



Joker's Corner

THE DEAF MAN.

What are you writing such a big hand for, Hans? Why, you see dot my grandmother is deaf, and I am writing a loud letter to her.

A young Dutchman, on being told to grease the wagon, returned in an hour afterwards, and said: 'I had greased every part of de veggan but dem sticks de wheels hang on.'

THE INSTRUMENT.

Lawyer—'You said the prisoner had refused for some time to speak to you. On the day in question did he eat you with malice prepense?' Witness—'No, sah! wif a razah, sah!'—Baltimore America.

Say Henie, I saw a man yesterday mit a 'deaf and dumb' sign on und I gave him a nickel. He say: 'Thank you.' I said, 'I thought you vaf deaf and dumb.' He said, 'Oh, I'm oply mindin' this blace til de oder feller comes back.' Vall, vare is de oder feller? I ask. 'Oh, he's over in de beer garden, listenin' to de music.'

A lawyer of New Orleans tells this story: An old negro was brought up before the judge charged with chicken stealing, and when the usual question was propounded, 'Guilty or not guilty?' he said, 'I don't know, boss, I jest throw myself on the ignorance of the court.'

'You are charged with stealing nine of Colonel Henry's hens last night. Have you any witnesses?' asked the Justice sternly. 'Sah!' said brother Jones, humbly. 'I speeks I see sawtuh per-culliah dat-uh-way, but it never been mah custom to take witnesses along when I goes out chicken stealin, sah.'

A REAL LADY.

Among the youngsters belonging to a college settlement in a New England city was one little girl who returned to her humble home with glowing accounts of the new teacher. 'She's a perfect lady,' exclaimed the enthusiastic youngster, 'that's what she is!' The child's mother gave her a doubtful look. 'How do you know?' she said. 'You've only known her two days.'

'It's easy enough tellin,' continued the child. 'I know she's a perfect lady, because she makes us feel so polite all the time.'

'TIS DISTANCE LENDS.

Henry Pasquet lost his wife a few years ago and soon afterward he appeared with a wide mourning band on his sleeve. Time went on and he finally began to woo the sister of his departed wife, with the result that he married her some five months

after the first wife's death. Some time after that some one who was not familiar with recent happenings, met Henry and asked him who had died in his family. 'Oh,' said Henry, thoughtfully, 'my sester-in-law, she die.'

COMPARATIVE PAINS.

Before the use of chloroform had become so general as it is in our days, a quack advertised that he would draw teeth painlessly. A patient was placed in the chair, the instrument applied to his tooth, with a wrench, followed by a groan from the unpleasantly surprised sufferer. 'Stop!' said the dentist. 'Compos yourself. I told you I would give you no pain, but I only gave you that twinge to show you Carter's operation.'

Again the instrument was applied to the tooth, and another tug and another roar. 'Now don't be impatient. This is Logan's method,' said the dentist. Another application, another tug, another roar.

'Now, pray, do be quiet. That is Tate's way. I see very well that you do not like it, and I am not surprised. By this time the tooth hung by a thread, and, whipping it out, the operator exultingly exclaimed: 'That's my mode of extracting teeth. You are now able to compare it with the operations of Carter, Logan and Tate.'

Cuts and bruises may be healed in about one-third the time required by the usual treatment by applying Chamberlain's Liniment. It is an antiseptic and causes such injuries to heal without maturation. This liniment also relieves soreness of the muscles and rheumatic pains. For sale by all dealers.

THINKS DANGER POINT IS PASSED.

Paris Papers Believe German Emperor's Influence is on the Side of Peace.

Paris, Aug. 1.—Paris newspapers in general express the opinion that the danger point in the Moroccan situation has passed, and that a compromise will be arrived at very soon. With the arrival of the German Emperor at Swinemunde, the French press has become decidedly hopeful. Whether well or ill-founded this change of front reveals a strong belief in the Kaiser's Pacific intentions.

The Radical in this connection says: Emperor William II. is less impulsive than some of his speeches would lead one to imagine, if, as we believe is the case, his power will be used on the side of peace and moderation, it will not be the first time that he will have repaired the blunders of his ministers.

