

BEN'S COURTSHIP

By LEONARD W. GROSSMAN

"I suppose you want to be one of the vice-presidents, at least," granted Stephen Gower, as he looked up at Ben Meade.

"In the course of time, yes," said Ben easily. "I've an idea I could make a very good vice-president. Meanwhile I suppose that it's switching or something like that. I don't want a clerkship."

Gower sprang up with beaming face. "My dear boy," he said warmly, "I have had a hundred sons of old friends ask me for chances. Every one wanted to start at the top. You're the first one to want to begin at the right end. Come to dinner tonight and I'll have a letter for you to give the division superintendent."

Meade made acknowledgment and slipped out of the office. He had just completed his college course and the trip to Europe that had followed it. He had a preference for railroading and his father had sent him to Gower, president of the B. Y. & A. Mabel Gower was waiting in the passenger room to hear the result of the interview. She was a little worried for she knew how her father felt toward those who came to him with letters.

"What luck?" she asked as he came toward her.

"Bully," he answered briefly. "I can come to dinner this evening and he'll put me on somewhere."

The dinner was his first appearance at the Gower home and Mabel beamed as she saw what a good impression he made upon her father. She was moved to seek to take advantage of it when he had left.

"You are sending Mr. Meade out to the Carson division?" she asked. "I should think you could use him here in the office."

"I could," said her father. "I could use him in the office and he'd be an office boy to the end of his days. Leave him alone, daughter. He's under a hard master in Danvers, but if there's anything in the old Charley Danvers will bring it out. The boy as started in right. Don't hinder him."

Ben soon found for himself that Danvers was a hard master. He demanded the best that was in a man and somehow he managed to get it out of them.

He was prejudiced against Ben because he had come with a letter and for the first three months his work as wiper in the Carson roundhouse was that of an inferno. Ben bore it patiently, there was no complaint and presently Danvers found himself rather liking the boy. He promoted him to fire a yard engine and before the end of his first year Ben had a freight run.

He was firing for Pete Mabee and under his training rapidly qualified as an engineer. For some reason Pete hated Gower more than anyone else. All of his venom was directed against the man for whom he worked.

Ben was glad when Pete was taken on an express run and he was given 763 for himself. He was sitting on the steps of the cab one afternoon eating his lunch while waiting for a special to go by. A party of eastern capitalists were visiting the president of the B. Y. & G. and it was reported that the line was to become a part of a great transcontinental system. Mabee had been talking about it in the roundhouse the night before and predicting all sorts of disaster when the road should pass into alien hands.

The others had shut him up in short order, but the words lingered in Ben's memory and he was talking over the probabilities with his fireman when the station agent came to the door and beckoned wildly to him.

Ben went down the track on a dead run and dashed into the office. The agent was back at the telegraph instrument. "It's Danvers, down at Carson," he explained. "He wants to know if you can find some way of stopping the special. Mabee's running away with it."

"Why not use the derail?" suggested Ben, wondering why it had not been thought of before. The derailing switch was one leading into a sandbank and used for runaway engines.

"The train's going too fast," was the answer. "Mabee's killed his fireman and is firing himself. There's a blind baggage on the front end and they can't get at him."

"How close is he?" asked Ben. "Just passed Lewis."

"Tell 'em I'll make it," he announced. He dashed out of the office and up the track to where 763 stood panting her impatience over the delay.

"Uncouple the engine," Ben called to his fireman.

Coughing loudly 763 slipped up the track, past the switch and onto the main line.

He looked anxiously back. The special was tearing up grade. On a curve it could count the cars. There was baggage and three special coaches. On board were the eastern men and their wives. The chances were that Mabel formed one of the party—and she and they were at the mercy of a maniac. A few miles beyond he roared made the famous figure eight curve to drop down a grade. It the speed the special was going he would jump the track and tumble into the gorge.

a mild bump the special hit 763. They were so nearly at one speed that the shock was no more heavy than when a coupling is made. Ben shut off steam and climbed back on the tender. Mabee peered from one of the windows and Ben waved his hand at him.

"Hello, Pete, playing tag?" he called. "I'm coming over to see you." He worked his way to the edge of the tender, dropped down on the pilot of the special, made his way along the running board and presently stepped into the cab window.

"You're running on my time, Pete," he shouted across the cab. "I was told that the special would be held back until I could get out of the way. One of the boys was hurt and I was running to Grant for a doctor."

"You won't need one now," chuckled Mabee. "I've got the whole lot of friends on board and I'm going to drop 'em down Ayai canyon."

"Who's firing for you?" he asked carelessly, as he looked for the fireman.

"He wouldn't come into the scheme," chuckled Mabee, "so I had to get him out of the way. I threw him off at Parsons, where there's a soft sandbank."

