

Dollars and Cents

A Romance of the Chicago Express.

Christmas Day—a poor day to be traveling! Nevertheless the Chicago express, speeding toward Elmira, N. Y., has on board John De Long of Chicago. Time, 2:50 p.m.

Jack is feeling down on his bunk. Called home by an urgent telegram in the midst of the holiday vacation of his senior year, he has missed a dinner with a jolly party of his college mates, to say nothing of a broken engagement for the german with the prettiest girl in Binghamton.

When he pays the parlor car conductor 75 cents for a seat to Horncastle and engages a berth in the sleeper to be put on at the station, he makes the discovery that he has but \$5 12 current coin of the realm in addition to his ticket to Chicago.

This does not add cheerfulness to his frame of mind. And there is not a pretty girl in the car.

His gloomy meditation is broken by the arrival of the train at Elmira. On the station platform, in response to his title, are two gentlemen—Mr. Richard Robbins and Mr. Alfred Jamieson—classmates and residents of Elmira.

Jack jumps off, and an animated conversation follows. At this juncture a gentleman appears on the station platform—a young lady, an elderly lady and a 10-year-old girl.

Jack—Boys, who's the young lady? "Miss Dodge; you met her sometime winter at our german. Don't know her in season."

The young lady in the sleeper to the parlor car, opens the window and converses with her friends.

"Whispered chorus—Can't introduce me, boys? Don't know her? Haven't the nerves look at the elderly party."

Jack (interrupting conversation going on through window) and making a most pronounced Mr. Dodge? Pardon me, Mr. Jamieson—Ah—um—you remember the London of Chicago?"

"Miss Dodge—Why, certainly. Delighted. I'm sure. Isabel! Let me introduce my friend, Mr. De Long. Miss Raymond, Mr. De Long. He's in your car."

"Miss Raymond."

Jack takes a hasty adieu of Mr. Robbins and Mr. Jamieson, who respond feebly, because in a state of mental collapse, exhausted for one brief instant the shocked and indignant gaze of the elderly personage, and springs on board just as the long train starts up.

He enters the parlor car and takes a seat opposite Miss Raymond. Beside her sits the 10-year-old girl. He'd forgotten it! about her.

"Hum—pleasant day."

"Yes, delightful."

"Do you think it will snow to-morrow?"

With this auspicious beginning the conversation proceeds pleasantly and easily interrupted by the entrance of the train conductor and the parlor car conductor. Miss Raymond gives up her ticket and pays \$2 for her seat to Buffalo, her destination.

Train conductor (tapping little girl on shoulder)—Ticket!

Parlor car conductor (tapping little girl on the other shoulder)—Two dollars to Buffalo!

Little girl—I don't pay any fare.

T. C.—Under 12 and over 5, half fare.

P. C. C.—You take up a whole seat just like a grown person.

"She's under my charge, but her mother said she wouldn't have to pay fare. Where's your purse, Lizzie?"

L. G.—I haven't any.

Money Raymond (examining her purse and much distressed at the result) haven't money enough. What shall I do?

T. C.—Pay fare, anyway.

P. C. C.—The little girl can go forward in the regular coaches.

Miss Raymond finds enough in her purse to pay half fare to Buffalo and hands it to train conductor.

During this scene Jack has been intently looking out of the window in a decidedly uncomfortable frame of mind.

His heart is not by any means broken at the prospect of losing the company of the little girl, but when he thinks he sees just a suspicion of a glint under Miss Raymond's downcast lids, with their heavy, soft lashes, he can stand it no longer.

Sack (producing his five-dollar bill with an air of a millionaire)—Allow me, Miss Raymond. Here, conductor.

The parlor car conductor takes his money without the slightest scruple, returns Jack \$3 and passes on.

Jack devotes the next ten minutes to assuring Miss Raymond that it isn't of the slightest consequence; that it will not inconvenience him the least bit in the world, etc.

ing, but looks inquiringly at Jack. Raymond introduces Jack.

Jack is not what one would call a "side" in the world.

