

Story of a Story Which Would Take with the Editors.

Two Sisters Decide to Write for Some Magazine—Puzzling Over the Subject—Speculations Concerning Its Origin—Its Substance and Its End.

My little sister Patience and I were going to write a story together. She was to write a few sentences and then I, whereupon we would send it to some magazine. When I proposed this to her she thought it a very admirable plan; only there was one important question to be settled at the very outset. What was the story to be about?

This puzzled us; but then we soon decided that the tale should not be about anything, for in that case it would be much more apt to be published. If it was about something, then it would be like so many other stories sent to the papers that no editor would take it; but if you couldn't tell what it is about, or if it was about nothing at all, why, of course, it wouldn't be like anything else under the sun, in which case people might read it for the very novelty of the thing. It would thus serve as "light reading," since evidently people could not possibly weary their minds thinking about the things in it if there was nothing at all in it to think about. That is as clear as a fog in April.

This is what I told Patience, and she seemed to think so, too (but perhaps that was just because I did); and then we tried to start ahead with the story.

"But what people shall we put in it?" said I.

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed Patience, "must people always be in a story, as they are in a city, or on the cars?"

"Why, I suppose so, if they want to be," I replied, confusedly.

"But if we put them in, there will be somebody in the story; and by the story, by our rules, cannot be about anybody any more than about anything—besides, it started out to be about nothing."

"Well, what is nothing, Patience?"

"Why, nothing's what the bees in the orchard hum about all of an August day, and the cows in the meadow low about, and the birds in branches carol about, and at which the dogs bark stormy nights; and that Bill, the chore-boy, does all day when Granther isn't looking; and that idiot Jake is always thinking about; and that I learn at school when the weather is so hot the last days of the summer term; and that parson said to father—he was going to get for marrying old Pete, the blacksmith, and Widow Snapp; and—and—why, nothing is what lots of things do, and some things are, and others want to be, and that father says his 'speculations' always come to at last."

"Then, Patience, you are a nihilist—for that, you know, means a 'nothing-man,' who says he comes from nothing and believes in nothing, and declares that he gets nothing and hopes for nothing, and tries to think that he is going at last to become nothing."

"I know nothing about nihilists," said Patience; "and, besides, we agreed that we would not put any people or any things into this story, because then there would be nothing original in it—so let us talk about nothing again!"

"But what, then, can we say but just nothing at all?"

"Why," rejoined my little sister, "you might tell them where nothing comes from."

"Oh, yes! Well, I don't know, unless it comes from somewhere (I mean nowhere) beneath the zero point in the thermometer tube, or out from the golden treasury at the end of the rainbow, or from the waters of the desert mirage, or out of the house that Jack built (but I forgot; he is a person, and we must not put him in this story), or perhaps from the north pole that nobody can find, or the fourth dimension that nobody can think of."

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed Patience, "all that sounds so wise, especially the last part—too wise, indeed, to be put into our story; and it sounds so sensible, too, that it seems as though it must be about something instead of about nothing—but it can't be if you said it, for you are always so queer and never sensible! At any rate I am so tired of talking about nothing that let's stop and begin talking—"

"About something?"

"Yes!"

"Why, then we could not go on with the story."

"Well, let's finish, anyway!" cried Patience, impatiently; "for I'm afraid to try in this style not to think about anything or anybody for so long a time, since, if I do, I may always go on thinking about nothing at all, like idiot Jake, and never be good for anything, and be treated by the people whom we couldn't put into the story just as though I wasn't of any use in the world, because I had lost what they call 'the power of thought' or something; and—with a pretty little yawn—"do let's stop, even if we have said nothing at all, and don't see any use in having said it, and can't find any place to stop—for I am so tired of this 'Story About Nothing!'"—Outlook.

Lawyer—You remember when I charged you five hundred dollars for services in that case I won for you, you said I ought to throw off about half for the fame I got out of it.

Client—Just so.

Lawyer—Well, I've lost your last case, and I think I'll have to charge you fifteen hundred dollars for damages to your reputation.—Puck.

THE INCOME TAX.

It Will be a Feature of the Tariff Bill.

THE COMMITTEE HAS SO DECIDED.

To Apply Only to Inheritances and Corporations—The Whisky Tax not Fixed—Ten cents a Pack on Playing-Cards—Only \$25,000,000 Deficiency.

