

A BOOK AGENT'S REVENGE

One year ago while I was canvassing in Pleasant Prairie, I came to a large, fine farm house. I walked up and gave the door bell a vigorous pull. The door was opened by a young girl as fresh and pretty to look at as a new blown rose. I loved with all the gracefulness of an accomplished book agent, attentiveness of a long and constant practice, and greeted her with my most beaming smile. She kindly invited me into the parlor, while her two eyes beamed upon me like rays of light shining through the windows of heaven. She seated herself on the sofa, and I, thinking "fair heart never won a fair lady," pulled out my prospectus and took a seat by her side. For one short, happy hour I talked with that fair young maiden, when just as we were beginning to get somewhat loving and confidential, the door opened and a six-foot, raw-boned, big-footed young farmer entered. He stared at us in blank amazement for a moment and then ejaculated:

"Gal, what in thunder are you doing with that young—Great Scott! It's a book agent!" He ended abruptly, catching sight of my prospectus.

"Sir," I said, rising and politely bowing, "I have the honor of introducing to you a work."

"And I," he broke in, starting for me, "have the pleasure of kicking you out of my house. You little red-headed—"

I did not wait to hear more, but catching sight of the size of his boots, I grabbed my hat and started out. Just as I reached the door his foot caught me like a cyclone, and, helping me over six steps, landed me in the midst of a thorn rose bush.

When I crawled out of that bush I was as mad a piece of humanity to the square inch as ever existed, but I smothered the raging volcano within, arose and bowed politely.

"Madam," I said, turning to the girl, who was standing by the door step laughing at me, "I beg your pardon for my hasty exit. Necessity compelled me to leave your sweet presence a trifle more suddenly than either politeness or inclination inclined me to, but in the near future I shall do myself the honor to call on you again."

"As for you, sir," I said, addressing the farmer, "we too shall meet again."

"Let me catch your red head shining in my yard again and I will kick you all over the farm," was the sweet good-by of the horny-handed son of toil.

That night I lay awake all night meditating a dire and awful revenge, and by morning I had my plans all made.

I had a piece of thick sheet iron made so that it fitted snug and cozy like to that part of my anatomy which got kicked, then I secured six ounces of dynamite and fastened it carefully in an oil-lined silk bag about six inches square. This I sewed on the inside of the seat of my second best pants and my machine of vengeance was complete.

As I walked up to the door I saw the farmer drop his fork and take a bee line from the hay-field to the house. The same girl answered the ring of the door bell. She seemed very much surprised to see me again, but with a rosy blush on her cheeks and a winsome smile on her lips she again invited me into the parlor.

She seated herself on the sofa and a blush invited me to do the same. I did not dare to sit down, but I bent forward, so as to give the farmer a good opportunity for a square kick, seized her hand and had just begun to murmur passionately; "I must look upon your supremely beautiful face again, though the sun should fall and the heavens should fall."

"When—well, the heavenaid did not fall but the farmer's foot did square and fair upon that dynamite bag. Great Scott! who would have thought six ounces of dynamite could create such a rumpus!"

"When I picked myself out of a straw pile ten rods away into which I had been fortuitously thrown and therefore not much hurt, I saw the farmer crawling out of a rear window in the hog yard some fifteen rods away and the girl hanging on the wire fence in the back yard."

"I bet that farmer don't kick another book agent," I muttered as I cleared out.

THE WORLD'S NOTED ERAS.

The era of Abraham began Oct. 1, B. C. 2016.

The era of Augustus began in the year of Rome 727, twenty-seven years before the Christian era.

The era of Tyre began B. C. 125, in the year of Rome 628, and in the 18th of the Seleucid or Grecian era.

The era of Antioch fixed the creation B. C. 5492. After 285, however, it coincided with the Alexandrian era.

The era of the Hegira dates from the flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina on the 15th or 16th of July, A. D. 622.

The Chinese era begins B. C. 2277, but since the year 163 B. C. Chinese

first used on the 29th of November, 1791, and was discontinued Dec. 31, 1865, when the Georgian was resumed.

The Persian era began on the accession of King Y. and to the throne of Persia, June 16, A. D. 632. The Persian year was re-adjusted in A. D. 1075, and the system continues to the present time.

