

Roland and the Princess

A very great many years ago there lived a handsome young prince who could not bear music. He had studied almost everything there was to study, and as he was a studious youth he learned almost all his teachers could teach him; that is, all but his music teacher. He did not like music at all, and the more he studied it the less he liked it; so, of course, he just learned a lot of notes and things without knowing what they meant, and when he tried to play for his teacher it was exactly as if he had tried to bound the District of Columbia by means of compound fractions. Now, this was very unfortunate, for his father could play the drum beautifully and his mother could play the tambourine as well as anyone could. Of course, all the lords in waiting and all the ladies in waiting, and, in fact, everyone else played the drums and tambourines every spare moment that they had, for you see, it was the fashion, and, besides, it pleased the King and Queen immensely, for they were so fond of music.

Things went on this way until after a while the King grew so worried over some affairs of state that he could not sleep at night. He tried his best, but it was of no use, and by morning he was so tired out trying to go to sleep that he would just doze off and sleep all day. Then the next night he would be wide awake again, and then, of course, half of the court would have to sit up with him and play on the bass drums and tambourines, while the other half would play all day to the Queen. Then the Prince, whose name was Roland, grew desperate. One morning, without saying a word to anyone, he emptied the money from his little bank into his pockets and started off to seek his fortune and to find some place where he would not have to listen to music all the time.

The Prince was fond of company, and did not like to travel alone, so he would bow and smile very politely to any traveller whom he saw going his way and walk along with him. But he soon grew tired of this for every traveller in that country was musical, too, and most of them carried musical instruments of some kind with them. Those who did not have any instruments would either sing or whistle until the poor Prince grew almost distracted. Still, he did not want to travel all by himself, and at last he thought of his money. He paid each one he walked with to keep quiet, and so he got along very nicely.

After travelling for a long time Roland came to a beautiful city. It was surrounded by walls so high that he could not see the top without bending his neck back so far that it got a crick in it, and you know that when a wall is as high as that it is very high, indeed. He went in the gates with a crowd of people, and as he was very tired he found the best inn and stayed all night. The next morning as he was paying his bill the innkeeper asked him what line of business he was in. "I have no business," replied Roland. "Do you know of any fortune around here that can be found without too much trouble?"

"Yes, yes," said the innkeeper. "I know of a fine one. Why don't you go and kill the giant?"

"What giant?" asked Roland.

"The giant that lives on the mountain over there," said the innkeeper.

"Why should I kill him?" asked Roland. "He never did anything to me."

"But the giant has the fortune," explained the innkeeper. "Anyone who kills him can have it. He is a very fierce giant, too. He used to come here to this city and behave awfully. He used to pick up our houses and turn them upside down. Then he would shake them, and all the gold and silver that fell out of them he would carry off. If people said anything to him he would just run on them and squash them flat."

"Oh, my!" said Roland. "You don't think there is any danger of his coming here now, do you?"

"None at all," said the innkeeper. "He has not been able to get in since he built those high walls around the city."

"Oh," said Roland, "I was just wondering if he would come along, and I could kill him here, and then I would not be put to the trouble of going all the way to the mountain to kill him."

As soon as Roland said that the innkeeper ran out in the street and began to wave his arms, jump up and down and shout. A great crowd of people gathered at once, and the innkeeper told them that Roland was going to kill the giant and that he would hardly wait to get at him. Then all the people cheered, and the mayor of the city came up and shook hands with Roland and patted him on

opposite nose, and about midway between the two events, is interestingly exemplified on April the 22d. Unfortunately, this side of the globe is excluded from participation in the celestial gloom of the occasion.

Six months afterward, however, on October 16th, the earth's satellite will again pass into the terrestrial shadow, the western world being especially favored with a view of the entire phenomenon. This is the most important of the predicted astronomical events of the year to Pacific Coast observers, and will be prepared for with suitable appliances.

In 1902 the planets will be scattered more widely apart than in the last few months. Venus, which increased in brightness until the 9th inst., may be seen in the daytime at about 3 p. m., near the meridian, and midway between the south horizon and the zenith. At the end of the month, when near the western horizon, it will be in conjunction with Mercury, the latter planet being easily recognized a few degrees southward.

