FOOL AND HIS FOLLY

girls agreed that something should be done to celebrate the occathe time-honored traditions of the calendar-to illustrate, in fact, this respect by some practical expression ful.

most pathetic perplexity. There ladies of the seminary, and whose is, perhaps, nothing more serious in name conspicuously placed on the Nature than the seriousness of a list of the school staff in Miss Primdozen young-very young-ladies em- bird's prospectus, lent an additional ployed in the earnest discussion of distinction and lustre to the already some problem of which the proper distinguished reputation of Miss solution will affect most intimately Primbird's establishment. their own immediate entertainment. riquet of "Solomon" had been, They are not concerned with the pure good-nature, bestowed upon the gravity of the flippancy of the mat- lecturer by his fair young pupils in relations toward their innocent little they attributed to him, or, maybe,

schoolroom of Miss Primbird's Ad- The lecturer was a tall, rather unwanced Seminary for Young Ladies gainly young man-young, that is to semed, incredibly old the county town of X-, and, in-deed, occupies a deservedly high ies," serious and solemn with the position, and enjoys a wide patron- serious solemnity of one to whom age among the "best families in the life is an earnest and a real thing, country"-were considerably exercis- whose own simplicity of heart rened in their gentle minds to arrive at ders him incapable of suspecting dua fitting conclusion upon the very im- plicity of motive in others, whose portant issue which had been sug- singleness of purpose seeks to find gested to them by the reflection that its reflection in the straightforward ly demure eyes upon the lecturer's the following day was the first of honesty of all with whom he may

ever innocent and amiable, at the conceive them to doubt his own. expense of the august and somewhat Least of all the kind of man who forbidding Miss Primbird herself was could be expected to appreciate or not to be thought of for a single understand that attitude of mind moment-or, if thought of, to be dis- which is able to treat even the most missed almost instantly with a sigh serious matters with a levity and of regret at the utter impracticabil- flippancy of spirit so completely ity of putting the bewitching idea alien to his own conceptions of what into execution. Other proposals of a not dissimilar nature were in manity. He was not himself insenturn suggested, and in turn reluc- sible to the influence of the emotion; tantly abandoned on much the same but outside his profession and in his grounds. Something, however, would merely social relations, a certain certainly have to be done, they natural awkwardness, the shy reagreed; something, if possible, a lit-extravagant, a trifle daring; some-his external disadvantages, gave thing, at least, genial and inspiriting him an air of diffidence and coldness and worthy of their achievement; but which suggested a passionless tem-

Then, breaking a momentary silence, the prettiest of them spoke, a ferent to the gentler aspirations of demure smile rippling the smooth surthe heart the lecturer, like many lone-

us if we made an April fool of her," "Her objected the fair speaker. outraged dignity would never survive the shock—and we should never voices and bright eyes, it seemed "Then what can survive her outraged dignity! It colder and harder still. Other men Poppet, helplessly. would mean expulsion at the least with disgrace.

There was a general lugubrious as-

"But," proceeded the gentle young goddess, smiling round at her companions, "since we must leave Prim alone, what do you say to-to Solo-

"Solomon!" cried the others, in ecstatic acknowledgement of this brilliant and quite original inspiration. "Solomon! Splendid! didn't we think of him before?" Why Then they paused and looked to

the genius from whom this inspiration had sprung to develop it further. "Solomon," she proceeded, "was most superficial acquaintance with the mysterious ways of the beautiful human creature called a girl. morning he will come to give us his weekly lecture."

"Yes, yes! But how are you go ing to make a fool of him, Poppet?' demanded half a dozen voices. "Nothing easier," said Poppet loftily (for this was the young god-

dess' familiar name among her fellows). "Sew up the sleeves of his overcoat!" suggested one.

