

THE STORY THAT WAS TOLD

By the Florida-Faced Man With Clear-Cut Features and Diamond-Looking Eyes.

A man with a florid face and clear-cut features, whose eyes had a peculiarly innocent look in them, got on an elevated railroad car the other day to come down town. He became absorbed in the contents of a newspaper, and apparently did not notice a young man sitting near him, whose eyes seemed riveted upon his heavy gold watch chain. After several stops at the stations the car became nearly empty. The young man suddenly rose, and, crossing over to the old gentleman, remarked:

"I beg your pardon, sir, but is not this your purse? I found it in the seat by your side."

The older man looked at the purse and then at the young man for full a minute. Then he carefully removed his glasses, wiped them with his handkerchief, smiled to himself, and calmly queried:

"And if it was not mine what would you do with it?"

"Why—of course," said the young fellow, slightly coloring, "I'd return it to the owner."

"Oh, yes, I see. But, young man, sit down here for a minute and let me tell of a scene that I once witnessed."

The young man, somewhat disconcerted, mechanically obeyed, and allowed the older one to proceed.

"One day in April, some three years ago, I was passing through Chambers street, on a business errand, when I caught a pair of lady's kid gloves lying upon the sidewalk. I hurried forward to pick them up, but was just too late, as another person a short distance ahead of me scooped them. He looked at me in a quizzical manner, and when I asked him to let me see them, he politely assented. But as if fearful of being seen he nudged me to come into an open doorway where we could look at our prize with comparative safety. As I took the gloves from his hand and pulled them apart, so as to examine their worth, I was surprised to find a large, heavy lump of something tied up in one of the fingers. With greedy haste I communicated to him my discovery, when he snatched the gloves from my hand and commenced working the article out of the finger-hole. In a few moments he held up to my astonished view a handsome jeweled ring, which at the lowest ought to have been worth \$50. I expressed my surprise in a very open way, and asked him to let me see it. This he did, and at the same time asked what I thought it was worth. I unhesitatingly gave him my opinion. Then what had we better do with it? he asked. Why, advertise it in the papers, I suggested, and the owner will probably give us a handsome price for returning it."

"This he thought was a very good plan, but he was then on his way to the train to go out of the city for a month or two, and consequently he would not be able to receive any of the money. 'I'll tell you,' he finally said, 'the owner will at least give you \$10 for returning it, and if you will give me \$5 now I will surrender the gloves and ring to you. How does that suit?' It's fair, sir."

"Well, yes, I had to acknowledge it was, and so without murmuring I handed him \$5, and walked away with the ring. The next two days I advertised in the papers for the owner of the ring, but no one came to claim it. On the fourth day I concluded I had acted honestly in the matter, and was now justified in selling it. I took it to a prominent jeweler's where I knew its true value would be given, and—what do you think it was worth?"

"The young man shifted uneasily in his seat and dodged the smiling eyes of the speaker.

"Why, it was a brass ring worth about 5 cents, and put in the glove by that rascal of a swindler. Now, then," continued the gentleman, in a severe tone, "what would you do if you discovered that same fellow up to his old trick again?"

"Ah! this is my station; I must go. Good morning." And the young man with the purse slid gently along the car, and disappeared in the crowd on the platform. The old gentleman resumed his reading, and chuckled to himself every now and then.

Public Baths. [Demorest's Monthly.] Some of the most splendid works of ancient Rome were its public baths. Their remains are to-day the wonder of all who visit the imperial city. It is evident that the Romans under the emperors were a more cleanly people than the ordinary dwellers in our modern large cities. It is noticeable that in all capitals of the world to-day there is a disposition to imitate the Romans. Public baths are recognized as being as essential as common schools. Public health can be preserved in no better way than in providing means for keeping the mass of the population clean. We are rediscovering also a fact well known to the Romans, that hot air and vapor baths have a therapeutic value. They cure diseases of various kinds.

The public baths of Vienna almost vie with some of the Roman baths, and are the finest in the world. The building is situated in the heart of the city, is 570 feet in length and 170 in width, and has accommodations for 1,500 persons at one time. There are also accommodations for women. In New York and other of our large cities free baths in summer were first looked upon as an experiment, but are now regarded as a necessity, and their popularity yearly increases. Other large capitals, such as London and Paris are hindered in providing bathing facilities, because of the difficulty of procuring sufficient water; but from the tendencies of the age, it is very clear that before the twentieth century has far advanced, the public baths of the modern world will vie with those of ancient Rome, not only in general utility but in splendor.

Etiquette for the Seaside. [Boston Beacon.] A reasonable bit of gallant etiquette is offering to carry a lady's slipper of the sand gathered during a stroll on the beach. The lady hops on one foot while her cavalier, very much in the same way, would pick a stone from a horse's hoof, and deftly extract the gritty particles which have made the fair one "go lame." Fashionable slippers were made for country walking, but they are a "boon," as Artemus Ward once said of the lower of London, to idle youngsters, who pose as gallants of the deepest dye at summer resorts.

