Leap Year by Proxy

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"I'm never going to get married," said Kitty to her Aunt Katherine."

Aunt Katherine, who was very tall and beautiful, and who was always dressed in sweeping black gowns, looked at Kitty severely through her gold lorgnette.

"And you are 20?" she asked.

"Men aren't worth bothering over," said Kitty. "Now, there's Rodney Hodge. He's the only man who will be at the dance tonight who is really worth while, yet I wouldn't be afraid to say that he'll never propose."

Aunt Katherine lighted the candles over the fireplace. It was one of her fads to spend the evening by candlelight. Electricity was for the mob, she said.

"Why should you care?" she asked, "what Rodney Hodge does? You are not in love with him, are you?"

Kitty composed herself. Well, you see, I could be in love with him," she said sagely, if he were not such a clam. "He's so—so fine, Aunt Katherine."

"Yes, he is fine," said the older woman.

Kitty's little face was very grave now, and her little hand was laid in earnestness on Miss Severance's knee.

"And so," Aunt Katherine finished for her, as she took the little hand in her firm clasp, "and so, my little Kitty, if you were a man and Rodney Hodge were a girl, you would ask Rodney to marry you?"

"Yes," Kitty whispered.

"Then—why not ask him—anyhow?" said Aunt Katherine.

Kitty gave her a startled glance. "Why—Aunt Katherine—" she stammered, "you don't mean—"

"It's leap year."

"Oh, I knew you were joking." Kitty's voice had a note of relief in it.

She changed the subject after that, and Kitty went off to her leap year dance happily.

Miss Severance sat long by the fire, then she picked up the receiver of the telephone and gave a number. When the answer came, she said: "Is that you, Bronson? This is Katherine Severance. I want to ask you to come and see me. Yes, tonight. Yes—it's important. You will? It's very good of you. At nine, then?"

She paced the room restlessly, as she waited, and when her caller came, a gray-haired, stately man, she welcomed him with a laugh that was slightly nervous.

"It's about Kitty," she said. She was seated in a high-backed chair which gave her a queenly dignity. "I—I want to make a sort of leap year proposal by proxy, Bronson."

He looked at her keenly. "You mean Rodney?" he asked.

"Yes. Kitty likes him and I think he loves her. He did years ago. But—but he hasn't asked her to marry him."

"And he will not!" sternly.

"Why not?"

"He shall not suffer as I have suffered," was the quiet answer. "You know how I staked all my happiness, Katherine, on your answer years ago and you know, too, that I lost. I will not have my boy hurt in a like fashion."

"Kitty—is sweeter than I," said Miss Severance, "and I think she cares."

"No one could be sweeter than you were," the old man turned on her fiercely, "until you learned to break men's hearts."

"And to break my own," said Katherine Severance.

Out of a deep silence he asked: "Then you, too, have suffered?"

"Yes. Do you remember a leap year dance and a girl all in white, with silver slippers and a rose in her hair?"

"You," he breathed.

"And she made up her mind that she would tell the man whom once she had spurned that she had changed—and—and—that he was the only man in the world—for her. But she was proud—and—she could not, for he gave her no opening—and, after all she was a woman—and a woman cannot woo."

"Katherine," he said, and his voice broke; "dear girl, if you had spoken, how much of happiness life would have held for us."

And tonight when Kitty went to her leap year dance, all the past rolled back on me and I wanted her to be happy with a man like you. It is too late now for us—but surely they—"

He laughed like a boy. "Too late? Why, how old are you, Katherine?"

"Forty."

"And I am fifty-two. And we're young, dearest. And the world is before us. Do you think Kitty and Rodney are the only ones in the world who can live and love?"

He took her hands masterfully in his. "Look at me, Kate," he said, "and tell me if you want to leave all the happiness to Kitty?"

That night when Kitty came home she was radiant.

"Aunt Kate," she cried, as her aunt, wrapped in a white silk kimono, met her at the top of the stairway, "I'm the happiest woman in the world."

"No," said Aunt Kate, mysteriously, "you're not the happiest. Because there are others."

Widowed on Wedding Day.

