

STRANGE ROMANCE OF OLD AGE AND YOUTH

Octogenarian Takes Bride of Twenty-Four Despite Objections of Relatives.

LOVE FLAME STILL BURNS BRIGHTLY AT 81

Columbus Huling of North Bennington, Vt., Wins Pretty Jennie Bissell with Aid of His Comfortable Fortune—Mercenary Kin Use Every Means Available to Prevent Marriage, But Without Avail.

Boston.—Although Columbus Huling, of North Bennington, Vt., is an octogenarian, he is amply able to manage his own affairs. This fact he proved to his mercenary relatives when he successfully overcame the numerous obstacles placed in his way by them and wedded the young maiden of his choice.

Columbus Huling is at present in his eighty-first year, while his pretty bride, Miss Jennie Bissell, a blooming lass, has but just recently celebrated her twenty-fourth birthday. Huling's neighbors are applauding him for his sturdy defiance of almost every form of opposition and carrying out his object.

When the aged bridegroom, a widower for several years, decided a short time ago that he needed another partner to complete his happiness, he cast his eyes around for a suitable girl. Instead of youthful charms to attract her he offered to share his fortune, estimated at \$200,000, with any young maiden who was willing to accept him, and of whom he approved.

Octogenarian Meets His Bride. In his quest he had become acquainted with Miss Bissell, and two months ago he received the joyous news that she was willing to take him.

While a working girl, she has much grace and charm of manner, and in face and figure is good for masculine eyes to gaze upon. Not a whisper ever has been heard against her character, and many of the young men of the town had cast sheepish eyes in her direction long before the octogenarian singled his glittering gold before her vision.

Yet the devoted swain who won her consent found that much was before him besides the trembling "yes" he so ardently petitioned for.

The law must sanction the contract the couple were willing to enter into, and while nothing in the statutes could bar the union the preliminary red tape proceedings involved more or less publicity which might give designing relatives an opportunity to wreck the old gentleman's gayly bedecked bark of happiness.

Attempt to Prevent Wedding. Still, bravely and defiantly, he went before the town clerk with his prom-

at this point one of the laws of the state of Vermont came to their aid. It is that on complaint a warrant charging intoxication may issue, and a police officer is empowered to serve this at any time or place within the jurisdiction where he has authority.

Relatives Get Out Warrant. Without delay the opposing relative hurried to the office of a magistrate and there made oath that on such and such a date Columbus Huling, of North Bennington, had been intoxicated on the streets of Bennington. A warrant was made out and given to a police officer, who went in the relative's carriage to the octogenarian's residence.

While intoxication is a misdemeanor, and an officer cannot forcibly enter a man's house with a warrant for such a minor crime, the Vermont law makes an exception in regard to drunkenness, and the Bennington policeman went directly into Mr. Huling's dwelling and asserted his authority.

Entreaty was of no avail, expostulation was useless. The police officer insisted that Columbus Huling should accompany him, and he did, pathetically glancing back at the little house where he had anticipated so much happiness as he climbed into the carriage before the door. In imagination one could almost observe Cupid waving him a tearful farewell. Into Bennington rode the sad but wrathful prisoner and his captor and disembarked at the Putnam house, where, in comfortable confinement, the disheartened groom-elect was kept over night.

Bride Finds Bridegroom Missing. An hour after his departure the expectant young woman who was to become Mrs. Huling, clad in garments of snowy white and accompanied by her sister and a girl friend, climbed the hill on which the Huling dwelling is located.

The trio was the observed of all observers, and seemed not unwilling to let the populace know that a most momentous event was to occur. At the house the party was ushered into the parlor, and in a few minutes was joined by the pastor of the Baptist church, who was to perform the ceremony.

