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Reference—Farmers & Merchants National Bank. mar15.

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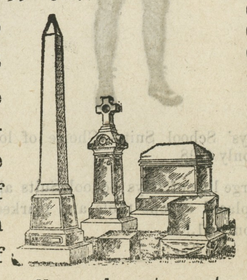

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Very respectfully,
ALFRED L. DAVIDSON, Manufacturer.
SALESLADY IN ATTENDANCE.

HIS SECOND THOUGHT.

The Stage Driver Acted on It and Saved His Passengers.

Back in the good old days when nerves and railroads were little known an old stage road ran from Lake Champlain to Ogdensburg, N. Y., passing through the little town of Sodom. This village nestled in a valley between two great hills, over which the white ribbon of the road wound steeply.

Upon one of the trips of the stage the regular driver, who had been at home for some weeks recovering from an illness, was riding inside, while the red haired, mild featured, big boned Irishman acting as his substitute occupied the driver's seat upon the box. The day was a beautiful one, and the passengers were enjoying their drive keenly, their appetites increasing as the distance lessened between them and the town of Sodom, with its promised pause for refreshment.

Suddenly as the heavy stage lumbered over the brow of the hill, down which the road plunged at a sharp angle, running through the little town at its foot and ascending the hill beyond, the passengers became conscious that their pace had been recklessly increased. Faster and faster they went, dashing down the hill at a rate rapidly becoming a furious one. Trees and bushes at last became but a dizzying blur along the road. All clung to the reeling stage and held their breath in terror, while on the stage raced, down the hill with ever increasing speed, into the town, past the hostelry with the waiting host left standing in amaze at the door, past the post office without pause, and out upon the road leading up the face of the hill beyond. There the pace slackened, and as the incline grew more steep at last the smoking horses came to a standstill. With one accord the dazed passengers tumbled out and surrounded the driver, who now stood at the head of his reeking leaders.

"What is it, Pat? What is it? Did they get away from you?" came the breathless questions.

"Nope," replied Pat with a set face. "It wor that," pointing grimly before him. There lay the stage tongue dragging uselessly on the ground at the heels of the horses and completely severed from the coach. At a glance the regular driver comprehended the meaning of the danger to which the passengers of that stage, deprived of its sole means of guidance, had been exposed, and, realizing the miracle of their escape, he turned sick and fainted where he stood.

Later, back at the inn, when the excitement had somewhat subsided and fresh horses were being put to the repaired coach, some one turned to Pat and asked:

"Pat, what was your first thought when the pole dropped?"

"Well, sor," he answered, settling the quid more comfortably in his cheek, "me furst thought wor, 'Lord ha' mercy on our sowls!' Thin thinks I to meself, 'Confound a horse that can't outrun a wagon!' and I licked the poor bastes all the way down the hill!"—Lippincott's.

A Progressive Editor.

A very rich man once bought a newspaper. It was an afternoon newspaper, and he was interested in it for a month or two. One of his ideas was the publication of a noon edition that should contain more news than the noon editions of his competitors. He thought hard on this problem and finally decided it would be a great stroke to print the decisions of the United States supreme court at 12 o'clock each Monday when the court was in session.

This plan was complicated somewhat by the fact that the supreme court does not meet until noon. However, the editor was equal to the emergency. He telegraphed to his Washington correspondent, "See the supreme court at once and have them meet at 11 o'clock so we can get the decisions in our noon edition."—Saturday Evening Post.

A Discriminating Dog.

"Yes, the neighbors complain about my dog."

"Does he bite?"

"No, he's too affectionate. He has the reputation of being a judge of beauty, and every time a pretty woman passes along the street he frisks about extravagantly."

"I should think the women would like that."

"Yes; but there are only two pretty women on the street, and the others complained."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Her Object.

Mr. Snoodles—Good afternoon, Miss Annex. Going for a walk? I hope I may accompany you?

Miss Annex—Yes. Dr. Sargeant says we must always walk with some object, and I suppose you will answer the purpose.

Seeks Diversion.

He—Why is she suing him for divorce?

She—For diversion.

He—Diversion!

She—Yes; she says being married is so monotonous.—Baltimore American.

Inseparable.

Affrighted, he turned on his pursuer.

"You black thing, why do you follow me constantly? What are you?"

"I am your sunshine companion," mockingly replied his shadow.—Chicago Tribune.

Just Whistling.

Nervous Employer—Thomas, I wish you wouldn't whistle at your work.

Office Boy—I ain't working, sir. I'm only just whistling.

Are you sure you are all right and those who don't believe as you do are all wrong?—Nebraska State Journal.

Shoes! Shoes! More Shoes!

The children must have *more* Shoes. That's the household cry in most families—where there are any children.

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