

BUSINESS NOTICE
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A Happy Imprisonment.

Harry Grey was plowing away on the last "land" of a twenty-acre lot, and feeling very comfortable over the thought that his spring plowing was almost done, when he saw his neighbor, Mark Trowbridge, driving slowly past, in company with his wife, who was seldom to be seen away from home.
"Glad to see you, if I don't run over and see Lucy," said Harry, as he hit his horse a smart cut with the whip to hurry them. "They are going to town, and will be gone three hours, at least, by the way old Mark drives. I can stay two hours and a half with Lucy, and get back again before they come home."
An elderly man hitched his team to the fence, over which he bounded and walked away to the house in a double-quick, as though every minute was doubly precious.
It was almost ten o'clock when he entered the house, which caused his mother to inquire rather anxiously what was the matter. Without hesitating he explained, three steps at a time, to his own room. Here he pulled off his pair of calfskin boots, took off his blue frock and substituted therefor a white linen coat.
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"What in the world is Harry up to now?" he asked Harry's mother, as she paused from her work to watch the fast receding figure of her son.
"He is going to see Lucy Trowbridge, I guess. Little dandy, who was busy ironing. You know, mother, that her father and mother have gone away. Won't there be a scene, though, if they get home before Harry leaves?"
"Your brother is the biggest simper I know of," exclaimed Mrs. Grey, with a smile. "There's Clara Beamer, just as good looking and smart as Lucy, and she thinks the world of all of Harry, and her folks are always inviting him over, while Lucy's father won't even let her look at him if he can help it."
"Lucy's worth a dozen such rattle-brains as Clara," said her daughter, "and I do believe Mr. Trowbridge had rather have Lucy marry Harry than any one else. But he thinks a girl should never think of a lover till she's a horrid old maid, and too ugly to get one. He keeps Lucy as close under his eye as though she were a baby instead of a grown-up woman. I declare if I were in her place now I'd leave the first dark night. But I believe Lucy would see Harry married to Clara Beamer, and give away to a shadow about it before she would do that."

Lucy Trowbridge had taken her seat by the window, where she sat quite sewing, until the buggy containing her father and mother had driven off, and she threw down her work and stood gazing for a few moments down the pleasant road along which they had disappeared.
Then she brushed her hair till it shone like satin, and fastened a knot of blue ribbon among the braids, after doing which she resumed her seat and her work. She expected that Harry would come. He had not been in her stern father's house for a year, she had not spoken with him for a month, though she could see him at his work in his fields beyond her father's, and she was in a state of uncertainty, for her father, she knew, would be very angry if he visited her and it should come to his knowledge, and yet she hoped he would come. Lucy was not long in coming to a decision. Harry was coming upon the lane, followed closely by Eddie, with his fat hands full of chestnuts.

The young man's pants were tucked into his boots, and the wind was flapping the skirt of his coat about unmercifully, while the straw hat was only kept in its place by the owner's hands.
Lucy wondered what freak had brought her lover out in summer apparel, when nature had not put on so much as a leaf of hers.
Harry tossed his hat onto the floor and sat down before the glowing fire, stretching out his hands over the blaze, appreciating, for truth to tell, he felt rather chilly than otherwise, while Lucy sat down by the window to watch the road lest some mischief should bring her parents home prematurely, and Eddie took possession of the rocking chair, where, with the exception of a few minutes, he amused himself by watching the young people, and occasionally throwing a chestnut at Harry's nose, which happened to be a prominent feature. Harry, of course, wanted to say a few words, but he could be with the arch's eyes fixed upon him.
But Eddie was all unconscious and ate the chestnuts with relish, saying to himself, "It's most stiffed stuck here, and I'd just like to go and fly my kite. There's a glorious wind, how it did toss his coat tall, though, but I won't budge an inch till he gives me the rest of them chestnuts. His pocket is bulging out with 'em. Ed. Harry had the benefit of these whispered words his pockets would, without doubt, have been emptied in a trice, but he was kept in ignorance of going to the smokehouse for a ham, notwithstanding Harry made several remarks calculated to let the juvenile know that his chair might, with propriety, be vacated. At length the clock struck four, and Lucy went about preparing supper.

