

A STORY.

(Offered the Record-Union by M. A. B.)

I always did like a euphonious title for a story, and I also like to have it something like the title to a statute, which virtually conveys to the reader a synopsis of the whole subject, and so I give the title of my story:

THE FRIGHTFUL FATE OF THE RAMPANT RADICAL REFORMER; Or the Hyperbolic Hypnotizer Hypnotized.

CHAPTER I. THE LECTURER.

He was a pale, slight, insignificant-looking little chap, not bigger than a pint of cider. I never was much of a describer, but when I do describe, I try to be as accurate as possible, for I think embellishment is the worst of all ideas of appearances. When I was a boy my chums and I used to get pumpkins and dig out the inside and slice off the outside rind in spots in imitation of eyes and eyebrows, and a nose, and mouth with teeth, and ears; and by lighting a candle and placing it inside, in the night, one could see quite a resemblance to human features.

Well, my little Rampant Radical Reformer looked something like this, and his head was as round as a pomegranate as anything I can think of, for it was as full of ideas as a pomegranate are all there is about it. Any consequence, so his ideas were all there was about his head of any consequence; and as most people consider the taste of pomegranate seeds insipid, so most people considered his ideas insipid.

[You see the simile is a very good one.] He had two powers of personality which made him remarkable. One was the power to hypnotize men and make them think just as he did; or perhaps everybody did think just as he did, and he only had the power to make them do just as he and they thought; and this was done with a wand which he always carried, often using it for a cane, and when he wanted to hypnotize one he would wave it in an occult manner. No one could tell whether the power was inherent in him or in the wand, but I got a good look at the wand one day when he printed on it common sense, and I concluded that that was what it was made of, and that was probably where the power was located.

The other personal trait was probably what brought upon him the calamitous catastrophe which will be described near the end of this story. He loved all womankind, from the oldest grandmother to the youngest babe, with a quiet devotion, amounting almost to adoration; and he didn't know why he loved them, do—that this trait is never appreciated, except by the very old or the very young, all intermediate ages despising the man who possesses it, and especially so if he does not show in person the semblance of a hero; and so he went blindly to his deplorable doom.

CHAPTER II. THE PREPARATION FOR THE LECTURES.

The Rampant Radical Reformer was standing in the telephone manufactory. Like a gust of wind he was there; no one there had ever heard of him, no one knew where he came from, or whether he was going.

With a quiet, gentlemanly air he accented the manager in these words: "I want you to construct an immense telephone for me, and I want to borrow all of the small telephones in the United States, and perhaps have some more made."

The manager stared at him, but he went on to explain: "I intend to give two lectures in the United States, one to men and the other to women, and I want everybody to hear them. I desire to have a telephone through which I can address the most distant individual in the United States, and I want the small telephones to put in the hands of every man first, and afterward in the hands of every woman; so that everyone can hear, and also so they can question me, if they so desire."

The manager comprehended in an instant what a brilliant advertisement such a lecture would be for his business, but he apparently unconcernedly, asked: "Where do you propose to set up the large instrument?"

"In the center of the solar system," answered his customer.

A look came into the manager's eyes, which plainly showed the severity of the applicant, but he divined it at once, and remarked with a smile: "In other words, which will be more readily comprehended in the Hub of the Universe, or a very good location," said the manager with a look of relief. "Of course you are able to pay for what you ask? Mr. Reformer, what is your name?"

"Where I am known I am called the Rampant Radical Reformer, and the Hyperbolic Hypnotizer, and I can satisfy you as to my financial ability," said the applicant, with as much dignity as a pumpkin-faced, pomegranate-headed imp could assume, and he forthwith proceeded to satisfy the manager.

CHAPTER III. THE FIRST LECTURE.

Several weeks after the interview recorded in the foregoing chapter, a notice appeared in most of the daily papers throughout the country.

The Rampant Radical Reformer and Hyperbolic Hypnotizer will give two lectures to the people of the United States, one to men only, and the other to women only, in which the social evils of the country will be freely handled.

The speaker will address the people from the town of Boston through an immense telephone, constructed expressly for the purpose, and all of the small telephones, not possible small telephones and receivers, will be provided with them on applicants. The speaker's agents, who are located in the center of every community. Questions will be permitted from any one, and answers will be given of public interest. The lecture to men will commence on the 30th instant, and will continue until the lecture is completed, but not until the topics are exhausted. The date for the commencement of the lecture to women will be duly advertised.

