

Bill Gull's Courtship. "I got married when I was twenty," said Bill Gull one day. "I got married to Phebe Chalk, and all these young Gulls that you see running around here, came from my camp of Chalk-by-gull."

"Well enough—besides there an't no such thing as ghosts. "O! yes there is though. Did'n't my grandmother's ghost tell me to marry you?" "Bill that was me. "You by gull!" "Yes, Bill, it was me. "Well, Phebe! "How stupid you are, to stand there shaking, half frozen. "Well, Bill, go on with the story. "By gull! I have nothing more to say."

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THE NEWS, PUBLISHED AT OKOLONA, MISS., BY J. H. KNOX. John D. Richardson, Editor. To The People of Mississippi. HAVING purchased a large lot of new Printing Material, from New York, we intend to enlarge the Prairie News, about January next, to an equal size with any other paper in North Mississippi. It is our intention to make the NEWS one of the first newspapers in Mississippi, and hope the public will give us a helping hand, and come generously to our support. Neither labor nor expense will be spared to make it the best.

The Boston Olive Branch. Enjoys the highest reputation as an entertaining and valuable family paper. It is the aim of its proprietors to spare no expense, and to omit no labor, to render it, in every respect, a superior family journal. Its columns will contain contributions from some of the best American writers, such as T. S. Arthur, C. W. Phillips, Ralph Ruffin, Maurice Silsby, Mary A. Demmon, Clara Augusta, by Maria, Nellie Nightingale, Emma Chalmers, and a host of other authors and writers.

"I'll tell you all about it. You see I was about as green as a spring gosling and I thought Phebe was too. By gull she wasn't though—she knew I was. We had a sneaking notion of each other for about two years, but it would not have come to anything if it hadn't been for the ghost. I was too bashful in the way of making love, couldn't say as much as he did to a goose. And Phebe was just as bashful, that is, I thought so, but she wasn't though, by a long shot. One night, about half an hour after I had gone to bed, as I lay thinking of Phebe—for I had been sitting up with her to rather a late hour, as usual, without bringing anything to pass—the door of my room opened slowly and softly, and in walked a ghostly spectre. The moon was shining full in at my window, and I could not be mistaken. It was all in white—I rose up in my bed; while my teeth chattered, and the perspiration ran off me in streams. It came almost to my bedside, and pointing a long bony finger at me, that went through me like a red hot iron. I tried to speak, but was no go. At last a husky voice said: "Bill Gull, I am the ghost of your grandmother. You must marry Phebe Chalk right away. You have fooled time long enough. Pop the question before to-morrow night, or I will appear again—do it Bill Gull."

"At eighteen," said a foreigner, "a young American woman is the prettiest in the world; but at thirty, non dico, she is already old and ugly." Though there were some of a Frenchman's exaggerations in the remark, there was at least a substance of truth. Why is it that the beauty of our females fades so soon? Or, to go at once to the real issue—for beauty is only permanent where there is health—why is it that our women, as compared with the women of other temperate climates, are so delicate and fragile? The answer may be made in a few words. It is because they neglect air and exercise. Weakness, lassitude, and a fading complexion, as inevitably follow indolence and confinement as the withering of a plant results from its deprivation of light. It is a law of our existence, that we must take daily exercise if we would continue healthy. It is a fact in physiology, that a pure atmosphere is indispensable to a vigorous vitality. All the refinement of civilization, all the resources of science, have failed to supply a substitute for fresh air and exercise. The poor and rich stand on the same platform in reference to this necessity of our nature. The lady in silks and satins can buy no cosmetic so efficacious as the sunshine and breeze which are poured out at every step of her humble sister.

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