She put the kettle over, made biscuits and then signified her intention of going to the smokehouse for a ham, Harry took it down, and holding it in his hand, was on the point of saying something sentimental, which he had been rehearsing in his mind all the afternoon, when the old people drove up to the gate. Lucy snatched the ham from her lover and whispered in an agitated voice as she closed the door:
"You can't come out now, Harry; stay where you are and sing 'Old Hundred,' and then run across the fields."
So Harry was left in utter darkness.
"It's a good mind to go right out and 'beard the lion in his den,'" he muttered, as he leaned against the smoke-begrimed wall of the prison. Presently he heard the key turn in the lock and he knew by the sound that the smokehouse was unlocked, and looked it, putting the key in his pocket. But her feelings underwent a change when Eddie, with a comical look, told her that "her bear" was locked in the smokehouse. Without waiting to see whether she was obstructed or not, she hastened to the smokehouse and removed the smoking kettle.

"Harry, Harry!" she called in a hoarse whisper.
"I'm in par-tay. Have you taken the confounded thing out? I'm blind as a bat and my throat is full of soot and ashes."
Harry's voice came from near the ground. He was lying prone on the ashes, soot and lime, which composed the floor of the smokehouse.
"I cannot liberate you at present, Harry; father has the key. But I'll bring you some supper, and when he goes to bed I'll get the key and release you." In a few minutes a plate of edibles was shoved through the aperture and the board restored to its place. But, as it-luck would have it, the farmer discovered by the absence of the smoke about the crevices that his smoke had gone out, so the board was again removed and the farmer's arm thrust in to get the kettle out, instead of that, Harry's untouched supper was brought to light.
"Well, this puts the cap-sheaf on everything I ever heard tell of."
"Just then a ham fell to the ground with a dull thud, sending a cloud of ashes into the farmer's face, for he was still kneeling before the hole.
"There, what on earth can that be? Well, I've got to search into the matter or I shall always think that smoke-house was haunted."
So saying he opened the door, when the form of Harry, unrecognized in his coat of ashes and soot, rose up before him.
The farmer stepped back and yelled:
"Murder! Murder!"
"Stop, man, stop! Don't call them all out!" said Harry, as he glanced ruefully at his dirty coat.
"A thief! a thief!" again roared Mr. Trowbridge, and by this time all with the exception of Lucy were on the spot.
"It is only I, neighbor; don't you know me?"
"Harry felt rather sheepish and could not help speaking so."
"Who?"
"Harry Grey,"
"Well, you're in a nice pickle. I

HOUSEHOLD.

CARE OF BROOMS.
In buying a broom choose one with greenish brush. See that the broom head does not shake on the handle; if it does reject it; for the handle having been green when the broom was made, in sweeping the brush will keep falling out. Next, open the broom below the sewing, and see if there are any stalks. It should be clear brush; for as the stalk of broom soon is brittle, if there are any below the twigs they will be continually breaking off.
Take a large ring, such as one used in the back of a picture frame, costing about one cent, and screw it to the end of the broom handle; then drive a lath or shingle nail, or what is better, a small hook, where you wish to hang your broom. If brooms are wet in boiling suds once a week, they will become very tough, will not cut the carpet, last much longer and always sweep like a new broom. Do not keep a broom before the fire, the brush is liable to break, being so dry. The dampening lengthens out its days of usefulness. Do not store brooms where there are rats and mice; they like the corn. A broom that is all out of shape may be restored by soaking, then pressing into shape.

EGGS FOR GARNISHING.
To poach eggs hard for garnishing add a teaspoonful of salt, and a tablespoonful of vinegar, and drop the eggs in one at a time, at the point of greatest ebullition. Because of the increased temperature, as well as the motion of the water, the white will wrap itself in a ball shape about the yolk. Eggs cooked in this manner are indigestible, because of the horny condition of the white, but they make a slightly decoration.

CAKE MAKING.
To be able to make a cake which shall be fine and smooth in texture, shapely in form and pleasant to the taste is an art not to be despised. There is a knack about it not easily acquired, and yet it is generally supposed that anybody can make cake.
There are cakes and cakes. Some appear to be all right but are woefully unsatisfactory after manipulation, so it is wise to choose a recipe with discrimination and then follow it with unwavering devotion to the desired haven. While there is usually but one process or method of mixing the ingredients for loaf and layer cakes, there is a difference in the baking, for the best batter can be spoiled in a refractory oven. The heat must be just right in order that the highest success shall crown the cook's efforts. For loaf cake the oven should not be quite as hot as for layer cake; still it should be rather brisk at first, gradually lessening, keeping at an even temperature as possible. Care should be shown in the baking, for that they are the right shape, well greased, papered in some instances. Lard is much better to use than butter, does not burn so easily.
White bread and butter and crackers are very good in their place; there are times and seasons for all things, and however much we may rise above the sweet tooth of our childhood, most of us must confess to an occasional hankering after the ambrosial loaf. Then the kitchen divinity should depend upon her tried and true formulas and not pin her faith to any unknown and untried recipe. For loaf cake the oven should not be quite as hot as for layer cake; still it should be rather brisk at first, gradually lessening, keeping at an even temperature as possible. Care should be shown in the baking, for that they are the right shape, well greased, papered in some instances. Lard is much better to use than butter, does not burn so easily.

