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WOOING HIS WIFE.

Although Farmer Tucker had long dreamed of a visit to Chatauqua, when he found himself at that Mecca of devout excursionists, the brawny man was tempted to doubt his own identity. The holiday surroundings were wholly unlike anything to which he was accustomed in his prosy New England home; the rich, crowded program offered was in striking contrast to the dull monotony of farm life. When this son of toil first entered the auditorium, and saw the rustic amphitheater crowded with thousands of people listening breathlessly to the full, sweet tone of the grand organ, his cramped, selfish heart was strangely touched and expanded. For an instant the wish crept in that he had asked Jane if she would like to come, too. But there was not much time for his own thoughts, for as the music ceased, a white-haired gentleman arose and announced the name of an orator who is well known from Maine to California.

"Well, now, it beats all to think I'm going to hear the man I've wanted to hear for more'n twenty years," Farmer Tucker whispered to himself. The lecturer commenced his brief address with one of his inimitable descriptions. The story was of a man who applied for a divorce, and was advised by his eminent lawyer to try the effect of making love to his wife as he had done before marrying her, instead of resorting to the measure he had proposed. It included also an account of a late visit when the happy husband withdrew his application, and, fairly dancing with glee, assured the lawyer that his experiment had worked like a charm, that "Sally had become an amiable and affectionate wife as a man could ask to have." His representation of the scene drew forth long applause, but Samuel's Tucker's interest was of too serious a nature to permit his joining in the laughter. As if unconscious for a moment of the multitude about him, he said, in an undertone: "I'd be willing to take my oath that wouldn't work with Jane. All I have to say is, that man's wife was different from mine; I'd as soon think of feeding serrup to a mummy as to begin sparking again with her."

At length he quieted his conscience with the detemination to prove that his estimate of his wife was correct. "When I go home," he said to himself, "I'll just show the woman some little attentions, and I'll see they won't have any more effect on her than they would on the old bay mare. Jane's bound to be sullen and obstinate, and I suppose I may as well make up my mind to it."

On reaching home the resolution was not easily carried out. When Mr. Tucker planned some gallantry toward his wife the very thought made him feel so unnatural and foolish that postponement resulted, but the Sabbath offered an opportunity so convenient that he improved it.

The farm was nearly a mile from church, yet Samuel Tucker had for years been in the habit of driving home alone, leaving his wife to attend the Sunday-school and then walk home as best she could through mud or dust. Great was Mrs. Tucker's astonishment, therefore, on the Sabbath after his return, to find him waiting for her at the close of the bible service. The faintest suspicion that he had driven back to church for her did not cross the good woman's mind; she supposed he had business with some of the brethren, and hesitated whether to walk on as usual or to suggest waiting for him, when the farmer called out: "It's just as cheap to ride as to walk." Silently the woman took her seat in the buggy and silently they drove home, much to the husband's satisfaction, for it seemed to him a proof of the woman's dull, unappreciative nature. "She didn't act pleased, but was only dazed like, as I knew she would be," he muttered, as he went about his midday "chores."

At the same time Mr. Tucker was conscious of having performed a most praiseworthy act, and felt so comfortable that he resolved to repeat the experiment. So on the following Sabbath, Jane again found her husband in waiting, and, as she mounted the high buggy, ventured to utter a half-audible "thank you," and to ask Samuel if he had been waiting long. To which Mr. Tucker replied that he had just reached the church, and didn't know but what he might find she had started on foot. This reply seemed to Jane a positive assurance that her husband had really returned for the sole purpose of taking her home; and her chilled heart glowed with warmth unknown for years. She longed to tell her husband how much she appreciated his trouble, but imagined it would sound "so foolish" that she kept her pleasure to herself.

The third Sabbath was rainy, and as she washed the breakfast dishes Mrs. Tucker kept thinking: "I wonder if Samuel means to come for me this noon; it would be such a help in the rain; I'm half a mind to ask him!" This resolution was soon stifled with the reasoning which had silenced many similar resolves in the past ten years. "No, I won't ask no favors; if he don't think enough of me to come, why he needn't." Although proudly unwilling to seek any attentions, Jane longed for some demonstration of her husband's love and care. She had walked home in the rain too often to greatly dread such exposure. But a week before the wife had tasted the joy of being considered, and longed for some further proof of her companion's affection.

