

OUR SHORT STORY

"The Cardinal's Diplomacy."

The cardinal sat looking thoughtfully out of the window, with a pious uplift of the eyes, but his thoughts were on mundane affairs. The prelate had just been to confession, where a most charming young lady had poured into his sympathetic ear a wondrous story of wounded affections, for the cardinal, it is known, deals rather in affairs of the heart than those of the soul. His functions are more terrestrial than ecclesiastical, as is often the case with those who wear the red robe—vide Richelieu!

"Oh, Billy!" his grown-up cousin Edna had moaned but half an hour before—"Oh, Billy, I'm so unhappy!" "I know," put in the cardinal, sympathetically, "Mr. Black didn't bring you any candy last night."

Cousin Edna smiled mournfully. "Yes, he did, Billy—five pounds; but—"

"But he's gone away!" And then when the candy's all eat up there won't be any more." And Billy smiled a self-appreciative smile at his wonderful foresight.

"That's it, Billy," groaned Edna. "No more—no more—no sweets!" Here the young lady buried her face in the cardinal's sympathetic shoulder, and added in a whisper, "and only you to love me and kiss me, Billy, dear."

There was silence for a space, with no sound but a faint snuffing from Edna.

The cardinal's forehead puckered thoughtfully, and his face grew long. This was partly from sympathy with his distressed cousin, and partly because his chief source of revenue—Edna's bon-bon box—seemed likely to fail him.

"Isn't Mr. Black coming back at all any more?" he asked dubiously. "No, Billy," replied Edna. "I'm awful sorry, 'cos he's an awful nice man," commented Billy. "Those long stick candies with nuts inside 'em was lovely, wasn't they?" he added, with a sign at the thought of joys departed.

"What did Mr. Black go away for?" queried the cardinal, when his prespiratory organs were again in full working order.

"Cause, 'cause, I sent him away," moaned Edna. "And now you're cryin' 'cos he's gone," snorted Billy. "Well, if that ain't jes' like a girl!"

"Oh, Billy, you don't understand," said Edna. "But you will some day," and the unhappy damsel bestowed a wet kiss on Billy's rosy cheek. "You see, Billy," pursued Edna, "Mr. Black and I do not agree about a good many things. If it he loved me as much as he says he does, he'd do what I ask him. You know his cousin Lou—"

"Oh, yes," cried the cardinal. "She's awful pretty, isn't she?" "Praps she is, but she's not my style," snapped Edna. "Dick—I mean Mr. Black—knows I detest her, and yet when I asked him not to call on her so often, he just laughed and paid no attention."

"Taint any harm to call on your cousin, is it?" asked the cardinal. "Billy," said Edna, solemnly, "you'll learn, when you grow up, that cousins are sometimes very dangerous, and deceitful people."

"Mr. Black likes some things you do," remarked the cardinal. "Whenever he'd see you kissin' me, he'd always kiss me on the same place."

Edna laughed slyly. "Fidly, you little rogue! I had no idea you were so observing."

Just then Billy's mamma poked her head in the door to remark, "My nephew Algy has got a furrough, and he'll be here to dinner, Edna."

This led the cardinal to say, thoughtfully: "He's a cousin. Is he dangerous?"

"No, he's not!" retorted Edna warily; and then she added with a little laugh, "But Mr. Black never could beat him."

That same afternoon the cardinal gave audience to his chief adherent, "Bobby" Trotabout. This personage, though distinctively a layman, shared the cardinal's emoluments of office to the extent of an occasional chocolate.

"Bobby," announced Billy, when they were closeted together in the cardinal's ante-room—otherwise known as the wood-shed—"Bobby, Cousin Edna's wood-shed—"

"Bobby," said Billy, "must it come off tonight. Why, folks would call it an elopement."

"What's a 'elopement'?" asked Bobby of his superior, half an hour later. "I—I don't know, zactly," replied Billy. "But it paws, don't it?" he added, affectionately fingering his half-dollar.—Harper's Bazar.

News of battle, news of battle, Hark! his ringing down the street, Every little newboy purple, Bowling out a fresh defeat, Dublins weeping for their mothers, Gordons flinging down their guns, Sailors tearing off with cannon, Weighing several hundred tons.

