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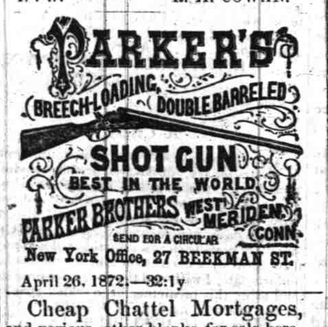

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## THAT UNLUCKY NOTE.

BY HOLLY HAROLD.

"Dinner ready, Ann?" questioned Eva Hammond, stepping from the dampness fog that was setting down on the October night into the warmth of the lighted hall, and stepping to stamp a pair of diminutive gaitered feet on a soft mat.

"Not quite, Miss," answered Ann, "but will be in about ten minutes. There are some letters in the dining-rooom for you, added, as Eva gave her a package of books and papers to "carry to my room."

"Very well;" and leaving her hat and shawl on the rack, Miss Hammond, who was about eighteen, and very petite and gilish-looking for that, danced down the stairs to the warm, cosy dining-room. On the low mantel, in front of the bronze clock, were three white envelopes. Eva gathered them up, and drew an easy chair toward the glowing coals in the grate, settling herself comfortably to read them. "Addie," she said, looking over the subscriptions, before she broke the seals "and—California, yes this is from Mattie, and"—she stopped, looking startled and puzzl d as she held the third one up toward the light. She seemed dissatisfied with her scrutiny by aid of the gas, and leaned forward to the redder glow of the fire-light. Nor did she seem better pleased then, but forgetting the other letters, and twisting this a ound, unopened, in her small fingers, she fixed her eyes on the flickering flames, with a far-off, absent air, that made her look less a child, much more a woman. Suddenly a fiery fragment fell through the bars of the crate close to her foot. This aroused her, and she tore open the envelope and read these few lines, written in a gracefull, delicate hand, like a man's:

"Am in the city. If you desire to meet me, I am agreeable. If so, please state and place. No. 17 W.——st."

There was no date, no name, and Miss Hammond looked even more puzzled over the note than she had been over its envelope, yet both appeared to recall some sad or unpleasant memory, for some of the pink flush faded out of her fair cheeks, and there was a pained look in the far-off, truant eyes. Finally she slipped the unread letters in her pocket, crushed the mysterious note in her hand, and arose to leave the room. Meeting Ann on the threshold she questioned.

"Is the Doctor home yet?"

"Just come in, Miss," answered the servant.

"Tell him to commence dinner without me. I will be down presently;" and Eva went thoughtfully up to her own room, and unlocked a desk containing papers and letters. She looked them over very carefully, found nothing to reward her search and closed the desk, learning her arms upon it in deep thought.

"Ah! I know," she said, suddenly crossing the room to a small book-case, and drawing out a small clasped book. It was a collection of autographs, and Miss Hammond turned the pages until she came to one on which was written only two lines:

"It was August the third.
And qute soft was the skies."

Then she compared them to the unsigned note for a moment, and ended with throwing both the book and letter into the desk, heaving a sigh, and going down to dinner. At the table she was the same bright pretty little maiden who had danced into that room some twenty minutes before. It was evident, as Miss Eva talked animately to her father about politics, questioned tenderly about her invalid mother, and gaily described the newest fashions to plain Quakeri h Cousin Mary who presided over the house, that she was the sunshine and jewel of the quiet home.

Even the rarest jewels do not sparkle in every light, and because Eva's moods were ever changing from the innocent, trusting child, the gay, loving girl, to the proud bewitching woman, people caressed petted and admired her, but said she was fickle. Dinner was nearly over, when the rain commenced to pour down in torrents, and Miss Hammond turned to her father with the question.

"Must you go out again to night, Doctor?"

Yes, my dear, I am going to town to a lecturer Any thing I can do for you?"

"Miss Eva's red lips seemed forming the word, "Yes," but changed and said, more decidely than appeared necessary, "No!"

The Doctor went to his lecture, Cousin Mary went up to Mrs. Hammond's rooms, and Eva, after looking out into the stormy night followed her. But Mrs. Hammond was nervous, and wanted to sleep, and Cousin Mary had some letters to a swer, so Eva said "good night" to them and went to her own sanctum. Once more she compared the lines in the book with the mysterious note; then threw herself down on a soft rug before the heater and mused alond.