"Or give him a bouquet of pepper-ed flowers?" proposed another. Poppet glanced scornfully at the

We will leave babies' tricks like those to the Lower Fourth, if shy about writing to you, but I hope you please," she said, contemptuous-"Remember, we are not chil-

dren." The girls drew themselves up at this dignified reminder. The youngest of them was sixteen; Poppet her- to give me your advice upon the subself was seventeen and a half, "Children," indeed!

"I have an idea," said Poppet. and word it in such a way as to make him think she is very much in love with him-in love with Solomon, fancy!" She broke off with a laugh of delight.

"What an idea! In love with Solomon! Could any one be in love this apparently artless girl's note. Oh, Poppet!" cried with Solomon? the other girls in glee.

"I suggest that we should draw lots," went on Poppet, "to decide who shall write the letter. It must be written and posted at once - to reach him the first thing to-morrow you know."

This suggestion, however, was not received with quite such unmixed enthusiasm as its predecessor. None Dewdrop! It was Dorothy Dewdrop of the young maidens entirely relished the risk of facing the possibility of being selected to write the Better, and finally, after some deliberation, it devolved by universal assent upon Poppet herself to carry to its conclusion the daring scheme which her own playful fancy had given birth.

"Well, then," declared this young lady, defiantly, "if none of you will do it will do it myself."

course! You are just the one -besides, we all know that Solomon has lost his heart to you, Poppet, al- Primbird's Seminary, with his fresh It is easy to see that from the way he looks at you from time him.

imagined, she resolutely refused 'to lecturer's gaze. admit this suspicion even to herself,

Now, the gentleman referred to as It was precisely, however, the form in which this practical expression was to be best embodied that at the present moment engaged their con-The sobter per se, but only with its direct recognition of the extreme wisdom from a certain grave decorousness And so, in the present case, the dozen elder girls assembled in the his bearing toward them.

have dealings, doubting their good To attempt to engage on such an faith and their sincerity in the smalperament

So far, however, from being indifdawning of a sudden spirit of miswhich he saw so lavishly scattered among other men around him—the

"Girls" she said "since we are "Girls," she said, "since we can love of woman. His heart hungered "Oh, heavenly!" cooed a chorus of way alone. It was a cold destiny for a man of thirty to receive, and but she would never forgive when his duties took him, as garden of fair young ladies, with by some weighty philosophic propotheir soft, winning ways, and gentle would be made happy some day by these fair young creatures, but they were not for him.

And, thinking especially of one pair of exceptionally bright eyes, of one soft, smiling face, the lecturer would More than once during his lecsigh. tures in the schoolroom he had fancied these particular eyes had rested on his own with something of tenderness, of sympathy, and his heart had swelled with a silent gratitude to the gentle possessor of them. Ah, what would he give to call such eyes, such lips, such sweet, serious graciousness his own!

The lecturer, indeed, had but the most superficial acquaintance with shook with some wild, suppressed When, therefore, he found on his breakfast table one morning a little, pink, dainty looking envelope addressed in a dainty little girlish hand to himself his first wonderment gave way to a rapid succession of very singular emotions, quite foreign hitherto to his experience, as he read the delicate little missive to its end, and then stood a moment, trembling, with it in his fingers. Collecting his rebellious thoughts with again. It ran thus:

"March 31, 1903. "Dear Mr. Morland,-I feel terribly -I know-that you will forgive me I feel perplexed and troubled-I don't know quite how to explain it, but you are so clever, so kind and good ject, which is rather a delicate one. Please let me speak to you alone after class to-morrow morning for a "One of us will write him a letter, few minutes. I will stay behind the other girls. · Yours most sincerely.

