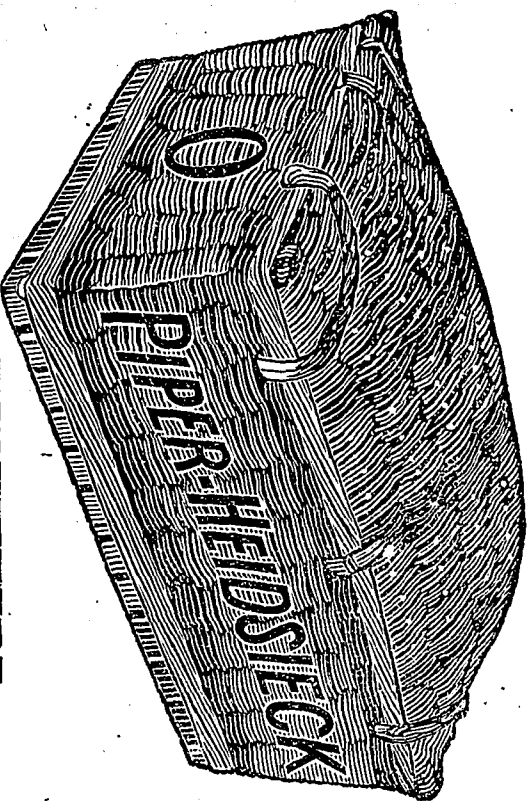


IS SOLD EVERYWHERE.



## A TRAGEDY IN SLIPPERS.

She gave him a beautifully worked pair of slippers. Although they were too short and pinched him across the toes, he smilingly submitted to the martyrdom which they imposed, and vowed they should never leave his feet. Shortly afterwards the young man made a return for her offering. It was his picture encased in a handsome frame. He wrote a note to send with it, and at the same time replied angrily to an oft-repeated dun for an unpaid suit of clothes. He gave the boy six-pence to deliver the package and notes, giving explicit directions as to destination. He was an unusually intelligent boy with a freckled face, and he discharged his errand in a manner that should give him a niche in the temple of Fame. The young lady received a note in her adored one's handwriting, and flew to her room to devour its contents. She opened the missive with eager fingers and read: "I am getting tired of your everlasting attention. The suit is about worn out already; it never amounted to much anyhow. Please go to Jericho." And the tailor was struck utterly dumb when he opened a parcel and discovered the picture of the delinquent customer, with a note that said: "When you gaze upon these features, think how much I owe you." When that unfortunate young man called around that evening to receive the happy acknowledgment of his sweetheart, he was inconsistently shown the door by the young lady's father; and in the morning he was waited upon by the tailor's lawyer and imperatively ordered to settle or suffer.

**EARNING A FREE PASS.**—Mrs. James P. Caldwell rode on a free pass the other day from Mexico, Mo., to Leadville, Col., to see her son. This pass was given to her husband and herself twenty years ago, and is a life pass for both, and will pass them over any railroad in the United States. It was given them by the North Missouri Railroad Company after they had respectfully declined the company's offer of a gift of \$10,000. How the company happened to offer the couple—who were well to do in the world—a gift of \$10,000 is told by the *Hannibal Journal*: In January, 1861, the Confederate bushwhackers set fire to the bridge over Young's Creek, and Mr. Caldwell got out of bed in season to check the flames with a pail of water. Then he hurried to Centralia to give the alarm, leaving his wife and children to keep the fire in check. It was a bitterly cold night, and Mrs. Caldwell had to wrap her children in blankets; but despite the cold they worked and extinguished the flames. The bridge, however, had been reduced to a mere shell. Mrs. Caldwell knew that it could not bear up a train that was almost due, and, hurrying to her house, she got a lantern and stood on the bridge in the biting blasts of a January night until that train with its freight of human life had been warned and stopped.

**THE COTTON CENTENNIAL.**—The first export of cotton from the United States occurred in the fall of 1784, the quantity shipped being about sixteen hundred pounds. This small sample of the now great American staple was forwarded from Charleston, S. C., to Liverpool, where it was seized by the British customs officials, for non-payment of duty. The cotton was afterward released, but months elapsed before a manufacturer would consent to give it a trial. Eventually a purchaser was secured, and when the article was tried it was found to be greatly superior to the old India staple. This induced manufacturers to take hold of American cotton, and orders were freely given for all that could be raised. This was the beginning of a foreign trade in raw cotton which last year amounted to \$199,812,644. To properly celebrate the centennial of what, from a humble beginning, has expanded into a vast industry, it is intended to hold a grand "World's Industrial and Cotton Exposition" at New Orleans, commencing December 1, 1884, and lasting until May 1, 1885.

## 'ESQUIRES' AND 'GENTLEMEN.'

(From Chambers's Journal.)

