

# The Times' Daily Short Story.

## A New Petruchian Method

(Original.)

"I hope, Bannard," I said as we sat over our cigars after dinner—Mrs. Bannard had just left the table—"that if ever I marry I'll get a wife who will be as amiable and as lovable as yours."

"H'm," said Bannard, "you don't give me any credit in the matter."

"You? Credit for your wife's disposition? Why should you deserve credit for that?"

"An answer to your question involves the story of our courtship and early married life, a story I have never given even to my own brother, but well, if you like I'll give it to you."

"When I met my wife she was Agnes Bugbee as pretty as a striped wasp and with as malignant a sting. I have the disposition of a sportsman and like to hunt fierce game. It seemed to me there would be an exhilarating zest in winning her from the very fact that it would be difficult.

"It was when automobiles first came in vogue, and I owned a very nice one—at least nice for that time—which I used to make an occasional call on Miss Bugbee. She said she detested to see gentlemen make engineers of themselves and vowed she would never ride in one. I told her mine wasn't safe for women and on no account would I permit a woman to ride with me. I had no sooner spoken than she excused herself for a few minutes, went upstairs, came down dressed to go out and informed me that she had concluded to ride with me. I declined to take her, whereupon she declared that I could either do so or not trouble myself to call again. Then, of course, I consented to take her for a spin.

"This is a sample of the ways and means I adopted to circumvent her—that is, I always opposed what I wanted. I was constantly looking for the soft spot in her heart, but did not discover it. A year passed, and I was as far from bringing down the game as ever. But there was one result I had not counted on. The effort to win her, her refusing to be won, began to work on my own heart, and I finally discovered that unless I succeeded I would be miserable for life.

"Well, at last I made up my mind that if I was going to win Agnes Bugbee I must do so in the way I had accomplished all the results I had gained—that is, by feigning opposition. I wrote her a note stating that a certain young woman, whom I knew she hated, was doing her a great injury, connecting her name very disagreeably with mine, and I saw no way to protect her except to discontinue my visits. I received a reply by my messenger demanding to know just what had been reported, whereupon I wrote that the slanderer had declared that she (Miss Bugbee) had been trying for a

year to marry me and failed, and would continue to fail. I intimated in as modest language as I could command that the father intended to marry me herself. A reply came inviting me to call that evening.

"I called and found Miss Bugbee arrayed in her most becoming costume. She received me with more graciousness than usual, making an excuse for me to sit beside her on a sofa and moving so near to me that a sheet of tissue paper couldn't find room between us. Then she bent forward, placing her waist where I could not very well help encircling it, and—well, I made a proposal and was accepted.

"I've been told that most men who have been trying their best to get a woman experience a singular reaction soon after they have succeeded. It came to me. I looked with horror at spending my life with a woman whom I could never master except by feigning to oppose what I desired. This probably saved me from a life of misery, for I resolved that I would tear my heart out rather than incur the certainty of living a henpecked life. After the reaction passed off I again realized that my betrothal was necessary to me. Then I thought out a plan—a plan that could only be put into execution after marriage and by the exercise of great self control.

"As soon as the ceremony had been performed I confessed to my wife that I had a grudge against the woman who had spread malicious reports about us and had only married to spite this person; that if my wife chose to live with me, knowing this fact, I would be willing, though if I found married life irksome I would move into bachelor quarters.

"This was a trifle more than Mrs. Bannard had bargained for. It made her furious at first, but when she saw me packing my traps to take my departure her disposition, I suppose, to have her own way prevailed, and she unobtrusively. She then and there resolved to win my heart. Whether a desire to spite the other woman had anything to do with it I don't know. For a long while I assumed absolute indifference. One thing I would not do—I declined to quarrel. The moment my wife became vixenish I put on my hat and coat, kissed my hand to her politely and started to leave. She never let me get off the stoop. It took some time to convince her that I was master of the situation and not till she had tried every subterfuge that could be invented by a wily woman. At last she discovered with regard to herself what I had long before discovered in my own case—that I was necessary to her happiness. Since then she has been a model wife."