"It must certainly be from Herbert," and here she bit spitefully into a broken match. "Of course it's from him!" (giving the match another spiteful bite) "But then why should he suppose I would care to see him, or why in the world would he wish to see me? I'm sure he would not give a chance to recognize him when we met last; but then the circumstance took him so by surprise, and really it was so long ago, and he had not acquired perfect control of himself. Now he thinks he has. How little men know themselves!" and Miss Eva's lips gave a very contemptuous curl. "He thinks he can show me now how completely he has conquered himself. Foolish fellow to tempt me!" This time Miss Hammond threw the bits of match into the corner of the room, very much as if she would like to cast the subject of her thoughts after them. "I can't see," she added after amoment's pause, meanwhile rapping one little foot upon the rug in a very energetic manner, "why we should seek a meeting after so long a silence; and I've surely done everything in the world to make him hate me. But then I could not settle down to be a quiet country parson's wife, and it was absurd of me to entertain that dream for a moment. I'm sure I did what was the best in telling him so, as soon as I became convicted of it myself. O, dear, what an aimless life I lead, anyway!" and it really seemed to be so at that moment, "Those long walks and talks," she went on, "were pleasant; and how we used to plan what books we would read, and what we would do; and how much better and purer his life was, than these gentlemen I meet every day. He said he could never forget, or cease to love, the little girl he saw last driving away through the Summer sunshine, looking like a picture in her white dress and scarlet jacket, with her flowing hair. Nonsense. Mem always forget! Very likely he wants to tell me of his approaching marriage," and Eva's lips were slightly less scornful, and her eyes grew misty. Suddenly she ran to the dressing-table and studied her face in the glass for several minutes very thoughtfully, then appeared pleased at the reflection

And well she might be for it was a wonderfully sweet face that smiled back at her. Round plump. with regular features, fair, smooth skin, delicately tinted cheeks. and resistless violet eyes, that looked almost black under their long, curling lashes; scarlet lips that were equally pretty, whether scornful, tender or grieved in their expression; and the whole surrounded by a cloud of loose golden hair.

"No, no," said Miss Hammond, shaking her little fist at the beauty in the glass "he'd better not have tempted me, for I shall make him sorry if he comes. I really cannot help it;" and then she sat down to her desk, and wrote these lines on a sheet of tinted paper:

"Come, Thursday evening. You have the address, Eva," and folding them, addressed the envelope to the Rev. Herbert Stafford, 17. West ——street, ——city. This done, she took another survey of herself in the glass, and curled up again on the rug to dream

Eighteen months before this evening. Herbert Stafford and Eva Hammond had met at the house of a mutual friend, and for several weeks were constant companions. She was just from school, and he fresh from his studies at the University; both were prepared to throw themselves with ardor into the pleasant recreations of that golden summer time. Eva's exceeding beauty appealed, through his artist's eye, to his aesthetic nature, while her innocent way of confiding to him her longings after a higher life appealed to his spiritual nature. Unconsciously to him, she was constantly drawing him out of his natural reserve, and leading him to think for her benefit. He believed he discovered in her, beneath many faults of education and association, the germs of a noble womanhood; while she was discovering that she did reverence to this man's character, and wishes could be something like him. Thus they both dreamed on, until Eva. with a woman's quick perceptions, awakened to the fact that she held in complete thraldom Herbert's heart and affections. Somehow it was a pleasant awakening, and she took no pains to mar the dream and when, too, made that discovery, and asked her to be a country parson's wife, she said "Yes," because the summer days were not over, and she found them too sweet and pleasant to wish a change.

The time came when they had to separate, and for a while Eva believed she really meant all she let Herbert dream of but in the gay whirl of city life, Miss Hammond commenced to view the matter in another light. She thought she could find greater happiness in the excitement and adulation that surrounded her in the the city than in "love in a cottage" with the young minister. When Eva told him this the blow to Herbert was terrible. In vain he pleaded with her; Miss Hammond grew very scornful, and refused to see him. Those were bitter months for him, and ere the pain had entirely gone, he met Eva accidently in the street. He knew that he had not schooled himself to meet her quietly, and so avoided her glance of recognition. The white face sent a thrill of pain through Eva's heart, and to pay for being so silly, she became very angry at him for shunning the recognition Since then they had never met, and both believed the other had forgotten. It is so easy to forget. Ah! if it only was.

