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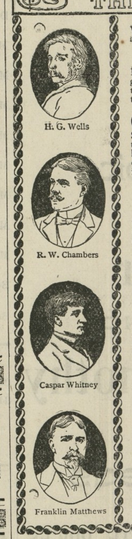


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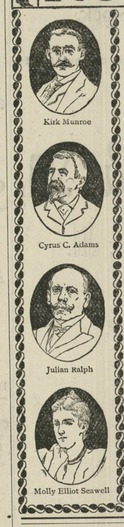


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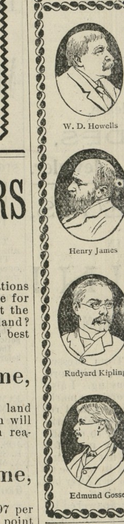


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THE CLUB SONG.

The most quaint and picturesque club house in Maryland, and possibly in any other State, stands about two and a half miles from Chestertown, on the left side of the cross roads leading from the Chestertown-Hanesville road to Flatland's school house, on the Tolchester road. It's an unpretentious looking story and a half house having its plain weather boarding heavily encrusted with layers of ordinary whitewash. Near it is a branch whose forests of magnolia blooms in summer freighted the early summer air with fragrance, while during the chilly winter its sparkling waters, half congealed, sent a song which blended with the joyous revelries of the members of the Hall Horn Club. The unpretentious little home of Richard Snowden Thomas sat amid scenes peculiarly inspiring to the restful, informal life of its owner and his friends.

With enough of this world's goods to preclude the necessity of aggressive enterprise, the owner of the little castle dispensed a royal hospitality, and lived an ideal life of ease and comfort. An old bachelor family cares were unknown. His cellar was always stocked with well-filled jugs and demijohns of old Bourbon whiskey, while his well-stocked pantry was presided over by old Aunt Mariah, a veritable wizzard of good cooking. The master of Horn Hall and president of the club, when a young man swore off from drink, and though he lived to be eighty-five years of age remained true to his pledge. He was born on January 11th, 1787, and died in April of 1871.

Possessing a keen sense of humor, he found in the society of young men that conviviality and social intercourse which had become a necessity to his very being, and the Horn Hall Club was the result of this social demand. The doors of the club were always open and an air of come-when-you-please and go-as-you-please pervaded every nook and corner of the place. An old-time rockaway carriage having a monster horn painted on the back curtain with the words "Horn Hall Club," ran constantly between the club and Chestertown. This vehicle was at the disposal of the members at any and all times.

Whenever a new member was to be sworn in he took the oath of allegiance to the master of the hall and the club, on a beautiful horn. This horn is now owned by Mr. J. Evan Thomas, of Chestertown. It is three inches in diameter at the large end, nineteen inches long and a most beautiful brown in color. It looks like polished ivory and is handsomely carved. As to the history of the old horn no one knows. Before his death Mr. Thomas presented the horn to George N. Hines, of Kent, it then passed to Mrs. Julia Whaland and finally Mrs. Ella Kelley got it and gave it in 1897 to its present owner, Mr. J. Evan Thomas. It was originally twenty-eight inches in length.

Many of the most prominent names in Kent county are associated with the revels at the Horn Hall Club. On its roster of members were: George N. Hines, William Harris, William B. Wilmer, E. A. Moore, R. A. Stam, George W. Spencer, Jere Nicols, George W. T. Perkins, Richard Hynson, W. N. E. Wickes and many others.

Here was the centre of the social life in Kent; here was collected wit, humor, eloquence and wealth.

This is the Horn Hall Club song, composed by Mr. Thomas, and sung on all State occasions by the members:

Come each jovial fellow,
Who loves to get mellow,
Attend unto me and sit easy.
One jorum in quiet
We quickly will try it,
Dull thinking will make a man crazy.
For here I am king,
We can drink, laugh and sing,
Let no one appear as a stranger.
But show me the ass
Who refuses his glass,
And I will order him hay in the manger.

By plowing and sowing,
By reaping and mowing,
Kind nature supplies me with plenty.
I've a cellar well-stored,
A plentiful board,
And my cupboard affords every dainty.
I've all things in season,
Both woodcock and phaesant,
Besides I'm a squire of decorum.
At my cabin's far end,
I've a bed for a friend,
A clean fireside and my jorum.

Were it not for this seeding,
You'd have but poor feeding,
You'd surely be starving without me.
I'm always content,
When I've paid all my rent,
And happy when friends are about me.
Draw near to the table,
I'm thriving and able,
Let's not have a word of complaining.
The jingling of glasses,
All music surpasses,
I love to see bottles a draining.