To have been bachelor, married man and widower all in the space of twelve hours was the unique but tragic experience of a young man in Belfast, Ireland, recently. Married in Christ church at noon, the bridegroom at midnight became a widower, for at that hour the bride died of an acute attack of appendicitis.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

MARYLAND STATE NEWS

Newsy Items Gathered From All Parts of the State.

Hagerstown.—The employes of the Hagerstown Railway Company organized a mutual relief association, with Charles Kershner president.

Westernport.—Sister W. Carmela, who had been principal of St. Peter's Parochial School here for seven years, has been transferred to St. Anne's Academy, Philadelphia.

Havre de Grace.—Hilton J. Doggett, of this city, engineer for the Northeast Milling and Mining Company, is making preparations for the erection of a plant at North East for the manufacture of silica, flint, feldspar, kaolin and clays.

Pocomoke.—The Coston's district Wilson Club was organized here Thursday night. M. L. Veasey was elected chairman and an executive committee, composed of Alfred P. Dennis, Colmore E. Bird, Dr. Albert Parker, John W. Ennis and Dr. William H. Walters, was elected.

Hagerstown.—Thompson A. Brown, of Hagerstown, was elected a member of the Republican State Central Committee for Washington county to succeed Capt. Charles W. Adams, deceased. Mr. Brown, who was formerly a member of the Legislature, was elected chairman of the committee.

Denton.—Fire on Saturday destroyed W. B. Parker's canning house here, together with a planing mill adjacent and a lot of lumber. The canning house had been lately equipped with new machinery. The warehouse, in which was stored the packed tomatoes, was not damaged. Mr. Parker's loss amounts to several thousand dollars.

Rockville.—Several recent attempts to break into residences at Glen Echo, Montgomery county, have caused much uneasiness and the people are keeping shotguns and pistols within easy reach. Mrs. Maude B. Woodward, wife of Dr. F. Lombard Woodward, was knocked down by a man in her yard a night or two ago. Her screams scared him off and brought out the neighbors who tried in vain to find him.

DOINGS AT THE STATE CAPITAL

768 Midshipmen At School.

Annapolis.—When the Naval Academy reopens on October 1 the roster will show a total of 768 midshipmen in the four classes. This is 36 greater than the number that started the 1911-12 term. The new fourth class was completed a few days ago with the admission of W. C. Vyse, who had just recovered from a minor surgical operation, performed to overcome a physical defect, and its membership is 262, larger by more than 60 than any of the other classes, and greater by 18 than the new class of last year. The roster by classes is—First, 144; second, 163; third, 199, and fourth, 262. Altogether 264 were admitted into the new class, but C. K. Bontz, of California, resigned and William L. Bullock, of Texas, was killed by falling from the royal yard to the deck of the old frigate Hartford.

Mortgage Notes Burned.

Annapolis.—Happy over the realization that they are now free of the debt incurred in the erection of their handsome place of worship at College avenue and St. John's street, the members of College Avenue Baptist Church, held a jubilee celebration. The principal service took place in the church, when the mortgage notes were burned in the presence of the congregation, by Mr. Louis H. Rehn, the oldest trustee. The sermon was preached by Rev. Charles Hastings Dodd, pastor of Eutaw Place Baptist Church, Baltimore. The notes that were destroyed represented a debt of $1,600, which the congregation of fewer than 50 wiped out in less than six years.

NEWSY ITEMS.

A watch consists of 175 pieces.

The United States consumes more spun and manufactured silk than any other country.

The capital stock of the banks doing business in Chile amounts to $34,142,661.

Jamaica has two cable stations and a wireless tower.

Argentina's wine business is assuming large proportions. Last year's yield was 390,093,381 liters.

Complaints are heard on all sides that tomatoes, melons, cucumbers, squashes—practically everything except potatoes—have in Paris become luxuries still beyond the reach of the best multitude of working people whose daily earnings do not exceed 80 cents to $1.

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MECHANICSVILLE

The farmers have been held back in their fall seeding by the recent rains.

Some of our farmer's wives have been complaining about flies. Some say they were pickling onions last week and the flies were so bad that they tried to roll the jars away.

We do not know why some people persist in calling our school a ware house. It was stated in last week's issue of another Westminster paper by its correspondent, "that when the warehouse was completed the children would start to school." Our school, which is nearing completion, is in every respect a first class building and does not resemble a warehouse in any way.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Williams, of Shipley, spent Sunday with Mr. W's wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Parrish.