On the 30th instant the little Rampant Reformer was reared on his legs on a platform behind the largest telephone ever constructed, and millions of men scattered all over the country were standing before telephones and holding receivers to their ears.

The lecturer commenced with the query: "I suppose you think you are a nation of liberty-loving free men?" "We are," came back to him from millions of voices.

"You are not," asserted the speaker. "You are a nation of cringing slaves. You are slaves to your traditional customs; slaves to precedents; slaves to your prejudices; slaves to a host of errors which you practice; slaves to your self-imposed rulers; slaves wearing self-imposed chains, and you are continually forging more fetters which you fasten upon yourselves and wear with slavish complacency. You are a nation of slaves!"

The small voices in the millions of telephones, struck upon the millions of tympanums in the million of ears, with the force of a million of tack hammers, and as the Hyperbolic Hypnotizer waved his magic wand of common sense, conviction seized the comprehension of his hearers.

Continuing to wave his wand he went on: "How can a nation hope ever to become free and elevate itself into advanced, or advancing civilization, by slavishly following old customs and old ways of doing things?" "I suppose you think you are a law-abiding and a law-governed people?" queried the speaker.

"We are," came back from millions of voices. "You are not," yelled the Rampant. "The savages in the wilds of Africa are just as much right to claim that they are governed by American laws as you are. How can a people be governed by something which they know nothing about?"

"Is there a man among you who can tell me what the American laws are?" he held up the words "American laws" between his thumb and forefinger and tetered on his toes just like J. Whitcomb Riley when initiating the school

reformer, "speak up now; don't be bashful—what are the American laws?" A low murmur of voices was heard asking: "Where is lawyer Tall?" "Where is lawyer Short?" "Where is lawyer Lean?" "Where is lawyer Lean?" "Where is lawyer White?" "Where is lawyer Black?" apparently there were calls for all of the lawyers in the country, and he could hear the lawyers answering: "I haven't got my library here."

"Never mind your libraries," yelled the Reformer. "I have got a library of my own, and though it is probably not one-fiftieth part the size of some of yours, it is fifty times larger than any good law library ought to be."

"What reasonableness is there in accumulating tons and tons of tomes of statutes so vaguely worded, or intermixed with other statutes or contradictions, that the best educated cannot understand the true meaning, and have to resort to a resort of decisions to learn how they have been interpreted heretofore?"

"Shame on the nation which makes, or permits to be made, laws which call for the attention of any kind of lawyer!" "I tell you the ship of State is so heavily loaded already with this kind of trash that she will certainly founder unless someone takes it off her deck soon."

"Abolish all of your laws, except your Constitutions, and the few codes which have not been spoiled by amendments!" "Never mind your amendments, and some of you have had excellent codes, elaborate enough to last a common sense people a thousand years without amendments."

"Construct your courts and court procedure so that the humblest citizen can have a case considered by the highest legal authority, with costs, in conformity with his ability to pay them."

"Discard your despicable practice of patterning after previous decisions or courses of action."

"Perfection is the only common sense present in the present generation should be more competent to approximate perfection because of its more extensive information and more general education than those who have lived before."

"Abandon your contemptible custom of continual legislation."

"Amend your inordinate intercourse so that a warrant issued for the arrest of a criminal can be served anywhere in the United States."

"An excellent police system might be organized by electing an extra constable in each township for universal service under the control of the universal Government, and having a head office at the Capital of the Nation, with branch offices at the Capitals of the States, and these same branch offices should be the headquarters of the State constabulary, and all should work in concert."

"Protect the humblest residents on your soil in all of their constitutional rights, and prevent crime legally and not by mob violence."

"Shame on the nation which permits any of its communities to deal out vengeance like a pack of devils. If that is thought necessary to prevent crime fence off a portion of the country with a high wall and put all such ferocious people into it, and there they can eat and brimstone and red hot pitchforks, and toss your criminals over the wall for them to practice on."

"Enfranchise yourselves from the enormous error of discriminating in taxation, and from the conditions which, besides being palpably unjust, is in plain contradiction to the spirit and wording of your Constitutions."

