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BEST AS DAMSELS GO.

Why, she's just as nice as any girl you ever saw. Well, I should rather say she's a little better than the best. You see, she's got a complexion rivaling the peach blossom, and her eyes are like the bluest of the sky. Her hair is just what you want, and her nose is just what you need. Her mouth is just what you want, and her smile is just what you need. Her hands are just what you want, and her feet are just what you need. Her dress is just what you want, and her manners are just what you need. Her name is just what you want, and her family is just what you need. Her everything is just what you want, and her nothing is just what you need.

THE SCHOOL-MISTRESS IN SHANTYVILLE.

The establishment of the man in Shantyville when the announcement was made that a school-mistress was coming to the place would have been comic had it not been so perfectly natural. The movement which resulted in the building of the school-house was caused much by a chance remark of "Shorty" Davis as by anything else. "Shorty" returning from a visit to the neighboring camp of Buster Gulch, said to the assembled crowd in Higgins' saloon, "I'll low you how that place kinder lays over this way. The men here respect for knowledge, an' they has the finest school-house you ever see."

The rivalry between Shantyville and Buster Gulch was bitter in the extreme, and men said that when a stranger from Virginia City like Shanty Davis could make such remarks, it was time to move.

It must be confessed that the raw material for schools was not abundant in Shantyville, but that there were three in the underground part of the "Star of the West" a good many more—and two were the pride and glory of the Widow Black. Still, though there were not many children to be taught, it could not be denied that they needed teaching; and that, too, there was that disagreeable fact of the school in Buster Gulch.

It being clearly impossible to do anything in such a matter without a public meeting, and being clearly a movement which would be successful in anything to be considered, the meeting in question was called by the man who had been called by the name of "Shorty" Davis. He had been called by the name of "Shorty" Davis, and he had been called by the name of "Shorty" Davis.

As I have said, Miss Mary had arrived in Shantyville and was to live at the Widow Black's place. This arrangement was felt by all to be thoroughly right, for in view of the fact that the widow was not well, and her husband, Sam Black, had been one of the most popular men in the camp, a part of the money, contributed by the camp could not be better bestowed than upon her. It suited Miss Mary very well, because the place was convenient and clean, the food was good, although plain, and the widow herself was one of the cheeriest, nicest, and best of any ever saw. Miss Mary, having arrived, took possession of her school-house, and the opening of the school was naturally made the subject of a celebration. The house was large, much larger than was required, but being built with an eye to the future, it was as a place for public meetings, and was at the opening comfortably and well filled. The contrast between the three pupils and the crowd of visitors was somewhat amusing, but still the inequality of the thing did not seem to strike any one. The Committee of Arrangements, probably with the idea of accommodating all present that there were some children to be taught, placed the three prominently upon the platform, where they sat in high seats, their legs dangling down and exceedingly uncomfortable. The observed of the observers. The opening of the new school was a grand affair, and Squire Hutton received the congratulations of every man in camp.

But this story of mine is not so much about the Shantyville school as it is about the Shantyville school-mistress. As there would not have been any school-mistress had there been no school, it was necessary perhaps to account for Miss Mary's presence in Shantyville, but this having been done, I will go on to the story itself. And perhaps it is unnecessary to state that Miss Mary was very pretty. She was small, rather dark, with large brown eyes and brown hair, and although in the latter all men in the camp were agreed, and none were more thoroughly convinced of the fact that she was commonly called Rhody, and her partner, Tom Freeman. These two men were, respectively, superintendent and

