

HAT AND SHOES CAN WAIT.

Boy Uses Money for Railroad Fares and Wedding Fee.

George Latham may have needed a new hat and shoes, but if he did he overlooked the need in his desire to plunge into matrimony. George is 17 and felt that he could no longer sigh and love and wait. So the youth coaxed money from his mother for the shoes and hat, but when he got it he sped to the home of Clara Myers, the little daughter of a neighbor.

It was all settled in a jiffy, and the children were quickly on their way to Elkton, Md. There they, somehow, found a clergyman willing to make them one. The hat and shoe money paid the fee as well as the railroad fares, and the pair returned in fancied bliss. George's parents will endeavor to have the marriage annulled.—Trenton, N. J., dispatch to Philadelphia Record.

A Still "Unsolved Mystery."

One of the tantalizing mysteries in the life of George Washington is whether he did or did not give advice to Capt. John Posey in a certain perplexing matrimonial problem which the captain submitted to him. We are indebted to Mr. Paul Leland Hawrth's interesting volume on "George Washington: Farmer," for a verbatim copy of the letter in which Captain Posey formulated the problem. Captain Posey, who, it seems, even in those early days, had partially adopted the reformed spelling, wrote as follows:

"I could have been able to Satisfied at my Arrears some months AGO by marrying an old widow woman in this County. She has large soms cash by her and Prittey good Estate. She is as thick as she is high. And gits drunk at Least three or four time a week. Which is disagreeable to me. Has vialant Sperrit when Drunk. Its been great Dispute in my mind what to Doe. I believe I shud' Run all Resks if my Last wife had been Even temper'd woman, but her Sperrit has Given me such a shock that I am afraid to Run the Resk again."

Now, the trouble with this historical romance of the tender passion is that it stops right there. Absolutely no record exists of any advice given by Washington. We do not even know whether Captain Posey married the engaging equilateral lady or not. To be sure, there is indisputable evidence that he was subsequently in jail. This may or may not have been the result of matrimonial infelicities incident to the lady's "vialant Sperrit when Drunk." We have, in fact, Captain Posey's own statement that his prospective wife's habit of getting drunk three or four times a week was disagreeable to him, and that he had misgivings touching her "vialant Sperrit" under such circumstances.

But it is a blind trail at best; and an equally blind trail is opened by the fact that Washington undoubtedly did about that time give the captain the sum of four pounds. Of course if Captain Posey got into a matrimonial mess and into jail by following Washington's well meant but unfortunate advice, it is open to inference that the general may have felt there was an equitable claim to damages in the sum of as much as four pounds.

But all this is pure speculation. In the baffling absence of all other clues to the denouement, the courtship of Captain Posey and the quadrilateral widow must remain one of the unsolved love romance mysteries of history. Incidentally, however, we get a sufficient glimpse behind the scenes of those remote days to justify the belief that Washington had other troubles than those merely incident to the birth of a nation and dealing as president with jackass congressmen.—New York Times.

Plea to Set Clocks Forward.

"It is a wonder to me," said John R. Edwards, of Portland, Me., at the Shoreham, "that the government departments in Washington have not long since adopted the idea of saving daylight by the simple expedient of setting forward the hands of the clock. This scheme has been tried with great success in several communities in our State, and the arguments in its favor are so sound that it ought to come into general use.

"In the summer time especially, with the long hours of daylight, it would seem quite feasible for the big army of Uncle Sam's workers to begin their labors an hour earlier than the schedules now call for and likewise cease their activities 60 minutes sooner. Of course, this implies exactly the same period of toil. There need be no confusion, for the clock would register, for instance, 9 a. m., though in reality it would be but 8 o'clock. The gain, nevertheless, would be a real and not an imaginary one, for that extra hour toward the conclusion of the day would bring an untold amount of convenience and comfort, especially to city workers."—Washington Post.

THE EMPEROR'S DENTIST.

How American Dentists Have Become Famous in Europe.