"The more there are with large accumulations the better are the prospects for the producers to obtain good prices for their products. Have common sense."

"I can see so many errors in common practice that it would prolong my lecture for a month if I should mention half of them. I will say of you any one like to hear my opinion on any subject, send it up."

"How about the money question?" came from a host of voices all over the country. "Deal with it in a common-sense way," yelled the reformer. "Money is simply a convenient medium of exchange. It is the duty of every Government to coin it. Its stamped value is merely a name, and it should be unchangeable. It is just as foolish to argue about the intrinsic value of money as it would be to argue about the intrinsic value of a pint-cup or a half-bushel measure or a wheelbarrow or a lecturing table. The real value lies in the article exchanged for it, and is governed by the law of supply and demand, which represents innumerable conditions."

"Gold and silver have always been used for money (with few exceptions) by the more civilized nations since historic time, and there is no good reason why any change should be made now."

"Gold is the more desirable for the larger value coins, and silver is the more desirable for the smaller value coins. The only reasonable question about the use of these metals is the ratio of weight; and I cannot foresee any good reasons why the coinage of both metals should not be united."

able and redeemable when desired in metal; but let none but the General Government issue coin at any time. "I cannot foresee any great detriment to the country if coin should accumulate until there was a surplus for investment. It is fifty times larger than any other object itself, the same as any other object of production."

"I am not taking into account, in my advocacy of the coinage of gold and silver, or cliques, but the effect on the general whole people."

"Men should divest themselves of self-interest in the greatest obstacle to reform; and it is because of this that so many reforms come by force instead of by peace."

"Many would-be reformers mistake self-interest for reform, and do not hesitate to trample on the constitutional rights of those who stand in their way. Woe to those who attempt to climb by making steps of the personal rights of individuals," yelled the reformer.

"Lay aside your selfish interests; no object is reform which requires the disregard of individual constitutional rights to attain it; and no method to attain a desirable object is justifiable which is a disregard of the rights of others."

There were numerous organizations for mutual aid, and the Reformers were asked to ask the Rampant Radical Reformer's opinion; but the hint he had given them smote their consciences and they refrained.

Again the Rampant Reformer's voice rang out in piercing tones: "Look at the present undesirable condition of the most magnificent country on earth, a land abounding in all of life's necessities and luxuries, a land possessing all the requisites for establishing an earthly Paradise, in which progress to all others is only disorder and discord and discomfort, many caused by erroneous methods in managing affairs, errors not so much of ignorance as of will; which all others, or cliques, well-intentioned, perhaps; but when I admit this the line of the poet comes to my mind which asserts with good intentions; men and cliques who hope that their own prosperity will not be a detriment to the prosperity of others; and some who intend to call on to achieve their own prosperity with their own efforts, as they think they have done, apparently not comprehending that mutual help by all grades, from lowest to highest, is an absolute necessity in order to have a perfect world."

He waved his magic wand of common sense until he thought its influence had taken effect, and then continued: "As our country, instead of growing into a prosperous and happy one, should have done if its affairs had been rightly managed, has grown into a tramping-ground for the indigent and the unemployed, and a resort for the idle and the shiftless in every county, and insist on the healthy earning their own living, and encourage as many as possible to settle down on their farms, where they can live independently on the product of their own labor, and by abandoning their vices and bad habits in time acquire a competency for life."

The Rampant Radical Reformer waved his magic wand of common sense until his hearers were all hypnotized, and they immediately commenced the proposed reforms.

CHAPTER IV. THE RESULT OF THE FIRST LECTURE. A few weeks had passed, and the Hyperbolic Hypnotizer's radical reforms had been adopted, and the change in the social condition of the country was wonderful. Instead of the noisy, quarrelsome and discontented many, peace and tranquillity seemed to reign in the midst of business activity.

The establishment of labor centers in every county had rid the country of indigent tramps, and also, what was unexpected, had reduced the number of convicts in the State prisons. The State and local laws had been obliged to construct good roads and other needed public works, in order to furnish sufficient employment for this class of people. The cost of the improvements was found to be very low.

It was astonishing how soon the employment of the laboring class had increased, and, moreover, relieving the taxpayers from exorbitant taxes to an unexpected extent.

