

So please return as it kums in yuseful  
but want you to see I am o. k.

Yours in much love,  
Practical.

P.S. Is your hair straight i like straight  
hair mine is curly.

Enclosed Reference.

This is to certify that Andrew Jones  
is an industrious and sober workman.  
He has been in my establishment for  
eight years and has proved honest and  
satisfactory. Signed

Peter MacMullen.

To Practical.

Dear Sir,

I have thought carefully over your  
Proposal and have decided to consider  
it. I am a lonely woman and very  
tired of the country and should love to  
live in New York, where for a small  
sum I could ride on the Elevated and  
see the sights which a friend of mine  
a wealthy New York lady tells me are  
fine.

Do not think me extravagant or  
giddy by this. I am very saving but  
my friend says no real New York  
Gent ever thinks of ten cents. I mean  
no offence but if you could give me  
further particulars with regard to  
your family, etc. you would greatly ob-  
lige me. Believe me Sir with sincerest  
regards.

Your faithful,

Well-Wisher.

P.S. I think curly hair is sweet.

To Well-Wisher.

Dear W. W.

I got your letter o. k. and want to  
say i hope i'm a real New York Gent  
and i want to say you can ride on the  
elevated any day you want and ile take  
you to cony island on our honeymoon  
and anything else you want in reason  
not to speak of the animals in the park  
on Sunday which you get free

i want to say i like your stile first  
rat and if all parties are willing ide  
like to sort of settle things up by  
taking a trip to Greenville to see you  
and sample your cooking which if it is  
o. k. we can get married rite of  
my peupul live in the South you  
want see them do you like curly hair.  
i am so glad mine is curly i am very  
dark

send me time-table and let me know  
when you want me to cum i will bring  
you a present if agreeable

i hope you will not brnke off the  
march it would be rrog if it would be  
foolish too becauz i am making good  
money i will take you to the flatiron  
and grants toom and cony island on our  
wedding tour so no more from your  
devotted lover

Andrew Jones, Esq.

P. S. i may as well sine my name now  
as we are so sure to be made one  
what do you say shall i cum friday  
next.

Mated by Mail THREE

To Andrew Jones, Esq.

Dear Mr. Jones,

I have received your letter, and given  
it serious attention. If you will cast  
your eye over the enclosed time-table  
you will see that there is a train ar-  
rives at Martinville at 5.00 p.m. next  
friday.

We have no station here and have to

drive twelve miles to Martinville to do  
our big shopping. I can get a lift next  
Friday and I will meet you there.

Martinville is very bustling and all  
the Young Ladies go to meet the train  
because sometimes a stranger stops  
over at Martinville so to avoid Con-  
fusion and Mistakes will you wear a  
red carnation. I will do so and will  
expect you Friday at five, we can get a  
Lift back and have supper. From your  
loving,  
Well-Wisher.

To Miss Jane McHenry.

My Dearest Jane,

I am sitting in my front parlour  
writing to you. It is all settled and I  
am so happy. He has answered and I  
am to meet him to-day.

He sent me a lot of particulars in  
his last like this, he is 5 ft 11 inches  
an weighs 182 pounds and has curly  
eye-lashes to match his hair, just think  
how sweet.

Just think of living in New York  
City and seeing the sky-scrapers and  
the Goulds and the wild beasts in the  
Park and the Autos and seeing them  
along of Andy too. I've got so I al-  
ways think of him as Andy now

Oh I'm so happy. I've got my blue  
muslin on with the lace collar you  
gave me and my best hat with the  
yellow roses and the red carnation  
stuck in my belt. I thought I'd better  
get dressed before I wrote you.

I feel so queer and shaky but I sup-  
pose it will pass off. I've got a thick  
white veil on so as he can get used to  
me by degrees.

Good-by dearest darling Jane. You  
don't know how happy I am darling  
and I owe it all to you. Good-by with  
loads and loads of love from

Your loving grateful,

Bessie.

To Miss Bessie Hopkins.

My Dear Darling Bessie,

I know how you're feeling. I've  
been there though I'll never be there  
again unless some accident happens  
which I'm not looking for.

But, Bess, I guess it would be a real  
good idea if I went to the station  
along with you. You ain't a woman  
of the world like me you know, and  
men's men, and seeing that I lived in  
New York a matter of six months and  
was married and deserted all inside a  
week I guess it would be a good plan  
for me to go along.

If all's O. K. I'd like to see the union  
of two young hearts though my heart's  
dead and buried that ain't no reason  
why I shouldn't take an interest in my  
friend's welfare and give them the bene-  
fit of my experience of life so good-bye  
Bess dear with much love and many  
kisses from your devoted

Jane.

On the day appointed for the appear-  
ance of Mr. Jones, the train that was  
to bear the matrimonial aspirant pulled  
into the Martinville station and came to  
a standstill.

The usual crowd of men and women,  
with the youths and maidens of the  
town, thronged the station platform,  
drawn by an idle curiosity as to the  
kind of human freight that might be  
deposited that evening.

Somewhat apart from the Martinvil-  
lites, and at a point of vantage whence  
a passenger could not fail to be seen  
should he descend from the train, stood  
two women.

The one was a muscular Amazon,  
with undershot jaw, and an eye expres-  
sive of courage and determination.

The other was thin, unhappy-looking,  
and sfigety. Upon her maiden bosom  
she wore a red carnation. A thick  
white veil concealed her face. She  
peered timidly about her.

There was a sudden buzz of excite-  
ment in the crowd. The hearts of the  
two women beat fast and furious. The  
unlooked-for had happened.

A passenger—a strange man— had  
stopped at Martinville.

He was tall and stalwart; his hair  
was black, and curled ambrosially; one  
hand held a bag and in his buttonhole  
flamed a red carnation!

Advancing and looking about him,  
his eye at last rested upon the red car-  
nation fastened upon Bessie's breast.

An expansive smile spread over all  
the features of the face of the pros-  
pective bridegroom—for such he was.

With eyes fixed upon Bessie and the  
red flower that flared a welcome to him,  
he strode complacently and confidently  
to her side.

Still smiling blandly and broadly, he  
made a graceful bow from the waist,  
with all the dignity of a dancing mas-  
ter.

At this moment a shriek, wilder and  
more piercing than a steam whistle, rent  
the air, and Jane, with eye of fire and  
stroug right hand upraised, stood be-  
fore the astonished stranger.

"My husband!" she cried in wrath-  
ful, frenzied voice.

A look of terror swept over the coun-  
tenance of the sometime husband and  
would-be bridegroom. His bag fell un-  
noticed to the floor.

"What That harpy here," he ex-  
claimed. Then, with a howl of terror,

he turned and raced down the platform,  
took a flying leap for the last car of the  
vanishing train, caught the rail, and fell  
panting in a heap upon the rear plat-  
form.

A brakeman rescued Jones later, and  
assisted him to a seat, into which he  
sank exhausted. "It's a wise man who  
knows when he's had enough," he was  
heard to repeat again and again as he  
sat moping his perspiring brow.

In the darkness of a country kitchen,  
two women—a deserted wife and a dis-  
appointed bride-elect—mingled, that  
evening, their bitter tears.

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