The question is often asked: 'Shall I call him Mr. Jones, or Jones, Esq.?' and the answer is: 'Oh, put Jones, Esq.; everybody is an Esquire nowadays; and it may offend him to put Mr. Jones.'

Now, whether it is offensive to Jones or not, is immaterial, because he either has a right to the title of Esquire, or he has no right to it, and this depends upon the social position in life of Jones. In looking over the list of persons present at a levée, we never see any Esquires mentioned, but a list of 'Messieurs' is given, a title not found in any table of precedence in England; but on reference to the most authentic tables, we find, after knights' younger sons, come *esquires*, gentlemen, yeomen, tradesmen, artificers, laborers. Thus, it appears that an esquire comes above a 'gentleman,' and below the younger sons of knights.

The word esquire is derived from the French *écuyer*, and the Latin *scutum*, meaning a shield; or rather, the hide of which shields were anciently made, and afterwards covered. An esquire was originally he who attended a knight in the time of war and carried his shield, whence he was called *écuyer* in French, and *scutifer* or *armiger* in Latin. The following extract from an old work on Heraldry, shows that in former days the title of Esquire was held only by persons who came under the rules which gave a man the title, and not, as in the present day, by anybody who considers himself entitled to it: 'In the reign of Henry V., by a statute passed in the first year of his reign, it was enacted that in all cases of outlawry, the additions of the estate, degree or profession of the defendant, should be inserted in the process; and it thus became necessary to ascertain who were entitled to the degree of Esquire; and it was determined by the most learned in the degrees of honor that there were seven sorts of esquires—namely (1) Esquire's of the king's body, limited to four; they keep the door of the king's bedchamber whenever he shall please to go to bed, walk at a coronation, and have precedence of all knights' younger sons. (2) The eldest sons of knights and their eldest sons successively. (3) The eldest sons of the youngest sons of barons, and others of the greater nobility. (4) Such as the king invests with collars of SS, as the kings-at-arms, heralds, &c.; or shall grant silver or white spurs to; the eldest sons of these last mentioned only could bear the title of esquire. (5) Esquires to the Knights of the Bath, being their attendants on their installation, these must wear coat-armour, according to the law of arms, are esquires for life, and also their eldest sons, and have the same privilege as the esquires of the king's body. (6) Sheriffs of counties, and justices of the peace (with this distinction, that a sheriff, in regard to the dignity of his office, is an esquire for life; but a justice of the peace only so long as he continues in the commission), and all those who bear special office in the king's household, as gentlemen of the king's chamber, carvers, sewers, cupbearers, pensioners, serjeants-at-arms, and all that have any near or especial dependence on the king's royal person, and are not knighted; also captains in the wars, recorded in the king's lists. (7) Counsellors-at-law, bachelors of divinity, law, and physic; mayors of towns are reputed esquires, or equal to esquires (though not really esquires), also the king's pennon-bearer, who is a person that carries the king's flag, either at war or at a funeral.'

Camden, in his *Britannia*, makes out only four sorts of esquires—(1) The eldest sons of knights, and their eldest sons in perpetual succession. (2) The eldest sons of younger sons of peers, and their eldest sons in like perpetual succession. (3) Esquires created by the king's letters-patent or other investiture, and their eldest sons. This creation has long been disused. (4) Esquires by virtue of their offices, as justices of the peace, and others who bear any office of trust under the Crown, if styled esquires by the king in their commissions and appointments.

'Esquires of the king,' mentioned in the previous list, are now disused. Barristers-at-law are now fully possessed of the title Esquire; but it seems that the degree or barrister-at-law is of greater worth than the title 'Esquire' or degree of M. A. The Court of Common Pleas—a great many years ago—refused to hear an affidavit read because a barrister named in it was not called Esquire.

The real reason why there are so many Esquires in the present day is easily explained by the fact, that just as people use arms who have no heraldic right to do so, so they choose the highest title they can decorate their names with; and as the investiture or creation of Esquire has now become obsolete, there is not the same reason why a man should not call himself Esquire, as there is to prevent him calling himself 'Sir' or 'Lord.'

Nearly a hundred years ago, it seems that those who wished to preserve the title or dignity of Esquire for those who came within the rules before mentioned, were much vexed at the common use of the title. One writer says: 'There is a general opinion that every gentleman of landed property that has three hundred pounds a year is an esquire; which is a vulgar error, for no money whatsoever or landed property, will give a man properly this title unless he come within the rules; and no person can ascribe this title where it is not due, their being no difficulty in drawing the line. But the meaner ranks of the people, who know no better, do often basely prostitute this title; and, to the great confusion of all rank and precedence, every man who makes a decent appearance, far from thinking himself in any way ridiculed by finding the superscription of his letters thus decorated, is fully gratified by such address.' Shakespeare says: 'Let none presume to wear an undeserved dignity.'