Dr. Arthur Newton Davis, dentist by appointment to the Emperor William, is now in this country, his native land. He refused to talk in New York about William or the state of affairs in Berlin. It is not likely that he will talk more freely in Pickaway—Ohio, his old home. A prudent dentist, even if he has not taken the oath of Hippocrates, keeps his mouth shut if there is inquiry about the mouths of his patients, nor does he betray the confidences of patients, who are never so confidential as during the breathing spell in the chair.

It should be a source of pride to the profession that the emperor in spite of the furious German press retains an American dentist. A pamphlet might be written about the glorious deeds of American dentists in Europe. In Paris Dr. Evans assisted the Empress Eugenie in her escape. In Berlin in the eighties two Americans divided in rule the American colony, and one of them plugged and pulled and crowned the teeth of Bismarck, of the foremost generals living there, and of leaders in the court. At Rome a dentist from Maine had the honor of caring for the teeth of King Humbert and his beautiful wife. In Dresden lived a dentist who not only gave comfort and relief to the Austrian court at Vienna, but to Richard Wagner, and in his home the young Siegfried dreamed of being an architect.

What stories could not these dentists have told! The life of Dr. Evans has already been published, but not all that he saw and did. The fashionable American dentist in Berlin came to a tragic end. Many poor students of those years remember gratefully his kindness, generosity and hospitality. Montaigne gave a grotesque illustration of the fact that kings and queens after all are only mortals. These dentists could have given equally amusing illustrations. The hairdressers of Marie Antoinette published his memoirs; the valet of Maupassant wrote entertainingly and shrewdly of his master; why should not Dr. Davis at some future day tell of the Emperor William in the chair, with diagrams of the royal teeth from year to year?—Boston Herald.

Flies and the War.

Flies are now as much a menace in Europe as Zeppelins and shrapnel, according to F. N. Tonetti, a New York sculptor, who has recently returned from the war front. As a result of his description of the agonies endured by the wounded soldiers tormented by these pests, 2,000,000 boxes of flypaper will shortly be sent to the war zone by the women of the Vacation War Relief to fulfil a need as great as that for bandages or medicines.

"Beyond all words and all power of imagination is that great black swarm that hovers over everything," Mr. Tonetti said. "They take away sleep and appetite; they make life intolerable. Sometimes amputations have to be made without waiting to get back to the hospital, and then the flies are an added danger. Everywhere you see wounded soldiers tormented by the flies, and often without hands to brush them away."

After trying various methods of killing flies while on duty in the ambulance corps, Mr. Tonetti finally decided that the long strips of flypaper were the most efficacious, and he had often caught as many as 70,000 flies in a single day by this method. Among the other services performed by the sculptor while abroad was the invention of an extensor for use in setting broken bones.

"What I have done is little," he said, "but the aid given by the women of America, and particularly by those of the Vacation War Relief, is wonderful. Our country will be forever loved because of them."

Where is Your Binder?

Now that the grain crop has been cut, reapers and binders should be placed safely away out of reach of the weather. There is no machine on the farm which is harder to keep in running order than the binder, and if it is to be used another year, then it should by all means be oiled well and painted if necessary, and put safely away until needed again. There are far too many right now standing out in the weather. Mr. Farmer, if you appreciate your binder as you should, get busy and see that it is under shelter and out of the way where it will not get broken. Unless you do you will be sure to have trouble next spring when harvest time comes again. Planters and distributors should likewise be put safely away, and care taken that no parts are lost. A thorough cleaning of all farm machinery which will not be needed again this year should be made, and when the time comes to use them again they will be in good shape.

PECULIAR TIMEPIECES.

Watches in This Unique Collection Have Interesting Histories.

