DENTON JOURNAL.

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THE OLD BROWN CLOAK.

"I don't know as I've got anything to give," said Farmer Foxglove, looking dubiously around the kitchen.

Widow Waterman gave a little sniff of mingled deprecation and humility.

"Times is very hard with me, Mr. Foxglove," said she. "I hain't had no work since August, and there ain't nothin' to eat in the house."

"You don't tell me!" said the farmer, who was the softest-hearted of men. "Here, give me your basket! Philena'll say I'm an old fool; but I don't care."

With a trepidation not unlike the sensation of a schoolboy who robs an orchard for the first time, he went into the buttery and helped himself to half a cold roast fowl, a loaf of rye bread, a goodly wedge of yellow butter out of a covered stone jar, and three-quarters of a juicy apple pie. And then he opened Mrs. Foxglove's especial tea caddy, and filched a handful of the fragrant dried leaves, which he wrapped up in brown paper and put beside the other viands. And, chancing to notice how thin and inadequate the poor old woman's shawl was, he recklessly took down an old bombazine cloak, originally a bright brown, but now faded in as many streaks as a zebra hide, which had hung from time immemorial in the back entry.

"There ain't no more use in that old dud," he thought. "And it'll keep the cold out, and if Philena makes a fuss I'll give her a new blanket shawl."

Mrs. Waterman went off rejoicing. Presently Mrs. Foxglove and Seraphina came home from the weekly meeting of the Society for the Helpers of the Heathen in jubilant spirits.

"George Paterson was there," said Mrs. Foxglove. "He said he came after his aunt, but it was my belief that he wanted to walk home with Seraphina."

Seraphina hung down her head and said nothing.

"La, me!" said Mrs. Foxglove from the kitchen. "What has come to things? Here's the cold chicken and the apple-pie gone! And the cover off the butter-jar, too!"

"Y—yes," said the farmer, coughing. "I—I got sort o' hungry, so I thought I'd jest take a snack."

"Where's the borabazine cloak, pa?" said Seraphina, after the somewhat frugal supper, as she took the milking-pail. "It's raining a little, and the cows haven't come home from pasture yet."

"If I had a pair of eyes I'd use them," said Mrs. Foxglove, coming to the rescue and viewing the row of empty pegs with an eagle glance. "Well I declare! Nehemiah," turning to her husband, "that comes of leaving you to keep house. You must have gone off and left the door open and some tramp has got in and robbed us."

"I did just step out to the wood-pile for some more logs," said the farmer, thankful for the avenue of escape that was opened to him. "But I wasn't gone long."

The farmer wriggled uneasily in his cushioned rocking-chair.

"I wish old Mrs. Waterman had been in Jericho before she came here!" he said to himself.

Meanwhile pretty Seraphina, singing softly to herself, folded an old striped shawl around her taper shoulders and went out to the pastures after the truant company of cows.

Old Tulip's bell was jangling among the silver-stemmed birches on the bleak hill; they were already on the homeward path, but Seraphina loitered unnecessarily on the foot-bridge that spanned a brawling brook.

All was still and dusk; a certain frosty sweetness was in the autumn air, and the only visible person was a woman farther down the brook, who was dipping out water.

Suddenly there was another step—strong, swift and full of purpose. Seraphina's eyes brightened; a vivid color rose into her cheeks.

"There he comes now!" she murmured. "There comes George!"

To her surprise and dismay, however, the cavalier did not come up the hill, but stayed his steps beside the other woman below.

"He is throwing his arms around her neck," thought the indignant Seraphina. "He is—yes, he is actually kissing her! Are men absolutely without truth and faithfulness in this age of the world? But I don't care? Why should I care? I'm sure it don't matter to me."

Seraphina hurried the cows home, and finished the milking in less time than it had ever taken her before. She was just carrying in the foaming pail when a tall figure approached.

"Seraphina!"

"Pray don't trouble yourself to speak to me, sir," said Seraphina, with a toss of the head. "Or if you do, please call me 'Miss Foxglove!'"

And Seraphina vanished through the kitchen door.

"What's the matter, Phiny?" said her mother, noticing the girl's quick movements and heightened color.

"Nothing, ma," said Seraphina.

It was getting toward 9 o'clock when there came a knock at the door. Mrs. Foxglove opened it. There stood the Widow Waterman.

"I hope I'm not intruding," said Mrs. Waterman, but here's the brown bombazine cloak, Mr. Foxglove, and, humbly thanking you all the same, I'd rather not wear it."

"Eh?" said Mr. Foxglove in amazement.

"It was very kind of you to give it to me," went on Mrs. Waterman, to the utter discomfiture of the poor farmer, "but there's some things as human flesh and blood can't bear, and to have Deacon Pullaby's son asking if he could not see me home when I came out of the store, and Mr. Ferdinand Pinff saying was I to be at the dance at Melinda Edwards's on Tuesday night, and might he call for me at 8 o'clock—well, it's rather upsetting. But the worst of it all was when I went to get a little water at the brook. A young fellow seized hold of me and was going to kiss me. I believe it's the brown cloak as done it all," with a meaning glance at Seraphina Foxglove. "So if you would please to take it back I'll try and get along with my old shawl a spell longer. And the roast chicken was very good, sir, and that apple pie couldn't be beat."