Where was the groom? The housekeeper could only say that he had gone to Bennington a short time previously in the carriage of one of the opposing

guardian on the ground that he was incapable of managing his own affairs, Probate Judge Carney selecting S. N. Hall, cashier of the North Bennington national bank, for the position. Mr. Huling, not unnaturally, made a decided objection, claiming he was perfectly competent to manage his business and insisting that if he wanted to get married it was his own affair and did not concern anyone else. Nevertheless, his contention was ineffectual and Mr. Hall took charge of his estate. The old gentleman then sought an opportunity to see his attorney, but even this privilege was denied him, and all one afternoon the citizens of Bennington witnessed the edifying spectacle of the old gentleman being restrained from consulting with a lawyer.

His Rights Restored Him. Such a condition of affairs could not exist for long, and within a few days, by the aid of Miss Bissell, Mr. Huling was enabled to see his counsel, who promptly called the attention of the probate judge to the situation and peremptorily insisted that the old gentleman's rights be granted to him. To relieve the pressure Miss Bissell was advised to bring a writ of habeas corpus, which she did, and after the hearing the judge decided to dissolve the guardianship, a physician testify-

Mr. Huling's first wife died about ten years ago and shortly afterward his one child, a son, Frank, passed away. His only relatives are three or four nieces and nephews, and it was among them, it was confidently felt, that his wealth would be divided, as there has been a sort of tradition in the Huling family to devote any large sums to public benefactions. Under the Vermont laws the surviving member of a married couple receives from the estate \$2,000 and one-half the remainder absolutely. This means, of course, \$2,000 more than one-half. Consequently Columbus Huling's nephews and nieces will receive less than one-half what they would if he had remained in single blessedness, and if his wealth is correctly placed at \$200,000 this indicates a loss of over \$100,000 to them.

IS A MILLIONAIRE AGAIN.

"Swiftwater Bill," Noted Montana Character, Once More Finds Himself on "Easy Street." Butte, Mont.—"Swiftwater Bill," as one time a well-known character in Montana, is on his feet again, and will probably become a millionaire for the second time in his meteoric career," said E. F. Willis of Fairbanks, Alaska. "Yes, 'Swiftwater Bill' as struck it

REVENGE OF THE NEWSBOY

Gave Crusty Persecutor a Ducking Eighteen Months After Being Put Upon.

"Did it ever strike you that when it comes to waiting for revenge a newsboy, the same apparently patient little street gamine, is the most patient being on earth?" remarked the one who, relates the New Orleans Times-Democrat, was pulling at the cheek. "Well, I'm here to tell you that it is so, and you'll believe it when you hear this story," he continued. "In my town there used to be one of the crustiest old bachelors that ever lived. Some people said he was a miser, but whether that was so I don't know. At any rate, he was the stingiest ever. "One morning he bought a paper from a newsboy and handed him a coin. It was a ten-cent piece, and the boy didn't look at it, but pocketed it and turned away. The old fellow waited for his nine cents change and suddenly saw the boy darting across the street to dispose of another paper. He called a policeman and had the little fellow arrested for the theft of the nine cents. The boy explained that he hadn't noticed that the old fellow gave him a dime. But it availed him nothing. Through the influence exerted by his accuser the boy was sent to the house of correction for two months. He swore vengeance on the old man, and about 18 months later his opportunity came. "It was during a heavy rainstorm. The streets were veritable rivers and at one corner barefooted newsboys had constructed a walk over boxes. Among the boys was our little friend, and among the crowd at the corner waiting to pass was the crusty old bachelor. The old fellow started to cross, the boy saw him and immediately recognized him. Snatching for a second he moved one of the planks. When the old man stepped on this plank it slipped from the box and he was given a splendid ducking. 'I'm even with dat guy,' grinned the boy. 'Now I'm layin' for de judge dat sent me up.'"

CHECK WAS NEVER CASHED

Traveled Forward and Back Through the Mails for Fifteen Years Unused.