The only objection to the system was the ascertained fact that too many preferred to remain in such comfortable quarters, even with half-price pay for their labor, and they would not make comfortable homes for themselves.

The other reforms had worked equally well. The court calendars were cleared of cases, all litigation discontinued promptly and with surprising dispatch. Under the new jury system no unjust decision was ever made, and criminal complaints were reduced in number, and perceptibly, but civil cases had increased somewhat, because of less expense, and the universal confidence in court decisions.

The Rampant Radical Reformer had foreseen that lucrative recompense for services of lawyers would fall off to a great extent, and he had provided for it, because he could not foresee what occupation could be substituted, but the difficulty had worked itself out satisfactorily to all parties, and the lawyers, by preaching the Gospel—altruism and excellent preachers they were—and some of them adopted literature as a partial employment, and they had become well-to-do, and the remuneration for legal services was still ample; so in reality they were quite as happy as before, and a good deal more so.

Another thing which had troubled the Rampant Reformer was what occupations politicians could turn to, but he expected that they would be able to obtain more money to obtain their offices than the offices were worth, and that consequently to deprive them of public offices was really to deprive them financially, and this proved to be the result.

Legislatures still had to convene to appropriate the revenues and consider questions of State policy. On the whole, the reforms were considered perfectly satisfactory; and inquiries began to be made, "Where is the lecturer who gave you the lecture?" "We always knew that things ought to be done in this way, but he was the first one to tell us so. Let us hunt him up, and let him still carry his wand, and let him know we think just as he does." And so the hunt began.

CHAPTER V. THE SECOND LECTURE, AND ITS RESULTS. We will now go back a few years and relate what had befallen the Reformer shortly after the lecture, recorded in a foregoing chapter, the following appeared in most of the newspapers throughout the country:

The Rampant Radical Reformer and Hyperbolic Hypnotizer will lecture on the 30th inst. to ladies only through his tremendous telephone, and ladies who have husbands will please borrow their husbands' telephones and receivers; and ladies who have no husbands, or telephones, will be provided with them—telephones, not husbands, are applicable to the lecture's use, and husbands who bound in the society of all communities.

cheap materials and wearing a modern style of jewelry, as you do when arrayed in the costliest of silks made in the often preposterous style of fashion and loaded down with gems; and the amounts which would be saved from the cost of your costumes would furnish you many comforts which many of you are deprived of now."

He waved his wand, but to his horror he felt the influence of common-sense coming back into himself, instead of going out toward his hearers.

He struggled against it manfully, but he heard a confused murmur of voices and questions from various quarters, which he tried to answer. "Have you a wife?" asked one. "No," he answered faintly. "But I hope to have some time."

"Have you ever been married?" asked another. "No," he answered with a very weak voice. "What can you know about women's fashions like to inquire," came from another. "I have seen it," he faintly uttered. "Did you ever wear a corset?" asked one. "Or a trail dress?"

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ladies never knew what became of him, or how, if they had seen accused and tried by an old-fashioned jury, they might have been convicted of murder, for no one could ever foresee what kind of a verdict that old style of jury would bring in."

Under the new jury system, I don't think, after considering the provocation, that they would have been convicted of any greater crime than man's laughter; but only think what might have been the consequences, and what might have been the condition of the country, if no reform had been made."

He told the landlord what to put on his tombstone. The men who were hunting for him ascertained these facts—here was where they found him."

[Picture of a grave, on the headstone of which are the words, "Here lies the Hypnotizer Hypnotized."]

The bun was ended.

Why Menace Did Not Pursue General. As was observed before, General Meade was routed from Washington. He had done all he was ordered to do; he had saved the capital. He had done more; he had beaten a hitherto victorious veteran enemy; he had repelled the invasion. He concluded to "let well enough alone."

