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A WORD OF WARNING.

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THE CHARMS OF OFFICE.

Ex-Legislators Who Can Find No Happiness Out of Official Life.

President Lincoln once said that the two things in this world which most resemble each other in attractions and in effects are whisky and office. No truer comparison was ever made. A man who knows not the delights of office, like one who has never felt the influence of liquor, finds no fault with an obscure, sober existence; but let him once taste the sweets of official life, and, like the youth who for the first time experiences the hilarious sensations of the cup, he will regard his former mode of living as insipid and unbearable. This fact explains the strange tenacity with which men who have been in the public service cling to government employment, even when their interests are in other directions. They prefer a salary of two or three thousand dollars a year, with a petty office, to five times that amount in the obscurity of private life. There are now on file at the Post-office Department a number of applications for meager-salaried Postmasterships by ex-Congressmen, who can not rest content out of office, though their business or professions yield them large incomes. Some of these papers are couched in pitiful terms, which would not ill become the petition of an exile who yearns for his native soil. It would be impossible to inflict a greater injury on a rising young lawyer or merchant than to send him to Congress and then not keep him there for life. He can never resume his occupation with success. The office instinct, once implanted in his mind, will crop out every time an office is to be filled and will render him incapable of serious attention to his business. He will probably become in the end a chronic office-seeker, a ward politician or even a member of the Legislature. Constituencies should ponder well the responsibility they assume when they select new representatives in Congress. They should bear in mind that they are transplanting tender plants into a richer soil and that when these plants have taken root in the tropical climate of the capital they cannot without damage or destruction be removed to the less genial clime whence they came. Better leave them in their native earth or make their removal permanent.

During the last session of Congress there was considerable comment about the number of ex-members who were seen on the floor of the House. These were for the most part those who were knocked off their feet by the tidal wave of 1882 and who were still quite dazed by the suddenness of the thing. It was pitiful to watch their features as they wandered from seat to seat, receiving condolences and affecting a jollity they were far from feeling. One would think that revisiting the scenes of past glory only adds pain to misfortune, but these ex-statesmen seemed to find a melancholy happiness in viewing the field of their words' exploits and even contemplating the chairs which they once occupied. Several ex-Congressmen have settled permanently in Washington, after vain attempts at re-election in their districts, and are seemingly happy to be near the gates of the official paradise which they are not permitted to enter. Others spend the greater part of the Congressional year at the capital, drifting about the public buildings in the hope that someting may turn up, all the while neglecting their private business and perhaps running into debt. A few of these quondam legislators are ever begging clerkships on the Committees of Congress or places in the departments—anything, in fact, that savors of public office. Can whisky show any sadder effects? Could a temperance speaker demonstrate the evil results of drinking in a more striking way than by comparing them with the baneful influence of office? In what glowing colors could he paint the picture of a bright young man, yielding at first to the temptations of a local office—a trusteeship, or perhaps the Mayoralty of his little town; then the gradual descent down the ladder of degradation from municipal office to the State Legislature and from Legislature to Congress—showing at each stage the corresponding effects of intemperance on a man's career. Any intelligent audience would not fail to register a pledge immediately.—*Washington Cor. Philadelphia Times.*

LONDON FIRE DISTRICTS.

The Arrangements in England's Chief City for Extinguishing Fires.

London is divided for fire purposes into four districts, each garrisoned with 130 or 140 men—a force strong enough to deal with the individual district fires. They are the A, comprising Westminster, Kensington, Bayswater, and, writing roughly, the whole of the West End; the B, the center, including the city; the C, the East End, and the D, the whole of the south side of the river, in which the headquarters, in the Southwark Bridge Road, are situated. Over each of these districts there is a Superintendent connected with headquarters by telegraph, and in most cases by telephone, and himself connected with all the stations over which he has superintendence, for the discipline and efficiency of which he is directly responsible to his chief. No station, with one exception, is telegraphically connected with another; every order passes from or through the Superintendent, even if sent by the chief. The one exception is in favor of the two nearest stations of two district. For instance, the station nearest in District A is connected with the nearest station in District B, and the nearest in District D, but the connection is never made use of unless there occurs a fire on some point between, in which case both stations communicate and turn out. The connection is, of course, also employed if there be a break down of communication, such as frequently occurs, between the office of the Superintendent of the district where the station is situated and headquarters. This system of communication by telegraph and telephone, now rapidly approaching completion, is, as far at any rate as the telephone is concerned, the growth of only the last few years, for it was in the early part of 1880 that the Edison Company gratuitously established telephonic communication between the B, C, and D districts and headquarters. The omission of the A district (the West End) was caused by the necessity of laying underground wires, an expense the company could hardly be expected to bear. The telephone now in use is the Gower-Bell, for the postal authorities, from whom the brigade rent them, do not appear to favor the Edison, notwithstanding that those who have had experience of both describe the latter as the better.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

