fer charges, sir. You're not of our brigade, are you, general?"

"No; but what of it?"

"Then you had no right to ask him to act as orderly. General orders say, 'o receive' "—

"Hang general orders!" was the officer's explosive interruption. "You refuse to obey too? I'll have you reported to ranks!"

"All right, sir," came the cheerful response. "I'm Corporal Kelly of B company, Second infantry, if you don't happen to know me. Fall in, Kennedy. Left, forward, march!" And the grinning files straggled down the hill.

"Pardon me, but 'General Orders' says to have defeated General Barry this morning," smiled the girl.

"And General Barry will do his best to turn defeat into victory," was the quick response as the man climbed into the saddle.

The general cursed himself for a fool as he galloped back to his tent. A desire to punish the sentry for his presumption in speaking to an officer's daughter had not caused his outbreak as much as a desire to appear well before the girl.

He had met her the winter before while she was visiting in his home town. The general in private life was a successful young attorney who had believed himself too busy to fall in love, but at sight of Grace he had capitulated. During the fortnight of her stay he had made ardent love and did not doubt that in time his suit would be favorably received. The girl liked him, for he was frank and handsome and not quite spoiled by success. Yet there was a barrier to her heart which he could not pass. She would not allow him to visit her at the little city where she lived, and he was forced to be content with the half promise that they might meet at camp, and straightway Randolph Barry began to count the days which must elapse before the encampment.

Yet their meeting on the evening of the first day had not been encouraging. The colonel's daughter had greeted him as she did her other friends. And this second interview! He ground his teeth as he thought of his folly. An hour later he laid his version of the encounter with the sentry before Major General Goodwin, commander of the two brigades in camp.

"Have a drink, Barry," urged his superior when he had finished, "and you'll probably feel better. I can't order those boys under arrest for that."

"This confounded young Kennedy was impudent, I tell you," snarled Barry. "He's a pretty soldier, quoting general orders to me when he was disobeying one when I rode up! I want him in the guardhouse just to square myself with Grace Van Tuyl." He clicked his spurs viciously.

"Can't make regulars out of these fellows in ten days," was the conciliating reply. "Discipline is all right, in moderation. We can't shut down on 'em real hard. Why, this man Kennedy owns a factory down in Trenton. He's got dead loads of money. I'm surprised he was as decent as you admit he was," and the general's eyes twinkled.

"Jim," returned Barry very earnestly, "I've got to see him court martialed. I know Miss Van Tuyl well, and, and" —he hesitated a moment—"it makes a difference what she thinks of me. You understand?"

General Goodwin was silent a moment. When he spoke, he had dropped the half bantering manner which had marked the interview on his part. His tone was kindly and sincere: "I understand, and I'm sorry—sorry I can't accommodate you, and for another reason. Tom Kennedy's my nephew, my sister's kid, and I've got to see him through. I told him he could have a place on my staff, but he wanted to be a real soldier, he said. So he enlisted in B company, and in view of what you've said I have to tell the rest of it, but he's engaged to Miss Van Tuyl. They're to be married in September."

The younger man rose and walked to the front of the tent before he replied. "I believe I'll take that drink, general," he said, with an assumption of his old gay manner. "I seem to have been routed with loss by 'General Orders' and his aid, General Cupid. I drink"—he removed his hat gallantly and clinked glasses with his superior—"to the future Mrs. Kennedy, God bless her!"

Watch the Thumbs.

A physician in charge of a well known asylum for the care of the insane said: "There is one infallible test either for the approach or presence of lunacy. If the person whose case is being examined is seen to make no use of his thumb, if he lets it stand out at right angles from the hand and employs it neither in salutation, writing nor any other manual exercise, you may set it down as a fact that that person's mental balance is gone. He or she may converse intelligibly, may in every respect be guarding the secret of a mind diseased with the utmost care and cunning, but the telltale thumb will infallibly betray the lurking madness which is concealed behind a plausible demeanor."

Graveyard Marriages.

A strange custom prevails among a certain tribe in the Caucasus. When a single young man dies, some one calls upon a bereaved parent who has carried to the grave a marriageable daughter in the course of a year and says: "Your son is sure to want a wife. I'll give you my daughter, and you shall deliver to me the marriage portion in return." A friendly offer of this description is never rejected, and the two parties soon come to terms as to the amount of the dowry, which varies according to the advantages possessed by the girl in her lifetime. Cases have been known where the young man's father has given as much as thirty cows to secure a dead wife for his dead son.

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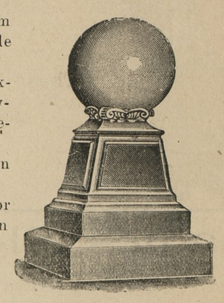
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