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NO. 39.

A VALUABLE STAMP.

How a Young Virginia Girl Secured the Money for Her Wedding Dress.

A stamp from one of grandfathers' love letters to her grandmother has afforded the means of clothing twelve-year-old Janet Fawcett, of Alexandria, Va., in her wedding dress when the time comes for her wedding, and providing her with a trousseau. The stamp brought \$2,000, the highest price ever paid for an American stamp in America, at a stamp sale at the Freeman building.

The stamp is one of the few of the provisional issue, printed by the postmaster at Alexandria in 1847, before the days of the national postal stamp system.

This particular stamp is printed in black ink on light blue paper. All the other stamps of this issue heretofore known are printed in black ink on buff paper. The stamp is circular in shape and the size of a half dollar. In its center is the word "paid" with "5" under it. These are encircled by the words "Postoffice, Alexandria," around which, in turn, is a circle of stars.

As told by Mr. Parish, who conducted the sale, the story of the stamp is this: "The Fawcetts who have lived in Alexandria for many generations, were once well-to-do but are now so poor that when Mrs. Janet Fawcett, who is seventy-six years old, wished to give her granddaughter and namesake a Christmas present, the only thing she could find were the stamps from several old letters. All of these—ones from a love letter sent her by her husband in the early 50s—were of old varieties, and Mrs. Fawcett was sure they would be worth something.

The old lady had always wished to be the donor of her namesake's wedding dress, so on Christmas when she gave the stamps to her little grandchild, she told her to sell them for what she could, and perhaps they would bring enough to buy a wedding dress.

The little girl's father took the stamps to a dealer in Alexandria. He bought all the others at moderate prices, but when he came to the stamp from the old letter, he declared at once that its value was beyond his purchasing power. Accordingly it was sent to an agent in Richmond, who forwarded it to Washington City. It was purchased for a collection in Cleveland, Ohio.

When she was informed of the immense value of the stamp from her old letter, Mrs. Fawcett was overjoyed and greatly astonished. Whatever it should bring, she said would be the property of her little granddaughter and if there was more than enough for a dress the rest would be put aside for a dowry when she was married.—Washington Dispatch.

THE MAJOR.

"Prohibition doesn't seem to have hurt the Major. Hear him whistling?"

"Yes, he thinks that gallon jug he ordered is on the way.—Atlanta Constitution.

The Knock-out Blow.

The blow which knocked out Corbett was a revelation to the prize fighters. From the earliest days of the ring the knock-out was caused by the jaw, the temple or the jugular vein. Some punches were thrown in to worry and weary the fighter, but if a scientific man had laid one of the old fighters that the most vulnerable spot was the region of the stomach, he'd have laughed at him for an ignorant. Dr. Pierce is bringing to the public a parallel fact that the most vulnerable spot was the region of the stomach, he'd have laughed at him for an ignorant. Dr. Pierce is bringing to the public a parallel fact that the most vulnerable spot was the region of the stomach, he'd have laughed at him for an ignorant. Dr. Pierce is bringing to the public a parallel fact that the most vulnerable spot was the region of the stomach, he'd have laughed at him for an ignorant.

THE OLD MELODIOUS LAYS.

BY JOHN GREENBUSH WHITTEY.

I love the old melodious lays
Which softly melt the ages through,
The songs of Spenser's golden days,
Arcadia Sidney's silvery phrase,
Sprinkling our noon of June with freshest morning dew.

Yet, vainly in my quiet hours
To breathe their many-cloved notes I try;
I feel them, as the leaves and flowers,
In silence feel the dewy showers,
And drink with glad still lips the blessing of the sky.

The rigor of a frozen clime,
The harshness of an untaught ear,
The luring words of one whose rhyme
Bears often Labor's hurried time,
Or Duty's rugged march through storm and strife, are here.

Of mystic beauty, dreamy grace,
No rounded art the lack supplies,
Unskilled the subtle lines to trace,
Or softer shades of Nature's face,
I viewed her common forms with unanointed eyes.

Nor mine the seat-like power to show
The secrets of the heart and mind;
To drop the plummet-line below
Our common world of joy and woe,
A more intense despair or brighter hope to find.

Yet here at least an earnest sense
Of human right and weal is shown;
A hate of tyranny intense,
And hearty in its vehemence,
As if my brother's pain and sorrow were my own.

