



A Leap Year Proposal. Pray, gentle being, give me love, As kneeling I tumbly by thy side, With lacerated heart I plead...

science protested, but I felt like one under a spell. I yielded and found my way to a well known gambling hell, where I lost every dollar of my money.

The Masher's Last Mash. Down the Baltimore and Ohio toward Newark, Ohio, we fly. We fly close to the ground but all the same it is flying.

STARTING A PAPER. It was nearly twenty years ago when Dan De Quille and Mark Twain attempted to start a paper in Mendocino county.

'The pen is mightier than the sword.' You bet. Hurrah for Faust and Gutenberg! Is there any more left!

Historic Slings. How common is the expression, 'Oh! she is down in the dumps'—that is out of spirits. This is a very ancient slang phrase...

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST. William H. Vanderbilt has given \$25,000 to the University of Virginia. Two sleighs have been sent from Poughkeepsie, N. Y., to the Emperor of Japan.

SAVED FROM SUICIDE.

A Thrilling Sketch of California Life Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From the advanced sheets of "California Sketches," by Rev. Dr. O. P. Fitzgerald, editor of the Nashville Christian Advocate, we take the following descriptive of...

"AN INTERVIEW." As I was coming to the San Francisco Post Office one morning in the year 1855, a tall, dark-skinned man placed himself in front of me, and fixing his intensely glittering eyes upon me, said in an exciting tone:

"You bet," said the brakeman, earnestly. "I told him he should have the money, and that I would have it ready for him that afternoon. After he left the thought occurred to me that \$100 was a very poor outfit for such an enterprise, and that he ought to have more.

"The Disadvantages of City Boys. Some months ago Rev. Washington Gladden of Springfield, Mass., believing that if he could find out how the active and prominent men of his own city spent their boyhood, it would help to solve the problem of what is the best training for boys, prepared the following circular, which was sent to the one hundred men who could fairly be said to stand at the head of the financial, commercial, professional and educational interest of the city.

"My dear sir: I desire to find out, for the benefit of the boys, how you spent your boyhood, and the period to engage in any kind of work when you were not in school?"

A Railroad Bridge on Ice. A Montreal correspondent of the Boston Herald describes the passage of the first train on rails laid across the frozen surface of the St. Lawrence river, during the winter of 1879-80.

Will I, Marple, a St. Louis artist, has applied for a divorce from his wife. One of his grievances is that she sent a broken frying pan to an art show, where some of his pictures were on exhibition, with a request that the artist should give it a position, as "an example of the way in which the talented Mr. Marple provided for his family's necessities."

"Not here but in your office, privately," he continued. "I must speak to somebody, and having heard you preach in the church on Pine street, I felt that I could approach you in a great trouble and danger, and must speak to some one!"

"He paused a moment in his rapid recital, pacing the floor, with his hand on the hammer of the pistol, which he had taken up."

"The thought occurred to me that it was no uncommon thing for the suicidal to give away their strength, a classic man was evidently half man, and ready for a tragedy. The pistol seemed almost instinct with conscious evil intention. If a suicide or homicide was to end the scene, I preferred the former."

"The piece was immediately loaded with a good big charge, and the powder soon felt the spark of the hammer, and the roar of the gun, would beat an unconditioned retreat. The piece was hardly loaded and placed in position when about forty redskins came charging up the ravine."

"The savages again advanced. Mark attended to the powder, and Dan as usual, took the shot, so to speak. 'Seems like a song,' 'My Mountain Home'."

It is a little out of the usual order to make a bridal tour on a Mississippi river flatboat, and it is not often that but every now and then a spirit of adventure strikes into the hearts of a loving pair and the excursion is made.

During the past year there have been in France twenty-five persons condemned to death, of whom two were women. Three of these condemnations were pronounced by the assize courts of France, and four by the assize courts of the Seine, namely, against Abadie and Gille, Delaunay, and Prevost. Of these twenty-five sentences only three have been carried out; eight remain to be examined by the president of the republic; the rest have been commuted.

"I was making some reply when he said: 'How old are you?' I asked aiming to create a diversion. 'I am 45,' he answered, apparently brought to a little more recollection of himself by the question."

"The shot struck. An instantaneous change passed over his countenance. Suicide appeared to him a new light—as a cowardly, not a heroic act. He had been thinking with the idea of having the curtain fall upon his career amid a blaze of blue light and the glamour of romance and the dignity of tragedy, amid the wonder of the crowd and the tears of the sentimental. That was all gone, and he was left a poor creature, who was as wretched as he was saved."

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"I did hear from him again. The devil seemed indeed to have left him. He went to British Columbia, where he prospered in business and got rich, became a pillar in the church of which his father was one of the great lights, and committed no sin, and had only one marrying a sweet and cultured English girl, who thinks her tall Yankee husband the handsomest and noblest of men."

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"I had learned to gamble, of course, but now I resolved to quit. For two years I kept this resolution, and had in the meantime saved over \$6000. I do tell you, it is true! I began to feel a strange desire for some of my old haunts. This feeling became intense and overmastering. My judgment and con-

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