

THE FRIEND CITIZEN.

E. A. WEBSTER, Editor and Proprietor.

Paper Devoted to Temperance, Literature and Politics.

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TIMELY TOPICS.

CARRUTH, the editor who carried a pistol ball in his head for seven months...

LANDIS, who shot Carruth, is the son of an old Pennsylvania Dutch couple...

When the law of Massachusetts providing that all railroad trains shall come to a full stop before crossing a track...

The new state constitution of Nebraska contains a provision that the United States senators for that state shall hereafter be elected by direct vote of the people...

A DIVASTATING fire swept through Virginia City, Nevada, last week, laying the greater part of the city in ruins...

That in the loss by the burning of Virginia City are somewhat less than was first reported, they are terribly severe, and the suffering is aggravated...

THE GODDARDS own twenty million dollars of the stock of the Union Pacific railroad, and control several millions more...

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER that have become so frequent in New England of late are discussed a great deal in the papers there...

NORMAN WADE of Washington, who is conducting ordinance experiments at Boston, fired, last Saturday, an improved childless "Whard" projectile...

IN 1874 more than nine per cent. of the children of the Fatherland refused to present themselves when called upon to enroll as soldiers...

It is undoubtedly true that sixteen thousand six hundred and seventy-two of the recruits to military duty belong to Alsace and Lorraine...

A TERRIBLE JOKE.

"How was it, Major, that you never were married? I have known you for a long time and yet you have never told me that..."

"Ah, George! it isn't wonderful that I should never mention it. The circumstances which prevented me getting married are of such a melancholy character that it pains me to have them referred to at all..."

"Now, Major, I'm very curious to know, and as we are old friends, if I promise to keep it a secret, will you tell me?"

"Well, then," the Major answered with a sigh, "I will tell you, but here be cautioned, it is so horrible, and so dreadful..."

"It was in the year 1847 when I happened, and I had just entered the twenty-seventh year of my age, with prospects as bright and promising as any young man could wish for..."

"Now, the day was very fond of practical jokes, and never left pass an opportunity to play one, regardless of who might be unfortunate enough to be her victim..."

"One morning I was just half-dressed, sitting at the breakfast table, as usual. A servant went to her room to see what was the matter and found her lying in bed, complaining of a sick headache...

"I volunteered to occupy the department for one night, as much to investigate the cause of the appearance of the 'ghost' as because no one else was willing to take possession of the room..."

"Here the Major began to cry, and grief for a time interrupted his narrative, and said: 'When I first heard of this shocking incident, it accompanied by a fall of some heavy body..."

"There was a passage which led from the room where she slept as far as this mantle-piece, and over the whole there was nothing but the plain white wall paper..."

"On a wall behind a striking resemblance to a grandparent without a trace of parental feature..."

FIVE AND A HALF PATCHED.

I am a bachelor, an old bachelor; at least that's what my nieces—pretty, smart, clever, lovable girls—call me; and no doubt they're right..."

"However, an old bachelor I am dubbed, and I must confess, it to acquire that distinction one is obliged to enjoy life to the utmost, as I do, and be made much of by lovely women and charming maidens..."

"In the first place, my home is a home in every sense of the word, although without a mother or even a mother-in-law..."

"I occupy, and have occupied for the past year, a suite of remarkably pleasant rooms, the front windows looking on a city park and the back on a garden made delightful by two fine old peach-trees, a heavy grape-vine, and sweet-smelling vinerias..."

"These cheerful rooms are part and parcel of Mrs. Midget's boarding-house. No, I am wrong. Mrs. Midget—Mr. Midget was lost at sea five years ago—does not keep a boarding-house, but takes a few select boarders, of whom she is pleased to intimate she considers me the selectest..."

"Wonderfully comfortable the few select boarders. I find in Mrs. Midget's steady, old-fashioned, neatly kept, three-story brick home..."

"'Everything like wax,' my eldest sister says when she comes to visit me, which is about once in four weeks—a day or two after my magazines have arrived..."

"'And the landlady?' I invariably replied 'that she would crumble!' so delicate in her ways and speech for such a well-to-do woman..."

"But Maria! I can't divine why you pretend not to hear me, or else repeats with so much emphasis: 'Awful crumming!'..."

"The fact is, I'm so much among my magazine, that I often find myself, when I wish to be particularly emphatic, borrowing their queer adjectives and peculiar manner of expression..."

