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W. F. MARSHALL, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE MINISTER'S WIFE.

Here is a Difficult Profession to Fill Acceptably—She Must Endure Much, Even Her Husband, and Still "Keep Sweet."

An Indianapolis minister is suing his wife for divorce, bringing as the chief charge against her that she made faces at him from her pew in church while he was exhorting his people from the pulpit.

The story reminds one of that which was chronicled of King David's wife, who, seeing her lord and master leaping and dancing before the ark, "despised him in her heart."

Perhaps a like cause produced a like effect in both women. The Indianapolis minister may have grumbled over his Sunday morning coffee, or answered tartly that her last year's bonnet was plenty good for a woman of his wife's age to wear to church, and that anyway the people didn't come to see her bonnet, but to hear him preach; and King David doubtless spent an equally pleasant hour condemning his wife's frivolities and social proclivities.

So that when the one stood up in his pulpit and preached virtues that he did not practice, while the other so far forgot himself as to dance "with all his might before the ark," the wives of their bosoms could not stand it another moment. One brought her lord to earth by venting her feelings in making faces, while the other, outwardly more self-controlled, but none the less contemptuous, despised her liege in her heart.

It was just the same touch of nature that made both women like.

Making faces is a pastime that has been relegated to the children, since women have invented a list of soft swear words which they may use without being deemed too unbecoming. Though almost any one who has tried both methods would advise "the face" as a much more comfortable outlet to the feelings than even the most vehement "plague take it," or "O shucks!"

There is a something so deliciously defiant about making a face. All the venom in a child's nature comes out in the face she makes at her teacher's back, and she becomes at once cheerful and tractable. It seems to be a sort of safety valve through which pent-up rudeness and malice escape with a rush, leaving the atmosphere clear and smiling.

The minister's wife may be only a sort of over-grown child after all, whose expulsion from the nursery was so recent that some of its mischievous tricks still lurk in the corners of her lips and eyes, to peep out when anything displeases her; and when one remembers that the position she fills is the most difficult in all the professions to fill acceptably, it is easy to excuse a lapse from grace now and then.

law, and no one will criticize her for it; a doctor's wife need know nothing of medicine, and an architect's wife may not be able to tell a gable from a gargoyles, and yet they may be considered charming helpmeets for their husbands; but the minister's wife must be above suspicion in every respect, or his entire congregation will demand to know the reason why.

It avails her nothing that she has no talent for leadership; that she cannot conduct a sewing circle or a ladies' auxiliary; that she dislikes to teach in the Sunday school or preside over bazars or sympathize with the woes of the parish. If she doesn't do all these things and do them cheerfully and well she is marked for criticism, and the next thing she hears is a whisper to the effect that poor Dr. Longtex is so wretchedly handicapped by that frivolous wife of his.

There is not a little minister in any pulpit in the land to-day whose congregation does not expect his wife to be a synonym for all the virtues that a minister's wife should possess; and somewhere it is written that the mother whose son goes into the ministry demands The Perfect Woman for his mate.

Aside from her churchly tasks, the minister's wife has to endure what very few other women can put up with and still retain any sweetness of temper—the presence of her husband in the house all day and every day.

True, his parochial duties sometimes keep him employed rather steadily, but between committee meetings and visitations he has the habit of "touching base" at his own home, and the very unexpectedness of a man bobbing in at any and all times of the day is enough to put any housewife's nerves on edge.

As to her home duties, Candida, the wife of that very self-complacent minister in Bernard Shaw's play answers that with: "Ask the tradesmen who want to worry James and spoil his beautiful sermons who it is that puts them off. When there is money to give he gives it; when there is money to refuse, I refuse it. I build a castle of comfort and indulgence and love for him and stand sentinel always to keep vulgar little cares out."

The role of minister's wife is not a cinch. In fact, it is so difficult that a woman should think a round dozen times before she accepts the part. But having accepted it, she had just as well decide at once to put away all childish things—the making of faces among them—and press forward toward the mark for the prize of her high calling.

