

Stroller's Column.

"Mr. President and Gentlemen." It was the short member who expressed himself at the last meeting of the Hot Air Club.

"Haven't got a cent," came in unison from a chorus of voices.

"Gentlemen," continued the speaker in an injured tone of voice, "you have entirely mistaken my meaning and intention. Nothing is further from my purpose than to commit a repetition of the folly perpetrated by the Tall member at our last meeting. It certainly grieves me sorely that any member should endeavor to turn these fraternal sessions into a source of personal profit.

"The idea from which I am about to separate myself is of a purely



THE FAT MEMBER ENTERS AN OBJECTION.

philanthropic character and is designed to bring an abundance of happiness to all the inhabitants of this great and growing district.

"To be brief, therefore, it is my firm belief and conviction that I have a way to settle all the grievances under which this country has long been suffering and at the same time to make each member of this club independently rich.

"I propose that we shall go before parliament at its next session and offer to buy this entire district beginning say at the boundary line and running up to Stewart river. I think possibly that for two hundred and fifty million dollars we should be able to buy the whole territory included in its boundaries mentioned.

"We could then make laws to suit ourselves. We could have our own governor and each member of the club would belong to the council, and as we would have power to fix our own salaries, none of us would need worry again over the paltry matter of a grubstake."

"That's all very well," said the tall member who had not forgotten the snub to which he had been subjected, "but where is the two hundred and fifty millions to come from?"

"The very easiest part of the scheme, my dear sir," answered the short member. "All we need to do is to apply for the right to purchase, is to ask at the same time for an appropriation to cover the amount involved. I can assure you that there will be no difficulty.

"Of course as the originator of the idea I shall require to be appointed to the office of governor and—"

"You may as well stop right there," interrupted the fat member, "for I have determined to become the governor myself. You have all the glory that any one member is entitled to in having conceived the idea."

"You are quite right," spoke up the tall member, "one person should not be burdened with too heavy a load of honor, therefore I shall take pleasure in presenting my own claims for the position."

A rap from the president brought the meeting to order. "Gentlemen," said that dignitary, "I have examined the groveler on three separate and distinct occasions during this discussion and each time without result. I notice that the official rusher is not present. Will any gentleman volunteer to act in his place?"

No affirmative answer being received the president declared the meeting adjourned, the matter of the governorship being left in abeyance.

One of Joe Clarke's very few staunch supporters was holding forth on a street corner recently to a crowd of amused onlookers. "I tell you," said the speaker, "you fellows don't realize how hard that man Clarke has worked. Why, ever since 1899 he has done nothing but work for the benefit of the people. He has been on more committees than any other one man in the country. He has written more letters and done

STEAMER WILL H. ISOM

Arrived From St. Michael Last Evening

Encountered Storm at Mouth of the River—Large Cargo of Freight.

The N. A. T. & T. Co.'s magnificent and powerful steamer Will H. Isom arrived in Dawson last evening from St. Michael. While crossing the Bering sea from St. Michael to the mouth of the Yukon the Isom with two barges in tow and the tug Klondike with one of the N. A. T. barges encountered a very severe storm which lasted for 36 hours.

The storm came up very suddenly in the night and while the boats were about three miles from land. The wind blew a terrific gale and the waves were mountains high and dragged the boats through the water threatening their destruction every moment. The Isom is a strongly built boat as are also the barges and it was this fact alone that saved them. The storm passed away the next evening and the boats got into port sustaining only slight damage. It was an experience that none of those aboard care to go through again.

The Isom started from St. Michael with three barges and a cargo of 1,630 tons. One of the barges was left at Ft. Gibbon at the mouth of the Tanana and another at Ft. Egbert at Eagle. Freight was also landed at every town and wood camp along the river and only about 400 tons were brought to Dawson.

The Isom will return to St. Michael for the winter and the officers and crew will go to the outside.

The passengers brought up on the Isom were as follows: Louis K. Pratt, E. C. Hurlbut, E. Orr, A. Lindberg, J. Page, Emma Kelly, Jack Gregor, W. C. Leak, H. G. Huston, Jas. Christie, H. V. Nichols, E. Hazer, Jas. Dubois, E. B. Clark, D. C. Stevens, M. Metschan.

WATER FRONT NOTES.