Mrs. Tucker's heart leaped for joy when at noon she saw the old mare's head from the lecture-room window. Indeed, her hungering heart became quite unmanageable, and, entering the carriage door, melted Jane sobbed out:

"I'm sure it's very good of you, Samuel to come for me this rainy day," and then the tears flowed so fast that further words were impossible.

Completely taken by surprise, Mr. Tucker exclaimed, "I declare, I hadn't no idee you'd care so much about it!"

"I wouldn't mind the walk," responded the wife, "but—Samuel—I'm so happy to have you—care enough about me to come."

The strong man was brushing away a tear from his own cheek now, his tenderer, better nature was mastering the hard, selfish spirit which had long possessed him, and with coughing and choking: "Jane, I see I've made an awful botch of our married life; if you're a mine to forgive me, I'll see if I can't treat you from day to day as a woman ought 'o be treated."

This confession was all too much for the weeping wife, and she answered quickly:

"You're not a bit more to blame than I am; I've been proud and obstinate; but I tell you what it is, we will begin all over again."

The ice was now thoroughly broken, and that afternoon Farmer Tucker and his wife had a long talk over the past and the future. And in the evening, when they were about to start for the prayer-meeting to be held in the neighboring school-house, the renewed husband stooped and kissed his wife, saying:

"Jane, I've been a-thinking that married life ain't so different from farming or any other occupation. Now I ain't such a fool as to think a field will keep a-yielding if I only enrich it once and plant it once; I have to go over the same ground every season; and here I suppose you was a-going to do always do as you did when we were a-courting, without my doing my part at all."

"If I hadn't changed any, maybe you would always have been as tender as you used to be," pleaded his wife.

"Perhaps so and perhaps not; but I don't mean to leave you to try no such plan. I tell you what it is, Jane, I feel, as if we hadn't never really been married till to-day. It most seems as if we ought to take a wedding tower."

"I'm afraid we'll have to wait until next summer for that," was the smiling response.

"I suppose we shall, but we'll take it then certain; and I'll tell you where we'll go, wife—that's to Chautauquy!"

Femininity Likes Giants.

"Pet a giant," said the manager of a dime museum in Pittsburg, "and he will become devoted to you as a mastiff: for, like mastiffs, giants are fond of being petted and made much of. They love to get some silly women who attends every show of the dime museum order interested in them, so that they can enjoy the caresses and endearment of these ridiculous females during their off hours. Curiously enough, too, they enjoy the society of petite women more than that of those nearer their size. I can't begin to tell you what fools some women make of themselves over certain curiosities. They won't look at living skeletons, fat people, dwarfs, or, in fact, any disagreeable deformities: but put a well-formed giant or tattooed man on exhibition, and they will go wild about him—take him out driving or to their homes and entertain him sumptuously. I remember that when Capt. Constentenus, the shapely tattooed man, showed with me, the great bulk of our receipts came from women. They crowded around him and ignored all the other curiosities. Every afternoon women would come to the museum in cabs to take him out driving. I have observed similar occurrences in the case of fine-looking giants like Goshen."

The Street Flirt.

A writer in the American remarks: "Whatever ideas the young girls who practice street flirting may entertain of their seemingly innocent pastime, it may be set down as a certainty that when a respectable young man desires the acquaintance of one who may some day become his wife, he does not go out on the street and seek her acquaintance through a flirtation. But, on the other hand, the flirt of the street, no matter how innocent and fair her intentions may be, is the last person he would seek as his life's companion. He desires purity, without and above suspicion. The young lady who engages in this kind of pastime should bear in mind that she not only endangers her reputation and leaves a stain upon her good name, but that her name is a byeword among those with whom she flirts, to be bandied about in the saloons, on the street corners, and in low-down unholy places in the city, fastening on her otherwise fair name a stigma or stain that will follow her years after she sees her folly and attempts to mend her ways."

