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Gleanings from the Story Teller's Pack

SENATOR CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, while repairs are being made upon his house in New York City, is living at the Waldorf-Astoria. Some time ago he went there and reserved a suite of rooms. When he came back from Washington after attending the funeral of President McKinley he went directly to the hotel. As he stepped up to the desk there was a woman arguing with the room clerk. The argument ran something like this. The clerk said:

"I am sorry, madam, but we have no rooms."

"I want a parlor, bed room and bath, and I must have them," said the woman, decisively.

"We have none," said the clerk, courteously.

"Then, I will take one room, with bath."

"But we have none."

"Who is taking up all the rooms?" asked the woman, combatively.

"Well," said the clerk, "people coming in for the yacht races, the horse show, the fall shopping, and so on. We are quite full."

Just then Senator Depew stepped up and the clerk said affably:

"The rooms you engaged are ready, senator. I hope they are satisfactory."

The woman turned and looked at Senator Depew, recognized him in a moment and said to another woman with her, in withering scorn:

"I should think that these people who pretend to live in New York would have homes here and not go to hotels," and she flouted off.

Hector Baxter of St. Mark's Episcopal church, Minneapolis, contributes an anecdote of Bishop Whipple, which the latter related not long before his death.

Cornelia Whipple, the bishop's first wife, believed in dreams. She was a woman who seldom dreamed, but when she did the dream invariably came true. On a Sunday morning in October, at Faribault, Minn., many years ago, she aroused the bishop and told him that her son, who was living in New Mexico, was dying. She had seen him in a dream and there could be no mistake about it. She described him as he lay on a hard bed in a miserable adobe hut and declared that his serious condition was due to inattention. She urged the bishop to proceed without delay to New Mexico and rescue the boy.

A few hours later Bishop Whipple, obedient to his wife's wishes, was flying southward as fast as steam could take him. When he reached St. Louis he found a telegram awaiting him from his wife. It read:

"Proceed without delay to New Mexico. Don't waste any time; every moment is precious."

He followed directions to the letter and reached his stepson's side just in time. The scene was just as Mrs. Whipple had described it. The boy was sick unto death on a pallet of straw in an adobe hut. What medical attention he had received was doing him more harm than good.

It was apparent that he could not survive another day in such surroundings. Bishop Whipple had left in such a hurry that he had neglected to bring any more money than he needed for his bare traveling expenses. In his dilemma he went to the bank and told his story to the cashier—a manly young Mexican. He needed money to get his son out of the country; would the bank honor a draft?

The cashier was impressed with the bishop's recital.

"Any one could tell by looking at your face," said he, "that you were a bishop of the church of God and that you speak the truth. I will be glad to accommodate you. How much money do you want?"

The bishop drew on the bank for $500 and he and the sick man were soon on their way north. The mother's dream saved the boy's life and the loan was repaid as soon as the bishop reached home.

Former Attorney General Miller recently told this story, which is thoroughly enjoyed by the narrator:

"When President Harrison invited me to become a member of his cabinet," he said, "I determined to visit my boyhood home in Indiana before going to Washington. I had not been in the town for twenty years. At the railroad station I was met by the village hackman, who knew me when I was a boy. He greeted me as if I had left the town only the day before. On the way to the hotel in his ramshackle 'deep-sea going' hack' I said:

"'Well, William, what has happened since I have been here?'

"'William,' I continued, 'I've been chosen a member of the president's cabinet. What do the neighbors say to that?'

"'Nothin',' he answered, 'they just laugh.'"

The uniformed functionary who is in command of a regiment of bell boys at a local hotel, relates the Detroit Free Press, takes pride in the mouthful of jewelry that is displayed every time he grins. He had bad luck with his teeth in earlier life, and several ivories have been replaced with gold fillings. An acquaintance, one of the prominent regular boarders at the hotel, noticing the animated showcase the other day, observed:

"I am afraid, captain, that after you are dead and buried, you won't remain long in your grave. Some one will dig you up for that gold in your mouth. You'll be worth more dead than you are alive."

Rastus laughed so heartily at this that the jewelry display dazzled the eyes of the guest.

"Oh, no, sah," he said, "dey won't dig me up, sah—no, sah, cawse I'se gwine teh be incriminated, I am. Ah'll jes fool all dose gold-huntahs. Dey's dun got mah odah down at de creamery long time ago."

"Not long ago," remarked a traveling man, "I went up the picturesque Kentucky river on a little steamboat which runs from Louisville to Frankfort. By the way, there isn't a wilder or more beautiful stream in the whole country than that same Kentucky river; the boat passes through eight or ten government locks during the trip. On the boat I encountered a queer old customer—a long-bearded, grizzled Kentuckian, who was full of interesting reminiscences.

"'Once on a time,' he said, 'I made a heap o' money up an' down this little ol' river—a-peddlin'.'

"'What did you peddle?' I asked.

"'Keards,' he answered, 'playin' keards an' bibles.'

"'That was a queer stock in trade,' was my comment. 'How did you happen to have such a mixed lot as that?'

"'I bought it at a auction down t' Loo'sville,' he explained, 'the auctioneer lumped 'em, so I had to take 'em. But I got rid of 'em—yes, siree—ev'ry one of 'em. People along this river is allus wild for playin' keards; I sold them playin' keards for $2 a pack. They went off rapid, ev'ry one of them—yes-siree; an' I didn't have nary bible left on hand, nuther.'

"'How much did you get for your bibles?' I asked.

"'Laws,' the reminiscent Kentuckian explained; 'them bibles went off rapid, too; I give 'em away with th' keards.'"

Senator Platt was in a hansom cab with two ladies, reports the New York Times. The cab was stopped at the ladies' entrance of the Fifth Avenue hotel. They alighted. After the senator had escorted the ladies to the door he hailed the cabman, who was about to drive away, and tipped the man a quarter. Three half-tipsy loafers in good clothes were passing. One of them saw the act and said insolently:

"Is it a good quarter, Tom?"

The senator turned about and replied:

"It is far better than your manners, at any rate."

Then he joined the ladies.

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