The morning after Miss Hammond received Herbert Stafford's note, she mailed her reply, and awaited anxiously the coming of the evening. But the evening brought no Herbert, and Eva went to her room a strange sickening feeling of disappointment. "What can ail me?" she asked impatiently of the face in the glass as she noticed how flushed her cheeks were, and that two large drops were gathering in the velvet eyes. "Well, if he does come, he shall suffer all the more for disappointing me," and Miss Hammond dashed the tears away proudly, and afterwards went to bed and cried herself to sleep.

Friday morning Eva went down to procure some new music, and was just leaving the store when one of the packages slipped to the floor. A gentleman, who had been playing on a piano near, sprang from his seat and replaced the roll she had dropped, saying:

"Allow me, Miss Hammond."

The color rushed over Eva's face, and she forget to be careless and haughty, or bewitchingly pleasant; but only murmured confusedly;

'Thank you."

"May I walk with you?" asked Mr. Stafford, holding the door open for her to pass out.

Eva said he might, and they went out togethe.

"How is it," asked Eva, regaining her composure, "that I find you in M—'s?"

He smiled rather sadly as he answered "I'm very fond of music, you know, and am selecting an instrument for my new home. Perpaps you've not heard of my appointment to Ferndale?"

"No," replied Miss Hammond, trying to be very calm, and determined to know the worst at once; "I suppose you are married, as you speak of keeping house."

"Not yet," and if Miss Eva had been watching his face she would have seen that he winced a little under her questioning.

Miss Hammond could be charmingly talkative generally, but somehow she failed signally this morning, and for mere want of something else to say, demanded presently.—

"Why did not you come last night? I expected you."

"Expected me?" said Mr. Stafford in unassumed astonishment; "how did you know I was in the city?"

"Why your note, of course," explained Eva, equally amazed.

"But I've never sent you any note," replied Herbert, quietly.

Miss Hammond's glance met his for a moment, then dropped, and her face grew scarlet with mortification as she answered hastily.

"I don't understand it at all; I have a great mistake."

In that momentary meeting of the eye, Herbert had discovery something besides anger; something that spoke of disappointment and regret, and on the impulse of a moment he spoke—

"I am glad you expected me. Will you expect me to-night? May I come?"

Miss Hammond said "Yes."

That day at dinner Dr. Hammond turned to his daughter saying—

"I met your old school friend Hattie Carr ll in town to day, and she says she sent you a note this week and you've not answered it. She seemed to feel very badly, and desired me to say that she would do anything to have the past forgotten. Did you and her never make up that ridiculous old quarrel?"

"Poor, dear Hat! No! What a fool I was!" and Miss Hammond laughed till she had to run away and hide in her own room, and then she cried. Dr. Hammond declared that Eva was "as changeble as the wind." and finished his dinner in a hurry to go look after a patient.

Herbert Stafford came that evening, and Eva had to explain about the unlucky note, and somehow in laughing over that they became very friendly, and when Dr. Hammond came home that night, was called into the parlor, he found the young minister there looking very happy, and Eva looking very sweet and serious. Herbert said that the people at his new charge had a cosy little parsonage, beautifully furnished, and were anxious that he should occupy it, and would the Doctor allow Eva to go and be its mistress? Dr. Hammond kissed his jewel and said "Yes," and Herbert has resigned himself to the fate of being "punished" by Miss Hammond every day now. "All because of that unlucky (?) note," Eva says.

## THE NEW SCHOOL LAW OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The following are the important sections of the school law ratified February 26, 1873:

**Sec. 37. In addition to the State and** county capitation taxes appropriated by the constitution and other revenues heretofore provided by law for the support of public schools, there shall be levied and collected every year for the support and maintenance of public schools, eight and one-third cents on every hundred dollars' worth of property and credits in the State and twenty-five cents on every poll in addition to the taxes in the revenue law.

Sec. 24. If the tax levied in this act for the support of the public schools shall be insufficient to maintain one or more schools in each township for the period of four months, then the county commissioners of each county may levy annually a special tax to supply the deficiency for the support and maintenance of said schools for the said period of four months. The said tax shall be collected by the sheriff in money and he shall be subject to the same liabilities for the collection and accounting for said tax as he is or may be by law in regard to other county taxes. The said tax shall be levied on all property, credits and polls of the county, and in the assessment of the amount upon each the commissioners shall observe the constitutional equation of taxation, and the fund thus raised shall be appropriated in the county in which it is collected as provided in section thirty-one of this act: *Provided*, That the question of the levy and collection of said tax shall have first been submitted to the vote of the qualified voters of the county at an election to be held at the different election precincts of the county, under rules and regulations to be fixed by the commissioners and conforming as near as may be to the rules and regulations for conducting other elections, except that no new registration need be made, but the registration books of the next preceeding general election may be used. The penalties for illegal and fraudulent voting shall be the same as provided in annual elections.