There was a moment's direful silence, and then Mrs. Waterman sidled out of the room and betook herself once more to the mysterious silence of the night.

"Well, I declare!" said Mrs. Foxglove.

"Ma, don't scold pa!" said Seraphina, halfway between laughing and crying.

The farmer feebly rubbed his hands.

"I think I'll go to bed," said he.

And he went. Seraphina, running out for a pitcher of water, the last thing before shutting the house for the night, nearly stumbled against poor George Paterson.

"Goodness me! what are you doing here?" said Seraphina.

"I can't go home and sleep, Seraphina, while you are angry with me," said the poor young fellow, who was very desperately in love. "What have I done to deserve your coldness?"

"Nothing," she answered. "Except—except that you can't blame me for being jealous when I see you hugging and kissing the Widow Waterman."

"It was the cloak, Seraphina—the brown cloak—that misled me," pleaded George. "I thought, of course, that it was you."

"Oh, it's all very well to talk!" said Seraphina.

Mrs. Foxglove thought Seraphina had never before been so long in bringing a pitcher of water.

To George Paterson, however, the moments seemed winged, but nevertheless he went home rejoicing. Seraphina had forgiven him.

"FRONT."

A Word of Common Sense About the Much Abused Hotel Clerk.

For unalloyed, unadulterated fun, "five minutes with a hotel clerk," is a tip-top prescription. The chief clerk of a fashionable New York hotel leaned on both elbows and gazed at the register page, while his companion sorted over seven hundred and fifty-two letters and papers. They laughed [illegible] the while. Neither wore stores [illegible]. Neither sported a diamond. They are of the era of to-day, and know where the vaults of the Safety Deposit company are. The chief was fluently descanting on the merits of a danseuse in the Bijou, when a portly man, with red face and white side-whiskers rushed to the counter.

"I say," said the man, "have a fire in my room at once. It's frightfully cold. Any letters?"

Clang went the gong.

Up rushed a porter. Thus said the chief: "Fire in parlor 10. Yes, your letters have gone up."

"Good morning," said a comely lady as she laid her key on the counter. "I am going out for an hour. Strange there are no letters to-day."

"But there are," said the chief. "The boy took them up five minutes ago. Let me see—there were two for you, one for your sister, and a brown parcel that felt like lace. Here, Front, run up to 617 and ask for Mrs. C's letters. Shall he get the parcel? No? Ah! Run along."

Clang!

"Fire in 64. Ice-water in 65, and here Front, card to No. 11; if he's out ask if Mrs. Jones is in and will see the party. No, sir: the senator left at 6:11, but here's a note for you. His daughter was ill and he had to go."

With fire in his eye a well-dressed man stalked to the front. "See here," said he, "my wife and daughters have been sitting in room 28 half an hour waiting for a fire and a chambermaid. The room is not in order, and it's as cold as the devil!"

The clerk looked at him a moment, and then clang went the bell. "Porter, where's that fire for 28? Send it up at once." (Through the tube)—"Why don't you fix up 28? Party's been waiting an hour!" (To guest—"You'll be all right in five minutes sir. I can put you in 26 at once if you prefer."

"Well, I do prefer. The ladies are tired, cold, and hungry, and we have much to do before evening."

"Front, show the gentleman to 26."

"Where can I get a liver-pad?"

"Pad—liver-pad? On the corner below: but red flannel's better. Cobbler? Certainly. Front, take the gentleman's shoes to Callahan's and have them half-soled, and heeled and by 7 o'clock, sure pop. Oh, here, tell him I haven't seen those patent-leather pumps yet. No, sir—no card for you, but Mrs. Corlies called to say Mrs. C— has a sick-headache and can't go, but he'll come for you at 8 o'clock sharp."

Clang!

"Porter, baggage from 17, 64, 117, and 211. Front, ice-water and a bottle of Milwaukee beer to 87. Front, stop fooling on that bench. Collars? Next door."

The clerk had all his hair on, and his smile was sweet and bland, and when three girls ran up to the counter, leaving their mother at the elevator shaft, he brushed his hair with his hand and broadened his smile to a grin. "Mr. ——," said one, "mamma says we may have flowers on the table and button-hole bouquets for papa and two other gentlemen. Where will we get them? And mamma says the baby must have a doctor. Will you send one?"

"Yes, indeed, dear. Front, go to Dr. Gill's room and ask him to call at No. 69 as soon as convenient. You can get the flowers on Broadway, two blocks down. Do you want dinner served in the parlor? Yes? Front, send the head waiter here. Ah, senator, how are you? Glad to see you adjourn so soon. Oh, William, Mrs. Wilson will have dinner in parlor No. 69 at 6. Send a good man early and see if she needs any special service. Just take this card to parlor 3. Mr. Mason has gone. No, I don't think he left an address. There is no opera to-night. Paper? Certainly. Queer man, that; took half a dozen sheets of paper and one envelope. Oh, Mrs. Wilson, your little girls were here just now. Dr. Gill will be up soon, and the waiter will see you about dinner. Flowers? Yes, Miss Kate spoke about them."