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News from Brussels, News from Brussels! Feel the British Lion's pulse—Not the worst of all the rumors Can his quiet tail convulse, Not a single hair he turneth, Not a tear bedims his eyes, For he knows it is L. Brussels That a good young doctor lies.

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These popular family remedies are for sale by all dealers, or sent, post-paid, on receipt of price, by Edman-son, Bates & Co., Toronto.

ROOMS TOO HOT

A Lesson From the English in This Matter.

[Chicago Tribune.]

As the American arrival at this time of the year in London goes about tightly buttoned in his overcoat, while the tall silk-hatted Londoner walks the streets in his free-flowing frock coat, the visitor first wonders at his own apparent tenderness, and then complacently attributes it to his advent into a new climate. When later, journeying toward Edinburgh on a crisp January morning, he chances to sit in a ray of sun, he is surprised to find that the breeze as it strikes full upon their ruddy faces, he may, because of his own discomfort, curse the rainy hot water bottle under the seat, but though he contrasts the situation with the steam-heated coaches of his own land, he at least admires the spectacle of his fellow Britons. Finally, as he finds in a temperate of 60°, while he himself is much of the time wretched from mere chilliness, he begins, in penitence, to speculate upon the possibility of having been pampered hitherto in his bringing up in the matter of heat.

The condition of many public interiors, not to speak of private offices and houses, in this country gives proof not merely of such tampering, but, indeed, of much positive discomfort and physical injury from overheated atmospheres. Street cars are rarely at fault in this respect, but are apt to become stuffy and thoroughly disagreeing from mere lack of sufficient heat and of adequate ventilation. Steam cars, on the other hand, are frequently overheated, and sleepers seem particularly liable to this excess just at bedtime, when passengers, from their narrow confines, are apt to cry out for "a breath of fresh air." With theaters and public halls the trouble is an old one, and is connected with the problem of ventilation. Steam which enters the auditorium, which even to solve in a satisfactory manner for the upper galleries.

Precisely the causes from which overheating, costing, as it does, extra fuel, springs in the case of the modern explanation. Some schemes and enterprising appear subject to a sort of racing principle, which drives them to over-emphasis upon their functions, over-heating appliances too frequently become inspired by such an irrepressible ambition. Aside from the needless burning of good coal, health, temper and general comfort would in many places of public resort, and possibly many also of private occupation, be favored by a reduced temperature.

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Boys and Girls.

The Pop-Corn Man.

There's a queer little man lives down the street Where two of the broadest highways meet, In a queer little house that's half of it glass.

With windows open to all who pass, And a low little roof that's nearly flat, And a chimney as black as papa's best.

Oh, the house is built on this funny plan, Because it's the home of the pop-corn man.

How does he sleep, if he sleeps at all? He must roll up like a rubber ball, Or like a squirrel, and store himself up, All huddling under the shelf.

If he wanted to stretch he's scarce have space In his bare little, spare little, square little place; He seems like a rat cooped up in a can.

This queer little, frisk little pop-corn man I know he's wise by the way he looks. For he's just like the men I've seen in books.

With his hair worn off, and his squinty eyes, And his wrinkles, too—oh, I know he's wise! And then just think of the way he makes.

The corn all jump into snowy flakes, With a "pop! pop! pop!" in his covered pan. This queer little, dear little pop-corn man.

—Clinton Scollard.

Coaching in Toytown.

The coaching season in Toytown was formally opened last Tuesday, when that well-known whip Mr. Dick Martingale took a party of friends out for an afternoon spin.

As they bowed along, Mr. Martingale would point out to his guests the various places of interest. He is a gentleman of large imagination and poetic fancy, as any one would know just to hear him talk. His wide-open eyes have the half-fearful, half-fascinated look of one who sees a golden unicorn behind every tree and a dragon in every quiver of the underbrush.

After he had called attention to various historic landmarks, he suddenly pointed an impressive finger at a ramshackle old building.

"See that old castle?" he demanded, in a stage-whisper, of his companions.

"Why, that's where Mr. Bradbury keeps his hay!" exclaimed the practical Thomas Tripper.