WASHINGTON, December 1.—The income tax will be a conspicuous feature of the internal tax schedules, upon which a majority of the members of the ways and means committee are now working.

The details of the plan are gradually assuming a definite form. It will exempt individual incomes and will apply only in a general way to inheritances and corporations.

HOW IT WORKED BEFORE.

Data furnished by the treasury department shows that during the ten years the tax in existence, the receipts in round numbers were \$347,000,000. The high water mark was reached in 1896. During that year, the receipts aggregated \$75,000,000, and in the year following they were \$97,000,000.

The great increase in population and wealth since then leads the committee to believe that a tax on corporations alone will furnish a considerable amount of the revenue needed to supply the deficit caused by the reduction in tariff duties.

ONLY THIRTY-FIVE MILLION REDUCTION.

Chairman Wilson now believes that \$25,000,000 will cover the decrease in the revenue from imports caused by the bill just made public. He reached this conclusion after a careful examination of the tariff bill, and this conclusion is shared by Secretary Carlisle, with whom the chairman has had repeated conferences.

TO TAX PLAYING CARDS.

A tax of ten cents a pack on playing cards has been suggested, and will, no doubt, be adopted, as all the majority members regard the proposition favorably.

WHISKY'S FATE UNCERTAIN.

The committee has reached no understanding as yet regarding whisky. It is not likely that the tax will be increased beyond ten cents a gallon, with a fair probability that it may remain unchanged.

The negro convention, called by Bishop Turner, of Georgia, met at Cincinnati last Tuesday, and was largely attended. Among the remedies proposed for lynching was one by C. H. J. Taylor, providing for more speedy legal trial and the death penalty for rapists. Bishop Turner advocated government aid to African emigration.

Mello Will Give Battle.

LONDON, November 30.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Rio de Janeiro says: Admiral De Mello has left Rio with several of his swiftest war vessels in order to intercept the new ships which are on their way to reinforce President Peixoto. The dispatch adds that great excitement prevails at Rio de Janeiro. It is believed that a great naval battle will shortly be fought off the Brazilian coast.

Forty-Three Were Killed.

LONDON, December 1.—A dispatch to the Chronicle from Milan says: "Forty three persons were killed and 183 injured in a collision at Limiro station. Nearly every passenger on the train was injured. It is stated that a majority of the killed and injured were emigrants going to America by way of Venice."

Laid to Rest.

BOSTON, December 1.—The Nonantum Worst company, with mills at Newton, Mass., has formally notified its 800 operatives that the reduction of the tariff by the proposed new law will make it absolutely necessary to reduce wages or stop the mills. These mills have been operated for fourteen years without interruption.

BRUNSWICK JUBILATE IT.

There is Music in the Air on Account of the Disappearance of the Fever.

BRUNSWICK, GA., November 28.—Brunswick is alive tonight and enthusiasm runs high. Returned refugees and citizens are joining hands and congratulating one another over the end of the epidemic, while the city is filled with the strains of the colored cornet band, is parading the streets playing for all it is worth. Everybody is happy and a large crowd congregated in front of Wallace's restaurant while the band serenaded the proprietor as a token of appreciation of the aid he rendered the poor people during the siege in the way of free meals, soups and nourishments for the sick. Afterwards the band paraded the streets until 9:30 o'clock and brought out a large crowd of people.

BRUNSWICK, GA., November 30.—Surgeon Murray gives Brunswick double cause for celebrating thanksgiving day by removing the government quarantine around the city. Surgeon Murray says: "I have removed the quarantine. Any one can enter Brunswick now without a certificate. A surveillance will be kept upon any outgoing baggage or household goods. The railroads will resume their regular schedules tomorrow, and so will the steamship lines. There have been no more cases of fever among the returning refugees. The conditions of Brunswick warrant the statement that the city is practically safe."

UNCLE SAM'S BOATS.

Secretary Herbert Reports the Condition of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, December 1.—The annual report of the secretary of the navy gives in detail advances made in the building of the new navy during the past year. Up to the present time the grand total of new vessels in service, serviceable for war purposes, is nineteen, with twenty-two building. Of vessels unserviceable for war purposes, the United States has sixty-four in commission, thirteen of them single turret monitors in such condition of deterioration as to be practically useless for war purposes. The United States now ranks seventh as a naval power. Of the old wooden ships, with the exception of the Hartford and the Kearsage, both of which are specially excepted by act of congress, all will disappear from active service within three years under the operations of the 10 per cent limit.