The Modern Myth-Maker. Atlanta Constitution. The newspaper reporters have done exceedingly good work since they were placed in charge of the myth factory. The story of the George Washington hatchet is a very fine myth, but the most ordinary newspaper reporter can get up a better one in twenty minutes by the watch. As a matter of fact Le has invented better ones about Lincoln and Grant, and is preparing to invent others whenever he deems it necessary. Long live the modern myth-maker.

A Tired Man. \* which I could find some hole in the ground that man never saw and hence never found. Where no living creature ever breathed of the air, I would not say old bones just twenty years there; And when I awoke from this sleep of the soul I would not go away without taking the hole. —J. Murray Case in Judge.

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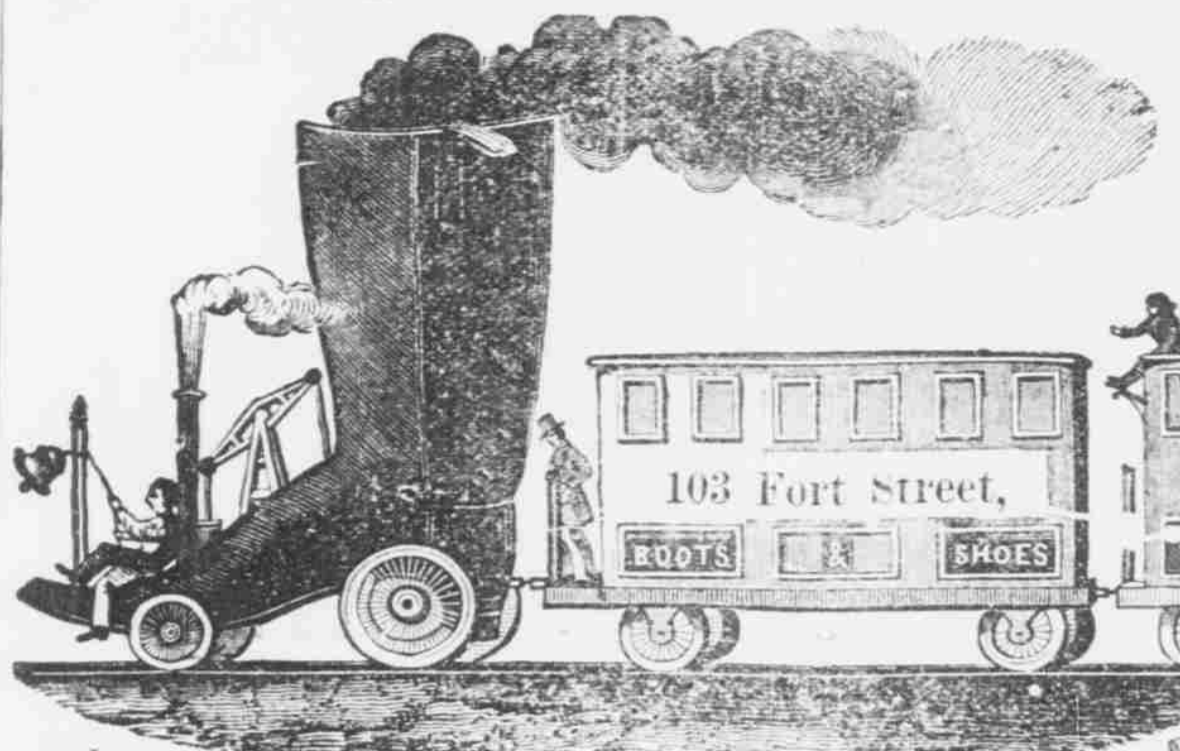
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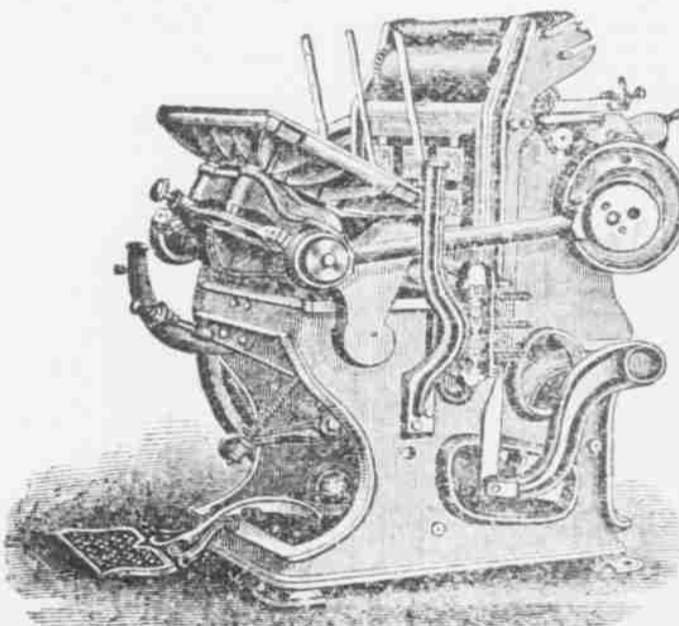
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