Humor and Melancholy.

A glance at Bill Arp's face, the other day, suggested the query: Why are all humorists gloomy? The greatest English wits and humorists lived lives of work and pain. Artemus Ward always seemed to be on the verge of tears. M. Quad, who comes down this way nearly every winter, is the most disconsolate and uncomfortable looking tourist ever seen in this section. Josh Billings has the air of a man who has just seated himself on a tack. Petroleum V. Nasby looks fighting mad all the time. Mark Twain wears the injured look of a bad boy who has been pulled out of bed to see congenial company. They are all alike. They don't seem to enjoy life. Why is it?—[Atlanta Constitution.

The Bank of England Watch.

The Bank of England has been guarded every night since 1780 by a picked body of soldiery, which consists of two sergeants, two corporals, a drummer and twenty-nine privates, all under the command of a chosen subaltern. The guard goes on duty between 5 and 7 o'clock in the evening, according to the season. The officer is given a dinner and a bottle of wine, each seargeant is given a half a crown, each corporal 18 pence, and each private a shilling daily on going on duty.

Annie Louise Cary's Kindness.

One summer, as was her custom, Annie Louise Cary (Mrs. Raymond), spent some little time in her father's old home, a short distance from Portland, Me., which she made her own during her vacation. It was after she had been feted at home and abroad, had sung before crowned heads and nobility, and diamonds had been but one of a profusion of gifts showered upon her. One morning she ran into a neighbor's kitchen as if "she were not Miss Cary," as the girl said, where a girl of eighteen or twenty stood froning. Like many bright New England girls, she longed to get away from her small surroundings and try a larger sphere. "Why, I have my trials," said Miss Cary, "and you could not understand them."

"Oh," answered the girl, "what are troubles to you? You can do as you please with the world, instead of waiting to see what the world is going to do with you."

"You are tired; let me iron awhile," said the famous songstress.

The girl protested. Miss Cary insisted, and carried her point. As her iron moved to and fro, she entertained the weary girl with stories of her own life, showing with what labor she had achieved her present success, and the trials incident to a public life. When she, too, became weary, she changed places with the girl, who had become rested and contented, and saying "Now, I'll sing for you," the voice which had held hundreds entranced now filled the little kitchen. For a long time she held the girl entranced by the spell of that charming voice, and when she went home left her happy, where she had found her restless and discouraged.

Since her marriage Miss Cary has not sung in public except on Easter and Christmas in church.

Co-Operative Housekeeping.

Mary Livermore says that co-operative housekeeping will banish the cookstove and the washtub from the home, as the loom and spinning-wheel have already been. She, with some fifty other families, have experimented with a co-operative laundry and have been able to reduce the cost of their washing and froning to twenty-seven cents a dozen, including dresses and the most difficult pieces. The present system of housekeeping involves a vast waste of fuel, of time, and of women that might be put to a better use.

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I am carrying on the Blacksmithing business at the old stand formerly occupied by John T. Comegys, on Third Street, where I will continue to do first-class work at reasonable prices. I will continue Horse-shoeing at prices to suit the times. I hope by reasonable prices, and prompt attention to the wants of my customers to merit a good share of public patronage. [10 25 1y.

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Come and see for yourself. It will pay you to pay the cash for your goods and avoid the extra charges always incident to the credit business.

As I only use my own force is employed—another saving to my customers. I intend to run my business hereafter on a

Close Cash Basis,

and intend that you shall hear from me "before the races are over." Mark it!

Another word to my country patrons: I will, at a small discount,

PAY CASH FOR TRADE

if you do not wish my goods.

I promise to be, as I have been before, a benefit to you.

Yours with much respect, THOMAS M. COOPER.

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For Tender Feet, at $3.50, are superior to all others. We make and warrant every pair. They are specially adapted for tender feet. Pels' Ladies $2.50 Button Boots cannot be equalled anywhere. Pels' Misses' Button Boots at $2.00 are first-class in every respect.

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Satisfaction guaranteed.

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