From February 14th to November 28th Venus will be a morning star, but Mercury revisits the evening sky in May and September. Jupiter and Saturn, now nearly obscured in sunlight, emerge from the mists of early dawn in a few weeks and glitter in the morning sky during the ensuing months. In July they reappear in the evening heavens and continue visible until the close of the year.

The planet Mars still lingers near the southwestern horizon, and in the end of March becomes a morning star, though not conspicuous until about August next. For some years past it has lost interest for observers; its distance, even at opposition, being too great for valuable work, and not until 1905 will its position again invite the ardor of the investigator.

THE STATE OF TRADE
Prospects Throughout Canada Flattering.
Values Are Being Well Maintained
—Outlook Specially Good in the Northwest.

Ottawa, Jan. 29.—Business has shown a very good revival since the first of the year. The wholesale trade having got through with stocktaking some time ago, retailers have been going through similar operations and the results on all hands seem to be highly satisfactory. There have been few failures, and most of those that have taken place have been of minor importance. The wholesale trade are busy receiving goods for the spring trade, and some are making small shipments already. As the retailers have been busy stock-taking, however, they have not been anxious to receive the goods. From this time on all will be busy making preparations for the spring trade. From the fact that the late fall trade was good and that the holiday business was enormous, it is generally understood that retailers are in a splendid position to engage in the trade for the coming season. There is a strong demand for labor, and the wages paid in most departments of manufacture are good. In some departments it is still difficult to get all the skilled labor needed, and the manufacturers are having all they can do to get out the goods in time for delivery when needed by the jobbers, while in certain cases it is impossible to get sufficient goods to meet all the demands as promptly for current delivery as they are wanted.

The outlook for trade in this province and in the east is very encouraging. The activity in the old industries and the increasing activity in new Ontario enterprises will call for a large demand for staple goods for the coming spring and summer. In Manitoba and the Northwest the outlook is for the biggest year in the history of the trade in that part of the country. The west has not yet felt the full effects of the big grain crop of last season. This is owing to the grain blockade in the west as a result of the scarcity of cars. The development in the west has been so great the past couple of years that it has been difficult for the railways to keep pace with it, and between the hauling out of the produce and the large amount of freight to go west yet, the railways promise to have all the business they can take care of until the next crop begins to come on the market.

THE TRADE OF THE WEST.
The Winnipeg Commercial, com-

anywhere. It is taken from the Klondike at a point about one mile above the Ogilvie bridge, where the current is the swiftest and there is little or no chance for the ice to become contaminated with any impurities. That being brought in now is a part of a 25-ton contract being filled for the N. C. Co. The same parties have also a 250-ton contract with Preston, the cold storage man.

Dry Season in Oregon.
Grants Pass, Or., Jan. 29.—The winter season remains dry throughout Southern Oregon. The country is badly in need of heavy rains, that the hydraulic mines, now at a standstill for lack of water, may be started.

The Osgood hydraulic mines, like all others in Southern Oregon, are closed down awaiting rains. The Osgood mines, however, owing to their excellent water facilities, have been afforded a better run than the majority.

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FOR GRAND FORKS 9 a. m. 1 p. m. and 5 p. m.
FOR BELLA LUNA, DOMINION CHATELAIN, VIA HUNTER CREEK, 9:30 a. m.
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The Nugget Printery

Set at Liberty
Butte, Mont., Jan. 30.—After being confined in the county jail for four years and seven months, forty months of which he was under sentence of death, Joseph Shafer, the murderer who killed a colored man named John Hawkins, in this city in 1897 is once more a free man.

This morning County Attorney Breen made a motion in Judge McClerman's court that the charge against Shafer be dismissed, all the witnesses in the case being dead or gone, and Judge McClerman set the colored man free.

Excellent Ice Crop.
Messrs. Harmon & Welton arrived this morning with their first load of this season's ice crop. The huge 12-inch cakes are as clear as crystal and the finest ice that can be procured