

Jimmy and Jane.

Those were their names—Jimmy and Jane. Everybody in the village knew them; they had many friends; yet all agreed with wonderful unanimity that they were two of the strangest individuals ever seen.

Jimmy—his full name was James Bradford—was a bachelor of about fifty years, reputed to have a stocking full of gold and silver coins, which he kept in his feather bed. He was a noted hater of women, and seldom spoke to one.

Jane—or more properly Miss Jane Green—was called an old maid, lived in a tiny house by herself, and had a holy horror of the biped man. Her age was "uncertain," but her fortieth birthday was of the past.

Jimmy took life easily, but was opposed to ostentation and the modern acceptance of the term "luxury."

He dressed without regard to fashion, but within the bounds of respectability. He even rode out in his own carriage but it was by no means a modern vehicle; it had done service, he would proudly tell you, since his grandfather's days, quite a century ago.

He cared little for books; society he abominated, because it was spoiled by admitting women, and of the few diversions that went to make up the sum of his life's pleasures, fishing held the place of prominence.

Even in the pursuit of this gratification Jimmy was not free from harassment, for he was obliged to pass by the door of a cottage occupied by a woman in order to reach the river. The woman was no other than Jane.

One bright afternoon in September, Jimmy was lounging along the river bank when the splash of oars in mid-stream fell upon his ears. He looked in the direction of the sound, and then a scowl wrinkled his forehead.

"Humph!" he muttered, "that old maid, Jane Green, is trying to row over to Ned Brown's. She'd better be to home, drinkin' tea. Most likely she'll manage to get drowned. What a fuss she makes, splashin' an' flappin' about."

He pulled up his line with an angry jerk, put a fresh worm on the hook, and then cast out the line again, with an outlay of strength quite unnecessary, unless to give vent to his indignation.

The "splashin' an' flappin' about," instead of dying away in the distance as the boat neared the other side of the river, grew louder and more disturbing, and half in wonder, half anger, Jimmy looked around again.

"Drat the luck!" he cried. "If she ain't gone an' rowed right smack inter that eddy—the only one within two miles at that. If that ain't jest like a fool woman, I'd like to know what 'tis like."

Just then his attention was attracted to his line, and Jane's peril was for a moment forgotten.

A forcible reminder came in the form of a loud piercing scream, followed by a frightened appeal for help.

"There, jest as might ha' been expected. The first bite I've had for an hour, an' that miserable woman had to let out a screech an' scare the fish away."

"Help! Help! I shall drown!" screamed the woman.

There was no question about it Miss Jane was in great peril. Her boat, an old leaky shell—was twirling about the rapid, rotary motion causing at frequent intervals foamy waves to splash over its sides, and it bade fair to sink in short order.

"Let her drown!" growled the woman-bater savagely. "There'll be one less woman—gosh! she will go down as sure as fate. Bein' a sort of human critter, I s'pose I'll hev to pull her out, er the neighbors 'll lynch me."

His own boat happened to be near at hand, and a few rapid strokes brought him as near the eddy as safety permitted.

"Here!" cried he, grumblingly, as he threw out a rope, "ketch hold of that, if you don't want to drown."

Miss Jane had been so occupied with her fears and struggles that up to this moment she was unaware that assistance had arrived. At the sound of his voice she turned quickly.

Her hasty movement caused the boat to go down, but she clung heroically to the oars and regarded her would-be rescuer with a look of horror.

"Merciful powers! Jimmy Bradford, of all men, lemme drown!"

"Don't be aarnation fool, Jane Green! Ketch hold of that rope an' I'll pull you out."

"Never!" cried Jane, spurning out a stream of water from her mouth and paddling desperately with both hands to keep afloat.

here in the boat an' start for home." But he didn't. He did precisely the opposite.

He drew the boat upon the sloping shore, and after carrying Miss Jane to a sheltered spot beneath a wide-spreading willow tree, proceeded to restore her to consciousness. When she opened her eyes the first thing that met her gaze was Jimmy's face.

