

pointing excitedly to the south, and the contestants on both sides paused and, turning in that direction, saw the heavy smoke from a ship's funnel on the horizon. One look was enough for the negroes, and with a cry of dismay they jumped from the ship and swam for the schooners, many of them so badly injured that they needed help from their comrades. A great shout went up from the passengers, and the Idle Man held out his hand to the manager in congratulation.

"Be a little easy with that paw," said the latter, as he presented a bruised and puffed up fist. "I've always heard that a nigger's nut was hard, an' I sure wise to it now. It reminds me of a guy wot uster break pavin' stones with his fist in our show, an' one day they run in a coon—"

His story was interrupted by a quartermaster, who asked the Idle Man to come to the bridge, and he and the Captain watched the approaching steamer through glasses. They could distinguish the yacht club pennant and a couple of machine guns, with their ammunition chests open behind them. As she drew near enough for them to make out her name, the Idle Man nearly dropped his glasses in astonishment, and hurried to the saloon to find the high school rider.

She greeted him warmly and congratulated him on their victory.

"I am afraid it would have been a defeat if a namesake of yours had not come to our rescue," he said, and a puzzled expression came to the girl's face.

"It's too early in the morning to guess riddles," she said. "And see what comes from breaking good resolutions. I did not intend to tell my name, even the first one, to any one, but I told you, and now you take advantage of it to tease me."

"I wouldn't abuse your confidence, and nothing is further from my thoughts than to tease you," he replied, "but, seriously, there is a beautiful steam yacht, the Jessica, almost within hailing distance."

She stared at him incredulously for a moment, and then, giving a little sob, she covered her face with her hands and hurried to her stateroom, and he returned to the deck, wondering what he could have said or done to upset her.

A launch from the yacht was alongside and the Captain was shaking hands with a handsome, sunburned young man who had just come on board.

"A rumour of your mishap reached me at Nassau, and as I know from personal experience how unpleasant these

wreckers can make it for a castaway crew and passengers I ran up here. I imagine I was none too soon," he said, glancing at the deck, which showed evidences of the struggle, and the Captain thanked him for his timely assistance.

"Your sister ship is on the way to your relief, and I will stand by until she comes. I guess between us we can fight off these crews."

"They got a pretty good grueling this morning," said the Captain laughing, "but this rich cargo is a great temptation and—"

The yachtsman, who was facing the companionway, suddenly left him and hurried up the deck, with both hands extended, to greet the high school rider, who had just emerged from it.

"Jessica! Little Jessica!" he exclaimed. "What in the world are you doing here child?" She put her hands in his and looked up at him, half laughing, half crying.

"I guess I was waiting for you to come and get me," she said with a little break in her voice, and he put his arms around her and drew her to him. They walked together toward the stern, and the Idle Man turned to the bow and gazed through the clear water at the coral reef.

A half hour later she called to him, and when he turned he was cordially greeted by the young yachtsman.

"This little girl has been a very foolish little girl," he said, looking at her affectionately, "but she tells me that you have been kindness itself to her, and I want to thank you and offer you a passage back to Nassau on the yacht with us. And she owes you an explanation, after all your kindness to her."

"There is nothing to explain, except that this great boy was a very stupid great boy, and could not understand a woman's 'no,' and went off beyond reach in a huff," she said with a happy laugh. "One misfortune after another left me with only Marplot to depend upon, and I made the circus engagement in desperation, and here I am."

When the relieving steamer arrived, the first thing to be transferred to it was Marplot, who was lowered over the side in a canvas sling. Rowley, whose boat had been hired to assist in the transfer, caught his bridle and towed him alongside, and he was hoisted from the water until a sailor could catch his tail and swing him in at a cargo port. As soon as the hoisting tackle was released, the horse, outraged by the indignity of having his tail pulled, sprang through the open port and landed in the rowboat, which had dropped back under it, and the terrified negroes went overboard like mudturtles from a log, as he kicked the shell to pieces. He was quickly secured and again hoisted on board, and an excited jabbering broke out among the negroes, who shouted that Rowley was missing.