THE CREMATORIUM AT MILAN.

A Description of the Method of Incineration Employed There.

The crematorium stands at the far end of the grounds, a building not large or high, but with its crescent-shaped open *atrium* of white marble sufficiently handsome and imposing. On the frieze is this inscription: *Tempio Crematorio per volonta del Alberto Keller eretto e donato alla citta di Milano.* On the wall facing the entrance is a handsome medallion of Albert Keller, who was duly cremated in the temple of his own providing. Many portions of the wall are marked off in small tablets inscribed with the names of the persons whose bodies have undergone cremation, and whose ashes, in many cases, repose in an urn or small vessel in a niche behind the tablet. Ashes they are not, properly speaking. I was shown about a couple of handfuls of white bleached bone, in bits not larger than one's finger—all that remained, as I learned, after the cremation of the body of a man some ten stones in weight. Other spaces have been appropriated by intending cremators, and have the word "Assegnato" inscribed on them. Through a small door you pass from the *atrium* into what I may describe as the operating room, in the middle of which stands the enclosed furnace, looking like an enlarged edition of the family laundry copper. The fire is kindled at the back of the furnace, and when at the proper moment released by the uplifting of iron shutters, comes roaring through two large orifices, and quickly fills the whole of the space where lies its prey. The body—*il cadavero*, as the attendant called it, seeming to take great delight in repeating the words—dressed in a light linen or woolen shroud or rather costume, is taken from the shell in which it has been brought, and laid on a marble slab, thence transferred to a large iron tray, which is borne to the mouth of the furnace and laid on a frame, which, by the action of a winch, is wound into the interior with its burden. The iron door is then closed, the shutters, as described above, are raised, and the furnace, to use an American expression, is literally in full blast. At the end of two hours the operation is complete, and all that there remains of what was once a man, full of "blood, bones, marrow, passion, feeling," are "Two handfuls of white dust shut in an urn of brass."

The system at present in use is that of Paola Gorini; it takes, as I have said, two hours and the consumption of three hundred kilogrammes of wood and twenty-five kilogrammes of charcoal. The cost of everything, including the mural tablet, is ninety-four francs. A new method, known as the Systeme Venini, under which the incineration will be effected by gas, was then immediately about to be tried,—I saw the furnace just completed,—and is no doubt now in operation. Under this system the whole affair will be completed in fifty minutes.

In this place, which was perfectly sweet, clean and wholesome, without the faintest trace of anything calculated to offend the sense of sight or smell, there are about eighteen or twenty cases of cremation every month. They are, the attendant told me, decidedly on the increase, and were the cholera scare again to appear, he had no doubt, from what he had heard, that the practice would have large numbers of adherents. Already bodies for cremation are sent from distant parts of Italy, and on the next day one was expected from Paris. And, indeed, when I thought of all the horrors of our ordinary "burvings," I could not wonder at the desire to be quit of them, no matter at what amount of trouble or expense.—*London World.*

NATURAL HISTORY.

Its Study and Pursuit a Healthy and Instructive Occupation.

There is no doubt that in England, as well as in France and Germany, the collecting of moths is a very general recreation as compared with the United States. That it is harmless is a negative praise; that a pursuit of its objects is healthful, and takes the man who works in the city out into the fresh country air, is a positive recommendation. But the labor is also instructive. Things have not changed very much since the days of Malpighi, and biology is a respected and necessary study. And throughout the world of animated beings it may be safely said that the growth and changes of life can nowhere be so easily and pleasantly observed as in the rearing of butterflies and moths from the egg. As to butterflies, it may be asserted that they are less interesting than their cousins the moths, who constitute the elder branch of the great natural group of scaly-winged insects, or *Lepidoptera*, to which both belong. The butterflies are less numerous in species, or kinds, and more uniform in habit and appearance. These gaudy and papery-winged day-flies have their own attractions and present their own scientific problems, but in number, diversity, soft and delicate colors, and patterns and unexpected modes of life, they can not hold a candle, to speak both figuratively and appositely, to the foolish but lovely moths.—*Prof. A. R. Grote, in Popular Science Monthly.*

The Sandal-Wood of Japan.