Let us now return to our friend Jones, and if he is not to be addressed as Esquire, what shall we call him? We must say Mr. Jones, for that is the title of a 'gentleman.' Who, then, are gentlemen? Under this name, all are included who are not yeomen, tradesmen, artificers, or laborers. The word is from the French *gentil*, and the Saxon *man*—that is, a man well born, or one that has done something worthy either in peace or war, whereby he deserves to bear arms and to be accounted a gentleman. The following extract from Guillim's *Display of Heraldry* is worthy of notice: 'In these days he is a gentleman who is commonly so taken, and whosoever studieth the laws of this realm, who studieth in the university, who professeth liberal sciences, and, to be short, who can live without manual labor, and will bear the port, charge and countenance of a gentleman, he shall be called "Master," and shall be taken for a gentleman.'

A few years ago, a difficulty arose in one of the police courts in London. A person described as a 'gentleman' was charged with swearing, and he was also charged with disorderly conduct. But the charge of swearing was under a statute of George II., which enacts 'that every laborer, sailor, or soldier, profanely swearing, shall forfeit one shilling; every other person under the degree of a gentleman, two shillings; and every gentleman or person of superior rank, five shillings to the poor of the parish wherein such offence was committed.' The case was proved. 'But,' said the magistrate, 'you are not a laborer, soldier, or sailor; and it is certain you are not a gentleman.' So he was fined two shillings, as being of the class 'every other person.'

Degrees of nobility and gentry were in use before the Norman Conquest, for the Saxons admitted to the estate of gentry only those who had increased their wealth or gains by honest husbandry or as merchants. In Saxon times, there were the earl and thyrne, theyne and undertheyne; and in Lambert's *Perambulation of Kent* it is said: 'It a churle so thrived that he had fully five hides of land of his own, a church and a kitchen, a bellhouse and a gate, a seat and several office in the king's hall, then he was thenceforth the theyne's right worthy. And if a theyne so thrived that he served the king on his journey, rode in his household, if he then had a theyne which him followed, who to the king's expectations had five hides, and in the king's palace his lord served, and thrice with an errand had gone to the king, he might afterwards play his lord's part at any need; so a theyne could become an earl, and an earl could become an earl right worthy. And if a merchantman so thrived that he passed over the wide sea thrice of his own craft, he was thenceforth the theyne right worthy. And if a scholar so thrived through learning that he had degree and served Christ, he was thenceforth of dignity and peace so much worth as thereunto belonged, unless he forfeit, so that he lose the use of his degrees.'

It is a common thing to find in old churchyards the names of persons on tombstones followed by the word 'gent' or 'gentleman,' which shows that in those days the title was more thought of than it is now. According to the laws of honor, gentlemen had certain privileges; but, like the esquires, there is now no certainty as to the right of a person to call himself either 'esquire' or gentleman.

There is yet another class of people, the yeomen. Sir Edward Coke says: 'A yeomen is he that hath free land of forty shillings by the year, who was anciently thereby qualified to serve on juries, vote for knights of the shire, and do any other act, where the law requires one that is *probus et legalis homo*.'

The yeomanry were famous in olden times for archery and manhood. Our infantry, which so often conquered the French and repulsed the Scots, was composed of yeomen; but in these days, the yeomanry, though in some parts they are more disciplined and better drilled than in other districts, cannot surpass in valor and hardiness the yeomen of days gone by.

It seems hard to class tradesmen, artificers, and laborers together as 'the rest of the commonalty,' for under the head of 'tradesmen' we have some of the wealthiest and wisest men in the country; but just as many of our nobility are traders, so many of our manufacturers are, by virtue of public offices held by them, endowed with titles of honor. A man may be 'Mr.' in his private business, and a Right Honorable as a public man.

The people of England are divided into certain ranks and degrees, and it is good and necessary that these ranks and degrees should be preserved. It has been said that 'All men are by nature equal;' but this is a false proposition, for all men are by nature unequal, and very unequal. We may discover within a few weeks after a child is born a marked difference between it and other children; and as it grows in years, and its mind and body become developed under a course of 'education,' the difference or inequality of nature becomes more distinct every day, even if other children have the same and equal advantages. All men have an equal right to justice or to their own property; but one man has rights and claims which another has not, for the ordinary blood-relationships show this; father and son, husband and wife, have equal, but different rights; and in short, whenever one man is set over another, there are equal rights, but the things they have a right to are manifestly unequal. That all men should be equal, is contrary to nature, and such a condition of things would bring about much misery and destroy all happiness. The experiment has been tried; but the result has been assassination, murder and anarchy. In England, so excellent is our form of government, that the son of the poorest and humblest man may rise to the highest position in the church, law, army, navy, or any other department; and there is no limit to the wealth and honor a man may achieve by honest industry.