"A case of Katherine and Petruchio," remarked the listener.

"Not at all. Petruchio overcame a violent temper by feigning a more violent one. I simply pretended to oppose what I wanted, feigned indifference and would not quarrel with my wife."

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## MISS SCHENCK'S NEW FAD.

Newport Belle Attempts to Make Umbrellas Unfashionable.

Not content with having stirred a nation by her "pigtail" fad, Miss Nathalie Schenck now attempts to make umbrellas unfashionable, says the New York Press. In the streaming rain in Newport a few days ago the lovely young woman paraded Bellevue avenue hatless and without an umbrella. True, she wore a trim little raincoat buttoned closely at the neck, but her pretty face was drenched with water, and her hair, too, was "sopping wet." Her men friends proffered her their umbrellas, but she refused. Women who drove past stopped and offered Miss Schenck a "lift," but she shook her head and resumed her interesting stroll to the villa of her mother, Mrs. Spotswood D. Schenck. Mrs. Frederick Neilson called to Miss Schenck from her cottage, the Nutshell; "What on earth are you doing? Why haven't you an umbrella?" To this Miss Nathalie replied: "I like it. Water never did harm any one, and I have plenty of other clothes at home." And now it is expected Miss Schenck's satellites, Miss Cynthia Roche, Miss Natica Rives and Miss Evelyn Parsons, will do likewise.

It might as well be admitted that Miss Schenck is the belle of the Newport set. There are other girls more beautiful and many infinitely richer, but not one enjoys her degree of popularity. She is invited everywhere, from Mrs. Astor's down. She is a born leader, and the other girls of her set follow her in all her "stunts" and fads. In appearance she is high bred and handsome, with fine coloring and a splendid figure.

## NEW STORAGE BATTERY.

Invention of Miller Reese Hutchinson Weighs Only Six Ounces.

Miller Reese Hutchinson of New York city, the inventor of an electrical instrument which assists the deaf to hear, has also devised a storage battery for use with that apparatus, says the New York Tribune. The two features of this cell which make it unlike others are that its contents are dry, or at least will not spill, and the energy which is put into it is more immediately available for service. The advantage of the first of these traits is that the battery can be carried in the pocket and turned upside down without harm. To illustrate the second virtue Mr. Hutchinson shows the observer that he can get six volts out of a six ounce parcel no bigger than a cigar case, whereas other secondary batteries yield only two volts per cell. While it is possible in consequence to respond more promptly to any demand on its resources, the cell will not take a bigger charge or do more work pound for pound than others already in the market—that is, Mr. Hutchinson will not claim more at present. Some day he may try to adapt the invention for automobiles, but as yet he has not tried to do so. He makes these manufactures only for medical men, blasting and to furnish current for his "acousticon."

Another invention of the same man is designed to prevent the flow of current in the wrong direction if the charging wires are not properly connected to a battery. This acts automatically. If while a battery is being charged the dynamo is stopped the new device shuts off the current and gives a signal.

## A Peculiar Animal.

A peculiar water animal is the synapta, which nature has provided with an anchor somewhat similar in shape to those used by ships. By means of this the insect holds itself firmly in any desired spot.

## A Famous Tree.

Although lately thought to be dying, the famous tree in the gardens of Gray's Inn, London, planted by Francis Bacon, has revived and is in full bud.

## FACTS ABOUT SERVIA.

King Peter's Kingdom Comprises 18,630 Square Miles.

## LITTLE OF THE LAND CULTIVATED

Only About a Third Is Tilled—Main Crops Are Wheat, Maize, Meadow Grass and Plums—The Pig Is the Chief Source of Commercial Wealth. One Principal Railway.