Sec. 25. The school committees shall have the authority to employ and dismiss teachers of the schools within their townships, and shall determine the pay per month to be paid the same: *Provided however*, That teachers of the first grade shall not receive out of the school fund more than two (2) dollars per day; of the second grade not more than one dollar and fifty cents per day, and of the third grade not more than one dollar per day; but no teacher shall receive any compensation for a less term than one month. No committeeman shall be a teacher. Nor shall any committeeman in any way be interested by contract or otherwise in the erection of repairing of any school-house in his district.

Sec. 26. The school committees of each township shall annually make an estimate of the amount of money necessary for maintaining the schools within their jurisdiction for a period not less than four months, and a certified report of said estimate shall be made to county commissioners on or before the regular meeting in February: *Provided*, That the first estimate and report as herein required shall be made on or before the first Monday in April, 1873.

Sec. 30. The county board of education of every county shall, on the first Monday of February of each year, or as soon thereafter as practicable, apportion among the several townships in the county, according to the number of children in each between the ages of six and twenty-one years, which number shall be ascertained by a census to be taken by the school committee and report to the county board of education, all school funds which may be in possession of or due to the county treasurer, specifying how much thereof is apportioned to the children of each race, and give notice thereof to the school committees of the several townships of the county, (and the school committees in the several townships shall apportion the same in like manner among the several school districts) and publish the same by an advertisement posted on the court house door of each county. The sums thus apportioned to the several townships shall be subject to the orders of the school committees thereof for payment of the school expenses mentioned in section 9 as amended in this act: *Provided, however*, That in no case shall the school fund thus apportioned to either race be expended for the education of the other race: *And provided further*, That so much of said school fund as shall not be expended in any school fund as shall not be expended in any school district for the education of the race for which it was apportioned in any year shall be added to the fund apportioned said race in said school district for the succeeding year. If the pupils of any public schools reside in different townships, the school committee of each shall give an order to the teacher for such part of the amount due him as is proportionate to the number of pupils attending his school from their township.

Sec. 13. The county board of education of each county shall appoint three residents of the county of good moral character and suitable attainments, who shall be styled "the board of examiners," one of whom shall be designated as chairman.—They shall hold their office one year and until their successors are appointed. If a vacancy should any time occur in the board of examiners, the same sha'l be filled by the county board of education.

These sections show the material changes made in the school law by the late General Assembly. Section 24, 26, 30, and section 3 of the constitution, construed together, show that the public schools are to be maintained four months every year in every school district in each county of the State in which the qualified voters shall vote to levy the additional school tax necessary for that purpose. It is the duty of the county commissioners of every county in which there is not already a sufficient school fund on hand, to submit the question to the qualified voters of the county, whether the additional school tax shall be levied. In every county in which a majority of the votes given shall be "for school taxes," it will be the duty of the county commissioners to levy a sufficient tax to maintain a public school at least four months in every school district in the county for each race, and pay half the cost of building, repairing and furnishing school-houses and the whole cost of purchasing school-house sites. * * *

The county commissioners and school committees should immediately give notice to teachers of the change in the law in regard to contracts with teachers. Order for teachers wages, according to the law of 1872, should be given for the time taught up to the time of notice, whether the term is completed or not. If the school is continued after notice is given of the change in the law, it must be in accordance with the provisions of the present law.

All orders for the wages of teachers of schools taught under the provisions of the law of 1872, and all orders for schools taught before the year 1872; and not yet paid, must be paid out of the general school fund for the county. The balance of the school fund which remains after payment of said orders is to be apportioned among the several townships, in accordance with the provisions of section 30 of the school law. The present school year ends June the thirtieth. The apportionments made to each township may be used to continue existing schools, or to establish additional schools. So much of each apportionment as may not be used before June the thirtieth, will be added to the apportionment for the school year beginning July the first.

ALEX. McIVER,
Superintendent Public Instruction.

## LOOK OUT FOR LICE.

This is the season of the year for lice. If your colts or calves are not thriving, inspect them carefully, and you will find their skin is infested with life. Thousands of them are preying upon them. They sap their vitality, and feed ever so much, they will not thrive. Rub them over with grease, or grease mixed with sulpher, or tobacco water, or coal oil reduced two-thirds with water, and repeat the operation a few times, and you will find no more lice. Then feed with extra care, and your young stock will soon be all right again.