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ESKY ENOUGH.

In a certain church in Ireland a young priest was detailed to preach. The occasion was his first appearance, and he took for his text: "The Feeding of the Multitude."

He said: "And they fed ten people with ten thousand loaves of bread and ten thousand fishes."

An old Irishman said: "That's no miracle, because I could do that myself," which the priest overheard.

The next Sunday the priest announced the same text, but he had it right this time. He said: "And they fed ten thousand people on ten loaves of bread and ten fishes."

He waited a second and then leaned over the pulpit and said: "And could you do that, Mr. Murphy?"

Murphy replied: "And sure, you reverence, I could."

"And how could you do it?" said the priest.

"And sure, your reverence, I could do it with what was left over from last Sunday's—"THE END.

NOT A HOUSE LEFT.

The Terrible Destruction wrought by the Earthquake at Kishinouye.

LONDON, December 2.—The second edition of The Times publishes a dispatch from its correspondent at Kishinouye, who has just visited the town, the town which was recently destroyed by an earthquake, which caused terrible loss of life. The Times correspondent writes: "The town is a heap of ruins and that not a house is left standing. The earthquake is described as having been a terrific one, and the small town of Kishinouye is now a mere heap of ruins. The earthquake was preceded by loud reports of the town, earthquake shears, and the hills to the westward. There is talk of building a new town to the eastward of Kishinouye."

ROCKS OF MASHONLAND.

Curious Features of the Country, Described by Hugo Curson.

A characteristic feature of Mashonaland, the kopie, is frequently mentioned in the dispatches regarding the engagements with the Matabele. Some descriptions of the curious elevations given in a letter to Prof. Goldie, from J. B. D., a formerly one of his pupils, says the London News. A uniform granite formation, he says, is by far the most prominent geological peculiarity of Mashonaland, and, indeed, of most of the interior of South Africa. Sometimes it rises into mountains, but usually the general level is only broken by low kopies, and in these parts where the bed rock and surface are flattest the kopies present the most singular appearance. The whole country seems dotted with huge curbstones, and in whatever direction you look they gradually close in the view, as the trunks of trees would in a forest. Some of these curbstones are three hundred feet or more high, sheer all round, and apparently of smaller diameter than height. Sometimes the original mass has been so broken up as to form the most marvelous and plebeian structures springing out of the rich fields that grows in all the crevices. Native huts are built on these kopies in the most inaccessible positions.

AYER'S Cherry Pectoral

THE NEW ENGLAND COLONY.

Story of Its Wanderings, Proving its Reach to America.

John Robinson, who was born in England in 1575, became pastor of a dissenting congregation at Norwich in 1602. The church was persecuted, and in 1607 the members attempted to leave England and seek an asylum in Holland, but were prevented by officers of the law, who kept the whole company under arrest for some time. The year following many of them escaped in small boats, and joined each other in Amsterdam. In 1609 they went to Leyden, where they organized a church, and remained eleven years. In 1617 another removal was contemplated, and the pastor favored emigration to America. Agents went to England and made arrangements for such emigration, and later, in 1620, a portion of the Leyden congregation, under the spiritual leader, Rev. Elder William Brewster, reached the New England coast. Robinson intended to follow with the remainder of the congregation, but he died before the consent of the English merchants, who controlled the enterprise, could be obtained. Not long afterwards the remainder of his congregation and his two sons followed the passengers in the Mayflower.

WUSKEY

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Condensed Schedule.

At Richmond	12:40 P.M.	12:55 A.M.
At Danville	1:15 P.M.	1:30 A.M.
At Lynchburg	2:15 P.M.	2:30 A.M.
At Charlottesville	3:15 P.M.	3:30 A.M.
At Staunton	4:15 P.M.	4:30 A.M.
At Harrisonburg	5:15 P.M.	5:30 A.M.
At Winchester	6:15 P.M.	6:30 A.M.
At Martinsburg	7:15 P.M.	7:30 A.M.
At Hagerstown	8:15 P.M.	8:30 A.M.
At Frederick	9:15 P.M.	9:30 A.M.
At Washington	10:15 P.M.	10:30 A.M.