"Dorothy Dewdrop." Had he been more a man of the world and less of an idealist the lecturer would have, suspected some of the woman's designing craftiness in Indeed, the wicked little lines breathed audibly of mischief; but the lecturer guessed it not, and he did a very curious thing. Instead of throwing the note into the fire with a laugh-and, possible, a promise to himself to take advantage of this opportunity of a stolen flirtation scented paper to his lips. Dorothy that you-that you-" whose soft, serious eyes had rested on his face so often and so tenderly (as he flattered himself) during his class lectures, and now she-she had written to him! Forgive her? Ah. what would he not forgive that gentle, smiling angel? She was per-plexed and troubled and wanted his What advice on a delicate subject.

could it mean? At length-as it seemed by some purely mechanical process-he finished his breakfast and found himself in his usual place in the class-room of Miss voung pupils arranged dutifully round

For an hour he lectured to them

ten and posted the letter that evening (after submitting it to the approval of her school-fellows), the pretty young creature became aware of some singular qualms of conscious and found himself alone in the you love me?" He whispered the should be done to celebrate the occasion; the opportunity—occurring, as it did, but once a year—was not lightly to be missed, and it might be regarded as in complete consisting the duties of educated ence with the duties of educated ence strangely at variance with the inception of this project had originally produced in her breast. Yet, although the duties of educated ence with the inception of this project had originally produced in her breast. Yet, although the duties of educated ence with the inception of the inception of the inception of the winisper alone in the volution. Not quite alone, though. A tall, graceful figure appeared suddenly, standing by his desk, and a pair of sweet gray eyes glanced a little timidly, up into his own and terring. The lecturer started and immediately fell with a pretty emyoung ladies to treat with respect productive of as "great fun" as she barrassement as they encountered the ceased.

admit this suspicion even to herself, and returned home obstinately cheer- the lecturer began, after an instant's believe! But, oh, if it is true, may pause; then he stopped short and God bless you!" blushed

present moment engaged their conbeen fortunate enough to secure once been fortunate enough to secure once elliptical, but the lecturer did not appear to notice it. He felt ill at ease lived she would have been about the same age as you are, and pear to notice it. He felt ill at ease lived the same age as you are, and lived she would have been about the same age as you are, and lived the same age as you are, and lived she would have been fortunate enough to secure once elliptical, but the lecturer did not appear to notice it. He felt ill at ease lived she would have been about the same age as you are, and lived she would have been fortunate enough to secure once elliptical, but the lecturer did not appear to notice it. shy, nervous—and yet strangely hap—just the same sweet, gracious girl, py. For the first time in his life he though not so beautiful. Since then was alone, face to face, with a young girl who seemed to want him, not as a lecturer, but perhaps, as—a friend. He dared not own to himself that he had long worshipped. himself that he had long worshipped silently this very same young girl, but dim consciousness of the truth may have contributed somewhat to the embarassment-and the delightof the moment.

"No; do not say that!" interrupted the lecturer hastily. "You have nothing to thank me for. If the matter that troubles you-perplexes you -is one in which I can give you any advice or assistance, Miss Dewdrop, believe me there is nothing-nothingthat would afford me greater pleasure than to-to help you," cluded, rather lamely.

Perceiving the lecturer's growing embarrassment, Miss Poppet regained with proportionate rapidity own equanimity, and, casting infinite-

face, replied: "You are very kind, Mr. Morland But I do not know how to tell youit is very difficult. In fact, I-I-" She broke down with a wonderful affectation of diffidence and stood a moment silent-a very beautiful picture of maiden distress.

"Do not be afraid to tell me," he said, gently, "if you think I can be of any use to you.' "You - you do not understand girls," she retorted, desperately, "or

"No," he meekly acknowledged, "I am afraid I-I have had very little Then he added: "God bless you, experience with-with girls. But"he glanced at the young lady a little appealingly—"I should like to try and-and understand if you would tell me-

"Oh, can't you guess?" exclaimed Miss Poppet, impatiently. "Can't you see, Mr. Morland? I wanted to tell you my difficulty and ask you to help me-to try and cure it, for I face of her exquisite young face and ly natures, was possessed with a thought you must have found it out, lighting her eyes with the arch deep craving for some of that love too! A girl can't tell a man, that

The lecturer drew a deep breath. "Tell him-what?" he inquired,

him that-in so many Mr. Morland?" "In so many words-no, I suppose not," answered the lecturer, in the

sition. "Then what can she do?" demanded

competent to advise you. Why do you ask me?" "Because you are wise, clever and know things," was her ready reply. "Because moral philosophy should embrace all subjects connected with the problems of human emotion! Recause you are the-the-" She stop-

ped abruptly. The lecturer looked up and his pale face flushed with a new emotion hitherto unconsidered in the researches of moral philosophers.
"Because I am the—?" His voice

"The proper person to ask?" plained Poppet.