"I find myself, 'indeed, indeed' said Charley to me the other day—'named for me, Charlotte (Charles, as near as they could get at it)...'

"Mrs. Midget knows how to furnish a table, too; all sort of little delicacies and unexpected tidbits, stews and hash, always appetizing, bread and pies, marvels of culinary skill and neat and coffee—well, really coffee and tea..."

"As for Mrs. Midget herself she's such a lot of a woman that I feel like laughing outright every time I look at her, peering an eyelid, muscle, knob, phlegm on a chair, the chair itself taller than any of the new seats..."

"Mrs. Midget, I have your pardon, said I, suddenly thought of a man I saw at the circus..."

"I'm a domestic old fellow, there you see, how naturally I fall in my nieces' love—love, poetry, music, flowers (Mrs. Midget always has a posy ready for me in summer-time, which she pins into my button-hole with her own fair hand)..."

ance: Soft brown eyes, chestnut hair, slight but plump figure, feet to correspond with her hands, decidedly graceful and altogether very attractive..."

"I'll wager she sings, plays and dances well," I said to myself in conclusion: "Is not rich, or she would not fetch her gloves; or poor, or she would not wear 'kids'..."

"I must find her! All very well to say, but how to find her? A 'personal' if it met her soft brown eyes would frighten her, so much of a little creature, and she would be likely to hide herself instead of allowing herself to be found..."

"I shall show my treasure to my friends and ask if they can give me any clue to the original possessor..."

"By Jove! where have my wits been? I'll see what Mrs. Midget says about it. She's by far the most sensible woman of my acquaintance, and very sympathetic, and is at the moment sitting alone in the dining-room in a low rocking-chair, with a giant work-basket by her side and a heap of stockings in her lap..."

"There, my dear Mrs. Midget, is the glove. You will see at once that it is all my fancy painted in, and I placed it on the landlady's little hand..."

"Over went the big work-basket on the floor as Mrs. Midget, throwing herself back in a paroxysm of laughter, came near going over low, her absurdly small feet kicking wildly in the air for a moment, until I had restored the rocking-chair to its equilibrium..."

"'Shall I pick up the things,' Mrs. Midget said, as soon as she ceased laughing, rather put out to tell the truth, by her strange conduct, so unlike the sympathy I had expected..."

"'Yes—no—if you please—I don't care,' answered Mrs. Midget, in a voice very different from her every-day one, and with the liveliest rose color in her cheeks..."

"Did you do it, the glove, Mrs. Midget?" asked I, seriously..."

"'No,' replied she, opening a wee hand and showing it, crumpled into a heap. 'Take it, and oh! please, say no more about it. It's too—too ridiculous!' and off she went a gain..."

"Mrs. Midget said I 'what are you laughing at'..."

"I suddenly thought of a man I saw at the circus," said she, with a sunny look I had never seen before in her blue eyes..."

"I'm convinced you love the owner of the glove," said I. "It's an odd maid whom nature has sought to compensate for lack of other charms by giving her a perfect hand, or a grandmother who still wears five and a half, though her complexion has fled and hair depopulated..."

"Well, I must leave you," said Mrs. Midget, "Prepare for a heartless..."

"Mrs. Midget has ceased to be a widow, and I am no longer a bachelor..."

"THE SALARIES OF THE ACTRESS—The terms are \$300 a night, and he is engaged to play in the Fifth Avenue theatre during the present season..."

COURTSHIP IN TEXAS.

THE CASE OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTER—The young man, seven in the land, had a sister, a girl of sixteen years...

At the same time, the young man had a sister, a girl of sixteen years, and she was very fond of practical jokes, and never left pass an opportunity to play one...

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COURTSHIP IN TEXAS.

He sat on one side of the room in a big, white oak rocking-chair. She sat on the other in a little, white oak rocking-chair...

"The rocking continues. 'What's your dog's name?' 'Cooney.' 'Another sigh-broken stillness. 'What is he good for?'"

"'What is he good for?' said he, abstractly. 'Your dog, Cooney.' 'Fur ketchin' possums.' 'Silence of half an hour. 'He looks like a deer dog.' 'Who looks like a deer dog?'"

"'He is, but he's kinder bellowsed an gettin' old and slow now. An' he ain't no count on a cold trail.'"

"The quiet ten minutes that ensued she took two stitches in her quilt; it was a gorgeous affair, that quilt, was made by the pattern called the 'Rose of Sharon.'"

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