The kingdom of Serbia, the scene of the recent tragic assassination of its king, queen and some ministers of state, is situated in the interior of the Balkan peninsula, south of the Save and the Danube, being bounded by Rumania and Bulgaria on the east and Bosnia on the west, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Including the portions added by the Berlin treaty of 1878, it comprises 18,630 square miles. The kingdom has a population of 2,500,000, of which 60,000 reside in Belgrade, the capital, which is situated on the Danube river. The state religion is Greek Orthodox. According to the official census reports, there were in Serbia in 1895 2,281,918 Greek Orthodox communicants, 10,441 Roman Catholics, 1,002 Protestants, 5,162 Jews and 14,414 Mohammedans.

In 1874 only 4 per cent of the population could read and write; in 1884, 10 per cent; in 1890, 14 per cent. The percentage of illiteracy is being reduced rapidly, for elementary education is now compulsory.

For governmental purposes the country is divided into seventeen departments or provinces. The constitution voted by the national assembly, or skupshtina, in 1889 continued in force until 1894, when it was repealed by King Alexander and an older constitution adopted in 1890 was revived. In April, 1901, the crown granted the people a new constitution, which was, however, revoked by Alexander in the coup of a few weeks ago.

"No country is more deserving of being called a democracy than Serbia," said De Lavelle after returning from a tour of the Balkan states. The Turkish boys having been driven away in the wars of independence, the Serbian peasants found themselves absolute owners of the lands they occupied without any one above them. Each family owns the ground it tills and with the most primitive tools draws from it a livelihood. In the country there are few day laborers, for no Serbian cares to be another man's servant. Even the cooks and table waiters come, as a rule, from Hungary or Croatia. When a farmer is not able to attend to his own crops he turns to his neighbors, who give him a helping hand, and at the close of the harvest they all join in a friendly feast.

The holdings vary in size from ten to thirty acres. In 1897 the number of proprietors was 293,421. The chief crops are wheat, maize, meadow grass for forage, and plums, the latter exported largely in the form of marmalade, which enjoys a high reputation. Only about a third of the country is cultivated, much of what remains being under wood.

The pig has been to Serbia, like the herring to Holland, the chief source of her commercial wealth. Innumerable herds of these animals, almost wild, fatten in the glades of the vast oak forests of the central part of the country. Before the day of American bacon they used to be driven in great herds to the Danube, to be exported to Austria and Hungary. Still, in 1900 there were nearly 1,000,000 hogs in Serbia, and a considerable number are sent away each year for foreign consumption, though the trade is of less importance than formerly. Some districts are famous, too, for their horses, oxen and sheep.

There are almost no manufactures in Serbia except flour mills and breweries. Various kinds of lignite and coal are mined in tolerably large quantities, and other minerals are found, though nowhere abundantly. The import trade in 1901 was valued at 44,035,428 dinars, or about \$55,000,000, and the export trade at about \$80,000,000.

Servia has one principal railway line, 230 miles in length, and several branch lines. Of highways there are 3,495 miles. The navigation on the Danube, mostly in the hands of foreign steamship companies, is of commercial importance to the kingdom. The country has 126 post offices and 2,250 miles of telegraph lines. The fall war strength of Serbia, counting in the militia, is probably about 300,000 men.

## Woodmen in Camp.

Indianapolis, Ind., June 17.—The thirteenth session of the head camp of the Modern Woodmen of America was opened in Tomlinson hall, Mayor Bookwalter and Auditor of State Herick welcomed the delegates. The response was made by Lieutenant Governor W. A. Northcutt of Illinois, head counsel of the organization.

## IN BOSTON MARKETS.

Quotations on the Leading Products That Are in Demand.

Boston, June 17.—There is a firm market for butter, with the demand fair. Northern fresh, round lots, 23 1/2¢; 24¢; western, 23 1/2¢; Vermont dairy, 21 1/2¢; renovated butter, 17 1/2¢; jobbing, 1/4¢ more.