The person of average experience is more or less familiar with watches which strike the hour, watches with illuminated dials, stop watches, watches with elaborately ornamented faces and cases and other watches which differ from the ordinary watch; but a watch collector, Willard H. Wheeler, has lent to the Central museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences a collection of 97 watches, any one of which is sufficiently peculiar to deserve a place among historic watches. The idea of the collector in limiting the number was to outline the history of watchmaking rather than to exhibit freaks, but among the specimens are some with unique qualities and romantic histories. The watch developed naturally from the large encased clock which stood in a cabinet. Clocks became smaller so that they could be hung on the wall, and finally small enough to occupy only a little space on the mantelpiece. Then some punctual soul carried one on a string about his neck, and with these came a demand for further reduction in size. These personal clocks were elaborately jewelled. The English Puritans wished watches, but they could not wear the conspicuous timepieces common to their age. Thereupon Tompion, the foremost clockmaker of England, devised the pocket timepiece, now known as the watch.

Tompion was the official watchmaker to all the royal families of Europe, and since each king demanded something different and was able to pay for it, there are a large number of freak Tompion watches, Tompion became so famous that upon his death England honored him with a slab in Westminster Abbey along with her noted men. But Tompion knew nothing of the stem-winding watch; that came in the eighteenth century, as did also the repeater, made to strike the hours automatically.

One of the most admired watches in the collection was made by the English watchmaker, Thomas Mudge, for Ferdinand VI, of Spain. It has three cases—the outer being of leather for hunting and other outdoor pastimes, the second of plain gold for wear about the palace, and the inner of gold incrustated with jewels. On state occasions the two outer cases were removed and the inner exhibited for the gratification of Ferdinand's love for display.

Another was made in Switzerland in 1790, richly enameled and inlaid with pearl, and inherited in 1800 by the Manchu Emperor, Kea-king. The story goes that it remained in the imperial palace in Peking, on the queen's dressing table, until during the Boxer rebellion when the palace was sacked. The chief feature of the watch is a fountain which by the movement of small bits of glass on delicate wires is made to appear to flow. This is thought to have caught the eye of a looter, who took the watch from the palace and sold it to an employee of the German embassy in Peking. He sold it to Wheeler.

One watch with an almost tragic history was made by Henry Louis Drosz, the French watchmaker, who went to Spain about the time of the Spanish Inquisition. This watch is wound by shaking, and when he exhibited it to the Spaniards, who had seen nothing but key-winding watches and few of them, he was accused of practicing black magic. In vain did he declare that when he shook the watch he was merely winding it. They contended that he was shaking up the evil spirits. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. But the Bishop of Toledo pointed out to the court that if the watch was really operated by evil spirits it would never need cleaning, and it was shown that Drosz's watch would stop if not occasionally cleaned. He was thereupon released.

In the collection are watches of many shapes—flowers, mandolins, skulls, crosses, rings and butterflies. One of Swiss make contains 1,741 matched pearls and 158 turquoises. And there is a huge watch worn by Lord Nelson, hero of Trafalgar, and another engraved with the name of George Washington.

He Heard It.

An Irishman, an Englishman and a Scotchman once went up into a tower to see which could see the farthest through a telescope. The Englishman, who looked first, said: "Oh, Pat, I can see the minute hand of a clock four or five miles away."

"I can see the minute hand on the same clock moving," said the Scotchman. Pat stood in amazement listening to his comrades. When he looked through he was seen to smile. Then he said: "Faith, if I don't hear the same clock striking."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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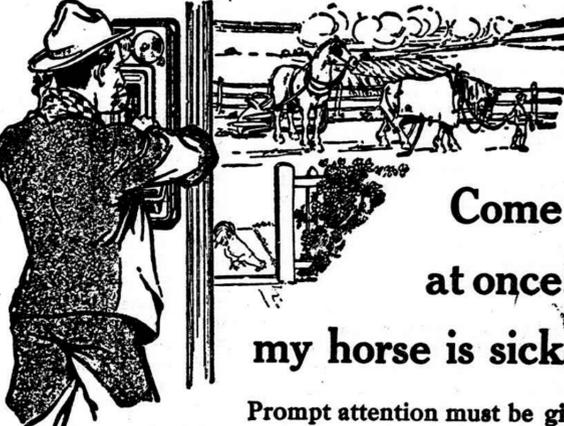
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