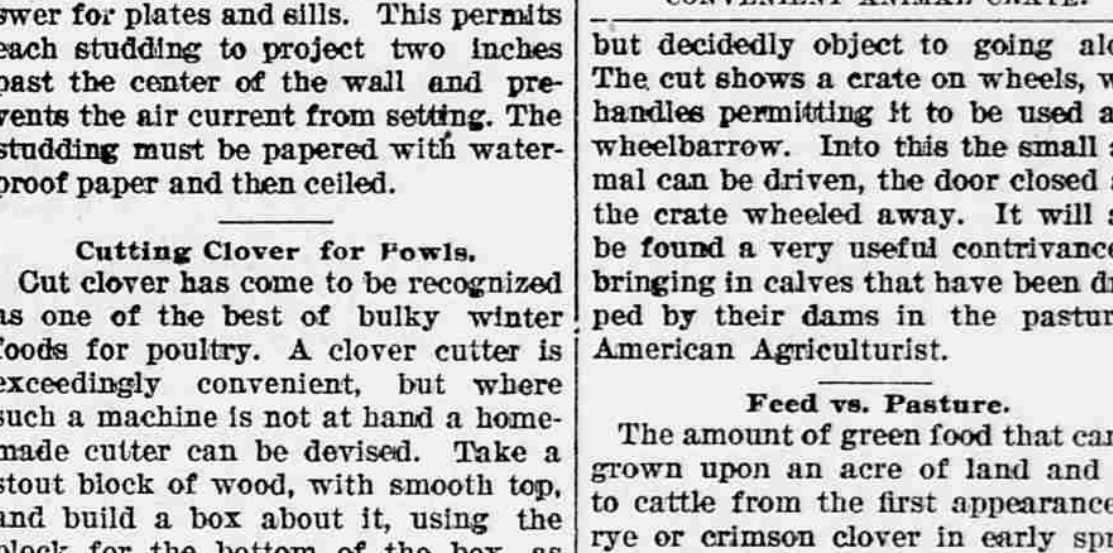


ICE HOUSE IN CORNER OF BARN.

observed in its construction, etc., will be useful. A supply of eighteen tons of ice can be stored in a space of twelve feet square and ten feet high. In building an ice-house, the chief points to be considered are the exclusion of air from under or around the body of ice; proper ventilation over the ice, and proper surface draining around the ice-house. Any little crack that admits of the inflow of warm air will play havoc with a body of ice. Hence waterproof paper should interline the walls, so as to exclude every possible chance for the admission of a current of air. If there be too much sawdust placed around ice it is liable to ferment and develop heat to such an extent as to melt the ice. Four inches of sawdust or chaff is sufficient to place under the ice, and eight inches is sufficient on the sides of a house with a single wall, and four inches in case of a twin wall. A twin wall is made by boxing the studding on both plates and sills, so that they shall alternate with each other. Two by six may be used, and they may be placed two feet apart; twelve-inch boards will answer for plates and sills. This permits each studding to project two inches past the center of the wall and prevents the air current from setting. The studding must be papered with waterproof paper and then caulked.

Crates for Moving Animals.

It is often desirable to move a small animal from one building to another, or from one pasture enclosure to another. Leading or driving a calf, sheep or pig is attended with difficulties. They will go in company with others,



CONVENIENT ANIMAL CRATE.

but decidedly object to going alone. The cut shows a crate on wheels, with handles permitting it to be used as a wheelbarrow. Into this the small animal can be driven, the door closed and the crate wheeled away. It will also be found a very useful contrivance in bringing in calves that have been dropped by their dams in the pasture.—American Agriculturist.

Feed vs. Pasture.

The amount of green food that can be grown upon an acre of land and fed to cattle from the first appearance of rye or crimson clover in early spring until late in the fall is many times more than that which can be obtained on the same area used as pasture. While on the pasture the cattle are subjected to storms, many insects, and during dry seasons they must perform considerable work to secure as much food as they desire. As green crops may be cut at any time and several cuttings can be made in a season, the flow of milk will be greater than when the cows are on pasture. While less labor is required in pasturing the cows, a smaller proportion of land can be used under the soiling or green-food system.

Vines and Trellises.

Many people are prevented from planting grape vines under the idea that the putting up of the trellis is a difficult and expensive thing to do. But the first year a light stake will be all that is required to train the single shoot to, and even the second year, when two or three bunches of grapes may be grown, the stake will be all that is required. A trellis made by setting posts six feet apart and five feet high above the surface of the ground will accommodate a single vine. For supports, wires should be stretched between the posts, but these wires must not be left tight when cold weather comes on, as the contraction of the wire by cold will surely break them.

