

# The Commercial Appeal

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."  
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W. G. KENTZEL, Editor.

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## CHANCE AND CHANGE.

There was a rose by your gate, last year  
Good neighbor, tell me now, has said,  
Have the roses of the winter left its core,  
Or bloom it yet in your garden bed?  
Two for one  
Have the red buds blown,  
For one that there was to be had?  
With May and May,  
And many a change in a year! said she,  
And there was a girl, next year, said she,  
Good neighbor, tell me now, has said,  
Does her foot fall light in the cottage now,  
Or the wood and the wind?  
With a palmed heart,  
For there's many a day  
With May and May,  
And many a change in a year! said she,  
—Katie Furness, Osgood, in Good Housekeeping.

## GRIGSBY'S LAWSUIT.

A Prairie Fire Settled the Case Amicably.

WON'T be trampled on by Seth Stubblefield no longer!" a puffed-up farmer, in a towering rage, "I'll have the law on him, that's what I'll do!" Mrs. Grigby was washing clothes in the back yard,

where a bent and gnarled old apple tree made a shady spot for her tub. "What has Seth Stubblefield been doing?" she asked, in a querulous voice.

"What's he been doing?" snarled the farmer. "Ain't his cows been trampling my cornfield again? Pretty tough ready for the second plowin', it was, too! But I'll put a stop to it afore long. Human natur' can't stand every thing, an' if he don't fix up his end of the division fence, or sell his cattle out of my hand, I'll sue him! I'll sue him fur damages as sure as eggs in his ham!"

"It's no more'n you ought to 'a' done long ago," assented Mrs. Grigby, "clipping a handful of cotton on a horsepen sheet and rubbing it vigorously on the wooden washboard. 'You've been too easy with him, Hiram.'"

"I shan't be easy with him no longer," assented Hiram, aggressively. "I shall go and see Squire Barnacle this very day."

And, striding to the stable, he saddled the sorrel cob and proceeded to put his threat into execution while his neighbor stood at fever heat.

It was not so very long since the Grigbys and Stubblefields had been

the best of friends and neighbors. Scarcely a week elapsed without a visit between the two families. Hiram Grigby and Seth Stubblefield exchanged work at corn-planting and harvest time, and their wives consulted each other on such momentous questions as soft-soap, or apple-butter-making, and the relative merits of Plymouth and Black Spanish fowls as layers and setters.

Tom Grigby and Ben Stubblefield, well-known lads of sixteen and seventeen years of age, had been chums ever since they were toddling lickers.

They attended the district school together in winter, and went gunning or fishing, and helped each other pile shacks in the harvest field in summer.

The daughters of the two families were also on the best of terms. They exchanged patchwork aprons and beanie patterns, confided important secrets to one another, and were, in fact, kindred spirits in every respect.

This friendly intercourse continued until the autumn of last year, when the neighborhood feeling was at an end.

How the trouble began, or which party was most to blame, it would be hard to say. Doubtless there was some fault on both sides.

The trouble began, and was dug up, and hostilities were carried on, until, from sympathizing friends, the two families became relentless enemies.

A system of "mark and reprisal" was soon established, which caused the brood to grow wider and wider, until a sort of "tit for tat" butler is in.

"You kill my dog I'll kill your dog," "You grow up folks as well as children."

Farmer Grigby fenced up the little pool which ran from his spring, and from which his neighbor's stock had been wont to quench their thirst for years gone by.

Farmer Stubblefield, at once retaliated by blocking the private road through his woods pasture, thereby forcing the Grigbys to drive two miles further around in handling corn-wood, or taking their garden truck to market.

The well-trodden foot-path across lots was neglected and grass-grown, and when the rival factions met at church meetings, or basket-picnics and other rural gatherings, they regarded their heads aside, or glared at one another with uncompromising hostility.

So the feud kept growing, until at last it culminated in a lawsuit.

"Well, now, will you?" blurted Farmer Stubblefield, red with anger. "Let him go ahead, I say. He'll find out two ten klay at that game. I don't care if my cattle did trample down his corn."

"What's he gonna do?" asked Mrs. Grigby. "He'll make his corn for it yet. If it was you, Seth," put in Mrs. Stubblefield. "So 'low he kin care you for 'bout to law."

"That's what I know," replied Seth, grimly. "I'm through with him in his own home. I'm through with him. I'll show him where his leg cut up the ground."

It was early in the springtime when the suit was brought, but owing to the

## MELLHENNY WAS STILL UNSETTLED WHEN HARVEST-TIME CAME ON.

Farmer Grigby's crops had turned out well that year.