The steamer Bonanza King arrived last evening with the following passengers: L. C. Trouton, Mrs. James, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Woodruff, Mrs. Wood, B. Laws, J. J. McArthur, and John Hilditch.

The steamer Clifford Sifton will arrive in Dawson this evening.

The Dawson is due to arrive at 7 o'clock tonight.

The Thistle will leave Whitehorse for Dawson tonight.

The Bonanza King will leave the W. P. & Y. R. dock at 7 o'clock tonight for Whitehorse.

Increased Atlantic Freights

Hamburg, Aug. 30.—The Hamburg-American Steamship Company is preparing to recommission a number of its steamers, which have been laid up for some time, in consequence of expectations of increased Atlantic freight traffic, especially in grain.

Besides heavily taxing the people, the provincial governors of China are utilizing the indemnity to be paid the foreign powers as a pretext for raising loans and are corruptly appropriating large sums of money to their own purpose.

Before buying your Winter Underwear call at Mrs. Anderson's, Second avenue. Outside prices—\$2, \$3 and \$4 per suit.

WANTED—First-class woman cook. No other need apply.—Macaulay Bros. store. crtl

The Plunger at Auditorium. The fleet of office stationery may be secured at the Nugget printery at reasonable prices.

Job Printing at Nugget office.

AUCTION SALE

OF IMPORTANT MINING PROPERTY

By instructions of the owners there will be offered for Sale by PUBLIC AUCTION at the sale rooms of Messrs VERNON & STORRY, Auctioneers, Boyle's Wharf, First Avenue, Dawson, on Saturday, October 4th, 1902, at 3:00 p. m.

The following Mining Properties and Interests:

"Frost Macgregor Hydraulic Concession, on Indian river, 2 and one-half miles."

"The Johnson Hydraulic Concession, on Cassiar Creek, 5 miles."

"An undivided one-fourth interest in the Hermann Hydraulic Concession on Gold Bottom creek, 2 and one-half miles."

"An undivided one-fifth interest in the Kramer Hydraulic Concession on Kirkman Creek, 5 miles."

ALSO HILLSIDE PLACER MINING CLAIMS:

"The lower half of left limit of No. 3 (three) below Upper Discovery on Dominion Creek."

"The upper half of left limit of No. 4 (four) below Upper Discovery on Dominion Creek."

"The upper half of left limit of No. 5 (five) below Upper Discovery on Dominion Creek."

ALSO CREEK PLACER MINING CLAIMS:

"An undivided half interest in No. 32 below the mouth of Last Chance on Hunker Creek."

"Creek Claim No. 34 below the mouth of Last Chance on Hunker Creek."

Also a small quantity of Machinery and other Mining Appliances.

Terms of Sale: 25 per cent. Cash, balance in five days.

For further particulars apply to CLARK, WILSON & STACPOOLE, Or to the Auctioneers.

Private Properties may be entered for Auction at close of above sale. List same at once. VERNON & STORRY.

Dated the 15th day of September, 1902.

Blundell's Improvement

Venia Turnbull in a quiet, unobtrusive fashion was enjoying herself. The cool living-room at Turnbull's farm was a delightful contrast to the hot sunshine without, and the drowsy humming of bees floating in at the open window was charged with hints of slumber to the middle-aged. From her seat by the window she watched with amused interest the efforts of her father—kept from his Sunday afternoon nap by the assiduous attentions of her two admirers—to maintain his politeness.

"Father was so pleased to see you both come in," said softly; "it's very dull for him here of an afternoon with only me."

"I can't imagine anybody being dull with only you," said Sergeant Dick Daly, turning a bold brown eye upon her.

Mr. John Blundell scowled; this was the third time the sergeant had said the thing that he would have liked to say if he had thought of it. "I don't mind being dull," remarked Mr. Turnbull, casually.

Neither gentleman made any comment.

"I like it," pursued Mr. Turnbull, longingly; "always did, from a child."

The two young men looked at each other, then they looked at Venia; the sergeant assumed an expression of careless ease, while John Blundell sat his chair like a human limpet. Mr. Turnbull almost groaned as he remembered his tenacity.

"The garden's looking very nice," he said, with a pathetic glance round.

"Beautiful," assented the sergeant.

"Some of the roses on that big bush have opened a bit more since then," said the farmer.