HOW TO WASH CHAMOIS.
An excellent way of washing chamois leathers is as follows; Rub them well all over, while dry, with good yellow soap; have ready a lukewarm lather in a suitable pot, put the leathers into the same, pressing them down so that they may all come into contact with the water; cover the utensil, and stand on the side of the kitchen stove, where the contents may remain at about the same temperature; the water should on no account be allowed to become cold or very hot, otherwise the leather will be either hard or slimy. After four or five hours' soaking shake them about in the water till they are clean; repeat this last operation in a fresh soap lather, with very little solution; then in plain lukewarm water, wring them very lightly, and spread them between coarse clean kitchen cloths. Beat or shake out all the moisture by holding the leathers at one end.

CHOCOLATE DATES.
Chocolate dates are one of the best of the home-made sweets when made of first-class materials, and in my opinion, candy, even more than in other cooking, this is essential. Take one pound of dates, wipe them off with a damp cloth, slit them lengthwise just enough to extract the kernel without bruising the fruit. Then prepare the chocolate. One-quarter of

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A pound will be sufficient, add an equal weight of powdered sugar, two spoonfuls of boiling water, and mix over the fire in a small earthenware or porcelain-lined saucepan until quite smooth, but do not allow it to boil. Just before removing the saucepan from the fire have ready another panful of boiling water, and into this set the small saucepan just to keep the chocolate fluid until the dates are filled. Take up with a spoon a little of the chocolate mixture, press open the date and pour in the chocolate; then press and pour in the date together, allowing the chocolate to show just a brown ring in the middle of the date; when all are finished place the dates on a plate to harden. They should not be packed until the following day.

BRILLIANT INVENTIONS.
The examination of a host of patents proves that while the inventors' premises are correct and their methods extremely ingenious, they have often overlooked the disadvantages incident to the use of their devices which are overwhelmingly against its employment.
As an example could be cited the expedient patented to prevent horses from running away. This consisted of a strong chain passed about the forelegs of the animal and kept supported against his breast by a line secured to the dashboard. Should the animal take fright and run, the chain, as simply loosened, when the chain falls to the horse's knees, throwing him and breaking his legs. Another genius, after citing the danger from runaway, not only to the passenger but to the steed itself, calls attention to the absolute waste of energy exerted by the horse in descending hills. He also mentions the exposure the animal is subjected to from storms and rays of the sun in summer. With one bold stroke he leaves all conventional methods behind. The horse is placed under the wagon instead of in front of it, the vehicle being attached above him. Thus he is perfectly protected from the sun and leaves an unobstructed view. A strong canvas and leather band encircles the animal's body, the ends of which pass upward through the bottom of the wagon and are attached by chains to a wandless above the flooring. Should the horse be descending a hill or undertake to bolt, the driver calmly winds on a crank and lifts him off his feet.
This latter scheme is certainly more reasonable than the one for improved canal-boat propulsion, which, although not patented, is related by some writer. The object to be attained was to continue the use of the mule, but while protecting him from the weather, fire, etc., to do away with the loss of time incurred in having to stop the boat and run out a gangplank to the towpath in changing streams. The mule is kept in the canal at all times. The bottom of the canal is leveled off and the towpath disposed of. Four horses are made in the form of the boat through which the legs of the mule protrude. The mule walks on the top of the canal, although thoroughly protected by the surrounding boat structure, and the driver may recline at his ease beside him. In his report of his first experiment the inventor stated that there was a failure owing to one reason, viz., that he could not find a single canal-boat that was not leaky, and strange to say in spite of the assurances of the owners of the boats to the contrary, this trouble invariably made its appearance as soon as he had prepared the bottom of the boat for his mule and launched it.