The Growing of Parsnips.

The parsnip naturally puts its roots down more deeply than any other of the esculent roots. It needs a rich soil. If the subsoil has not been enriched it should be pulverized with a subsoil plow, and not brought to the surface. We have seen parsnips that were fully 16 inches long, of which all the growth except two or three inches was below the ground. In harvesting parsnips a furrow should be thrown from the rows, leaving the side of the furrow as close as possible to the roots. No root is better than the parsnip for milch cows.

Trim the Grapevines.

If the grapevines have not been trimmed and the old wood cut out of the blackberry and raspberry fields it should be done before the season opens warmer. Such work is best done when the ground is frozen. Grapes are produced on the new wood, and the old vines can stand cutting back severely

Grafting Seedling Apple Trees.

On every farm there are apt to be more or less apple seedlings, which come up in corners of the fence or other

The Public Schools

In School.

"The word for you to-day is 'toward,' I write it here upon the board. Now try if you can with it make a sentence clear, without mistake."

Then Freddy's lips pressed tightly down. His brow was tied up in a frown. And thought spread over all his face. As dots and crosses found their place.

With capitals and all the rest He strove to do his very best. So slowly, carefully he wrote: "Last night I toward my Sunday coat."

—Youth's Companion.

Warning to School Ma'am's.

The course of a teacher in some rural schools is not unmarked by pitfalls. One young lady thus engaged tells an amusing story of the anxiety her conduct unwittingly caused the mother of one of her pupils. The pupil in question was an overgrown and stupid but well-behaved boy of nineteen named Tobias Hodge. He was older by several years, and far bigger, than any other pupil in the school, but he was not so well advanced in his studies as some of the younger ones. He seemed so anxious to learn that the teacher often got him to remain after school for the purpose of assisting him in his studies.

Their homeward way lay over the same road, and they would walk home together after the hard places in the lesson had been made easy for Tobias.

Often in the morning, when she left home to go to the schoolhouse, the teacher would find the boy waiting for her, and she tactfully gave him several lessons in politeness, such as lifting his hat to her and other ladies, and assisting her over bad places in the road. She was beginning to feel that she might really make something out of Tobias when her efforts on his behalf received a sudden check by the receipt of the following note from his widowed mother:

Madam—I just want to say that I have heard how you are carryin' on with my son, Tobe, and all I got to say is, that his ain't of marryin' age, an' I am his guardian. A word to the wise ought to be sufficient.

—Weekly Telegraph.



Where's the Inspector?

"What! fifteen ounces make one pound? I always thought it was sixteen."

"Not at our shop, ma'am, it ain't never!"

Things a Pupil Should Know.

The practical value of an education does not depend on the ability to give text-book answers to questions, but on the ability to do that is, to make use of the information gained from books. In grammar and language, if our pupils can diagram and give definitions, we are apt to feel a considerable degree of self-satisfaction which we possibly would not feel if we would stop to consider that they need facility in putting words and sentences together, rather than in tearing them apart.

That this subject may be perfectly plain to old and young alike we take the liberty of giving a suggestive list of questions which may be used for a monthly or term examination, and which every pupil should be able to answer satisfactorily before he graduates from the public school.

Write a letter ordering six different books.

Write a receipt for money on account. Write a notice of cattle strayed. Illustrate by sentences the use of that, whom, and which.

Punctuate the following: Milton the English poet was blind.

Give sentences using correctly: (a) lie, (b) sit, (c) shall, (d) will, (e) saw.

Give principal parts of the following verbs: lay, ride, sing, sit, spare.

Illustrate by sentences five different uses of capital letters.

Write a short application for a position as a clerk in a store.

Write a one-page letter to a friend.—Ex.

A Nebraska Schoolma'am.

A Nebraska editor visited the village school and was greatly impressed with the schoolma'am. On reaching his sanctum he penned the following of her: "She is the pride of the town, the star of the west, the mother of invention and a jewel of rare brilliancy. She drew a picture of an iceberg on the blackboard. It was so natural that the thermometer froze up solid. With rare presence of mind she seized a crayon and drew a fire-place on the opposite wall. The prompt action saved the school, but they all caught cold from the sudden change."—Fond du Lac (Wis.) Reporter.

Common Sense Education.

The man who told the teachers that the public school system should be adjusted to the needs of the masses rather than to fitting individuals for higher institutions of learning deserves credit for announcing his discovery. He should not copyright his discovery, since it would be a great thing for the state if it could be adopted.—Indianapolis Journal.

The American dye on Persian lambs is equal to the European.