"O, my soul!" she gasped, feebly, "Am I in the power of the Evil One?" "Draw it a little milder, Jane Green. I ain't the Evil One, nor no kin to him as I knows on. An' you're showin' mighty little appreciation for havin' your life saved, I can tell ye."

"Wall," said Jane, after a moment's thought, "perhaps there are wuss bein's on the face of this airth than you be. I reckon you'd ha' better let me drown, though, than to set all the tongues o' scandal waggin' against me."

"You're too plucky a woman to feed fishes on, an' too good looking, to." Jane's pale face changed in a moment to a deep carnation hue, and her tones might have indicated either real or pretended reproach as she replied: "Shame on ye, Jimmy Bradford, to make fun of a misfortunate an' defenseless woman. I'll go home this minute."

She arose, trembling and weak, and attempted to walk away, but staggered and was obliged to grasp a branch of a tree for support.

"You're too weak to go home now, Jane," said Jimmy, approaching. "You'd better stop a while longer."

"So you could make more fun of me, I s'pose," said she, tartly. "No, thank you, Mr. Bradford."

"I didn't say more'n I meant, Jane Green, nor more'n I'd say another time. I never knew before that women had so much gumption. But if you're bound to go I'll give you a boost, for you couldn't get there alone. Here, take my arm."

"An' set the hull town to talkin'," cried Jane. "The first one that says a word ag'in' you will feel that," exhibiting a hard and formidable fist.

After considerable persuasion, Jane was at last induced to take his arm, and off they walked, a most singular looking couple.

"Now be careful and see that you don't take cold after yer duckin'," said Jimmy as they reached the invalid's home. "You'd better make you some hot ginger tea to once. An' if you'll agree to it I'll drop in to-morrow an' see how you are."

Jane agreed to it coyly, and Jimmy turned away, with new and strange feelings lingering in his breast.

"Blest if she ain't a plucky one," he said to himself. "I never see a woman before that had any sense. She'd make a good wife for a feller that liked women folks."

But a month later found her the wife of a man who did not like women folks, and that contented individual was no other than Jimmy Bradford.

A CANNIBAL PLANT.

The Dangerous Vine is Found in Nicaragua Central America.

There has been discovered in Nicaragua a flesh-eating, or rather man-eating, plant, which for horror is quite the equal of the novelist's imagination. This plant is found, it is asserted, in Nicaragua, and is called by the natives "the devil's snare."

It appears that a Mr. D—, a naturalist, has lately returned from Central America, where he spent two years in the study of the plants and animals of those regions. In one of the swamps which surround the great Nicaragua Lake he discovered the singular growth of which we are writing.

He was engaged in hunting for botanical and entomological specimens, when he heard his dog cry out, as if in agony, from a distance. Running to the spot whence the animal's cries came, Mr. D— found him enveloped in a perfect network of what seemed to be a fine, rope-like tissue of roots and fibres. The plant or vine seemed composed entirely of bare, interlacing stems, resembling, more than anything else, the branches of the weeping willow denuded of its foliage, but of a dark, nearly black hue, and covered with a thick, viscid gum that exuded from the pores.

Drawing his knife, Mr. D— attempted to cut the poor beast free; but it was with the very greatest difficulty that he managed to sever the fleshy muscular fibres of the plant. When the dog was extricated from the coils of the plant Mr. D— saw to his horror and amazement, that the dog's body was blood-stained, while the skin appeared to have been actually sucked or puckered in spots, and the animal staggered as if from exhaustion.

In cutting the vine the twigs curled like living, sinuous fingers about Mr. D—'s hand, and it required no slight force to free the member from its clinging grasp, which left the flesh red and blistered.

