

A DRIED-UP ROMANCE

One of the longest delayed proposals on record is related in a French story of a shy young subaltern who was ordered away to the wars. Not daring to speak, he sent a nosegay of yellow roses to the girl he loved, with a little note inside begging her, if she returned his love, to wear one of the flowers in her breast that night at the ball. She appeared without it, and he went away broken-hearted.

Years afterward, when he was a lame old general, he again met his old love, now a white-haired widow. One day his old sweetheart gently asked him why he had never married. 'Madam,' he answered, somewhat sternly, 'you ought to know best. If you had not refused to answer that note in the bouquet of yellow roses I might have been a happier man.' 'The note in the bouquet?' she repeated, growing pale.

She opened an old cabinet and took out from a drawer a shrivelled bouquet of what had been yellow roses, among whose leafless stalks lurked a scrap of paper yellow with age. 'See? I never had your note,' she said, holding the bouquet up. 'If I had, I would not have answered it as you fancied.' 'Then answer it now,' said the gallant old soldier. And the long-delayed proposal was accepted at last.

VIEWING THE ARTISTIC

The Artist: 'I saw you gazing at my painting entitled "Rebecca at the Well" for over twenty minutes. Were you admiring the beauty of the subject?'

Learned Professor: 'Er—no, my young friend; I was just thinking what an insanitary age those people must have lived in to drink from a cracked jar and a moss-grown well.'

FAMILY FUN

The Alternate Card Trick.—During the present long winter evenings games and tricks with cards will help to pass the time pleasantly for the young people, and even for their elders. It is a pleasant and innocent pastime, and affords much amusement. Here is one which is called the alternate card trick: Secretly arrange the thirteen cards of either suit (or, better still, thirteen cards of mixed suits), according to the following formula, placing each in turn face upwards on the table, and the next in like position upon it: Seven, ace, queen, two, eight, three, knave, four, nine, five, king six, ten. Place the cards thus arranged at the top of the pack. In exhibiting the trick you begin by counting off, without disturbing their order, thirteen cards from the top. This will give you the pre-arranged cards. Then announce that by a strong effort of the will you will make every other card appear in regular order. Begin by placing the top card beneath. Deal off the next card face upwards, saying 'One!' Place the third card underneath, and turn up the fourth, which will be a two. Place the fifth card underneath, and turn up the next, which will be a three, and so on, continuing in like manner throughout the thirteen cards, which will be found in regular order.

Two Good Tricks.—Take a shilling or a halfpenny between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand; then, by a rapid twist of the fingers, twirl the coin by the same motion that you would use to spin a teetotum, at the same time rapidly close your hand, and the coin will disappear up your coat-sleeve. You can now open your hand, and, much to the astonishment of your audience, the coin will not be there. This capital trick may be varied in a hundred ways. One good way is to take three shillings or three halfpennies, and, concealing one in the palm of your left hand, place the other two, one each between the thumb and forefinger of each hand, then give the coin in the right hand the twirl as already described, and, closing both hands quickly, the coin in the right hand will disappear up your sleeve, and the left hand, on being unclosed, will be found to contain two coins, while that which was in the right will have disappeared. Thus you will make the surprised spectators believe that you conjured the coin in the right hand into the left.

Stick a fork or any pointed article in the wall, about four or five feet from the floor, and on the end of it place a piece of candy; then tell some person to place his forefinger by the side of the candy when he has measured the height carefully; tell him to walk backward about five yards, then shut one eye and walk forward and try to knock the candy off the fork with one blow of the forefinger. The probabilities are that he will make the attempt a dozen times before he is successful. When he is successful he may eat the candy.

All Sorts

The forage bill of the British army in times of peace is about £369,000 a year.

New Scotland Yard, with accommodation for 3000 police officers, is the largest police station in the world.

Not a single case of intoxication occurred last year among the 9000 inhabitants of Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire.

Ben Kendal, in 38 years as postman at Hindolveston, Norfolk, has walked 192,000 miles in performance of his duties.

'I shall give you ten days or ten shillings,' said the magistrate. 'All right,' said the prisoner; 'I'll take the ten shillings.'

The railways of Great Britain have just over 150 miles of tunnel. The seven longest railway tunnels have a total length of 13 miles.

The optimistic inventor, who constructed a fishing rod which automatically measured and weighed each fish as it was caught, died, as was naturally to be expected, a pauper.

The world doughs every baker a living. The world hoes every tiller a living. The world dozes every sleepy man a living. The world owes every man a living who is smart enough to collect the debt.

A magazine poet declares that he never reads one of his own poems in print. His confession cuts down his supposed list of readers one-half, and the other fellow gets paid for it. He is the proof-reader.

If the number of people daily entering London were to be despatched from any given station by rail, 1977 trains, each conveying 600 persons, would be required. If all these trains were arranged in a straight line they would cover 221 miles of railway.

On a complaint being made in the Canadian House of Commons that 300 British immigrants had arrived at Toronto penniless and without work, the Minister of the Interior said that the Government would enforce henceforward the rule that immigrants must possess £5 on entering the country.

Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., of Newcastle, and Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim, of Barrow, have almost completed the erection of large new steel works for gun forging at Muroran, Japan. The works will be carried on under the direction of the Japanese Admiralty, assisted by English experts.

'The fierce light of public opinion,' said a young North Island Socialist in the course of a speech condemnatory of the action of the Government for offering a Dreadnought to the Imperial authorities, 'shall dog their footsteps until it strangles them. They shall swallow the bitter pill and drink its very dregs.'

The teacher was giving an exposition on culpable homicide. 'If I went out in a small boat,' he said, 'and the owner knew it was leaking, and I got drowned, what would that be?'

After a few minutes' silence, a little boy stood up and said: 'A holiday, sir!'

'That is what I call an ideal marriage,' Hardy declared to his wife as they were walking homeward after an evening with some friends. 'Actually, I believe both think absolutely alike.'

'Yes, they certainly are charming,' assented Mrs. Hardy; 'but about the thinking, Joe, if you will notice, she generally thinks first.'

'My brother,' said the good man, 'you should always keep your debts in mind. Experience has taught us all that our debts are our enemies.'

'But they don't worry me, my dear sir.'

'And why not?'

'Because I have always been taught to forget my enemies.'

Quaint old Pepys, in his *Diary*, tells of the game of 'Pelemele,' which was played in England in 1660, and which seems to have been a game similar to golf, but more courtly. King Charles II. had made a fine promenade in London, now called 'Pall Mall,' for the playing of this game, whose name is taken from the Italian *palla*—a ball, and *maglio*—a mallet. The object of the game is to drive a ball, by hitting it with a long-handled mallet, through a ring at the end of a straight alley. The victor was the man who could accomplish this in the fewest number of strokes. It was a very fashionable game at the English court, and the King himself seems to have been an excellent player.

For Influenza take Woods' Great
Peppermint Cure. Never fails, 1/6 and 2/6