

Ah there! What is the matter with the lavatories? Wah! Wah! Hard luck! Eh Gonad?

. The Two Johns—Leslie and Small Pie.

How old am I? J. D. M. •

Why does Mully go to a certain church on Bloor Street so much nowadays?

What's the matter with N. B.'s patent camera lunch box? It's all right.

AN INCIDENT IN THE AMERICAN WAR OF SECESSION.

One of the most terrible struggles that has ever convulsed the world's history, and perhaps the most awful conflict of the nineteenth century, was the American War of Secession. For a space of almost a century, the black storm cloud of dissension, which originated almost immediately after the revolution, had been growing larger and larger, and needed but some slight confusion in the political atmosphere to break forth in its unrelenting fury into a raging tempest which should desolate the great republic of the West. Everything tended to make the civil war an awful and sanguinary one. Political rancours, envy of long standing, family and private feuds, mutual jealousy and dislike of the leaders of both parties, all helped to render it a bloody and ruinous conflict. Had such a war occurred in France or Italy the number of murders and vendettas even at this comparatively late date would be simply innumerable. Notwithstanding the horrors of battle, of prison life, and privation, with which the civil war abounds, there are many other tales some of which are truly awful, some very unusual, but all more or less romantic, dramatic and picturesque. It is a strange fact, that no novelists of note, excepting Percy Greg in his "Languelac," have even attempted to write a novel on the war, which presents to the novelist such a boundless field of incidents, anecdotes and dramatic situations. It is my intention to tell in a perfectly unvarnished manner, without any of the coloring of romance or license of fiction, some of the *true* incidents of the American War of Secession. It was a favorite habit of the Northern generals, to burn the cities, villages and large residences on their marches from one point to another. Thus were Atlanta and Colum-

bia burned in "Sherman's March to the Sea." It was at one of the cities which was thus burned that the circumstance occurred which I am about to relate. The commander of the Northern forces (who, by the way, has since the war denied to have commanded the city to be set on fire) had given all within the town, the aged, the sick, the wounded and the dying three days in which to leave the city, or to be burned with the roofs over them. A Roman Catholic nunnery, however, by the superstition of the Irish soldiery, and of the general, himself a Catholic, some buildings reserved as headquarters, lodgings for the officers, etc., to be preserved. Among the former was the residence of a lady who, for convenience, we shall call Mrs. Mc——, who was staying there with her daughters and two of her nieces. She had been greatly interested in the opening up of the military hospitals of her city, had done much to improve them and advance their work. On the day of the burning no one was as busy as she, going everywhere, backward and forward in every nook and corner of the city on errands of mercy and charity, helping to remove the sick and wounded from the city and furnishing them with clothing and provisions. Upon one occasion she was returning home when a northern officer and a common soldier, meeting her and inquiring what she was doing, seizing her by the arms, shook her, and told her that she was liable to be arrested for TREASON! She went home and, calling her young companions together, told them about her adventure, and then put them in a room on the second floor at the back of the house. She had a proof of the courtesy of a Northern soldier; she knew already, as did many other Southern women, particularly in New Orleans, while under the infamous Benjamin Butler, the honor of Northern officers. She was determined that the young women, the "daughters of the South," should neither suffer the insult she had under-gone, nor what might even be worse; opening the window, in plain words she told them that if any Northern soldiers dared to approach them, their one relief was to be suicide; and with this she left them, confident that they knew their duty. Fortunately it was not necessary, but this tale is but an example of the dauntless bravery and fortitude, in all manner of danger and peril, which was shown by the "*Women of the South.*"

C. T. H.