NORTHBOUND

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At Hagerstown	8:15 P.M.	8:30 A.M.
At Frederick	9:15 P.M.	9:30 A.M.
At Washington	10:15 P.M.	10:30 A.M.

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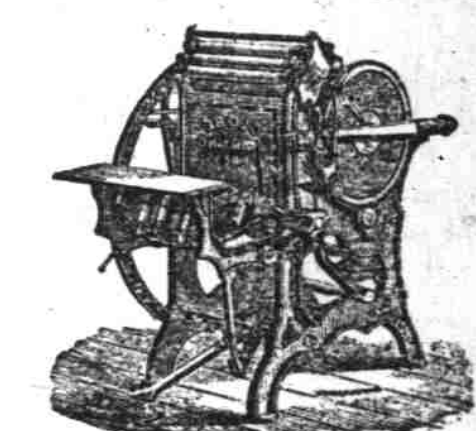
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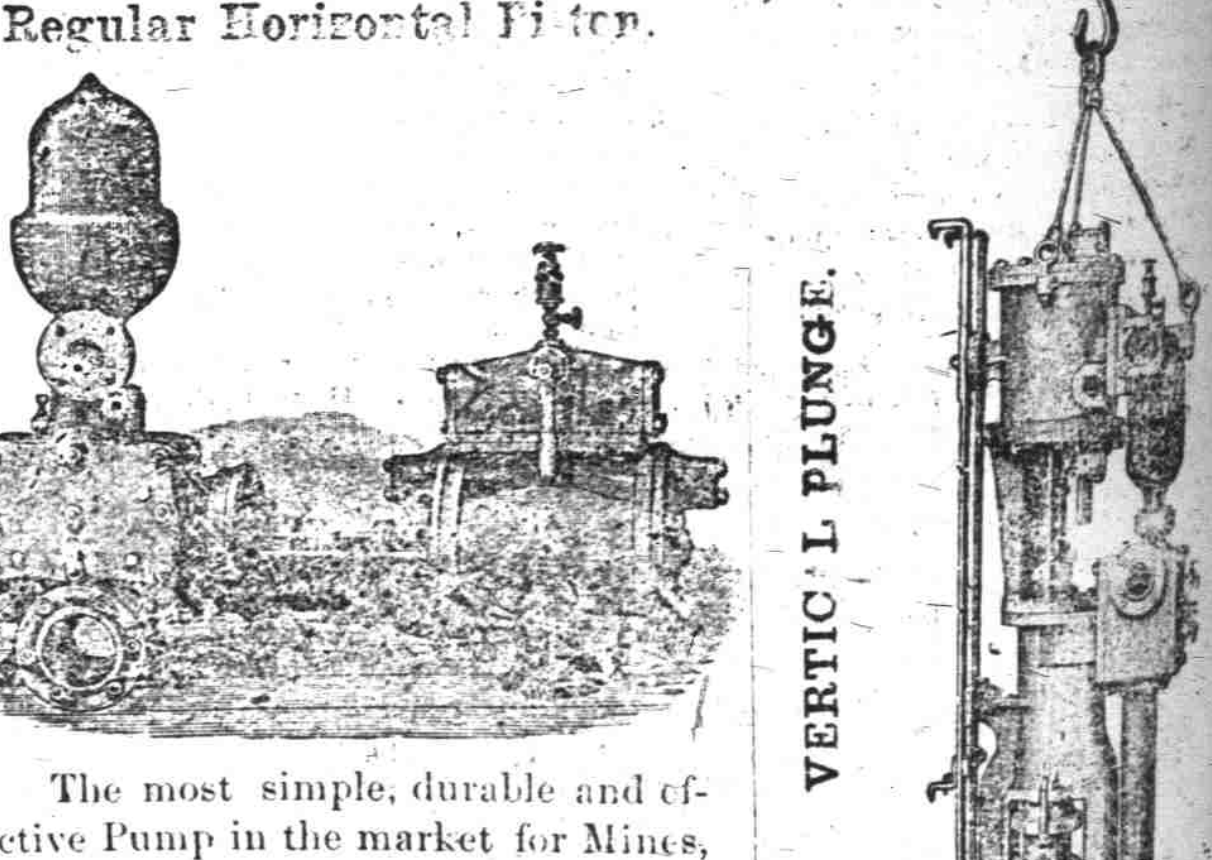
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