Misses Bessie Ward, Lillian Valentine and May Brothers were entertained at supper by Miss Maude Barnes at the home of her uncle, Mr. Jabez N. Barnes.

Mrs. Martha Barnes and son Thos. spent Sunday with her sister, Miss Rachel Poole.

Apple butter making is in full force at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Monroe and son Harry, spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Monroe's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Peeling, of Finksburg.

Rev. S. F. Cassen preached his farewell sermon Sunday last. A large audience was present.

The yield of sugar corn was not as heavy as usual on account of the seed which was planted. It seems that the farmer's did not get the kind of corn that grows large ears.

MANCHESTER

The Emory team was here on Saturday and crossed bats with our boys in a regular slugging game that had to be fought to a finish in ten innings. Our enthusiasts were impressed that the visitors were sure of winning the game as in their engagement they stated that if they won they wanted game as in their engagement they $10, but if they lost but $5. According to the result the got the latter. The make up was.

Manchester		Emory
Simpson	S. S.	O. Evans
Loats	R. F.	C. Myers.
R. Berchman	3 B.	C. Taylor
Wink	1 B.	C. Davidson
Miller	C.	R. Burk
Gehr	2 B.	V. Buchman
Sullivan	C. F.	Brummel
Mitten	L. F.	E. Davidson
Shugars	P.	C. Leight

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Manchester	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	—6
Emory	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	—5

This was the wind-up game for the season.

Although the evening was disagreeable on Tuesday yet the members of Manchester Rebeca Lodge No. 18 I. O. O. F. in their celebration of the 61st anniversary of the institution of the degree had with them forty or more friends, who spent a social evening with them in the hall and were entertained with following program: Singing America; Prayer by chaplain, Maurice Burgoon; Piano Solo, Anna Shultz; Address, Dr. T. S. Land; Solo, "When the sands of the desert grow cold", Mrs. E. Nagle; Instrumental duet, Miss Treva Burgoon at piano, accompanied by Master Gilbert Martin on violin; Recitation Master George Shower; Piano duet, Misses Mae Musselman and Treva Burgoon; Solo, "Down By The Old Mill", Mrs. Nagle, after which chairman, Davis Burgoon, dismissed the audience to a social period. At 9.30 the march to the banquet room was taken where ice cream cake and coffee were served. The hall was in gala dress of pink and green, the Rebekah Colors, which were worn in fancy aprons by members of the committee.

Miss Mary Myers resumed her studies at deaf institute, Frederick, Wednesday 18th inst.

Mr. John Theivet and family, after spending a week here among friends, left Monday for their home in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Julia M. Motter is much improved since her rally from the sudren illness two weeks ago.

Mr. E. did you have a visit by the equinox? If so, I bet it put your street sweeper out of commission, if you had the rain we are having for three days and nights. Corn fields at many places are a regular net work with plenty of it flat to the ground, but farmers will get busy when the clear up comes, as but little seeding has been done in this section.

Miss Helen Jaeger, who was one of our school girls but has become a graduate of the Art school of the Md. Institute and is now teaching a private school in the are spent a week here, after her duties ended at the home of the Fresh Air Socity, near Falston, Harford County, where she had the care of the girls who were entertained during the open season of three months while the boys were overlooked by a gentleman. During the season they had with them 3000 children from the city. The home has a capacity of entertaining 350 at a time and as one group was returning home another was enroute to the home. To have the care of such a miscellaneous crowd of children meant something and to see that all conformed to the sanitary rules, as cleanliness was among the strictest, and every convenience for their being so was at hand. There were eight large bathtubs and a large wash room with spigot supply at hand of fine water from a large spring. Then, too, the feeding of so large a number and to know what kind of food to give certain ones all had to be looked into; and another matter was the proper clothing which was supplied when there was a dificience. It required a barrel of potatoes a day, with other vegetables in like proportion, and many gallons of fresh milk supplied every morning. This society several years ago, bought a farm of 38 acres of land with improvements for $3800, which, through the kindness of friends they were able to fit up for their purpose. This last season a new dormitory, the gift of a lady friend was opened which gave them room for 350 iron beds .

