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U. & N. W. R. R., 8:30 a. m., 2:40 p. m.
C. B. & Q. 8:30 a. m., 2:40 p. m.
C. R. I. & P. R. R., 8:30 a. m., 2:40 p. m.
C. & St. Joe 8:30 a. m.
S. City & P. 8:30 a. m.
U. P. R. R., 11:40 a. m.
O. & R. V. to Lincoln, 10 a. m.
B. & M. R. R., 8:40 a. m.
O. & N. W., 7:30 a. m.

OFFINGS

C. & N. W. R. R., 11 a. m., 11 p. m.
C. B. & Q., 11 a. m., 9:30 p. m.
C. R. I. & P., 11 a. m., 11 p. m.
C. B. & St. Joe., 11 a. m., 11 p. m.
C. P. R. R., 4 p. m.
O. & R. V. from Lincoln, 12:10 p. m.
S. City & P., 11 a. m.
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It really he lives in a mountain of snow.
Last year an excursion sailed clear to the Pole
And suddenly dropped into what seemed like a hole
Where wonder of wonders they found a new land,
While fairy-like beings appeared on each hand.
There were mountains like ours, with more beautiful green,
And far brighter skies than ever were seen,
Birds with the hues of a rainbow were found,
While flowers of exquisite fragrance were growing around.
Not long were they left to wonder in doubt
A being soon came they had heard much about,
Twas Santa Claus' self and th isthey all say,
He looked like the picture we see every day.
He drove up a team that looked very queer,
'Twas a team of grasshoppers instead of reindeer,
He rode in a shell instead of a sleigh,
But he took them on board and drove them away.
He showed them all over his wonderful realm,
And factories making goods for women and men
Furriers were working on hats great and small,
To Bunce's they said they were sending them all.
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All our Gloves we are sending to Bunce,
Santa showed them suspenders and many things more.
Saying I also took these to friend Bunce's store.
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As in Omaha every one know Bunce well,
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Neighbor Goodwin's Story.

"Nephew Nathan was always gentle. I doubt if he ever knowingly trod upon a worm, and I'll venture no word ever escaped his lips that he would wish to recall. He early found the peace of heaven, and has been all his days thanking God that the blessings vouchsafed to him are so manifold. It is, as I now call to mind, some eighteen months ago, as my spouse stood under the maple tree that is near our porch, busy, as is her wont, with some dairy matters, that she heard the clatter os horse's hoofs, and looking up, whom did she see but her nephew, Nathan. He rode up to her, and without dismounting, saluted her, bending low to do so, and after presenting her with a fat and neatly plucked fowl, made discourse which I will repeat as nearly as my memory bears out what my wife did tell me."

"'The Lord hath been very good to me, my Aunt Charity.'

"'So he hath, Nathan.'

"'My blessings are more than I can reckon, my Aunt Charity.'

"'Truly you do well to always bear that in mind, Nathan.'

"'Yet, I fear that through so many mercies, I shall be unmindful of my spiritual duties and become attached to the things of time and sense, my Aunt Charity.'

"'You must pray to be delivered from temptation, Nathan.'

"'I have cast my eyes about seeking some means by which I may be tried as by fire, my Aunt Chavity.'

"'You do wrong, Nathan. The Lord works in His own way.'

"'Therefore I believe that He hath directed my thoughts.'

"'What mean you, Nathan?'

"'Toward Mistress Polly Prentiss, my Aunt Charity.'

"Now, if I know my spouse, neighbors," said Mr. Godwin, interrupting the course of his narrative, "and to judge by the flash of indignation that was in her eyes as she told me this, the answer that she gave Nathan was not gentle." Her words were:

"'Toward that shrew! Why, she hath it in her to afflict a man worse than him from whom our Lord did drive seven devils.'

"'Yet, knowing that I desire Mistress Polly in marriage; surely in that way, if in no other, I may make self-sacrifice, and be tried as if by fire.'

"'You are pleased to jest, Nathan.'

"'I never jest, my Aunt Charity; for every light word we are held to account.'

"'But heaven doth not command you to eat bread that hath molded, nor to take a wild beast to your home, Nathan.'

"'Nay; but it hath come upon me with the force of conviction, my Aunt Charity, that I must have such trials as will wean me from the world, and if I marry this woman I shall have such trial ever present.'

"Thereupon my spouse," again Mr. Goodwin said, by way of interruption, "did call him a stupid fool and did pray heaven afterward to forgive her. She said to him, false, that to wed that woman would be to seek a grave or madhouse. But he shook his head, and without a further remark rode away; and my spouse did comfort herself by the thought that, determine as he might two minutes of conversation with Mistress Polly would drive the notion from his head. A week later, Nathan came again.