"Oh, no!" retorted Mr. Martingale. "It looks nothing like it. Yet might really almost think it was. But it isn't! That's a giant's castle. There's a beautiful princess in there. She is prisoner. She's tied fast by her long hair, so she won't run away."

"Don't she cut her hair close to her head, and then cut and run?" "Cos she hasn't any shears," replied the ready Mr. Martingale. "Besides, it wouldn't be any fun for her to 'scape herself, would it?"

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Railways and Navigation

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY

1899-1900.

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CHRISTMAS

Return tickets at single first-class fare, good going Dec. 23, 24 and 25, valid to return until Dec. 26, and at single first-class fare and one-third, good going Dec. 22, 23, 24 and 25, valid to return until Dec. 27.

NEW YEAR

Single first-class fare, good going Dec. 30 and 31, 1899, Jan. 1, 1900, valid to return until Jan. 2, 1900. Single first-class fare and one-third, good going Dec. 29, 30 and 31, 1899, and Jan. 1, 1900, valid to return until Jan. 3, 1900. Between all stations in Canada on Grand Trunk Railway system. From Grand Trunk stations in Canada to Detroit and Port Huron, from Grand Trunk stations in Canada to Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge, N. Y., Christmas school vacation—Single first-class fare and one-third, valid to return until Jan. 7, 1900. Commercial Travelers—District, between stations in Canada only. Single first-class fare on presentation of certificate, Dec. 15 to 25, 1899, inclusive, valid to return until Jan. 3, 1900. E. DE LA HOOKE, C. P. and N. E. Agent, corner, M. C. DICKSON, Dist. Pass. Agent.

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CHRISTMAS RATES.

Return tickets will be sold as follows: General Public—Single first-class fare, good going Dec. 22, 23 and 24, returning until Dec. 26, 1899. Single first-class fare and one-third, good going Dec. 21 to 25, returning until Dec. 27, 1899. Teachers and Students—On surrender of certificate signed by principal, single first-class fare and one-third, good going Dec. 9 to 31, 1899, returning until Jan. 1, 1900.

Between all stations in Canada, Port Arthur, Sault Ste. Marie, Windsor, and east, to and from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Detroit, Mich., and to, but not from, Suspension Bridge, N. Y., and Buffalo, N. Y.

Commercial Travelers—On presentation of commercial travelers' railway certificate, single first-class fare, good going Dec. 15 to 25, 1899, returning until Jan. 3, 1900.

Between all stations in Canada, Port Arthur, Sault Ste. Marie, Windsor, and east, to and from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Detroit, Mich., and to, but not from, Suspension Bridge, N. Y., and Buffalo, N. Y.

For round trip, going Dec. 22, 23, 24 and 25, good to return Dec. 27, also going Dec. 29, 30, 31 and Jan. 1, good to return Jan. 3, and to points West of Detroit, Mich., Dec. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Jan. 1, good to return Jan. 2.

To Teachers and Students—On presentation of certificates signed by principal, tickets will be issued as follows: Fare and One-Third for round trip, going Dec. 9 to 31, good to return not later than Jan. 17.

Usual Reduced Rates to Commercial Travelers.

JOHN PAUL, City Passenger Agent, O. V. RUGGLES, General Passenger and Ticket Agent.

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On and after Sunday, Oct. 16, 1899, the

trains leaving Union Station, Toronto (via Grand Trunk Railway) at 9 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., make close connection with Maritime Express and Local Express at Beauport, as follows:

The Maritime Express will leave Montreal daily except on Sunday, at 12:15 p.m. for Halifax, N. S., St. John, N. B., and points in the Maritime Provinces.

The Local Express will leave Montreal daily except on Sunday, at 7:30 a.m., due to arrive at Riviere du Loup at 6:00 p.m.

The Local Express will leave Riviere du Loup daily, except on Sunday, at 12 noon, and Levis at 4:35 p.m., due to arrive at Montreal at 10:10 p.m.

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Tickets for sale at all offices of the Grand Trunk, Union Station, Toronto, and at the office of the General Traveling Agent, William A. Thompson, General Passenger Agent, 25 York Street, Boston House Block, Toronto.

H. A. Price, District Passenger Agent, 143 St. James Street, Montreal.

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