receiver of the "Rattlesnake," a great quartz mine lying to the north of the "Star of the West." They lived together in one cabin, they shared what they made, and they had been "yards" for a very long time; in fact, long before they had arrived in Shantyville. It had become a by-word in the camp, "as fast friends as Tom and Rhody." Of the two, Rhody was elder, being about forty, while Tom could not claim more than twenty-five; but in spite of the difference in age they were thoroughly suited to each other. Of the two, Tom was perhaps the more enthusiastic, the more prone to take up a thing strongly, while Rhody was apt to talk somewhat cynically about Tom's new schemes. When it came to doing, however, there was not much to choose between them. Of course, Tom had been foremost in the school-house scheme, and equally as a matter of course, Rhody had laughed at it at first, but supported it strongly afterward. When Miss Mary arrived she had met the two men, and—well, it will clear up matters a good deal, and enable me to tell this story better, if I say they both got to love with her straightway. As might have been expected, they manifested their passion in very different ways. Tom called constantly upon her, went out walking or riding with her, and hung upon her words as though, like those of the girl in the old fairy tale, they were pearls. Rhody, when with the girl, became rather more reserved than ever, and delighted in making snide remarks about her sayings and doings. It was this perhaps which did his part on Tom, for the latter never imagined for a moment that his partner cared anything about the girl. In fact Rhody's age, suddenly recollected by the younger man, made Tom think him wholly out of the race. It must not be supposed that Tom imagined his love as patent to every one in the camp as I have good naturedly made it to you. Not so. Despite the fact that he was being something like a peevish, think no one can see them if their heads be covered, Tom's admiration, although very open, had not proceeded to such lengths as to attract general notice. This was owing as much to Miss Mary's prudence, care, modesty—all that you will—as to anything else, for she shrank instinctively from publicity in the matter. That she personally knew that Tom worshipped the ground she trod on I myself thoroughly believe. Surely, she would have been a woman indeed!

One evening Tom and Rhody were sitting over their fire, smoking after supper. There had been silence in the room for some time, when Tom, stirring uneasily, broke it.

"Rhody, ol' man!" he said.

"What air up, Tom?" was the reply.

"That's somethin' I—that is, I thought you must like to know—I mean if you're interested, that is."

"In-course, Tom, I'm interested. What's up?"

"I kinder 'sposed you knew."

"Knew what? Anything the matter with the assays, lad?"

"Tom, I've bin thinkin' over what you told me last night, an' I dunno but what 'twould be a good thing. At any rate, lad, I'll help you."

"What made you leave so sudden like, ol' man?"

"Oh, nothing. I kinder thought I'd like to go over the thing by myself."

Tom did not know then nor afterwards what his partner had done for him.

Having Rhody's consent, or, rather, good-will, Tom had a talk with Mary. It was in the afternoon, when school was ended for the day, and the two were strolling along through the little valley just beyond the camp. What he said to her and what she said to him is of little or no consequence here, because it would be, in the first place, stupid if repeated, interesting as it was to them; and, in the second place, it has nothing to do with the yarn. Besides, I do not know what was said, as I was not there. It is enough that Mary allowed Tom to understand that she was willing to marry him. This much was proved by the announcement of the engagement, which was speedily made. But just at this point arose the queerest difficulty. As I have said, the men in the camp looked upon the school-mistress as being one in whose career they all had a personal interest, and they objected strongly to the proposed match. At first Tom and Mary were both rather disposed to laugh at the idea, but they found in time it was no laughing matter. The question was taken up warmly and debated with the utmost acrimony on each side, while Tom found that the number of those opposed was decidedly greater than those in his favor. Threats of tar and feathers finally became common, and things began to assume a most disagreeable aspect. In this condition of affairs Rhody came nobly to the front. He had been one of the strongest advocates of the lovers during the whole thing, but Tom had noticed that he was strangely busy with letters. One day when there were a large number of the men opposed to the match, collected in front of the store discussing the affair, Rhody came down the street, and pausing in front of the crowd, said:

"Boys, I want to speak to ye. That's none on ye ez doesn't know ez how Tom, my pardner, wants to marry the school-marm. That's many on ye ez is agin any such 'rangment, most 'cause ye think the gal 'mout do better. I gin ye all credit fur this feelin', an' I'm glad far to do so. I dunno as I've thought myself that the gal were doin' the best she could in marryin' Tom." (Murmurs of applause from the crowd.) "So I've wrote to the Company, an' wrote agin an agin, an' now I'm glad fur to tell ye all that my pardner, Tom Freeman, air the superintendent of the Rattlesnake, wi' six thousand a year salary. I hez resigned myself."