Ex-Senator Lake Jones, of Wayne county, who is known all over Ohio as the hound-pup statesman, from his passionate love of fox-hunting, was talking with a party of old-time friends in the lobby of the Neil house, Columbus, recently, says an exchange. "I have an aunt," said Jones, "who has most pronounced ideas of right and wrong and a rather exaggerated sense of justice. Nearly 30 years ago she brought a piece of property from her brother in St. Louis. "In a dozen years the property had quadrupled in value. To-day it is worth ten or fifteen times what she paid for it. As the value increased her worry increased. Finally she mailed him a check for \$15,000, explaining that she had not paid him what the property was really worth. "He promptly returned it, saying she had paid him all he asked for it, and it was worth at the time of the sale. But she wouldn't take no for an answer and sent it back to him. "Now, don't you know," laughed Jones, "that check has been passing back and forth through the mails between our families for the past 15 years. "Did it ever fall into your hands, Lake?" asked Maj. Robert Eddy, Jones' friend of a lifetime, smiling meaningly. "No," admitted Jones, half sadly, "not yet."

CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND.

Scattered Families United on This Day and Tender Memories Are Revived Between Friends.

Throughout Great Britain Christmas is the great week of the year. It is one week when scattered families are reunited, when tender memories and old associations are revived, when friends greet each other with cheery expansiveness in striking contrast with the characteristic reserve of the English nature. Business is practically suspended in London for the five days succeeding Christmas eve, says J. A. Stewart, in Leslie's Weekly. There is nothing left of the obsolete orgies which so offended the Puritan element in the times of Cromwell. It would be an unimaginable English monarch who would forbid an observation of the 25th of December. The example is set by the royal family of the ideal way in which to spend the happy, merry Christmas-tide which the English people cherish. It is the custom of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra to pass the holiday quietly at Sandringham, and there to give their personal supervision to the distribution of gifts.

Sold Out.

One of Nantucket's summer visitors strolled into the little shop kept by an old man, a native of the place. In looking about she found a kind of linen cloth which she bought for fancy work. Some friends who saw and liked it went to the shop and purchased all that remained. In a few days the proprietor went to the "mainland" to replenish his stock and bought more of the same goods, which, also, was soon sold. "Well," exclaimed Uncle H., as the last yard went, "if any more of you folks want that stuff you can go up to mainland and get it. I can't keep nothing in the here shop."—Francis B. Phelps, in Lippincott's.

First Play Irving Saw.

"Hamlet" was the first play Sir Henry Irving saw as a boy. Samuel Phelps was in the title role. Some time afterward Phelps was persuaded to listen to a recitation by Irving. After praising the young man the celebrated actor gave him this characteristic advice: "Young man, have nothing to do with the stage; it is a bad profession!"

Used to Trouble.

Proud Parent—If you call in the evening you will probably hear my daughter singing. Friend—Oh, I shan't mind that. You ought to hear the fellow down our way practicing on the cornet. It is simply awful.—Answers.

SCARED AWAY THE GHOST

Resourceful Curate Knew How to Put Unwelcome Visitors to Rout.

A zealous young curate went to stay with some friends at a country house, relates Ram's Horn. On descending to breakfast each morning he noticed his hostess inquiring particularly how he had slept, and seemed relieved when he said he had passed a very good night. On the last morning his hostess said: "Mr. Curate, you perhaps noticed how very particular we were in our inquiries every morning as to how you had slept, but the truth is that the room you occupied is said to be haunted, and we were anxious to know if you had seen the ghost." "The ghost?" repeated the curate, thoughtfully. "Oh, yes; I do remember the first night I was here some fellow came and stood by my bedside, and instantly disappeared and I never saw him again."

Cures Rheumatism and Catarrh—Medicine Sent Free.

These two diseases are the result of an awful poisoned condition of the blood. If you have aching joints and back, shoulder blades, bone pains, crippled hands, legs or feet, swollen muscles, shifting, sharp, biting pains, and that tired, discouraged feeling of rheumatism, or the hawking, spitting, blurred eyesight, deafness, sick stomach, headache, noises in the head, mucous throat, discharges, decaying teeth, bad breath, belching gas of catarrh, take Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.). It kills the poison in the blood which causes these awful symptoms, giving a pure, healthy blood supply to the joints and mucous membranes, and makes a perfect cure of the worst rheumatism or foullest catarrh. Cures where all else fails. Blood Balm (B. B. B.) is composed of pure Botanic ingredients, good for weak kidneys. Improves the digestion, cures dyspepsia. A perfect tonic for old folks by giving them new, rich, pure blood. Thoroughly tested for thirty years. Druggists, \$1 per large bottle, with complete directions for use. Sample free. Write and be prepared by writing Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga. Describe trouble and special free medical advice sent in sealed letter.