O Freedom! if to me belong
Nor mighty Milton's gift divine,
Nor Marvell's wit and graceful song,
Still, with a love as deep and strong
As theirs, I lay, like them, my best gifts on thy shrine!

WHICH WAS THE WISER?

Two men toiled side by side from sun to sun,
And both were poor;
Both sat with children, when the day was done,
About their door.

One saw the beautiful in crimson cloud
And shining moon;
The other, with his head in sadness bowed,
Made night of noon.

One loved each tree and flower and singing bird
On mount or plain;
No music in the soul of one was stirred
By leaf or rain.

One saw the good in every fellowman,
And hoped the best;
The other marvelled at his Master's plan
And doubt confessed.

One, having heaven above and heaven below,
Was satisfied;
The other, discontent, lived on in woe
And hopeless died.

A TEMPTATION.

They Who Wish to Live Long and Retain Vigor of Mind and Body, Should Keep Holy the Sabbath Day.

The busy man who reaches Saturday night exhausted in body and mind, is assailed at certain seasons by a temptation which masquerades in the garb of an angel of light. "The office will be very quiet today. The shop undisturbed; my thoughts are on my business; why should I not go there on Sunday morning, write my letters, look over my ledger and put things in good shape for a new beginning on Monday?"

This temptation wears an air of virtue. The man would not be in his pew, it is true, but he would not be on his wheel, not taking any pleasure, and he would be out of sight of his neighbors. So that he fancies, he would not offend their sentiments of right in the matter of Sabbath keeping. Nevertheless, this is a temptation to be strenuously resisted.

No law of the Decalogue is more gracious on the human side than the never-repeated fourth commandment. All through the Mosaic economy, like a silver thread, runs the fine and kind meaning and thought of God, in provision for a seventh day of resting from toil. When we set out to be wiser than the Lord, and insist on working the entire seven days without a break, we seriously impair our vitality and run the risk of shortening our days.

MADE IN PARIS.

"They say Marie's newly acquired wealth has gone to her head."

"Yes, she's wearing nothing but imported millinery!"—Chicago Journal.

An aching void—the decayed tooth.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

There is no witness so terrible, no accuser so powerful, as conscience.

FLORAL SUPERSTITIONS.

Country Beliefs About the Mints, Flowers and Luck.

There is nothing which grows around which there is more superstition woven than the hoiney mints. Not only is mint the crowning emment of a julep and a thing which make sedate tables gambol and roll like six-month-old kittens; but according to tradition, the different mints have supernatural properties, and there are good and bad mints.

Pennyroyal, aside from its qualification as a flea discourager, is said to make a quarrelsome husband and wife stop bickering if it is given to them by some friend. Catnip, on the other hand, when chewed creates quarrelsomeness and is said to make even mild and gentle people fierce.

If catnip is held in the hand and heated, and then put into the hand of another, it will, so goes the superstition, so control that person that he or she cannot leave you so long as the catnip is retained in the hand.

Spearmint will prevent illness so long as it is worn about the wrist. If spearmint is mixed with salt and applied to the bite of a mad dog, the wound will heal, it is said. In the olden days the children used to put a bit of spearmint in the cots on Christmas day, believing that at the exact time when the Saviour was born the mint would blossom.

The superstitions which cluster around flowers are as many as there are different flowers. It is considered unlucky to gather flowers out of season, as before and after the season they are said to belong to the fairies. The first wild flowers which are gathered by a young woman in the spring should spell the initials of her future husband, if the superstition holds true.

Here is a schedule of superstitions about finding the first wild flower of the season:

If found on Monday, good luck all the year.

If found on Tuesday, large undertakings, which will be successful.

If found on Wednesday, a wedding in the family.

If found on Thursday, hard work with little profit.

If found on Friday, unexpected wealth.

If found on Saturday, misfortunes.

If found on Sunday, best luck of all.—N. Y. Tribune.

SOME GOOD SUGGESTIONS TO PONDER.

The man who makes the best use of his time generally has a good time.

The greatest truths are the simplest; and so are the greatest men.

Young men think old men fools, and old men know young men to be so.

There is always room for a man of force, and he makes room for many.

A pawn shop where we could hock our troubles would fill a long felt want.

There are men who prefer their own blunders to other people's good advice.

Trust not to appearances; the drum which makes the most noise is filled with wind.

The best swimmers are often drowned, and the best riders have the hardest falls.