"I won't have it, I pard," broke in Tom. "An' ain't half as fit as you fur the place, an' won't 'tall it," said Rhody. "Why shouldn't ye? Sides you air a goin' fur to make me out a liar," and the man's stern face lit up with a smile.

Tom's protestations were drowned in the cheers which went up from the crowd. Turned completely around by the generosity of Rhody, they were now as eager for the wedding as they had before been opposed, and before many weeks, Rhody stood up and gave the school-marm away, an admiring crowd filling the school-house to overflowing. —N. Y. Ledger.

A Story of Chambord.

When I wrote respecting the Count de Chambord and his doings, I little thought that Paris still contained an interesting and curious relic of his supposed kingship, or rather a group of relics, in the shape of the royal carriages ordered for the triumphal entry of the King into Paris. Twelve of these vehicles were ordered, but only six of them were finished when the refusal of the Prince to accept the tri-colored flag put an extinguisher on the hopes of his adherents. These six magnificent carriages have ever since been stored away awaiting the hour of the restoration of the monarchy. The whole half dozen were executed in six weeks, so great was the hurry of the Royalists, and so certain was the advent of the King considered. The largest and handsomest, that intended for Henry V. himself, is of great size and magnificence. The four lanterns alone cost \$7,000. It is lined throughout with white satin, and the arms of France are emblazoned on the ceiling in the center of a golden sun. The seven large windows of plate-glass render the interior almost as visible as that of an open carriage. All the metal work is in repoussé silver, and the hammer-cloth is fringed with gold. The panels are painted with fleur-de-lis on a background, and are highly varnished. Access is obtained to this truly royal vehicle by a series of four steps covered with pale blue velvet worked with fleurs-de-lis in gold thread. The other carriages are upholstered with pale blue satin figured with fleurs-de-lis in the same color. These six carriages cost \$200,000. They were ordered by the Count de Damas, who still pays the annual bill for their storage. They were to have been paid for by a committee of enthusiastic Legitimist noblemen; but on the final dispersion of all hopes of restoration the Count de Chambord very generously insisted on settling the bill himself. I wonder whether the eight light snow-white steeds that were to have drawn the royal carriage? They were purchased, and were being trained to assume the high-stepping, solemn gait appropriate to horses that have so important a mission to perform, when the final catastrophe came that swept the embryo royalty into the dust. I remember hearing about the controversy that took place between two highly-born Legitimists who were charged with the purchase, respecting the color of the animals. Eight perfectly-matched and very superb horses of a pale-cream color, with silken, silvery tails and manes, were offered. Nobleman No. 1 preferred the cream-colored horses, while No. 2 would hear of nothing but white ones. Finally, the dispute was settled by a third party. "Good heavens, gentlemen," he exclaimed, "if you select cream-colored horses to draw the King's carriage, every street boy in Paris, on seeing it, will cry, 'Here comes the hippodrome!'" and so the white ones were chosen. Where are they now? Some years ago the carriage of a certain fair Parisienne was pointed out to me as being drawn by two of these favored animals. Certainly I never saw such beautiful white horses in my life. They were white as snow, without a single hair or shading of another color in their perfectly-groomed coats, their nostrils being tinged with a pale pink, and their full flowing manes and tails shining like floss silk. If they were not the chosen steeds of royalty they certainly looked like—*Cor. Springfield (Mass.) Republican.*

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

A Southern genius has hit upon the idea of running trains with wind.—*St. Louis Post.*

A new mineral found in Missouri is called Adamsobite. It is said to take a fine edge that will cut stone rapidly without impairing the edge.

