

1903 DECEMBER 1903						
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FREE LIBRARIES.

It may not be known to many people in Minnesota that a free library may be had for the asking by applying to the Minnesota State Library Commission. Various commercial traveling libraries have been started in the state, but this system is supported by state taxation and is a State Department, established by legislature. A traveling library contains 25 or 50 carefully selected books packed in a neat case, with blanks, catalogs and necessary directions for the circulation of the books. A library will be loaned to any village, town or community upon application of at least 10 resident taxpayers, who will form a local library association and agree to be responsible for the proper care of the library. A fee of \$1 for fifty books and fifty cents for twenty-five books is charged to cover cost of transportation both ways. The books may be retained for six months or may be exchanged oftener if desired. The traveling libraries are especially designed for the use of farming communities and small villages which cannot support a local library. They are also of great service to small public libraries which cannot have frequent accessions of new books.

New libraries are now ready for circulation. Those wishing to secure the advantage of getting the best books free of charge should make application as soon as possible to Miss Clara F. Baldwin, Librarian of the Minnesota State Library Commission, 515 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, who will furnish application blanks and full information.

Would Be a Treat.

Willmar friends of Alvin Davis, a talented Minneapolis tenor, will endeavor to arrange in the near future to have Mr. Davis give a recital in Bemidji. It is sincerely to be hoped that their efforts may be successful. Mr. Davis has a voice of rare scope and beauty and his singing has gained him a very flattering reputation in the Twin Cities.

Down From Big Fork.

U. S. Land Commissioner Watson is in the city today from the Big Fork country and intends to remain until the first of next week. He reports everything as progressing very nicely up his way. Mr. Watson was formerly pastor of the M. E. church in this city and has many friends in Bemidji.

The Best in the World

Dr. J. W. Hamilton, of San Francisco, Cal., says "I have sold Warner's White Wine of Tar Syrup for years. It is the best cough medicine in the world, and has no equal for asthma."

A WOULD BE CELIBATE

(Original.)

Paul Broomhead was a high church Episcopalian clergyman, with Roman Catholic tendencies, so high, in fact, that he announced that he would never marry. This was very disappointing to his father, who had heaped up millions and whose hobby was to establish a family. He resolved that his only son should marry or be disinherited. But being a politic man he enlisted the services of Mrs. Cushing, a shrewd woman of the world. Mrs. Cushing proposed to entice the son with her niece, Miss Sherwood. "She's but a child," said Mr. Broomhead senior.

"Seventeen. Your son is getting to an age when he prefers youth." "She's a simpleton." "Men are not attracted by attributes similar to those they themselves possess."

"I admit she is pretty. She looks at one out of her soft eyes with all the innocence of a babe."

"All except the innocence."

"Very well. I leave the whole matter to you. What next?"

"Tell your son that you wish him to marry Miss Sherwood. If Miss Sherwood declines the alliance, you will not insist on his marriage. If she consents, then he must complete his part or lose his inheritance."

Paul Broomhead, when informed of what was expected of him, was perplexed. He was resolved on celibacy, had told everybody that he would never marry, but he wanted his father's fortune to carry out some gigantic designs he had in view for the church. He resolved to win Miss Sherwood to an interest in his work; thus she, by refusing to marry him, could save to him his father's millions. He asked permission to call on the young lady, and an evening was appointed. Miss Sherwood lived with her aunt, and that lady superintended the costume her niece wore on the occasion. Noticing that a tiny pimple marred the pink and white skin just beneath the girl's lips, she covered it with a bit of court plaster.

When the rector called, he found Miss Sherwood sitting demurely in the corner of a sofa in the drawing room. As he advanced she rose and stood with her eyes bent on the floor, a picture of maidenly modesty. Then the two sat down on the sofa side by side. Mr. Broomhead was accustomed to putting delicate cases, and he acquitted himself well in this instance. He began by mentioning his father's wish with regard to their marriage. Marriage was a highly honorable institution—indeed, a part of the church itself. The young lady was attractive. He must admit that she was beautiful. He thought he could love her devotedly. Indeed, the possession of the delicate flower would in a way make his life a paradise. He could conceive of no greater blessing of Providence than to secure such a wife.