Had he done more he might have been superseded. He had not gained the approbation of Grant. He could not tell President Lincoln that Secretary Stanton must mind his own business and not interfere with grand tactics or operations in the field. These were potent reasons for General Meade's action. He was too good a soldier to exceed his instructions; too patriotic to risk too much for that criticism; too prudent to let a gentleman to assume anything more than the performance of duty, and hence he modestly excused his determination to follow hard on the retreating Confederates by resting the exhausted condition of his brave veterans of the Army of the Potomac, who had climaxed that army's marvelous record of endurance, bravery and devotion, physically and mentally, by winning a grand triumph, without prestige, and after having been experienced with by a dozen commanders for some of whom they were forced into a lack of respect and confidence if not a feeling of actual contempt.—L. W. Wallace, in Blue and Gray.

Protestant Churches in France. New statistics of Protestant churches in France have recently been gathered. From these we glean that there are Protestant houses of worship in 781 localities in the French Republic. There are 887 reformed pastors in charge of congregations, and 12 reformed chaplains in the army. The Lutheran clergy number only 90, the Free Evangelist church has 47, and the other Protestant denominations have 72. Then there are 5 Bible societies, 19 Protestant societies for home missions, 6 for foreign missions, 44 orphan's homes, 47 refuge houses, 66 hospitals and 15 orphan asylums—all in the interest of the Protestant Church of France.

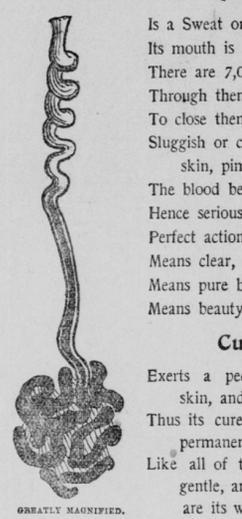
Blood Poisoning. Mrs. Mary E. O'Fallon, a very intelligent lady of Piquette, Ohio, was poisoned while assisting physicians at an autopsy 5 years ago, and soon terrible ulcers broke out on her head, arms, tongue and throat. Her hair all came out. Her husband spent hundreds of dollars without any benefit. She weighed but 78 pounds, and saw no prospect of help.

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HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA. Hood's Sarsaparilla is a well known medicine, and is used by millions of people. It is a powerful purgative, and is used by millions of people. It is a powerful purgative, and is used by millions of people.

HOOD'S PILLS should be in every family medicine chest. Once used, always preferred.

THIS CURIOUS THING



GRATEFULLY MANIFESTED.

Its mouth is called a PORE. There are 7,000,000 in the human skin. Through them are discharged many impurities. To close them means death. Sluggish or clogged pores mean yellow, mothy skin, pimples, blotches, eczema. The blood becomes impure. Hence serious blood humors. Perfect action of the pores Means clear, wholesome skin, Means pure blood, Means beauty and health.

Cuticura Resolvent

Exerts a peculiar, purifying action upon the skin, and through it upon the blood. Thus its cures of distressing humors are speedy, permanent, and economical. Like all of the CUTICURAS, it is pure, sweet, gentle, and effective. Mothers and children are its warmest friends.

Bad Complexions

Sluggish action of the pores also causes the complexion and skin to become dark, yellow, oily and mothy, giving rise to pimples, blackheads, roughness, redness, falling hair and baby blemishes. The only reliable preventive and external cure is CUTICURA SOAP, the most effective skin purifying and beautifying soap in the world as well as the purest and sweetest for toilet and nursery.

CUTICURA REMEDIES are sold everywhere. Price, CUTICURA RESOLVENT, \$1. CUTICURA SOAP, 25c. CUTICURA CREAM, 25c. CUTICURA Lotion, 25c. All about the Skin and Blood, mailed free.

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The Best 5c CIGAR in the State.

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Are those who have taken advantage of the opportunity to purchase small tracts of land near large cities when those tracts are first offered.

WORKING PEOPLE OF SACRAMENTO HAVE WISDOM and need only a little urging. We are doing the urging, and ask that an inspection be made of the

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A pretty piece of ground that we have subdivided into tracts of 2 1/2 to 14 acres, which we can offer at a reduced price that will defy competition, and upon terms that are so easy that the purchaser hardly feels the payments. The land is only one mile from the electric car line, on two country roads, with avenues already graded leading to the roads. The land now not planted to trees or vines is eminently adapted to berries of all kinds, the profit on which is very large. Now is the time to begin to prepare the land for plants.

We will give anyone meaning business a good chance to get a home with little money down. Four years to pay the balance. Interest 7 per cent, per annum.

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GOVERNMENT

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