Passing by a shop you see cords of wood cut into small blocks about six inches long. This you learn is nothing short of shoe-timber. These cords of wood will speedily be converted into shoes of various sizes, at prices ranging all the way from four to twenty cents. One feels quite exalted in a pair of twenty cent shoes. The wood is called kiri, and is very light. The clogs are still further lightened by hollowing out the center. So, in point of fact, there is little truth in calling the shoes heavy, although they appear so to the inexperienced observer. It must be admitted, though, that they are unreasonably clumsy. Sometimes the shoes worn by the ladies are lacquered, and are fastened by a velvet band passing from either side over the lower part of the instep, and between the first and second toes. With this same kind of wood is made bureaus provided with strong iron handles, and the whole box is adjustable in horizontal sections, one piled above another. Owing to the lightness of the wood these boxes may be filled with clothing and carried off on the shoulders of the coolie in case of fires, which so often vex the people of Tokio.—*Cor. Chicago Times.*

—Abraham Lincoln's largest fee as a lawyer was five thousand dollars in a railroad case.—*Chicago Herald.*

PITH AND POINT.

—The divorce courts ought to be abolished. They encourage too many men to be false to the Union.

—A fifty-dollar ring may not typify the depth of the love that presents it, but it may tell a tale of terrible strain upon the pocket that pays for it.—*Fall River Advance.*

—If one have business across the water, it is all right, or if he goes for improvement to mind or body; but this going abroad merely for the sake of bragging about it is a broad farce.—*Boston Post.*

—Woman is herself a creature of intuition, as everybody will admit; but that's no reason why she should salivate out on the street with a thick drab veil drawn over her face away down to her chin, and then expect every male being of her acquaintance she meets to recognize her half a block away.—*Somerville Journal.*

—A well-dressed and pretty young woman, who went about in New York saying that she wanted to get married, was promptly clapped into an insane asylum. When a woman wants a husband and does not continually declare she would not touch a horrid man with a ten-foot pole, it is a sure sign of insanity.—*Philadelphia Call.*

—"I know," said the agent, "that the house isn't in very good condition, and that the location isn't the best, but you'll have splendid neighbors here." "Indeed." "Yes'm. Best neighbors in the world: kind and generous. For the first six months you'll be able to borrow anything from them, from a flat-iron to tea and sugar. Why, the last tenant here borrowed the cooking stove of the people next door, and used it so long that the folks went and bought another for their own use. Oh, it's the best neighborhood you could get into."—*Boston Courier.*

—Mistress (to applicant for service)—"How many nights out a week?" Applicant—"None, mum. Oi niver sth r out." Mistress—"Will you have many friends to see you?" Applicant—"Not wan, mum. Oi have no friends?" Mistress—"What wages will you expect?" Applicant—"Oi'll lave that to ye, mum." Mistress—"What kind of housework are you willing for?" Applicant—"O'm willin' to wash an' airun an' cook an' scrub an' clane windys an' wait on table an' taike care av childer an' carry in coal an' build faires"—(Here a loud ringing was heard at the door and the keeper of an asylum rushed in and secured the lunatic.)—*London Punch.*

IN A SLEEPING CAR.

How the Cowboy Conducts Himself in One of These Adjuncts of Civilization.

"Where do I camp?" he inquired, and was shown the lower berth next to me. "That's my pigeon-hole, is it? All right, old son, just watch my motion while I file myself away."

At this juncture he was desired to turn over his revolver to the porter, which he declined to do in a very spirited manner.

"'Old Dad' (his revolver) and me always sleep together, and we don't want no divorce," he explained.

The conductor remonstrated, but was advised not to try to "brad this mule's tail."

"This here's a sleepin' car, ain't it?" he at length inquired.

"Yes."