Miss Sherwood listened to this prelude with downcast eyes, absently smoothing out the folds of her dress, till he came to the last sentence, the last word, "wife." Then she looked up at him out of a pair of eyes that expressed the most ineffable tenderness. The clergyman proceeded, but the remainder of his discourse did not run quite so smoothly as his "firstly."

He pictured a higher life—higher even than holy matrimony—a life devoted to the cause of their Master. Think of the great good to be achieved with his father's fortune in leading countless millions to the church, the splendid edifices that might be built, the homes for the church orders, both men and women. Think of that nobler friendship that would exist between the two, he working day and night in the channel, in the mission house, in the slums; she devoted to the same cause as a member of a sisterhood. "I ask you not prefer this nobler life preparatory to the higher existence to?"

He stopped short. Miss Sherwood had burst into a flood of tears and was weeping on his shoulder.

"Dear little girl, calm yourself. Perhaps I have asked too much of you. We will think it over. There, try and cease this convulsive sobbing."

His arm was around her waist, his hand was smoothing the beautiful whirlpools of hair that had been set whirling under Mrs. Cushing's especial guidance. Then there was silence.

During the evening several people, members of young Broomhead's flock, called on Mrs. Cushing. Evidence is not forthcoming whether they came by invitation or merely happened in. About 11 o'clock these people were sitting in a room directly opposite the drawing room when Mr. Broomhead emerged, looking very much flustered, followed by Miss Sherwood, as composed and innocent looking as a blue violet. All were surprised to see their rector in the house, inasmuch as his presence there had not been mentioned. Mr. Broomhead advanced with embarrassment to meet them, and there was a bit of small talk. Then one of the ladies began to titter. She whispered something to one of the others, who began to titter also. At last the whole party were laughing, and laughing at the clergyman.

"Mr. Broomhead," remarked Mrs. Cushing seriously, "I was not aware that men wore beauty spots."

The rector put his hand to his chin, pulled off a piece of court plaster, looked at it on the tip of his finger and turned scarlet. Miss Sherwood showed not the least distress—indeed she appeared to be very proud of herself.

There was but one course left open for the clergyman.

"My friends," he said, "I have to announce my engagement to Miss Sherwood." F. A. MITCHEL.

PIANOS!

Valuable Suggestions For Thinking People

To buy a piano is a serious undertaking for most people because they know absolutely nothing about the construction or the requirements necessary for durability as well as tone quality and are therefore unable to determine its value which may subject the buyer to great financial loss, leaving them easy prey for unscrupulous salesmen assisted by the paid advice of a supposed friend, to substitute a varnished thump box for a musical instrument with music. Do you care to take the risk?

Great are the obstacles in the way of judicious selection of a piano when a buyer has no personal knowledge for they must rely almost wholly on the advice of the dealer who can make the way plain for buying advantageously for the most inexperienced buyer, if he so desires, and he will gladly do it if he is honorable. Therefore it is important that you should use good judgment in selecting a dealer. He should be one whom you know to be trustworthy and fair in all his dealings and to whom you can go personally at any time for explanation and ad-

vice and on whom you can depend on what he tells you concerning them.

You can readily understand why as a rule it is advisable to "patronize home industry." This rule will apply in almost every line, particularly in buying a piano as the dealer is easily accessible in case attention is required, beside having sold the instrument it is to his interest to see that it is in good condition as a standing endorsement for him, and a very important consideration for the buyer, an advantage he will not have buying from a distant dealer.

Not having the ready money to pay for the piano need not stand in the way of purchasing. Your home may have the advantage of a musical instrument. You can buy on easy terms, paying for it in small monthly payments that will suit your circumstances.

We are making prices on instruments very much lower than ever before offered in this part of the state. If you think of buying a piano in the near future it will be to your interest to take advantage of this money saving opportunity.

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