Sergeant Daly expressed his gratification, and said that he was not surprised. It was only ten days since he had arrived in the village on a visit to a relative, but in that short space of time he had, to the great discomfort of Mr. Blundell, made himself wonderfully at home at Mr. Turnbull's.

"I suppose she thinks Daly is a dare-devil," said Blundell, with a fery face. "I'll send that old fool packing if she can't keep her tongue quiet."

"It's very sensible of you, John," said Mr. Turnbull, "and a sensible girl would appreciate it. Instead of that, she only sniffed when I told her how careful you always were to wear flannel next to your skin. She said she liked dare-devils."

"I wonder whether it is very hot outside?" she said, at last, rising and looking out of the window.

"Only pleasantly warm," said the sergeant. "It would be nice down by the water."

"I'm afraid of disturbing father by our talk," said the considerate daughter. "You might tell him we've gone for a little stroll when he wakes," she added, turning to Blundell.

Mr. Blundell, who had risen with the idea of acting the humble but, in his opinion, highly necessary part of chaperon, sat down again and watched blankly from the window until they were out of sight. He was half inclined to think that the exigencies of the case warranted him in arousing the farmer at once.

It was an hour later when the farmer awoke, to find himself alone with Mr. Blundell, a state of affairs for which he strove with some pertinacity to make that aggrieved gentleman responsible.

"Why didn't you go with them?" he demanded.

"Because I wasn't asked," replied the other.

Mr. Turnbull sat up in his chair and eyed him disapprovingly. "For a great, big chap like you are, John Blundell," he exclaimed, "it's surprising what a little pluck you've got."

"I don't want to go where I'm not wanted," retorted Mr. Blundell.

"That's where you make a mistake," said the other, regarding him severely. "Girls like a masterful man and, instead of getting your own way, you sit down quietly and do as you're told, like a tame-lamb."

"Tame what?" inquired Mr. Blundell, resentfully.

"I don't know," said the other, frankly; "the tamest thing you can think of. There's Daly laughing in his sleeve at you, and talking to Venia about Waterloo and the Crimea as though he'd been there. I thought it was pretty near settled between you."

"So did I," said Mr. Blundell.

"You're a big man, John," said the other, "but you're slow. You're all muscles and no head."

"I think of things afterwards," said Blundell, humbly; "generally after I get to bed."

Mr. Turnbull sniffed, and took a turn up and down the room; then he closed the door and came towards his friend again.

"I dare say you're surprised at me being so anxious to get rid of Venia," he said, slowly; "but the fact is I'm thinking of marrying again myself."

"You!" said the startled Mr. Blundell.

"Yes, me," said the other, somewhat sharply. "But she won't marry so long as Venia is at home. It's a secret, because if Venia got to hear of it she'd keep single to prevent it. She's just that sort of girl."

Mr. Blundell coughed, but did not deny it. "Who is it?" he inquired.

"Miss Sippet," was the reply. "She couldn't hold her own for half an hour against Venia."

Mr. Blundell, a great stickler for accuracy, reduced the time to five minutes.

"And now," said the aggrieved Mr. Turnbull, "now, so far as I can see, she's struck with Daly. If she has him it'll be years and years before they can marry. She seems crazy about heroes. She was talking to me the other night about them. Not to put too fine a point on it, she was talking about you."

Mr. Blundell blushed with pleased surprise.

"Said you were not a hero," explained Mr. Turnbull. "Of course, I stuck up for you. I said you'd got too much sense to go putting your life into danger. I said you were a very careful man, and I told her how particular you was about damp sheets. Your housekeeper told me."

"It's all nonsense," said Blundell, with a fery face. "I'll send that old fool packing if she can't keep her tongue quiet."

"I'll do it," said Blundell, decidedly.

"And mind," said the other, "do not do it as if it's as easy as kissing your fingers; be half-drowned yourself, or at least pretend to be. And when you're on the quays take your time about coming round. He longer than Daly is, you don't want him to get all the pity."

"All right," said the other.

"After a time you can open your eyes," went on his instructor; "then if I were you, I should say, 'Good-bye, Venia,' and close 'em again. Work it up affecting, and send messages to your aunts."

"It sounds all right," said Blundell.

"It's all right," said Mr. Turnbull, with a shrug. "That would have been a nice how d'ye do."