The experimental field of sorghum cultivated near Washington by the Department of Agriculture gives twelve per cent. of crystallizable sugar from fifty per cent. of juice which the cane produced.—*Washington Star.*

Paper is now made in Sweden from the bleached and blanched remains of mosses that lived centuries ago, and are now found in enormous quantities. The paper is turned out in all degrees of excellence, from tissue to sheets three-fourths of an inch thick.

Steel belting is, according to report now being made in Germany, the best and most exclusively of steel wire, and are so constructed that they are flexible, easily fastened, and may be tightened at pleasure. The pulley upon which the belting runs must be covered with leather or other suitable material for securing the necessary amount of adhesion. The belting is well adapted for heavy work, it is claimed, and is not affected by dampness or a change of temperature, as is leather.

George Moxeur, a middle-aged farmer of Bloomfield, Conn., takes the prize as a patient man. After nine years' assiduous work he has just finished a writing desk and book case combined that contains so many thousand pieces of wood that it was found next impossible to keep the number exact. Fifty-two kinds of wood were used in this unique piece of furniture and there is scarcely a square inch that is not inlaid. The designs are of a very wide range and take in animals, flowers, trees, agricultural implements, articles of household use, etc. The novelty of the thing is that every bit of the inlaying was done with a jack-knife, and Mr. Moxeur says he wore out nineteen blades in the work.—*Boston Post.*

A curious fact about water is that it is the rust of metal known as hydrogenium. When oxygen combines with iron it forms a reddish rust, and the metal becomes in time disintegrated. In this condition it is said to be oxidized. Now, water is simply oxidized hydrogenium. This metal is present in the sun and all the planets in enormous quantities. Indeed, it is said that the human body is composed of five and a half parts of water, mingled with some lime, iron and certain salts. Chemistry has revealed to us many marvels, but none greater than the composition of common water.

COMMERCIAL LAW.

Brief Digests of Late Decisions. Compiled Specially for the St. Louis Commercial Law Digest.

RIGHT OF BURIAL. A court of equity will not interfere to give the right of burial of a dead body to the next of kin of a deceased adult against her expressed request. There is no law which compels the next of kin to perform the duties of burial, and, therefore, his right to bury can not arise as a legal sequence from any obligation. There is ample authority to show that persons other than the next of kin have the right to bury, because the law imposes upon them the duty.—*Scott vs. Riley et al., Philadelphia Court Common Pleas.*

There can be no property in a corpse. Questions as to the custody and disposal of the dead are determined by such considerations of propriety and justice as arise out of the particular circumstances of the case. Primarily, the duty of suitable interment rests on the executor or administrator, but that duty must be exercised with due regard for the wishes of the nearest relatives of the deceased, and with the directions of the decedent, if any. Where the relations subsisting between husband and wife, and parent and child are of a normal character, they have respectively the right to determine, to the exclusion of all others, the question of interment. In the absence of these relationships the right belongs to the next of kin to the deceased. When the husband, having this right, has once exercised it and consented to the interment of his deceased wife in a certain place, he can not, after the lapse of years, exhumate the remains and re-inter them in another place, when its effect would be to harrow the feelings of others and to disturb unnecessarily the repose of the dead.—*Fox vs. Gordon, Philadelphia Court Common Pleas.*

EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION. Exemption from taxation does not exempt from special assessments. The constitution makes a distinction between taxation and such assessments. While it provides that the General Assembly may exempt the property of the State, counties and other municipalities from the former, it makes no such provision as to the latter. On the contrary, it authorizes the Legislature to vest the corporate authority of cities, towns and villages with power to make local improvements by special assessments without any restriction as to the property to be assessed. While the State may not authorize corporate authorities to levy special assessments upon the property of the United States, as it would be an invasion of the rights of a distinct sovereignty, no such reason exists as between the several agencies of the State Government which are subject to its authority and direction. It may authorize a burden to be imposed on one of its agencies to the extent it is benefited by another agency, for the benefit of the whole public.—*County of MeLean vs. City of Bloomington, Supreme Court of Illinois.*