"He can't have been drowned, unless the horse knocked him out first," said the captain. "The old devil is a perfect fish in the water."

Just what happened to him they never knew, for he disappeared forever, near the reef which he had watched grow for so many years.

The Idle Man refused the yachtsman's invitation, for he was conscious that the display of Jessica's affection for another man would not restore the peace of mind which he hoped to regain away from her, and he stood on the bridge with the captain as the yacht slowly turned and steamed away for Nassau, the young couple waving their hands from the stern.

"The loss of the Alvorado was a misfortune for you, captain," he said, "but it has prevented the shipwreck of a woman's life."

"And the arrival of the Jessica was a fortunate thing for all of us, but I hear it has given a very dear friend of mine a little heartache," replied the captain, putting his hand sympathetically on his shoulder.

"Young man," said the pompous individual, "I did not always have this carriage. When I first started in life I had to walk."

"You were lucky," chuckled the youth. "When I first started in life I couldn't walk!"

"Won't you try the chicken salad, judge?" said the boardinghouse-keeper. "I tried it yesterday, ma'am," replied the witty judge, "and the chicken proved an alibi."

American and Australian Constitutions.

Comparing the constitutions of America and Australia, "Life" says: "The Constitution Act of Australia was largely modelled on the American Constitution and that of Canada. The similitude between the Governments of America and Australia is, consequently, very close in some points. The legislative power of the United States consists of two Houses, like that of Australia, and called similarly the Senate and the House of Representatives. The mode of election is, however, dissimilar. The American Senate consists of ninety members—that is, two for each State. They are elected by the State Legislatures, and hold office for six years. In the Commonwealth the Senate is composed of thirty-six members, who are directly chosen by the electors of each State, voting as one constituency. The term of office is the same as in America. The distinguishing power of the American Senate is that it may reject or ratify, as it sees fit, all treaties made by the President with foreign Powers. Like the French Senate, it also may act as a High Court for the impeachment of any high officials or political misdemeanants. All appointments made by the President are subject to the approval of the Senate. The Federal Senate has, of course, no such powers. But, broadly speaking, being elected on the same franchise, it has equal legislative power with the Lower House. Only the Senate may not originate or amend any money Bills. It

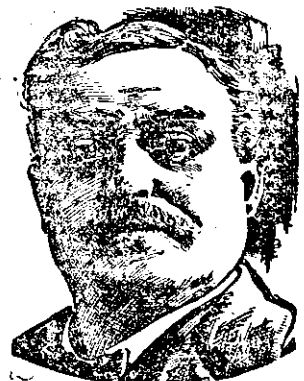
can, however, make recommendations to the House of Representatives on questions of taxation, though it has no means of imposing observance with its recommendations.

The American House of Representatives consists of 386 members, elected every two years by an adult male suffrage, and apportioned among the States according to population. The Senate and the House of Representatives constitute Congress. The Federal House of Representatives consists of seventy-six members, elected for three years on an adult suffrage. The various States of America have two elective Chambers and a State Governor as the component Federal States. That is to say, America is governed by ninety-two distinct Parliamentary Chambers, with forty-five Governors in addition to the President. Excluding Congress, there is one Parliament of two houses for every 2,000,000 of population. It requires fourteen distinct Parliamentary Chambers to govern the Australian Commonwealth. Excluding the Federal Parliament, there is, thus, one Parliament of two Houses for every 335,000 of population. In the American Congress there is one member, roughly speaking, for every 278,000 persons in the Union. In the Federal Parliament there is one member for every 36,000. Australia is, thus, a much more "politician-ridden" country, in proportion to its population, than America. If the Commonwealth had as large a population as the United States, it would, at the present proportion of representatives, need a Parliament of 231 members to do what America does with a Congress of 476 members."

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