

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith on the part of the writer.

THE MASTERPIECE.

A man once, when the day was drear, Sat down and wrote a simple rhyme, And sent it forth, and, far and near, His poem went the rounds, in time.

Betty and the War Party

By FRANK H. SWEET.

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WHEN Willett Rodgers left the Plymouth colony and moved down into southern Rhode Island with his family he found the Narragansett country little more than a wilderness.

Late one afternoon she was sitting in the doorway, watching her sisters spinning. Black clouds were rolling up the sky, and every few moments came the deep reverberations of thunder.

"I saw Injin sign over on the ridge this afternoon," she said, as the echoes

"FASTEN THE DOOR AN' WINDER." of the thunder died away in the distance.

Mrs. Rodgers looked up quickly. "Narragansetts?" she asked.

"No, didn't hear so. Signs seemed to say strangers. Down from the big river country, I guess."

The Johnny-cake board being full, Mrs. Rodgers placed it carefully before the fire to bake.

"I wish your father was here," she said, anxiously. "The Injins might run afoul of him unbeknownst."

"That's just like mother," laughed one of the older girls. "Why, father won't be back from Plymouth till come Friday, an' the Injins will be gone 'fore then."

"I know, I know," said Mrs. Rodgers, deprecatingly, "but he might come back 'fore he allotted to, an' then he'd be sure an' meet 'em."

"I think we're in a good deal more danger than he is," observed Betty, soberly. "This storm'll make the Injins go into camp, an' to-morrow they'll be almost sure to find us. They generally have runners out in all directions."

"Well, there's seven of us, an' we're all got guns," cried one of the girls, as she struck an attitude and took aim with her distaff at an imaginary foe.

"It will take a good-sized tribe to capture us. Did you see their trail, Betty?"

HELPS THE MARINER.

Stellar Azimuth Machine Which Solves Problems of Position and Courses with Absolute Accuracy.

The Stellar Azimuth machine, invented and patented by Capt. R. T. Lawless, of the Oceanic Steamship company, has been given the test of practical use and has proved a most valuable acquisition to the mariners' navigation.

"Yes; it passed over the ridge and down toward Chestnut Holler. I think they'll go into camp there. From the trail they made I guess there's many's 50 or 60 in the party."

Her sister became instantly grave and turned back to her wheel. But it was now getting too dark to work, and one after another the girls left their spinning and gathered round the fireplace.

As she did so there came a wild, peculiar cry, something between the howl of a wolf and the whinny of a horse. Mrs. Rodgers turned excitedly.

"No, no, mother," expostulated one of the girls, "that's only a loon. You've often heard Betty imitate them, and she looked at the young girl for confirmation of her words."

But Betty did not answer. She was sitting with her head slightly bent forward, and an intent, puzzled expression on her fair young face.

"No, mother, you can trust Betty to take care of herself," reassured the oldest girl. "She has thought of some plan to help us."

"I's pose I'd do her more harm than good," she said, doubtfully. "I don't know the woods like she does, an' would be sure to get lost an' need her help."

Half an hour passed. Then once more they heard that strange, weird cry. But this time it was fainter, and seemed to come from lower down the valley.

"Why, it's Betty herself," she cried. "I wonder we didn't think of it before. The child has gone round on the other side of the Injins an' is callin' 'em away."

Hour after hour went by, and still they waited, silent and watchful, but trying to avoid each other's eyes.

"Why, your poor things!" cried Betty, a few minutes later, as she disengaged herself from their grasp; "you act as though I'd been on a war path, sure enough."

"The Injins have been makin' a bad raid down the country," he said, gravely, "burnin' houses an' runnin' off cattle. If it hadn't been for this little girl I expect our cabin would 'a gone with the rest. But we're safe now, for I hear the soldiers are out an' drivin' 'em back toward the big river."

According to the navigating officer of the New York, the Stellar Azimuth machine is an advanced step in the direction of a mechanical navigator, which will solve the problems of position and courses with absolute accuracy.

Rear Admiral Glass speaks very highly of the machine and the one that went with the squadron will be sent to the navy department at Washington to be tested in conjunction with the navigating officers' report.

Still, Dr. Lorenz needn't care how fiercely his method is attacked as long as it continues to cure and his \$25,000 is promptly paid.

LESSON IN AMERICAN HISTORY IN PUZZLE



THE LAST STAND OF GEN. CUSTER. Find Scout Curley.