PIGS VICTORIOUS OVER A PYTHON. An interesting battle was recently witnessed by Mr. Ernest Hose in the jungle at Tambak in Borneo. A young pig had been seized by a python which was rapidly strangling it, when its cries brought to its assistance about twenty of its comrades. The pigs immediately made a combined assault upon the monstrous snake, goring it with their tusks, and keeping up the attack so boldly and vigorously that the python at length dropped its victim and tried to run away. Thereupon Mr. Hose took a part in the battle and succeeded in killing the snake.

ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Happenings of Recent Date.

Air cushions made of paper, are used by the Japanese.

Mexico has had 55 presidents during the past 77 years.

Fowls are plucked alive in Malta, in the public markets.

The best opals are now obtained from Hungary and Honduras.

In some parts of Norway corn is still used, as a substitute for coin.

The British Government realizes £11,300 a year from waste paper.

The average weight of men in England is 155 lb., and that of women 123 lb.

From two to three tons of stamps are despatched daily from Somerset House.

The University Press of Oxford has appliances for printing in 150 different languages.

There are 27 Royal families in Europe, two-thirds of which are of German origin.

M. Berlier, a French engineer, has projected a tunnel between Gibraltar and Morocco.

It is said that about 50,000 servant girls go from the German provinces to Berlin every year.

Some of the best sausages exported from Germany to the United States are made of horse flesh.

German post-office employes are not permitted to marry without the special permission of the Government.

The toll on an ordinary ship passing through the Suez Canal averages about £80. The distance is ninety-two miles.

The Haytian Government is very considerate of the comfort of soldiers. Every picket is supplied with a chair.

To insure cleanliness in the handling of bread, the bakers of Berlin put each loaf in a paper bag just after it is baked.

The present population of Bordeaux, France, is 297,000, of whom 18,864 are in receipt of assistance from charitable societies.

The sum of 525 guineas was paid in Edinburgh for a copy of the first edition of Burn's poems, printed in 1786. It was in the original blue paper cover.

A curiosity recently exhibited at Stockholm was a section four feet in diameter from a pine tree, which grew 60 to 70 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Cloth of a pink tint is used in Russia to cover the coffin of a child or young person, crimson, for a woman, and brown for a widow. In no case is black used.

Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, has made considerable progress with the model of the statue of the Queen for the west porch of Manchester Cathedral.

The members of the French Legislature each receive £330 per annum. A member who is twice called to order during a sitting forfeits half his salary for two weeks.

Giovanni Segantini, whose painting, "At the Barrier," has sold for \$20,000, began supporting himself at the age of 7, when he tended swine by day and studied by night.

In a ton of Dead Sea water there are 187 pounds of salt; Red Sea, 93; Mediterranean, 85; Atlantic, 81; English Channel, 72; Black Sea, 26; Baltic, 18; and Caspian Sea, 11.

Smoking was not permitted in English railway carriages until 1846. On many foreign lines smoking is so general that carriages are set apart for non-smokers and so labelled.

In some parts of the world the eastern parts of cemeteries are considered the most desirable. The choice is based on the belief that the dead in the eastern sections will first arise.

Thomas Harper, sergeant-trumpeter in Queen Victoria's household, who recently died in London, assisted in his professional capacity at the coronation of William IV., and the christenings of all the present Queen's children.

The magnitude of the Ecuador, the great Spanish palace, may be inferred from the fact that it would take four days to go through all the rooms and apartments, the length of the way being reckoned at twenty-three Spanish leagues, which is about 120 English miles.

A prominent actress in a Munich theatre has sued the manager for her salary. In defence he exhibited a contract wherein it was stipulated that "a member of the theatre who marries without permission of the manager forfeits all claim to salary."

As she married the manager, she contends that she had his permission.

A microbe-proof dwelling has been erected in Yokohama, by Dr. Van der Heydon. The windows are immovable, set in air-tight frames; the out-flow of air is by means of openings near the roof, through which no air can enter; and all the air which comes into the house must first pass a tube, be filtered through cotton batting, and then be sterilized by passing through glycerine.