His way was cut up in long slicks in the backyard, where his wheat was also stacked, awaiting the coming "thrasher."

On a certain Saturday, Mrs. Grigby and her daughters were busy with the week's baking. Half a dozen pies, a gallon jar of seed cookies and a goodly supply of light rolls and crusty brown loaves had already been drawn from the oven and set on the wide pantry shelf to cool.

A home-cured ham was gently simmering over the stove, and the twelve o'clock dinner was under way.

Farmer Grigby sat moodily awaiting the coming meal, when Tom Grigby dashed into the house.

"Forest fire!" he shouted. "The fence has caught, an' it's almost up to the stacks!"

In a moment all was confusion. The farmer started a spade and rushed to the rescue of his crops, and Mrs. Grigby, his wife and daughters eagerly followed, each armed with a stout cudgel, to assist in battling with the devouring element.

For weeks there had been a drought here, the grass and underbrush had dried forward. Rail fences and fallen brushwood crackled in the fierce heat.

Bravely the anxious family fought for their possessions, only to be driven back by the relentless flames.

Overcome at last by exhaustion and despair, Farmer Grigby dropped his weapon and groaned aloud.

"The crops must go," he sighed, hopelessly. "I can't raise more, if we can save the one I've sowed, it's more'n I expect."

But, even as he spoke, an encouraging shout was heard from the deserted fields, which led the opportunity of his lifetime had come and he embraced it.

"You know, Miss O'Harris," he said, "after half an hour of preliminary guff, that I have always held you in the very highest esteem."

"I always hoped so, I am sure," Mr. Mellhenney said, hanging her head and blushing.

"I have, I assure you, I have," he murmured, "and this evening I thought I might ask you a question, but you wouldn't let me. May I?"

"What is the question?" she inquired, with a charming hesitancy, gently withdrawing her hand.

"Will you be mine?" he asked, plumply, for she was a plump kind of a girl.

"You're Oh, Mr. Mellhenney," and she rose to her feet trembling.

"She's mine," he exclaimed, making a wild grab at her.

"She's up her pretty hands as if for protection."

"Mr. Mellhenney," she said firmly and slowly, "I will."

"Then he made another wild grab at her, and she screamed.

"My own? My wife?" he ejaculated questioning, as if he needed her sweet reassurance.

"She drew back."

"No, Mac," she laughed with a sidelong glance, "not your wife, but your sister."

And, too late, Macallister Mellhenney discovered that the possessive case does not always agree with what a fellow wants it to agree with.—Detroit Free Press.

## THE LAST HUMAN BEING.

Scientist's Tale of Many Years in Which Man Will Be the Last of His Race.

The opinions of the leading scientists of the world concerning the probable fate of the last man are given below:

1. The surface of the earth is slowly but surely diminishing; all the landed portion will at last be submerged and the sea will be drawn up to the top of the highest mountains.

2. The ice is gradually accumulating at the north pole and slowly melting away at the south; eventually the earth's center of gravity will suddenly change and the last man will be drawn by the rush of molasses that will quickly glide over its surface.

3. There is a retarding medium in space, causing a gradual loss of velocity in all of the planets. The earth, when her revolutions finally cease, will be drawn nearer and nearer to the sun until the last man will be literally roasted off the face of the earth.

4. The amount of water on the earth's surface is slowly drying up; the last man will die of thirst, or of the moisture with which to wet his parched tongue.

5. A gigantic planet or comet is likely to tumble into the great sea of gas that surrounds the sun, and the event our great luminary would blaze up and burn the earth and all the other planets to cinders.

6. Beginning with the year 3000 A. D. humanity will commence to retrograde, and by the end of the present century 999,000 man will be no larger and have no more intelligence than a plant louse. In that event there will be no "last man."

7. The earth's fires will gradually burn out and the temperature cool in consequence; the earth's glacial zones will enlarge, driving shivering humanity towards the equator. At last the habitable space will lessen to nothing and the last man will be frozen in a heap.—St. Louis Republic.

8. Strongest of Living Creatures.

"What living creature is possessed of the greatest bodily strength in proportion to its size?" was a question asked by a reader. The answer is as follows:

This honor must be divided between the Cockchafer, the Hirc and the Flea. It is rather difficult to apply a test to prove which particular insect among the borers, the jumpers and carriers is the strongest, but there is no question that in proportion to their size insects undoubtedly possess the greatest strength among living creatures. The flea can jump a foot high, more than 100 times its own length, and taking its average jumps 30 times its own length, it is as if a man jumped as high as the gallery of the Colosseum.

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