"Great idea," commented Ben. "She needs more coal. I'll fire for you."

He dropped down and threw a few shovels on the flames.

"That's right," Mabee chuckled, "we'll take the whole crowd clean into eternity."

Ben's ready acceptance of his idea lured suspicion and when the fire box

had been filled he climbed up on Mabee's side of the cab and stood behind him.

"I'm going to toll the bell for them," he shouted in the maniac's ear, then climbed back to the fireman's side and began to pull the bell rope.

Mabee shouted with glee at the gruesome joke while Ben pulled with desperate energy. The cord was stout and it was some time before he succeeded in pulling it off the bell.

In time his desperate strength won and with a gesture of disgust he cut the rope where it was fastened in the cab and threw it on the floor.

He climbed down after it and fired the engine again. Mabee, unsuspecting, looked ahead to catch the first view of the down grade. He never even turned when Ben climbed on his side a second time. The noosed bell rope slipped down over his body without warning, pinning his arms to his side, the spare ends were fastened around the post of the window and before Mabee realized what had happened he was securely trussed up.

Ben then climbed past the now helpless man and gradually shut off steam and the special slowed down.

Then there came a rush from the coaches and the train hands sprang into the cab.

Ben staggered unsteadily to the footboard, but as he started to climb down he lurched forward and would have fallen had not Stephen Gower caught him in his arm. The excitement was too much for him and now that the danger was over he fainted dead away.

When he recovered consciousness he was on a sofa in the directors' car.

"Fete will be awfully disappointed," laughed Ben. "It was the chance of his life to destroy capital and now I've spoiled even his belief in human nature."

"It was splendidly done," praised Mabel, pushing forward. "Your fireman was telling us how you made that jump."

"You jumped into a superintendent's office," said Gower. "I have had some very good reports from Danvers and I have had my mind made up for some time to call you to headquarters. Now that you have proven your ability to act quickly in an emergency I guess I won't wait any longer."

"I guess I'll have to stay engineer long enough to get this train along," said Ben.

Mabel insisted upon climbing into the cab with him.

They were rounding the figure eight when Mabel caught his arm.

"That's where he wanted us to go over!" she asked. Ben nodded.

She put her cheek against his.

"And you saved my life," she murmured. "I cannot realize it even yet."

"You see," he laughed, "I want to marry you. That's why I did it."

"You don't need to make such a strenuous courtship," she laughed as she kissed him, "but I'm proud of you, dear."

SOMETHING for the LITTLE ONES

DIRIGIBLE SLED IS NOVELTY

Boy's Ordinary Sled May Also Be Combined With Handcar to Make Motor—Should Be Low.

(By J. A. BERGSTROM, in the Scientific American.)

The accompanying illustrations show how an ordinary sled may be converted into a dirigible sled, and how it may be combined with a boy's hand car to make a motor sled.

Unlike the ordinary sled, that is steered by digging in the heels, or dragging the feet in the snow, from one side to the other, thereby checking the speed of the sled, the sled here shown has flexible runners, which may be curved to one side or the other by a steering bar, causing the runners to follow smoothly in the curving tracks. The sled should be built low and narrow, and the runners should extend well forward and rearward, which will materially add to the speed of the sled when coasting down a hill.

Fig. 1 shows an ordinary girl's sled, which is made into a flexible or dirigible sled. The top part of the runners, shown in dotted lines, is cut off on a level with the seat and the ends are fastened together with a transverse bar, a made of iron or wood. From this bar, and fastened thereto, are bars b, one on each side of the seat and parallel therewith. These bars are fastened to all the standards of the sled. On the front bar is fastened a steering lever c, which is fulcrumed by the rearward-extending arms d to the front part of the seat of the sled. It is now evident that when the operator wishes to steer to the right, he presses the lever with the left foot, and vice versa. As the steering lever is thus moved, it will be noticed that it moves the transverse bar to one side or the other, thereby curving the runners in the same direction, which will then follow smoothly in the curving tracks.

It will be noticed from the plan view, Fig. 2, that the end standard is bolted to the seat of the sled, and that the other two standards are not, so as to allow a free movement of the runners when operated upon by the steering lever.

Two pieces of wood should be fastened under the seat, a short distance each side of the forward standard, to allow for side movement.

The old iron shoes on the wood runners should be taken off and curved or hollowed as shown in Fig. 4, or may be replaced by new ones. By referring to Fig. 2, it will be seen how this curving of the shoe may be accomplished.

A shallow groove is made in a block of hard wood, over which the thin steel shoe is placed. A short piece of round iron is laid on the shoe top; the latter is then hammered into the groove, assuming the hollowed or concave form.