LANDLORD AND TENANT. A tenant in possession is not estopped by his parol agreement to pay rent, nor by his actual payment of it to another not in privity with his lessor, nor having any interest in the premises, under the belief that he is the proper person to receive it—from denying the latter's title. While a tenant can not affect his landlord's interest by accepting a lease from another, he may by accepting two leases of the same premises for the same time estop himself from denying the title of either. Yet an exception to this rule is recognized where the tenant already in possession under the first accepts the second under the belief, through fraud, artifice or mistake, that the second lessor is privy in the title with the first.—*Patterson vs. Sweet, Appellate Court of Illinois.*

MUNICIPAL BONDS. Where an ordinance of a city provided for the issue of bonds on condition that certain improvements were constructed in good faith and in a good and substantial manner, and there was a failure in the construction so that the works were of no value, the city may show such failure as a defense to a suit upon the bonds. Such defense is available in an action at the suit of an assignor of such bonds. The ordinance giving a purchaser of the bonds notice of the terms on which they were issued, he can not be held to be a bona fide holder.—*City of Ottawa vs. Carey, U. S. Supreme Court.*

AGENCY BOND. A bond is executed to secure the performance of duty by a person as agent in a specified business, and to secure from him a due accounting for all moneys received in such business, it is incumbent on the obligee suing on the bond to show a breach of duty in the business designated in the bond, or a failure to account for money received in the course of such business.—*McFall et al. vs. Howe Mach. Co., Sup. Ct. of Ind.*

Plantation Philosophy.

De reason dat I think dat our mudders could beat anybody cookin' is because we kain't carry de boy's appetite into ole age.

When my wife says, "Doan yer think yoo'd better do so an' so?" I commences ter argy wid her, but when she says, "Go an' do so an' so," I hushes deen an' dar, will, lad."

I knowed one man what was so good dat he wouldn't pull a steer out de ditch on Sunday. He was arterwards sent ter de penitentiary fur stealin' a hoss on Tuesday.

De baby is more ap' ter die den de man; de little apple more ap' ter fall den de well-grown one; de ole man is more ap' ter die den de young man, fur de ripe apple is al'ers ready to drop.

A Cure for Howling Dogs.

Many wearied and wakeful persons find in the howling of dogs by night a persistent, widespread and most annoying form of irritation. The owners of dogs given to spend the hours of darkness in assiduous howling appear generally to regard with a serene personal imperturbability the noisy nuisances which make their hideouts for their neighbors. Nevertheless, those who keep dogs, especially those who do so in populous places, ought to feel bound to take the simple precautions which alone are necessary to prevent a troublesome form of vexation, which is really a serious source of inconvenience and loss of rest and possibly of loss of health to very many people.

To the honest bark of a watch dog giving warning tongue upon suitable occasion no one would object, but the purposeless and unending howl of the chained curs which are especially prevalent in the suburbs of towns is simply intolerable. It is not necessary to exterminate dogs to put an end to the annoyance in question. The nuisance is perfectly preventable by the adoption of few simple and sensible measures which, so far from injuring the offending animals, tend to give them length of days by conducting to their contentment. Those who have had experience in keeping dogs know that these dogs will not howl at night if they be comfortable. If dogs, instead of being cruelly chained up out of doors in kennels which are often draughty and damp, be allowed to have their liberty by day and to lie within the house at night, they will generally sleep through the night in perfect quietness. Or, if it be necessary to keep a dog chained by day he ought to be let loose at night, when it will be found that he will retire quietly to his kennel and abstain from howling, especially if he be furnished with some fresh hay or a clean mat for a bed. In warm weather dogs often howl at night because they want water. Many dogs howl at night because they are kept constantly chained both night and day. This is a common and most reprehensible form of cruelty; dogs so treated are sure to be restless and irritable and can scarcely be healthy.

—London Morning Post.

—Texas Siftings.