Don't forget that other people feel about as little interest in your troubles as you do in theirs.

It is the hardest thing in the world to convince a hungry man that the rich have trouble.

A course of sin cannot last, it comes to an end some time, and a man reaps what he has sown.

Good temper is like a sunny day.

How forcible are right words.

God sends enough to all.

Give, and it shall be given unto you.

Trial Catarrh treatments are being mailed out free, on request, by Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis. These tests are being sent to the people without a penny's cost—the great value of this scientific prescription known to druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Catarrh Remedy.

Sold by W. M. Cohen, Weldon, N. C.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM THE NUMBER OF MARRIAGES INCREASE DURING PERIODS OF DISTRESS AND DISASTER.

The marriage license bureau of New York City hall has been swamped for the past week, and it is evident that it will be necessary to add or additional assistants, according to the report that comes from that quarter.

A hundred and fifty licenses were issued in one day, and when the office closed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon there were thirty couples who had not been able to secure permits.

The new license law which recently went into effect is responsible for the rush on the marriage bureau, but it calls to mind a peculiar fact which has been known to observers of social phenomena for many years, and that is that during periods of depression, the number of marriages in any given community invariably increases.

At first blush it would seem that the financial situation would have a controlling influence over matrimonial ventures, and in certain walks of life this undoubtedly true. The doubting Thomases—and Thomases—who refuse to believe that two can live as cheaply as one hesitate to take the plunge.

And yet, strange as it may seem, considering the great body of the people, the number of marriages increase during periods of distress and disaster.

The elemental desire for sympathy and companionship appears to override every consideration of economy and worldly affairs. The matrimonial aspirants determine to enter upon that state in which they may "redouble their joys and cut their griefs in half."

The record in New York during the past few weeks, appears to bear out this general statement, and men who have watched social affairs for long periods of time concur with certainty that it is a universal rule.

So it will be interesting to watch the license bureaus and ordinaries' offices during the period, which is to elapse before absolute plenty and security comes again.

MOURNING COLORS.

We wear black.
Europe wears black.
It expresses our depth of woe.
In China they mourn in the purest white.

White signifies the purity which loved ones have gained.
Yellow is mourning in Egypt, signifying the decay of nature.

In Ethiopia brown is chosen, typifying the earth from which we came and to which we return.

Turkey has chosen blue as her mourning color, as a delicate reminder of the sky to which the dead have gone.

In some parts of Turkey, however, purple represents mourning, combining the heaven of the blue with the black of sorrow.

A LIGHT STAMP.

An old man had gone to a post-office in Mississippi and offered for the mail a letter that was over the specified weight for a single stamp.

"This is too heavy," said the postmaster. "You will have to put another stamp upon it."

The old darkey's eyes widened in astonishment. "Will another stamp make it any lighter, boss?" he asked.

SULPHUR BATHS AT HOME.

They Heal The Skin and Take Away Its Impurities.

Sulphur baths heal skin diseases and give the body a wholesome glow. Now you don't have to go to a high-priced resort to get them. Put a few spoonfuls of HANCOCK'S LIQUID SULPHUR in the hot water, and you get a perfect sulphur bath right in your own home. Apply HANCOCK'S LIQUID SULPHUR to the affected parts, and Eczema and other stubborn skin troubles are quickly cured. Dr. R. H. Thomas, of Valdosta, Ga., was cured of a painful skin trouble, and he praises it in the highest terms. Your druggist sells it.

HANCOCK'S LIQUID SULPHUR OINTMENT is the best cure for Sores, Pimples, Blackheads and all Inflammation. Gives a soft, velvety skin.

Prudent men choose frugal wives.

Who has no money must have no wishes.

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Rheumatism

I have found a relief and cure for Rheumatism. It is a remedy that will stimulate the circulation of blood, and give relief to the most stubborn cases of Rheumatism. It is a remedy that will stimulate the circulation of blood, and give relief to the most stubborn cases of Rheumatism.

Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Remedy
W. M. COHEN.

Sour Stomach

No appetite, loss of strength, nervousness, indigestion, flatulence, and general debility, are signs and causes of the stomach. It is a disease that will stimulate the circulation of blood, and give relief to the most stubborn cases of Rheumatism.

Kodol Digests What You Eat.
Beware of cheap imitations. See that the name is on the wrapper. Sold by W. M. Cohen, Weldon, N. C.

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