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A MARCH ELOPEMENT

By Howard Sedley

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Sarah Goodheart, daughter of old Deacon Goodheart of the village of Centerport, had lived to reach the age of twenty-five without being married. She hadn't got married for the simple reason that she was too romantic. The deacon was a man who called a spade a spade, and his wife was a woman who made her own soft soap. Where Sarah got her romantic notions was beyond guessing. She had them, though, and they drove away her would-be suitors after they had come sporting a time or two.

Sarah could have married Squire Johnson after he had become a widower a year, but the squire popped the question in the parlor instead of out under the apple trees and was refused as having no romance in his soul. She could have married young Kelly as he was about to set up as a lawyer, but he could not write verses, so Sarah knew that there could be no bond of sympathy between them.

The deacon said to his wife: "What Sarah needs is to fall off the barn and get some of those notions jarred out of her head."

But Sarah waited for her knight to appear, and she did not wait in vain.

the vehicle hired for the occasion and were driving away. Owing to the bad condition of the roads Joe was fain to drive slowly but Sarah contended that romance and a gift of at least ten miles an hour went together. Should her halting father pursue he would have no difficulty in overtaking them on foot. Joe whipped up, and for a bumpy bump of a mile things held together. Then a wheel came off the buggy, and the cloppers rolled out on the frozen road in chorus.

"This is too much!" shouted Joe as he arose in anger.

"Did anybody ever elope without some slight accident happening to them?" demanded Sarah. "Of course not. It's all in the romance. We shall probably have at least six more adventures before we stand up to be married, and it will be no vice to talk about them afterward."

The wheel was toggled up, and the romance went on at a slower pace. But two miles farther on in turning out to avoid a mudhole the buggy upset in the ditch, and the lovers had another spill. Two wheels were dished and an axle was broken, and the elopement had come to an end.

"By gum, but I'm glad on't!" exclaimed Joe after looking over the wreck and making sure that it was beyond repair.

"Joseph Sanders, do you know that I am beginning to doubt your love?" replied Sarah between sobs.

"I don't care if you are! I say it was all nonsense to elope. It'll cost me all of \$20 to repair this busted buggy, and we are six miles from home and on foot. Why couldn't we have got married same as other folks?"

"Because I am romantic, and you have n't."

"But where's the romance in this?"

"You call yourself a cavalier and can't see the romance of this incident! Have I been mistaken in you since the day you saved my life at the risk of your own?"

"I never risked my life nor saved yours, and I'm no tomfool cavalier."

"Then, sir, I will return to my father's home, and henceforth we meet as strangers."

They returned. She took the lead and the middle of the road, and Joe followed with the horse. The idea of March gambled around them, and the chill winds howled in the fence corners. No word was spoken between them. Their romance was ended. Joe took the horse to his stable when the long walk was finished, and Sarah entered the house by the kitchen door instead of climbing the ladder.

"That you, Sarah?" asked her father's voice from the head of the stairs as she shut the door.

"Yes."

"Well, you'd better get to bed and stop making a fool of yourself."

Dragging Pains

2925 Keeley St.,
CINCINNATI, O., Oct. 2, 1902.

I suffered with falling and congestion of the womb, with severe pains through the groin. I suffered terribly at the time of menstruation, had blinding headaches and rushing of blood to the brain. What to try I knew not, for it seemed that I had tried all and failed, but I had never tried Wine of Cardui, that blessed remedy for sick women. I found it pleasant to take and soon knew that I had the right medicine. New blood seemed to course through my veins and after using eleven bottles I was a well woman.

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They went down in a heap.

She was sliding downhill alone on a land sled. The sled had got beyond her control and was making for a big stump when Joe Sanders jumped in and diverted it and saved Sarah's life. In her eyes he was a hero. He agreed with Sarah that he was, and inside of a week he had sold with the romantic girl. He was only a grocery clerk at present, but he had longings and aspirations, which included Sarah's ample dowry. Inside of a month Sarah gave him her heart. It was a heart with a string tied to it, however. They most elope together. As the "old folks" had made no objections to Joe as a son-in-law, he couldn't exactly see why an elopement should come in, but was ready to agree to it.

The land sled here appeared in December, the engagement was entered into in January, and the elopement and marriage were to take place in March. That was winding things up pretty promptly, but Sarah had romantic ideas connected with the idea of March. She impressed on her father and mother that there would be a quiet wedding at the Baptist church, but she quietly arranged all the details of the elopement.

Sarah's plan was to drive twelve miles across country and be married at midnight before a justice of the peace. March highways are rather lumpy, and March nights are attended by frosts or bleak winds. Sarah must also leave her chamber by a ladder, and her father had a big dog that didn't cotton to Joe. There were other details the young cavalier didn't exactly like, but interest spurred him onward, and the fatal night found him climbing the deacon's back fence at 10 o'clock. The deacon had a ladder at the barn, and it was found and set up at the right window. Then a low and romantic whistle was uttered between feathery chattering with cold, and Sarah appeared. So did the family dog, and he got in two good bites before he could be kicked off. To complete the romance of the occasion Sarah should have fallen into Joe's arms as she neared the foot of the ladder, but she didn't quite hit it. She fell upon him instead, and they went down in a heap and buried their shins and elbows on the frozen earth.

"Turn this eloping business up how you growed, Joe as he got up to find that he had wrecked his back and slipped up a log of his trousers. "Why can't we wait till tomorrow and then go and be married like other folks?"

"I'll never marry unless I elope," answered Sarah after rubbing her elbows and straightening her hat. "And if you have lost all your romance you can go home."

Ten minutes later they had reached

Why Not Learn English?

It is well to be able to read and speak one or more foreign languages, but the excitement for bringing about this desirable "culture" is in it not being overlooked that a knowledge of one's native tongue is also well, is indeed more important than knowledge even of French?

Not all of us will have French valets or maids; not all of us will need to read German philosophy and history and science that can't be got in translation; not all of us will sell goods to Spanish speaking people who have no money to buy goods with and no need for goods, but all of us will have to read, write and speak the English language. And how many of us will ever be able more than to read, write and speak it?

There never was such a language as the English, especially since we Americans have got at it with explorative and inventive minds. To know how to pronounce its wonderful words, to understand exactly what they mean, to have a large and well selected stock of them in our vocabulary—there is a liberal, all round education, one that no man or woman could have without being justly noted everywhere as a person of superior intelligence.—Saturday Evening Post.

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