The Jewish era was adopted in the fifteenth century. The Jews date from the creation of the world, which they consider to have taken place 3750 years and three months before the announcement of the Christian era.

The Alexandrian era of the creation of the world was fixed at 5592 years before Christ, so that A. D. 1 corresponds with the Alexandrian year of the crea-

tion, adopted it, and did not abandon it for the one now used by them until within the last 400 years.

The era of Constantinople, which was adopted in that city before the middle of the seventh century, likewise commences with the creation of the world, which is assigned to B. C. 5598. The Russians followed this calculation until the time of Peter the Great, having received it from the Greek church, by which it is still used.

CURIOSITIES OF COMPOSITION.

The following items are from papers on English history, and should be weighed, considered, chewed, and digested:—

- "Alfred the Great was the first to introduce time, which he did by means of candles."
- "Roger Bacon, by means of his custom of writing books, became very poor."
- "The Pope wanted him (Roger Bacon) to write, but paper and money were so dear that he could not do so until some time after, when he wrote a book called 'The Poor Man's Friend.'"
- "Van Tromp swept the Channel with a brougham at his masthead."
- "Newton invented the fluxions of light."
- "Marlborough is first heard of at the battle of Turenne."
- "Cromwell was a weak-minded man and went to the stake recanting."
- "Eliot was one of the best eloquists in England."
- "The clergy clung to the king because they were afraid of the Lollards, and the king turned merchant and made vast sums of money."
- "William I was very strong and had a savage countenance, and never allowed himself to be tampered with."
- "The friars were instituted by religious fanatics who did not like monks who only drank wine and eat."
- "Lottery loans were loans borrowed and repaid at six per cent. But some of the money which was borrowed government in repaying it—the people who put it were chosen by lot, and had it paid back at very high interest."
- "Newton invented the laws of gravitation and the motions of the planets."

THE NEW BIBLE.

At the dinner of the New England Society there were a number of brilliant speeches, but none more eloquent, patriotic or humorous than the one made by Mr. Grady of the Atlanta Constitution. In the course of his remarks he related the following story:—

There was an old preacher once who told some boys of the Bible lesson, he was to read in the morning. The boys, finding the place, glued together the connecting pages. The next morning he read on the bottom of one page: "When Noah was 120 years old he took unto himself a wife, who was—" then turning the page—"140 cubits long (laughter), forty cubits wide, built of gopher wood (laughter), and covered with pitch inside and out. (Loud and prolonged laughter.) He was naturally pruned at this. He read it again, verified it and then said: "My friends, this is the first time I ever met this in the Bible, but I accept it as evidence of the assertion that we are immensely and wonderfully made." (Immense laughter.)

EVERYBODY LAUGHED.

A certain young newspaper man, who toils for his ducats not far from the North American office, recently became the proud father of the handsomest baby in the world. (He says it is the handsomest, and he ought to know.) Last Saturday was his day off, and he and his wife thought they would give the town a little bit of baby out and exhibiting it to the admiring multitude. They made two short calls on friends, and the lady concluded to do some shopping, too, while the baby was a fine, healthy youngster, and after a while it began to get heavy. Hubby had been carrying it, and to relieve him and allow him to stretch, he cramped arms the young mother took a turn with it. Before long the proud father was again staggering along with the precious load, and after that they

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writers have dated the year from the accession of the reigning emperor.

The Cesarean era of antioch was instituted in consequence of the victory of Pharsalia, gained by Julius Cesare in the year of Rome 708 and B. C. 48.

The era of Nabonness began B. C. 28, B. C. 747. It continued until the death of Alexander the Great, and was thence brought down to the reign of Antonius Pius.

The Hindu era is quite complicated and its elucidation has given rise to much controversy. The current era—the fourth of the world's existence, the Kal Yug—began B. C. 3101.

The French republic era began Sept. 2, 1792. The republican calendar was

tion 5503. This computation was continued until the year A. D. 284, but in quest of that country by Augustus, B. C. 38. It was adopted in Portugal, Africa, and the southern provinces of France. It was abolished in Catalonia in 1180; in Aragon, 1359, and in Castile in 1380, but it prevailed in Portugal as late as 1415 or 1422.

The Grecian commences in the year of Rome 492, twelve years after the death of Alexander, B. C. 311. This era is still in use among almost all the people of Levant. The Jews when they became subject to the kings of