

REVENGE OF FATE.—Here is a letter from a friend of mine in Kansas...

He was asked to drive ahead, says the Detroit Free Press, and after another glance at the letter he continued:

'From my earliest recollection I love the patter of raindrops on the roof at night...

'Five years ago I built me a house in a certain part of Kansas. It cost me \$600 extra to get things so arranged that I could hear the raindrops patter as I lay in my bed...

'For two weeks before I moved in it rained every night. I lived in that house three years, and what do you suppose happened, or rather, didn't happen?'

'It burned down and there was no insurance,' answered one of the crowd.

'No, sir. It never rained one single night in all those three years, unless I happened to be away from home. If there were showers they would pass away before bedtime.'

'If I happened to be away it would pour all night. I got so mad about it that I went to bed in the daytime several times, and I pledge you my word if it didn't stop raining before I got fairly between the sheets!'

'What about the letter?'

'It is from the man who bought my house. He bought because he wanted to hear the raindrops patter, and he says: 'What in blazes is the matter with your old shanty, anyhow? It hasn't rained here but one night since I bought you out, and then not a blamed drop fell on the roof of the house! Is it not curious?'

'Have you any theory about it?'

'Well, yes, I have. I think it's retribution.'

'How retribution?'

'Why, I am the author of that old song entitled 'Raindrops On the Roof.' Wrote it when I was only 14 years of age. I was innocent of any wrong, but fate—'

Then everybody got up in the most solemn manner and walked away and left him to pursue his downward path which leads to destruction.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE.—It is undoubtedly true that some people are much vainer than others, and devote more time and thought to their personal appearance than seems wise or expedient. But few of us are indifferent to a matter which is of such marked importance. People who depreciate or pretend to be wholly indifferent to their looks, either act a lie, or else fail to recognize the main structure on which the human mind is built. What, in fact, are looks for? If faces are like blades of grass or leaves of trees, where would be our identity? Where would be our passions? Where would be our motives? Emulation, self-respect, improvement and admiration are all qualities which spring from the consciousness that outward appearance is, and is intended to be, a matter of first importance. It is as much a law of nature as self-preservation. No matter how handsome or how ugly a man may be—and there is no distinction between man and woman here—let him go arm and with a friend toward a mirror. Whose image does he first glance at? Not the friend's, you may be sure. Observe a lady walking along the street. How many times will she glance at her own reflection in the shop windows? As often as she gets the chance. The sight never loses its novelty. That question, "How am I looking?" never loses its fascination. When she meets a friend who wears a new costume, the first thought that occurs to her is "Now I wonder how that would suit me?" She immediately turns over in her mind how and when the idea is to be carried out, while the friend is all the while flattering herself she is an object of admiration. Let no one condemn himself for this weakness; it is common to all. Men and women should neither undervalue good looks nor despair of improving bad ones. It is their duty to appear to the best possible advantage, and they are justified in using a legitimate means to that end.

ONE WAY TO COLLECT TAXES.—Washington, N. J., has a tax collector who, while his efficiency is not denied, will probably fail of a re-election should he desire it.

When he assumed the duties of his office he understood those duties to consist of a collection of taxes, and he went about the business in an original and energetic way that has put money in the town treasury and set the good people of the township by the ears. The other day he drove around with a black mare and a pair of handcuffs, and gave each delinquent two minutes in which to settle up, with the alternative of being handcuffed and taken to jail. He had with him a special deputy, a burly fellow, sworn into office for the occasion. The effect of the combination was wonderful.

The delinquents got red in the face, and swore not a little at the summary proceedings, but they drew their pocketbooks just the same and settled. One man seemed disposed to hold out.

He said he had been in the country a great many years and had never paid any taxes, and he did not intend to now. The collector was game clear through and with the aid of his deputy got his handcuffs on after a struggle and dragged the delinquent to the black maria, when he called quits and paid his tax.

One of those visited was a woman. She waxed wroth at the demand made upon her, and emphatically declared she would not pay.

'Well, madame,' said the collector, 'I shall have to handcuff you, then, and take you to jail.'

'I never saw a pair of handcuffs,' said the woman pertly.

The collector said he would be pleased to show her a pair, taking them from his pocket. The woman examined them critically. "I don't like their looks," she said, "I guess I'll pay up."

And she did. So far the jail is tenantless and the delinquent taxpayers are reduced in number; but as yet no one seems to love the collector for the enemies he has made.

THE CENSUS OF SEX, MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.—Col. Carroll D. Wright in the June Forum says: Out of every 100 adults in the United States in 1890 there were 26 single, 65 married and 9 widowed. There were 31 single, 64 married and 5 widowed out of every 100 males, as compared with 20 single, 67 married and 13 widowed out of every 100 females.

The United States still shows the smallest proportion of single and the largest proportion of married adults, while the reverse is true in Ireland and Scotland.

The excess of males over females in the country at large is 1,513,510. The excess of single males, however, is nearly twice as great, or 2,761,588.

In Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont there are, practically, 64 single, 42 married and 4 widowed males, and 49 single, 42 married and 9 widowed females. These three States have the smallest proportions of single, and the largest proportions of married, in the whole country, while the proportion of widowed is fully as large as in any other part of the Union.

In a few States the number of the divorced in each 100 is appreciable, there being one divorced male in New Hampshire, and one divorced female in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Florida, Utah and Nevada.

There is an excess of single males in every State and Territory, except the district of Columbia, while, on the other hand, the widowed females are uniformly in excess of every State and Territory in the Union.

W. H. Nelson, who is in the drug business at Kingville, Mo., has so much confidence in Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy that he warrants every bottle and offers to refund the money to any customer who is not satisfied after using it. Mr. Nelson takes no risk in doing this because the remedy is a certain cure for the diseases for which it is intended and he knows it. It is for sale by Wm. F. Greenwell & Son, Leonardtown, Md.

BECOMING TOO YOUTHFUL.—Johnny—Say, Ma, there goes Pa, off fishin' again 'stead goin' to work.

Ma—Tell your grandfather to go after him.

Johnny—Grandpa's playing ball down on the flats.

Ma—Well, this is a pretty state of things. If I catch any more of 'lixir of youth in this house I'll put it in the stove.

DEFINITION OF HOME.—A London paper offered a prize for the best definition of a home. About five thousand answers were given. Some of the best were the following:

The blossoms of which Heaven is the fruit.

A word of strife shut out, a world of love shut in.

Where you are treated the best and grumble most.

The father's kingdom, the children's paradise, the mother's world.

The place where the great are sometimes small and the small often great.

The jewel casket containing the most precious of all jewels—domestic happiness.

The coziest, kindest, sweetest place in all the world, the essence of our purest earthly joys and deepest sorrows.

The only spot on earth where the faults and failings of the fallen humanity are hidden under the mantle of charity.

A little hollow scooped out of the windy hill of the world where we can be shielded from its cares and annoyances.

A hive in which, like the industrious bee, youth garners the sweet and memories of life for age to meditate and feed upon.

An abode in which the inmate, the "superior being called man," can pay back at night, with 50 per cent. interest, every annoyance that has met him in business during the day.

The source of comfort which youth does not fully appreciate, which the young men and maidens lovingly desire, which the middle-aged generally possess, which the old rightly value.

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assassinated President Carnot on Sunday night at Lyons, has been assigned for July 23.

A CHINESE DESCRIPTION OF THE PIANO.—A Chinaman, lately returned from a trip to Europe, treated his countrymen to the following description of the piano: 'The Europeans keep a large four-legged beast, which they can make to sing at will. A man, or more frequently a woman, or even a feeble girl, sits down in front of the animal, and steps on its tail, while, at the same time, striking its white teeth with his or her fingers, when the creature begins to sing. The singing, though much louder than a bird's, is pleasant to listen to. The beast does not bite, nor does it move, though it is not tied up.'—Das Neue Blatt.

An old lady up in the Adirondacks, when asked if she heard the earthquake, answered: 'Yes, I heard it, rather enjoyed it; for it is the first thing that has happened since I married Jeremiah that he did not think I was to be blamed for!'

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The peach crop of the Maryland-Delaware peninsula is estimated at about one-fifth of the average.

A cloudburst on the Tennessee river, twenty miles east of Knoxville, damaged thousands of acres of crops.

Mr. Wm. M. Singlerly was nominated for Governor of Pennsylvania by the democratic convention at Harrisburg.

Advices from Frostburg are that in that portion of the mining region the condition of the strike is unchanged.

Bishop Paret appointed committees to meet the financial questions involved in the proposed division of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

As a result of the American Railway Union's boycott to assist the strikers of the Pullman (Ill.) car shops eleven roads entering Chicago have been tied up or badly crippled.

Jacob S. Coxe, the leader of the Commonwealth Army, has returned to Washington and states his election to Congress from the district in Ohio in which he resides is a certainty.

Three burglars in Brooklyn went to work on a safe, and on finding it to be a sham affair, made of pine wood and oilcloth, they were so disgusted that they left their tools.

Gen. John Hewston, of California, who was charged with manslaughter in London, was set free yesterday and congratulated by his friends. The grand jury refused to indict him.

M. Jean Paul Pierre Casimir-Perier was elected President of the French republic by the electoral congress of France, assembled yesterday in the palace at Versailles. The trial of Cesare Giovanni Santo, who

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Jan 23, 93—y

FINE DIAMONDS, WATCHES, JEWELRY, SOLID SILVER AND PLATED WARE, Wedding and Birthday Presents.

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Oct 31—1y

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UNDERTAKING Messrs. H. B. CAWOOD and A. G. WELCH have dissolved co-partnership. Mr. CAWOOD will continue the business at Chaptico and will furnish CASKETS that are elsewhere sold for \$50 and \$70 at \$30. Proportionately low prices for COFFINS H. B. CAWOOD, Chaptico, Md. Feb 2, 93—y

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