Leipzig University refuses to accept

time spent at the University of Friedberg, in Switzerland, in the count for its degrees, on the ground that the teaching there has deteriorated below university standards since the Dominican monks have obtained control. The other German universities are likely to follow the example of Leipzig, and will refuse to recognize the Friedberg degrees as well.

In a local match in Yorkshire, a few years ago, one of the fielders was injured, and had to be taken away in a trap; as the wounded player was being driven along a road skirting the cricket field the batsman made a lifty drive, which was splendidly caught by the injured man into whose hands the ball fell, and was held.

The fielding side appealed for the catch, but the batsman was declared to be "not out," as the ball was out of the ground when caught.

Austrian-Hungary is making an interesting experiment to open up new channels for its trade. A steamer, the Poseidon, fitted up as a floating exhibition of the products of the monarchy, will soon leave Trieste for the chief ports of the Levant, the Red Sea, Hindostan, the East Indies, China and Japan. Its arrival will be extensively advertised beforehand at each port, and commercial travellers on board will try to secure orders for the exhibitors, and to find capable agents at the points touched. The Government has granted a subsidy of 50,000 florins to assist the enterprise.

NEW NAVAL THEORY.

Big Battle Ships Are Obsolete, Says Hiram Maxim.

"Naval and military authorities must soon give due consideration to the aerial torpedo," wried Hiram Maxim, in the Scientific American, "From half a ton to a ton of high explosives can certainly be thrown with absolute safety and great accuracy at all fighting ranges at sea, and if such quantities of high explosive, striking and exploding on board a battle ship by impact upon its superstructure, will destroy the vessel, or throw it out of action, or if such quantities, when projected into the water, and exploding as submarine mines adjacent to the hull of a battle ship, will suffice to blow her up or sink her, then the first shot of the aerial torpedo gun proposed by me will render obsolete every battle ship in the world."

Immense sums of money will no longer be expended in armored protection which will not protect, and in the construction of huge and ponderous fighting machines whose very size renders them a more easy prey to the torpedo gun than a small and light cruiser, simply big enough to provide a portable and stable gun platform. If a projectile can be thrown which shall be sufficiently destructive to demolish anything and everything it hits, then, obviously, thereafter centralization of men and expense must be abandoned in order to form as many and as small targets as possible. Navies must fight in skirmishing order, exactly as armies on land now do.

If the battle ship, forming a target ten times as great, offers no greater protection against the aerial torpedo than the small unprotected cruiser, and costs ten times as much and carries ten times the number of men, it is certainly not more than one tenth as efficient fighting machine. Anything revolutionary in character, however meritorious, always has a hard fight for recognition, especially in overcoming the opposition backed by enormous vested interests. It would be easier with a few cruisers armed with aerial torpedoes to make a scrap heap of every battle ship of the combined navies of the world to-day than it will be to even secure the system a place for once in the line of battle.

If there is even a fighting chance for the aerial torpedo to work the revolution in naval construction predicted, then this matter is a subject for serious consideration, especially by the United States Government. Half a million dollars will build and arm a light torpedo cruiser which will carry one 24-inch torpedo gun and two torpedo mortars. This will demonstrate the efficiency of the system. If it fails, it costs but \$500,000; if it succeeds, it will save \$500,000,000. The battle ship must go."

FACTS ABOUT WATER.

There are some strange features about water. For instance, the more muscular a man is, the more able to take care of himself on land, the harder it is for him to keep afloat. Fat men and women—all, not the fat ones in particular,—float readily.

It is possible to float ten hours.

A man has been known to stay under water four minutes, forty-six and one-half seconds. Another man swam 218 feet under water. The 100-yard record in a tank is one minute one second. In open water one minute seven seconds.

A man swims faster under water if he can see no light, and under-water records are made with the eyes closed.

DECLARED HIS INTENTIONS.