The Raphael says:— It is evident the Powers are negotiating for a reasonable ratification of the frontiers in Africa in order to facilitate the occupation of their respective colonies. Regarded from such a standpoint the question is capable of a peaceful solution.

WOMAN WINS SUIT AGAINST RIFLEMEN.

Charlottetown, July 28.—In the Supreme Court at Georgetown today the case of Mrs. Webster vs. the Summerside Rifle Range was concluded with a verdict of \$950 for plaintiff. Mrs. Webster was sailing in a motor boat on Summerside Harbor last summer, when a stray shot passed directly through her body and for some time her recovery was despaired of. She is now well.

Legend of Vengeance Inn

OLD INN AT YARMOUTH IN TIME OF KING GEORGE IV. SUPPOSED TO BE OBJECT OF SUPERNATURAL VISITATION.

(Written for The Yarmouth Times.)

In 1788 this Inn or Tavern was built at what is now the southern extremity of the town of Yarmouth by a Mr. John Richan, a Scotsman from one of the Orkney Islands.

It was called the "Vengeance House," so called from the British man-of-war Vengeance, the proprietor having served as a lieutenant on board that ship. It would seem to be a very forbidding name for a hotel nowadays, but then, although newspapers were few and far between, and telegraphs not even thought of, all the corners and goes at the old Inn knew why it was thus named, and had a fair idea of where the ship then was, and in what wars she had been engaged; they thought the name very appropriate. Being an artist of more than ordinary ability the owner painted his own sign—board—a picture of the ship Vengeance going into action and discharging her broadside of 74 guns. The Vengeance House was much frequented by all sorts and conditions of men, and was used for various purposes. It was there that all public meetings were held. It was court house and jail, and its yard held the whipping post, then used to mend folks manners and morals. Some 60 years ago an old great uncle used to tell me of seeing culprits receive their 39 lashes, being securely tied to the whipping post. A tall flag-staff stood within the Inn's front enclosure, and from its top floated high the British ensign.

At the southern side of the Inn's wide platform stood a mounted cannon bearing the inscription "Captain Kelley's pocket piece," it having been presented to the town by that gentleman. On King George's birthday (June 4), known in country parlance as "Trainin Day" the militia men arrayed in all their warpaint and feathers, formed themselves in battle array, and marched to the Vengeance House and saluted the British flag with 21 guns. In return Captain Kelley's pocket piece blazed a reply. Then, with all the pomp and circumstance possible the brave defenders of their country marched proudly away flushed with their bloodless victory. The colonel and officers on that day together with all the clergy and magistrates dined at the Vengeance House, and they all proved themselves good trencher knights. The dining room rang with patriotic songs and noise of clinking glasses as toast after toast was proposed and drunk. Needless to say those were not temperance days and many a doughty warrior who would have scorned to yield to powder and shot was overcome by a subtler foe before that day was sailing was done.

Time passed on in its usual way and in 1807 a young girl named Mary Smith became an inmate of the Inn. She was an untutored country lassie, with nothing particular to notice in her appearance or manners. With counting the two daughters of the house there were three young girls in the Inn, and they all roomed together. One morning, some months after Mary's arrival, they were awakened by a knocking at the head of the bed in which two of them slept. Each girl accented the other of making the noise, but at length each was convinced of the other's innocence and that the knocks as they expressed it, made themselves. The day passed as usual and the girls at its close retired together, but no sooner had they fallen into their first sleep than they were again awakened by the knockings. As before they seemed to be upon the head-board. At last they dropped asleep again, but the first sound they heard in the morning was the knocking. Its hearers were not a bit alarmed or superstitious about it and named their odd visitor "The Rub-a-Dub" and by that name it was always after known. Upon rising they informed the house mother of their experience, but she sharply rebuked them for their credulity and folly, and it was with difficulty she could be convinced that they were speaking the truth. After the girls had retired for the night she went quietly to their door, and distinctly heard the tap, tap, tap of the Rub-a-Dub. She went softly away and called her husband and they could plainly hear the knockings. The old gentleman got quite irate, had lights brought up and proceeded to make a thorough investigation of the room. He made the girls rise and stand upon chairs, shook the bed clothes, peered under the bed into the corners, lifted the carpet, etc. He then had the plaster knocked away, thinking rats might have caused the noise, but nothing could be found, so perplexed, discomfited and angry he retired. As weeks passed, the knockings became louder and the boarders in the

