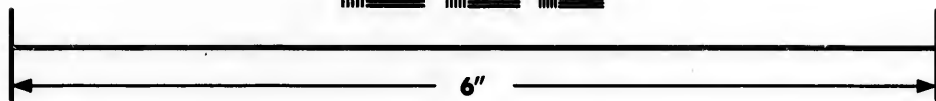
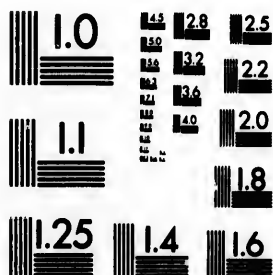


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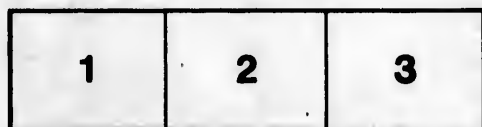
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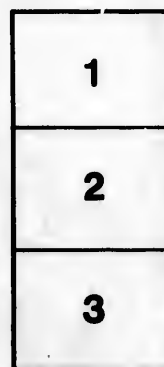
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took place in this exasperated multitude equally degrading. Some would throw themselves down; to the vociferations, clamours and roars, succeeded groans, complaints, tears and sobs. They wave their handkerchiefs; they ask the saint's pardon; they embrace each other—a moment before they were crazy with anger, now they are crazy with joy.

But, whether unusually delayed or not, the miracle performance is always attended with some such manifestations of extremes of passion. As soon as the liquefaction of the blood has been announced and verified, the music begins, the choir strikes up the *Te Deum*, and the cannon from the fort of Saint Elmo announces to the town that the miracle is accomplished.

How it is accomplished is still a mystery. The priest touches the vial only to take it from the altar to give it to the people to kiss,

and the latter do not let it out of sight a moment.

Scepticism and science have both tried in vain, the one to deny it, the other to explain it. The liquefaction of the coagulated blood takes place in the sight of the whole assembled Church, and is witnessed by hundreds. Neither the philosophy of the eighteenth century, nor modern chemistry, Voltaire nor Lavoisier, can do anything with it. If it is a secret kept by the canons of the Treasury, and preserved from generation to generation since the fourth century, all we have to say is, that such fidelity is more miraculous even than the miracle itself. However, whether fact, illusion or fraud, the event is the occasion of great festivity and merry-making, and the good city of Naples loses nothing by it. In the evening the whole town is illuminated, and the people dance in the street.

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#### BACHELORS' BUTTONS!

THERE was a crusty old bachelor,  
 A crotchety man was he;  
 And he'd have gone to the furthest zone  
 If no woman there he'd see:  
 A woman employed as a servile drudge  
 Might have some utility,  
 But the very thought of a wedded wife  
 Filled his soul with misery.  
 So he nursed a crotchet in his head  
 That a sewing-machine could supply  
 Every purpose of woman a bachelor knew,  
 Were it only fashion'd so spry  
 That 'twould stitch you on a button, all tight,  
 In the twinkling of an eye—  
 For 'tis plain that a buttonless bachelor  
 Is tempted to buckle to:  
 Persuaded thereby that without a wife,  
 Life cannot be scrambled through;  
 Whereas could each buttonless bachelor  
 With such a machine be provided,  
 Why, wise men would tarry wifeless,

b 10

And spinsters no more be wedded ;  
 And as to the chance for girls or boys,—  
 Let the next generation decide it.

So this crotchety bachelor bought him a shirt  
 And a sewing-machine,—a Wheeler,—  
 And a button a piece contriv'd somehow  
 To stitch to wristband and collar.  
 Out to dinner—a mighty fine dinner too,—  
 He was shortly invited to go ;  
 So he dressed himself in his very best togs,  
 Spic and span from top to toe ;  
 And he singled out his new-button'd shirt  
 And his best starched tie also ;  
 And he chuckled low, o'er host, daughters and wife,  
 Triumphantly he should crow.

But dressing takes time ; the cab's at the door,  
 And the hand of the clock on the minute ;  
 When, alas ! one button—and then the other—  
 Gives way, as the deuce were in it ;  
 The conspirator, caught in his own device,  
 Shrieks aloud for pins to pin it ;  
 And implores his landlady's needle and thread,  
 And thimble, and scissors, this minute ;  
 And vows, with many a penitent groan,  
 Thenceforth to remain contented  
 With the only sewing-machine worth a button—  
 The one Mother Eve invented !

D. Wilson

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### THE WHITE ROSE.

(From the German.)

ONE bright summer morning at an early hour—the sun had just risen and tipped with gold the far-off mountain brows, the glittering dew-drops were still sparkling on every blade of grass and bough, and the little birds were warbling their sweet melodies—an elderly lady might have been noticed walking on the road leading from the town of B— to the neighbouring cemetery. Her dress, though plain and suited to her age, was choice and of the finest material. On her left arm was suspended

an elegant basket, filled with exquisite red roses. Oft the lady would stop and let her eyes wander over the fields and meadows to the distant mountains, but ever her glance would return to the roses in her basket. On these she gazed with an almost loving expression ; if one flower had fallen somewhat lower in the basket, she would raise it gently and tenderly, seeming at times almost as though she wafted a kiss to the beautiful crimson blossoms.

On approaching the walls of the burial-