Medical aid was given by Dr. Van Bibber, of Belair, who contributed his services in the cause of charity, always ready day or night to give his best attention. Surely he will receive his reward. Miss Helen is deeply interested in the work which the society is doing. To gain admittance to the home application is made to the lady superintendent at the office in Baltimore and through her assistants the application is investigated. If found worthy the applicant is given a tag and a ticket and placed in a group and taken by rail to Falston and thence in large wagons to the home.

UNIONTOWN

Clinton Rout and wife, of Boston, Mass., spent a week with his father, Polk Rout, and family. He left when a young man and has not seen the family for twenty years and they had not heard from him in the meantime.

Miss Margaret Fox, of Washington, spent a few days with Mrs. Dr. J. J. Weaver.

Wm. Shaw and Miss Lucile Weaver, visited the latter's sister, Miss Nellie P. Weaver, at the Sanitorium on Sunday, and also took in the Pen-Mar sights.

Francis Bowersox is visiting his son Rev. Hixon T. Bowersox and wife at Rossville, Pa.

Mrs. J. C. Hollenberry, returned Sunday from a few days stay with Jesse Nusbaum's family.

Sister Madgdaline Kasewurm, who had been at Rev. Baughman's for ten days, was called to Penna. to see a sister, who was ill.

Mrs. Carrie Ebaugh Stout, of Baltimore, has been visiting her sister, Mrs. J. W. Gilbert, and Mrs. John Bowers.

Mrs. Catherine Gilbert in on the sick list.

Mrs. Rose Repp, of near Johnsville, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Myers Englar, and her son, Samuel Repp.

Mrs. Elizabeth D. Moser, of Emmitsburg, is visiting her nephew, Mr. H. B. Fogle.

WARFIELDSBURG

The farmers are very busy getting ready for seeding and some have commenced to cut corn.

Mrs. Annie Robertson, of this place is still suffering with very sore feet. The Dr. pronounces it exzema.

Mrs. Laura Grass, of Hanover, Pa., is visiting her sister, Mrs. Sarah Robertson, of this place.

Mr. Norris Wood and bride of Pa., and Mr. Wood's sister of Union Bridge visited their uncle, Mr. David Robertson last week.

Mr. Alvin Duvall's tomato factory has been running with full force for a week but the recent rain storm has stopped the hauling of tomatoes.

Miss Elizabeth Robertson has accepted a position as typewriter at Medford store and is getting along very nicely. We wish her success.

There will be a Sunday school rally at Bethel Church, of this place, Sunday afternoon, September 29, 1912, at two o'clock.

Mr. Daniel Hollinger's two sisters have been visiting him since Sunday last.

There has been a large crop of sweet corn raised in this neighborhood this year. The farmers have been busy hauling it to the Westminster factories. Some have finished hauling while others have just begun.

CRANBERRY

Corn cutting and fall seeding has been pusshed verw rapidly the past week, but at present is at a stand still on account of the rain which will make seeding late.

Quite a number of people attended the Prairie Lillie's and Nebraska Bill's Wild West show at Hampstead Saturday last. There was a large crowd but a poor show for the price.

Mrs. Jacob Sellers who has been on the sick list is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Snyder, of Manchester, spent Sunday with Mr. Snyder's brother, Mr. Lawrence Snyder, of Snydersburg.

Mr. C. Warehime and wife, of Bachmans Valley, spent Sunday with Mr. Eli T. Yingling.

Mrs. Edward Poole and family and Miss Nellie Markey spent Sunday with Mr. John Poole.

Mr. Abraham Snyder and daughter Miss Hester, spent Sunday with Mr. Elisha Snyder at Hampstead.

Miss Nellie Markey returned to Baltimore Monday last after spending the past summer with her sister, Mrs. Edward Poole and friends in this neighborhood. Miss Nellie has been promoted to forelady in a silk waist department. We wish her success.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Armacost, of Manchester, spent Sunday with Mr. W. Sprinkle and friends at Snydersburg.

Mrs. Andrew Croft is spending ten days with Mrs. Geo. Gummel on the Sunny Side farm.

Mr. Roy Simmons, of Snydersburg, spent Sunday evening with Mr. Jacob Brehm, of near Brummel.

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