Rivet the shoe on the runner, which should be hollowed out a little to fit. The object of the concave form of runners is the same as that of hollow ground skates. The outside edges have a tendency to dig into the ice or snow, and keep the sled in its course, or in "the same rut"; but when thrown out of line with the steering lever, they seem to take hold of the snow and change the course of the sled.

What is the Answer? Why might you be justified in picking the pockets of a photographer?

Because he has pictures (picked yours).

Which of the planets has the most aspects?

The moon; because he is constantly changing quarters.

When does a caterpillar improve its behavior?

When he turns over a new leaf. Why should a quill pen never be used in inditing secret matters?

Because it is apt to split. What trade does the sun regularly follow?

Those of a tanner and a portrait painter.

Why is a coachman like the clouds?

Because he holds the reins.

Hen Laid Chickens. "Oh, mamma!" exclaimed little three-year-old Margie, running in the house greatly excited. "What do you think? The old speckled hen has laid a nestful of little chickens!"

Household Remedy

Taken in the Spring for Years.

Ralph Rust, Willis, Mich., writes: "Hood's Sarsaparilla has been a household remedy in our home as long as I can remember. I have taken it in the spring for several years. It has no equal for cleansing the blood and expelling the humors that accumulate during the winter. Being a farmer and exposed to bad weather, my system is often affected, and I often take Hood's Sarsaparilla with good results." Hood's Sarsaparilla is Peculiar to Itself. There is no "just as good." Get it today in usual liquid form or tablets called Sarsatabs.

Love and a Looking Glass. They had been married in November.

"Did you see anything that particularly struck your fancy when you were looking around the shops today, sweetheart?" asked the young husband on his wife's return from a round of Christmas shopping.

"Well," she replied, "I saw something extremely pretty in looking glasses."

"I have no doubt you did," he observed, "if you looked into them."—Liverpool Mercury.

GOOD MOSQUITOES.



The Summer Boarder—Are the mosquitoes and flies very bad here? Hiram Hayrick—Nope. You'll find some of 'em in church every Sunday.

And Then—

A woman who does her own housework was invited out to dinner the other night, and when she rose from the table, remarked:

"Well, it is pleasant to eat something that I didn't cook."

"Indeed it is," said her husband, before he bethought himself of consequences.

A Depressing Experience. "Did you ever long in vain for a single pleasant word or kind look?" said the sentimental soul.

"Yes," replied the practical person, "when I tried to get by a swell waiter with a 25-cent tip."

Explained. Patience—I see England has twenty-eight railway tunnels a mile or more long.

Patience—That explains why so many girls want to go there on their wedding trip.

The New York pedestrian took his time in crossing Broadway. He knew his rights and meant to assert them.

Just the day before a learned judge had declared from the bench that pedestrians were not required by law to avoid vehicles in the streets.

The pedestrian had read this decision and knew the statutes were on his side. He advanced smartly.

The next moment he was scraped by a motorcycle, jolted by a taxicab, hit by a runaway, bumped by a touring car and run over by an auto truck.

He wrote to the learned judge from the hospital, detailing the facts. And the learned judge wrote back: "You acted strictly in accordance with the law."

RED CROSS BALL BLUE.

The blue that is all blue. Best for washing because it makes the clothes clear and white, lasts longer than liquid blue and produces better results.

Avoid liquid bluing because it is only a weak solution of blue in an expensive package. RED CROSS BALL BLUE is sold everywhere. Price 10c. ASK YOUR GROCER.

Business Dispute Is Fatal. Salt Lake, Utah.—Thomas H. McGillis of Denver was shot and killed here by Alfred Sorenson, a jeweler. The killing was the result of a business dispute.

Nervous? Thin? Pale?

Are you easily tired, lack your usual vigor and strength? Then your digestion must be poor, your blood must be weak. You need a strong tonic. You need Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the only Sarsaparilla entirely free from alcohol. We believe your doctor will endorse these statements. Ask and find out.

If you think constipation is of trifling consequence, just ask your doctor. He will disabuse you of that notion in short order. "Correct it at once!" he will say. Then ask him about Ayer's Pills. A mild liver pill, all vegetable.

Made by the J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

pute in which Sorenson charged McGillis with interfering with his business.

Troubles that beset sport may be the evil inside working out.

It takes only a touch of interest to switch the point of view. The knock that begets other knocks is the knock within.

Making serious crimes of our weaknesses is not curing them.

Blood Poisoning is often caused by slight cuts or wounds. Death may result. Hamlin Wizard Oil will draw out the poison, heal the wound and prevent serious trouble.

In San Diego it is possible to see progress of silk culture from the mulberry leaf to the iridescent woven cloth. San Diego's exposition will show all these in a glass building, where every stage of the process may be watched.