Cheese is steady, with a moderate demand. Round lots, old, nominal, 14 1/2¢; new cheese, 11 1/2¢-14¢; jobbing, 1/2¢ higher. Liverpool is quoted at 53s for white and 55s 6d for colored. Eggs are firm but unchanged in price. Western fresh, 17 1/2¢; storage packed, 17 1/2¢; eastern, 18 1/2¢; nearby, 21 1/2¢; jobbing, 1c to 1 1/2¢ higher.

Beans are steady and unchanged. Carload lots, pea, \$2.45; medium, \$2.45; yellow eyes, \$2.70; red kidneys, \$2.25; California small white, \$2.45; foreign pea and medium, \$2.25; 2.30; jobbing, 10c more.

Apples are quiet but steady. Baldwin's crop, cold storage, \$2.50; No. 2, all kinds, \$1.25; russets, \$2.03; northern spics, \$2.03; Maine Ben Davis, \$2.25. Small lots and jobbing, 50¢-61¢ per bbl more.

Strawberries have been in ample supply during the week. Prices range from 8c to 11c per bx.

There is a quiet market for all kinds of nuts, with prices unchanged. The receipts of peanuts for the week were 1384 bgs, against 1540 bgs for the same week last year.

California cherries sell at \$1.25-1.75 per bx.

Potatoes are rather easier for new stock, with old potatoes in steady demand at firm prices. Green mountains, \$1.10; hebrons, \$1; Dakota reds, 80¢; new rose and hebrons, bbls, \$3.50; white Bliss, bbls, \$3.25; red Bliss, \$3; sweet, crts, \$2.50; white sweets, bbls, \$1.50.

Bunch celery is selling at 50¢-61¢ per bch.

Onions are firm at: Egyptian, bgs, \$2.50; Bermuda, \$2.25 per crt; bunch onions, 60c per bx.

Hot-house tomatoes are quoted at 50¢ per lb; southern, \$2.03 per crt, with mushrooms at \$2.50 per 4-lb bkt.

Cucumbers sell at \$2.45 per bx for hot-house, all sizes.

Yellow turcups sell at 80¢ per bbl; beets, 50¢ per bx; carrots, \$1.15 per bx; parsnips, \$1.50 per bx.

Cabbages sell at \$1.50-1.75 per large crt, Norfolk.

Marrow squashes bring \$2.25 per crt; crookneck, \$2.50 per crt.

The market for lettuce is demoralized at 10¢-25¢ per bx, 1 1/2 doz in bx. Radishes sell at 75¢ per bx; mint, 30¢ per doz; cross, 50¢ per doz; salsify, \$1.50 per doz; leeks, 75¢ per doz.

New string beans are selling at \$1.25-2¢ per crt for wax, and \$2.03 per crt for green.

Splach is quoted at 25¢ per bu for native; parsley, hot-house, \$1.50 per bu; romaine, \$1 per bu; beet greens, 25¢ per bu; bunch carrots, 75¢-81¢ per doz; Bermuda potatoes, \$4 per bbl; rhubarb, 1c per lb; horseradish, 80¢ per bbl; peppers, \$3 per crt.

Pork provisions are easier, with some changes in prices. The western flood conditions have interfered with the marketing of stock and movement of freights, and the number of hogs received at packing points has been reduced.

Fresh beef is firm, with a steady inquiry. The beef arrivals for the week show an increase over last week.

Muttons and lambs are in moderate supply at steady prices; veals are steady. Kentucky lambs, 14¢-16¢; spring lambs, 13¢-14¢; yearlings, 7 1/2¢-10¢; muttons, 7 1/2¢-11¢; veals, 6¢-11¢.

The poultry market is very steady at quotations. Western turkeys, frozen, 18¢-20¢; local, 15¢-16¢; western fowls, iced, 15¢-16¢; western frozen chickens, 14¢-16¢; fresh killed South Shore chickens, 30¢-38¢; fresh killed northern fowls, 16¢-17¢; broilers, 30¢-32¢; western broilers, 25¢-28¢; squab broilers, per pair, 7¢-8¢; spring ducks, 20¢-21¢.