The lecturer shook his head sadly. "If I were," he responded, sure you would not ask in vain. But how can I tell? I am not the man to whom girls come, as a rule, Miss Dewdrop, either for advice or-or companionship. I am, I fear, an awkward, clumsy fellow. with none of those graces and social embellishments that make men attractive to each other's work, among those who himself with many enterprises of a women; and so I -I have lived my an effort, he read the note through life much alone, you see, and know little of the softer, gentler sides of woman's nature. I cannot advise you, alas! but, believe me, I can congenial and free from embarrass-country. His position as Chairsympathize. And, if I could, I ment. Unhappily, it has borne in man of the Grand Canal Company led would do more."

The disappointment in his voice and in his face was too obvious to rise to our opportunities and to er countries, and he had conceived escape the notice of his fair young that I am sure I may count upon you listener. True to the part she had set herself to play, she continued to stimulate the hopes and yearnings to certain defects of character, not have put into operation in the course of the man before her with a pitiless persistency.

"You can do more," she said, quick-"Why do you call yourself clumsy and unattractive? It is not true. You are clever, oh, so clever!- and girls love eleverness. You are good duty of modern Ireland to recognize intimate touch with the people in looking, too," she added, with reck- and overcome. I believe in the new that country. He set the example less audacity. "But you can't see movements in Ireland, principally be- to the owners of land in the great things straight in front of you, Mr. Morland! You can't see when a girl stimulating influence upon our mor-up the grass land for tillage, and he is-in in love with you, though she al fibre. cannot fell you so-in so many words Poppet hung her head as if

The lecturer straightened himself and a light leaped into his eyes. "What do you mean?" he asked, in with a pretty pupil-he pressed the a strange voice. "You can't mean Poppet nodded her head slowly.

'Yes," she murmured. Couldn't you guess it-before?" The lecturer fell back in his chair A wave of bewildering, confused happiness seemed to sweep over his brain. For an instant, in the consciousness of the new glory that had come upon him like a lightning flash the room itself swam round and the earth trembled. She -the sweetest, fairest creature in the world, the beautiful young angel of his dreams -she loved him. It did not for a moment occur to the lecturer to

nature, the singleness of his heart "Nonsense!" said Poppet, blushing mevertheless, at this implied tribute to her charms. "But, as I am not a poarder, it will, perhaps, be easier to be a post the letter than t he believed.

doubt the truth of this stupendous

admission. In the simplicity of his

"Miss Dewdrop," he went on, "it seems too great a thing for me to Poppet stirred un-"Once," continued the lecyou have just said, may Heaven forever bless you, dear. young, and I cannot-dare not-take you at your word. You say you love me? Ah, but not as I love and shall ever love you-now! You will forget-but I shall remem-You will love and marry some her. You will love and marry some other man, more suitable to a raised to him a face of flame.
"Stop, Mr.' Morland!" she cried.

Oh, I have been a wickedbrute! I do not love you!" There came again a sudden peal of merry laughter (louder this time)

from outside the door.
"Do you not see," went on Poppet, hurriedly, "it's all a joke? The whole thing is a joke—my letter and all! To-day is the first of April!" The lecturer rose to his feet unsteadily.

"Ah-yes; of course," he said, with a sickly smile. "A joke to be sure —a very good joke! Ha, ha! How foolish of me to have been taken in! But I-I saw through it all- from the first, Miss Dewdrop - I saw through it-of course!"