Howard E. Burton, Assayer and Chemist, Leadville, Colorado. Specimen prices: Gold, Silver, Lead, \$1.00; Gold, Silver, 75c; Gold, 50c; Zinc or Copper, \$1.00. Mailing envelopes and full price list sent on application. Control and Empire work solicited. Reference: Carbonate National Bank.

In southern Nevada is an obelisk larger than Cleopatra's needle and older than any other similar statue in the world. San Diego's exposition will remove it for exhibition purposes in 1915.

To Break in New Shoes Always shake in Allen's Foot-Powder. It cures hot, sweating, aching, swollen feet. Cures corns, ingrowing nails and bunions. At all druggists and shoe stores, 25c. Don't accept substitute. Sample mailed FREE. Address Allen O. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

One of the most beautiful architectural features of San Diego's exposition will be a huge bridge across Cabrillo Canyon connecting the city proper with the exposition city.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

"Who is this Johnny Smith you seem so friendly with?"

"Oh, mother, he's just the nicest boy you ever saw. His father's a confectioner."

Fortune Teller—I see by your palm that you were overtaken by a terrible calamity some years ago.

Henpeck—Yes; but speak easy. She's in the next room.

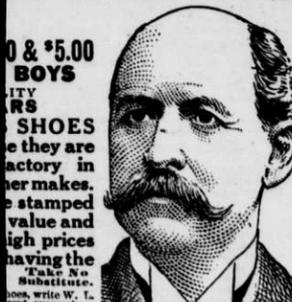
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Then don't wonder at your run-down condition. Your food is not being properly digested, thus causing Heartburn, Gas on Stomach, Belching, Indigestion and Costiveness. You should try a bottle of

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Colors than any other dye. One 10c package colors silk, wool and cotton to perfect results. Ask dealer, or we send post paid at 10c a package. Write for color cards. MONROE DRUG CO., Quincy, Illinois.

FRENCH SEIZE FEZ.

Old Capital of Morocco Is Recaptured After a Desperate Battle.

Paris.—Fez, the capital of Morocco, which had practically fallen into the hands of the rioters and mutinous Moorish soldiers, has been recaptured by the French troops, numbering 2,000, stationed there, after a desperate battle, in which a large number were killed and wounded.

Distemper

In all its forms, among all ages of horses and dogs cured, and others in the same stable prevented from having the disease with Spohn's Distemper Cure. Every bottle guaranteed. Over 500,000 bottles sold last year. 50c and \$1.00. Good druggists, or send to manufacturers. Agents wanted. Write for free book. Spohn Med. Co., Spec. Contagious Diseases, Goshen, Ind.

Gillet—The people in the flat above us are constantly fighting.

Perry—Doesn't your wife object?

Gillet—No, she likes to have a fuss made over her.

SUFFERED EVERYTHING

For Fourteen Years. Restored To Health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Elgin, Ill.—"After fourteen years of suffering everything from female complaints, I am at last restored to health."

"I employed the best doctors and even went to the hospital for treatment and was told there was no help for me. But while taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I began to improve and I continued its use until I was made well."

—Mrs. HENRY LEISEBERG, 748 Adams St. Kearneyville, W. Va.—"I feel it my duty to write and say what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me. I suffered from female weakness and at times felt so miserable I could hardly endure being on my feet."

"After taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and following your special directions, my trouble is gone. Words fail to express my thankfulness. I recommend your medicine to all my friends."

—Mrs. G. B. WHITTINGTON. The above are only two of the thousands of grateful letters which are constantly being received by the Pinkham Medicine Company of Lynn, Mass., which show clearly what great things Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound does for those who suffer from woman's ills.

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

CALIFORNIA

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Write us for literature. GRIDLEY LAND & IRRIGATION CO. Forum Bldg. Sacramento, Cal.

MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT

For Sprains and Bruises. B. Street, Cedarville, Cal., writes: "I have used Mustang Liniment a number of years on stocks for cuts, sprains, bruises, etc., with best results. The boys on the ranch here use it for rheumatism, lameness, sprains, cuts and burns with the most satisfactory results. In fact we use it on man or beast as the best remedy we know of." 25c. 50c. \$1 a bottle at Drug & Gen'l Stores.

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Destroys Sage Rats, Squirrels, Gophers and Prairie Dogs. Requires no mixing or preparation—Always ready for use. Deadliest of all. Your money back if not as claimed. CLARK'S WOODWARD DRUG CO., Portland, Ore.

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A Tonic, Alterative and Resolvent. The best remedy for Kidneys, Liver and Bowels. Graduates Pimples, Eruptions and Disorders of the Skin. Purifies the Blood and gives Tone, Strength and Vigor to the entire system.

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