Honesty of the Modern Kind.

"And now, my son," said the bank president, "on this, the threshold of your business life, I desire to impress one thought upon you. Honesty, ever and always, is the policy that is best."

CUTICURA, THE SET, \$1.00.

Complete Treatment for Every Humor, from Pimples to Scrofula, from Infancy to Age—A Set Often Cures.

Cuticura Treatment is local and constitutional—complete and perfect, pure, sweet and wholesome. Balm on the affected surfaces with Cuticura Soap and hot water to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales and soften the thickened cuticle, and rubbing in Cuticura Ointment to apply Cuticura Ointment freely to all itching, irritation and inflammation, and soothe and heal, and lastly take Cuticura Resolvent Pills to cool and cleanse the blood, and put every function in a state of healthy activity. More great cures of simple, scrofulous and hereditary humors are cured by Cuticura remedies than by all other blood and skin remedies.

Sure Enough.

"I'm from Beantown." "Boston?" "That's the only beantown, isn't it?" "Well, there's Lima, O.—Chicago, San Francisco, and—"

CONVINCING EVIDENCE

That Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Will Cure Rheumatism.

"People can cure themselves of a good many common ailments at a very small cost if they go about it the right way," said Mr. Hoar, recently. "For instance, I have just cured myself of a very painful disease. I might have begun to treat it sooner, that's all the mistake I made in the matter. But I found the root of the difficulty and I picked out the right remedy without the aid of a doctor. "It was really all in my blood. I first felt a twinge in my left foot and ankle in the middle of last January, following exposure to cold. I realized I had rheumatism and I knew that really comes from bad blood. Cold simply develops it. Then my hands and feet were cold and clammy even in hot weather, and numb a great part of the time. I concluded that my blood was thin and poor and the circulation sluggish. "After a time my feet and ankles swelled so badly that I could only tie my shoes half way up. My legs swelled terribly and I could walk only a short distance before giving out completely. "When I read of the cures of all kinds of blood diseases, that really comes from bad blood, I was convinced that they were just the remedy for my case, and so it proved. I could see that they were benefiting me before I had quite used up the first box. The improvement was really marked after I had taken two boxes. Three more boxes restored my hands and feet and legs to natural size and feeling and then I stopped taking medicine and have since been perfectly well."

Mr. F. L. Roy, four lives at No. 132 Constitution street, Bristol, R. I. Any one can get convincing evidence that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have cured anemia, rheumatism, erysipelas and other serious diseases of the blood by simply writing to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

W. L. DOUGLAS \$3.50 & \$3.00 SHOES

W. L. Douglas \$4.00 Oilt Edge Line cannot be equaled at any price.

JOYS OF MATERNITY

A WOMAN'S BEST HOPES REALIZED

Mrs. Potts Tells How Women Should Prepare for Motherhood

The darkest days of husband and wife are when they come to look forward to childless and lonely old age. Many a wife has found herself incapable of motherhood owing to a displacement of the womb or lack of strength in the generative organs.



Frequent backache and distressing pains, accompanied by offensive discharges and generally by irregular and scanty menstruation indicate a displacement or nerve degeneration of the womb and surrounding organs.

The question that troubles women is how can a woman who has some female trouble bear healthy children? Mrs. Anna Potts, of 510 Park Avenue, Hot Springs, Ark., writes:

My Dear Mrs. Pinkham:— "During the early part of my married life I was delicate in health; both my husband and I were very anxious for a child to bless our home, but I had two miscarriages, and could not carry a child to maturity. A neighbor who had been cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound advised me to try it. I did so and soon felt that I was growing stronger, my headaches and backaches left me, I had no more bearing-down pains, and felt like a new woman. Within a year I became the mother of a strong, healthy child, the joy of our household. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and write to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass. Her advice is free to expectant or would-be mothers.