Mr. Blundell coughed and looked seawards. "Accidents will happen," he murmured.

They reached the end of the quay again and stood talking, and when they turned once more the sergeant was surprised and gratified at the ease with which he bore off Venia. Mr. Turnbull and Blundell followed some little way behind, and the former gentleman's suspicions were somewhat lulled by finding that his friend made no attempt to take the inside place. He looked about him with interest for a likely victim, but in vain.

"What are you looking at?" he demanded, impatiently, as Blundell suddenly came to a stop and gazed curiously into the harbor.

"Jelly-fish," said the other, briefly. "I never saw such a monster. It must be a yard across."

Mr. Turnbull stopped, but could see nothing, and even when Blundell pointed it out with his finger he had no better success. He stepped forward a pace, and his suspicious returned with renewed vigor as a hand was laid caressingly on his shoulder. The next moment, with a wild shriek, he shot suddenly over the edge and disappeared. Venia and the sergeant, turning hastily, were just in time to see the fountain which emanated on his immersion.

"Oh, save him!" cried Venia.

The sergeant ran to the edge and gazed in helpless dismay as Mr. Turnbull came to the surface and disappeared again. At the same moment Blundell, who had thrown off his coat, dived into the harbor and, rising rapidly to the surface, caught the fast choking Mr. Turnbull by the collar.

"Keep still, he cried, sharply, as the farmer tried to clutch him; 'keep still or I'll let you go.'

"Help!" choked the farmer, gazing up at the little knot of people which had collected on the quay.

A stout fisherman who had not run for thirty years came along the edge of the quay at a shambling trot, with a coil of rope over his arm. John Blundell saw him and, mindful of the farmer's warning about kissing of fingers, etc., raised his disengaged arm and took that frenzied gentleman below the surface again. By the time they came up he was very glad for his own sake to catch the line skillfully thrown by the old fisherman and be drawn gently to the side.

"I'll tow you to the steps," said the fisherman, "don't let go 'em, the line."

Mr. Turnbull saw to that; he wound the rope round his wrist and began to regain his presence of mind as they were drawn steadily towards the steps. Willing hands drew them out of the water and helped them up on to the quay, where Mr. Turnbull, sitting in his own puddle, coughed up salt water and glared ferociously at the inanimate form of Mr. Blundell. Sergeant Daly and another man were rendering what they piously believed to be first aid to the apparently drowned, while the stout fisherman, with both hands to his mouth, was yelling in heart-rending accents for a barrel.

"He might if we walked up and down five million times," said Blundell, unpleasantly.

"He might if we walked up and down three or four times," said Mr. Turnbull, "especially if you happened to stumble."

"I never stumble," said the matter-of-fact Mr. Blundell. "I don't know anybody more sure-footed than I am."

"Oh thick-headed," added the exasperated Mr. Turnbull.

Mr. Blundell regarded him patiently; he had a strong suspicion that his friend had been drinking.

"Stumbling," said Mr. Turnbull, "conquering my annoyance with an effort—stumbling is a thing that might happen to anybody. You trip your foot against a stone and lurch up against Daly; he tumbles overboard, and you off with your jacket and dive in off the quay after him. He can't swim a stroke."

Mr. Blundell caught his breath and gazed at him in speechless amazement.

"There's sure to be several people on the quay if it's a fine afternoon," continued his instructor. "You'll have half Dunchurch round you, praising you and patting you on the back—all in front of Venia, mind you. It'll be put in all the papers and you'll get a medal."

"And suppose we are both drowned?" said Mr. Blundell, soberly.

"Drowned? Fiddlesticks!" said Mr. Turnbull. "However, please yourself. If you're afraid—"

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Mr. Blundell regarded him patiently; he had a strong suspicion that his friend had been drinking.

"Stumbling," said Mr. Turnbull, "conquering my annoyance with an effort—stumbling is a thing that might happen to anybody. You trip your foot against a stone and lurch up against Daly; he tumbles overboard, and you off with your jacket and dive in off the quay after him. He can't swim a stroke."

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"Stumbling," said Mr. Turnbull, "conquering my annoyance with an effort—stumbling is a thing that might happen to anybody. You trip your foot against a stone and lurch up against Daly; he tumbles overboard, and you off with your jacket and dive in off the quay after him. He can't swim a stroke."