"Well, why don't you let people sleep then, when they've paid and gone into your game? If you're aiming to keep people awake and want company, just dance into the next car; there's lots of folks there don't want to sleep, I know, and they'll be glad to see you."

The conductor withdrew, and my friend pulled off his boots and stretched himself, with many comments in an undertone on the poverty of the surroundings.

In about ten minutes this erratic person had his head out in the aisle.

"Say, you boy!" to the porter.

"Well, sah."

"Come a runnin'."

The porter drew near and was handed a pillow about as big as a pincushion.

"Take that gooseha'r thing away," commanded the cowboy.

"Don't you want a pillow, sah?" asked the porter.

"That ain't no pillow, and I don't want it nohow: I'm afraid it'll get in my ear."

After this, silence, and for a short time I slept. I roused up, however, at an exclamation on the part of my neighbor.

"Hold on there, my son, jist drap them boots."

"I was only jest gwine to black 'em, boss."

"Drap 'em."

They drapped.

"Jest gwine to pull them spurs, I reckon. Now, don't monkey around my camp, taking things no more. If you want anything, speak for it. If you can't speak make signs, and if you can't make signs shake a bush. You h'ar me?"

"Yes, sah."

After this, silence. The wheels and rails again sang together, and the car again kept approving time, and presently I slept without interruption.—*Rocky Mountain News.*

WOMEN'S HEALTH.

Out-Door Life and Activities Important Factors In Its Conservation.

The redemption of women's health, I am more and more convinced, depends on their taking to outdoor life and activities. Reading high class memoirs which are in every one's hands nowadays, of the Carlyles, the Sterlings and F. D. Maurice, one is disgusted to hear the constant story of weak health, and women who, brought face to face with the realities of life, immediately droop, languish and are a long time dying. If they have a house to keep and a share of the actual work, like Mrs. Carlyle, at Craigenputtock and Chelsea, they sicken mysteriously, and their life is a time of wrestling with household affairs, alternating with refuge on the sofa, or months in the doctor's hands, in that wretched, unimprovable state which justified the sigh of a much tired husband who "wished his wife would get better, or something." Have I not, through the ignorance of our day and generation, wasted life enough in attacks of the familiar household demon, nervous prostration, which only vanishes on turning the patient out of doors. Twice and again, friends have looked pityingly on me as good as gone, but taken out of doors ten hours a day, as good for nothing else, sun and wind wrought their spell of healing, and health came again. Henceforth no more indoor life than must be for me, and I would urge other women to fashion their lives so as to spend them more in the open air.—*Vick's Magazine.*

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PRESENCE OF MIND.

Embarrassment Not a Distinguishing Characteristic of the Costa Ricans.

No Costa Rican lady or gentleman is ever embarrassed. They always know how to do and say the proper thing, and while their courtesy and good manners are said to be only skin deep, they are the most charming of companions, the most generous of hosts, and the most polite of gentlemen. No laborer ever passes a lady in the street without lifting his hat, and he always touches that always dirty and generally dilapidated portion of his apparel when a gentleman passes him. If a lady approaches a group of men digging a cellar, repairing the street, or what not, even though some of them may be half naked, they always salute her respectfully, and in the rural districts no one ever meets you without saying "May God prosper the object of your journey," or "May heaven smile upon your errand," or something in Spanish like that. The same man will swindle you out of your eye teeth if he gets a chance, and if you ask him how far it is to the next place he will undoubtedly tell you a falsehood. He doesn't care a copper whether you ever reach the end of your journey, and has no more regard for your welfare than the flea in the grass, but he recognizes a beautiful custom and says, "God be good to you," as if he meant it for a blessing. And this politeness permeates all classes and castes. If you enter a store with a lady every man there will salute you and remove his hat out of respect to her. On the streets the people will stand aside to let you pass, and it is necessary to do so, for the sidewalks are often less than two feet wide. If you go into a hotel office, a barber shop, restaurant or any other public place everybody present will salute you with "Buenos Deos," or some other friendly welcome. While there is not a particle of sincerity about all this, while the object and end of life in the Spanish mode of ethics is to get along with as little work and as much swindling as possible, they are certainly to be praised for cheating you in the most polite and agreeable manner possible. A Spanish highwayman does not swear at you and command you to give him your money or your life; he makes a profound bow, places his hand upon his heart, assures you that he is devoutly grateful that you are looking so well, and regrets that he is compelled by pressing necessities to request that you will loan him whatever valuables you have upon your person. Then thanking you for your promptness and courtesy in sparing him the painful duty of shooting you through the head, he will mount his horse and ride off with a prayer that the Almighty will protect you from the perils of your journey.—*Boston Herald.*

GINSENG.