Let the mighty and great,
Loll in splendor and state,
I envy them not I declare it.
I eat my own ham,
My chickens and lamb,
I shear my own fleece and I wear it.
I've birds and I've bowers,
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The lark is my daily alarmer.
So ye jolly boys now,
Who delight in the plow,
Drink long life and success to the farmer.

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## THE BANDIT BAND.

**A Story of Feudal Times Written in 1855.**

In the early annals of Spain, Count Julien, a rich and powerful Gothic noble, having been injured by Roderick the King, to avenge himself, invited the Moors to invade Spain. Accordingly large numbers came over and were successful in subduing the country. The fate of King Roderick was never known. Some of the Goths believed he would one day return and lead them again to battle against the hated Moors, and would therefore not submit to the conquerors. Among these was a famous "Bandit Band" who held their court in a strong, old castle, surrounded by rocks, on an island.

One day they left their stronghold to go, as was their wont, on a predatory excursion against the Moors, leaving at home only their wives and children. The castle was so concealed among the rocks and the access to it so difficult, the bandits did not suppose strangers would discover it, therefore left no men to protect their families. During their absence a petty Moorish Chief, with his followers, accidentally discovering the path, pursued it to the castle. Soon effecting an entrance, the savage Moors murdered the Gothic women and children and comfortably ensconced themselves.

One boy, however, escaped the massacre of his people and hastened towards the returning bandits, whom he apprised of the capture of their island home. They had been scattered, but were now congregating near their home. As it was unsafe to appear openly in large numbers, they waited for the shades of night to cover their place of rendezvous. They then proceeded swiftly to their castle to punish the invaders, arriving while the Moors were feasting, they mercilessly attacked and slew them amid their Bacchanalian revelry. A furious tempest raging without added horror to the scene.

'Tis summer eve, the twilight grey
Is deep'ning o'er the beauteous land,
Night's dusky veil will soon conceal
The meeting of the "Bandit Band."

In angry tone, thus speaks the chief—
We've work to-night, my comrades brave,
Yon rock-bound isle, yon sea-girt home
This night must be again our own.

We'll have revenge on him who holds
His court to-night, where mine should be.
Care not for laws, which cowards bind,
These ne'er control a warrior's mind.

Shall we submit, like abject slaves?
To cruel despots, brutal knaves?
Gird on your swords, come on ye brave,
Revenge is sweet, revenge we'll have.

PART II.

In yon grey castle, reared on high,
Mid jutting crags, with ocean nigh
Whose sullen surges beat and roar
Against the wild and rocky shore.

The bandit band their home had made,
And wives and children there had stayed,
While they went forth to meet the foe
On mountain height or valley low.

But ne'er again shall sires greet
Those infant forms they loved to meet,
For ne'er again shall sires bold
Behold those forms, e'er they be cold.

For brutal hearts and deadly hands
Did cast their corses on the sands,
Now cold and still those loved ones lay
Beneath the waters of the bay.

When o'er the earth night's sable pall
Fast hides grey tower and mouldering wall,
Then marshalled all, the bandit band
Sternly await their chief's command.

The sky is now with clouds o'er cast,
Which darker grow before the blast;
The thunder rumbles deep and loud,
Red lightning gleams on every cloud.

PART III.

In yon old hall, a Chieftain Moor
(A savage, brutal, untaught boor)
Now holds his court, and sounds of mirth
In drunken revelry have birth.

The coarse rude jest, the hoarse loud laugh
Of men, excited by the wine they quaff,
Half drown the tempest's awful voice
Whose wildest furies now rejoice.

But hark! above the din we hear
A voice so loud, so shrill and clear
The notes, as borne along the gale
Make e'en the Moorish Chieftain quail.

Around their chief, with quivering frame
The revelers crowd, by fear made sane:
With firm, clenched swords, amid the din
The dreaded bandit band rush in.

The stalwart chieftain shouts aloud,
"T' avenge our cruel wrongs we've vowed
Our murdered wives and children call,
Let none escape, but slaughter all.

Don Pedro, Josef, Diego,
Fernando, Carlos, Roberto,
Strike fierce and deep, my comrades brave,
Revenge is sweet, revenge we'll have."

Despair, the unarmed Moor makes bold.
He grasps the knife with desperate hold,
And grapples fierce with deadly foes
Whose hearts for vengeance only glows.

The festal board is overturned,
By men whose souls for conflict burn'd;
Wild shrieks from dying wretches rise,
To spare—the bandit fierce denies.

Their corses strew the cold stone floor,
With streams of blood and clots of gore;
The wine and blood together flow,
The blood of friends with fiercest foe.

The howling tempest's awful voice,
Is drowned in passions harsher noise;
But soon deep gloom and silence reign,
Their foes, the "bandit band" have slain.

