



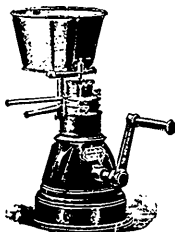
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A Humane Engineer.

One never knows the value of an amiable deed till he knows all its consequences; and the merit of it is in not knowing them all beforehand.

An engineer of a passenger-train on a Mississippi railroad was driving through a snow-storm, eagerly scanning the track as far as he could see, when, half-way through a deep cut, something appeared, lying on the rails. It was a sheep with her two little lambs.

His first thought was that he could rush on regardless of them, probably without damage to his train; but the sight of the innocent family cowering in the storm touched him, and as they paid no heed to his warning whistle he pulled the air-brake and sent his fireman ahead.

In a few minutes the fireman came back with a terrified face. There had been a landslide, and just beyond the cut the track was covered with rocks. It seemed certain that if the train had gone on at full speed, in the blinding snow, it

would have been impossible to stop in time to escape disaster.

In the absolute sense the incident was providential,—as everything is,—but circumstantially the passengers on that railway train owed their safety, if not their lives, to an engineer who was too tender-hearted to kill a sheep and her lambs.

MASSEY-HARRIS ILLUSTRATED

An Independent Illustrated Journal of News and Literature for Rural Homes.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE MASSEY PRESS.

PROF. SCRIBN, - - - Editor in Chief.
FRANK VIGOR, - - - Acting Editor.

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