A Famous Drug Which Is One of the Most Highly Prized of the Productions of Corea.

A Parliamentary paper contains the account of a journey made by the Consul-General of Great Britain in Corea. Some interesting information is given with regard to the product on of the famous drug ginseng, so prized as a tonic by the Chinese. It is grown from a seed which is sown in March. The seedlings are planted out in beds raised a foot above the level of the surrounding soil, bordered with upright slates, and covered in from sun and rain by sheds of reeds, well closed in except toward the north side, where they are left to open. In the first or second year the ginseng plant is only two or three inches high, and has only two leaves. It is transplanted frequently during this period. In the fourth year the stem is about six inches high, with four horizontal leaves standing out from it at right angles, and in the fifth year a strong, healthy plant has reached maturity, though it is more usual not to take it up until it has reached the sixth season. Ordinary ginseng is prepared by simply drying the root in the sun or over a charcoal fire. To make red or clarified ginseng, the root is placed in wicker baskets, which are put in a large earthenware vessel with a closely fitting cover, and pierced at the bottom with holes. It is then placed over boiling water, and steamed for about four hours.

Ginseng was for centuries regarded as a very elixir of life all over the East, and especially in China and Japan. Its properties were supposed to be miraculous, but they were generally supposed to be confined to the Corean ginseng. But its enormous price put it out of the reach of the poorer classes. The wild ginseng of Corea has frequently fetched twenty times its weight in silver in China. The export from Corea is a strict monopoly, which affords a considerable revenue, and is said to be the King's personal perquisite. Death is the punishment for smuggling it out of the country. The total export is only about 27,000 pounds avoirdupois.—*Scientific American.*

A REMARKABLE DECISION.

The Necessity of Physicians Keeping Abreast of the Modern Methods of Practice.

A physician was recently brought to task by a German tribunal for neglecting to keep himself informed as to modern methods of practice. A servant who received a wound in the chest in April last died from septicæmia under the care of this doctor, who despising antiseptic dressings, treated his patient according to ancient usages. The Court held that "every medical practitioner should keep himself informed on the accomplished progress of science, and have an exact knowledge of modern systems of treatment. If these had been employed the patient's life might have been saved, hence the liability for negligence." The Court of Appeal sustained the judgment. Some effort should be made in this country to force physicians to pass examinations every few years as to see whether they have kept informed as to the more recent medical investigations, including surgery. No provision is made in this country to protect the sick from being treated by incompetent or ill-informed doctors. A would-be physician in Europe must undergo a rigid examination before he is allowed to practice, but diplomas in the United States are no guarantee of knowledge or skill in the treatment of disease, and then thousands of our older physicians in the rural districts are unacquainted with the advanced methods in modern medicine and surgery due to discoveries made within the last quarter of a century.—*Demorest's Monthly.*

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Business and professional cards of five lines or less, per annum, five dollars.

For time advertisements, apply at this office.

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For transient advertising, see rates on third page.

All advertisements payable monthly.

OF GENERAL INTEREST.

—Cæsar Brothers are a New York business firm.

—Iron tubing from the United States is used in the Baku oil regions to convey oil from the hills to the shore of the Caspian Sea.

—General Aizpuru, the rebel leader at Panama, is a mulatto, who a few years ago was a waiter in a New Orleans billiard saloon.—*N. O. Times.*

—A colored man in Georgia who was bunted off a railroad track wanted twenty million dollars damages, but settled for sixteen dollars and a pass good for thirty days.

—A Montana paper thinks the increase of California lions and wolves in that country is due to the increase of cattle and sheep, upon which these animals mainly subsist.

—A New York State woman pointed an old pistol at a tramp and it blazed away and killed a thirty-five dollar calf. She ought to have pointed it at the calf.—*Detroit Free Press.*

—One of the largest steel manufacturers in Pittsburgh, Pa., expressed the opinion the other day that a year hence not a solitary keg of iron nails will be made this side of the Mississippi River.