HARRIETT LOUISA WESTCOTT.

(Read before the Lend a Hand Club of Mt. Washington, Nov. 5th, 1898.

## THE OPEN COURT.

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## MOTHER-IN-LAW TO HER MOTHER

**And a Lot of Other Mixed up Relationships.**

PRESCOTT, Mich., Jan. 21.—This town is all worked up over a series of recent marriages. Everybody who can handle a pencil is trying to figure out the present and possible future relationship of the interested parties.

The famous pigs in clover puzzle is not a circumstance in comparison with it. Already several persons have come down with nervous prostration, and others are threatened. The authorities are seriously contemplating the prohibition of further mental strain by process of law. This is how it is;

John A. Cameron, aged 89, married Miss Anna B. Van Doren, who is 26 years old. For the past 10 years the young woman had been employed in a dry goods store at Oscoda, six of them as chief bookkeeper and cashier. So far, the use of a pencil is not required, but more remains to be told.

A short time ago, Mrs. George Van Doren, aged 46, mother of the bride in the present instance, was married to Hugh C. Cameron, 58 years old, son of the aged bridegroom, who now marries her daughter. Here is where the mathematical problem comes in.

To begin with, Mrs. John A. Cameron is her mother's mother-in-law. Hugh C. Cameron is his father's father. John A. Cameron is his mother-in-laws's father-in-law. Mrs. John A. Cameron is her father-in-law's mother-in-law. Mrs. Hugh C. Cameron is her daughter's daughter-in-law, and John A. Cameron is his son's son-in-law. Mrs. Hugh C. Cameron is her son-in-law's daughter-in-law.

Thus Mrs. John Cameron becomes the mother of her own mother, and Hugh Cameron his father's father.

Should John A. Cameron and wife have a son he would be step-brother to his grandmother. Hugh C. Cameron, his step-brother, would also be his grrndfather. A son born to Hugh C. Cameron and wife would be a step-brother to his grandmother.

## WOMEN AS CRIMINALS.

**Axioms Formulated by a Chief of Detectives.**

"Ben" Bohen, a veteran San Francisco detective captain, gives his views of women as criminals in these philosophic axioms:

Women as criminals are very smart, but they cannot keep crime hidden so well as a man.

A woman is more desperate in love affairs than in anything else. Men get desperate about money matters.

If a woman of the criminal type loves a man, she will, as a rule, do almost anything to win him.

It is difficult to convict women of murder; the jurors are men, and they sympathize.

Men don't want to have women hanged, but a jury of women might go to the other extreme.

Women don't like women as men like men.

A woman has no sympathy with another woman who has done wrong, but often a man has sympathy for a wrongdoing fellow and will help him out.

If a man don't like a man he wants to have the other know it. It is just the reverse between two women.

A half-way decent woman will do anything to hide a criminal who is her lover.

Get a woman in a tight place and she will tell about a crime quicker than a man would.

When a woman is led to believe that a man has given her up she is apt to tell about his crimes.

Men kill themselves when they are broke; women don't. The women can stond it better and are more used to it.

Most of the suicides of women are on account of desertion.

When a man is deserted he gets another girl and begins life over.—*San Francisco Examiner.*

### What is Good.

"What is the real good?"
I asked in musing mood.
"Order," said the law court;
"Knowledge," said the school;
"Truth," said the wise man;
"Pleasure," said the fool;
"Love," said the maiden;
"Beauty," said the page;
"Freedom," said the dreamer;
"Home," said the sage;
"Fame," said the soldier;
"Equty," the seer.
Spake my heart full sadly—
"The answer is not here."
Then within my bossom
Softly this I heard:
"Each heart holds the secret;
Kindness is the word."

—Jonn Boyle O'Reilly.

### Unmasked by Science.

*From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.*

The lady professor suddenly reached forward and deftly picked a long, light hair from her husband's coat.

"Wretch," she cried, "whose is this?"

"One of your own," he answered stoutly.

"We will see," she haughtily observed, and speedily vanished through a door labelled "Laboratory." For an hour or more the sound of clinking tubes and glasses was faintly heard through the heavy partition.

Then the door suddenly opened and the lady professor stood on the threshold.

Her face was blazing.

"Villian," she cried, "it was bleached!"

But he had gone.

### A Small Boy's Problem.

I wonder how I'd like it,
And I wonder who I'd be,
Supposing I was somebody else,
And somebody else was me!
I wonder, I just wonder,
What boy I'd like to be—
Supposing I didn't like him
When I found that he was me!

—*Lillian Dealing, in St. Nicholas.*


### Beats the Klondike.

Mr. A. C. Thomas, of Marysville, Tex., has found a more valuable discovery than has yet been made in the Klondike. For years he suffered unt