"Of course!" said Poppet, stoutly.
Then she took the professor's hand in her warm, slender little fingers. "Forgive me," she said, very soft-

"Yes," he said, "I forgive you. Miss Dewdrop!" and sighed.-Emeric Hull-Beaman in London Sketch.

"Ireland in the New Century Sir Horace Plunkett's new book has

the following prefatory announcement of its scope and method:

for the last dozen years cannot have which is being organized for that failed to notice the advent of a loccasion. It is but fitting that wholly new spirit, clearly based up- England should be largely representon constructive thought, and ex- ed to do honor to the abostle of our pressing itself in a wide range of race and to pay our homage to his not, with impunity, play a practical for affection, yet for him it seemed joke upon Prim—though," she added, with a sign, "it would be heavenly him and family. Loveless and unplied in a low voice. "She can't plied in a low voice. "She can't plied in a low voice of various of the restoration of the ancient Church agriculture and rural credit on cooperative lines, efforts of various of t. Gregory in Rome, and we prokinds to revive old or initiate new pose to devote to this purpose the industries, and lastly, the creation alms which those who make use of of a department of Government to the abundant dispensations now periodically did, into the midst of a tone of a man confronted suddenly foster all that was healthy in the granted from fasting and abstinence life, are each interesting in them- box be placed in every church to reselves. When taken together, and in ceive these Lenten alms, and we past and present influences operating St. Gregory will surely obtain many upon the Irish mind and character, blessings for those who thus show these movements appear to me to be forth their gratitude for the gift of worthy of the most thoughtful con- Faith which he sent to our forefathsideration by all who are respon- ers. sible for, or desire the well-being

of, the Irish people.
I should not, however, in days Death of Mr. James McCann, M.P. when my whole time and erergies belong to the public service, have unto bring into clearer light the essential unity of the various progressive almost startling suddenness.

Though almost continually occupied with the affairs of his own extensive with the affairs of his own extensive something towards promoting a with the affairs of his own extensive greater definiteness of aim and method, and a better understanding of managed to find time to associate

"Holding such an opinion, I had mode of farming more advantageous, to decide between preserving a dis-economically and nationally, than the creet silence and speaking my full grazing system so extensively practismind. The former course would, it ed around him. He took a very appeared to me, be a poor example special interest in county Meath. of the moral courage which I hold and amongst the monuments to his to be Ireland's sorest need. More- industry and enterprise in that disover, while I am full of hope for the trict are the successful bacon-curing future of my country, its present con- factory which he established in Nadition does not, in my view, admit van last year, and the publication of any delay in arriving at the truth which he started in the same townas to the essential principles which "The Irish Peasant"—a paper devoted should guide all who wish to take to the promotion of industries and a part, however humble, in the work the social and industrial advance-of national reconstruction."

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Centenary of St. Gregory the Great

The Archbishop of Westminster on the Celebration.

His Grace Archbishop Bourne in his Lenten Pastoral thus refers to the centenary of St. Gregory: We are pleading for the Christianity of England, and in a few weeks we shall be keeping the solemn centenary of the great Roman Pontiff, St. Greglbrious young thing like you than gory the Great, to whom our nation I-" He paused and Miss Poppet owes her Faith in Christ. We have, owes her Faith in Christ. We have, indeed, as a people strayed far away from the pastures of Eternal Life to which he led us, and in which for a thousand years we found contentment and religious union and peace. Yet what saint can there be before the Throne of God who can love us in our wanderings more deeply or plead for us more earnestly than St. Gregory the Great? To him, then, shall we turn in humble thanks and veneration on March 12th to offer our gratitude for his apostolate, our sorrow for the nation's forgetfulness of his teaching, and our earnest resolve to be his faithful children and to spread his influence among our fellow-countrymen by every means in our power. We now invite the Chapter and clergy and faithful of the Diocese to be present at the solemn Mass of Thanksgiving and the "Te Deum" which will be celebrated at the cathedral at 11 a.m. on his festival. Many of the Hierarchy will be present to join in this solemn and national act of gratitude to our apostle, and the sermon will be preached by his Lordship the Bishop of Newport.