house were disturbed by them. It was found that the Rub-a-Dub would answer questions by a particular code of knocks. Slow or quick, loud or gentle, and it was plied with questions grave or gay. Various surmises and suggestions as to its origin were broached. Some clever person at last thought of putting the girls in separate rooms and then it was found that the Rub-a-Dub was heard only where Miss Smith was. In walking the knocking seemed to be directly under her feet, if sitting, on the back of her chair, riding, the knocks were all about her. Gradually the news of this wonderful thing spread and people from various parts of the country came to see and hear for themselves. The Vengeance House was thronged with visitors, night and day. Scientists came and theorized about it, clergymen tried to exercise it by prayer, the superstitious murmured "Ghosts," the skeptical who whispered "Fraud," the practical who suggested "rats, mice, insects, wind," etc. But in spite of all the Rub-a-Dub knocked louder than ever. Everything practicable was done to stop it, but it would not down, partitions removed, and a thorough investigation was made by honest men of the whole premises, intent only on getting at the bottom of the mystery. One Captain McNeil (a bearded) offered £100 sterling to whoever would discover the cause of the knockings. The money was never claimed. People now began to wonder if there could be a supernatural cause for the noises. Was it anyone in the spiritland trying in this way to hold converse with earthly friends? Miss Smith had a brother killed by pirates the year before, was it his spirit seeking communion with hers? A clergyman staying at the Vengeance House asked: "Have you anything you wish to communicate from the spirit world by a human voice? If so knock three times slowly," whereupon was heard three slow distinct knocks. When the affrighted hearers had gathered up their courage a little the clergyman again asked "Will you reveal it to us here?" A hurried rustling, rattling knock was heard, that being the way the Rub-a-Dub knocked when it was angry (as they interpreted it.) The clergyman then asked "Will you reveal it to Miss Smith?" If so knock slowly." Then followed six distinct knocks—"With one other person present." Again the rustling knocks. With Miss Smith absent, it answered in the usual way. But unfortunately when something might have been discovered Miss Smith's mental and bodily powers had given way under the long strain. She was prostrated by severe and continued illness. Almost a mania from want of sleep, plied with questions from all sources, living in constant excitement for months, complete prostration of mind and body ensued.

Cruel though it was, she was urged and commanded to question the Rub-a-Dub alone, but she was past obeying. Her mother had come and conveyed to her home the wreck of her once blooming daughter. Fortunately for the girl her mother was a sensible woman of great force of character. She sternly closed the door against all visitors and denied all access to her child and nursed her herself. The poor girl gradually won back her old time vigour and cheerfulness, health did come even though slowly and the troublesome Rub-a-Dub was quiet.

Mrs. Smith, who was a woman of undoubted veracity, related that one evening some months after Mary's return, she had fixed her comfortably in her chair when she suddenly screamed "O Mother, Mother, come, come quick! something is biting my ankle." As Mrs. Smith rushed to her side she heard apparently directly under Mary's feet a loud noise of a stick being roughly and sharply drawn across a picket fence, the sound seemingly crossing the floor and out at the open door. That was the last of the Rub-a-Dub in Yarmouth.

In course of time Miss Smith married, lived an uneventful life and died in extreme old age. To the last she could give no reason for, or explanation of, the strange happenings of her early life.

Another house stands now where the Vengeance House once stood. Alien voices sound through its halls and no Rub-a-Dub disturbs the peace. King George's ensign has long since ceased to flutter in the breeze. The men and youth of the country muster no longer on "Trainin Day" about the Vengeance House green. All the actors in this strange true tale have gone to that land where all mysteries are made clear. But none have ever returned to explain. "There are more things in Heaven and Earth than are dreamt of in (your) philosophy" and so far our philosophy has found no satisfactory solution of the why and wherefore of the Rub-a-Dub. But it may come yet some day.

Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, August 25th, 1911, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four ways, six times per week each way, between BRIDGETOWN and GRANVILLE FERRY, from the first October next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Bridgetown, Granville Ferry and route offices and at the office of the Post Office Inspector at Halifax. G. C. ANDERSON, Superintendent, Mail Service Branch, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

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