Actual sterility in women is very rare. If any woman thinks she is sterile, let her try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and write to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass. Her advice is free to expectant or would-be mothers.

SICK HEADACHE

Positively cured by these Little Pills. They also relieve distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Heartily Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, BRUISED LIVER, etc. Sold Everywhere.

SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE.

W. L. DOUGLAS \$3.50 & \$3.00 SHOES

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led bride and secured the document which told the world that the community placed no restrictions on the marital union of the man and woman. Then the wedding day was set. Great secrecy was observed; the town official who issued the document was sworn to silence, and the minister was urged to divulge to no one that the ceremony was to take place. The day came, and then the old gentleman's manner and air of importance, coupled with his announced intention of clothing himself in his best attire, as the afternoon wore on, aroused the deepest suspicions of his housekeeper—the aged widowed sister-in-law. He skillfully evaded her sharp questioning, but she was not satisfied with his replies, and posthaste sent a message for one of the interested relatives. An examination of the town clerk's records disclosed the whole situation; the truth was laid bare. Apparently the old man and his fiancée had outwitted the entire array of relatives—the license was issued, the minister engaged, and the groom-elect only awaited the coming of the would-be bride, for the final part of the ambrosia chapter.

How best to prevent the dreaded event, was the question uppermost in the minds of the distracted relatives. They had before them only two or three hours at the utmost, and whatever was to be done must be done quickly. Right



ing that Mr. Huling was not insane and showed ability to manage his own affairs. "We'll get married now," said the old gentleman determinedly, immediately after the conclusion of the court proceedings. "But I haven't any clothes," blushing said Miss Bissell, as the gathering in the law office exchanged glances of amusement. "Clothes or no clothes," vehemently insisted the old gentleman, "we'll have the whole thing settled right here and now for good, and we won't have any more arrests or guardians or anything of that sort."

ARE MADE MAN AND WIFE.

"Oh, that's all over now," firmly declared Mr. Huling. "I've got the license right here in my pocket, and I guess we can find a minister who will fix us up all right. We won't take any chances on going out for their might have some other writ or summons against me, but we'll be married right here in this office, and then they can see where they land."

Marks of a Grilse.

Some of Recreation's sporting contemporaries have published letters of correspondents who desire to know the marks by which a grilse may be distinguished from a salmon. To an old fisherman the problem presents no difficulty. The grilse has a deeply cleft tail, while that of the salmon, even when the fish is small, is more nearly square. In the case of an aged fish, the tail is actually convex. Again, the scales of the grilse are detached with great facility; you cannot handle a grilse without the scales becoming detached in quantities, while with an adult salmon the scales are comparatively firmly attached. Then there is an indescribable something about the shape of the grilse that distinguishes it at once to an experienced eye. It is slighter, with a smaller, sharper head. The body is less flexible. Size is no guide to the grilse, as on some rivers grilse are fully as heavy as the small salmon, though this is contrary to the general rule in Canadian streams.—J. Perley, in Recreation.

Black Bats Fill Woods.

The woods in the vicinity of Lancaster, Ill., are thick with strange winged creatures like bats. They are of various sizes, specimens killed weighing from two ounces to a pound and a half. They subsist on squirrels and sometimes invade chicken houses for prey. They are of nocturnal habits, very few being seen in the daytime. As they fly at night their eyes emit a strange light, and when coming toward one, resemble balls of fire. Several persons have been badly frightened by them.

His Turn to Cut.

Hewitt—Why did you cut that fellow who just bowed to you? Jewett—I was getting back at him; he performed an operation on me a while ago.

The Rival.

Mr. Richfello—Miss De Sillm is evidently a woman of many fine points. Rival Belle—I should say so. Do you see her elbows?—N. Y. Weekly.

Used to Trouble.

Proud Parent—If you call in the evening you will probably hear my daughter singing. Friend—Oh, I shan't mind that. You ought to hear the fellow down our way practicing on the cornet. It is simply awful.—Answers.