## GEORGIA.

*Serious Charge Against a "Prophet" and "Apostle"—Religious Fanaticism and Free-Lovism in the Empire State, &c.*

AUGUSTA, March 26.

Joseph T. Curry, so-called prophet and apostle of the new dispensation, was tried at Epplying, Columbia county, Judge Gibson presiding, charged with adultery and fornication. Curry came from Massachusetts with a colony of about 100 persons, men and women, over a year ago, bought land, settled in Columbia county, lived in tents and held property in common. Curry called himself Elijah and Prophet Yatevah, supreme in things spiritual and temporal. The colony went along swimmingly for a very brief time, but the prophet took to himself too many wives. Jealousy and insurbordination followed, and many returned home, having to be provided with free passage to the nearest seaport—Charleston or Savannah.

Finally the colony became so demoralized and Curry so licentious that the grand jury indicted him and his queen paramour. Curry, robed in white linen and with head and feet bare, in imitation of the Saviour, appeared before the Court. His queen appeared in the same attire, with white stockings upon her feet and white bow upon her head.

Speaking in his own defense, he maintained that men and women could live together as man and wife without cohabiting and that by mortification and prayer they could become perfect. He repelled the charge of insanity, displaying much erudition and familiarity with the Scriptures. Curry had revelations after revelations that a new era had dawned when men and women should come out of the natural order of things to a higher state of purity.

After speeches from the prosecution and defense the jury retired, and after half hour's absence returned with a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy. The sentence will be deferred for a few weeks.

It is thought the prophet and his followers will be given an opportunity to find another Canaan far away from here in which to pitch their tents.

## THE GOODRICH MURDER.

The murder of Mr. Charles Goodrich, in Brooklyn, on Friday morning, March 21st has given rise to much discussion in the press as to the motives of the supposed murderer, whoever he or she be.—At first the theory of the detectives was that he had committed suicide, which was not held by the surgeons who made the examination. This has been abandoned as untenable, and the common belief now is that he was murdered by a former mistress.

The large cities in this country are acquiring a most unenviable notoriety for murders and other grave crimes. Within two or three years enough items of a startlingly sensational nature could be gleaned from the daily papers of New York to fill large volumes. And of these a considerable portion are enveloped in mystery. The murderer of Nathan, the assassin who took the life of Rogers and the midnight slayer of Capt. Colvocoresses (killed in Bridgeport, Connecticut,) are all at large, unknown.

There is something terrible in this sense of feeling that one may get stabbed or shot at any moment, even in his own domicile. The lawmakers and those who execute the laws should see to it that the lives of citizens are rendered more secure.

## "GATH ON WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

The abuse of promiscuous receptions, promiscuous dinners, and promiscuous balls, has been more than ever a subject of reprehension during the present discourging session of Congress. Much was said after last New Year's, about the thoughtfulness of the ladies here who, on that day, removed intoxicating drinks from their tables; but the nightly receptions in the city are seldom given without bowl of strong punch, and frequently baskets of champagne are sacrificed to the guests; while young women, single and married, make a class of acquaintances not tolerable under their own roof,—many of whom come with the alluring appellations of Governor General, Judge or Senator, The dressing has become alarmingly immodest. The lobby is made equal to the best of our dignities, and men who ply the trade of public plunderer, present their daughters and wives to the very officials whom, otherwise, they would be unable to reach. There was one gentleman implicated in the late Credit Mobile exposures, whose temptations came directly through the abuse of promiscous dinners. When he came to Washington City, in the first place, he lived remote from the fashionable quarter, and was industrious, domestic, and perfectly unchallenged by any slanderer. Next came his removal to a final social quarter, and heading an important committee, he was in request for dinners at Welcker's where the palate is tempted with the choicest wines, coming successively to wash down sweetbreads, unseasonable game, rich capons with sauce *Goddard*, and terrapin stewd in Madeira wine. —*Correspondent Chicago Tribune.*

One of the richest gold mines in North Carolina is the Crowell mine in Stanly county, owned by T. J. Crowell, Moses L. Holmes, R. J. Holes, Luke Blackmer, S. J. Pemberton. and E. V. Mauney salte vein, rich deposit and easily worked. The gold mines in North Carolina are found to be almost, if not quite, equal to those of California, and with the aid of Northern energy, capitol and modern appliances, gold mining is becoming one of the leading enterprises of our State.—*Era.*