Jack relieves the tension by taking leave of Miss Raymond, nodding to her, and seeking his berth in the sleeper.

At 12:30 a.m., distance from home, surrounded by cash in the exchequer, he is unable to draw a veil over the next 25 cents for coffee and a sandwich for breakfast at Sarula, 5 cents for a glass of beer dinner at Marshall, Mich., note of five dollars, its cold roast beef, hot, the 8 o'clock supper at the 12 mansion in Chicago, that frightens her and astonished his father.

Week later a dainty letter, postmarked "No. 120," arrives.

Jack opens it and finds a \$2 bill and a politely note of thanks, regretting inconvenience, etc. It is signed, sincerely, Isabel Raymond.

Jack thinks he can read between the lines below: "No. 173 Rhodes ave."

Christmas day again. A bad day for him, but John De Long of Chicago looks at him as if he regarded it a hardship to get off the Chicago express at Elmira.

Jack remembers, Jack, how you looked away that night in the depot? I never expected to see you again, but I'm looking positively savage. I'm flattered by your letter. I'm flattered by your letter. I'm flattered by your letter.

"He was a trifle chilly. And then to see you waste a kiss on him and peek out of the corner of your eye, as much as to say: 'Don't you wish I was your father?'"

"I don't—and 'spos I did."

"By the way, how much do you suppose I had in my pocket when I said good-bye?"

"I don't know. You put on airs enough for a millionaire."

"Just 22 cents."

"Why, you poor fellow, you must have starved! It served you right, though, for scribbling acquaintance with strange girls in a train. You wouldn't do it any more, would you, Jack? There it there!—will that pay you?"

"No! You'll have to take that very same trip with me to make it square."

"But Jack! Do take more than 22 cents—there'll be two of us, you know."

Taking a much worn letter from in his pocket, opening it and producing a bill, Jack said:

"Isabel Raymond, did you ever see that before?"

"Yes, I don't know."

"Yes, you do. Read what's written right under your name in this letter."

Isabel (reading)—"I hereby dedicate this filthy scribble to a dinner for one, to be eaten at Marshall, Mich., the one to be John De Long and Isabel De Long, his wife. D."

"Ah, Jack, you won my heart that night in the car. But you wouldn't be sticky enough to leave out that dear little girl."

"Wouldn't! There wouldn't be my little girl around that trip to—"

"Hush, you wretch!"

PARODY OF THE "RAVE"

(From the Canada Farmer's Sun.)

Once when night was fast approaching and the shadows were encroaching on the yellow gleams of sunlight that were dancing on the floor; I went out to see the varmints armed with "bugle" and other muffs which would bring them all the flour, floating gently at my door; for electricity was coming, and I thought I would drumming, coaxing up the festive notes I used to do of yore. Then I met an old granger, smelling of the farm and manure, and I said, "Your vote, O stranger!" with the famer, "nevermore."

Quickly vanished all my gladness, as I felt a weary sadness, chilling all my heart and marrow and my being to its core; and the granger's expiation only lightened my vexation. Said he: "My determination is to ballot nevermore. All our cheroots and Havanas, all your bottled-up bananas, cannot change my resolution, which is firm as iron ore; for your promises are rotten, and they all are soon forgotten, and your honeyed words are hollow as the ravens on the shore. I shall ballot nevermore. Once there came to me a stinger and he said, 'My worthy granger, vote for me and I will aid you; I'll assist you more, and I'll make a mighty little something out of your vote; I'll make the dry bones rattle as they never shook before. I will boom your eggs and butter; I'll make all rich to murther; I'll defend your farms and haystacks till my office shoe is o'er; I shall better your condition; I'll wage war or prohibition; I will then be a position to uphold both bull and bear. By the shadow of St. Charley, I will ban your oats and barley, your popovers and heavy onions, till I make the country rear. So I voted for a stranger, and in now a knocked-out granger, with a mortgage on my nanger and the land I owned before. All his words so softly sweet were last tarry and costed, and my little all are starving as they used to starve before. Therefore you may gently thistle that old leather covered bottle, for my car you cannot work me—I shall ballot nevermore."

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