Fond Mother—Has Signor Arturo, with whom you have been dancing all the evening, at last declared his intentions?

Yes, mamma.

Thank goodness! What did he say?

He declared he would never get married.

YOUNG FOLKS.

ANOTHER HOBSON.

"Lieutenant Hobson's deed of bravery on the Merrimac," writes an English army officer, "recalls an English boy of the same name, Hobson, born at Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, whose drunken father apprenticed him to the village tailor, who used him cruelly." It was during the war between France and England.

One day news came that the English fleet was in the offing. Young Hobson ran down a back lane to the shore, shoved off in the first rowboat he found handy, pulled for the foremost vessel, and then and there enlisted in what proved to be the admiral's own ship. Out at sea they sighted the enemy. The two fleets engaged in the channel, and the admiral's ship was locked yard-arm and yard-arm with the leading ship of the French fleet.

While the fight raged the lad Hobson asked an able seaman, "What are we trying to do?"

"Do you see the flag up there?" said the sailor, pointing to the Frenchman's masthead.

"Yes," said the boy.

"Well, we want to get that down," said the man.

Presently the English crew raised a mighty shout of exultation, and the French saw that their flag was gone. Instantly the order to board was obeyed, and after a short resistance the French ship surrendered.

"Who saw the French colors shot away?"

Nobody could answer till a little figure was seen sliding down the shrouds with something wrapped around his arm. It was young Hobson. Unobserved he had crossed the yards from his own to the enemy's masthead, and in the heat of action had cut the Frenchman's flag from its hal-yards and taken possession of it.

The boy was promoted to the quarter-deck and by continued gallantry, he rose step by step until he became Admiral Hobson.

HINTS FOR DAUGHTERS.

1. You will probably never be able to realize how much you owe your parents until you have children of your own. Show your appreciation now, and you will be sure to please them greatly, and at the same time sow the seeds of lifelong happiness.

2. Do not keep all your smiles for the houses of friends, but dispense them freely at home. Cheerful faces make home-life warm and happy, and serve to drive away care and trouble from the brows of the old folks.

3. Above all things, do not grumble and wrangle at home, because few things cut a mother to the heart so keenly as children's complaints and disputes. If you want anything in particular, ask nicely for it, but pray do not find fault in a grumbling mood, or be peevish with your sisters and brothers.

4. When making presents to your friends, remember that mother and father have known you far longer than any of them, and have a much deeper affection for you; so make them a little gift sometimes, and rest assured that your thoughtfulness will be greatly appreciated.

5. Keep together the ties of home as long as you possibly can, because death will sever them, quite soon enough, and once broken, they can never be united again. Let home be your haven when entering the world's busy arena, and you will never want a safer or more welcome place of rest.

6. You cannot have more sincere friends or better counsellors than your parents. Their friendship will never desert you, and advice given by them will always be disinterested, so lay all your difficulties and troubles before them. Many a person who has chosen the downward path would have been restrained by a mother's sympathetic advice, or by a father's timely warning.

7. If the ways of the old folks are not quite up-to-date, and what you would wish them to be, do not make any fuss, but bear with them. Remember that your parents have the habits and recollections of thirty or forty years ago, and, as a matter of fact, you will never get them to change their ways radically, however much you may try.

8. By all means let your parents have the last word, and do not think of contradicting them. This will, perhaps, be trying to you at times, because human nature likes to ride the high horse; but the discipline will be wholesome to you, and rest assured that your good motives will not pass unnoticed.

9. Of course, you have considered yourself very clever since your teens were reached, but bear in mind that your parents have had an extensive experience of the world and of life, so that a word of advice from them may be of the greatest advantage to you.

10. Never forget that the downward path is at times not clearly seen, because of the attractions and pleasures that frequently envelop it, thus distracting the conscience. The first step is easily taken; it may be by the prompting of a so-called friend, or by the natural weakness of will. Listen to conscience immediately, and fly from the temptation to your haven of safety—home.