"Where's that coupe?" shouts a burly fellow.

"At the door."

"What door?"

"Front door—are there ladies? Yes? Front, bring coupe for 19 to ladies' entrance. You'll find it there, sir."

"No. 50 wants a typewriter."

"Tell him to send to 7610 Broadway, fourth story, room 42, and ask for Sarah Slowboy." Clang! "Get baggage from 80 and have carriage ready to catch 2 o'clock train for Albany. Dr. Deems's church? Here's the Herald—you'll find Deems's and the rest on the first page. No, sir; you can't get theater tickets at the news-stand. Certainly. Front, show Mr. Gilmore the telephone. How are you, Mr. Short? Charley's in the cafe with your brother. Time? Some begin at 8, some at 8:30, but 8:15 is a fair average. Brandy with a dash of ginger will fix you in no time. Front, ice-water for 79. That woman will die if—she drinks so much water.

"Do attend that fire in No. 6. They've sent down four times in half an hour. No, sir, there are no letters. I told your son so long ago. Front, go to 73 and see if there's a dog there. Let me know at once," and so on, and on.

And yet they say hotel clerks frequently live to be old men.

Theatrical Pests.

"When I first went to Louisville," said the manager of a well-known traveling opera company, "I wondered why the box-office receipts were so light when the audiences were so large. I asked the manager of the theater about it, and he gave a quiet chuckle. 'Just stand at the door to-morrow evening and see for yourself,' said he. So the next night I posted myself at the door and watched operations. One of the first to appear was a dowdy-looking old fellow wearing a slouch hat and carrying a big cane. 'Good-evenin,' sah,' said he to the door-tender. 'Ah, good-evening, major,' replied the door-tender, hospitably; 'walk in.' 'Thank you, sah,' said the major; 'much obliged to you, sah.' And in he strode. This surprised me. 'Who'n thunder's that?' I asked. 'Oh, he's all right,' said the door-keeper; 'he used to be chief of our fire department. Then a portly man hove in sight; he was very airy, and his shirt-front was redolent of diamonds and patchouli. 'Ah, good-evening, colonel,' said the door-keeper; 'walk in.' 'Thank you, sah,' replied the airy gentleman, and in *he* walked. 'That,' said the door-tender, in a confidential whisper, 'that is Col. Lewis Clark, president of our Jockey club.' Well, I stood at the door about half an hour; then I went off to a corner drug store and tried to bribe the clerk to give me a hypodermic injection of prussic acid. I never was so disgusted in all my life. One-third of the people paid their way into the theater: the other two-thirds were either colonels who had been fire chiefs, or ball-club managers, or police sergeants, or gas inspectors, or members of the legislature, or mayors, or judges who had been police justices or referees at a horse-race, or members of the board of education, or city clerks, or something or other at some time or other. Colonels and judges never pay their way to anything in Kentucky, and two-thirds of the male population of Louisville are colonels and judges, and the other third kick because they are not colonels and judges, too!"

The Fourth Way.

A writer says that "wealth is for the most part got in three ways—by inheritance; by self-denial, and by care, labor and attention." Commenting on this Puck says the popular way for bank officials nowadays to acquire their wealth is by watching their chances and purchasing tickets to Canada.

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Leave Hillen station 9.05, Union 9.10, Pennsylvania avenue 9.15, Fulton 9.17 a. m. Returning, leave Pen-Mar at 5.35, arriving in Baltimore at 8.32 p. m.

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Seats can be secured the day before at 133 West Baltimore street, Baltimore, or parties can have seats reserved for them for any date specified by writing in advance to R. Handy McCoy, Excursion agent, W. M. R. R., Hillen station, Baltimore, and if desired he will meet parties on arrival by boat. 6 27 tf

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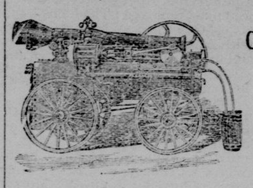

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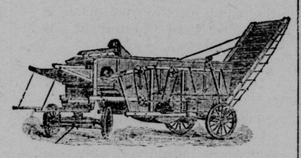

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6 25	2 15	Oxford,	12 08	10 00
6 34	2 23	Trappe,	12 00	9 52
6 50	2 38	Easton,	11 45	9 37
7 00	2 49	Chapel,	11 33	9 24
7 08	2 55	Cordova,	11 27	9 17
7 18	3 05	Queen Anne,	11 18	9 08
7 29	3 16	Ridgely,	11 06	8 58
7 39	3 26	Greensboro,	10 56	8 48
7 48	3 36	Goldsboro,	10 46	8 38
8 55	3 43	Henderson,	10 40	8 32
7 02	3 50	Marydel,	10 34	8 26
8 11	3 58	Slaughters,	10 26	8 18
8 14	4 00	Hartley,	10 24	8 16
8 24	4 09	Kenton,	10 14	8 06
8 34	4 18	Clayton,	10 05	7 57
A. M.	P. M.		A. M.	P. M.

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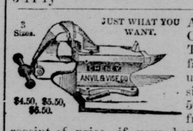

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