Not Well Enough For Hospital. House physicians, when they wish to supply a bed of a chronic case, will welcome the new and original scheme contained in the following letter: "Dear Sir:—When next the doctor attends mother, will you please ask him to discharge mother, as she does not feel well, and oblige yours truly."—London Hospital Gazette.

TO BRIDGE THE CATAWBA.

Commissioners of Mecklenburg Vote \$5,000 for Bridge Over the Catawba at Roxzell's Ferry—Effort Being Made to Enlist the Aid of Lincoln and Gaston Counties—Estimated Cost of Bridge \$8,000.

The board of county commissioners yesterday voted an appropriation of \$5,000 to be devoted to replacing the bridge over the Catawba river at Roxzell's Ferry. A committee, consisting of Messrs. S. Wittkowsky, J. H. Weddington and J. K. Wolfe, was appointed to confer with like committees from Gaston and Lincoln counties relative to the construction of the bridge.

A meeting was appointed for next Monday, at which time some further definite action will be taken. The following-named were appointed to represent their respective counties: Gaston, Messrs. R. J. Abernethy, A. M. Henderson, J. M. McIntosh and A. N. Stroupe; Lincoln, Messrs. E. M. Lowe, John Nixon and John Cahill. Messrs. Heriot Clarkston, D. A. Tompkins and Capt. S. B. Alexander were also asked to meet and advise with these committees next Monday.

Much credit is due to Col. R. L. Abernethy, of River Bend, for having brought up the matter at this time. The rebuilding of the bridge at Roxzell's Ferry has been a topic of discussion in Charlotte for more than a score of years. A fine bridge spanned the river there before the war. The piers alone are said to have cost more than \$11,000. There are several of them and they were constructed of the heaviest stone. During the war, the bridge was burned. Every since then the giant pillars have been standing in the river, waiting for the time to come when another and stronger structure might be reared upon them. One pier, that closest to the Mecklenburg side of the river, was washed away in a big freshet a few years ago. This will have to be rebuilt. The others are intact and only need a little overhauling. It is estimated that the new bridge will cost approximately \$8,000.

A few years ago a special act was passed by the State Legislature giving to the commissioners of Mecklenburg county the power of appropriating \$5,000 to the building of this bridge.

An act also gave to the city of Charlotte the right, if she saw fit, to donate \$2,000 to the building of this bridge. Gaston and Lincoln counties were also empowered to donate \$3,000 for this purpose. The commissioners of neither Gaston nor Lincoln counties are inclined to give this sum. It is more than likely, however, as Capt. Jack Reinhardt, of Lincoln, stated yesterday that a number of citizens of these counties will subscribe if the matter is presented properly.

Mecklenburg county now owns the piers and a little more than six acres of the adjoining land leading up to river, having purchased the land from the Roxzell estate when it was divided several years ago. The macadam has been carried to a point within a few miles of the bridge. It will be extended to the river at an early date.

The following-named citizens appeared before the commissioners yesterday afternoon in behalf of the appropriation for the bridge: Messrs. J. H. Weddington, Capt. S. B. Alexander, D. A. Tompkins, J. P. Rheinhardt, S. Wittkowsky, Heriot Clarkston and R. L. Abernethy. Capt. Alexander very clearly stated the importance of the bridge. Before the war, he declared, this road was a great thoroughfare used by the people of Lincoln, Burke, Catawba and all the surrounding country, for bringing their products to market. Charlotte participated largely in the trade and this traffic was a source of great revenue to the business interests of the city. After the war, the bridge having been burned, the people went elsewhere. Since then Charlotte has never enjoyed any more of this lucrative trade. It is believed that the rebuilding of this bridge will induce many of the citizens of those counties which formerly came to Charlotte to trade to return.

Much interest is being manifested in the building of this bridge. Those who spoke before the commissioners yesterday advocated the construction of others, but urged that the one at Roxzell's ferry be built first, owing to that fact that the crossing there is more important than perhaps any other.

KILLS WIFE'S ASSAILANT.