Following the close of the civil war our army was engaged for a number of years in fighting the Indians. The most terrible of all the Indian campaigns was that against the Sioux in 1876. Gen. Custer, with five troops of the Seventh cavalry, attacked the main camp of the Sioux near the Little Big Horn on June 25.

THEIR HABIT OF EATING PIERS, HOTEL PORCHES AND OARS HAS MADE THEM DILIKED.

The happiest inhabitant of the North woods in the warm spring days is the porcupine. Other beasts and birds have cares; the porcupine has none. They have to search for food; the porcupine eats what it finds and when it finds nothing eats wood and bark.

ABOUT WEDDING FEASTS. How the Catering Powers of the Continental Matron Are Put to the Test.

The average British paterfamilias and the whole army of British bridegrooms—although they are probably ignorant of the reason why—should be exceedingly thankful that the wedding breakfast in this country is not quite so formidable a repast as it is in divers parts of the continent, where it extends in many instances over two or three days.

HOW HE DID IT. Ingenious Scheme for Waking Himself Adopted by a Sleepy-Headed Employee.

The neat young man who always reached the office before the doors were opened was much disconcerted when he saw that the young man who was always late had gotten down in time, relates the New York Times.

CAUSE AND EFFECT. "Women evidently have no sense of humor," remarked the bald-headed philosopher.

GIANT UMBRELLAS. An African chief's umbrella is of greater importance than many people imagine, apart from its enormous size.

UNCLE REUBEN SAYS. "De only difference between throwin' yo' money into de fire an' spendin' it in lottery ticket an' dat yo' hev 30 days longer in de latter case to think what a fule yo' hav' made o' yo' self."

WOMAN'S WAY. She—Time will heal the wound I've made in your heart.

STRAWBERRY ROLL. Make rich puff paste, roll thin, and cover with strawberries.

NOT A GOVERNMENT RISK.

Methods of the Present as They Will Be Regarded by Farmers Fifty Years Hence.

Some recent Washington dispatches called the attention of the public to the fact that taking the cost of irrigation of those western lands lately designated by the interior department for that purpose as a basis the estimate of \$5 an acre, which was the average quoted at the time the bill was under discussion, is entirely too low and the cost of construction is likely to be double that figure.

But whether the work costs much or little does not seriously affect the general proposition; the main point is that, whether this work costs \$5 or \$25 an acre, the farmer or settler who gets the benefit of the thus irrigated and fertilized land must pay and not the government.

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CHANGING UNDERWEAR.

Winter Garments Should Not Be Put Off for Those of Summer All at Once.

A woman should not change direct from the snug-fitting, long-sleeved underwear of winter to the loose, sleeveless, gauzy attire of summer. It is too great a shock to the system and may result in serious illness.

The best way is to change from the winter weight, whether it be woolen, silk or cotton, to a suit of lighter weight of the same material, preserving the long sleeves and ankle length. The next change can then be made to the usual gauze underwear.

For those who cannot afford or do not care to provide themselves with the intermediate suit, the best suggestion would be to lighten the weight of the clothing from the outside. Wear a lighter wrap, a thinner waist, fewer skirts or leave off some other article of dress.

Engaging Exchange of Compliments Attending a Sale in White Chapel Market.

"D'you call these Brussels sprouts, young man—in the basket, I mean?" "That's the name they go by, mother."

"Thought p'raps they were walnuts from their color," remarks the thin armed lady, casually, according to London Tit Bits.

"Your 'andlin' 'em don't improve their appearance," retorts the stall-keeper. "Leave 'em if you don't want to prebhis."

"And what might you 'ave the impudence to ask a pound for 'em, I should like to know?"

Price is mentioned with the definite manner of one who is prepared to give up life and honor and everything rather than budge a halfpenny.

"Does the sum include the barrow?" Answer given gloomily that the sum does not include the barrow; and the question added, "What is the thin armed lady getting at?"

"You keep 'em, young man," says the thin armed woman, with some fierceness. "You take 'em 'ome and light the fire with 'em. I wonder you can look me in the face and ask such a price."

"It wants more kerridge," admits the proprietor, "to look you in the face. Takes years of a man's life to do it."

"Good morning," says the woman, shivering with politeness; "and I wish better manners."

"Good morning," says the proprietor, not to be outdone in courtesy; "and I wish you a new set of features."

What is gratifying to note is that, after this active passage of arms, and when the thin armed woman is almost lost in the slowly moving crowd, the proprietor relents and shouts:

"Ere y'are. You gels always gets your own way."

And the thin armed woman comes back through the crowd and buys a pound and a half of Brussels sprouts, and buyer and seller part on the friendliest terms.

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