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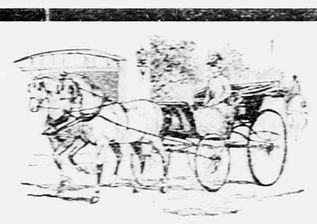

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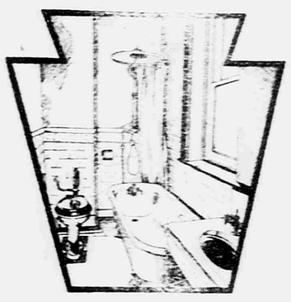

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DAYTONA, FLA.

A SILLY TOY.

The Way the Toothbrush Was at First Regarded.

Colonial diaries and letters make it plain that our unfortunate ancestors suffered much from jumping toothaches, swelled faces and the early loss or forcible extraction of teeth which at a later period might have been saved to render their owners many years of further service. No wonder, since the care of the teeth was little understood, and that little often but negligently practiced.

Toothpicks were known, the toothbrush was not, although rough substitutes were employed, made of fattened sticks split and pounded at one end to a stiff fibrous fringe. Toothbrushes when first introduced were regarded as by no means important accessories to the toilet, but rather as minor luxuries and suitable for women only.

The diary of a London merchant trading to the colonies has this entry:

"Bought a Toothbrush for my wife, which, used together with salte water very strong and a wassile of Herbs, she is told will keep her Teethe from falling out or getting hollowe. The salte and Herbes may well prove strengthening to her Gumbes, which are tender, but for the brush it seemes but a silly Toy, hardly like to ware the worth of its price and scarce cleanser sure when new. But she must have it, being a new thing late from France."

In the famous collection of the letters of the Verney family, as well, the toothbrush is referred to as "an odd one made now used by the ladies of Paris."

But when Sally Annis, a colonial belle, wrote of her sweetheart she had, like the London merchant's wife, good hopes of his proving of high and refined taste. Her sweetheart's father had just brought her the "odd" with the "silly" toy.

Besides these and yet similar quotations, he sent a new toothpick made of ivory, "so white that it looks purer than any other, and yet so strong that it will not break in the gums, and so pliant that it will not hurt the gums." With the toothpick was sent a toothbrush "made of the finest hair, very soft, and yet so firm that it will not bend." Sally Annis, in her letter, said that she had "kept the toothpick for herself, but had given the toothbrush to her father."

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

Mica Mining

Holiday Crowds.

SYLVIA LEWIS BALDWIN

A Literary Prize.

THE HERITAGE of THE ELLIS ESTATE

[Original.]

When Edward Ellis, childless widower, passed his sixty-eighth birthday, being partially blind, he took into his service Dora Laraway, aged twenty-two, her duties being that of companion. He promised to leave her something in his will—he was rich—but died without having made any will.

Meanwhile Dora, who had endured him for ten years, had passed out of her youth and found herself on the world for a living. The disposition of Ellis' property promised to be peculiar. A wife, a child, a brother or sister would have inherited it all under the law. Ellis had had only one child—a son, who had gone to the Spanish-American war and was on the list of killed in the fighting before Santiago. There being no near relative to inherit the Ellis estate, it was pounced upon by remote cousins.

Claimants came in great numbers from far and near. There was no unanimity between them, each striving to make his or her own claim paramount. Dora Laraway was inclined to put in a claim for services, but was advised that such claim would not hold good in law.

Among those claiming a share of the estate was a middle aged man who called himself Leonard Ellis. He had come from South America, where he lived, and, as no one had ever heard of the deceased having a relative in that faraway country, he was looked upon with suspicion. He seemed rather disconcerted at the failure of claimants and apparently abandoned further efforts. The reason for this was apparent when he was asked from what Ellis he had descended. He named Leonard Ellis, a captain in the Revolutionary war. The cousins hunted the matter up and found that the said Ellis had left no descendants.

Since none of the claimants seemed to be the [illegible] Dora Laraway [illegible] Ellis [illegible] Meanwhile [illegible] Nor [illegible] the [illegible] The prize [illegible] day is the centenary of the Chair Assembly's [illegible] which time the money will be [illegible] which will have increased to [illegible] dollars. One-fourth of it will be used to defray the cost of publishing the work which wins the prize.

ROSE TREAT THURBER.

Happiness.

Some of Them Do.

The Ladies' Roses

[Original.]

There were eight passengers in the coach, six men and two women, and every man was armed. Gentleman John, as he was called, had robbed the coach the day before and had told the driver to say that he would rob the next one to pass over the road. The consequence was, this being the next coach, that the sheriff, disguised as a parson, was in it, and the two "women" were disguised deputies. But their identity was not known to the passengers.

"O'd like to see this gentleman road agent get any of my money," remarked a Hibernian. "They say he's mighty quick on the trigger, but O'll keep me finger on mine the while."

"Some of us down in Mississippi, whar I come from, are in the habit of usin' guns," drawled a man in a broad brimmed hat.

"Oh, we won't see Gentleman John," said the supposed clergyman. "He isn't the fool to give us warning."

"He give 'em warning on the Denver line," said a young fellow in a high choker collar. "They were on the lookout for him, but the first thing they knew he was on the coach step and had every one inside covered. Every passenger was armed, but no one dared draw."

The stage stopped at a tavern, the door was opened, and a woman with a bunch of roses in her hand was about to enter when she drew back, saying that she wouldn't travel with men alone. Apparently she did not see the deputies, who were on the back seat, and when they were pointed out to her she sprang into the coach. As she was about to [illegible] the horses she dropped her bouquet. The young man in the choker collar picked it up and handed it to her. She received it with a smile and, taking from the bunch the largest rose, gave it to him. He thanked her and put it to his nose. Then the conversation was resumed as to Gentleman John.

[illegible] sheriff, waiting for information.

"No," replied the Irishman, "he's mighty [illegible] He hides his [illegible] as the wolves do in Turkey."

"They say he's about forty," said [illegible]

"Why, I've been taking about it myself," [illegible]

[illegible] Driver.

[illegible] Sacramento Valley.

[illegible] Irishman, which a [illegible] Irishman [illegible] down. He was [illegible] Then he [illegible] Irishman [illegible] Irishman [illegible] Irishman