"'She hath promised to wed me, my Aunt Charity.'

"'She hath promised to wed you, Nathan? Have you in truth asked her hand? I could cry with vexation and sorrow.'

"'How else, my Aunt Charity, could she promise to wed me unless I asked her hand?'

"'How else? Why, the shrew, had she taken the notion, would not hesitate to go to you or any man and demand marriage. Of course she promised you. Little chance had she of a husband. Why, Nathan, why did you not wed the Widow Abigail Spence? Tell me that? A good woman, a thrifty housewife, and a gentle soul.'

"'Ah, my Aunt Charity, much did I desire to do so, but that would have been too great a blessing Sorely was I tempted to ask the widow's hand on the day that her sister Lydia wedded young Spicer. I sat that evening in the kitchen by the widow as she knitted, and marked her grace of manner and comeliness; and I made mention of Lydia's happiness, and when I did this, Abigail turned to me with tender eyes and cooly said:

"'Will you not take pity on Lydia's lonely sister?' and for an instant, even many minutes, I did have sore temptation to woo her, for I judged by that remark she might, if urged, have given me her hand. Then came the words of Scripture to me, to flee temptation, and I made great effort and quitted her. I have not seen her since, except in church, where she does gaze on me with sad eyes.'

"'You are a wicked man, Nathan Appleby, thus to break the heart of a good woman and to take up with a shrew. Still, having done so, Nathan, tell me of your wooing of Polly.'

"'It was on the evening of the last Lord's day, my Aunt Charity, as the sun went down, that I made my way to Mistress Polly's dwelling. I heard the sharp tone of her voice as I approached. If I mistook not she was speaking to one of her father's farm hands, and she said: "You great seed-sowing numbskull! Out of my sight, you ill-favored, hideous-mannered clod!"

"'And yet you persevered in your intentions, Nathan?'

"'Truly, I did, and heard her say, "I hate a man, great, stupid, ill-begotten things." Then her father replied, "I fear you will never have opportunity to do aught but hate a man!" To this she said, "It would have been well for my mother had she not favored you. If I had a man, O! but I'd make him rue the day!"'

"'And hearing that you did not turn away, Nathan!'

"'What I heard only satisfied me, my Aunt Charity, that I should find tribulation I do greatly need. Mr. Prentiss came to me, and I spoke my mind to him without delay. I said that I desired his daughter in marriage.'

"'And what did he reply?'

"'He answered that Eunice was a well-favored girl, and that he could not deny her to me, if she chose to take me. I said that not Eunice, but Mistress Polly, I desired, and I confess that he seemed amazed, and did stare at me with a certain fixed expression that was painful to look upon. Then he approached me and said that he never heard that I was imprudent in my drink, and I had trouble to persuade him that his suspicion wronged me. Then he looked at me again, and even hinted that my reason had left me. At last I persuaded him to send his daughter Polly to me. As he quitted the room he seized my hand and said: "Nathan, I pray that she may drive you from the house. It would be a blessing to you."

"'Mistress Polly came into the best room, my Aunt Charity, and, as the door closed, she stood with her back against it and smiled, and I confess that the smile had naught of humor but only scorn in it. I trembled at that smile, fearing she would drive me thence.

"'Speak up, Nathan Appleby," she said, "for never since your mother bore you did not speak louder than a cat mews."

"'If I now remember right, I answered her nothing, for my thoughts were in confusion."

"'Art dumb!" she said, "Might as well be aught you can say. Your face is like a jack-o'-lantern, and your tongue as full of speech. What's now I say!"

"'I asked her if her father did not tell her.'

"'Had he told me," said she, "you would not see me here. Curiousity, not he, brought me. I would like to know what you, whose spunk is less than a worm's, could have to say to me from your own lips. Not to give advice I'll venture. You're no such idiot as to try that. Come, I'll have it out of you. Belike you would marry me."

"'She said this, my Aunt Charity, as in sarcasm; yet I am glad she said it, for my spirit seemed to melt like an April snow bank, and had I not taken her words on the echo, I fear I could not have made known my errand. Her face as I said this was terrible, so that I turned my eyes to the window as if for a chance to escape violence. I cannot recall all she said, but I do bear in mind that she called me a beetle, and she said my legs were spindle shanks, which is untrue; that she remarked contemptuously upon the paleness of my face, and likened me to Sandy Sam tdiot. I perceived, however, that her violence was only of the tongue, though that is enough for one person. The called me a pandora, whatever that may be, and said that I should marry her, and right away, and a sad day it would be for me, too. She warned me to have no delay, to cause the bans to be published next Lord's day, and as soon thereafter as the law permits to come for her, and she warned me to keep out of her sight till then. Other painful words she said, which I shall not repeat, my Aunt Charity, and thus she has promised me.'