Hay is firm, with choice grades very scarce; millfeed is quiet, but steady. Hay, No. 1, \$2.25-25; lower grades, \$1.50-20; rye straw, \$2.25-25; oat straw, \$9-11.

The consumption of wheat by the northwestern mills last year, the Northwestern Miller shows to have been nearly 148,000,000 bush, which was ground into 34,135,000 bbls of flour. As the combined product of the northwestern states last year was less than 200,000,000 bus, the figures show that three-fourths of the entire crop was manufactured into flour by the local mills.

The Modern Miller says: Further deterioration in condition of winter wheat is reported from many sections in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, where rains caused rust. Some complaints of rust from southern Kansas and south of Ohio. Flood damage in bottom lands, especially heavy along Mississippi river from the Iowa line to the Ohio river. Extent of actual loss not determined, but the submerged area in Kansas and Missouri and the Mississippi river bottom lands is at least 1,500,000 acres, which is mostly wheat.

## ROBINSON CRUSOE TO DATE

Amusing Incident of the Flood at Topeka, Kan.

Among the amateur boatmen who went to the rescue of people in North Topeka during the recent flood were Probate Judge Hayden and Sam Zimmerman, says the Kansas City Journal. They had an old flat bottomed boat which might not have been conveyed safely through the cross currents by even the most expert of oarsmen. Naturally they upset at almost the first cross current. Here they lost an oar, but regained their boat, which swept downward with the current. Presently they were tipped out again and lost the other oar. However, for the second time they regained the boat and went drifting helplessly through the water-covered town.

At last they were swept across Kansas avenue and plump into a window of Billard's mill. As they crashed into this place of comparative safety they were astonished to find a solitary old man sitting on a box and calmly smoking his pipe. The old man stared at them a moment and then shouted, "By the jumpin' Jehoshaphat, here comes Robinson Crusoe and his man Friday!" And over in Topeka the boys are trying to find out which was Robinson Crusoe and which was Friday.

Memorial to Dean Haskins.

A fund of \$50,000 is being raised for a memorial to the late Charles Waldo Haskins, whose excellent book, "Household Accounts," was published by Harper & Bros. just after the author's recent death. The fund will be used for the endowment of a professorship in the School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance of New York university, to be known as the Charles Waldo Haskins professorship of auditing and history of accountancy. Ten thousand dollars of the fund has already been subscribed.

## INVISIBLE UNIFORMS URGED

African Traveler's Suggestions to British War Office.

Writing on the subject of "Invisibility in Soldiers' Uniforms in War," Mr. Heywood W. Seton Carr, the well known African traveler, points out the desirability of soldiers being clothed in uniforms of a color similar to that of the country in which they may be operating, says a special London cable dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean.

In Europe, for instance, the aspect of the country is usually green, while in India or the deserts of Egypt and Somaliland the suitable color would be a yellow ochreous gray. Mr. Seton Carr would have had English troops in Somaliland clothed partly in the color of the Somali desert and partly in that of the mimosa trees, with which the country is sparsely covered.

Another suggestion is to vary the shades of the same uniform—to make the coat darker than the trousers. Mr. Carr thinks that by experimenting on these lines complete invisibility might be achieved ultimately.

Queen Draga Scorned Warnings.

The Belgrade correspondent of the Lokal Anzeiger sends particulars of the assassinations which were given him by Lieutenant Colonel Michitsch, the actual leader of the conspiracy. The conspirators, he says, were exclusively junior army officers and included no generals among them. King Alexander received several warning letters, one appointing Whit Sunday for the tragedy. When that day passed Queen Draga remarked to her maid of honor, "You see, these cowards write and write, but no one ventures to act." During the evening before the assassination the conspiring officers assembled in cafes and restaurants adjacent to the palace and created an impression of loyalty by frequently demanding that the musicians play a certain piece named after Queen Draga.

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