Mr. Blundell caught his breath and gazed at him in speechless amazement.

"There's sure to be several people on the quay if it's a fine afternoon," continued his instructor. "You'll have half Dunchurch round you, praising you and patting you on the back—all in front of Venia, mind you. It'll be put in all the papers and you'll get a medal."

"And suppose we are both drowned?" said Mr. Blundell, soberly.

"Drowned? Fiddlesticks!" said Mr. Turnbull. "However, please yourself. If you're afraid—"

"I'll do it," said Blundell, decidedly.

"And mind," said the other, "do not do it as if it's as easy as kissing your fingers; be half-drowned yourself, or at least pretend to be. And when you're on the quays take your time about coming round. He longer than Daly is, you don't want him to get all the pity."

"All right," said the other.

"After a time you can open your eyes," went on his instructor; "then if I were you, I should say, 'Good-bye, Venia,' and close 'em again. Work it up affecting, and send messages to your aunts."

"It sounds all right," said Blundell.

"It's all right," said Mr. Turnbull, with a shrug. "That would have been a nice how d'ye do."

Mr. Blundell coughed and looked seawards. "Accidents will happen," he murmured.

They reached the end of the quay again and stood talking, and when they turned once more the sergeant was surprised and gratified at the ease with which he bore off Venia. Mr. Turnbull and Blundell followed some little way behind, and the former gentleman's suspicions were somewhat lulled by finding that his friend made no attempt to take the inside place. He looked about him with interest for a likely victim, but in vain.

"What are you looking at?" he demanded, impatiently, as Blundell suddenly came to a stop and gazed curiously into the harbor.

"Jelly-fish," said the other, briefly. "I never saw such a monster. It must be a yard across."

Mr. Turnbull stopped, but could see nothing, and even when Blundell pointed it out with his finger he had no better success. He stepped forward a pace, and his suspicious returned with renewed vigor as a hand was laid caressingly on his shoulder. The next moment, with a wild shriek, he shot suddenly over the edge and disappeared. Venia and the sergeant, turning hastily, were just in time to see the fountain which emanated on his immersion.

"Oh, save him!" cried Venia.

The sergeant ran to the edge and gazed in helpless dismay as Mr. Turnbull came to the surface and disappeared again. At the same moment Blundell, who had thrown off his coat, dived into the harbor and, rising rapidly to the surface, caught the fast choking Mr. Turnbull by the collar.

"Keep still, he cried, sharply, as the farmer tried to clutch him; 'keep still or I'll let you go.'

"Help!" choked the farmer, gazing up at the little knot of people which had collected on the quay.

A stout fisherman who had not run for thirty years came along the edge of the quay at a shambling trot, with a coil of rope over his arm. John Blundell saw him and, mindful of the farmer's warning about kissing of fingers, etc., raised his disengaged arm and took that frenzied gentleman below the surface again. By the time they came up he was very glad for his own sake to catch the line skillfully thrown by the old fisherman and be drawn gently to the side.

"I'll tow you to the steps," said the fisherman, "don't let go 'em, the line."

Mr. Turnbull saw to that; he wound the rope round his wrist and began to regain his presence of mind as they were drawn steadily towards the steps. Willing hands drew them out of the water and helped them up on to the quay, where Mr. Turnbull, sitting in his own puddle, coughed up salt water and glared ferociously at the inanimate form of Mr. Blundell. Sergeant Daly and another man were rendering what they piously believed to be first aid to the apparently drowned, while the stout fisherman, with both hands to his mouth, was yelling in heart-rending accents for a barrel.

"He might if we walked up and down five million times," said Blundell, unpleasantly.

"He might if we walked up and down three or four times," said Mr. Turnbull, "especially if you happened to stumble."

"I never stumble," said the matter-of-fact Mr. Blundell. "I don't know anybody more sure-footed than I am."

"Oh thick-headed," added the exasperated Mr. Turnbull.

Mr. Blundell regarded him patiently; he had a strong suspicion that his friend had been drinking.

"Stumbling," said Mr. Turnbull, "conquering my annoyance with an effort—stumbling is a thing that might happen to anybody. You trip your foot against a stone and lurch up against Daly; he tumbles overboard, and you off with your jacket and dive in off the quay after him. He can't swim a stroke."

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