—The Schuylkill Arsenal, at Philadelphia, manufactures eight million rounds of ammunition and fifteen million rifle balls each year. Three millions are used for target practice by the rank and file of the army.

—We have before us the card of a firm who advertise themselves as manufacturers of steam-refined tripe, pigs' feet and fertilizers. Heavens! and we had thought all along that these things grew naturally.—*Boston Transcript.*

—Philadelphia Post-office clerks were surprised the other day to see a new style of postal card, in the shape of a dirty linen shirt cuff, come flying through the letter hole. One side bore a one-cent stamp and an address, and on the other side was a strange message neatly written.—*Philadelphia Press.*

—Scientific experiments show that walking or running depends very much upon the size and shape of the shoe, and that strength and endurance as well as gracefulness in this exercise can not be gained without a sensible and well-fitting style. Low heels increase the speed in walking and make the step longer, and soles longer than the foot, if they are not too long, make walking easier.—*Chicago Times.*

—An important decision has been made by the Supreme Court of Kentucky, holding that a contract made by telephone is valid, and may be sustained in court. In the case at bar, an operator talked over the wire for one of the principals, and reported the conversation in the presence of two witnesses, whose testimony was admitted by the Court on the ground that the operator acted the part of an interpreter.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

—A cord of seasoned wood weighs, say, four thousand pounds. This cord of wood, placed in a charring receptacle and subjected to a proper temperature for, say five days, entirely disappears. In its place we have one thousand pounds of charcoal, two thousand pounds of pyroligneous acid and one thousand pounds of uncondensed gases. The aggregate weight of these products is equal exactly to the original weight of the wood.—*Boston Budget.*

—For originality the sign of a New York Fifth avenue shoemaker takes the lead. Over a well-painted foot is the word "Anato" and underneath is the word, "Miguel." Expecting to see a full-blooded, dark-eyed and curly-headed Italian or Spaniard in the proprietor, a customer will go in and ask for Mr. Miguel. Imagine his countenance when he is told that the proprietor of the place is an Irishman, and that "Anato Miguel" is merely his way of spelling anatomical.

—The reason beef sells high is that the population of the country increases faster than the meat supply. Cattle are decreasing year by year in proportion to the population, and will continue so to do. The decrease in the United States for the last year in all the States east of the Mississippi, north and south, and including Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas—most of the Union—was nearly 36,000 head. Beef making is not likely soon to be overdone.—*Washington Post.*

—At a town in Gloucestershire the relatives as below recently surrounded one dinner-table: One great-grandfather, two grandfathers, one grandmother, three fathers, two mothers, four children, three grandchildren, one great-gandchild, three sisters, one brother, two husbands, two wives, one mother-in-law, one father-in-law, two brothers-in-law, three sisters-in-law, one son-in-law, two daughters-in-law, two uncles, three aunts, one nephew, two nieces, and two cousins. The whole party consisted of seven persons only.—*Boston Herald.*

NOT A BOOK AGENT.

A Funny Incident—How a Distinguished Gentleman Was Misunderstood.

There is a General of local fame who went through a very unhappy quarter of an hour a week or so ago. He has just returned from the East. There he made the acquaintance of a young gentleman who is engaged to be married to a very charming Oakland girl. The truth, that always is the accessory of separation of lovers, burned in the young man's breast, and he took the opportunity, when the General was leaving, to load him down with messages of love and a book for his fiancee. The gallant warrior undertook the commission with all willingness, and when he had rested from his trip he started off one Sunday morning for Oakland with the book under his arm. He sought out the address given him, for the young girl was a stranger to him, and as he approached he saw a lady seated on the steps of an Oakland villa. He opened the gate and walked in with an imposing martial air. The lady eyed him with an unfavorable look.

"You are Mrs. Jenkinson?"

"I am."

"I have a book——"

"I don't want any books."

"Is there a Miss Jenkinson?"

"There is."

"Is she at home?"

"Yes."

"I have here a book——"

"Miss Jenkinson doesn't want any books."

"Hang it all, madam! I'm not a book agent. Your daughter's sweetheart in New York asked me to deliver this book to her with his love. I don't care a darn whether she wants it or not. Here it is. Good-day, madam."—*San Francisco Chronicle.*