A Domestic Tragedy in Union County—J. W. Hill Takes Summary Vengeance on the Despoiler of His Home.

Charlotte Observer. Monroe, July 2.—A. M. Burgess was shot and instantly killed this morning in New Salem township, this county, by J. W. Hill, following the accusation by Mrs. Hill that Burgess had criminally assaulted her.

Hill drove immediately to Monroe with his wife and two small children, and in the absence of the sheriff, surrendered to Policeman T. B. Laney, who swore out a warrant before Squire M. L. Flowe, the latter committing him to jail without bail for trial.

The tragedy occurred about 9 o'clock in New Salem, where both men have resided for some time. According to Hill's story, Burgess and his wife drove by his (Hill's) house in a buggy. Not a word was passed. Burgess reached for his pistol, but Hill was quicker with his shotgun and fired first, killing Burgess instantly. Hill brought the gun with which the deed was done to Monroe with him when he came to surrender, and also a number of loaded shells.

NOT THE FIRST ATTEMPT.

Mrs. Hill told her husband this morning that Burgess had assaulted her and threatened to kill both her and Hill if she told Hill of it. She states further that it is not the first time Burgess had attempted the crime, but she was afraid to tell her husband for fear Burgess would carry out his threat. When Burgess attacked her again she resolved to defy the threat and inform her husband, and did so. Hill had started in quest of Burgess when he drove by the house. Hill is 30 years old and the couple have two small children. Burgess is 40 and leaves a wife and 6 children. Both are farmers.

Hill talks freely of the tragedy and does not seem in the least uneasy as to the outcome. He will be given a preliminary hearing July 9th.

Cobalt in Gaston.

Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, State Geologist. In Gaston county there is a belt of micaceous schist extending in a general direction north 20 degrees east that can be traced from Bessemer city northward into Lincoln county. These schists contain throughout nearly the whole area numerous small seams, incrustations and stains of black manganese material which gives reactions for cobalt. Some of this material is largely iron oxide when it is more of a reddish or yellowish ochre color, but the most of it is black.

At the Ormand iron mine, one mile southwest of Bessemer City, there is a considerable quantity of this material found mixed with the iron ore and it may be that it was the cobalt which went into the pig iron that gave his iron its reputation for hardness and toughness. At the Long Creek Gold Mine, situated about 6 miles northwest of Dallas, Gaston county, masses of quality, taken out of the Asbury shaft, were thickly encrusted with mammillary masses of asbolite or earthy cobalt. About a mile northeast from the Long Creek mine, on the old Lincoln, Yorkville, S. C., road near the summit of Cross or PAYSOUR mountain, a band of rock 15 feet wide across contains veins and seams of wad or asbolite. Following this vein in a northerly direction, it descends the west slope of Cross mountain and 50 years ago a number of openings had been made on the asbolite seams. Some of this material was analyzed and gave 13.26 per cent of the cobalt and nickel oxides, the larger amount of this being cobalt. The same formation can be traced into Lincoln county and similar seams of wad are observed.

The facts as established are that the girl went to New York to make a living and having some beauty of face and form fell into the companionship of various men about town. She seems to have been adrift and not to have been particular about her character or her associations. Certainly there is nothing to indicate that she made any very desperate or determined struggle to protect herself or her good name. She must have known what and who Harry Thaw was when he took up with him—"took up" is exactly the correct expression.

She traveled through Europe and over this country with him before they were married, did it flagrantly, openly and in the full sight of the public. Thaw must have known the kind of woman he was marrying. Aside from all the personal evidence and knowledge he had, the story of her career was printed in the newspapers time and again. He and she were ejected from hotels together, and in the face of it all he insisted on introducing her into his own family and trying to make her the associate of clean families and pure women in Pittsburgh. Such conduct seems to us to be

not only an insult to respectability but contrary to public policy. If decent society offers no premium in the way of special recognition to decency of life and bearing and is to accept persons of notoriously and flagrantly bad character along with the good and orderly, the result must be demoralization and moral anarchy.

