Kent News

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A RED FIRE COMPANY.

IT STARTED OUT TO SHAKE THINGS UP IN JERICHO.

Pap Perkins, the Postmaster, Tells How the Enthusiastic Organization Was Busted Up by One of Lish Billings' Pranks.

[Copyright, 1900, by C. B. Lewis.]

The Jericho fire company, which consisted of 40 men, 10 pails, 2 axes and a ladder and all painted red except the men, is no more on earth. It was organized 13 years ago and never turned out to but one fire. Nobody had found any fault with it, however, up to two months ago, when Reube Holdfast came into the postoffice one day and says to me:

"Look here, Pap, this town of Jericho is deader'n a doornail, and unless sunthin kin be done to rouse her the moss on our backs will be a foot long in another year."

"What kin you do?" says I.

"That's what I've bin thinkin of fur the last month. We can't git up dog fights nor hoss races, and nobody will go in fur a brass band or a camp meetin. The only thing I kin think of is to resurrect the fire company and boom her fur all she's wuth. If we kin git things a-goin red hot, Jericho will wake up and push to the front till Chicago won't be in it. I'm gittin figgers together fur a speech, Pap, and you jest lay low fur three or four days, and you'll hear sunthin drop."

Before the week was out everybody in town knew that sunthin was up, and one evening Reube shot off his speech to the postoffice crowd and made a big hit. He had the number of fires and the losses in the United States fur the last fifty years, and he showed how a fire company kept down taxes, reduced insurance and was the mainspring of liberty. He pictured the town of Jericho in ashes fur the want of sunthin to squirt out a conflagration, and when he went on to describe widders lookin into the embers fur the bones of their husbands and husbands shovelin over hot coals in search of the remains of wives and children even Joe Truelove was seen to wipe a tear from his left eye. Fur once everybody seemed to be agreed, and when Reube was named fur foreman of the company nobody kicked. Before the meetin closed it was resolved to buy two more pails and another ladder and that the company should be uniformed.

WENT WHOOPING DOWN THE ROAD.

Jericho woke right up. Real estate began to jump, Tom Bigelow put down six rods of new sidewalk, and Homer Lee repainted his barn and put new hinges on his gate. People who came over from Dobbs Ferry and witnessed the speerit of enterprise went home jealous of the town, and a lightnin rod man said that the hustlin reminded him of the early days of Kansas City and Denver. It wasn't a week before the Widder Taylor's smokehouse got afire at midnight, and Peleg Scott rung the alarm bell in a way to turn the hull town bottom side up in five minits. That fire company went at that conflagration to conker or die, and in 17 minits the red tongued flames of destruction had bin doused out, and Jericho was safe. In a leetle speech which follered the fire Squar' Danvers said that Rome in her palmiest days never equaled the occasion, and Philetus Johnson declared that the thanks of congress would be a poor reward fur such heroism.

The day the firemen got their uniforms Jericho got up on her hind legs and howled. There was sich excitement in the town that soft soap was allowed to boil over, bread was burned up in the ovens, and most folks forgot to feed their hogs. Some idea of what sort of a royal jubilation it was kin be gathered from the fact that one grocery alone sold 16 lemons and 7 cocoanuts durin the day. It was Reube Holdfast's idea that a fireman should always be on duty, and he advised every member of the company to wear his uniform day and night. When the first thunderstorm came along, the fire bell rang, and the company turned out and stood ready to rush to the spot if lightnin hit anythin. If there was a dog fight in front of the town hall, the company come rushin up, and if anybody's team ran away or a kitchen stove got red hot there was a dash of red shirted heroes. Jericho was boomin, but Reube wasn't satisfied with her progress. He got his company out and marched them to Sunday church and to Thursday evenin prayer meetin. There was a lawsuit over a cow between Jim White and Aaron Tompkins, and the fire company was present in full uniform. Old Mrs. Hopkins was taken sick, and the doctor said she must go, and Reube felt it his duty to march the company up to her house and bid her a last farewell. Her sickness took a turn fur the better, and she begun to git well, and Reube marched the company up ag'in to give her three cheers fur not dyin.