On Low Monday, April 11th, our Holy Father the Pope intends to keep the centenary of St. Gregory in St. Peter's, and we trust that many of the clergy and laity will be unable to "Those who have known Ireland take part in the pilgrimage to Rome

voluntary effort of the people to are called upon to give. We desire "Miss Dewdrop," rejoined the lec-conjunction with the literary and ar-turer, looking down, "I'm afraid it's tistic movements, and viewed in er efferings that you are able to hardly a subject in which I am their relation to history, politics, make for the same object and to for-competent to advise you. Why do religion, education, and the other ward them to the central committee.

The Dublin Freeman's Journal says: dertaken the task of writing a It is with sincere regret that we book on a subject so complex and apanounce the death of Mr. James parently so inseparable from heat-ed controversy were I not convinc-at his residence, Simmons Court ed that the expression of certain Castle, Donnybrook. His death thoughts which have come to me at the comparatively early age of 63, from practical contact with Irish and in the midst of a busy life deproblems, was the best contribution voted in no small measure to the could make to the work on which uplifting of his country, is an event was engaged. I wished, if I could, to be deplored, and it is rendered all to bring into clearer light the essen- the more melancholy by reason of its

are in various ways striving for the philanthropic and National character upbuilding of a worthy national life and he will long be remembered for his strenuous efforts to revive some So far the task, if difficult, was of the vanishing industries of our upon me, in the course of a long him to the investigation of the man-study of Irish life, that our failure to agement of similar enterprises in othgive practical evidence of the in- great schemes for the development of tellectual qualities with which the the waterways of Ireland, which, if he race is admittedly gifted, was due had been spared, he would no doubt ethically grave but economically of time. He was also Chairman of paralyzing. I need hardly say I rethe Irish Church Property Insurance fer to the lack of moral courage, initiative, independence, and self-reli-ance defects which, however they so had a residence at historic Tellmay be accounted for, it is the first town, in County Meath, and was in cause they seem to me to exert a grazing plains of Meath by breaking tributed many able articles. He was

Death of an Irish-Australian Explorer

elected member of Parliament for the

was also a member of the Pembroke

Stephen's Green Division in 1900 and

Urban Council for some time

Mr. Harry Stockdale records in the columns of the Sydney "Freeman's Journal" the death of Robert O'Hara Bourke, an Irish-Australian, the first the risk of filling a consumptive's to her charms. "But, as I am not a boarder, it will, perhans, be easier one to—to post the letter—than for some of vou; so I do not mind during that hour; be even vaguely doing it. It will be great fun, of course."

"Great fun, no doubt. Yet, oddly charmed to her charms."

"Great fun, no doubt. Yet, oddly charmed to her charms."

"Great fun, no doubt. Yet, oddly charmed to her came to a end, however, as hours will, whether ioy or sorrow enough, when Miss Poppet had writ—and the class rose, and the class rose, county in the saw her still standing there, demure and penitent, as though she mure and penitent and committed some great fault. One had committed some great fault. One that continent, as the risk of filling a consumptive's mure and the risk of filling a fortant in the mure and penitent, as though she is mure and the risk of filling a fortant in the risk of filling a fortant in the risk of filling a fortant in the risk of filling a fortan

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traversed line. That Bourke reached there has since been thoroughly established and proven, though doubted at the time. He faced and conquered the "great unknown;" suffering innumerable hardships and privations, many of which would have unquestionably been avoided had he had the good fortune to have been an accomplished bushman." Stockdale holds that for an inexperienced man to have done what Bourke did, was an achievement which places him amongst the greatest and most courageous of explorers.

Why will you allow a cough to lacerate your throat or lungs and run