It was a mere vulgar, obscene tragedy, the conflict of two dissolute men over a dissolute woman who had abandoned one and gone to another, perhaps because she preferred him, perhaps because he had more money to lavish on her. There is nothing in Harry Thaw's life, character or career to indicate any chivalric sensitiveness as to his own family or personal honor or that of anybody else. All the known facts indicate that his wife was abundantly able to take care of herself and forbid her from posing as an instance of persecuted virtue pursued by a libertine. A husband has the right to protect his wife to the utmost extremes sanctioned by the unwritten law, but the man who with eyes wide open marries a woman of known reckless life and bad character puts himself in an exceptional position and cannot claim the sympathy that belongs to a man of decent life who has shown ordinary regard for honor and propriety. These people put themselves outside the pale of organized and respectable society and have no right to demand its regard or its privileges. Thaw, with all his sixty millions behind him, is entitled to be regarded and treated just like any other male society outcast who joins himself to a woman of his own kind and reverts the real or fancied interference of one of her former associates; no more and no less.

An Expunction Wanted. "I'd like to know," began the thoughtful boards.

"Would like to know what?" asked the hoarder who knew it all.

"I'd like to know how 'watches are made in heaven' when they keep all the brimstone in the other place."—Chicago News.

Bringings It Home. Rob—Don't you think that love is a species of insanity? Ethel—Sometimes. Who has been falling in love with you?—Smart Set.

NO TRUST BRAND ON BRYAN.

Their Representatives to Have Nothing to Do With His Reception.

New York Herald. W. J. Bryan has informed the reception committee which is to welcome him, Mr. Bryan set forth decided views as to the character of the committee and what form the greeting should take.

In a letter to a member of the reception committee which is to welcome him, Mr. Bryan set forth decided views as to the character of the committee and what form the greeting should take.

After waiting several weeks to hear from Mr. Bryan as to his position in regard to the movement to have him again lead the fight for the Democracy, those who have taken the initiative in this city in the reception plan were gratified to receive his wishes.

While he is much pleased by the endorsement of his opinions and by the compliment paid by the New York City committee to himself, Mr. Bryan said he would not consent to a reception in which men friendly to trusts and corporate interests should have a part.

It was his understanding, Mr. Bryan said in his letter, that several persons who are well known in this country as great financiers and promoters of trusts were on the New York City reception committee, and, if so, the committee was not acceptable to him. "He said he had not changed his views on the trust question, and that it would be inconsistent for those interests now to foster his candidacy because of the more extreme views of newer radicals."

Mr. Bryan was careful to make clear that his letter was not intended for publication, and that he would write a letter for publication at an early date, or as soon as he was notified of the plans of the reception committee.

Several changes in the plans for the reception have already been decided upon and are taking shape. The Commercial Travelers and Hotel Men's Anti-Trust League has handed over the management of the reception to the committee on plans and scope. This gives the affair a wider and more national character. The committee is composed of prominent Democrats from all over the country.

An Obscene Mess.

Richmond News-Leader.

This Thaw case is too commonplace and ordinary to justify the public interest it seems to have aroused. The tragedy and the causes leading to it may be found duplicated in the slums of every large city almost every week. The only difference is that the actors in this case wear better clothes, have more money, and some of them are better connected than the people who usually figure in such performance. There is no romance or mystery or beauty or alleviating circumstance in the whole business. It is just the old familiar story of the lust and primal passions of man and the sordid seeking of money and ease by a weak and dissolute woman.

All this attempt to pose Mrs. Thaw as the victim of a villain's machinations is the merest yellow newspaper flapdoodle and slush.

The facts as established are that the girl went to New York to make a living and having some beauty of face and form fell into the companionship of various men about town. She seems to have been adrift and not to have been particular about her character or her associations. Certainly there is nothing to indicate that she made any very desperate or determined struggle to protect herself or her good name. She must have known what and who Harry Thaw was when he took up with him—"took up" is exactly the correct expression.

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