"'What think you all, neighbors, of such a wooing as that?" Mr. Goodwin inquired.

"That your spouse did say rightly when she called him a 'stupid fool,' said Mrs. Pantry.

"That it passes all comprehension," said 'Squire Wytynge.

"Well, I say," remarked Mr. Purchas, whose domestic experience was sad, "the man who knowingly puts his head in such a yoke deserves to wear it always. Vinegar women are wont to be smooth-tongued during courtship and to make amends afterward."

"Well, tell us the rest, neighbor," said Mr. Blumfield. "They were married?"

"Yes, they were married, on the Lord's Day three weeks, and those who saw them, as they quitted her father's house, say that she berated him all the way to his home."

"And did he soon wish he was dead?" asked Mr. Purchas in such suggestive tones that Mr. Blumfield again slyly nudged Mr. Goodwin.

"He bore her shrewishness uncomplainingly for six months or more, though he did grow pale and lose flesh greatly; and he did confess to me, upon one occasion, that he did not bear in mind when he married that death only parted husband and wife. His silence enraged her; but never did he speak a word in temper to her. Now I will narrate to you that which is the most marvellous and as well as amusing of all of it. My spouse happened to fall in with Nathan's wife about a year ago, and I will say, neighbors, that my spouse, though usually smooth spoken, can say a thing sharply if she so desires. She did tell Polly Appleby that it was a grievous shame for her to belabor that patient man, Nathan.

"'Man!' Nathan's wife replied, 'Man! Being of your blood, its no wonder he's no man. He moans like a calf and he purrs like a cat, and hath less spunk than either. A calf will bunt and a kitten scratch!'

"'Well as to that, Madame Appleby, sharp speech never made a calf to bunt nor a cat to scratch. Your speech is of no more account to him than it would be to them,' said my spouse.

"With that Mrs. Appleby became very wroth, and did call my spouse a pandora.

"'Humph,' says my spouse, 'I could tell you that which would make you angry for cause. Do you know that the sharper speech you use the better does he like it?'

"At this Mrs. Appleby did open wide her eyes, and, neighbors, as I sit here, for the first time in her life she answered not one word.

"'Do you know why he married you? Are you so stupid that you have not discovered that?' my spouse asked. 'I know, for he made a confidant of me previous to the wedding. He married you because he had no trials, these were his words, and he feared that he could not reach heaven unless he had his share. Therefore he wedded you.'"

"Aha, a good one," said Mr. Pantry, as he tremblingly shook his head with laughter.

"And what said she to that?" asked 'Squire Whytynge.

"Never did she speak so quietly, and for some time made no response; at last she said:

"'So that was his reason, was it? Well, I'll—disappoint him I'll—be—even—with him. I'll make him another sort of a wife from this hour, for I will not be a pack-horse to carry my husband to heaven!"

Here Moses Butler sharply snuffed both candles, and when the laughter of the gentlemen had in a measure subsided, Mr. Goodwin continued:

"When Nathan came in soon after, what did his wife do but approach him and kiss him, and Nathan trembled, for never had she done that. And she said, 'dear Nathan,' and she did lovingly caress him, so that he was as one in a trance.

"Neighbors," continued Mr. Goodwin. "I have seen their babe, as I remarked; and I saw Nathan gently stroking his spouse's brow, and he did say soft words to her, to which she made loving response, and as she looked coyly over his shoulder to my spouse and me she said, 'My Aunt Charity, you see what your words have driven me to. I am not any pack-horse, am I, my husband?' and Nathan did even in our presence kiss her, and if she returned not the kiss of love, then I never gave one myself."

"Would that I had known that thus she could have been conquered. For she was the comeliest lass in all these parts, and I would have put up with six months of gall for a lifetime of sweetness. Had I known what I know now, her hame would be Blumfield, not Appleby," said Mr. Blumfield, sadly.

"Aha, neighbor Blumfield, we have your secret now," said Mr. Birchwood.

"No, you have not neighbors."

"I tell you, you did betray yourself."

Here the tall clock struck 8, and Moses Butler, rising and snuffing a candle, said: "Now, gentlemen, all of you, it is time to be in your beds. Go home and tell your spouses this tale. I'll venture they'll delight to hear it." And with his usual authority he sent them away.

The members of the Seven Coppers must have taken Moses at his word, for of all the gossiping in Hartford town, there never was such gossip among the matrons as there was the next day over Nathan Appleby's marriage and the result of it.

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OMAHA, Neb., February 14, 1881.

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