After about a month there was only one thing lackin. The fire company had turned out fur everythin but a funeral, but death had obstinately refused to gin it a show. There was a lot of old folks with asthma and liver complaint and a lot of babies with whoopin cough and measles, but none of 'em would die. Reube used to go around achin fur it, and he'd drop into the postoffice occasionally to say to me:

"Pap, if some one would only die, I'd turn out the boys in a way to jump Jericho 100 years ahead. Them red pails and axes and ladders would jest be an offset to the mournin, and the way the boys would stand around on one leg and look solemn would be a picture to beat an old master. How's your heart disease, Pap?"

"Better, thank you."

"I was in hopes it was wuss. Thar's wuss men nor you, Pap Perkins, but if you'll only die our fire company will gin ye a sendoff to make yer widder proud fur the rest of her days."

Reube was on the watch day and night fur a funeral, and he'd almost made up his mind to turn out the company fur the next cow that died of holler horn when a crisis come like a flash. Owin to his lame leg Lish Billings hadn't j'ined the fire company, but he was an old and respected citizen who could beat anybody in town at a game of checkers. Tharfore when the news come that his well had caved in on him and buried him under ten feet of airth the fire bells rung and red shirts went whoopin down the road. Mrs. Billings didn't seem to care very much whether they got Lish's body or not, bein it was already buried, but they was determined to hev it fur a funeral. They worked all the arternoon and all night, and at intervals Reube had the bells toled fur the dead. Nobody in Jericho slept. The well kept cavin in, and the firemen kept workin like heroes to clear it out. It was 8 o'clock next mornin when they found Lish's old hat. As it was passed up to Reube he shed tears and turned his head away. Philetus Johnson was jest remarkin that Lish's loss was our gain or something of that sort, and the diggers down in the well were lookin fur arms and legs, when Lish himself appeared in the crowd. He seemed to be in good health and speerits, and he carelessly remarked to the fire company that he was much obleeged fur savin him a week's work. Nuthin was said fur about a minit, but presently Reube Holdfast wiped the tears from his eyes and asked:

"Lish, whar you bin since yesterday noon?"

"Up stairs in the house," says Lish.

"What was your objeck?"

"To boom Jericho by gettin up a funeral. Thar's my old hat, and you kin take it along and bury it in good shape."

Reube called off his company, and they marched back to town with solemn tread. They hadn't put away their red water pails before folks was laughin at 'em, and before sundown the doom of the fire company was sealed. Lish Billings had thrown 'em down, and the public was guyin and ridiculin. When the 7 o'clock mail had bin distributed, Reube stood up in the postoffice and said:

"Feller citizens, wharas this 'ere town of Jericho don't seem to appreciate enterprise, vigilance, heroism and booms and wharas she'd ruther be at the mercy of the fire fiend than to have her disastrous conflagrations squirted out, now tharfore resolved that this band of heroes be disbanded, and Jericho kin go to thunder!" M. QUAD.

Jealousy Among Monkeys.

When a monkey gives way to jealousy, it shows a degree of hatred for the animal that has innocently aroused its malice that makes it for the time a monster of cruelty.

On a ship returning from one of her tours in tropical lands was a monkey which became a great friend of the stewardess. One day she fed another monkey, a pretty, gentle creature. This trifling attention enraged the other monkey, which coaxed the little thing to its side and then, before the stewardess had time to realize that mischief was meant, took it by the neck and flung it overboard.

Of another monkey the same person tells that while preparing dinner for a grand party the cook was absent from the kitchen for a minute. No sooner had her back been turned than the monkey slipped a kitten of which it had always been jealous into the soup pot.

Why a Minister Gave Up Preaching.

A minister had his salary cut down $100 a year or so ago (and this was in a western church) because his wife wore a handsomer gown than some of the prominent women in the congregation. The reason was given openly, and the matter found its way into public print. The fact that the wife's wealthy aunt was the donor seemed to be of no consequence, and the poor woman herself, irritated and mortified at the publicity given to her private affairs, succeeded in persuading her husband to withdraw from the ministry.—"A Minister's Wife" in Ladies' Home Journal.

In Self Defense.

"What makes you assume such a loud and aggressive tone in proclaiming your own merits?" asked the very candid friend.

"I am forced to do it," was the great actor's answer. "I'm naturally one of the most modest men in the world, and I've got to keep praising myself for fear my sensitive nature will compel me to go to the manager and tell him I think I am getting too much money."—Washington Star.

Common Sense Talk With Women

If a person is ill and needs a medicine is it not wise to get one that has stood the test of time and has hundreds of thousands of cures to its credit?

A great many women who are ill try everything they hear of in the way of medicine, and this experimenting with unknown drugs is a constant menace to their already impaired health.

This seems to us very unwise, for there are remedies which are no experiments and have been known years and years to be doing only good.

Take for instance Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound; for thirty years its record has been one unbroken chain of success. No medicine for female ills the world has ever known has such a record for cures.

It seems so strange that some people will take medicines about which they really know nothing, some of which might be, and are, really harmful; while on the other hand it is easily proved that over one million women have been restored to health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

We have published in the newspapers of the United States more genuine testimonial letters than have ever been published in the interest of any other medicine.

All this should, and does, produce a spirit of confidence in the hearts of women which is difficult to dislodge, and when they are asked to take something else they say, "No, we want Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which has been tried, and never found wanting, whose reliability is established far beyond the experimental stage."

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"Four years ago I had almost given up hope of ever being well again. I was afflicted with those dreadful headache spells which would sometimes last three or four days. Also had backache, bearing-down pains, leucorrhœa, dizziness, and terrible pains at monthly periods, confining me to my bed. After reading so many testimonials for your medicine, I concluded to try it. I began to pick up after taking the first bottle, and have continued to gain rapidly, and now feel like a different woman. I can recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound in highest terms to all sick women."—MISS ROSA HELDEN, 126 W. Cleveland Ave., Canton, O.

Two Letters Which Prove That Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Will Remove Tumor and Cure Other Weakness.

"Two years ago I was a great sufferer from womb trouble and profuse flowing each month, and tumors would form in the womb. I had four tumors in two years. I went through treatment with doctors, but they did me no good, and I thought I would have to resort to morphine.

"The doctor said that all that could help me was to have an operation and have the womb removed, but I had heard of Mrs. Pinkham's medicine and decided to try it, and wrote for her advice, and after taking her Vegetable Compound the tumors were expelled and I began to get stronger right along, and am as well as ever before. Can truly say that I would never had gotten well had it not been for Lydia E. Pinkham's Compound."—MARY A. STAHL, Watsontown, Pa.

"After following the directions given in your kind letter for the treatment of leucorrhœa, I can say that I have been entirely cured by the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's remedies, and will gladly recommend them to my friends."—A. B. DAVIDS, Binghamton, N. Y.

Another Case of Womb, Kidney and Bladder Trouble Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR FRIEND—Two years ago I had child-bed fever and womb trouble in its worst form. For eight months after birth of babe I was not able to sit up. Doctors treated me, but with no help. I had bearing-down pains, burning in stomach, kidney and bladder trouble and my back was so stiff and sore, the right ovary was badly affected and everything I ate distressed me, and there was a bad discharge.

"I was confined to my bed when I wrote to you for advice and followed your directions faithfully, taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, Liver Pills and using the Wash, and am now able to do the most of my housework. I believe I should have died if it had not been for your Compound. I hope this letter may be the result of benefiting some other suffering woman. I recommend your Compound to every one."—MRS. MARY VAUGHN, Trimble, Pulaski Co., Ky.

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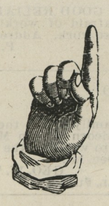

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